

Re: An error occurred during decryption

## Re: An error occurred during decryption

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*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.sqlserver.security/2006-10/msg00179.html>

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- *From:* Dave B <[DaveB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DaveB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 27 Oct 2006 02:58:02 -0700
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The issue that I am seeing on my cluster is any linked servers using sql authentication created on NodeA fail when I move over to NodeB. They work fine when I fail back to NodeA. The error I get is:

An error occurred during decryption

That is really the only link between the cluster and linked server. This error occurred both during an upgrade of the server and a new server installation. Before I regenerate the key, I just want to know how destructive the regenerate could be. Anything that I may need to recreate, I want to have scripted before my maintenance window starts.

"Laurentiu Cristofor [MSFT]" wrote:

It does look like an error with the service master key decryption. Have you copied your master database from another instance or performed any changes to your installation before starting to see this?

I wrote a post on this exact topic on my blog. See <http://blogs.msdn.com/lcris/archive/2006/04/10/572678.aspx>.

Also, I am not clear of what you mean by linked servers and how do they relate to your clustered installation and encryption. Can you elaborate on your setup?

Thanks

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"Dave B" <[DaveB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DaveB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:123435F7-6631-4C05-B5CD-CA50884DCB64@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:123435F7-6631-4C05-B5CD-CA50884DCB64@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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I read your blog on the Service Master Key (SMK). One other question I have is what is encrypted by the SMK? If I regenerate the key and/or force the regeneration of the key, what data am I at risk of losing? I would assume SQL login passwords and other database master keys. Anything else? I am just wondering what I may need to recreate if I need to regenerate the key.

"Laurentiu Cristofor [MSFT]" wrote:

Could be. Can you post the error from the errorlog, including a few lines before and after it, for context? You can remove sensitive information like IP addresses or account names – I just need to see the error number, state, and message.

Thanks

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Laurentiu Cristofor [MSFT]  
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"Dave B" <DaveB@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:535415A4-4727-4652-82DC-401A3FD74D00@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:535415A4-4727-4652-82DC-401A3FD74D00@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I have a 2 node cluster that I recently installed. During the installation, node 2 was active. After the installation of SQL 2005 and the SP1, I added some linked servers that use SQL authentication. When I fail over to node 1, I get the following error:

An error occurred during decryption.

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On all of my linked servers. If I fail back,  
everything works great. I  
have  
these same linked servers on several other  
non-clustered machines and  
they  
work fine. Is this possible a service master  
key issue?