

Re: file system permissions and cross-database certificates?

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Craig Thomas (CraigThomas@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) writes:

Is it really necessary to use the file system to move a certificate from one database to another within the same instance?

That is, is the use of the file system to `BACKUP CERTIFICATE TO FILE='C:\temp\mycert.cert'` in one database, so that `CREATE CERTIFICATE FROM FILE='C:\temp\mycert.cert'` in a second (or subsequent) database the only way to achieve the key handling that enables certificate based permissions?

Or is there some internal-to-SQL Server mechanism that I have not yet found in the books on line?

I have not found anything yet. I agree that it's a bit clumsy to use the file system.

Then there's the `xp_cmdshell` firehose that represents the most practical approach toward allowing a repeatable `BACKUP CERTIFICATE` command -- if you don't delete the file first, your command will fail, and the most reasonable way to deal with this is to script the delete. But either you use a windows shell with file-system permissions or you open up `xp_cmdshell` to a SQL Server user.

There is `xp_delete_file`, but it's undocumented and unsupported.

You could write a CLR procedure to do the delete, then you do not at least need to enable `xp_cmdshell`. Then again, the database is likely to have be marked as trustworthy.

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Books Online for SQL Server 2005 at

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sql/2005/downloads/books.msp>

Books Online for SQL Server 2000 at

<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/prodinfo/previousversions/books.msp>

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