

Re: How to protect SQL Server Express database from reverse engineerin

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Leto (Leto@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) writes:

We ship SQL Server Express with our application. I would like to prevent anyone from reverse engineering our database. The names of the tables, names of the columns, relationships, and data they contain represent a large part of our intellectual property and there doesn't seem to be any way to protect it. Is there any way to obfuscate this or lock the local system administrator out of the database? We use a lot of stored procs so Compact Edition is not an option.

That is correct, there is no way to this. You can add the WITH ENCRYPTION clause to stored procedures, views and triggers, but that is no real encryption, but only obfuscation, and it takes a Google search to find out how to resurrect the source code.

As for tables, you can always make things difficult by using cryptic or misleading names, but that is far as you can go.

Instead, you need to talk to a lawyer, to help you to write a license agreement which disallows the user within reasonable limits to sticking in his nose. I say within reasonable limits, because within three years the application may be very important to the user, and he runs into a problem, whereas your company has evaporated into the blue.

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