

# Re: Prevent copying

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- *From:* "Roger Abell [MVP]" <mvpNoSpam@xxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 7 Oct 2006 06:46:35 -0700
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You are attempting to reinvent rights management, which same came to its current state due to the endless "if, and if, and if also" trails that

show up when attempting to find a way to accomplish this, and some similar, requirements.

I notice you included

<quote>

Temp folders for the browser might be denied access with group policy. The folder in which the web pages were placed might not be allowed to show folder contents so a user might be restricted to clicking on links instead of copying and pasting a file from the folder.

</quote>

But if user could not use the temp files then I do not believe they could browse there either, so grabbing from the cache is a simple subversion of attempts at prevention. Oh, you use a control to decrypt what is downloaded ?? Not really a problem, load it all from a custom-written page that has an added button for saving what is being rendered to disk.

etc.

"Greg O" <gregorme@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:1160220592.204376.295830@xx>

I agree with you that it is ultimately impossible to stop someone, they could just use a camera, or even just write out a copy of the document. However this question has come up here before and I have been wondering how difficult it can be made for someone to copy a document.

Clearly there is a grey area here and some people want to stop as much copying as they can. If this was not true then they would not be selling programs which make web pages unable to be saved. So there is a need for some counter measures.

So as a possible scenario. A document might only be viewed on terminal server, and that could be set to allow no new program installations. So that stops screen capture software unless it is possible to use it on a client computer and take a screen capture of the remote desktop window. Here though on a network group policy mght prevent new program

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installations as well, so terminal server might not be necessary. Also HTML editors could be prevented from being installed, though Microsoft Word might work as one anyway. This could be solved by making the terminal server not have a word processor installed on it.

Group policy could also turn off "save image as ..." in a web browser so they could not get the images. Temp folders for the browser might be denied access with group policy. The folder in which the web pages were placed might not be allowed to show folder contents so a user might be restricted to clicking on links instead of copying and pasting a file from the folder.

Also a document with images and a lot of formatting would not come out well in a photograph so if the intent is to stop an exact duplicate being made then this might be successful. A PDF file also (I think) can deny access to copying and pasting from it. I can see a system like this might be useful in a law firm.

Another way would be to show the document as an image file such as a JPEG, and then secure the image viewer program.

There may well be ways to get around all of this though.

Robert Moir wrote:

Greg O wrote:

It might be possible to have the documents in the folder as http web pages. Some of those have code which makes them much harder to copy. For example you might view them in a browser but cannot save it. Some of them you can't even save as a text file. Someone could still do a screen capture or open the page in a HTML editor and save it though. If you only want to stop casual copying this might be enough though.

I understand what you're saying but if that solution is actually acceptable to anyone, then they are not actually concerned about document security. It might just stop someone copying a document by accident but it's extremely trivial to defeat that if you want to copy the document.

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I actually wrote something about this in march last year that kinda illustrates how I feel about the whole subject...

A picture's worth a thousand words though –

<http://www.robertmoir.co.uk/images/Paranoid.jpg>

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Robert Moir

[www.robertmoir.com](http://www.robertmoir.com)