

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: Re: Tests show that I don't understand how it works.

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Source:

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"M. Jennings" <mjennings@-NOTthis-or-dashes-myrealbox.com> wrote in message news:uDATUkELFHA.1916@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

- > *I decided I just don't have enough information to use EFS. In the*
- > *newsgroups there are many stories of people losing their information.*
- > *Microsoft makes it easy to encrypt, and difficult to know how to make your*
- > *files safe. The explanation of how it works is just not there.*
- >
- > *I ran EFSInfo on my test directory. Even though I deleted my personal*
- > *certificate, the files are automatically decrypted. This shows that I*
- > *don't understand how it works.*
- >
- > *Also, I'm worried about not being on a domain. I tried what you suggested*
- > *before, with stand alone computers, and was not able to make it work.*
- >
- > *I cannot copy the test encrypted folder without decrypting the contents.*
- > *It is suggested to use NTBackup for this, but NTBackup does not work on*
- > *the two computers I tried. (I have only four computers here.) That's*
- > *another of those knotty problems that could take many hours to debug.*
- >
- > *I don't understand why they say "Recovery Certificate", when supposedly*
- > *the Recovery Certificate does not include the private key. With no private*
- > *key, it is impossible to decrypt files.*
- >

EFS is not Microsoft's finest moment. The encryption/decryption works as advertised. As you have found out making sure you can always decrypt it can be a problem. I quit using it myself a couple of years ago. None of my data is that sensitive. I do have to support people who use it though so I made sure I knew the ins and outs. So far I've not lost any data. Came close once when I thought I had a copy of the certificate. Turned out I didn't and the computer it was on was wiped clean and sold. Luckily I had good backups but it took most of a day to recover the certificate from the backup tape.

Good luck, take a look at PGP it may do what you want.

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Kerry