

Re: Unable to Decrypt Encrypted files

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2006-07/msg00051.html

- *From:* "Doug Knox MS-MVP" <dknox@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 3 Jul 2006 10:20:34 -0400
-

Since the original account information is unavailable, there is no way to recover any of your encryption certificates. Basically, your data is inaccessible and unusable.

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Doug Knox, MS-MVP Windows Media Center\Windows Powered Smart Display\Security
Win 95/98/Me/XP Tweaks and Fixes
<http://www.dougknox.com>

Per user Group Policy Restrictions for XP Home and XP Pro
http://www.dougknox.com/xp/utis/xp_securityconsole.htm

Please reply only to the newsgroup so all may benefit.
Unsolicited e-mail is not answered.

"Roger Payne" <rpayne@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:80358E74-D410-4D26-AFFF-44BE04DCDE6E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

crappy i ran the softwrae and it found all the files but also says cannot
decrypt files
it keeps asking for a account name and password

i enter it in for the old account witch is the same as the new account but
no go

"Kerry Brown" wrote:

If you do not have at least one of the keys these services will not work.
Again if efs was easy to crack what would be the point of it? The only
conceivable methods the OP could use to decrypt his data would be if he had
a full backup with his old user profile which it sounds like he doesn't, or
sending both hard drives to a data recovery specialist who could try to
recover the user profile from the formatted hard drive. The second option
would be expensive and unlikely to succeed as he has already installed
Windows on the drive and continues to use it. Without at least one of the
keys his data is gone. If you Google for efs data recovery most the links
will point you here:

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<http://www.elcomsoft.com/aefldr.html>

This is an excellent program but if you read the documentation you do need the original key used to encrypt the files. The program will scan disks looking for it, will find partial keys and sometimes recover them, recover keys where the password has been changed, etc., etc.. What it can't do is decrypt files if the keys are not available in some shape or form.

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Kerry
MS-MVP Windows - Shell/User

Doug Knox MS-MVP wrote:

Actually, there are services that will attempt to do this for you, with varying degrees of expense and success. Google for "data recovery services"

"Kerry Brown" <kerry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx*a*m>
wrote in message
news:OWEOU6ZnGHA.2264@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If they were encrypted with efs and you do not have a copy of the keys then no, there is not a program that will decrypt the files. What would be the point of encryption if there was?

--

Kerry
MS-MVP Windows - Shell/User

Roger Payne wrote:

ok is there a program that will decrypt the files

"Mike Fields" wrote:

"Roger
Payne"
<rpayne@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
message

Re: Unable to Decrypt Encrypted files

news:024D8398-FD21-41E4-981A-C6FCDC630192@xxxxxxxxxxxx

unfortunately

i

have

done

a

format

and

install

clean

operating

system

again(xp)!

And

i

am

unable

to

decrypt

my

originally

encrypted

files

for

my

second

HDD.

Is

there

any

possible

way

to

decrypt

???

If

it

does

help

I

did

a

full

format

on

my

C:

C:

=

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Windows
XP
Pro
D:
=
BAck
up
drive

i
have
all
updates
for
windows

If you really
mean they
were
encrypted
(using EFS)
and
you did not
export a key
and/or have
a backup of
the
previous
install, you
are
basically
"up the
creek sans
paddle"
If you mean
they were
"protected"
as in set to
read only
for you,
then you
can take
ownership
of the files.
Windows
2000 used
to force you
to have a
DRA
(Designated

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Recovery Agent) that could also decrypt files that were EFS encrypted, however, XP does not force you to do that and if you re-install XP Pro (even using the same account names), the keys will be different and without a copy of the key, there is not much hope of decrypting the files.

mikey