

## Re: Can I access a decrypted file if I have all the files backed up?

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*Source:*

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2007-07/msg00161.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2007-07/msg00161.html)

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- *From:* "GreenieLeBrun" <[GreenieLeBrun@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:GreenieLeBrun@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 13 Jul 2007 16:14:01 +1000
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Rojo26 wrote:

My situation is a bit different than some I've seen here. I got a new hard drive and tried for days in vain to clone the old one. I kept getting errors. Then, I was no longer able to boot my computer with the drive, but I had no trouble accessing it in a different computer. I did a full backup of the drive but naturally couldn't back up system state data. I installed Windows on the new hard drive and ran restore to restore my backup. I can't access the one 3kb .txt file that I had encrypted. So I tried everything I could to get the old hard drive to boot on the other computer. I did a Windows repair reinstall on it, which took all night. When it finally booted, Explorer didn't run, but I accessed the file through Notepad and attempted to decrypt it. I was logged on to my old user account, but unfortunately, along the way, I had to recover old registry files from when the computer was new. I used to have a password and probably did when I encrypted the file. I know the password, so I have no trouble logging on. But regardless of whether I had a password at the time, the user account should have the same SID. Yet I still can't decrypt the file.

I restored the registry files from the backup, and I think the registry is now current, but that didn't help. Then I restored the Windows files from the backup, and now I'm back to square 1—it won't boot either computer. And the worst part is that I had to activate Windows after doing the repair install before I could even log on, so I expect to have trouble with my valid use of the product key on the other computer.

Is there a way to retrieve the certificate and encryption key from the files on the hard drive, all of which I have?

Rojo26

Re: Can I access a decrypted file if I have all the files backed up?

I can't answer your question as I do not use EFS but the following links have help you.

The Encrypting File System

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/topics/cryptographyetc/efs.mspx>

Best practices for the Encrypting File System

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/223316/en-us>

How to back up the recovery agent Encrypting File System (EFS) private key in Windows Server 2003, in Windows 2000, and in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/241201>

How To Encrypt a Folder in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=308989>

How To Remove File Encryption in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=308993>

How To Encrypt a File in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=307877>

HOW TO: Share Access to an Encrypted File in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=308991>

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