

# Re: Loss of computer – how much does the password protect?

---

*Source:*

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2007-11/msg00136.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2007-11/msg00136.html)

---

- *From:* "GreenieLeBrun" <[GreenieLeBrun@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:GreenieLeBrun@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 13 Nov 2007 14:23:03 +1100
- 

inquirer tablet pc wrote:

In case of loss/theft of a computer, to what extent does the password (the one when you start the pc and the one when you log onto xp) protect the data? i.e. how difficult is it for someone who does not have the password to access the data on the harddisk?

As others have indicated the passwords can easily be circumvented, if you want to go down the EFS path (and you must have XP Pro for this) then read the following articles, but BE WARNED, using EFS incorrectly can make your data unusable for every one including yourself.

The Encrypting File System

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

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>

Re: Loss of computer – how much does the password protect?