

Re: Word 2007 Missing User Level Security – ARRRGGGGHHHH What were they thinking?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.security/2008-04/msg00164.html>

- *From:* <david@epsomdotcomdotau>
 - *Date:* Sun, 27 Apr 2008 19:47:41 +1000
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the prevailing theory is that since a file based system can never be made secure that there was no point

Barf... File servers aren't secure? Word and Excel files on a file server aren't secure? SMB servers aren't secure, but SQL servers are secure? Multics wasn't a secure OS? Global Policy Objects and User Profiles stored and distributed by the same mechanism aren't secure?

Access predates Windows security, which is why it had its own security model. It builds on a database model that pre-dates both relational databases and SQL. It has never been updated or kept current. The underlying OS database system has never been updated or kept current.

I can imagine good business reasons not to continue with the OS-based database server product, and good business reasons not to SQL enable the OS-based database server product, but the words "can never be" don't figure in any of those reasons.

Regarding the OP specific question, you maintain object-level security by putting the objects in different file objects, because the OS database primitives don't support record based security. The underlying OS database system predates Windows security, and has never been updated or kept current. Putting the objects in different file objects breaks Declarative Referential Integrity, because the underlying OS database system predates relational databases, and has never been updated or kept current.

Microsoft has announced improved database primitives in the file system, and/or improved file systems in the database, but all of these products have died or been killed. AFAIK, none of these products were ever killed because of problems in the security model. Building a server that responds to

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SQL requests is not inherently more secure than building a server that responds to physical record requests. The SQL service object is not inherently more secure by not being included in the base Windows distribution.

/end rant/

(david)

"Rick Brandt" <rickbrandt2@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:SI8Qj.9824\\$V14.4058@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:SI8Qj.9824$V14.4058@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Steve House wrote:

Just discovered Access 2007 no longer supports user level security. What in the world are they doing here? Serious real-world applications very frequently need to restrict user's access to some but not all of the data in a system. For example, in a human resources application it is not at all unusual for clerical staff to need to view and update all the various elements of an employee's record EXCEPT for salary information while managers and only the managers should have the ability to view and edit the salary fields. And there can't be any backdoors allowed so that someone who who is allowed to only open a form that contains some of the fields in a data table would be able to view information they're not supposed to be privy to by opening a datasheet view of the same table. Removing the ability to control exactly what users of the system are able to view and change seriously cripples Access usability as a line-of-business database application development platform. What am I missing here? Are there any workarounds to establish object level, table level, and field level privileges in Access 2007 (other than sticking with Access 2003 or earlier file format) or are we stuck with an all or nothing scheme where anyone who is allowed to open the database at all has free rein to do anything in it they want to? I confess I am completely gob-smacked that MS could have done something so incredibly counter-productive!

Steve House

A 20-year veteran of database development in panic mode

continuing the charade. I assume the lawyers had a hand in the decision.

You are aware that there are utilities one can find on the internet that will defeat ULS aren't you? They have been around for several years now.

—

Rick Brandt, Microsoft Access MVP

Email (as appropriate) to...

RBrandt at Hunter dot com

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