

Re: Problem with XP Encrypted Files

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Losj407 wrote:

- > *Hi all. I had used the built in XP encryption on all of my files in*
- > *My Documents folder. I recently did a clean install on my PC, and I*
- > *copied the My Documents folder to a different partition while I*
- > *re-installed windows on my main partition. Of course I didn't*
- > *de-encrypt my files when I copied them over.*

And nor could you.

After I did my clean

- > *install, I copied my files back to my main partition in the My*
- > *Documents folder. Now I can not view any of the files. They are all*
- > *encrypted and I can't de-encrypt them.*

Yes, and that's the way they're gonna stay – otherwise what would be the point of encryption?!

- > *Is there a way to decrypt them now?*

Nope (unless you backed up the encryption key and, if you had, you wouldn't be posting)

I am using the same copy of XP I

- > *originally installed. I did change my username & computer name with*
- > *this fresh install. Would it work if I did another fresh install*
- > *with my original computer name and username?*

Nope. Windows generates a new (unique) key with each installation or repair installation. Unless you pay a file recovery company you might as well have formatted.