

## Encrypted vs file permissions etc.

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2005-02/3153.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2005-02/3153.html)

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**From:** MICROSOFT (*nobody\_at\_devnull.spamcop.net*)

**Date:** 02/04/05

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Hi,

Problem: Cannot unzip or open ANY encrypted files stored on my external USB-2 160 Gig hard drive, an ACOM.

XP Pro, SP2/hot fixed, 512 ram, two 80 Gig drvs, non-RAID etc., ext USB 160 Gig drive

XP just reinstalled – deleted partition, format, etc. etc..

Have Norton av & firewall working, no spyware yet, popup blocking on.

Problem:

External USB drive:

Inadvertantly clicked Encrypt, and thus encrypted the contents. Forgot that happened UNTIL I needed the backups on it. Long story short, I managed to trash the C drive drastically and after two days, figured reinstalling would be faster since I have good backups of everything. That external drive has ALL my most recent archives; full backup and one incremental. Archives were created with WinZip, for easy manipulation, restoration of files, easy compares, etc. for future work. Turns out there ain't much future in it after all <g>!!! Anyway,

AFTER the XP re-install, I got file or security permission errors when I tried to unzip any of the files. I ass-u-me since XP wasa reinstalled, it thinks I'm not the owner? Anyway, working on that premise, I have succeeded in:

— Taking ownership of the Folders. Folders no longer indicate encrypted (green color default font).

But, I cannot figure out any way to take ownership (if that's the problem) of the files.

I can:

— Copy, delete, change r, a, h, s attributes and Restore from the Recycle Bin for the files on that drive.

— I can NOT copy them to any DIFFERENT drives. Nothing which involves opening of the files can succeed. When I click Properties for any of the encrypted files, then Advanced, and clear the check mark on Encrypt Files, Apply, I get the error message in a dialog box:

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An error occurred applying attributes to the file  
Path\fname  
Access is Denied.  
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Options are to Ignore, Ignore All, Retry, or quit. Retry fails of course.  
Ignore simply finished the windows up and closes them. Next time the window  
is opened, the check mark for Encrypt Files is still there.

I had a couple of MVP articles saved on another archive CD on how to retake  
ownership and set permissions on files, so I tried those, but I'm too  
ignorant of the processes to be sure of what I've done/am doing. That  
article allowed me to take over the folders and get rid of the R attribute,  
but not to get rid of the Encrypted attribute.

Not sure whether it was XP or WinZip that did the original encryption,  
though. WinZip gets essentially the same error message only shorter; I'm  
not allowed to access that file. Can get the exact wording if needed.

Just for grins, I took the drive to my XP laptop and checked it there: Same  
results. No access allowed.

I've tried working from the DOS prompt, Safe Mode, and taking over the files  
every way I can think of, but like I said, I'm pretty ignorant around these  
things.

My own Admin account, AND the system undeleteable Admin account, both have  
Full Control now; I've gone thru the processes and Help files several times.

The only permission I don't have, and can't figure out how to get, OR  
what it is, is "Special Permissions". I haven't looked for its meaning yet,  
but I could find nothing in the groups, user, admin, etc., policies or  
anywhere to set it for myself. It's not set for any account that I can see,  
and I've looked at all of them.

-- What are the Special Permission?

-- How can I get access to those files at least temporarily so that I can  
unzip them or copy them to the internal hard drives where I can unzip them.?

Any assistance or useful comments would be most appreciated. I'm out of  
options and starting to grab at straws at this point.

If the suggestion were to reinstall XP again that wouldn't be bad either;  
the system drive is pretty well virgin anyway, so no big deal.

Thanks in Advance for your assistance and advice,

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