

## Re: EFS – Please help to unsecure data

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2005-02/3737.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2005-02/3737.html)

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**From:** Rock (*rock\_at\_mail.nospam.net*)

**Date:** 02/05/05

Date: Sat, 05 Feb 2005 14:10:56 -0800

781 wrote:

- > *I have been formatting my HD for couple of times and did not have a problem*
- > *like this.*
- > *I have encrypted some folders with VERY important files on it and have never*
- > *had access problems with it. After each format I would go into G partition*
- > *and set myself as an owner.*
- > *After that I would have access to my files.*
- > *I have now reformatted my drive for the 3rd time. This time, somehow I am*
- > *unable to gain access to my files: Access Denied.*
- > *Please show me a way to get these before I pull all my hair off my head.*
- > *Thank you, and appreciate your help.*
- > *G*
- >
- >

Without having a backup of the encryption key and/or having designated a recovery agent, the files are probably not recoverable. The encryption key is generated from the users SID. When a OS is reinstalled, even if an account with the same name and password is created, the SID is not the same hence it will not work with the original files unless the encryption key was saved and then imported. See these links:

Best practices for the Encrypting File System

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=223316>

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/?id=241201>