

Re: Utility/report for effective NTFS rights for a single user/group?

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"Chris" <Chris@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:FDC41606-AD25-419B-9F27-57F2FA24187E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Can someone point me in the way of a utility or perhaps 3rd party program that can determine the effective NTFS rights for a user or a group?

Technically Rights and Permissions are two distinct things in NT-class operating systems; what you are referencing are NTFS Permissions.

The standard built-in tools are CACLS.exe or XCACLS.exe (support tools) or just Explorer which all show everything directly assigned or inherited by the object.

But it doesn't do anything for you to figure out precisely what a user can/cannot do -- it just shows the ACEs (access control entries).

In the resource kit are two utilities (Perms.exe & ShowAcls.exe) that focus on an individual user. Perms.exe is probably best.

What I would like is to be able to select a user or a group and see what folders/files that user has access to. Does something like this exist?

This is usually a different (type of) question. Since theoretically a user may have access to resources in ANY NTFS resource on any volume of any machine (not just servers, or even those machines with sharing enabled) of the domain, and even other domains in a forest or trust relationship.

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Perms can test a single machine, one volume or directory tree at a time.
(But I just found a bug in perms <UGH>) which ruins some of that.

Or is there another means of possibly generating some kind of report that shows who has access rights to each sub-folder of a higher-level folder?

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know the Effective Permissions tab can be used for this but its too simplistic in that you have to evaluate each folder individually. I'm thinking in the sense of like generating a report that shows who has access to what folders for say a SOX/HIPAA audit.

Cacls and Xcalcs are probably closest since perms is buggy (I didn't know that until just now).

The free SourceForge.exe "SetACL.exe" might also be used (to capture and even later reload permissions) but it is one of THE most complicated command lines tools in existence. This is because it was built to do 'everything' by Unix/Linux folks to work on a Windows box. (Combination of all the worst possible switches, but it is cool when you need it.)

Probably have to combine any of the above with a (Perl, grep etc) program filter to get exactly what you want.

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