

## Re: EFS Certs in AD or local PC?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2008-05/msg03828.html>

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- *From:* Quilnux <[Quilnux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Quilnux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 29 May 2008 06:40:00 -0700
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When we provision a new computer we require all users to backup their certs over admin supervision so we can get the backups to archives. The only problem with that is for non-server related backups to be pulled from our off-site location it takes them 3-5 days to locate it. The user is on vacation until Wednesday, I didn't want them to have to wait until Thursday or Friday next week but it seems that they have no choice.

Thanks for the info. It will come in handy in the future!

"Steve" wrote:

While there are ways to archive EFS certificate/private keys, I believe that requires W2003 Enterprise, and in your case his certificate/private key was on the local computer. See if he possibly exported it for backup at some point in time to see if he can import it back into his computer via a .pxf file. If the domain security policy has a Recovery Agent configured then the RA [usually built in domain administrator account] could logon to a computer that contains the RA EFS certificate/private key [usually the domain controller] and decrypt the files. Note that ANY EFS certificate used to attempt to decrypt files MUST also have the matching private key - a .cer file does NOT. Though he/you may not be able to access the files right now you can view the advanced properties/details of them to see if a RA is included as user that can decrypt.

Steve

"Quilnux" <[Quilnux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Quilnux@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:95785FD5-839E-4A23-B4C9-974A3E6884B2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:95785FD5-839E-4A23-B4C9-974A3E6884B2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello,

We have a user which was using a desktop with an EFS folder. Recently the OS drive failed and we had to reload the system from a new HDD. The EFS folder is on a secondary drive which is ok but I need to know if he will be able

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to  
access the folder when he logs in next wednesday from his account in AD or  
if  
I need to get his EFS cert from archives. It takes archives a week to get  
us  
the disks we need so if it is saved in his AD account I may not need to  
contact them.

Thanks,  
Quilnux