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Encrypt home dir with ecryptfs on Fedora

Posted by Thor Miller Grotle on 15 December 2015, 9:58 pm

Encrypt /home/user



It is pretty easy to access your unencrypted data, if someone have physical access to your computer.

That is where ecryptfs encryption comes in. It will make sure your laptop, if lost or otherwise accessed by unauthorised user, is harder to extract data from.

When encrypted, data cannot be accessed unless user has entered proper login key, or unlocked via ecryptfs-mount command.

Some caveats: When user logs in, the encrypted homedir is unlocked, making user homedir accessible for

root or wheel users, and will remain so until reboot/shutdown.

Swapspace can also be encrypted, this though, will disable hibernation ability.

Make sure ecryptfs is installed. Add user to group ecryptfs, encrypt homedir.

Log in as root

- `dnf install ecryptfs-utils`
- `sudo usermod -a -G ecryptfs user`
- `sudo ecryptfs-migrate-home -u user`

Log out root. NOT REBOOT

Login as user and run:

- `ecryptfs-unwrap-passphrase`

When user/data is checked, and all is present, remember to delete the `/home/user-??????` folder that was made as backup

Recommended to encrypt swap partition.

- `ecryptfs-setup-swap`
- `reboot`

To recover an encrypted homedir, login as root/wheel user, run `ecryptfs-recover-private`, enter passphrase, navigate to `/tmp/ecryptfs.xxxxxxxx`

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