



Have you listened to [LQ Radio](#)?



Profit from Market Movements

The benefits are endless:

✓ FREE Personal Account Manager

✓ FREE \$50,000 Practice Account

Get Your 30%
Bonus Now

[Home](#) [Forums](#) [HCL](#) [Reviews](#) [Tutorials](#) [Articles](#) [Register](#) [Search](#)

[LinuxQuestions.org](#) > [Forums](#) > [Linux Forums](#) > [Linux](#)
- [Distributions](#) > [Slackware](#)
encryption on part of /home

User Name ☒ Remember Me?

Password

Slackware This Forum is for the discussion of Slackware Linux.

Notices

Welcome to **LinuxQuestions.org**, a friendly and active Linux Community.

You are currently viewing LQ as a guest. By joining our community you will have the ability to post topics, receive our newsletter, use the advanced search, subscribe to threads and access many other special features. Registration is quick, simple and absolutely free. [Join our community](#) today!

Note that registered members see fewer ads, and ContentLink is completely disabled once you log in.

Are you new to LinuxQuestions.org? Visit the following links:

[Site Howto](#) | [Site FAQ](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Register Now](#)

If you have any problems with the registration process or your account login, please [contact us](#). If you need to reset your password, [click here](#).

Having a problem logging in? Please visit [this page](#) to clear all LQ-related cookies.

Complimentary eBook: Securing & Optimizing Linux



A comprehensive collection of Linux security products and explanations in the most simple and structured manner on how to safely and easily configure and run many popular Linux-based applications and services.

This book is intended for a technical audience and system administrators who manage Linux servers, but it also includes material for home users and others. It discusses how to install and setup a Linux server with all the necessary security and optimization for a high performance Linux specific machine. It can also be applied with some minor changes to other Linux variants without difficulty.

[Click Here](#) to receive the Securing & Optimizing Linux guide absolutely free.

Main Menu

- [Linux Forums](#)
- [Search](#)
- [LQ Tags](#)
- [Linux HCL](#)
- [Linux Tutorials](#)
- [LQ Job Marketplace](#)
- [Linux Wiki](#)
- [Distro Reviews](#)
- [Book Reviews](#)
- [Download Linux](#)
- [Social Groups](#)
- [LQ Blogs](#)
- [Home](#)

[\(Cont\)](#)

Open the Door
to Exhilaration



10-26-2009, 05:57 AM

#1

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Rep: **encryption on part of /home**

Sponsored Links

[File Encryption](#)[Encrypted Email](#)[Windows Partition](#)[Partition Recovery Software](#)[Rename Files](#)[Disk Partition](#)[Encryption Software](#)[\[Log in to get rid of this advertisement\]](#)

Hello....

As part of my repartitioning grand plan (<http://www.linuxquestions.org/questioning-763697/>), I'm looking into encrypted partitions. I've read README_CRYPT.TXT and dm-crypt looks good.

However, one issue is in sharing the computer with someone who you don't wish or expect to have a password for an encrypted /home partition. I want my data in /home encrypted but don't want other users to have to worry about passwords during boot time.

What is the best practise here? I could have a separate personal partition, which is encrypted and mounted at /home/my_user/ ... but this would also have to be activated by password during boot, right? It's this I am trying to avoid so LUKS multiple passwords are not the solution.

Could I remove this partition from /etc/crypttab and put a user-specific luksOpen command somewhere in /etc that would activate my encrypted partition only when I logged in?

Basically, is there a way of a password being requested when I try to log in so that my data is encrypted from someone with physical access to the computer but its presence doesn't interfere with other users of the computer?

Thanks!



nanawall.com NanaWall

My LQ

- [Login](#)
- [Register](#)





Write for LQ

LinuxQuestions.org is looking for people interested in writing Editorials, Articles, Reviews, and more. If you'd like to contribute content, [let us know](#).

Main Menu

- [LQ Calendar](#)
- [LQ Rules](#)
- [LQ Sitemap](#)
- [Site FAQ](#)
- [View New Posts](#)
- [View Latest Posts](#)
- [Zero Reply Threads](#)
- [LQ Wiki Most Wanted](#)
- [Jeremy's Blog](#)
- [Report LQ Bug](#)

Syndicate

-  [Latest Threads](#)
-  [LQ News](#)
-  [LQ Podcast](#)
-  [LQ Radio](#)

Twitter: [@linuxquestions](#)
identi.ca: [@linuxquestions](#)
Facebook: [@linuxquestions](#)

10-26-2009, 09:09 AM

#2

sploot

Here is the solution I used:

Member

Registered: Sep 2009
Location: Phoenix, AZ
Distribution: Gentoo, Debian, Ubuntu
Posts: 120

Rep: 

You will need a directory with some files in it as your home directory that is accessible when you login. Although this part need not be encrypted. Just set up your .xinit and .bashrc in your home directory and add to the bottom of the .bashrc file

Code:

```
cryptsetup luksOpen <partition> <name>  
mount dm-0 (or whatever this ends up
```

but build this into an if that checks to see if it is already mounted. Something like

Code:

```
if [-e <some file that is in your hom  
    echo "Already mounted"  
else  
    cryptsetup luksOpen ...  
    mount ...  
fi
```

You can set your mountpoint as the home directory, it doesn't need to be a subdirectory. The new mount contents will hide the old. If you want this to be secure, you should find a way to run a script at logout of your user that will unmount and luksClose your partition.

Good luck!
Hope this helps some?

Last edited by sploot; 10-26-2009 at 09:10 AM.

 10-27-2009, 12:41 AM

#3

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Original Poster

Rep: 

sploot -

Wow, I didn't know you could mount to a directory with files already in it ... This is why I couldn't figure out how to mount an encrypted partition on my home directory.

I'm going to think about your method and see if it is best for me.

Thanks for the tip.

 10-27-2009, 12:43 AM

#4

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Original Poster

Rep: 

sploot -

Wow, I didn't know you could mount to a directory with files already in it. That's why I couldn't figure out how to mount the partition on log-in. I'm going to think about your method and see if it is best for me.

Thanks for the tip.

10-27-2009, 03:16 AM

#5

mcnalu

Member

Registered: Dec 2006
Location: Glasgow , UK
Distribution: Slackware 13.0
Posts: 299

Rep: 

I use encfs to mount a single dir that I need to keep encrypted. It's simple to use and makes backups secure and easy.

It's available via slackbuilds.org.

10-27-2009, 05:20 PM

#6

gargamel

Senior Member

Registered: May 2003
Distribution: Slackware, SLAX, OpenSuSE
Posts: 1,253

Rep: 

Another popular option would be <http://www.truecrypt.org/>. It does not *exactly* work the way you describe, but it does the job, and supports your scenario.

gargamel

10-28-2009, 03:07 AM

#7

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Original Poster

Rep: 

I've used TrueCrypt for my external drives and it works fine, so maybe I'll use it here too. I've just installed encfs and I'm going to see if it has any advantages. Thanks for the tips.

10-28-2009, 08:08 AM

#8

shadowsnipes

Senior Member

Registered: Sep 2005
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 1,394

Rep: 

An advantage of Encfs is that you can back up/remove, etc individual encrypted files. This makes incremental backups possible. This can be a disadvantage, however, if you do not want others to know how big your files are. The names are all scrambled, so it would be hard to guess that.

I have not used Encfs to encrypt my entire user's home folder, but I do use it to encrypt certain folders under my user's folder (financial docs, etc). I made a script that makes it easier to use. It allows me to use a relative path and only specify one folder name. As you can see, I like having my real folder, *.name*, to be in the same folder as the encfs mountpoint, *name*. *name* should exist before using this script.

Code:

```
#!/bin/sh

# This script simply shortcuts path
# The mountpoint is specified for e
# to be in the same path, but with
# /home/user/.myfolder, /home/user/
# If the -u option is used the scri
```

```
#
# Written by shadowsnipes

set -e

CWD=$(pwd)
ENCFS=$(which encfs)

usage() {
    echo
    echo "$(basename $0)"
    echo "Usage:"
    echo "  $0 [-u] /path/to/mountpt"
    echo
    echo "The encrypted folder must be"
    echo "will have a '.' in the folder"
    echo "  Example: /path/to/mountpt"
    echo
}

if ! [ -x $ENCFS ]
then
    echo "Error.  encfs not installed"
    exit 1
fi
```

10-28-2009, 11:02 AM

#9

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Original Poster

Rep: 

I like the script. I'm going to try and get parts of my .kde directory encrypted -- probably .kde/share/apps since that is where kmail stores email. Where's the best place to throw in the calls to encfs so that it runs before KDE starts? .bashrc?

10-28-2009, 03:13 PM

#10


shadowsnipes

Senior Member

Registered: Sep 2005
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 1,394

Rep: 

Quote:

Originally Posted by **brixtoncalling** 
I like the script. I'm going to try and get parts of my .kde directory encrypted -- probably .kde/share/apps since that is where kmail stores email. Where's the best place to throw in the calls to encfs so that it runs before KDE starts? .bashrc?

I use this as my .bashrc

Code:

```
if [ -f ~/.profile ]; then
    source ~/.profile
fi
```

and .profile should contain your aliases and other stuff that you always want run when you login.

For instance, you could have something like

Code:

```
#!/bin/sh
PATH=~/bin:$PATH
Encfs ~/.kde/share/apps 2> /dev/null
```

, where the Encfs script above is at ~/bin

Before you do this you should make sure you are not logged into X and (in a real console, VT6 will do) mv your entire .kde/share/apps directory to a temporary location. Create the .kde/share/apps and .kde/share/.apps directories. Mount the first directory using encfs and then copy all of your data back in. From then on it should work.

You might also want encfs to unmount after you exit KDE. I don't remember where kde's logout scripts are located. Maybe you can just add something to the end of your .xinitrc.

11-12-2009, 02:33 PM

#11

brixtoncalling

Member

Registered: Jul 2008
Distribution: Slackware
Posts: 220

Original Poster

Rep: 

Well I've just put together a script (credits are in the code below) which does what I want: cut down on the number of times I need to type in my password by making use of KDE's wallet to store the encfs password. There might be another way of doing this with encfs's --extpass option.

I'd like to hear comments on making the script better, although it seems to be working fine for me. I put in mount and umount calls using KDE's Autostart and shutdown directories.

Code:

```
#!/bin/bash
# Mounts an Encfs partition with di
# The first parameter is the encryp
# given then they may be selected b
# If the password is not present in
#
# Original script by Taboom (versio

SOURCE=$1
DESTINATION=$2

APPID=encfs # The application ID th
KWALLETD=/usr/bin/kwalletd # locati

# Check for an X session
if [ -z $DISPLAY ]; then
    echo "X not running"
    exit
```

```

fi

# Ensure kwallet is running on KDE
if [ "$(qdbus org.kde.kwalletd /mod
$KWALLETD
fi

#If parameters are missing
if [ -z "$SOURCE" ]; then
SOURCE=$(kdialog --title "Encrypt
[ -z "$SOURCE" ] && exit

```

[NEW: O&O PartitionManager](#)

Disk partitioning - easy and reliable. Test it now!
www.oo-software.com

[File Rescue Plus 2010](#)

Undelete any Files, Folders, Photos & Music from any Windows O/S.
www.SoftwareShelf.com

[VOIP Encryption Software](#)

Licensed by the Israeli Military, Totally secure mobile phone.
www.gold-lock.com

[Password Recovery](#)

Cloud Disaster Recovery Trends Password Recovery, Tips & Tools
searchCloudComputing.Techtarget.com



Posting Rules

You **may not** post new threads
 You **may not** post replies
 You **may not** post attachments
 You **may not** edit your posts

[BB code](#) is **On**
[Smilies](#) are **On**
[\[IMG\]](#) code is **Off**
 HTML code is **Off**
[Trackbacks](#) are **Off**
[Pingbacks](#) are **On**
[Refbacks](#) are **Off**

[Forum Rules](#)

Similar Threads

Thread	Thread Starter	Forum	Replies	Last Post
LXer: Ubuntu 9.10 Home Encryption Performance	LXer	Syndicated Linux New s	0	09-16-2009 12:20 PM
LXer: Data encryption and Ubuntu. Part III	LXer	Syndicated Linux New s	0	11-30-2008 02:12 AM
Encryption on VPN via Window s	NetAX	Linux - Netw orking	2	11-07-2004 00:50 PM

XP home					02:56 PM
Home Alone with PHP, part 2: Lost in links!	Mega Man X	Programming	13	09-11-2004	06:52 AM
Home Sound Studio (part 2): Microphone set up problem	vous	Linux - Software	3	05-08-2003	12:22 PM

All times are GMT -5. The time now is [11:44 AM](#).

[Contact Us](#) - [Advertising Info](#) - [Rules](#) - [LQ Merchandise](#) - [Donations](#) - [Contributing Member](#) - [LQ Sitemap](#) - [LinuxQuestions.org](#) - [Linux Forums](#)
[Open Source Consulting](#) | [Domain Registration](#)