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Empower: How to Decrypt Files

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TOPIC -----

I have been having problems with various HyperCard stacks giving me an "Old format" dialog while using Empower security software from Magna. I'd been having unusual system problems, so I trashed my System Folder, reinstalled new system software and reinstalled drivers and INITs. I did NOT reinstall the Empower INIT. Everything worked as though I'd never had Empower until I tried getting into those HyperCard stacks.

DISCUSSION -----

Using file encryption programs requires users to be careful: getting locked out is a common mistake. Denying access privileges to a folder causes Empower to encrypt files within it, and without Empower, they cannot be decrypted. This is what happened to the HyperCard files. If you compare a new stack with a problem stack under FEdit, you'll see the difference. If you check a few other files you had protected (including some non-HyperCard files), you'll find that they, too, still encrypted.

The fix is to restart with the Empower INIT installed, remove any volume protection (and all privileges) to decrypt any encrypted files, then remove Empower, and restart. After all security has been removed and files are no longer encrypted, all is normal.

Empower provides good security using a familiar interface, but can cause problems with careless use.

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