

Knowledge Base

## HOW TO: Use the Secedit.sdb Database to Perform a Security Analysis in Windows 2000

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
  - Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server
  - Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
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### SUMMARY

This step-by-step article describes how to use the Secedit.sdb database to analyze your security settings. This analysis can identify security holes that may exist in your current configuration, and can also identify changes that will take place if you use a security template to configure your computer.

You can analyze your current settings against a baseline template at any time. This analysis is useful for several reasons:

- To identify security holes that may exist in a current configuration.
- To identify the changes that a security policy may make before you actually deploy the security policy.
- To identify deviations from a policy that is currently imposed on a computer.

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### How to Start the Security Configuration and Analysis Snap-in

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type `mmc`, and then click **OK**.
3. On the **Console** menu, click **Add\Remove Snap-in**, and then click **Add**.
4. In the list of available standalone snap-ins, click **Security Configuration and Analysis**, and then click **Add**.
5. In the list of available standalone snap-ins, click **Security Templates**, and then click **Add**.
6. Click **Close**, and then click **OK**.

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### How to Perform the Security Analysis

You can use the Secedit.sdb database to compare local security settings against group policy settings that are downloaded from a domain:

1. Start Windows explorer, and then open the `Winnt\Security\Database` folder.
2. Make a copy of the Secedit.sdb database. That database contains local security settings.
3. Quit Windows Explorer, and then switch to the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) window.
4. Right-click **Security Configuration and Analysis**, and then click **Open Database**.
5. Click the copy of the Secedit.sdb file that you created in the `Winnt\Security\Database` folder, and then click **Open**. Note that you receive an error message if you try to load the original Secedit.sdb file.
6. Right-click **Security Configuration and Analysis**, and then click **Analyze Computer Now**.
7. In the **Error log file path** box, type `C:\Winnt\Security\Logs\Mysecure.log`.

**NOTE:** If Windows 2000 is installed in a folder other than the `C:\Winnt` folder, modify the path that you type to match your installation.

8. Click **OK**. After the analysis is complete, the security areas are available under the **Security Configuration and Analysis** node.

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### How to View the Results

1. In the left pane, expand the **Security Configuration and Analysis** node.
2. Click the Description bar to expose the database with which you are working. If the Description bar is not visible, click **Customize** on the **View** menu, and then click to select the **Description bar** check box.
3. Expand the **Local Policies** node, and then click **Security Options**.

Both the database setting and the actual system setting are displayed in the right pane for each object. Discrepancies are marked with a red flag. Consistencies are marked with a green check mark. If there is no flag or check mark, the security setting is not specified in the database. This means that the security setting is not configured in the template that was imported.

You can double-click any setting to investigate discrepancies.

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