



New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

HESC Encrypted E-Mail Fact Sheet

Benefits

- Uses the standard internet-compliant Simple Mail Transfer Protocol/Post Office Protocol Version 3 (SMTP/POP3) technology and service.
- File is sent as an encrypted e-mail attachment.
- Increased security using PGP data encryption.
- Encryption ensures data integrity and confidentiality by scrambling data so that only the sender and recipient of the encrypted data know its contents.
- Eliminates shipping costs associated with mailing magnetic tapes/carts, diskettes, cd's, etc.
- No delays associated with lost or misplaced mail.
- Faster processing and updates to our business information systems.
- 24 X 7 Access -- Provides 24-hour service and availability, 7 days a week.
- Allows for HESC Proprietary and CommonLine file formats.

PC/Internet Requirements

- Business Partners will need an email account with attachment capability to send and receive files with HESC.
- It is required that the business partner's e-mail account used to receive file transfer messages from HESC never automatically generate e-mail messages; e.g. "Out of Office" notices.
- Business partners must obtain **Encryption Software** – RFC2440 (OpenPGP) compliant:
Recommended package: GnuPG 1.0.6-2 or later; preferably the latest version GnuPG. Can download the source code for GnuPG and/or pre-compiled windows binaries 1.2.4 at <http://www.gnupg.org/> or pre-compiled binaries for SunOS/Solaris at <http://gnupg.unixsecurity.com.br/solaris.html>
Other off-the-shelf products and open-source tools are available and can be used as well.

Data Requirements

- Data files cannot exceed 1MB--compressed and encrypted.
- Files must be created in ASCII format and must not contain mixed data types.
- Files must not be zipped.
- Files must be encrypted using the OpenPGP specification.
- The end of every record must contain a valid Carriage Return (CR) and Line Feed (LF).
CR = Decimal Code "13" LF = Decimal Code "10".
- Business partners will need a copy of the "*NCHHELP Technical Manual for Commonline and Common Account Maintenance Processes*". All e-mail exchanged with HESC must comply with the standards outlined by NCHHELP and contained in this manual. The manual can be obtained at →
<http://www.nchelp.org/elibrary/Manuals&Guides&CommonLineInfo/ElectronicStandardsDocumentation/BEAT%20Manual.pdf>

For more information, please contact the Data Exchange Team at edes@hesc.org, (518) 408-3685 or Toll Free at 1-866-431-4372 and select option 5.