



GO ANYWHERE[®]
Managed File Transfer

Businesses Need MFT:
Here's why and how it works



MANAGED FILE TRANSFER

What it is, how it works, and why your business needs it

The Basics of MFT

As more and more organizations seek a file transfer solution to meet their data transfer and encryption needs, several questions arise:

What Exactly is Managed File Transfer? At a minimum, a managed file transfer (or MFT) [solution](#) is a product that encompasses all aspects of inbound and outbound file transfers while using industry-standard network protocols and encryption.

"Managed" refers to how the solution can automate and transfer data across your organization, network, systems, applications, trading partners, and cloud environments from a single, central point of administration.

What are the Advantages Over Free File Sharing Applications? Unlike a simple FTP or SFTP solution, MFT solutions usually include the following features:

- Extensive security controls
- Automated batch file transfers
- Support for SFTP, FTPS, and SCP protocols
- Advanced auditing and reporting functionality
- File delivery with connection retries and file auto-resume
- Integration with external trading partners through secure FTP and AS2

An MFT solution can be used by organizations of all sizes, for file transfer needs ranging from a few dozen a week to a few thousand a day and more. It can replace old technology, like regular FTP solutions that are still deployed in organizations despite the risks posed by data that's "sent in the clear"; time-consuming manual processes that include the use of PC tools and legacy scripts; and solutions with file access that is too decentralized, making it hard for teams to control and manage the corresponding data.

How MFT Works

Compared to using a variety of standalone FTP and SFTP tools, MFT technology allows professionals to streamline how data is transferred. This helps organizations do things like send and receive files in their cloud and private networks, create and control workflows, and automate transfers.

Step One: Original File is Sent from the MFT Program or Plugin

When you need to send a confidential document to someone in a remote location, perhaps a seasonal menu for another retail location, an audit report for a trading partner, or a confidential financial document for a homeowner, you can send it to that third party by using an MFT solution.

The file's journey to your recipient can start in several ways. You can:

- Send the file through an MFT email plugin
- Send it through a web client (with access to the MFT solution from a browser)
- Automatically send it directly through the managed file transfer workflow
- Place a file in a dedicated folder that the recipient can connect to for download

Whatever method you choose to send your file, MFT ensures the data is transferred quickly and securely.

An MFT solution is a product that encompasses all aspects of inbound and outbound file transfers while using industry-standard network protocols and encryption.



Step Two: The MFT Solution Encrypts Your File

After you send the email, upload the file to your browser, or drop it in a monitored folder, the MFT solution receives the data and works to secure it. MFT encrypts files using FIPS 140-2 compliance AES ciphers or the Open PGP standard and protects file transmissions using SFTP, SCP, FTPS, AS2, and HTTPS protocols to encrypt the data you send. Furthermore, an MFT solution like GoAnywhere MFT allows you to zip compress files before transmission.

Once your data is properly protected, you can use MFT to schedule file transfers, translate sent and received data to popular formats like Excel, XML, and JSON, update and pull files from monitored folders, and more.

Step Three: Encrypted File is Delivered to the Recipient & Decrypted

When the file leaves the MFT server, it's sent to the location you indicated for the recipient - a designated folder on a server, email address, etc. The recipient can then grab the file, decrypt it, and translate it as needed.

For peace of mind, MFT solutions often include audit logs that store and track crucial audit information. This helps with PCI DSS and HIPAA compliance, but it also allows you to track the movement and activity of the file that occur once it leaves you, so you never have to wonder if the transfer was successful, if it failed, or whether the file was even opened.

If the recipient has a file to send you, they can repeat the process, starting the journey all over again.

Why MFT is Worth the Investment

Protecting sensitive data is of paramount importance in today's environment. MFT provides companies a safe and audited method for transferring information within and outside of their enterprise that can help limit risk of data breaches and unauthorized access to important databases.

Managed file transfer also gives organizations many benefits.

- It offers high [return on investment](#)
- Improves the quality of data transmissions
- Reduces the time a team spends on manual labor
- Makes IT security efforts more cost-effective
- Helps businesses meet a variety of compliance requirements, including PCI DSS, HIPAA, FISMA, and the GDPR

About GoAnywhere

GoAnywhere® Managed File Transfer is an enterprise-ready managed file transfer solution that streamlines and encrypts the exchange of data between systems, employees, customers, and trading partners. It provides a user friendly, single point of control with extensive security settings, several collaboration modules, detailed audit trails and reporting, and remote agents.

How much could your organization benefit from secure file transfers?

Explore managed file transfer's many features and security settings with a personalized demo of our enterprise-ready solution, GoAnywhere MFT.

www.goanywhere.com/demo

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About HelpSystems

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