



Secure
File Transfer –
SSH plus additional
audit and
automation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS . . .

What is FTP?

FTP is an abbreviation for *File Transfer Protocol* and is a method of transferring files across the internet and TCP/IP networks. The standard software is free and operates on most operating systems. It suffers from the disadvantages of a lack of automation, security, control and audit. It is also manually operated and is not easily integrated into enterprise systems.

What is SFTP?

SFTP is an abbreviation for *Secure File Transfer Protocol* (aka *SSH File Transfer Protocol* or *Secure File Transfer Program*). Files may be transferred across the internet and TCP/IP networks with the security of SSH (developed by SSH Communications Security). SSH programs provide strong authentication and encrypted communications and there are standard free versions of SFTP available. It suffers from the disadvantages of lack of automation, control and audit and is not easily integrated into enterprise systems.

What is SFTPPlus?

SFTPPlus is provided as a fully supported client for enterprises who wish to use the security of SSH with open standards together with additional audit and automation for enterprise file transfers. Transfers may be made to/from internal as well as third party external SFTP servers with NO requirement for additional software at the server side. It is designed to be integrated in enterprise systems. A version of SFTPPlus for servers will be released in 2005 to enable both sides to have the same audit and control – if preferred.

Is SFTPPlus supported?

Yes. Pro:AtriaTM fully supports SFTPPlus and will provide suitable support arrangements to meet your needs – including options for 24x7. Pro:Atria also fully supports the open source components included.

Do I need to install SFTPPlus at both sides of a transfer?

No. Transfers may be made to/from internal as well as third party external SFTP servers with *no* requirement for additional software at the server side. A version of SFTPPlus for servers will be released in 2005 to enable both sides to have the same audit and control – if preferred.

Can I use pre and post processing with SFTPPlus?

Yes. A simple configuration option allows running commands, bat files or shell scripts.

What alerts & notifications can I receive with SFTPPlus?

Alerts are raised for specified conditions – options include SNMP, SMTP email alerts etc. THE messages may be extended to other systems. Messages are comprehensive and allow for a number of conditions including 'information', 'warning' (eg. retry), 'error' (eg. continue), 'severe error' (eg. stop) etc.

Does SFTPPlus meet FSA regulatory requirements?

SFTPPlus has been developed in close co-operation with a major insurance company to meet FSA requirements, and has sample configurations provided for both the FSA and Council for Mortgage Lending (CML) reporting environments. It is designed to be easily configured for future systems from these and other regulators as well as corporate requirements.

Can transfers be automated with SFTPPlus?

Yes – SFTPPlus will monitor an 'inbox' directory for a file or wait for a triggering event and then make an automatic transfer to single or multiple destinations of any file. Monitoring may be set to specified intervals.

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What audits and logs are created by SFTPPlus?

Comprehensive audit and logs are available to both event logs and message logs and are routed based on severity.

Can the transfer be guaranteed as successful?

Yes. Retry is until successful or timeout. Additionally SFTPPlus will take a copy of the file and generate a checksum. The copy and checksum will be archived with a date and time stamp and write an entry to a log file. The original file is sent to the SFTP server and optionally will also send the checksum file. See *also notifications, messages and audit*.

How will I know the file was received?

SFTPPlus has the option to retrieve a response file after a successful upload. eg. it will wait for 30 minutes, or until triggered, and check for response. If the response file is available, retrieve it and place in 'response' directory. Retry is until successful or timeout.

How do I avoid duplicate names in transfers with SFTPPlus?

The date and timestamp is added to avoid duplicate names.

How does SFTPPlus run?

SFTPPlus runs as a service.

Does SFTPPlus archive files?

All files are archived with a date and time stamp.

Can I use SFTPPlus for TRS, PSD, STR and other SFTP reporting?

Yes - SFTPPlus is designed to fully support Financial Service Authority (FSA) interfaces for Transaction Reporting System (TRS) Product Sales Data (PSD) and Securities Trades Reporting (Markets) XML documents using the System to System Interface.

Does SFTPPlus use proprietary protocols?

NO - SFTPPlus uses standard protocols, such as SFTP

What encryption is available?

SFTPPlus supports the standard SSH encryption protocols, including

- AES (Rijndael) – 256, 192, or 128-bit CBC (SSH-2 only)
- Blowfish – 128-bit CBC
- Triple-DES – 168-bit CBC

Can I customise SFTPPlus

SFTPPlus has many customisation options. Additionally, the source code is included and may be customised as desired.

Can I guarantee the transferred file is intact?

SFTPPlus will generate an md5sum message digest which can be transferred with the original file to verify integrity.

How does SFTPPlus verify server SSH signatures?

SFTPPlus requires the signature of every server to be cached as part of the configuration. This prevents communications with unauthorised servers.

Can I use SFTPPlus to send to anyone?

Yes, but to ensure the system is not abused, the remote systems have to be pre-configured. SFTPPlus is not designed for uncontrolled transfers.

Does SFTPPlus require it's own server?

SFTPPlus is designed to run on an existing server or workstation. The overheads are low, and generally network requirements would be the limiting factor.

Can I trial SFTPPlus?

Software is available for supported trials – *please contact us*.

What are SFTPPlus requirements and supported platforms?

Requirements for SFTPPlus are:

- Standard SSH SFTP
- Windows NT/XP/2000/2003
- UNIX (HP, AIX, Solaris, Tru64)
- Linux (Red Hat, SUSE etc) – Intel, PPC, SPARC, Alpha

What is the roadmap for SFTPPlus?

The Roadmap includes:

- SFTPPlus Server edition
- Support for AS/400, OpenVMS, OS/390, Mac and other platforms
- Support for FTP and FTPS (FTP over SSL/TLS)

Check for availability