

# Ciphertext

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**Ciphertext** is Data in its encrypted form <sup>1)</sup>.

**Ciphertext** is encrypted text transformed from [Plaintext](#) using an [Cryptographic Algorithm](#).

**Ciphertext** can not be read until it has been converted into Plaintext (using [Decryption](#)) with a key. The decryption cipher is an algorithm that transforms the **Ciphertext** back into Plaintext.

The term [Cipher](#) is sometimes used as a synonym for **Ciphertext**. However, it refers to the method of encryption rather than the result.

Source: <https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/ciphertext>

<sup>1)</sup>

Elaine Barker, NIST, [Recommendation for Key Management: Part 1 - General](#), NIST Special Publication 800-57 Part 1, Revision 5, May 2020, Accessed 18 January 2022, <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-57pt1r5.pdf>

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