

# Cryptographic Checksum

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**Cryptographic Checksum** is generated by a [Cryptographic Algorithm](#), a **Cryptographic Checksum** is a mathematical value assigned to a file sent through a network for verifying that the data contained in that file is unchanged. The algorithm performs numerous mathematical operations to create a hash value, or fixed string of digits. This hash value is then used as a [Checksum](#) to confirm that the sent file was not changed by an attacker.

A hash value remains unchanged from the time it is created and is considered an “electronic fingerprint” of a file. A **Cryptographic Checksum** is assigned to a file and is used to verify that the data in that file has not been tampered with or manipulated, possibly by a malicious entity.

**Cryptographic Checksums** provide the basis of modern cryptography, particularly for signing and [Encryption](#), [Digital Signature](#), email certificates and website certificates. They are also known as message authentication codes, integrity check values, modification detection codes or message integrity codes.

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