

# Plaintext

[Return to Glossary](#)

**Plaintext** is intelligible data that has meaning and can be understood without the application of decryption<sup>1)</sup>.

**Plaintext** is usually ordinary readable text before it is [Encrypted](#) into ciphertext, or readable text after it is [Decrypted](#).

Data input to or output from [Encryption Algorithms](#) is not always **Plaintext**. For example, when data is super-encrypted, or encrypted more than once using different Encryption Algorithms, only the input to the first encryption method is considered **Plaintext**.

**Note:** there is difference between **Plaintext** and [Cleartext](#).

Also see: [Ciphertext](#)

Source: <https://www.techtarget.com/searchsecurity/definition/plaintext>

<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>

From:  
<https://www.omgwiki.org/dido/> - **DIDO Wiki**

Permanent link:  
[https://www.omgwiki.org/dido/doku.php?id=dido:public:ra:xapend:xapend.a\\_glossary:p:plaintext](https://www.omgwiki.org/dido/doku.php?id=dido:public:ra:xapend:xapend.a_glossary:p:plaintext)

Last update: **2022/01/18 09:19**

