Plaintext

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Plaintext is intelligible data that has meaning and can be understood without the application of decryption[1)].

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**.

Also see: Ciphertext

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

1)

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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