

Plaintext

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Plaintext is intelligible data that has meaning and can be understood without the application of decryption¹⁾.

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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