

Notes from 2003 Software Developers Conference Encryption Panel

An Encryption Panel Discussion was conducted as part of the 2003 IRS Software Developers Conference. The purpose of the panel discussion was to present a brief initiative history, accomplishments, and projected milestones for the data encryption effort underway at the IRS. The panel members were JoAnn Bass (Director, Strategic Services) (Moderator), Mary R. Hernandez (Director, Security Services), Frank Kist (Director, Enterprise Networks), and Ron Rosh (Director, Submission Processing/ETA Systems).

Mr. Kist presented three encryption solution categories: file encryption, virtual private network (VPN), and Secure Socket Layer (SSL). He stated that there are pros/cons associated with each category and that few products meet all of the IRS' requirements. He said that IRS' goal is to identify solutions that meet EMS and Telecomm and impact the software developers' and existing end-user communities minimally. He went on to say that each solution will require software changes and have user impact and that the degree of change varies between categories and solutions. A brief discussion of each category followed.

The developmental issues identified for all three encryption solution categories were (1) complexity, cost, schedule, (2) implementation, and (3) user interface.