



DOCUMENT ENCRYPTION & WHY IT MATTERS

Encryption may be ubiquitous in modern life, but its power—particularly for legal teams—should not be undervalued. Document encryption is crucial for the roles it plays in security, compliance, and loss prevention.



Security

Keeping confidential data secure is a high priority. As files are shared digitally between people and devices, there are increasing opportunities for bad actors to attack systems and steal information. Encryption offers protection for your documents that can help keep your content secure even if security is breached.



Governance & Compliance

Encrypting your documents is essential to meeting your ethical obligations to safeguard client information. While most lawyers stop at encrypting computer hard drives, phones, and email it's not enough in the event of a data breach. Unique document encryption is key to minimizing the impact of a data breach.



Loss Prevention

The cost of data breaches are high and getting higher. Data breaches erode public trust and can have an incredibly damaging effect on a firm's reputation—which can jeopardize existing and future client relationships and revenue. Robust security, including encryption, helps firms mitigate the risk of loss due to data breaches.

How NetDocuments Handles Document Encryption

Keeping your files safe is our job. Using military-grade encryption practices (such as those described next) to protect your firm against damaging data breaches, in addition to next-generation key management and encryption technology, you can be confident that your firm's documents and data are protected at the highest level within the NetDocuments platform.

Multi-Layer Encryption Key Management (EKM)

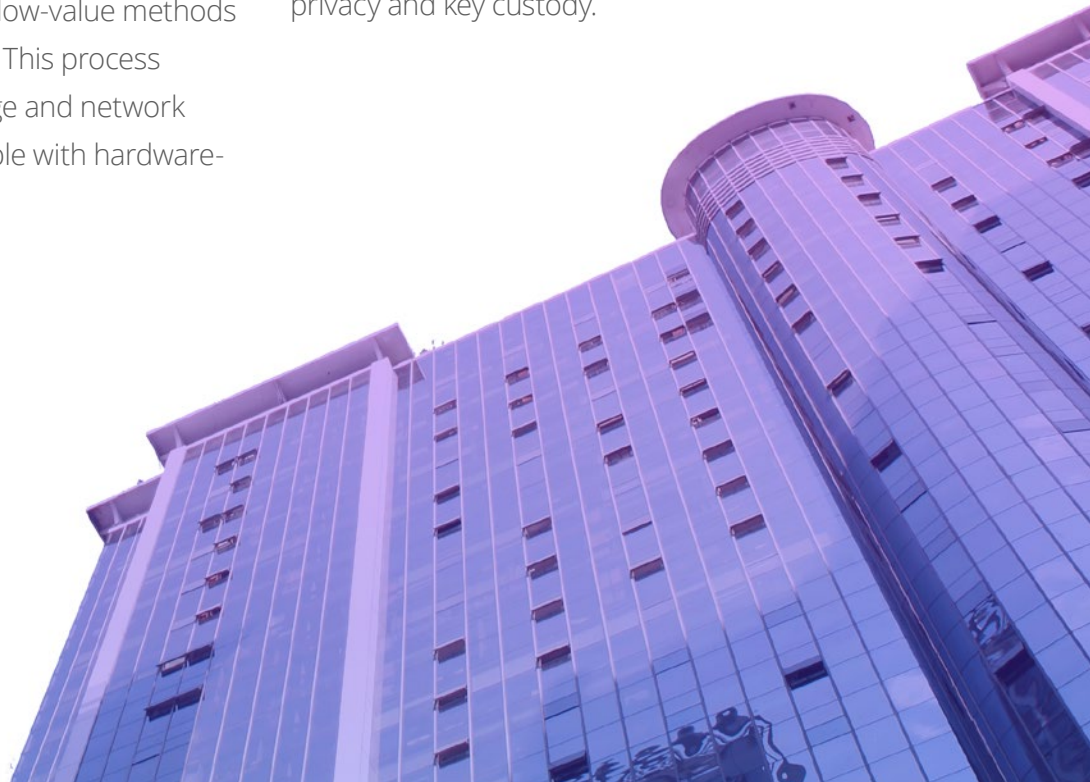
NetDocuments layers individual encryption keys at multiple levels using innovative technology, including a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG) to create a unique encryption key for each document and email saved to the Service. The QRNG generates truly random AES 256 encryption keys, as opposed to software-based randomization which is more vulnerable to hackers.

The DMS software itself performs the encryption and decryption, rather than using low-value methods such as encrypting the entire disk. This process conceals all digital files from storage and network administrators (which is not possible with hardware-based encryption).

Each document saved to NetDocuments is encrypted with its own unique fully randomized AES-256 Object Encryption Key (OEK). After encryption, the document is written to disk while the OEK is stored separately in a highly secure database. All objects—documents, emails, records, or images—are encrypted on our servers and while traveling between your desk and NetDocuments.

Before being stored in the key database, OEKs are themselves encrypted by an using a Master Encryption Key (MEK), which provides an additional layer of encryption security. NetDocuments safeguards and manages MEKs in a dedicated Hardware Security Module (HSM) with fully restricted access, using Root of Trust architecture to fully protect the MEK. MEKs are rotated every six months.

This degree of security and encryption at the storage, application, and processing layers, along with the ability to hold and store encryption keys in privately held HSMs, solves the long-standing issues of data privacy and key custody.



What about data reliability?

A key element of the NetDocuments storage architecture is that every document you save is immediately copied across three data centers. Additionally, each document is copied onto two separate hard drives in each data center to ensure content is never lost.

A Key Part of Your Firm's Security Plan

While powerful on its own, encryption is just one layer of NetDocuments' comprehensive data governance offering. NetDocuments also offers controls for user access and document editing, data loss prevention (DLP) to minimize the risk of an accidental or malicious data leak. In addition, NetDocuments maintains necessary security certifications and is regularly audited to ensure compliance with relevant ISO 27001 and SOC 2 controls —allowing your firm to take advantage via pass-through compliance.

Discover how our military-grade encryption can further protect your business.

Schedule a demo of NetDocuments today >