The Managed File Transfer Buyer's Guide

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The Purpose of This Guide

For many organizations, the movement of data files between users, locations, partners and customers is a core operational process. Depending on the nature of the enterprise, however, file transfer requirements may range from occasional use for non-proprietary data, to high volume transactions of confidential or regulated information.

This guide is designed to allow IT Managers to select the right file transfer solution to meet their organizational needs based on their individual requirements.

FTP vs MFT

If your organization's requirements include the success of the file transfer, the security of the data involved, or compliance with regulatory mandates, your investigations should focus on differentiating between FTP (File Transfer Protocol) and MFT (Managed File Transfer) solutions.

FTP Servers are a proven method of securely transferring large files between users or systems but typically lack the controls required for more stringent operational or regulatory compliance requirements. An FTP server may be sufficient to meet the needs of a manufacturer transferring CAD drawings. Organizations would likely find the casual nature of FTP use to be problematic when it comes to the transfer of financial data, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) or Personal Health Information (PHI).

The Benefits of FTP Servers

🔒 **Secure**

👤 **Easy to Use**

🌐 **Secure Email & Web access**

Managed File Transfer (MFT) solutions are better suited to address the security, control and automation requirements of core operational processes and regulatory compliance. Organizations concerned with the exchange of files between remote data centers, customers, trading partners, service providers, and cloud applications are better served with a fully auditable Managed File Transfer solution.

The Benefits of Managed FileTransfer

✓ **Regulatory Compliance**

📈 **Reporting**

👍 **Reliability**

⚙ **Automation**

In order to provide you with the best solution for your needs, please rank each requirement as Low, Medium or High.

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE

ACCESS CONTROL
How is access to the system and data controlled?

LDAP
Integration to central user directory eases system administration. MFT solutions may support additional protocols and systems, such as Radius.

ROLE-BASED ACCESS CONTROL
Role-based access control provides additional protection when delegating administrative capabilities to business users.

SSO or MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION
Is SAML 2.0 single sign-on capability right for your organization or do you require two-factor authentication for added protection?

AUDITS
Will IT admin, business users, or auditors need access to audit data as to who used the system when, and what data was transferred, to whom, when?

LOGS
Are simple server logs sufficient to meet audit requirements?

REPORTS AND DASHBOARD
Is reporting required to document file transfer activity across the organization?

ENCRYPTION
What is your requirement to secure data in transit and at rest? Will you need AES-256 bit encryption or to conform to standards such as FIPS 140-2?

IN-TRANSIT
Encrypting data that is transferred over the open Internet is critical.

AT REST
Secure data at rest to protect against malware and other threats.

INTEGRATION [with other IT security controls]
Will you need integration with other IT security controls for complete protection of systems and data: ICAP to antivirus and data loss prevention (DLP) systems?

AUTOMATION

WORKFLOW
Workflow automation is essential to minimizing errors associated with file transfer processes.

SCRIPTS
Traditional approaches to file transfer automation rely on customer scripts run on the client or file transfer server.

REDUCING ADMINISTRATION TIME
When the number of processes increases, time can be lost to administrative overhead.

AUTOMATION TOOL
If you have more than just a handful of scripts then you may benefit from considering automation tools to reduce creation time and the backlog of requests, which will significantly improve automated task management. Could there be additional cost savings by enabling business analysts to schedule and monitor status of their own automated transfer tasks?

RELIABILITY

RELIABLE DELIVERY
How important is it that a high percentage of transfers are successful? In case of transfer failure will auto-resume capability and email notifications be required?

GUARANTEED DELIVERY
Guaranteed delivery typically includes file integrity checking, non-repudiation (both the sender and the receiver are authorized and authenticated to access the file) and that log data is kept in a tamper-evident database.

SERVER FAILOVER
If file transfer is mission critical, automated failover for file transfer operations on a single server within a single data center should be considered.

SOLUTION FAILOVER AND DISASTER RECOVERY
Remember that not only the file transfer software must be backed-up, but the databases and other infrastructure to ensure continuity. You may require whole solution failover. Also consider importance of failover for disaster recovery to a remote data center. And finally consider the cost of an active-active failover vs. active-passive approach. An active-passive failover that minimizes downtime and guarantees zero data loss may best meet your needs and budget.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

WEB-BASED ADMIN
Will authorized admins need secure access from anywhere at any time?

CONFIGURE FOR COMPLIANCE
How easy is to configure the system for verification that the server is hooked into the required services, applications, and security controls?

GOVERNANCE
Can automating rules to be set up to enforce data security and corporate policies? For example, automated enforcement of password and file expiration rules ensure compliance without the administrative overhead.

REPORTS and DASHBOARD
What reporting is required to comply with SLA policies, governance or to support compliance audits?

ENDPOINT CONNECTIONS
Understand requirements for the number and types of end-points including choice of clients such as automated, browser-based, mobile, an/or web portals.

COMMON TRANSFER APPLICATIONS
Will ad hoc or automated transfers with FTP clients, web browser, email clients (Outlook and Lotus Notes) or file automation tools be required?

MOBILE CLIENTS
Is it desirable to provide end-users capability to use mobile phones and tablets?

TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

IMPLEMENTATION COSTS
Can your IT Operations admin or DevOps team install and configure the solution on their own? What is the cost both in time and budget for training or consulting services?

COST FOR EXPANSION
If you grow the number of users or types of devices, or expand the volume of files or amount of activity, will you be required to purchase additional tiers of services or additional components? How complicated is the product line: are there overlapping capabilities in different product components, or complicated capabilities matrices that make it tricky for you to choose the right components without help?

COST FOR DEVELOPMENT LICENSES
Some vendors present a low initial cost that masks the real world costs of full utilization based on new components that are required including development licenses.

SOLUTIONS SUMMARY SHEET

	FTP SERVER	MFT
ACCESS CONTROL – LDAP 🔒	✔	✔
AUDITS – LOGS 🔒	✔	✔
ENCRYPTION – IN-TRANSIT 🔒	✔	✔
SCRIPTS ⚙	✔	✔
RELIABLE DELIVERY ✓	✔	✔
SERVER FAILOVER ✓	✔	✔
WEB-BASED ADMIN ▤	✔	✔
GOVERNANCE ▤	✔	✔
COMMON TRANSFER APPLICATIONS ▤	✔	✔
LOW IMPLEMENTATION COSTS $	✔	✔
ROLE-BASED ACCESS CONTROL 🔒		✔
SSO or MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION 🔒		✔
REPORTS AND DASHBOARD 🔒		✔
ENCRYPTION – AT REST 🔒		✔
IT SECURITY CONTROLS INTEGRATION 🔒		✔
AUTOMATION TOOL ⚙		✔
GUARANTEED DELIVERY ✓		✔
SOLUTION FAILOVER AND DR ✓		✔
CONFIGURE FOR COMPLIANCE ▤		✔
REPORTS and DASHBOARD ▤		✔
MOBILE CLIENTS ▤		✔
LOW COST FOR EXPANSION $		✔
LOW COST FOR DEVELOPMENT LICENSE $		✔

Progress File Transfer Products

Progress products are second to none in security, support for regulatory compliance, ease of use, deployment and low total cost of ownership.

WS_FTP

Progress WS_FTP Server and WS_FTP Professional Client are recognized worldwide as reliable and secure file transfer solutions. WS_FTP supports the latest secure file transfer protocols, is configurable with failover capability, and includes live email and telephone technical support. It is available in a basic, standard, and premium versions depending on the security and user capabilities that you require. It supports scripting for simple automation or works with MOVEit Automation. You can decide later to move from WS_FTP to MOVEit Transfer for end-to-end encryption for improved security and compliance.

Get Your Free Trial: https://www.ipswitch.com/forms/free-trials/ws_ftp-server

MOVEit Managed File Transfer

MOVEit is an automated file transfer system that lets you manage, view, secure, and control all file transfer activity through a single system. You will always know where your files are with predictable, secure delivery and extensive reporting and monitoring. MOVEit reduces the need for IT hands-on involvement and allows for user self-service as needed. It provides the perfect solution for secure file transfer to meet security and compliance needs in any industry and company size while reducing administration time and costs.

Although often purchased as a complete solution, the components are available separately: MOVEit Automation is a file transfer automation engine that works with any FTP Server, such as WS_FTP Server.

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