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r/sysadmin

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r/sysadmin • 4 yr. ago  
narcissisadmin



## SFTP vs HTTPS for file transfers

Rant

We're working with a new client who refuses to exchange files with us over SFTP because it's "antiquated" so they're insisting we implement an HTTPS file transfer system instead.

Perhaps my google-fu is failing me, but I can find nothing supporting that claim. Sheer common sense alone tells me that web servers have far more vulnerabilities and attack surfaces than a secure shell server.

Edit: We're all ears for turnkey solutions that provide portals for both protocols



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vigus1934 • 4y ago

I can almost assure you it has much more to do with their security posture, which in most organizations is focused on http/https. Their FW rules, their IDS/IPS, etc. They simply want to have the file transfers mix in with the 90%+ of their typical traffic. Using SFTP will require both sides will need to open TCP/22 at their border, and this makes people nervous....

26

7 more replies



St0nywall • 4y ago

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I'm a big fan of complexity, (*ahem*) as long as it simplifies and secures things. So having a secured "gateway" in my DMZ, with a FTP server behind it makes me sleep better at night.

Edit: Oops, sorry, saw this was meant to be a rant and not a request for a solution. My apologies. :)

↑ 9 ↓ ...

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**thecravenone** • 4y ago

While you're at it, refuse to deal with them via TCP or UDP. They're both antiquated as fuck.

↑ 4 ↓ ...



**ZAFJB** • 4y ago

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new client

So you want to piss off a client at the outset?

What the client wants is *different* not *worse*.

This is not a hill to die on. Do what the customer wants.

↑ 4 ↓ ...

⊕ 4 more replies



**[deleted]** • 4y ago

Its staggering the number of vulnerabilities that come out for web apps.

Whats rare is vulnerabilities coming out for SSH, they tend to be plastered all over the news for months.

SSH keys are more secure than passwords as well, you have a mutual authentication with digital signatures.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**[deleted]** • 4y ago

Tell them good luck, dealing with any major financial institution on this planet?

If its safe enough for Goldman Sacks and Merrill, its safe enough for them.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**Yint520** • 4y ago

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Should make everyone happy, plus all the security features and a file transfer capabilities.

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**1z1z2x2x3c3c4v4v** • 4y ago

Maybe they are testing you and want to see if you know about FTPS (FTP\SSL)?

↑ 2 ↓ ...



**hebsbswwww** • 4y ago

If both use tls 1.2 then the data in transit security should be about the same. I see many companies use both.

↑ 1 ↓ ...

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3 upvotes · 11 comments



**r/homelab** • 6 mo. ago

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**r/seedboxes** • 3 yr. ago

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6 comments

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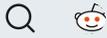
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