



News Release

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AT&T adds RSA security technology to SecretAgent software

GREENSBORO, N.C. -- AT&T has added RSA security technology to its SecretAgent(TM) software in an upgrade that makes the program more versatile, easier to use and faster.

Other major new capabilities in AT&T SecretAgent Version 3.0 include:

- User-transparent support of RSA and DSA public keys. Users can generate RSA keys or DSA keys and communicate signed and encrypted messages with other SecretAgent 3.0 users regardless of their choice of public key algorithms.
- Cross-platform compatibility among MS-DOS, Windows, Macintosh and various UNIX operating systems. Information secured on one operating system can be processed transparently on any of the others.
- Mail-enabled operation through the widely supported Vendor-Independent Messaging (VIM) interface.
- Significantly faster implementation of DES encryption and DSA signing and validation.

Version 3.0 adds the RSA cryptosystem for digital signatures and key management to SecretAgent's capabilities, which already included DES encryption, the NIST Digital Signature Algorithm (DSA) and the federal Secure Hash Standard (SHS) for data integrity.

For encryption and DSA signatures, a variant of the Diffie-Hellman protocol is used for key exchange.

"AT&T SecretAgent 3.0 Software gives users a more powerful array of capabilities in an extremely fast and efficient way," said William A. Franklin, software security products manager, AT&T Secure Communications Systems.

With its unique combination of standards, SecretAgent 3.0 software provides solutions to the security requirements of a wide variety of business and government users.

"Some customers require only one set of capabilities -- government users, for example, are required to use federal standards only," Franklin said. "Some businesses prefer RSA technology, but others need RSA for electronic data interchange with other commercial businesses and government standards for dealing with the government."

Users can select either RSA, SHS and DES or DSA, SHS, DES and Diffie-Hellman for signing and encrypting. On reception, the program detects which security algorithms have been used so the recipient of a message doesn't have to be concerned about which technology the sender used.

Mail-enabled operation also makes security user-friendly. Messages can be created, signed, encrypted and mailed all without leaving SecretAgent 3.0 software. Documents also can be signed, encrypted and transmitted as mail attachments.

DES encryption is 50 percent faster than in the original version of AT&T SecretAgent Software.

Digital signature speed is also improved. DSA signing and validation are performed in approximately 150 milliseconds each on a 486/33 MHz personal computer.

AT&T SecretAgent Software was developed for AT&T by Information Security Corporation of Deerfield, Ill.

The program operates independently of word processing programs, enabling it to safeguard such diverse data as text files, spreadsheets and databases.

SecretAgent 3.0 software encrypts and decrypts files for transmissions or storage, even files stored on a shared network hard disk.

Single-copy suggested retail price is \$329.95 for the DOS and Windows versions, \$359.95 for the Mac version and \$399.95 for the UNIX version. Volume discounts and site/enterprise licensing are available.

Recommended PC configuration includes 640 KB RAM (256 KB required) and hard disk.

The Windows version of SecretAgent 3.0 software will be available March 15. The DOS version will follow on April 1, the SPARCstation UNIX version on April 15 and the Mac version on May 1.

A software upgrade to allow the program to accept the federal government's TESSERA PCMCIA card and DATAKEY SignaSURE smart card will be available April 1. A triple-DES software capability also will be available April 1.

To order or to get more information, customers can call the AT&T Secure Communications Customer Service Center, 1-800-203-5563.

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