



SECURING JOURNALISM

The importance of encryption in protecting media freedom



VULNERABLE COMMUNICATIONS



SELF-CENSORSHIP



SURVEILLANCE



PHYSICAL HARM AND HARASSMENT

WHY ENCRYPTION IS KEY TO PROTECT MEDIA FREEDOM

Without confidentiality and integrity, a journalist's role as a public watchdog is jeopardised. Secure and private communications are vital to foster media freedom, ensuring journalists can hold those in power accountable.

180

journalists were targeted using the Pegasus spyware



Encryption supports professional confidentiality and legal professional privilege

WHAT IS ENCRYPTION?

Encryption is a security measure used to protect the confidentiality and integrity of online data and communications, and thus safeguard private and confidential information from unauthorised access and tampering.

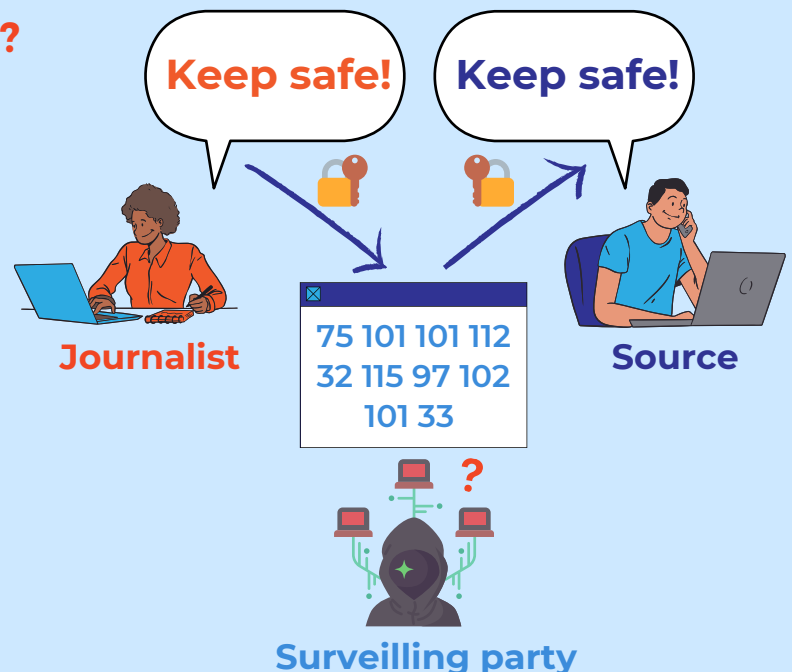


ATTENTION

Whereas encryption is **not the only tool** to ensure safety online it is an **essential part of a strong digital security regime.**

HOW DOES ENCRYPTION WORK?

Encryption is the process of encoding and decoding data. Using a secret code (known as the **encryption algorithm or key**) the data or message ("**plaintext**") is **scrambled, or ciphered** in a way that it becomes unreadable (**ciphertext**) without the **key to decipher** it. If someone intercepts the message, they won't be able to understand the content without the **decryption key**.



? Can you guess the code used to cipher this message?

It is encrypted with the ASCII Code



Be aware of any **legal restrictions on using encryption** in your country or destination that may affect your physical safety and ability to work as a journalist

BENEFITS OF USING ENCRYPTION

Privacy



Encryption protects journalists' sources and sensitive information from surveillance and interception by third parties.

Integrity



Encryption (like HTTPS) protects the integrity of news reporting and ensures it is not altered before it reaches readers and viewers.

Source protection



With a secure communication, sources can share sensitive information without fear of reprisal or exposure.

Security



As part of a strong digital security toolbox, encryption can prevent journalists from being hacked, surveilled, and harassed.

WHAT TOOLKITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR JOURNALISTS?

These are some of the existing toolkits, but you can find others under "More Resources" below.



ENCRYPTION TOOLKIT FOR MEDIA MAKERS

Freedom of the Press Foundation



SIX ENCRYPTION TOOLS EVERY JOURNALIST SHOULD USE

International Center for Journalists



KEEPING YOUR DATA SAFE

Surveillance Self-Defence (Electronic Frontier Foundation)



DIGITAL SAFETY KIT

Committee to Protect Journalists



SECURITY PLANNER

Consumer Reports

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- Sembra Media (2021) [Chapter 2: Media freedom & journalist safety](#). Inflection Point International
- Stop Scanning Me. [How does the CSA Regulation Affect Us All?](#)

MORE RESOURCES

- Global Forum for Media Development, [Workshop on Encryption and Media Freedom](#)
- Global Investigative Journalists Network, [Digital Security](#)
- Internet Society, [Encryption Resources](#)
- Internet Society, [Protect Encryption](#), [Protect Yourself](#)
- SembraMedia, [Herramientas digitales para periodistas](#)