

## Understanding Encrypted and Digitally Signed Message Archival

<https://campus.barracuda.com/doc/46891942/>

When you digitally sign a message, you embed information in the message that validates your identity. When you encrypt a message, it appears to be "scrambled" and can only be read by a person who has the message decryption key. Digitally signing a message ensures that the message originated from the stated sender, and encrypting ensures that the message has not been read or altered during transmission.

To encrypt messages, you can use the public-key cryptographic system. In this system, each participant has two separate keys: a public encryption key and a private decryption key. When someone wants to send you an encrypted message, you use your public key to generate the encryption algorithm. When you receive the message, you must use your private key to decrypt the message.

Because encrypted messages are secure, the content cannot be decrypted upon import by the Barracuda Cloud Archiving Service, and the content is therefore unavailable for search via the Barracuda Cloud Archiving Service.

Digitally-signed messages can sometimes be constructed in a format that cannot be searched for or rendered on the **Search** page. If you use digitally signed messages, complete a test import to verify that your messages can be rendered and searched. Contact [Barracuda Networks Support](#) if you need more information on testing digitally-signed messages.

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