

# Encryption

Hermes SEG leverages the capabilities of Ciphermail in order to perform encryption/decryption of email messages. Ciphermail comes already installed and configured with the Hermes SEG appliance. Hermes SEG and Ciphermail have their very own Web GUI based approaches on managing encryption. We feel that our Web GUI is simpler and easier to manage, however if you prefer to utilize Ciphermail's Web GUI, it can be easily accessed at the following URL:

[https://<IP\\_ADDRESS>/ciphermail/](https://<IP_ADDRESS>/ciphermail/)

where **<IP\_ADDRESS>** is the IP address of your Hermes SEG appliance.

The Ciphermail Web GUI credentials should have been changed if you followed the [Getting Started](#) guide. If not, ensure you change them right away.

## **Hermes SEG utilizes three methods for encrypting email:**

**S/MIME** - S/MIME is a method for encrypting emails along with associated attachments as well as a method of digitally signing emails. Encrypting emails keeps them safe from unwanted access while digitally signing emails ensures that the sender of the email is legitimate thus reducing the effectiveness of phishing attacks. S/MIME is based on asymmetric cryptography, meaning that two separate keys are used. A private key which is used for decrypting the email and a public key which is used for encrypting and digitally signing the email.

**PGP Encryption** - PGP encryption encrypts and signs messages using asymmetric key pairs which are uniquely created for each user. Public keys can be exchanged with other users via many means including public key servers. In this regard, PGP encryption is very similar to S/MIME encryption.

**PDF Encryption** - PDF Encryption converts the email along with any attachments to a PDF which in turn is encrypted with a password. This method is the easiest to implement because no special email clients that must support S/MIME have to be used. PDF readers are almost universally installed on user PCs.

## **Hermes SEG makes a distinction between two types of recipients:**

**Internal Recipients** - These are internal recipients that have been created in Hermes SEG under **Gateway --> Internal Recipients**.

**External Recipients** - These are recipients that are not internal to Hermes SEG, in other words any recipient that the system does handle email for.

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