

Compliance: HIPAA—The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

HIPAA requires healthcare organizations and businesses that manage patient health information to protect the confidentiality and security of all health data managed by that organization. HIPAA compliance requirements, coupled with advances in electronic exchange of information, put significant additional technical and administrative burdens on healthcare organizations of all sizes.

What Does HIPAA Require?

HIPAA mandates a broad array of compliance requirements touching many aspects of healthcare information management. Biscom Delivery Server is particularly applicable to the Security Standards, Final Rule as published in the Federal Register on February 20, 2003 (www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/security/default.asp).

The Final Rule provides a uniform level of protection of all health information that pertains to an individual and is stored or transmitted electronically. It mandates standards for physical storage of data, transmission, and access to individual health information, as well as requirements for user authentication, data protection, audit trails, and security.

What are the Penalties for Non-Compliance?

There are severe civil and criminal penalties associated with HIPAA non-compliance. If an entity is found in violation of HIPAA, possible penalties include:

- **Civil Penalties** — \$100 per violation, up to \$25,000 per person per year for each requirement violated.
- **Criminal Penalties** — if an entity knowingly violates HIPAA provisions they are subject to:
 - Up to \$50,000 fine and one year in prison for obtaining or disclosing protected information;
 - Up to \$100,000 fine and up to five years in prison for obtaining or disclosing protected information under false pretenses;
 - Up to \$250,000 and up to 10 years in prison for obtaining or disclosing protected information with the intent to sell, transfer, or use for commercial advantage, personal gain, or malicious harm.

Who is Affected by HIPAA?

Any entity that handles, maintains, stores, or exchanges private health or patient related information. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Health service providers
- Employers maintaining health records
- Public health authorities
- Health plan providers
- Life insurers
- Pharmacies
- Physician offices, hospices, clinics, and long-term care facilities
- Billing agencies

For more information on HIPAA please go to:
www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/

Secure File Delivery Tools

Organizations seeking to comply with HIPAA secure information management and delivery requirements are faced with a dizzying array of complex, costly solutions. The best place to start is by implementing a secure file storage and delivery system that provides:

- Directory services integration (LDAP/Active Directory)
- Auditing, logging, and tracking capability
- Delivery and viewing notifications
- Secure file sharing with 128-bit SSL encrypted transmission
- Multi-level password protection
- Automatic user registration
- Administrative management features
- Customizable activity reports to support HIPAA compliance audits

For these security and auditing features, many corporations are turning to Biscom Delivery Server for secure file delivery.

Document Delivery Solutions from Biscom, Inc.

The Biscom Delivery Server product line is developed and sold by Biscom, Inc. Founded in 1986, Biscom has provided many of the world's largest companies with enterprise communications solutions, most notably its award-winning FAXCOM enterprise fax management solutions. Through acquisitions and the development of new technologies, Biscom has evolved into a provider of multiple products, including secure document delivery, file conversion and image viewing, and enhanced messaging and video server solutions. Biscom is committed to excellence in product development and customer care, while staying ahead of the technology curve by developing innovative solutions.

FAXCOM® Server

The award-winning FAXCOM enterprise fax management solutions enable users, applications, and business processes to send and receive faxes.

FAXCOM Anywhere™

Users send and receive faxes from their desktop computer (via a secure Internet connection) to a virtual fax server at Biscom's hosted facility.

FAXCOM Image Indexing™

A convenient and effective tool for moving images through a workflow process, resolving not only data capture but also recording every view and modification of each image.

Biscom Delivery Server

BDS enables the secure delivery of files of any kind and provides numerous security and reporting features to control and audit access to the secure delivery.

vVault™

vVault is an enterprise-class platform for email, fax, and document management. It provides organizations with an information repository where their users can securely store documents online, and send and retrieve those documents from any Internet-connected PC or mobile device.

Lincoln & Co.

Biscom's Lincoln & Co. division develops high-throughput conversion engines for converting PCL, PostScript, and application output into other file formats. Lincoln & Co. also develops image viewing applications.