**FTP VS MFT**

The risks of relying on File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for file-based data movement; lack of security, reliability and visibility, not to mention the costs to manage and maintain it. But if you think migrating to MFT is more than your organization can take on, think again.

IBM Sterling Managed File Transfer (MFT) solutions deliver the rock solid security you need and the flexibility to upgrade, replace, consolidate or outsource your FTP processes to remediate risks at every level. The end result is not just the assurance that your critical data is protected, but faster onboarding of partners, quicker time to market and enhanced customer experience.

**Making the case for MFT**

With increasing reliance on the cloud and mobile devices, maintaining security for file-based data movement is a tremendous, growing concern for companies. But, security breaches and lost or compromised customer data are still on the rise, largely because of the use of FTP; a system that, at its core, hasn’t changed in nearly 40 years. There are a multitude of reasons to move from FTP to MFT, but these are the five key considerations:

Cost

**FTP**

Maintaining and managing your “free” FTP license is a significant investment, with a dollar amount that is a moving target. Managing multiple, disparate servers creates a tremendous drain on IT staff that could be focusing on more beneficial activities. Factor in the cost of retransmitting failed file transfers, not to mention the financial impact of security breaches, and FTP becomes a very expensive proposition.

**MFT**

IBM Sterling Managed File Transfer solutions consolidate servers to preserve valuable capital and time. IT staff time is maximized since less time is spent troubleshooting failed file transfers and on-boarding customers. And, licenses, services and maintenance costs are known quantities, which means you can budget for them.

**Reliability**

**FTP**

FTP quite simply lacks the capacity to easily recover from a network or server failure. Once discovered, outages must be handled manually and usually result in restarting transfers from the beginning. Restarts can mean lost or duplicated data, and disruptions to critical business processes, which leads to increased costs and customer frustration.

**MFT**

With IBM’s built-in checkpoint/restart tools, files are checkpointed at regular intervals during file transmission. In the event of a system disruption or failure, there’s no need to go back to the beginning of the transfer, which means system errors won’t slow you down. In fact, most IBM MFT solutions will automatically initiate a file transfer restart from the point of disruption.

Visibility

FTP

FTP offers no central monitoring or visibility into file transfer activity, so the only way to monitor transfers is to look at the job logs. If you are managing multiple servers and a high volume transfers, this becomes more than just inefficient or inconvenient.

**MFT**

From integrated monitoring of all file transfer activity to SLA reporting to real-time alerts regarding file transfer events, IBM Sterling Managed File Transfer gives you the mission critical 24/7 visibility you need.

Security

FTP

FTP does not have a security platform because it was never intended to be used the way it is in today’s business environment. Password and ID information is transmitted in clear text and there are no identity authentication capabilities. FTP also fails security audits, which puts your organization out of compliance and in danger of major liability.

**MFT**

First and foremost, IBM’s MFT solutions deliver security. User information is encrypted and multi-factor authentication ensures secure access. Demilitarized zone (DMZ) security, data encryption during file transfer and logs of security issues enable you to pass security audits and keep your promise to your customers.

Management

FTP

With no ability to control data movement volume or prioritize file transfer operations, FTP is essentially at the whim of whatever customer happens to be in line first, which may not align with the priority of your business processes.

**MFT**

Bring order to your file transfer activities with established queues, scheduling and session classes. IBM puts you in the driver’s seat, letting you define, prioritize and control which file transfers happen, and when. And that means you can more effectively connect and collaborate with your partners.

• **IBM Sterling Connect: Direct** wraps around FTP scripting so customers can use existing base script commands while they realize all the security, visibility and reliability that Connect:Direct has to offer.

• **IBM Sterling File Gateway** provides a single, secure, cost-effective Edge based solution that scales with the growth of your trading partner community and offers opportunities to consolidate disparate centers of file transfer activity.

• **IBM Sterling Secure Proxy** protects your file transfers from the public Internet with a DMZ-based application proxy that enforces tight controls before any transfer activity can occur.