# Discussion: Encryption Technologies

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**Discussion: Encryption Technologies**

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

* Analyze the use of encryption on business networks.

**Assignment Requirements**

Organizations across private and public sectors may use a variety of encryption technologies for various purposes.

**Answer the following question(s):**

1. What might be the effects of not using encryption on network or Internet traffic?

This could result in the plaintext of whatever you are sending over a private network or the internet being intercepted by a man-in-the-middle. You would not only have to worry about things like plaintext emails or website form entries be intercepted, it would also introduce the possibility of session keys being intercepted, which could in turn provide a threat actor with direct access to any number of accounts you might use over an unencrypted network.

A real world example of this that I am familiar with is a now (mostly) obsolete extension for chrome and Firefox called Firesheep. At one point in time it was not common practice for websites to encrypt things like session cookies, and Firesheep took full advantage of this by sniffing out packets on a LAN to intercept unencrypted session cookies from sites like Facebook and Reddit, which could in turn be used to take over the identity of that user on whichever platforms cookies had been intercepted.

1. Why might vendors propose proprietary encryption methods rather than using standard encryption technologies?

It seems that a common reason for proposing proprietary encryption might be that the functionality of the encryption method remains a trade secret owned by that company, and might seemingly be less approachable to someone trying to figure out a way to breach it.

On the flipside of this, you have less input in the development process of the method, and there is the potential that you will have significantly fewer people to help maintain and identify vulnerabilities in the method itself.

Fully address the question(s) in this discussion; provide valid rationale for your choices, where applicable; and respond to at least two other students’ views.

**Required Resources**

* Course textbook
* Internet access

**Self-Assessment Checklist**

* I fully addressed the question(s) in the discussion instructions.
* I included justification or rationale for my choices, where applicable.
* I responded to at least two other students’ views.
* I followed the submission guidelines.

Please follow the outlined guidelines of this discussion:

* *Be respectful and open to opinions and ideas that differ from yours. The exchange of diverse thoughts, ideas, and opinions are an essential part of the scholarly environment. Keep in mind that the people in your classes may come from backgrounds and have views that may vary significantly from your own.*
* *Flaming is not appropriate under any circumstances. While everyone (learners and instructors alike) is encouraged to share ideas and opinions openly, you should never use insults or resort to name-calling even if you disagree strongly with what someone else has written. Insulting remarks and name-calling are never appropriate in an academic setting. Flaming is the posting of messages that are deliberately hostile and insulting in an online social context.*
* *When responding to messages or posts made by others, address the ideas, not the person.*
* *Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without social cues, such as facial expressions and body language, a remark meant as humorous could come across hurtful or offensive. Don't assume that the use of emoticons, such as :-) are enough to convey your tone or intent.*
* *Capitalizing whole words is generally seen as SHOUTING and is often offensive to the reader. Use all capital letters sparingly, such as to highlight a meaningful word or point.*