Encrypt

Encryption The translation of data into a secret code. Encryption is the most effective way to achieve data security. To read an encrypted file, you must have access to a secret key or password that enables you to decrypt it. Unencrypted data is called plain text; encrypted data is referred to as cipher ( Web Media Brands Inc, 2009)

The goal of modern cryptography is to ensure the preservation of information properties through mathematically sound means. There are many attributes of information that can be assured in this way, but here are three big ones:  
  
Confidentiality is the assurance that only the intended recipient of a message can read it. This is what most people think of when they hear "cryptography," and it is the primary goal of classical cryptography.  
  
Integrity is the assurance that a piece of information has not been altered. This is the purpose of message authentication codes (MACs), message digests, and cryptographic hashing.  
  
Authenticity is the assurance that the sender of a message is who they say they are. This is the realm of digital signature, and public-key cryptography in general.

 Web Media Brands Inc., "What is encryption?" Webopedia. March 2004. 28 Jul 2009.