To: Engineering Communications  
From: Patrick Austin (10-1)  
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Subject: Technical Briefing Abstract – Encryption: An Overview  
  
Encryption is used to enable private communication with a second party, even in a public environment where a third party can listen in. One way to encrypt a message is to agree with the second party on a secret code. This code is used to encrypt the desired message into coded text, and retrieve the original message from the coded text. The coded text, which the third party cannot understand, is what is communicated via the public channel. The design and study of these codes is vital to communication via Internet, since the Internet is a public environment.