

# The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

The **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)**, also known by its original name **Rijndael** (Dutch pronunciation: [ˈreɪndɑːl]),<sup>[5]</sup> is a specification for the [encryption](#) of electronic data established by the U.S. [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) in 2001.<sup>[6]</sup>

AES is a variant of the Rijndael [block cipher](#)<sup>[5]</sup> developed by two [Belgian](#) cryptographers, [Joan Daemen](#) and [Vincent Rijmen](#), who submitted a proposal<sup>[7]</sup> to NIST during the [AES selection process](#).<sup>[8]</sup> Rijndael is a family of ciphers with different key and block sizes. For AES, NIST selected three members of the Rijndael family, each with a block size of 128 bits, but three different key lengths: 128, 192 and 256 bits.

AES has been adopted by the [U.S. government](#). It supersedes the [Data Encryption Standard](#) (DES),<sup>[9]</sup> which was published in 1977. The algorithm described by AES is a [symmetric-key algorithm](#), meaning the same key is used for both encrypting and decrypting the data.

In the United States, AES was announced by the NIST as U.S. [FIPS](#) PUB 197 (FIPS 197) on November 26, 2001.<sup>[6]</sup> This announcement followed a five-year standardization process in which fifteen competing designs were presented and evaluated, before the Rijndael cipher was selected as the most suitable.



