

Certified e-Mail?

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Certified e-Mail?

Prepared & Presented by:
Commonwealth of Virginia Consulting (CVC), LLC
Fred Norman
August 17, 2004
Meeting of:
I-Gov Advisory Committee



South Carolina

- South Carolina Makes Electronic Postmarked E-Mail Equivalent to Certified or Registered Mail News Story **Jul 27 2004** E-mail using United States Postal Service (**USPS**) electronic postmark (**EPM**) service has been added to South Carolina's recently adopted Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA), as an alternative to certified or registered U.S. mail for certain types of electronic communications, and carries the same force of law and legal effect as those physical mail services.
- **UETA provides a legal framework** for electronic transactions, and gives electronic signatures and records the same validity and enforceability as manual signatures and paper-based transactions.
- The South Carolina legislation states that the "United States Postal Service electronic postmark means an electronic service provided by the United States Postal Service that **provides evidentiary proof** that an electronic document existed in a certain form at a certain time and the electronic document was opened or the contents of the electronic document were displayed at a time and date documented by the United States Post Office."



Real or Not?

Postal Service Offers Certified Email

Dateline: **05/18/00**

"I swear, I never got that email!" How many of us have heard (or tried) that one before?

Fact is, the email simply does not always go through. The recent **"Love Bug" virus** resulted in the **loss** of untold thousands of email messages around the world.

Now, however, the U.S. Postal service offers customers the ability to send "certified" e-mail.

As an enhancement to its already fairly impressive Internet presence the USPS has just activated the **Post Electronic Courier Service** (PosteCS) which enables customers to create and send messages via the Internet through a postal account and the USPS data center. Customers don't need an Internet service provider to send electronic messages.

From **any computer that can access the World Wide Web, users can** access the **PosteCS system** at www.framed.usps.com/postecs to send and receive certified email.

When you register to use the PosteCS certified email system, you get a 30-day free trial of the service that will eventually cost **\$1.70 per transaction**.





PKI carries the mail for U.S. Postal Service

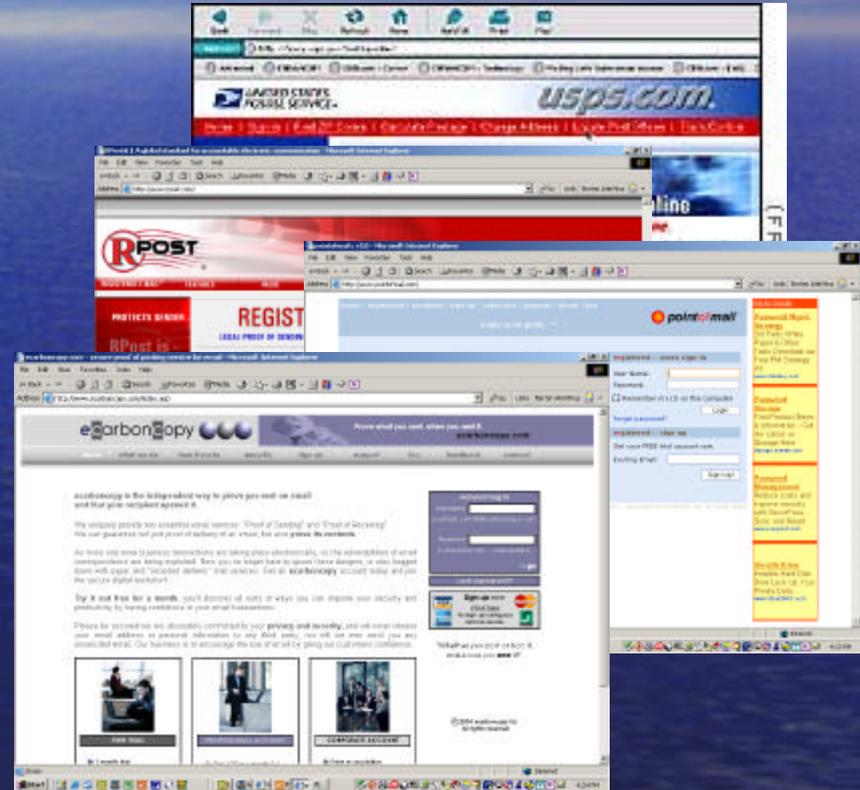
News Story by [Jaikumar Vijayan](#)

JULY 09, 2001 ([COMPUTERWORLD](#)) - At a time when most private-sector corporations are still figuring out ways to exploit public-key infrastructure (PKI) technology, the **U.S. Postal Service is quietly forging ahead** with a project that uses PKI services to secure vital **government-to-government and government-to-consumer transactions**



Providers?

- [PosteCS system](#) - File or Page Requested Not Found
- www.rpost.com
- www.pointofmail.com
- www.ecarboncopy.com



But . . .



PosteCS became EPM

<http://www.usps.com/electronicpostmark/welcome.htm>

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Electronic Postmark

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Electronic Postmark

Protect the integrity of your data.

The USPS Electronic Postmark™(EPM) protects the integrity of your electronic data through the use of auditable time stamps, digital signatures and hash codes. Through the USPS EPM web-based service, any third-party can verify the authenticity of electronic content. The EPM provides evidence to support non-repudiation of electronic transactions. The EPM is designed to deter and detect any fraudulent tampering or altering of electronic data.

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Developer's Toolkit
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About EPM

Assuring that your data is authentic.

The USPS Electronic Postmark™ (EPM) protects the integrity of your electronic data through the use of auditable time stamps, digital signatures and hash codes. Through the USPS EPM web-based service, any third-party can verify the authenticity of electronic content. This electronic proof, postmarked by the Postal Service, provides evidence to support non-repudiation of electronic transactions. The EPM is designed to deter and detect the fraudulent tampering or altering of electronic data.

Key Features

- Content authentication web-based service (based upon American Bar Association PKI Guidelines) proves document authenticity and timestamp accuracy to detect and prevent fraud.
- Integrates easily into existing applications with standard-based interfaces.
- Verify options include; local (self contained) & centralized (Internet based).
- Verification is free.
- 128 Bit SSL encryption insuring privacy and security of communications.
- Data stays private. Service never has access to your content and requires no modification or transmission of content. (only a hash code of the file is logged as evidence of authenticity)



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Benefits of EPM

Multiple reasons for using Electronic Postmark.

Trust and Privacy

- Nationwide reach and trust
- Correspondence handled by USPS subject to confidentiality statutes and regulations.
- Neutral third party with universal public service mandate
- Federally imposed regulations on USPS employees – enhancing customer confidence

Legality & Longevity

- History of providing postmarks with legal significance
- Long-lived statutory purpose "to bind the nation together through the... correspondence of the people" 39 U.S.C. §101.

Legal Environment

- 18 U.S.C. §1343 Wire Fraud
- 18 U.S.C. §2701 Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA)
- 18 U.S.C. §2510 regarding electronic communications. Definitions (17)Electronic storage means - (A) any temporary, intermediate storage of a wire or electronic communication incident to the electronic transmission thereof; and (B) any storage of such communication by an electronic communication service for purposes of backup protection of such communication.
- 18 U.S.C. §2710 regarding unlawful access to stored electronic communications
- 18 U.S.C. §1028, Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents and information
- 18 U.S.C. §1029, Fraud and related activity in connection with access devices

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USPS - Developer's Toolkit - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Developer's Toolkit

Electronic Postmark is available in two kits.

Component Object Module (COM) Software Developer Kit:

- Enables Windows applications to use the EPM Service
- Organized as a set of COM objects that can be used from any language or development tool that supports COM, such as Microsoft C++, Visual Basic, ASP, C#, and so on
- Shipped with extensive code samples (including C++, MFC, C#, Visual Basic, .NET, ASP, .NET) both GUI and command-line.

JAVA Software Developer Kit:

- Platform independent. Enables you to integrate the EPM service into any platform.
- Can be used from any standalone Java Application and J2EE application.
- Easy installation and configuration. Java SDK is packaged as jar files.

Both Software Developer Kits

- Enable you to obtain postmarks, verify postmarks both locally and with the server, and to obtain verification receipts.
- Sample applications enable you to easily integrate the EPM into any of your existing applications.
- Shipped with a user guide that discusses how to use the objects in the EPM SDK and how to use the code samples.

Secure SSL communication with the EPM server to secure all transactions.

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Virginia

First State to Adopt UETA

Digital Signatures INITIATIVE : AN ENTERPRISE SOLUTION OF TRUST

Executive Summary of Findings and Recommendations
September 2000
Shelved

My Virginia Pin
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Then & Now

- Issues

- No Centralized Ownership
- Means
- Cost
- Priority

- Solutions

- VITA
- USPS EPM
- USPS EPM
- Public Safety
- Citizen Services
- State to Local & State to Federal



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Discussion

