Large–Bank Deposit Insurance Determination Modernization (12 C.F.R. §360.9) Laptop, Email, and File Exchange Security

Laptop Security

All FDIC laptops are protected with full-disk encryption (FDE) to prevent sensitive data from being taken from a laptop that has been lost, stolen, or left unattended. The entire laptop hard drive is automatically encrypted with no user action to secure all data on the hard drive.

The encryption uses Advanced Encryption Standard 256-bit key algorithms for a robust encryption mechanism. Logical partitions are boot-protected and encrypted sector-by-sector. Attempts to copy individual files or introduce rogue programs are blocked, even when the hard drive is removed and slaved to a different computer. This encryption standard is Federal Information Processing Standard 140-2 compliant, a U.S. government computer security standard used to accredit cryptographic modules employed within the federal IT space.

Complementing the use of FDE software, all users must use multifactor authentication to log into the laptop. Configuration settings are in place to automatically lock the FDIC laptop after 15 minutes of inactivity, requiring the user to re-authenticate before access to the laptop is granted. Consecutive incorrect login attempts will lock the laptop and require the assistance of an authorized FDIC administrator to regain access.

All FDIC laptops are prevented from writing to external devices like USB or CD/DVD. Access to Internet webmail and file share websites is blocked.

Secure E-mail security

Zixmail is an FDIC Secure E-mail Service that allows FDIC employees to communicate confidential and sensitive business information through a secure channel with individuals outside the FDIC (external users only). Once the message is sent from FDIC, the external user retrieves the message from the FDIC Secure Email Message Center, a secured website. The recipient's reply to this message is automatically encrypted and returned directly to an FDIC employee's email inbox.

FDICconnect –Enterprise File Exchange (EFX)

Data exchanged via EFX is securely maintained in FDIC information systems rated at the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) "moderate" risk level. To protect these systems, the FDIC uses a defense in depth approach supported by an alignment to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework, FISMA requirements, and FDIC-wide directives that guide the operations, roles, and responsibilities of employees and contractors.