

IBM Sterling Connect:Direct



Optimize performance and manage growth efficiently

Managed file transfer (MFT) is the lifeblood of businesses today, providing the near real-time data and system integration necessary for critical operations. In fact, the vast majority of all system-to-system integration today is conducted via file transfer.

In high-performance, high-stakes operating environments, file transfers must be conducted in a secure, reliable and precise way to ensure data delivery to the intended applications that underpin critical business operations. From the transfer of check image files and insurance claim records to credit card transactions and disaster-recovery synchronizations, business operations depend on secure file transfers. Yet, despite their importance, too many organizations rely on outdated File Transfer Protocol (FTP) based solutions which do not have the necessary mechanisms to ensure consistent and secure data flows.

IBM Sterling Connect:Direct was designed specifically for point-to-point transfers of high-value, high-volume and large data files. Connect:Direct, a component of the IBM Sterling Secure File Transfer (SFT) solution, allows organizations to automate the exchange of data between mission-critical applications in a central, modern, and user-friendly application. It provides script-based automation, scheduling, and alert notifications enabling 24x7 unattended operations. It also eliminates the need for manual intervention in data delivery, improving employee productivity and increasing confidence that downstream business processes will not be delayed or negatively impacted.

Highlights

- Improve productivity
- Simplify data movement activities
- Gain unprecedented scalability
- Count on reliable file delivery
- Ensure security and compliance
- Remove infrastructure barriers
- Move files with confidence
- Certified Container Support

Gain unprecedented scalability

Connect:Direct provides unprecedented scalability, managing the most demanding workloads with an event-based architecture that enables high volumes and large files, and has no product-defined limits on quantity or file sizes. The solution's scalability ensures that enterprises can handle peak demand and keep pace as business volumes grow, whether operating on mainframes, mid-range, or distributed servers.

Architected for reliability

Connect:Direct is specifically designed and architected for reliability, providing built-in recovery and checkpoint restart to ensure lights-out operations. Detailed logging tracks data movement within and across enterprises, including across various clustering technologies and [IBM Parallel Sysplex on the mainframe](#).

Certified container support

Connect:Direct is available as a certified container-based model for hybrid or public cloud deployments providing increased security and cost-effectiveness. IBM Certified Containers apply industry best practices, providing enterprise-grade, secure product editions with horizontal pod autoscaling, integrated common software services for consistent deployment configuration. Built-in management capabilities simplify connectivity to back-end applications running on modern cloud or traditional legacy environments.

Move files with confidence

The proprietary Connect:Direct protocol is highly secure and has no reported breaches across three decades of commercial usage. The solution's cutting-edge encryption, granular configuration, and extensive logging help enterprises accelerate readiness for security, regulatory, and industry requirements including those necessary for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), FIPS-140-2, Payment Card Industry (PCI) and HIPAA. The solution also has broad cloud storage integration including with AWS, Azure, Google and IBM, among many others.



IBM Sterling Connect:Direct capabilities

Capability

Certified container support

Automation and management

- Supports 24x7 unattended operations
- Schedules jobs on a one-time, recurring, or continuous basis
- Automates data movement without waiting for batch windows or manual intervention
- Event-driven alert notification
- Process language builds scripts to provide integration with back-end systems
- REST APIs allow extensibility and programmatic access by other application
- Centralized management to handle fresh installs, seamless upgrades/updates and rollbacks using Control Center Director

Assured file delivery

- Default checkpoint restart
- Automatic recovery from network interruptions
- Automated file watching and transfer triggers minimize manual interaction
- Programmable alert notifications for success/failure

Security and compliance

- Interfaces with enterprise authentication and operating system security for user authentication
- Provides a complete audit trail of data movement through extensive statistics logs
- Client and server authentication provides confidence in sending and receiving data
- Strong encryption leveraging X.509 certificates
- Data encryption supporting TLS v1.3 and legacy TLS and SSL options
- Certificate Revocation List (CRL) checking
- FIPS 140-2 and Common Criteria certification
- Password vault capabilities allowing integration with CyberArk, HashiCorp and other digital vaults
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) with SAML 2.0 protocol

Multiple platform support

Operating systems support for:

- z/OS
- UNIX and Linux
- Windows
- i5/OS (OS/400)
- HP NonStop
- OpenVMS

Cloud storage integration with:

- AWS S3
- Azure Blob
- Google Cloud
- IBM Cloud
- Red Hat Ceph
- Dell EMC ECS
- MinIO



Why IBM?

The proprietary Connect:Direct protocol is highly secure and has no reported breaches across three decades of commercial usage. The solution's cutting-edge encryption, granular configuration, and extensive logging help enterprises accelerate readiness for security, regulatory, and industry requirements including those necessary for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), FIPS-140-2, Payment Card Industry (PCI) and HIPAA. The solution also has broad cloud storage integration including with AWS, Azure, Google and IBM, among many others.

Reliable file delivery



provides automated scheduling, checkpoint restart and automatic recovery to help ensure predictable, assured delivery of files.

Secure file transfer



helps keep customer information private and supports regulatory compliance efforts.

High performance



can handle your most demanding workloads, from high volumes of small files to multi-gigabyte files.

Certified container support



supports hybrid cloud deployment via IBM Certified Containers which ensure easy and consistent deployment life-cycle management.

Explore complimentary solutions

- [IBM Sterling Secure File Transfer](#)
- [IBM Sterling Control Center Director](#)
- [IBM Sterling Control Center Monitor](#)
- [IBM Sterling File Gateway](#)
- [IBM Sterling Secure Proxy](#)

For more information

Find answers quickly in [IBM Sterling Connect:Direct product documentation](#).

Next steps

[Learn more about IBM Sterling Connect:Direct](#)



[Schedule a consultation](#)



© Copyright IBM Corporation 2024

IBM Corporation
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589

Produced in the United States of America
November 2024

IBM, the IBM logo and [ibm.com](#) are trademarks of International Business Machines Corp., registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Web at "Copyright and trademark information" at <http://www.ibm.com/legal/us/en/copytrade.shtml>

This document is current as of the initial date of publication and may be changed by IBM at any time. Not all offerings are available in every country in which IBM operates.

The information in this document is provided "as is" without any warranty, express or implied, including without any warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose and any warranty or condition of non-infringement.

IBM products are warranted according to the terms and conditions of the agreements under which they are provided.