CHS File Transfer, Current Methods
Fact Sheet

Purpose:
The Center for Health Statistics (CHS) within the Washington State Department of Health, is the repository for Birth, Death, Fetal Death, Marriage, Divorce, Abortion and Hospitalization data for the State of Washington. The data stored by CHS is used to provide health data for numerous public health assessment and research studies. Much of the data stored by CHS is highly confidential. There is often a need to transfer extracted data files from CHS to federal, state, local and research facilities.

Facts:
CHS currently employs the following methods of protecting sensitive or confidential data files during transmission:

- NCHS: send PKZip encrypted data via secured BBS requiring login and password.
- SSA: send PCCrypto encrypted data with 160 bit encryption via secured BBS requiring login and password. (*Illustration 2 below*)
- Hospitals: receive encrypted data via secured Web Server with SSL 128 bit encryption requiring login and password.
- State Agencies: send data via secured Web Server with SSL 128 bit encryption requiring login and password. (*Illustration 1 below*)
- Locals: send data via secured Web Server with SSL 128 bit encryption requiring login and password or via overnight FedEx.
- Researchers: send data via secured Web Server with SSL 128 bit encryption requiring login and password or via overnight FedEx.

Method Illustration Screens:

(see following pages for illustrations)

Illustration 1:
The following web application is used to transfer data to and from other DOH, other state agency, local health and research data recipients. It is secured via SSL 128 bit encryption.

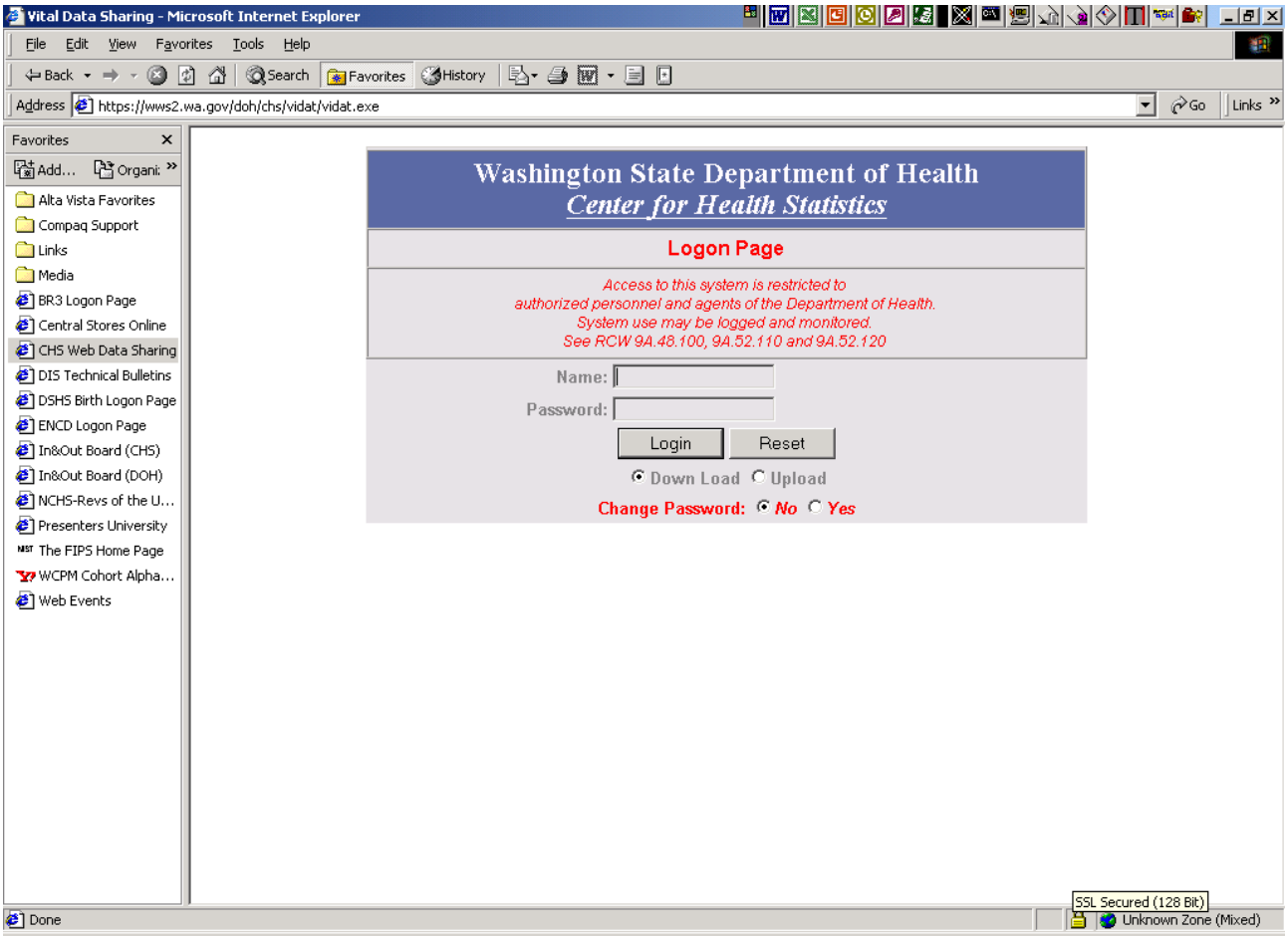
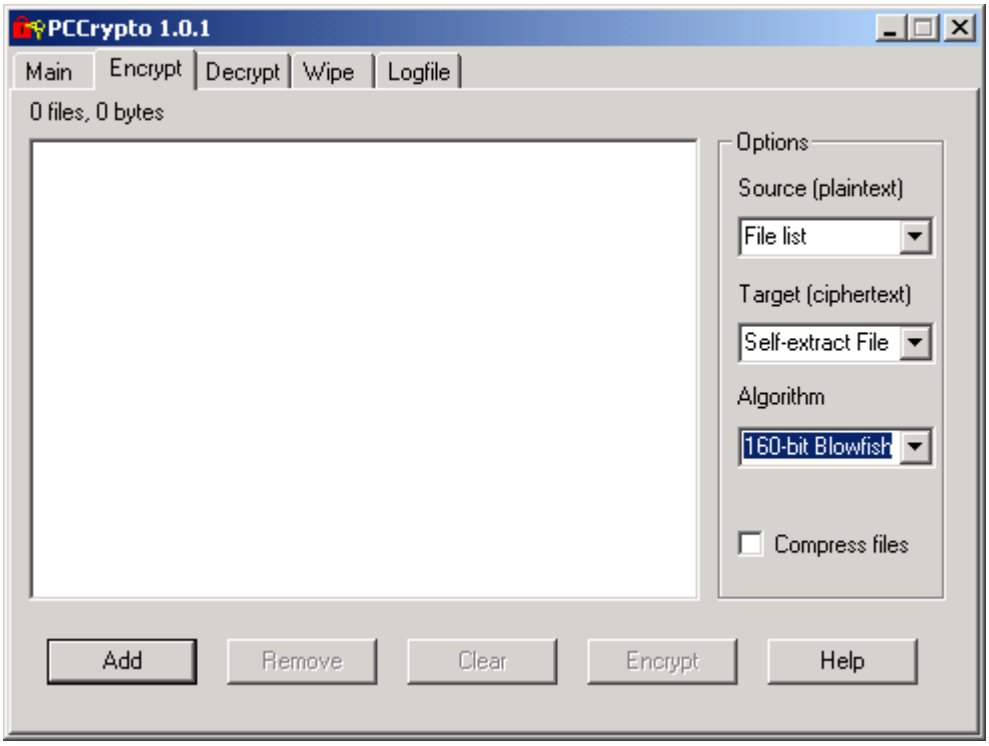
Illustration 2:
The following software application (2 screen shots) is used to encrypt and decrypt data to and from the Social Security Administration (SSA). Encrypted data with 160 bit encryption is sent via secured BBS requiring login and password for access.