# SDS
Software Diversified Services

# FAQ

## VitalSigns for Secure Transfer™

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# VitalSigns for Secure Transfer (VST)
## Frequently Asked Questions

VitalSigns for Secure Transfer is a SOCKS proxy server that automatically secures traffic for outbound mainframe sessions where z/OS is the client. VST leverages OpenSSH to secure connections and encrypt data transfers. It works in conjunction with VitalSigns for FTP (VFTP).

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### Securing Transfers

**How does VST assist in securing an FTP session to SFTP?**

VST monitors FTP transfers, accepts connections, and secures the FTP session without the need for JCL changes. Customers save significant effort in converting JCL to SFTP command syntax, which accelerates migration and compliance processes.

**Can VST transfer files to different distributed operating systems?**

Absolutely. VST can transfer files to Windows, Unix, Linux, and other z/OS systems. VST recognizes CRLF control characters to systems like Windows, thereby preserving data integrity. When ASCII mode is selected, VST properly interprets line-ending markers.

**Does VST require an SSH client on the remote end for SFTP transfers?**

Yes, an SSH presence is required on the remote server. VST works with any SFTP server that adheres to the SSH RFC.

**What modes of transfer does VST support?**

VST supports two modes of transfer. Tunnel mode requires an existing FTP server as the remote server. VST encrypts communications between the FTP client and server via an SSH tunnel. In conversion mode, no FTP server is required.

**How easy is it to implement a new destination for data transfer in VST?**

To implement a new destination, simply add the new remote IP address to the SOCKS configuration file and run the VST host key job to store the host keys (the HOST_KEY_CHECK operand must be enabled). Existing transfer rules can be used that are defined in the VFTP configuration member or a new rule can be dynamically added for the new destination.

**Can VST send files to z/OS?**

The VST SOCKS proxy secures transfers when the connection originates on z/OS. For other transfers, you can use OpenSSH to store files in zFS file systems.

## Operation

**What client authentication modes are supported by VST?**

Two authentication modes are supported by VST: public key and password authentication.

**Does VST open a new connection for every new transfer?**

No. VST transfers data efficiently and does not tear down connections unnecessarily.

**Can changes be implemented dynamically in VST?**

VST settings can be changed without restarting the VST agent by issuing a MODIFY command from SDSF.

**Does VST record SMF information?**

Yes, VST passes security information to the VFTP agent where SMF 119 records are recorded. Complete details of each transfer are shown in one record.

## Using VFTP with VST

**Why do I need to run VFTP to use VST?**

The VFTP client is used to route batch jobs to the VST SOCKS proxy for automatic conversion to SFTP without any JCL changes.

**What is the difference between VFTP and VFTP Lite Edition?**

VFTP provides complete monitoring and visibility for all FTP transmissions, including the progress of FTP to SFTP migration. All FTP activity is retained, allowing customers to view historical information to verify compliance. Command security can restrict access to FTP commands like the powerful SITE command. Batch automation offers automatic job restart and email notifications of failures.

VFTP Lite Edition has fewer features while still providing the necessary VFTP client. Your requirements will determine which edition is best suited for your site.

## Installation

**What are the prerequisites to run VST?**

VST requires OpenSSH Version 7.6 or higher and VitalSigns for FTP (either VFTP or VFTP Lite Edition).

**Is VST easy to install?**

VST is very simple to install. At the end of installation, only one batch job requires configuration.

**What are the requirements for the installer ID?**

The installer's TSO ID must have security access (read/write/allocate) to all created datasets and security access to upload between the desktop and z/OS FTP.

**How are fixes applied to VST?**

A new VST version or maintenance can be downloaded from the SDS website. To implement, current VST binaries are overlaid.

## Licensing

**How is VST licensed?**

VST is licensed per LPAR regardless of CPU size.

**Do VST licenses expire?**

Yes, they expire annually in May. New licenses are sent to customers via email each April. A new license can be implemented dynamically without interruption to the VST started task.

## Product Development and Support

**Where is the SDS team located for VST?**

SDS product development and technical support are based in the USA. Support tickets can be opened on the SDS website. Issues are addressed by experienced support technicians and resolved with the customer.