



National Check Network

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## SecureNCIS Program Overview

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Division of



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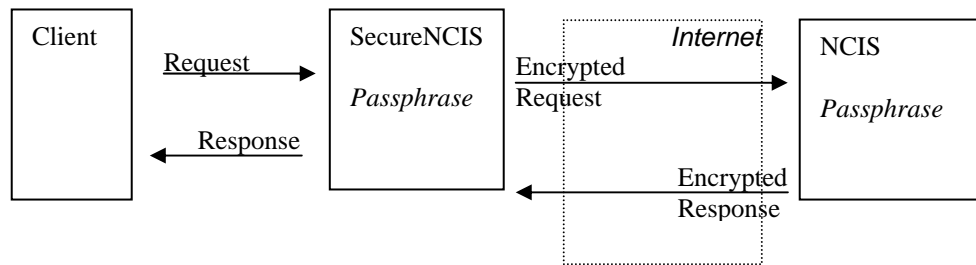
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## SecureNCIS Program Overview

SecureNCIS is a proxy server that provides two types of services for NCIS clients: Encryption and Multiplexing.

### Encryption Services

Encryption services are needed to protect the information transmitted and received concerning consumer account numbers and returned check history. SecureNCIS uses Blowfish encryption to protect transaction information to and from the NCIS system. Use of Blowfish requires that a *passphrase* be agreed upon by both the sender and receiver. Your **ECHO** representative will provide you with the passphrase that must be used to access your internet connection. Be sure this is entered into the SecureNCIS program *exactly* as given, including any capitalization.

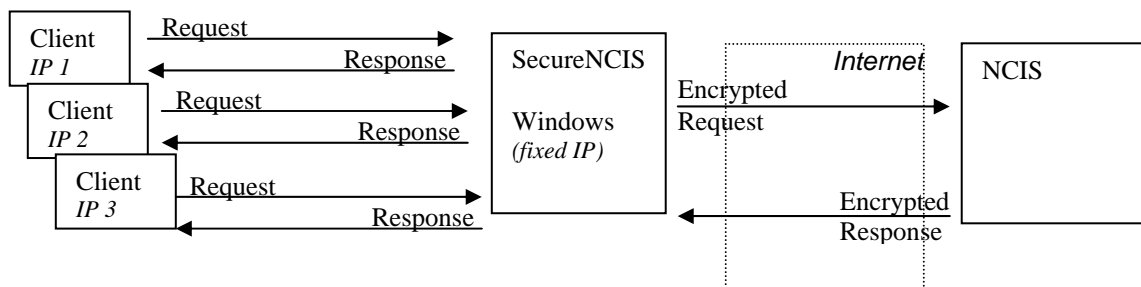


If the Passphrase is left blank in the SecureNCIS program, no encryption will be used. This is useful only during a testing phase, and should not be used in a production environment. And the NCIS socket connection will accept only Encrypted or Non-Encrypted connections...never both. As soon as **ECHO** activates your passphrase, you cannot use unencrypted packets.

## Multiplexing Services

For security purposes, NCIS connections via the Internet must be established from a single fixed-IP address. Further, NCIS services one transaction at a time from a specific address. This makes it difficult to provide check verification services to a number of in-house client addresses. The Multiplexing capability of SecureNCIS allows multiple in-house clients to access a single fixed-IP connection with minimal programming and provides serialization of transactions from multiple clients.

If you have only one client, the multiplexing services are not needed. But if you have multiple clients, you would run SecureNCIS on a Windows-based computer, and all clients would run transactions to that address rather than NCIS directly, as shown in the figure below. SecureNCIS assures that NCIS sees only one active transaction at a time, and passes NCIS responses back to the proper client.



**NOTE:** SecureNCIS is written as an Application, not a WindowsNT Service. If you wish to use SecureNCIS as a service, use the SRVANY.EXE program (available in the WindowsNT Resource Kit) or a similar run-application-as-service application to start SecureNCIS.