

FULL VERIFICATION

Full Verification provides assurance that the material deposited in escrow is correct and complete by ensuring that the deposit can be built into the working system at the software owner's site. Full Verification is strongly recommended for all business critical applications.

The Escrow Europe consultant observes the complete build of the application and documents every detail of the environment and build process in a comprehensive report. The final report is a detailed handbook describing every step in the process of building the source code into the working application.

Why do you need Full Verification?

Your Escrow agreement provides you with the protection and assurance that you will be able to access the source code of your software application even if your software owner goes out of business or fails to meet contractual obligations to maintain the software. However, it is vital that you also consider the level of assurance needed that the material deposited is complete and correct.

We carry out an Integrity Test on each deposit received to ensure it is accessible, virus free and consists of source code. This process ensures that any obvious mistakes in the deposit are detected and resolved – however it cannot guarantee that all the source code and associated files required to build the application have been included in the deposit.

Furthermore, many of today's applications are very complex pieces of software and will be very time consuming to build without detailed instructions.

For key business critical applications you will need a higher level of assurance to guarantee that all the required files and instructions have been deposited to utilise the material effectively and speedily in the event of a release.

Benefits of the Full Verification

- Independent assurance that the source deposited in escrow will build into the working application.
- Assurance that all the necessary source code files, build scripts and utilities have been stored in the escrow deposit.
- Assurance that the full documentation of the build process is stored with the source code and available for immediate use in a release event.
- Vital input to disaster recovery and contingency planning. An escrow agreement combined with Full Verification provides a core element of risk mitigation for core business critical applications.
- Provides protection against a disaster recovery scenario in which either the licensee's premises or the software owner's premises are involved.
- Provides protection against loss of key staff by either the software owner or the licensee.
- Ensures that sufficient documentation of the process is in place to enable someone else to rebuild the application.

Why Escrow Europe?

- We are the world's largest software escrow provider, protecting clients worldwide with the most comprehensive Escrow solutions available
- Escrow Solutions designed to assist organisations which are dependent on crucial assets which they do not own or control
- We have an expert in-house legal and technical team



More information:

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The Full Verification Process:

1. Our consultant will arrange with the software owner to carry out the Full Verification at their site. They will confirm the process with the software owner in advance.
2. On arrival at the software owner's site, our consultant will carry out an inventory of the escrow deposit and confirm with all parties that we have all the necessary files and documentation and they are the correct version. The environment architecture and third party software and utilities required to build the application are also noted.
3. Our consultant will produce a plan of the directories and contents of the material to be deposited in Escrow.
4. Our consultant will examine the verification hardware to confirm that source code files are present and the sample source files are viewed to ensure they are in a human readable form. The source code files are also examined to identify features that aid readability, such as; modification histories, comments, meaningful variable, procedure and file names. Sample source files are checked to ensure they can be edited and are not write protected in any way.
5. If a database is used by the application under test and is being placed in Escrow, an entity diagram and list of tables are requested from the software owner. Our consultant will examine a sample section of the database to ensure that tables exist as stated in the information provided and that the tables contain the fields expected.
6. The software owner is asked to compile, build and link the source code in order to create the executable version of the software. Our consultant will observe and document the complete process, taking screen shots as required.
7. The software owner is asked to install the executable version of the software on the relevant hardware platform. Our consultant will observe and document the complete process, taking screen shots as required.
8. The software owner will verify that the built executable and the working application are as expected.
9. At this stage, a representative from the licensee will be invited to carry out any tests required to ascertain that the application is complete and is working as expected. Our consultant will observe and document this testing.
10. If the licensee is unable to send a representative to the Full Verification, our consultant will discuss the tests to be undertaken with the licensee in advance and will carry them out on their behalf.
11. Our consultant will request any available documentation that would assist with the future maintenance of the source code from the software owner and details of the documentation are noted.
12. The source code and all associated files are collated as part of the escrow deposit. The deposit is transferred to suitable media or transferred electronically using Escrow Europe's secure server, Deposit Central.
13. Our consultant will carry out an Integrity Test to ensure that the deposit material copied to the media is accessible.
14. The Escrow deposit, along with a completed Escrow Deposit Specification Form, is transferred to an Escrow Europe Secure Deposit Facility.
15. Our consultant will produce a Verification Build Report recording every step of the build process, the checks made, results of those checks and any findings or recommendations. Specifically, this report will detail the environment required, configuration required and the precise details of the complete build process.

The Escrow-agreement

An Escrow-agreement is a legal agreement between supplier, licensee & escrow provider.

- The supplier is obliged to deposit the source code
- Escrow Europe will perform a verification on the source code
- Escrow Europe will store the source code in secure vaults

Examples of 'Trigger Events' for the release of the source code are:

- Liquidation
- Ceasing to trade
- Failure to meet maintenance obligations
- IPR assignment (if new owner provides no escrow protection)

Why is testing important?

Every deposited media that carries a source code is checked by our skilled Verification Consultants. They always perform an Integrity Test, however it is also possible to choose for more extensive verifications. This procedure is very important, because:

- Only the depositor knows what is stored on the deposited media
- Mistakes are often made when preparing the deposit
- Vital information such as build scripts can be left out of the deposit
- The scope of the material to be deposited can be misunderstood
- It's too late to ask questions if the supplier has gone out of business