

INTEGRITY TEST

Your Escrow Agreement provides you with the protection and assurance that you will be able to obtain the source code of your software application if your software owner goes out of business or fails to meet contractual obligations to maintain the software.
But can you be sure that you will be able to access the source code?

The source code may be password protected or encrypted. It may contain viruses. It may not be readable due to errors in the production process.

Therefore an Integrity Test is provided as standard on all deposits received by Escrow Europe under an escrow agreement.

The process involves the testing of the deposit material to ensure that it is virus free, accessible and of the expected type, providing assurance that the source code will be accessible if a release event occurs.

An Integrity Test of your escrow deposit provides valuable reassurance that the deposit material is accessible and free from viruses.

The Integrity Test Process

The following checks are carried out on all deposits received:

1. Virus Check

The material is virus checked using the very latest virus checking software. The results along with a note of the virus checking software used are recorded in the *Integrity Test Report*.

2. Media Read Check:

The material is read to ensure that all data can be retrieved successfully. The software utility and the commands used to read the material from the media are recorded in the Integrity Test Report.

3. Compression Check

All compressed files are checked to ensure that they can be decompressed successfully. The methods used are recorded in the Integrity Test Report.

4. Password/Encryption Check

If any files are password protected, the passwords are obtained to ensure that the files can be opened. It will be noted that passwords form part of the escrow deposit and they are securely stored in a separate location to the deposit. All encrypted files are decrypted and the methods used to decrypt the files are recorded in the Integrity Test Report.

5. Source Code Check

A check is carried out to ensure that source code files have been deposited and that they are in human readable form. The results are recorded in the Integrity Test Report, along with a note of the editor used.

6. Source Code Information Check

A sample of the source code files are examined to determine whether they contain features that aid readability, such as: modification histories, indentation, comments, meaningful variable and procedure names and meaningful file names. Comments on the findings are inserted into the Integrity Test Report.

Integrity Test Report

If the material tested fails any of the first five checks, Escrow Europe request that the software owner provides a replacement deposit, and the Integrity Test Process will start again from the beginning.

The Integrity Test Report in addition to providing results of the checks performed, also contains details of the software owner, the date of deposit, the name and version number of the source code, the escrow agreement number and an inventory of the materials received.

For business critical applications, Escrow Europe recommends that further verification should be undertaken to ensure that the source code deposited is correct and complete and can be built into the working application. Escrow Europe offers a range of verification products, further details of which can be provided on request.

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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