

USPS Electronic Postmark® (EPM™)



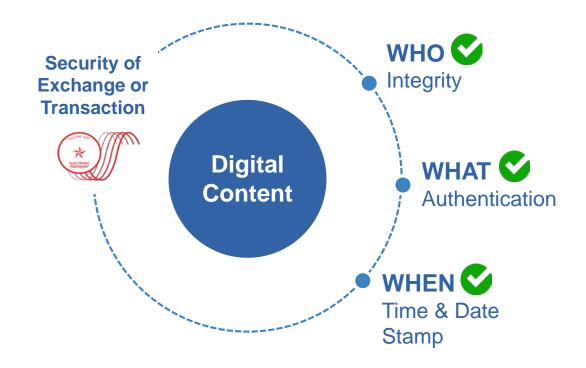
The USPS Electronic Postmark (EPM) seeks to address digital communication security concerns between senders and receivers by equipping messages with enhanced digital security and verification capabilities

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USPS' vision for secure digital solutions is to develop security technology that addresses evolving digital communication customer needs and extends its trusted postmark from physical mail to digital communications



The Electronic Postmark® delivers digital message content integrity, authenticity, and time and date stamp service.

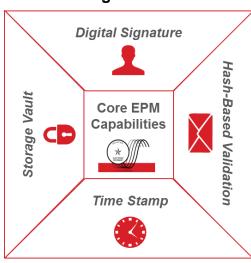




EPM verifies the integrity, authenticity, and timestamp of a transmitted digital message

USPS Solution Features and Benefits

USPS Digital Trust Mark





Verifies sender: Includes two security keys – one signs the EPM, ensuring the integrity of the message data, and the other verifies the signature on the message¹



National Institute of Standards & Technology to officially time stamp hashed messages and digital signatures



Hash-Based Validation

Identifies altered message: Alerts receiver of accidental or intentional changes to transmitted data by applying a "hash mark," an algorithmic key

Captures date and time of information: Partners with the



Stores unique message information: Stores the time stamp and USPS digital signature in a USPS repository for a customizable amount of time²

USPS Value Add

Trusted Brand

USPS is an established trusted identity verifier for physical addresses and is expanding this capability into the digital space

Consistently Reliable

Through trusted partnerships, USPS can capture time and location specific information reliably

Dependable Long-Term

USPS, one of the longest-standing US institutions, stores the signature, location and date of transactions for a customizable length of time for future verifications

Note: 1. The digital signature feature meets the FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standard) 140-2 accrediting the USPS cryptographic methods; 2. The content of the messages are not stored



For example, EPM can secure communications between a University and a Biobank







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Sender

- Creates the message
- Pings a USPS server to get an EPM
- Sends email with attached EPM



Message sent

EPM

5

Receiver

- Receives the message with the EPM stamp
- Reads the validated message

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EPM (sender-side)

- Verifies the sender identity with a digital signature
- Applies a time stamp to the message transmission
- Secures the email with hash-based validation
- Stores EPM record of message transmission

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EPM (receiver-side)

- Communicates with server receiving the email
- Verifies identity with digital signature
- Checks the received hash against the original hash to confirm message integrity
- Stores record of message reception

Note: Illustrative EPM Process Flow.



USPS Health Connect™ Use of EPM

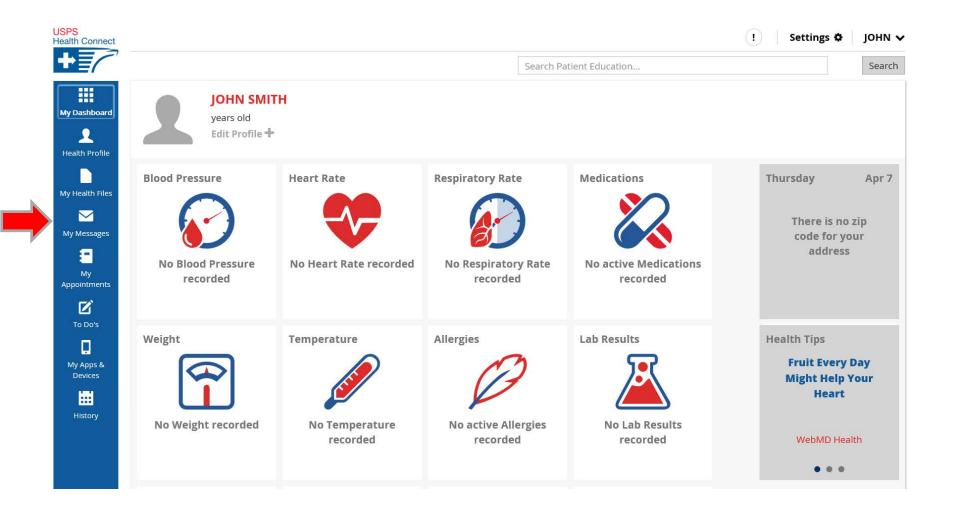
USPS Health Connect is a personal health record application the USPS is testing with interested employees.

The following screen shots show how the USPS Health Connect application is leveraging the EPM web service to both apply and validate Electronic Postmarks within the secure messaging portion of the PHR.

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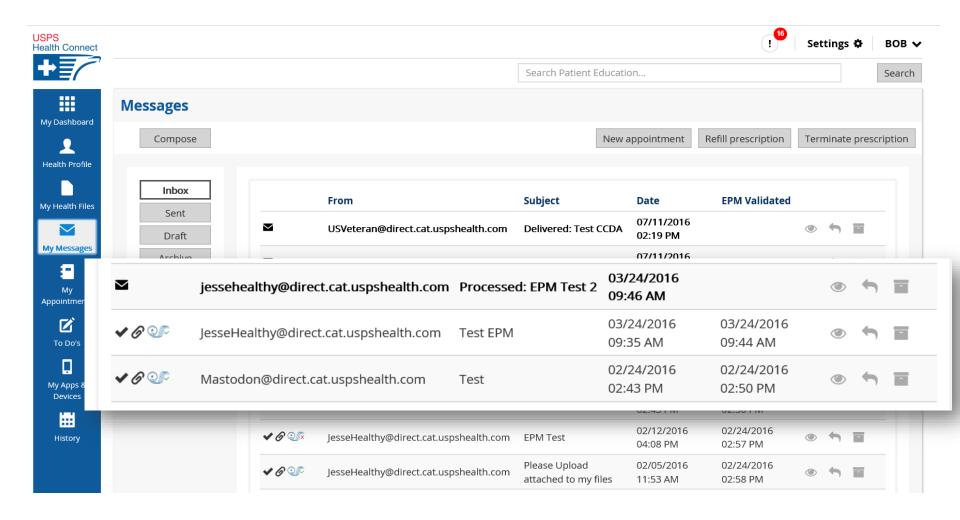


Click on "My Messages" to send a Direct Message or check your inbox:





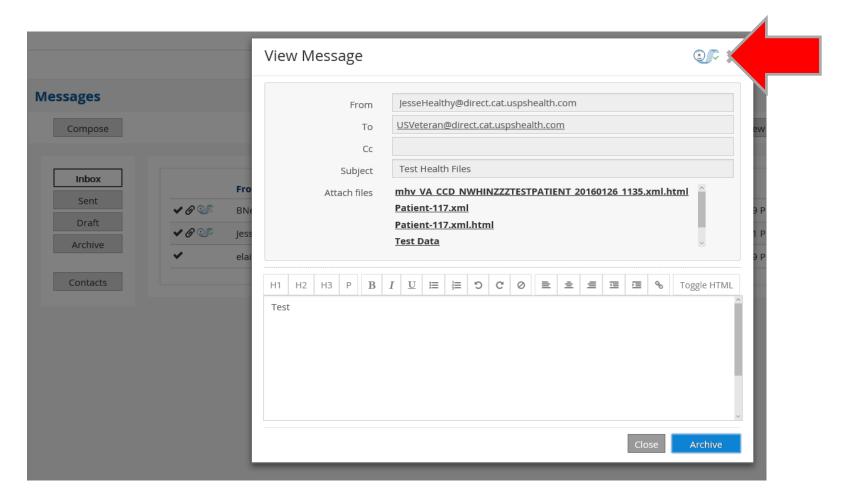
Click on "eye" icon to view your messages:





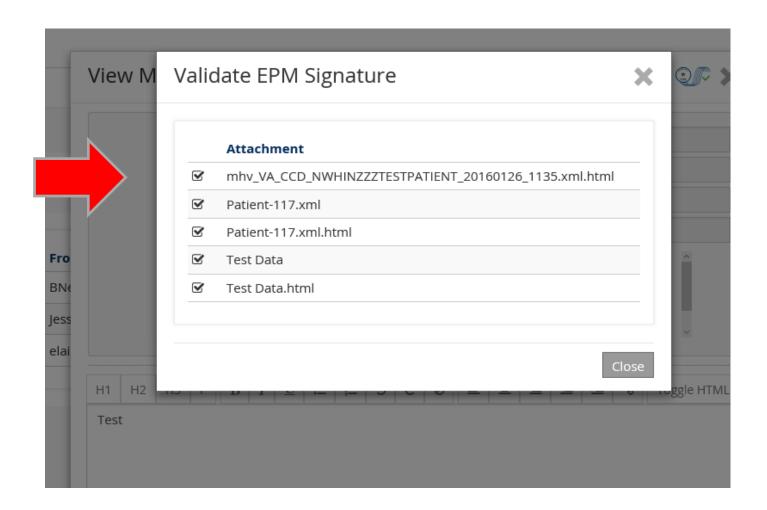
Click on the electronic Post Mark (ePM) to validate attachments were not tampered with during transit:





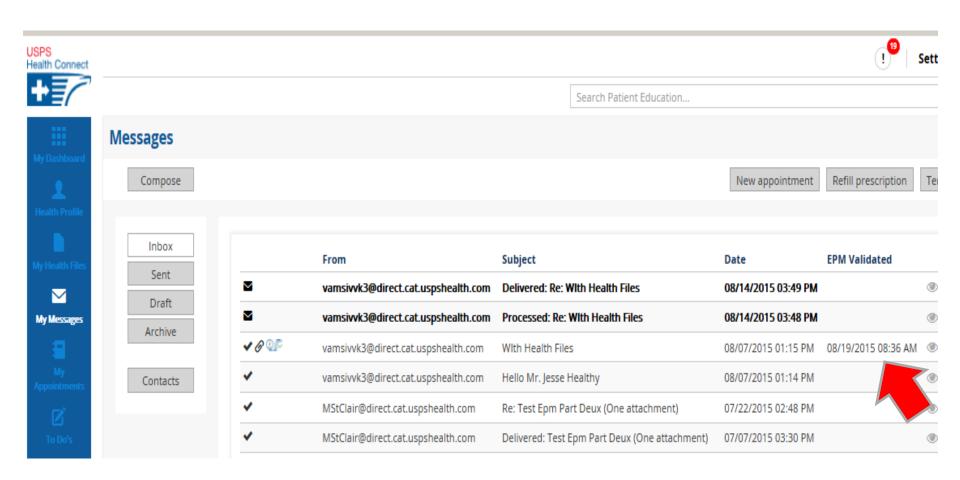


Checkmarks next to documents validate attachments were not tampered with during transit:





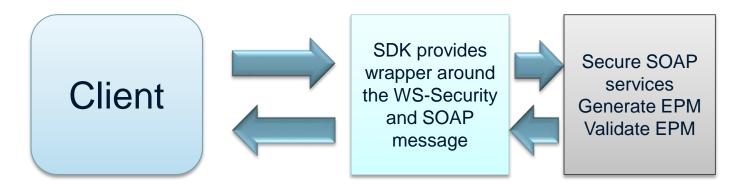
Open health files you receive in your Inbox





SDK and **API** overview

The SDK provides a wrapper around the secure SOAP services allowing for the client to quickly integrate with the EPM services to both generate and validate EPMs.

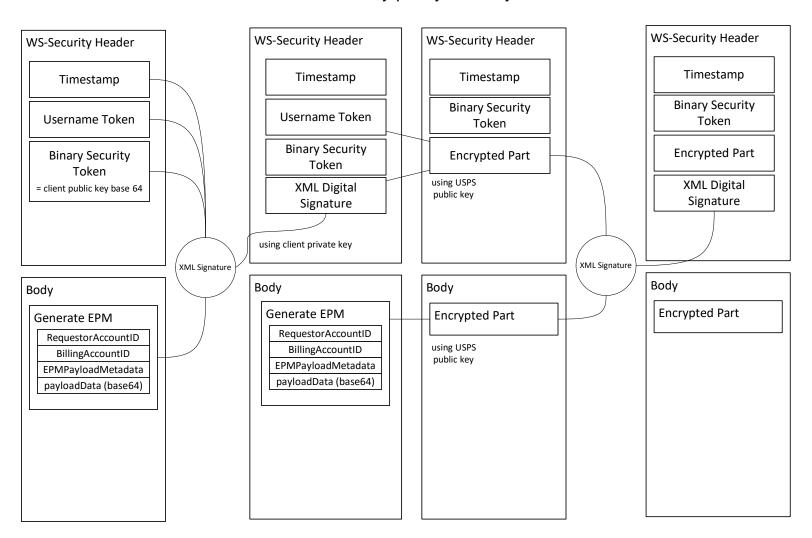


3/14/2017 Restricted and Confidential 12



Secure SOAP service

The illustration below shows the WS security policy used by the secure web service for EPM.







Register



Electronic Postmark® (EPM™) Overview

What is it?

The USPS Electronic Postmark API is a secure web service which provides a time/date stamp and a unique hash (the EPM) which acts to prove the state of electronic data (such as a medical record or a consent decree) at a point in time, and which can then be validated at a later point in time as unaltered (i.e. the same medical document or the same consent decree) since its original date of "postmarking".

What it does?

The Electronic Postmark System provides the means to digitally sign and timestamp various types of electronic data through an official USPS authority. This process results in the creation of a USPS Electronic