

the prism



Service By Email: The Postal Metaphor

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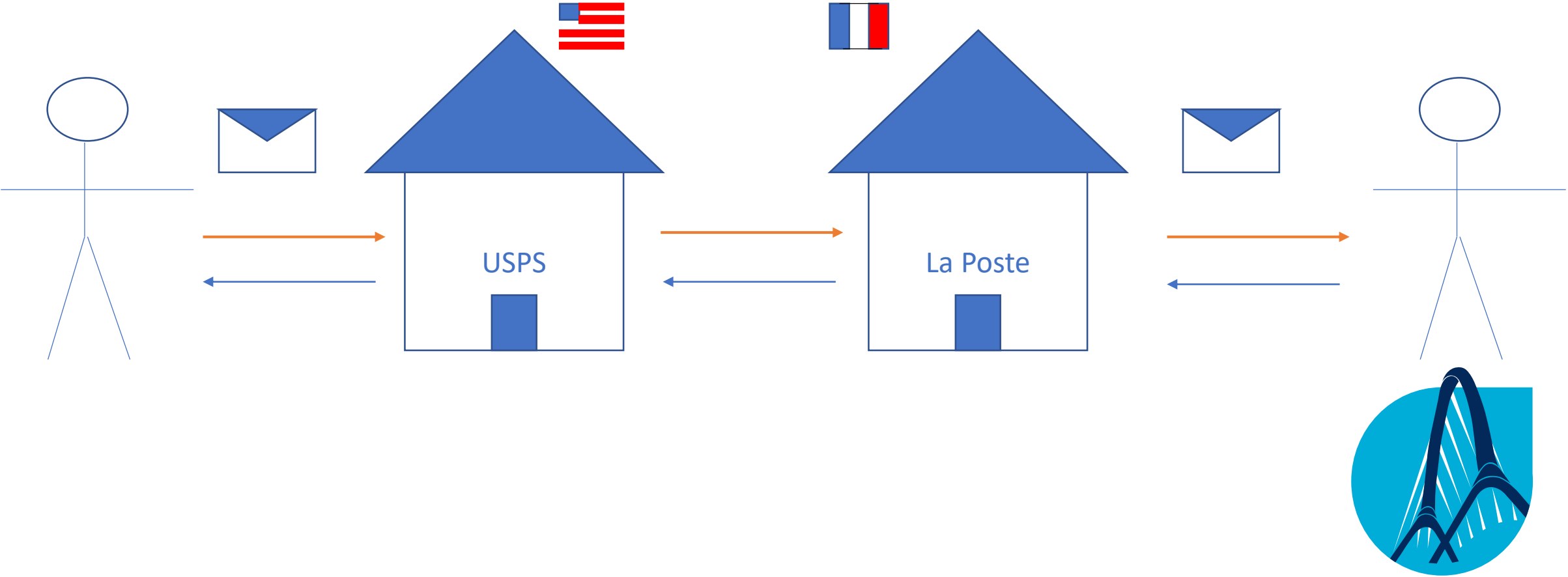
Founder

Letters Blogatory

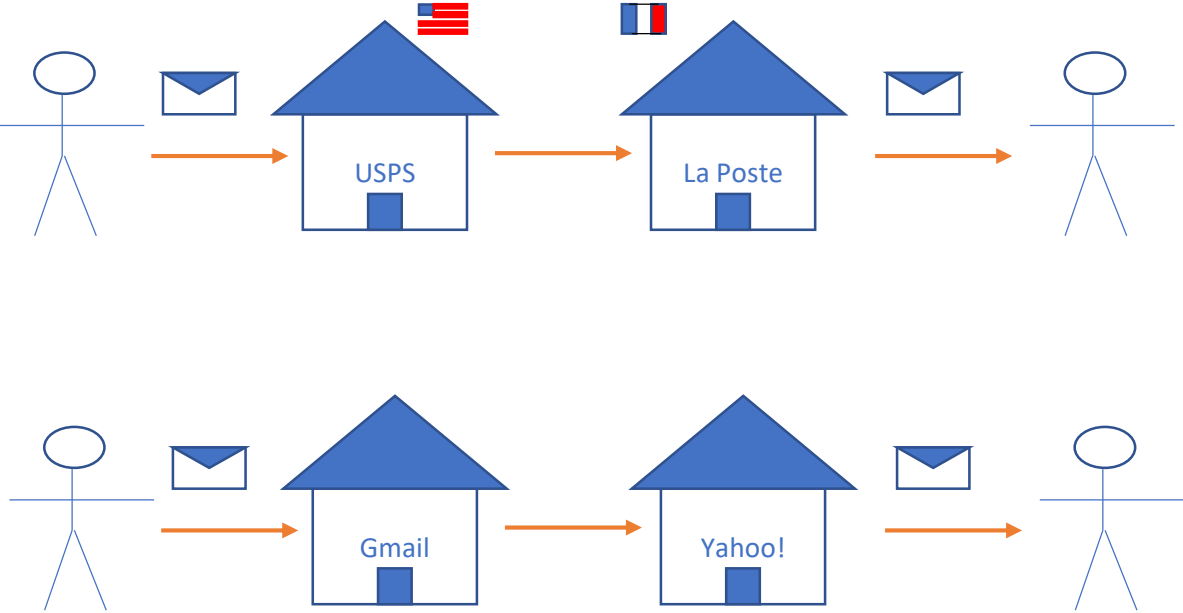
The key advantage of email:
the postal metaphor



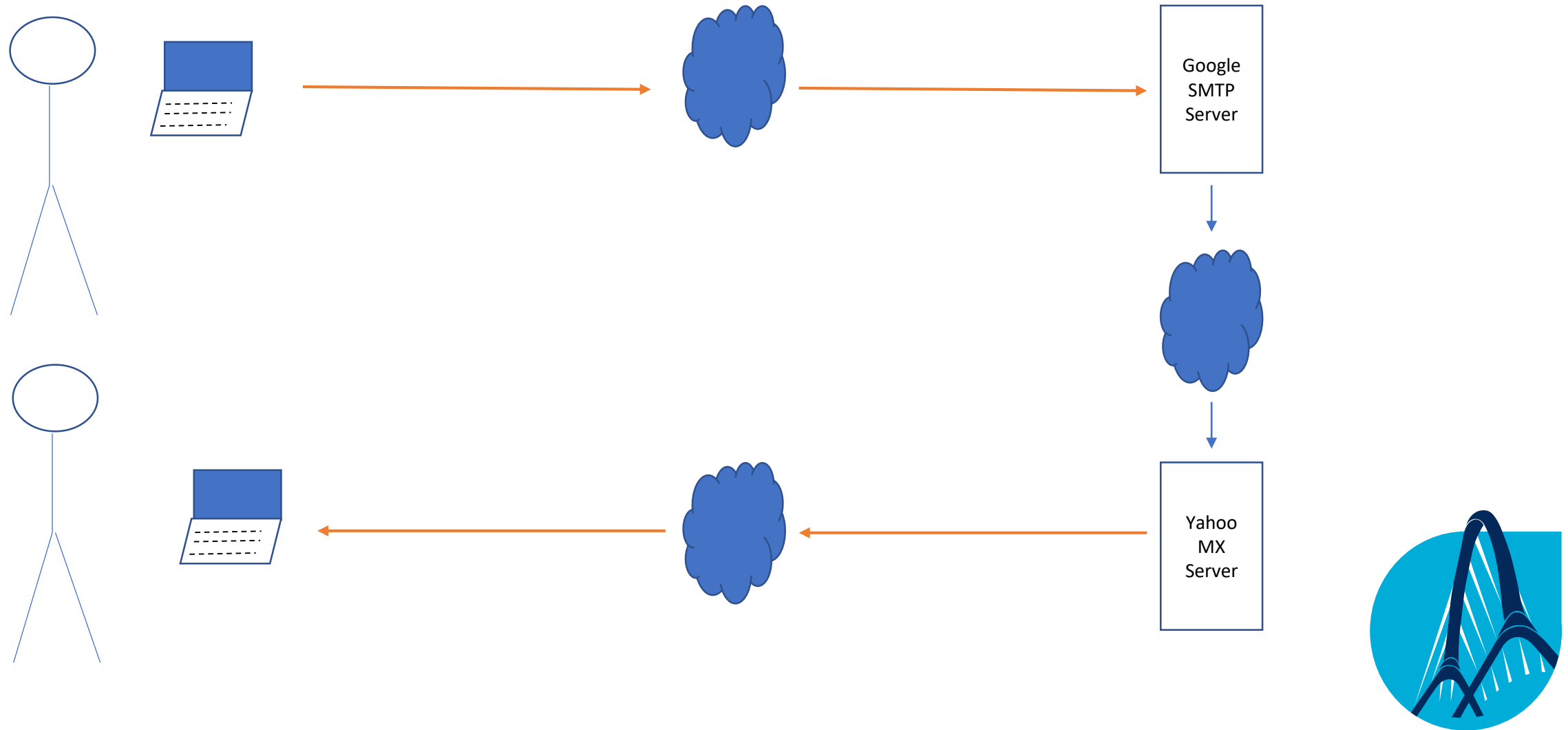
The Post



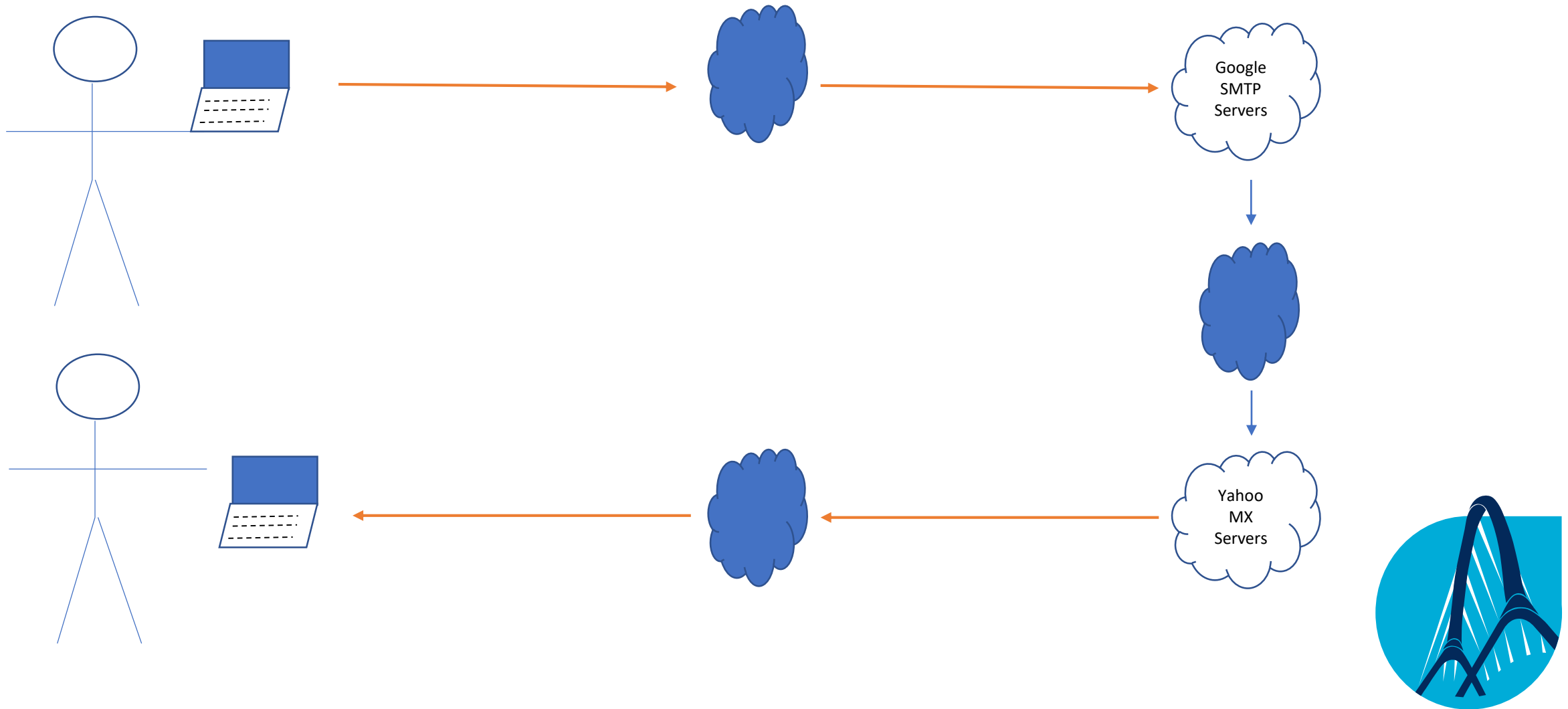
The Metaphor: Email → Post



Behind the Scenes



Behind the Scenes



Security means:
Authenticity
Confidentiality
Integrity
(and Proof of Delivery)



No technology is perfectly secure. Is it about as secure as traditional methods?



Email versus Post

Is Email Secure?

Authenticity	Confidentiality	Integrity
Strong technical protections exist but are not routinely used.	Weak legal protections. Strong technical protections exist but are not routinely used.	Strong technical protections exist but are not routinely used.

Is the Post Secure?

Authenticity	Confidentiality	Integrity
Weak legal protections. Moderate physical protections.	Strong legal protections, weak physical protections.	Strong legal protections, moderate physical protections



Email versus Post

Does Email Allow Proof of Delivery?

“Regular” Email	“Special” Email
Ordinary email provides weak proof of delivery. Receipts are at the option of the recipient, and technical logs cannot prove receipt by the destination mailbox.	There are third-party commercial solutions, which are not in the email standards and which usually but not always will work.

Does the Post Allow Proof of Delivery?

“Regular” Post	“Special” Post
First-class mail provides no proof of delivery	Registered mail provides strong proof of delivery. Other services provide weaker proof of delivery





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