

## Re: lack of encryption in instant messengers

---

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/sci.crypt/2006-08/msg00527.html>

---

- *From:* "Tom St Denis" <[tomstdenis@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:tomstdenis@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 19 Jul 2006 06:34:40 -0700
- 

Pubkeybreaker wrote:

Before IM systems get such a capability, there needs to be a financial incentive for those providing IM software to add an encryption capability.  
Such incentive comes from customer demand. No demand --> no financial incentive --> no capability.

That's a bit naive but not entirely inaccurate.

Crypto is a bit special in that people REALLY don't get the benefits of it. Heck, even compression is foreign. The only reason it's widespread is because the implementors realized you NEED it to make the program work.

I can just as easily tell you my bank details without encryption, but I can't send you streaming audio in realtime without compression, etc... So even for the home user who isn't financially vested in privacy, they still won't use it because they don't realize they may need it.

And besides, a lot of people work on things for free [cough, the OSS scene, cough]. In fact several IM protocols support encryption already.

Why MSN, YM and AIM don't support it? You're right lack of customer demand. But that's really no excuse. It's just a cop-out.

Tom

.