

COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

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**COMPUTER SECURITY
AND THE DATA
ENCRYPTION STANDARD**



NBS Special Publication 500-27

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COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

Computer Security and the Data Encryption Standard

Special Publication

Proceedings of the Conference on Computer Security
and the Data Encryption Standard Held at the
National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg,
Maryland on February 15, 1977

Dennis K. Branstad, Editor

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Reports on Computer Science and Technology

The National Bureau of Standards has a special responsibility within the Federal Government for computer science and technology activities. The programs of the NBS Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology are designed to provide ADP standards, guidelines, and technical advisory services to improve the effectiveness of computer utilization in the Federal sector, and to perform appropriate research and development efforts as foundation for such activities and programs. This publication series will report these NBS efforts to the Federal computer community as well as to interested specialists in the academic and private sectors. Those wishing to receive notices of publications in this series should complete and return the form at the end of this publication.

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FOREWORD

The need for standards in computer security has risen along with the need for improved record keeping practices throughout the Federal Government. The increasing use of computers by Government and private industry for the processing, storing and communication of sensitive as well as valuable data has focused this need and has resulted in an extensive standards development program in this area. The development of the Data Encryption Standard is the first major result of this program.

The Conference on Computer Security and the Data Encryption Standard was organized to disseminate information about the computer security technology available, undergoing development or identified as needing additional effort. The Conference was jointly sponsored by the National Bureau of Standards and the Civil Service Commission to provide this information to Federal supervisors, managers, computer specialists, communication specialists, standards personnel and others with an interest in computer security. The main objective of the Conference was to present a perspective of the use of data encryption as a computer security measure.

The proceedings of this Conference, held at NBS on February 15, 1977, are intended for use by all Federal and private organizations seeking to improve the security of their computer systems. The views expressed in the papers do not necessarily reflect those of the National Bureau of Standards or the Civil Service Commission. The material presents the present state-of-the-art technology for encrypting data and introduces many applications of encryption either implemented or contemplated.

M. Zane Thornton
Acting Director
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