

# Securing Financial Data a Top Priority

District of Columbia Retirement Board  
protects public pensions



When you manage \$5 billion in pension investments, security is naturally a key concern. To ensure its members' personal and financial data is protected, the District of Columbia Retirement Board (DCRB) uses Zix Email Encryption.

The DCRB manages the retirement plans of 24,000 District of Columbia teachers, firefighters and police officers. Working closely with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of D.C. Pensions and the Bureau of the Public Debt, the DCRB reviews approximately \$500 million annually in pension payroll payments.

"We are constantly reviewing our members' retirement benefits to ensure they're getting the best possible service," said Peter Dewar, DCRB's Director of Information Technology responsible for online security. "All of their personal and financial data is a treasure trove of information that could be used for fraudulent purposes, such as identity theft and cash transfers. We are committed to protecting their assets."

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– Peter Dewar, Director of Information Technology,  
District of Columbia Retirement Board

## At a Glance:

- District of Columbia Retirement Board (DCRB)

## Background:

- Established in 1979
- More than 24,000 members
- Manages \$5 billion in pension investments
- Reviews \$500 million annually in pension payments

## Issue:

- Needed email encryption to secure members' personal information
- Wanted seamless and secure email communication with partners
- Wanted reliable and easy to use encryption for mobile devices

## Solution:

- Zix® Email Encryption

## Benefits:

- Secure correspondence with business partners
- Strong finance lexicons
- Easy to use and transparent to end-users
- DCRB-branded secure portal

## Choosing Zix was an easy decision

DCRB chose Zix because "it's by far the best of breed email security out there," said Dewar. "When we looked at the different email encryption service providers, we noticed that some of our key business partners, including the U.S. Department of the Treasury, were Zix customers."

## About Zix

Zix is a trusted leader in email data protection. Zix offers industry-leading email encryption, a unique email data loss prevention (DLP) solution, and an innovative bring your own device (BYOD) email solution to meet your company's data protection and compliance needs.

Zix is trusted by the nation's most influential institutions in healthcare, finance and government for easy-to-use secure email solutions. For more information, visit [www.zixcorp.com](http://www.zixcorp.com)

ZixDirectory® connects tens of millions of members and is the world's largest and only shared email encryption community. Transparent encrypted email is enabled between ZixGateway® customers and allows secure email to be sent and accessed without any extra steps; not even a password is needed. The fact that the U.S. Department of the Treasury, along with other DCRB business partners, are members was an important factor in the decision to choose Zix.

"Having seamless email integration was high on our list. We share sensitive information, such as Social Security Numbers, account and pension balances with our partners," said Dewar. "The Zix solution lets us securely exchange this data."

## Encryption brings peace of mind

Encrypting confidential correspondence is essential when you're working with large sums of money, says Dewar. "With \$5 billion in pension assets, it's imperative to protect account numbers and directions to management regarding investment strategies," he said. "We need to tell our custodial bank and money managers where we want to steer those funds. We must protect that information and make sure that nobody can pretend to be a DCRB employee and issue bogus directions on where that money should go."

Important tools to protect that data are Zix's unique lexicons that flag key words that should be encrypted. "We use the financial lexicon, among others," said Dewar. "If we make a mistake and put privileged information into an email, the Zix lexicon catches it and automatically encrypts it. This gives us peace of mind."

## ZixMobility is simple, trusted and convenient

A Zix feature that Dewar values is ZixMobility™ which lets users seamlessly send and receive encrypted email on their mobile devices. "As soon as I heard about ZixMobility, I knew it was exactly what I wanted. Being able to receive secure messages from a cell phone is incredibly important to me," he said. "It's a convenient and easy way to communicate remotely with our business partners."

Having embarked upon an ambitious technology roadmap and implementing new technology to make it easier to serve its members, DCRB has pledged to strengthen its security so that personal and financial information is fully protected. "Email is so commonly used that it only made sense to incorporate an encryption service," said Dewar. "Zix's solution was the perfect fit."

