

# Bittorrent Sync Evaluation Public Report

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An evaluation of Bittorrent Sync for reliable file transfer (RFT) was performed by the TIS Technology Evaluation team.

Bittorrent Sync is a proprietary peer-to-peer file synchronization tool that can synchronize files and directories between devices via a secure, distributed, peer to peer technology. It is available on all common platforms. While this software is still in beta release, numerous major revisions have been released. Our testing was on version 1.2.82.

Using a single, complex directory, we tested replicating file system updates from a source machine to a destination machine, synchronizing the folder's contents between two machines and broadcasting updates of the folder from a central machine to multiple destination machines. We also tested a number of simple error conditions.

Bittorrent Sync's strength is in its ability to conserve the host bandwidth for wide area file distribution, such as a teacher distributing a homework assignment to the entire class. The protocol is very effective at minimizing bandwidth use from the source machine for distribution to multiple clients but is slower than a simple point to point transfer for just 2 machines.

We recommend Bittorrent Sync for RFT with the caveats that Windows users may need to restart the service periodically to maintain reliability and that some locations block bittorrent traffic. We highly recommend it for any mulitcast operations.