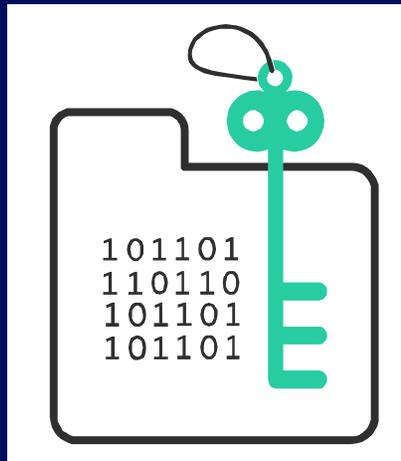


# Encrypted Paging for z/VM

## 6.4: Deep Dive



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[🐦 @Bwhugen](#)

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First

What is Pervasive Encryption, and why do we care?

Then

An explanation of IBM z14 hardware cryptography. (This will help explain why the rest of it matters.)

Followed by

Encrypted Paging for z/VM: what is it? What does it do?

And finally ...

How to's, interesting questions, performance considerations, and concluding thoughts.

# The Value of Data

Today, [data is one of the most valuable assets](#) of many companies.

In particular sensitive data must be protected against unauthorized access to avoid

- losing customer trust
- losing competitive advantages
- being subject to fines and regression claims

Data encryption is the most effective way to protect data outside your system be it in flight or at rest.

But encrypting data is not easy

- requires the introduction of new policies
- complicates data management
- requires to securely manage keys
- costs computing resources

## The IBM Z Pervasive Encryption Strategy

Extensive use of encryption is one of the most impactful ways to help reduce the risks and financial losses of a data breach and help meet complex compliance mandates.

However, implementing encryption can be a complex process ...

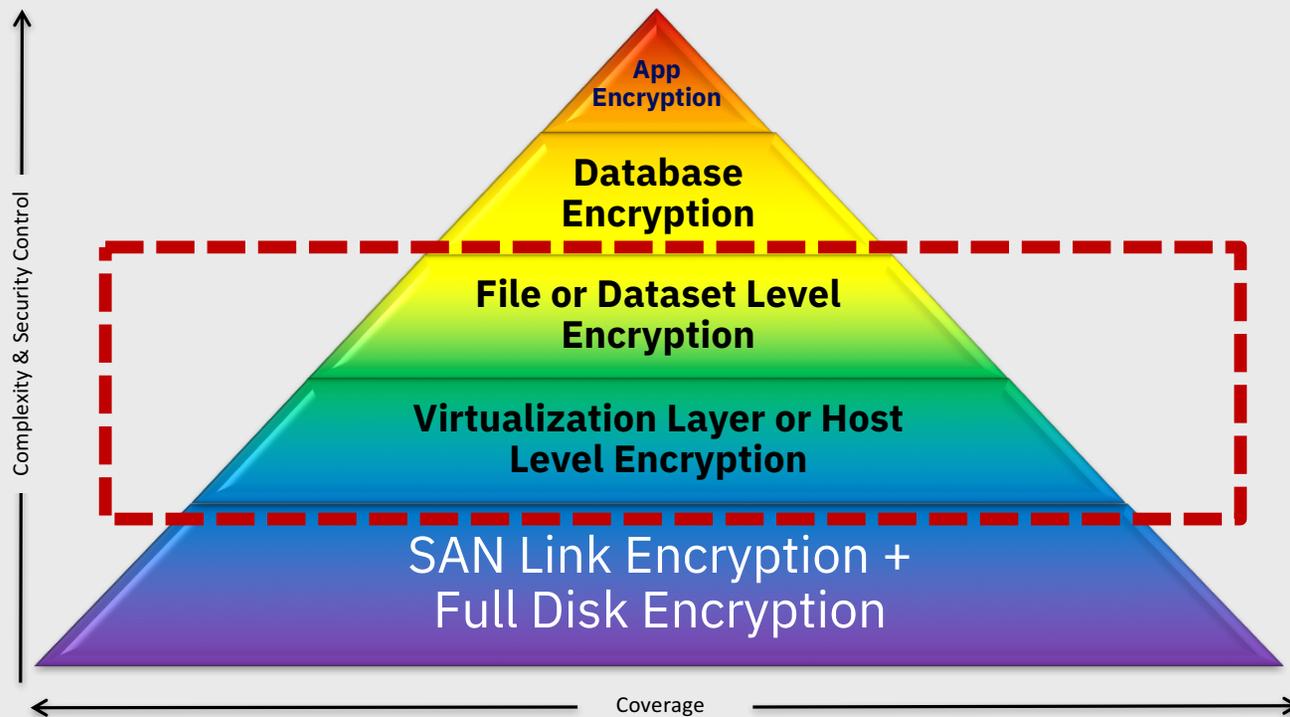
1. What data should be encrypted?
2. Where should encryption occur?
3. Who is responsible for encryption?



*Transparent and consumable approach to enable extensive encryption of data in-flight and at-rest to substantially simplify & reduce the costs associated with protecting data & achieving compliance mandates*

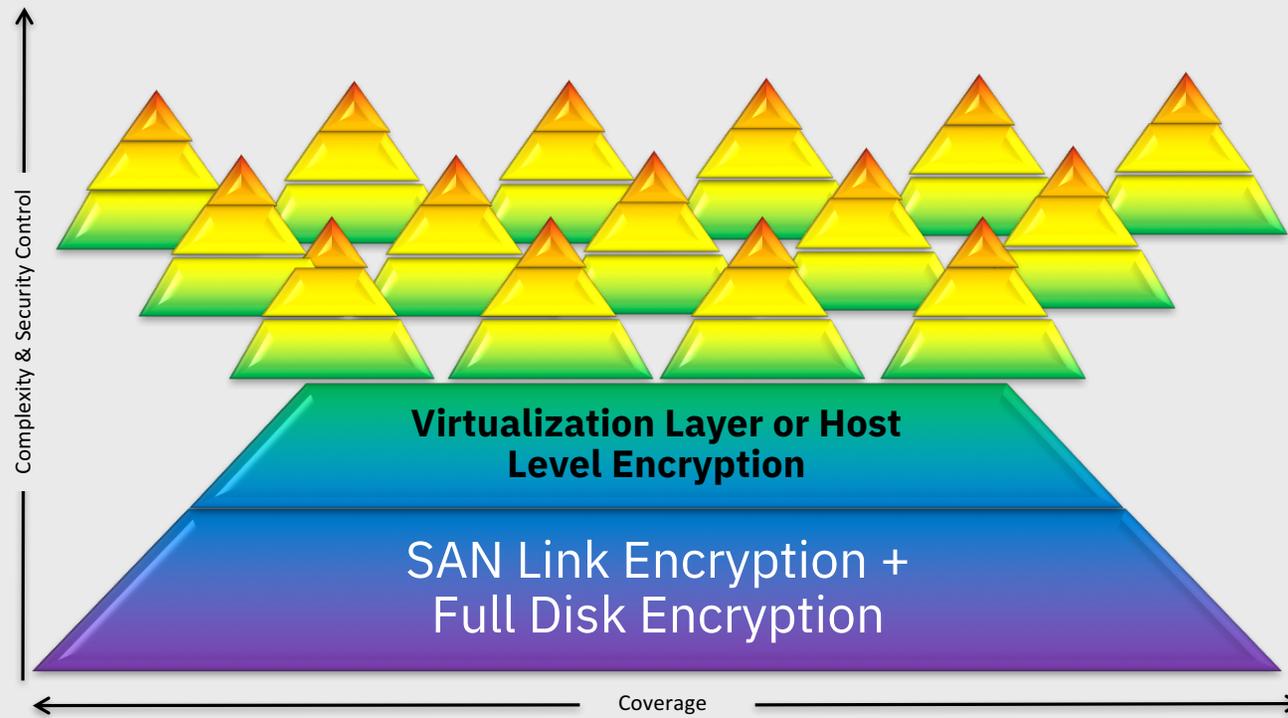
# IBM Z Pervasive Encryption

*From a Virtualization Point of View*



# IBM Z Pervasive Encryption

*From a Virtualization Point of View*



# Pervasive Encryption for z/VM and Linux on IBM Z

## **z14 – Designed for Pervasive Encryption**

- **CPACF** – Dramatic advance in bulk symmetric encryption performance
- **Crypto Express6S** – Doubling of asymmetric encryption performance for TLS handshakes

## **z/VM – Virtualizing Encryption for Linux**

- **Virtualization** of IBM Z Crypto Hardware (**updated August 2017**)
- **Crypto Express acceleration** for encrypted data in flight (**available March 2017**)
- **Encrypted Paging** for z/VM (**available 4Q2017**)

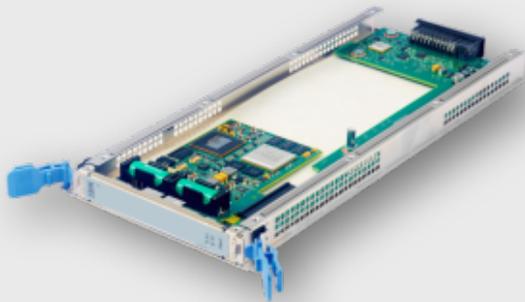
## **Linux on IBM Z – Full Power of Linux Ecosystem plus z14 Capabilities**

- **LUKS dm-crypt** – Transparent file & volume encryption using industry unique CPACF protected-keys
- **Network Security** – Enterprise scale encryption and handshakes using z14 CPACF and SIMD
- **Secure Service Containers** – Automatic protection of data and code for virtual appliance

# IBM Z Cryptographic Features

**IBM z Systems provide two flavors for offloading and accelerating cryptographic operations which help you to**

- Move cryptographic workload away from central processors
- Heighten your security level by protecting and securing keys
- Accelerate encryption and decryption



## *CP Assist for Cryptographic Function (CPACF)*

Support for **symmetric** and hashing algorithms included in every CP and IFL

Pseudo-random number generator

## ***Crypto Express features***

**Asymmetric** and hashing algorithm offload

Host master-key storage

Hardware RNG

PKCS #11 cryptographic support



# CP-Assisted Cryptographic Facility (CPACF)

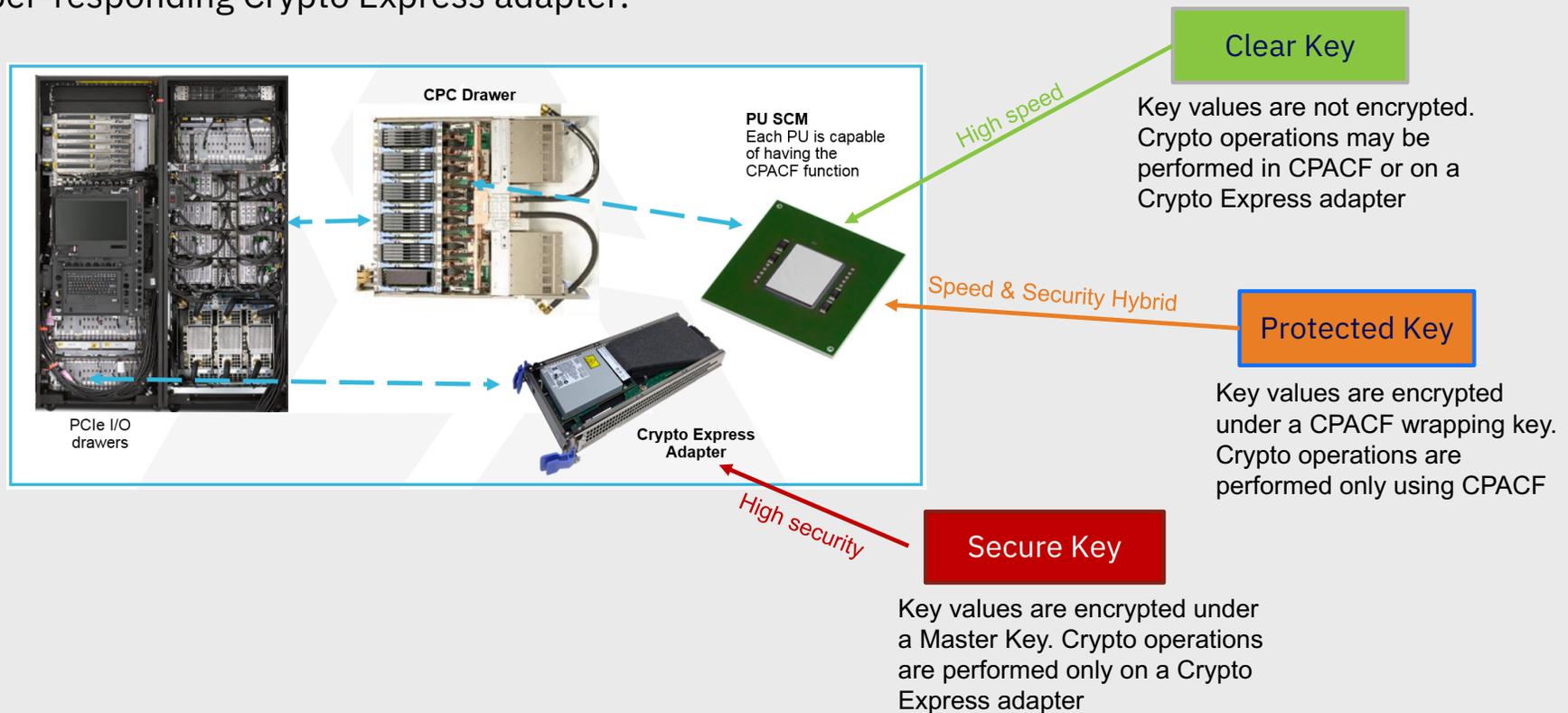
**SCZP401 Details - SCZP401**

Instance Information	Product Information	Acceptable CP/PCHID Status	STP Information	zBX Information	Energy Management
Ensemble name:	ITSO Ensemble	Ensemble HMC:	SCZHMCB		
CP status:	Operating	Activation profile:	DEFAULT		
PCHID status:	Exceptions	Last profile used:	SCZP401		
zBX Blade status:	Not Operating	Service state:	false		
Group:	CPC	Number of CPs:	19		
IOCDS identifier:	A0	Number of ICFs:	8		
IOCDS name:	IODF78	Number of zAAPs:	6		
System mode:	Logically Partitioned	Number of IFLs:	4	<b>CPACF</b>	
Alternate SE status:	Operating	Number of zIIPs:	6		
Lock out disruptive tasks:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Dual AC power maintenance:	Fully Redundant		
		CP Assist for Crypto functions:	Installed		

OK Apply Change Options... Cancel Help

# What are clear, secure and protected keys?

Secure keys have key values that are encrypted by a Master Key on a tamper-responding Crypto Express adapter.



# Bringing Pervasive Encryption to z/VM

*Bringing Pervasive Encryption to z/VM involves*

Ease of use needs to be mandatory

Client interviews and feedback a must

Enablement of **hardware facilities for guest usage**

z/VM is a virtualization platform first and foremost.

Encryption of security-pertinent hypervisor components

... but which ones?

Question of **security policy** vs. **performance** vs. **risk**

# z/VM Support of z14 Cryptographic Hardware

*PTF for APAR VM65942*

New CPACF facilities and Crypto Express6S orderable features

- CPACF now includes TRNG and AES GCM
- Some fantastic performance benefits over previous hardware

Elliptic Curve Cryptography for Shared Crypto Domains ("APVIRT")

- All domains assigned to the CP-managed queues must be CCA coprocessors
- No change to dedicated crypto domains – those function as before
- Accelerates use of elliptic curve crypto for Linux or z/OS guests

– For more information, see the z14 Announce Letter at:

<https://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=AN&subtype=CA&htmlfid=897/ENUS117-044&appname=USN>

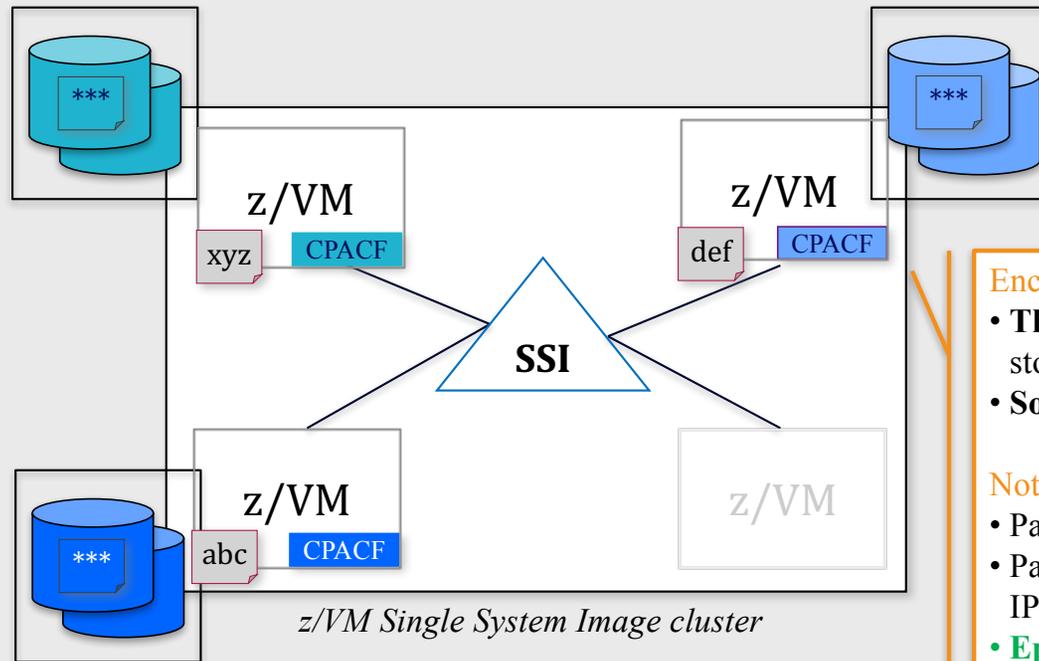
# Data Protection // z/VM Encrypted Paging

Protection of data at-rest

z/VM 6.4  
PTF for APAR VM65993

Legend:

- \*\*\* - encrypted data
- abc - unencrypted data



## Encrypted Paging

- **Threat:** access to sensitive data when stored on CP owned disk
- **Solution:** encrypt guest data on page-out.

## Notes:

- Paging is not SSI-relevant
- Paging data does not need to survive an IPL
- **Ephemeral** CPACF **protected-key** stored in CP (not on disk somewhere)
- AES encryption
- Very low overhead via CPACF

## Client Value Proposition:

Protect guest paging data from administrators and/or users with access to volumes

# Getting Started with Encrypted Paging

📌 *How Do I Get Value?*

## **z/VM Encrypted Paging**

- 🔧 1. Starting point: z/VM partition on a z14 with CPACF enabled
- 🔄 2. Select configuration in System Configuration file (can modify it dynamically later, if you change your mind)
- 👁️ 3. Generate an ephemeral  $n$ -bit AES encryption key during IPL process
- 👤 4. If ENCRYPT PAGING is ON, then pages are encrypted as they move to/from paging volumes.
- 🛒 5. Use monitor records to determine performance impact for workloads



**Relevant Hills: SUB-HILLS 1 & 3**

**Relevant Sponsor User Roles: Data Owner, Security Admin, Auditor**

**Security Admin Products: z/VM**

# Getting Started with Encrypted Paging: What's Encrypted?

This function encrypts data moved from active memory *to a paging volume owned by CP*

- ECKD, SCSI, or native FBA

Encryption is limited to guest pages and VDisk pages written by the CP paging subsystem

The following types of pages will **not** be encrypted:

- Spool files
- Directory pages
- Minidisk data to a mapped minidisk pool
- Minidisk cache pages
- CP page tables (PGMBKs)

## Details on Encrypted Paging – How To Use

1. Make sure CPACF is enabled on your z14 system.
  - Support requires CPACF (no-charge Feature 3863) to be enabled [on z14 hardware or later](#)
2. Set **ENCRYPT PAGING ON** in System Configuration or use **CP SET ENCRYPT PAGING**
3. [Protected](#) ephemeral key (of selected algorithm) generated by CP for system lifetime, for all guests
  - No key rotation mechanism in this PTF
4. Support comes in **OFF** (default), **ON**, and **REQUIRED** modes
  - Per sponsor feedback on priorities, changing [algorithm](#) in first deliverable will require an IPL
5. To prevent against timing attacks, TRSOURCE not be permitted in keygen section of the IPL processes
6. One key per z/VM partition – no SSI dependencies
  - Performance considerations for guest relocation: re-enciphering paging data
7. A mandate for 100% encryption should use **ENCRYPT PAGING ON** (at minimum) at IPL
  - ENCRYPT PAGING ON gives function but can be dynamically toggled
  - ENCRYPT PAGING REQUIRED comes with some usability concerns (more on this later)
  - Dynamic support can enable compliance, but **proving it** is difficult (draining volumes)

# Using Encrypted Paging for z/VM (1/2)

**\*new\*** ENCRYPT Statement in System Configuration file

– `ENCRYPT PAGING ON ALGORITHM AES256`

**\*new\*** QUERY/SET ENCRYPT

– `SET ENCRYPT PAGING {OFF | ON | REQUIRED}`

– ALGORITHM selection when first enabled (AES 128, 192, 256)

**Note:** **REQUIRED** may cause complications with DR sites

- System will not IPL on earlier hardware, or if missing CPACF
- Recommendation: keep a backup System Configuration file for SALIPL emergencies
- Recommendation: use sysname keywords in System Configuration to specify ENCRYPT by system or node
- Recommendation: IPL your system with `ENCRYPT PAGING ON <algorithm>`
  - `SET ENCRYPT PAGING REQUIRED` via AUTOLOG1 or via a COMMAND Statement
  - Audit trail demonstrates encryption was never “off.”

# QUERY ENCRYPT

*(Privilege Class A, C, or E)*

Validate current encryption configuration, and compare against setting at time of IPL.

(Does not notify user if required hardware facilities are available.)

```
>> QUERY ENCRYPT PAGING
```

```
Encrypt Paging settings:
```

```
Currently: Required AES256
```

```
At IPL: Off
```

```
Ready;
```

```
>>-QUERY-ENCRYPT-+---ALL-----+
+---PAGIng---+<
```



## Using SET ENCRYPT

- When specifying ON or REQUIRED, the default ALGORITHM is always AES256.
- The algorithm value may only be selected when Encrypted Paging is enabled for the first time. This may be either via SET or in the System Configuration file.
- Algorithm value cannot be changed without a re-IPL:

```
HCP1391E: Encryption algorithm previously set to ALGORITHM; no change made
```

- The System Operator is notified of changes to primary setting, e.g.

```
HCPENC1394I Encryption of paging changed from OFF to ON, with algorithm AES256,  
by user ALTMARKA
```

- SET ENCRYPT cannot be used when missing hardware support:

```
HCPENC1390E Encrypt Paging cannot be enabled due to missing hardware support
```

- If set to REQUIRED, changes cannot be made without a System IPL.

```
HCPENC1390E Encrypt Paging is required; no change made
```



## Using the ENCRYPT Statement

If OFF, no change – no problem. This is the default behavior, even after PTF is applied.

If ON and (missing or low-level CPACF) then

```
HCP1390E Encrypt Paging Not Available due to missing hardware support  
(IPL processing continues)
```

If REQUIRED and (missing or low-level CPACF) then

```
HCP1393W Encrypt Paging Not Available due to missing hardware support, specified  
as Required  
(wait state)
```

## Using REQUIRED' (1/2)



Please note that **REQUIRED** means **REQUIRED**.

- Cannot be changed, cannot be broken
- Meant to assure 100% compliance for the administrators who need it

If you have configured **REQUIRED** on a system which does not support the feature, **your system will not IPL**

- Double-check system labels in an SSI cluster – exclude back-level systems
- CPACF not enabled on new CEC – turn on CPACF
- z13 and earlier hardware – not supported
- May be a problem for DR sites

## Using REQUIRED' (2/2)

### IBM recommends:

1. Test Encrypted Paging with **ON** before switching to **REQUIRED**
2. Consider either:
  - a) Switching from **ON** to **REQUIRED** in AUTOLOG1 (during System IPL)
  - b) Putting **SET ENCRYPT PAGING REQUIRED** on a COMMAND statement for OPERATOR
3. Have a back-up System Configuration file (with setting **ON**) for emergency purposes
4. Double-check DR plans for hardware availability of z/VM systems



# How do I specify an alternate SYSTEM CONFIG file, anyway?

Answer: IPLPARLMS in SAPL

- `Fn=<filename> /* default SYSTEM */`
- `Ft=<filetype> /* default CONFIG */`
- `PDNUM /* parm disk # */`
- `PDVOL /* parm disk address */`

Can use FILELIST option to double-check filenames / to validate which CONFIG files might be available (if pointing at correct volume).

```
STAND ALONE PROGRAM LOADER: z/VM VERSION 6 RELEASE 4.0
DEVICE NUMBER:  0520      MINIDISK OFFSET:  39      EXTENT:  1
MODULE NAME:    CPLoad    LOAD ORIGIN:    1000
-----IPL PARAMETERS-----
fn=SYSTEM ft=CONFIG pdnum=1 pdvol=0526
-----COMMENTS-----
AD 11= TOGGLE EXTENT/OFFSET          9= FILELIST 10= LO
```

For more information, see:

[z/VM System Operation](#), Chapter 2 (“Using the Stand-Alone Program Loader”):

- “Passing IPL Parameters”

The System Configuration file is generally on PMAINT.CF0, but check your local configuration to confirm this detail.

# Tracking Changes to ENCRYPT PAGING

## Auditing with MONITOR Records

- D1R4 – System Configuration and current status thereof
- D3R2 – Change record for status (SET ENCRYPT), with userid
- **\*new\*** D1R34 – Pages encrypted/decrypted, CPU utilization for encryption

If moving from ON to OFF, pages will still be decrypted when read into guest memory

Only way to ensure 100% compliance is to IPL your z/VM system with

- **ENCRYPT PAGING ON ALGORITHM AES256**

## Auditing with SMF Records

- Auditing in RACF automatically covers new CP commands, per above
- Just enable tracking in your VMXEVENT profile

# Encrypted Paging: SSI and LGR Implications

Encrypted paging does not need to be enabled on all members of a Single System Image cluster

Ephemeral keys are not shared; there is one ephemeral key per member

- When relocating a guest
  - Its pages are decrypted before they are relocated to the target member
  - Target member re-encrypts the guest's pages using its own ephemeral key

Relocation domains may be defined based on guests' security requirements, such as

- Access to hardware facilities such as z14 CPACF
- Encrypted paging in the hypervisor (requires z14 partitions)

# Encrypted Paging: Frequently Asked Questions (1/2)

## Can I turn it on and/or off after IPL?

- *Yes! But bear in mind that we won't automatically decrypt previously encrypted pages until it's time to page the data in (and read it).*

## Why does Encrypted Paging require z14?

- *In order to generate ephemeral keys, z/VM needs the TRNG now available on z14 CPACF. Keys generated with PRNG would not have been reasonably secure.*

## What do I do if I lock myself out?

- *We recommend you keep a back-up system configuration file available and specify that on your SALIPL screen in case of emergencies.*



## Encrypted Paging: Frequently Asked Questions (2/2)

### **What about Single System Images and Live Guest Relocation?**

- *One ephemeral key per member system where enabled*
- *Guest relocation will need to decrypt pages before relocating them to target system*
- *Relocation domains based on security rather than architecture*
- *No, we're not encrypting CTCs – they're closed physical channels.*

### **Why paging? Why not minidisks?**

- *“Minimum Viable Product.”  
(If Brian H. is on stage, he'll ramble for a while here.)*

***And of course, the big question ...***



“How much does it cost me?”

Answer (say it with me):  
“It depends.”

... but probably not as much as  
you think.



- **Goal was +3%-6% CPU time per operation**
- **In line with pervasive encryption on the rest of the platform**
- **Encrypted paging on IBM z14 still costs “less” than clear paging on the IBM z13.**

# Performance Key Findings

As cipher strength increased, total CPU used on encryption and decryption increased

- CPU time used to encrypt a page increased
- CPU time used to decrypt a page decreased

On average, encryption costs more than decryption

- ***This is a function of CPACF AES-CBC, and true no matter what you're doing with it.***
- This translates to the CPU penalty for page writes being greater than the CPU penalty for page reads

Despite the extra cost of encryption, the z14 with encrypted paging enabled performed better when compared back to a z13 (measured one test case)

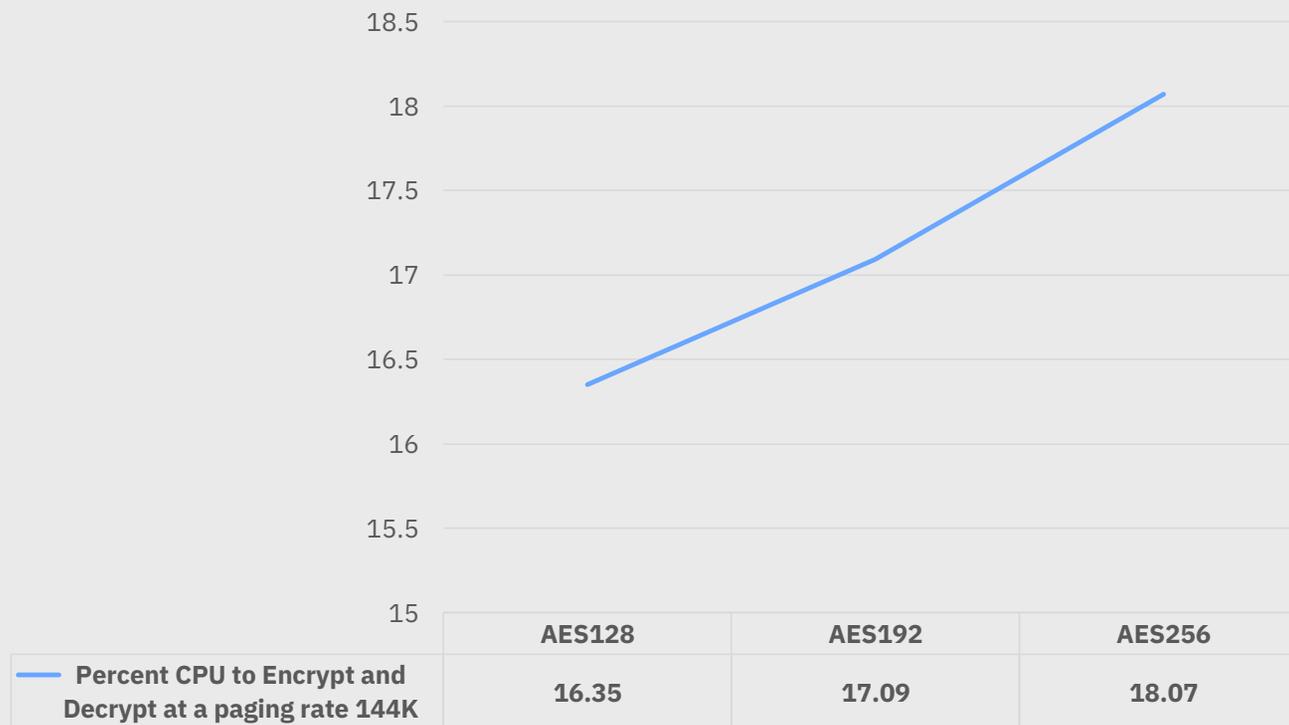
CPU cost of encrypted paging is a function of the paging rate rather than the LPAR size.

Performance Report: <http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/reports/zvm/html/640EP.html>

# Performance Key Findings

## Percent CPU to Encrypt and Decrypt with various algorithms at a constant paging rate 144K

100% CPU = 1 IFL logical processor completely busy



## D3R2EC Tool

**Name:** Domain 3 Record 2 Encrypted Counters

Reduces the encrypted paging counter monitor D3 R2 sample records

Tracks how many pages are being encrypted and decrypted, bytime and per logical processor

Tracks how much CPU is being used for encryption and decryption by time and per logical processor

The tool requires a monitor file with Encrypted Paging enabled as the input

Produces a filetype \$D3R2EC

Useful information on D3R2EC:

<http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/tips/d3r2ec.html>

D3R2 Encrypted paging report for file: A1TYA170 MONDATA

Interval			<----- Rate of Pages ----->			<----- Percent CPU busy ----->		
__Ended__	Type	LPU_	_Enc+Dec_	Encrypted_	Decrypted_	_Enc+Dec_	__Encrypt_	__Decrypt_
>>Mean>>	IFL	0	21540.75	14312.00	7228.75	2.82595	2.08754	0.73840
>>Mean>>	IFL	1	16604.04	8337.06	8266.98	2.05002	1.20734	0.84268
>>Mean>>	IFL	2	16889.88	8456.90	8432.97	2.08686	1.23022	0.85664
>>Mean>>	IFL	3	16890.18	8582.90	8307.29	2.10518	1.25280	0.85237
>>Mean>>	IFL	4	17028.51	8580.36	8448.14	2.11193	1.24691	0.86502
>>Mean>>	IFL	5	18559.72	8828.98	9730.74	2.27496	1.28750	0.98746
>>Mean>>	IFL	6	18855.95	8928.82	9927.13	2.30543	1.30089	1.00453
>>Mean>>	IFL	7	18504.28	8780.39	9723.88	2.26575	1.27842	0.98732
>>Total>	....	8	144873.30	74807.41	70065.89	18.02607	10.89163	7.13444

This is a **by-time** report and **per logical processor** report

The top of the file includes an average over the whole monitor interval report.

Over the whole monitor interval, this workload was **encrypting and decrypting over 144K pages/sec** and used a little over 18% of one logical processor

- 10.89% CPU of one logical processor for Encryption
- 7.13% CPU of one logical processor for Decryption

**\$D3R2EC**  
**Sample Output File**

## PKEPESTM EXEC Estimator

Takes a PERFKIT file and predicts amount of CPU needed based on paging rate  
FCX143 - PAGELOG

### Estimated CPU to be used on Encryption and Decryption

**Note: 100% CPU = 1 IFL logical processor completely busy**

Interval	% CPU Encrypt	% CPU Decrypt
>>Mean>>	11.51	8.59
15:07:51	9.20	7.96
15:08:21	12.04	9.45
15:08:51	15.33	7.38
15:09:21	13.43	8.03
15:09:51	12.40	8.46
15:10:21	11.56	8.20

## PKEPESTM EXEC Estimator

Checks the model-type in  
FCX180 – SYSCONF

If model-type **is not**  
a 3609-M05 then the tool bails

Why?

Because the tool is based the  
measurements completed on  
the 3690-M05

```
Ready; T=0.01/0.01 09:35:27
```

```
PKEPESTM A10YA17X PERFKIT T
```

```
Processor Model is not a 3609-M05
```

```
An estimation was not calculated
```

```
Ready(00001); T=0.20/0.22 09:35:33
```

Questions?



# Best Practices with z/VM Encrypted Paging

## System Configuration: **Use ON** and not REQUIRED

- Safer for DR scenarios
- Prevents accidental lockout
- Switch to REQUIRED in AUTOLOG1 (before RACF is IPL'd)

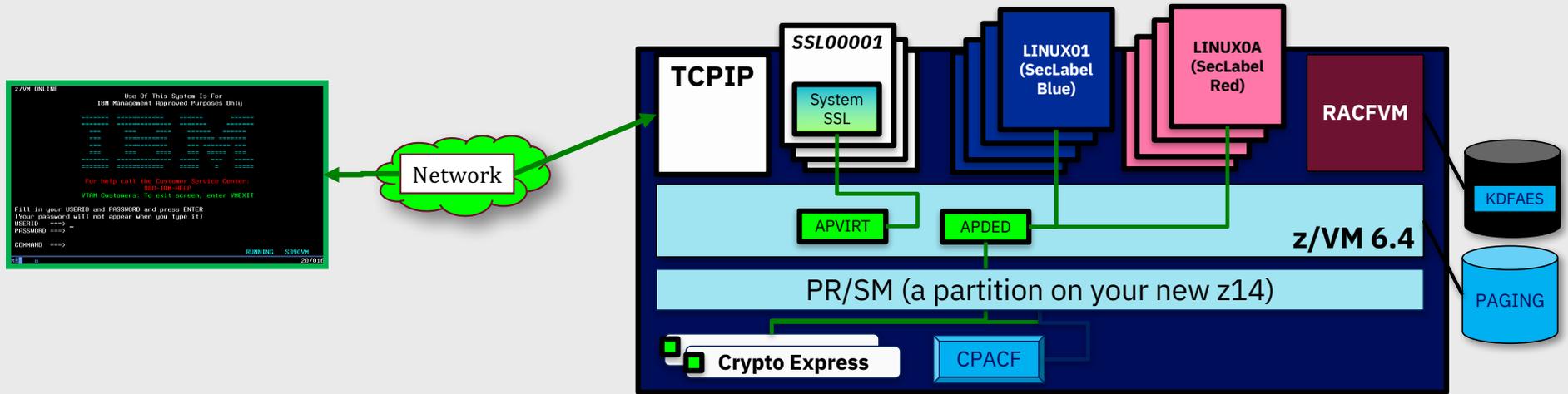
## **Test your workloads** vs. ephemeral key size

- Read the Performance Guidance from IBM z/VM
- Find the encryption strength which works best for you
- Consider your security needs when enabling encryption at one level vs. another

## **Audit** your Encryption

- Monitor records – monitor your usage
- SMF records – monitor access controls and changes

# z/VM and Pervasive Encryption



## Protection for guest operating systems

- Encryption needs to exist in virtual environments, too!

## Protection of data in flight

- Modernized software crypto library
- Crypto Express acceleration for hypervisor traffic

## Protection for data at rest

- Encrypted Paging as the first step
- More to come ...

## Simplification and ease of use

- Security and cryptography should not be an impediment to business

# For More Information ...

## IBM z14 Technical Guide:

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248451.html?Open>

## IBM Z Hardware Crypto Synopsis:

<https://www-03.ibm.com/support/techdocs/atsmastr.nsf/WebIndex/WP100810>

## IBM Z Crypto Education Community:

<https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/community/groups/community/crypto>

## z/VM Security:

<http://www.vm.ibm.com/security>

## Linux on z Security:

<https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/linuxonibm/liaaf/security.html>

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IBM Z Security for Virtualization & Cloud

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