



EPV Technologies

Newsletter

November 2022

THIS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- [Monitoring connections security with zERT - Part 2](#)
 - [System Z Update 2022 is just a few days away](#)
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[Monitoring connections security with zERT - Part 2](#)

Security is one of the most important strengths of the z/OS system. This is the reason why IBM continues to enhance data security with initiatives such as pervasive encryption.

Even if not all companies require pervasive encryption, most companies need to

encrypt network traffic between the mainframe and the outside world.

With z/OS 2.3 IBM introduced the z/OS Encryption Readiness Technology (zERT). It is a new capability of the Communications Server which allows the collection of information from the TCP/IP stack about cryptographic security attributes of IPv4 and IPv6 application traffic, protected using the TLS, SSL, SSH and IPsec cryptographic network security protocols. Information about Enterprise Extender connections are also collected.

This information can be written to new subtypes of SMF 119 records and analyzed to improve connections security.

In this paper we will explain how to customize TCP/IP to collect zERT information and which are the most relevant measurements collected. We will also show some examples of reports which can be used to analyze and improve the security of your connections.

If you want to receive the paper you can reply to this e-mail writing **"Monitoring connections security with zERT - Part 2"** in the subject

System Z Update 2022 is just a few days away



System Z continues to evolve introducing new hardware and software technologies.

In this virtual conference we will focus on the performance and security characteristics of the new IBM z16 machines.

We will also discuss some of the most useful metrics which can be used to measure them.

The conference will be held, in cooperation with IBM, on November 29th and repeated on November 30th.

Agenda			
29th and 30th November 2022			
08:55 – 09:00	Welcome and introduction	Danilo Gipponi	EPV Technologies
09:00 – 09:30	IBM z16 Technical Overview	Francesco Bertagnolli	IBM
09:45 – 10:15	Exploiting SMF 113 counters in z16	Fabio Massimo Ottaviani	EPV Technologies
10:30 – 11:00	Transform your IBM z16 in an AI-driven data hub	Francesco Borrello	IBM
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:00	Driving Mainframe Security into a new digital age	Luigi Perrone	IBM
12:15 – 12:45	Monitoring connections security with zERT	Matteo Bottazzi	EPV Technologies
13:00	End of conference		

Subscription

The conference is free of charge and reserved to EPV customers, partners and invited guests.

If you are not a customer yet but you are interested in participating, please answer to this e-mail asking for an invitation.

The subscription form is available at: www.epvtech.com



Customer Questions

Where can I find information about address space usage of private area below and above 16MB?

EPV Technical Support answer

If you want to see how much private area an AS has used, you need to look at the following variables provided in SMF 30 records:

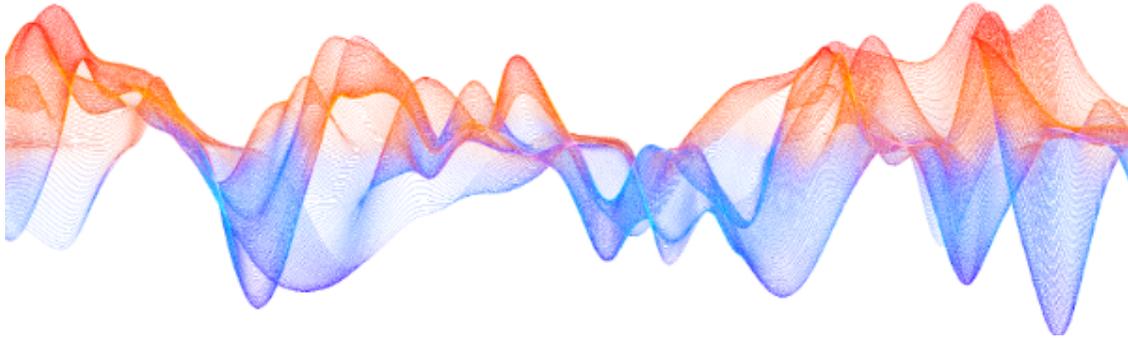
- SMF30RGB; size of the private area below 16MB
- SMF30ERG; size of the private area above 16MB
- SMF30ARB+SMF30URB, max private area used below 16MB
- SMF30EAR+SMF30EUR, max private area used above 16MB

Of course, you can calculate the maximum percentage of private area used below and above 16MB with the following formulas:

$(SMF30ARB+SMF30URB) / SMF30RGB$

$(SMF30EAR+SMF30EUR) / SMF30ERG$

Little known SMF parameters



NOASIGVALIDATE/ASIGVALIDATE

NOASIGVALIDATE/ASIGVALIDATE is a parameter of the IFASMFDP program.
Default is NOASIGVALIDATE.

It specifies whether IFASMFDP must validate the alternate digital signature data in the signature records in the input data sets.

With ASIGVALIDATE You must specify a cryptographic public key token name (tokenname) and hash method (hashmethod) that match the signature data to be verified.

ASIGVALIDATE(HASH(hashmethod),TOKENNAME(tokenname))

In HASH(hashmethod) you must specify the same hashmethod as was specified on the ARECSIGN parameter in the SMFPRMxx parmlib member that was in use at the time the records were generated.

In TOKENNAME(tokenname) you must specify the same token name to be used with the specified hashing technique as was specified on the ARECSIGN parameter in the SMFPRMxx parmlib member that was in use at the time the records were generated.

Please note that IFASMFDP will fail with return code 8 if ASIGVALIDATE is specified and:

- SIGVALIDATE is not specified with ASIGVALIDATE (when ASIGVALIDATE is specified, SIGVALIDATE must also be specified);
- no signature records are present in the input data sets;
- INDD specifies a VSAM data set;
- the data set being validated contains records from multiple systems and the SID parameter is unspecified or multiple SIDs are specified.

Quotes



"A loving heart is the truest wisdom."

Charles Dickens

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