IBM Security zSecure CICS Toolkit

Maintain IBM z/OS security control while decentralizing security administration

Highlights

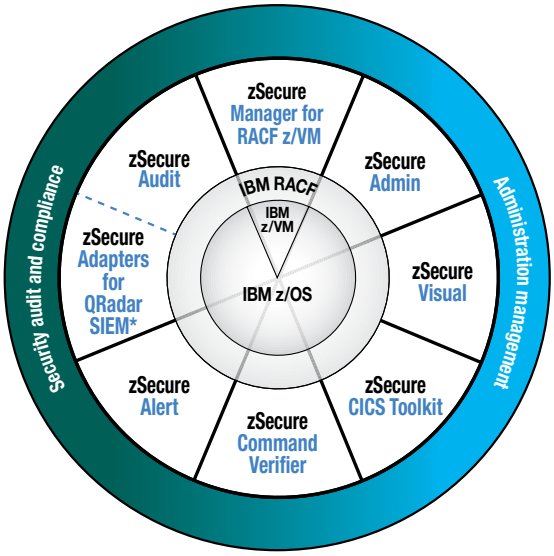
- Increase productivity and efficiency by decentralizing basic IBM® Resource Access Control Facility (RACF®) security commands to IBM Customer Information Control System (CICS®) terminals
- Extend security controls and security administration of CICS applications to RACF by leveraging a sophisticated application programming interface (API)
- Leverage ease-of-use features and granular control to help maintain RACF security

In today's distributed environments, decentralized administration for RACF security is a practical necessity. Without it, central security personnel can find themselves bogged down in routine tasks, as users and support staff place hundreds of daily requests for tasks—such as user additions and password changes—that could easily have been performed locally. The challenge lies in extending administrative privileges without compromising system security and without requiring the users to start another application to issue a security request. Additionally, the user support staff that requires these privileges usually has little or no knowledge of RACF-compliant commands.

In many corporate environments, business information is largely accessed from CICS. Allowing users to manage some of their security requests through a CICS transaction can help save the cost of educating users about the security management tool and eliminate the time it takes to switch to an external tool.

IBM Security zSecure™ CICS Toolkit adds mainframe administration capabilities, such as password resets and authorization management, to the CICS environment. The software provides the flexibility to distribute security authorization management via CICS transactions for use by local administration. The user-friendly interface shows only those functions and options that have been delegated to your users, allowing you to extend selected, basic administrative privileges to field administrators while still maintaining control over the types of commands distributed users can execute.

IBM Security zSecure suite



* Product offers a subset of the capabilities provided by zSecure Audit

IBM Security zSecure CICS Toolkit helps manage RACF security administration through CICS applications. It is part of a family of products designed to provide an optimum interface for managing mainframe security.

Decentralizing security administration helps free up central security administrators from routine tasks and ultimately increases productivity and service levels in the field, enabling central administrators to focus on more business-critical issues, such as improving security and assuring compliance.

zSecure CICS Toolkit enables you to:

- Manage RACF security administration through CICS applications
- Decentralize RACF security administration
- Customize RACF administration
- Achieve greater granularity than with current RACF methods
- Provide users with an easy-to-use administration tool
- Empower decentralized users to perform basic functions, such as resetting passwords, revoking user access and running select reports
- Limit the types of commands and operands administrators and distributed users can execute

Help boost productivity levels of field administrators

Once you have delegated basic security functions to local administrators, they can select and manage security functions without needing in-depth RACF training. Your decentralized administrators can quickly issue commands through a user-friendly menu for functions like password resets for failed user logins and user additions. The easy-to-use zSecure CICS Toolkit menu enables users to stay within the CICS application, rather than forcing them into another environment, such as Time Sharing Option (TSO) or Interactive System Productivity Facility (ISPF) screens, to issue security commands to the mainframe.

With zSecure CICS Toolkit, application programmers do not need to know the RACF database or its layout to create a customized RACF security management application. In fact, zSecure CICS Toolkit can deliver improved time to value because programmers only need knowledge of CICS application programming and the calling conventions described in the CICS Toolkit manual.

Leverage sophisticated API capabilities to execute select RACF security functions

zSecure CICS Toolkit helps leverage your mainframe as a critical business resource by extending the RACF security database. If you have an application on your web server that communicates with CICS on your mainframe, your CICS application

can use the advanced IBM COBOL API capabilities in zSecure CICS Toolkit to execute select RACF security functions. Such functions could be verifying a user ID and password entered on the web interface against the RACF database or retrieving information about a user ID and its privileges from the RACF database and passing that information on to the web application. The web application can then use this information to configure the menu shown to the user, thus using the security functions in RACF to control your web server and web applications. By leveraging this sophisticated API, web applications can use RACF functions for security administration, authentication and access control.

Using RACF as the center for security adds additional value because the information can be audited through IBM Security zSecure Audit. Using the CICS RACF API allows you to integrate CICS event data into the audit logs for enhanced analysis and reporting with zSecure Audit as well as for enterprise-wide security intelligence with IBM Security QRadar® SIEM.

Customize screens

You can easily customize zSecure CICS Toolkit screens by using the API, which can be contacted by any CICS program with a standard CICS command area. Use the API to tailor the look of your screens to meet requirements of a specific installation and control the amount and type of information displayed to decentralized administrators. In addition, you can customize the RACF commands that zSecure CICS Toolkit supports. The API even allows an authorized application to verify the password of another user.

With customized screens in zSecure CICS Toolkit, you never have to worry about providing too much information to decentralized administrators because the screens will only show your local administrators the options and fields you have selected.

Perform resource access checks

The API facilitates access checks on more than 2,000 resources, enabling you to easily replace an application's internal security with RACF security and helping to significantly improve the application's performance with a high-performance zSecure application interface. zSecure CICS Toolkit can also reduce the burden of maintenance programming and administration from CICS application developers, helping free them to focus on improving functionality.

zSecure CICS Toolkit enables your CICS application to use RACF to set access policies, which will be retrieved directly from the RACF database. This functionality helps separate duties so application support staff members are not authorized to manage authorities and privileges in applications. In addition, zSecure CICS Toolkit can implement third-party resource checks via most resource classes.

Support security of legacy applications

zSecure CICS Toolkit also enables you to enhance security and audit capabilities for legacy and internally developed applications, by using the API to centralize—in the RACF database—the security of applications built for CICS.

Ease-of-use features and granular control help maintain RACF security

zSecure CICS Toolkit uses fill-in-the-blank CICS menus to allow local administrators to issue commands without requiring specialized group, system or TSO access.

zSecure CICS Toolkit also lets you assign authorizations at the local function level to specific sets of users and resources—such as separate authorizations for resetting a password or permitting user access—to help increase the granularity of your RACF environment.

Why IBM?

zSecure CICS Toolkit is part of a family of IBM Security zSecure products designed to help mainframe security personnel increase productivity and to measure and verify the effectiveness of their mainframe security and security policies. The robust security features in the zSecure product family represent the IBM commitment to delivering the industry's best security interface for your mainframe.

For more information

To learn more about IBM Security zSecure CICS Toolkit, please contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit the following website: **ibm.com**/software/products/us/en/zsecure-cics-toolkit

About IBM Security solutions

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Additionally, IBM Global Financing can help you acquire the software capabilities that your business needs in the most cost-effective and strategic way possible. We'll partner with credit-qualified clients to customize a financing solution to suit your business and development goals, enable effective cash management, and improve your total cost of ownership. Fund your critical IT investment and propel your business forward with IBM Global Financing. For more information, visit: **ibm.com**/financing

IBM Security
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589

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