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Design Approach: Load Module Signing and Validation
<ul> <li>Code Package Validation validates the incoming signed code package deliverables using software vendor's <b>public</b> key</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Client's "secure build" process creates and signs the z/OS IPL Text and system load modules with the client's private key, and stores them on disk</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Client's public keys for validation purposes are provided to and maintained in the platform firmware and made available to partitions for IPL-time validation use</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>At IPL time, platform firmware (Z Bootloader) validates the IPL Text using the client's public keys; the IPL Text contains validation support which z/OS uses in subsequent load module validation steps during the IPL</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>As z/OS loads subsequent authorized load modules during IPL, it validates their signatures using the client's public keys</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Validation failures during IPL may result in non-restartable wait state termination of the IPL, or not, depending on the requested IPL validation mode</li> </ul>
Build up a chain of trust through digital signature validation, at every step of this cascading process, anchored in the firmware validation of the IPL Text and the secure firmware repository for the validation certificates/keys
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Support Requirements – Overall Solution
Hardware/Firmware Support
<ul> <li>CPACF digital signature support with Elliptic Curve ECDSA-P521 support and SHA-512 hashing support</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Virtual Flash Memory (VFM), also known as Storage Class Memory (SCM), for use in z/OS paging for LPA pages</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>z16 GA1.5 firmware (5/2023) provides:</li> </ul>
Support for List-Directed IPL (LD-IPL) from ECKD DASD (in addition to SCSI DASD)
<ul> <li>Via SE/HMC and DPM new load panel/load profile options – SCSI vs ECKD, CCW-IPL vs LD-IPL, Enforce vs Audit security mode</li> <li>For Linux on Z – supports Linux IPL from ECKD DASD, not just SCSI DASD like today</li> <li>For z/OS – supports z/OS Validated Boot from ECKD DASD.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Current CCW-IPL (non-validated IPL) capabilities are preserved for migration, compatibility, and fallback, from same IPL Volume</li> </ul>
Certificate Store for Validated Boot
<ul> <li>Via SE/HMC and DPM Certificate import and Certificate management, including mapping imported certificates to specific LPARs for IPL-time validation use</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>PR/SM provides support for the Certificate Store on a per-LPAR basis</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>For Linux on 2 - provides value for key management of Linux distributor validation keys without needing to deliver those Linux distributor keys in IBM firmware as we do today, simplifying distributor key rotation etc.</li> </ul>
For z/OS – provides the trusted validation keys for z/OS Validated Boot
• 2/OS Software Support
<ul> <li>z/OS 2.5 post-GA support, delivered via z/OS CD APARs (5/2023); also 3.1 base</li> </ul>

• ServerPac installation workflow support

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## Support Details – Overall Solution

- z/OS APARs
  - ICKDSF PH45198
  - Binder OA63323
  - Signing Utility OA63377
  - Supervisor OA62783/OA63507
  - ASM/VSM OA63420
  - RACF OA61878
  - SAF OA61901
  - SADMP OA63404
  - IOS/Loadwait OA63392
  - BCPii OA63488
- ServerPac z/OS Installation Workflow Support

## FIXCATs

- FIXCAT for Validated Boot for z/OS (all support):
  - IBM.Function.ValidatedBoot
- FIXCAT for Exploitation support for z16:
  - IBM.Device.Server.z16-3931.Exploitation
- FIXCAT for "Clean Room" Driving System (front-end support only):
  - IBM.DrivingSystem-RequiredService

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## **KEYSMSTR Class Enhancements** Some applications have a need to connect to an external server such as LDAP. When connecting to an external server with a stored user ID and password, it's best to encrypt those credentials. •KEYSMSTR Class: RACF/SAF provides functions for encrypting and decrypting passwords for external servers such as LDAP via the KEYSMSTR class. Although the KEYSMSTR function is expressed in terms of the LDAP application (and DCE), any type of non-RACF-user password can be encrypted, saved in the RACF database, decrypted and returned to be used as a password to authenticate to the external server. •Encryption Algorithm: The existing KEYSMSTR class functions use the DES encryption algorithm. • Not NIST approved. Not quantum-safe. © 2025 IBM Corporation













