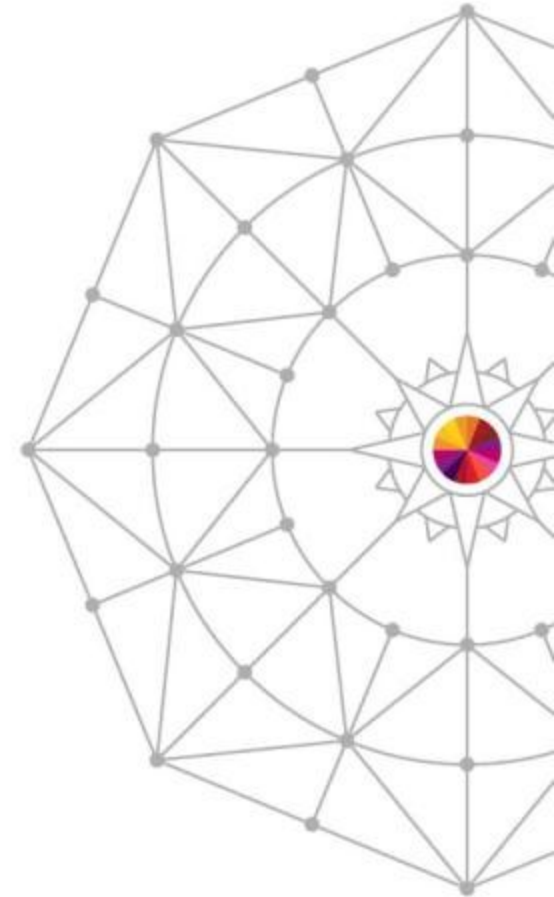


User Credentials Within z/TPF

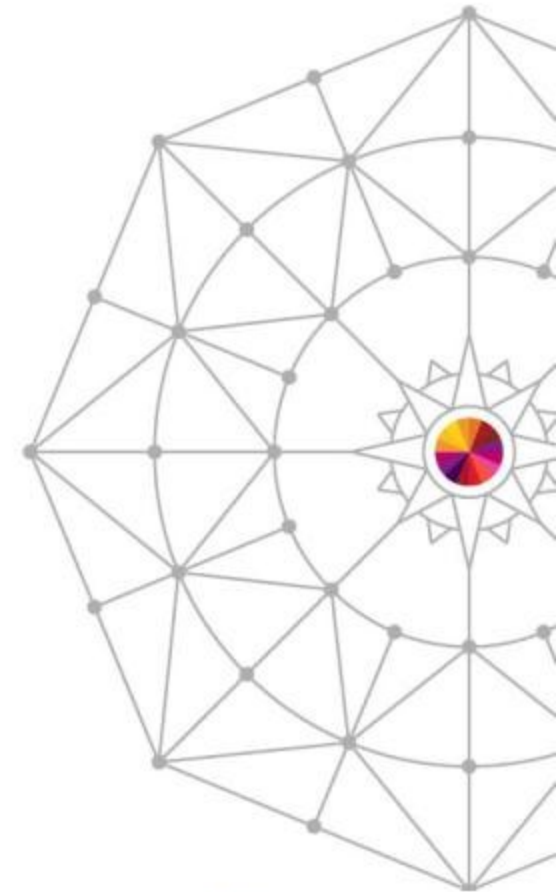
Mark Gambino
TPF Development Lab

Applications Subcommittee
March 11, 2014



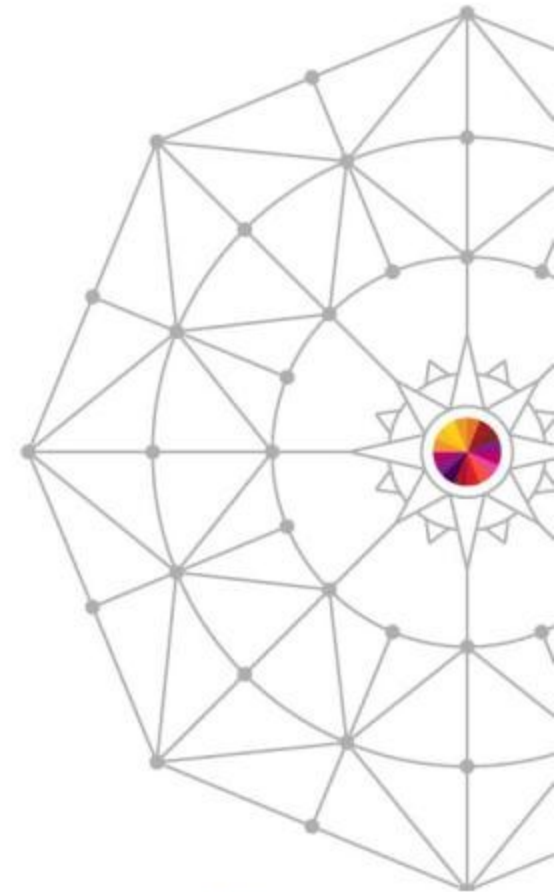
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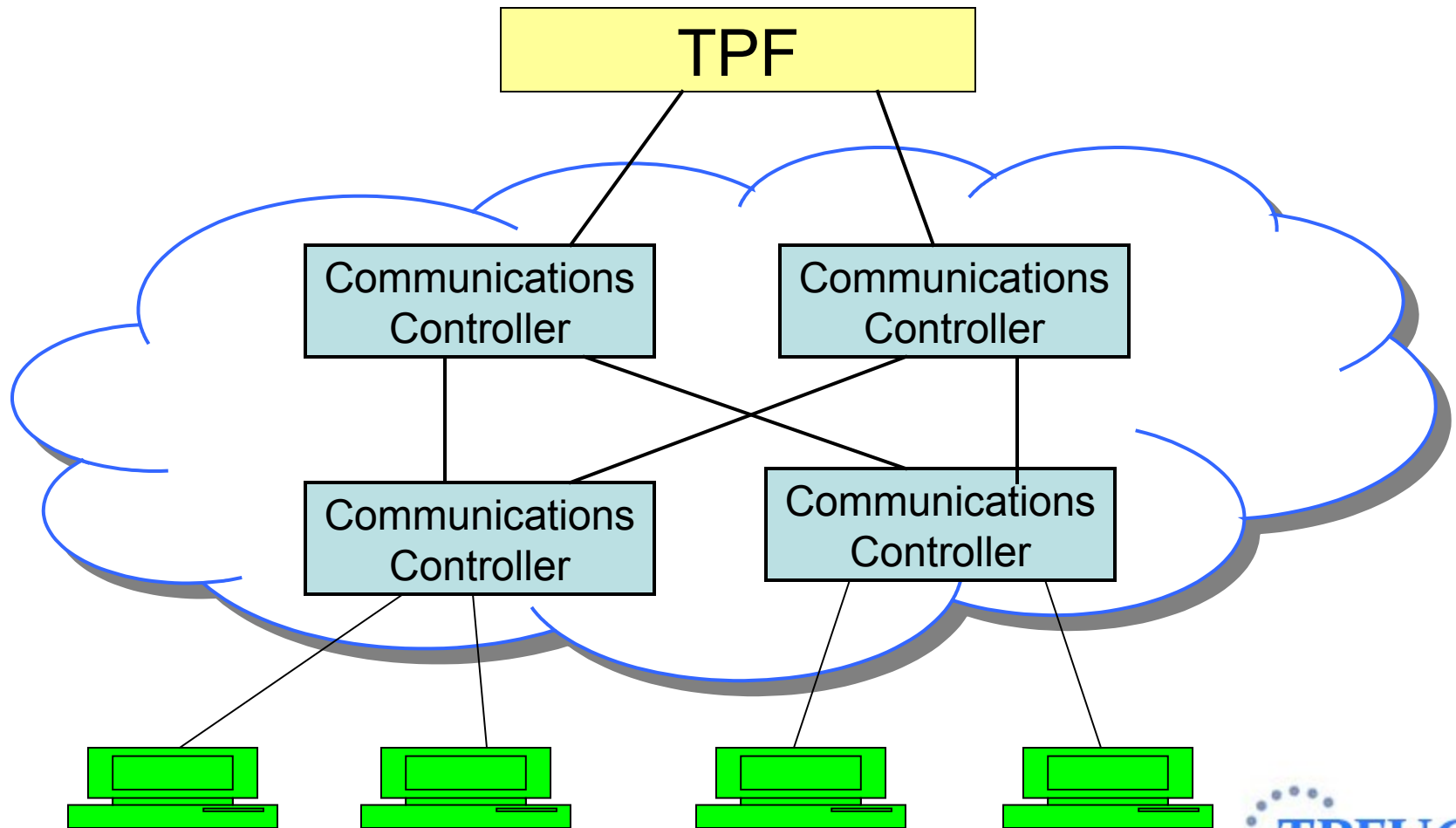


Who Are You? Who, Who? Who, Who?

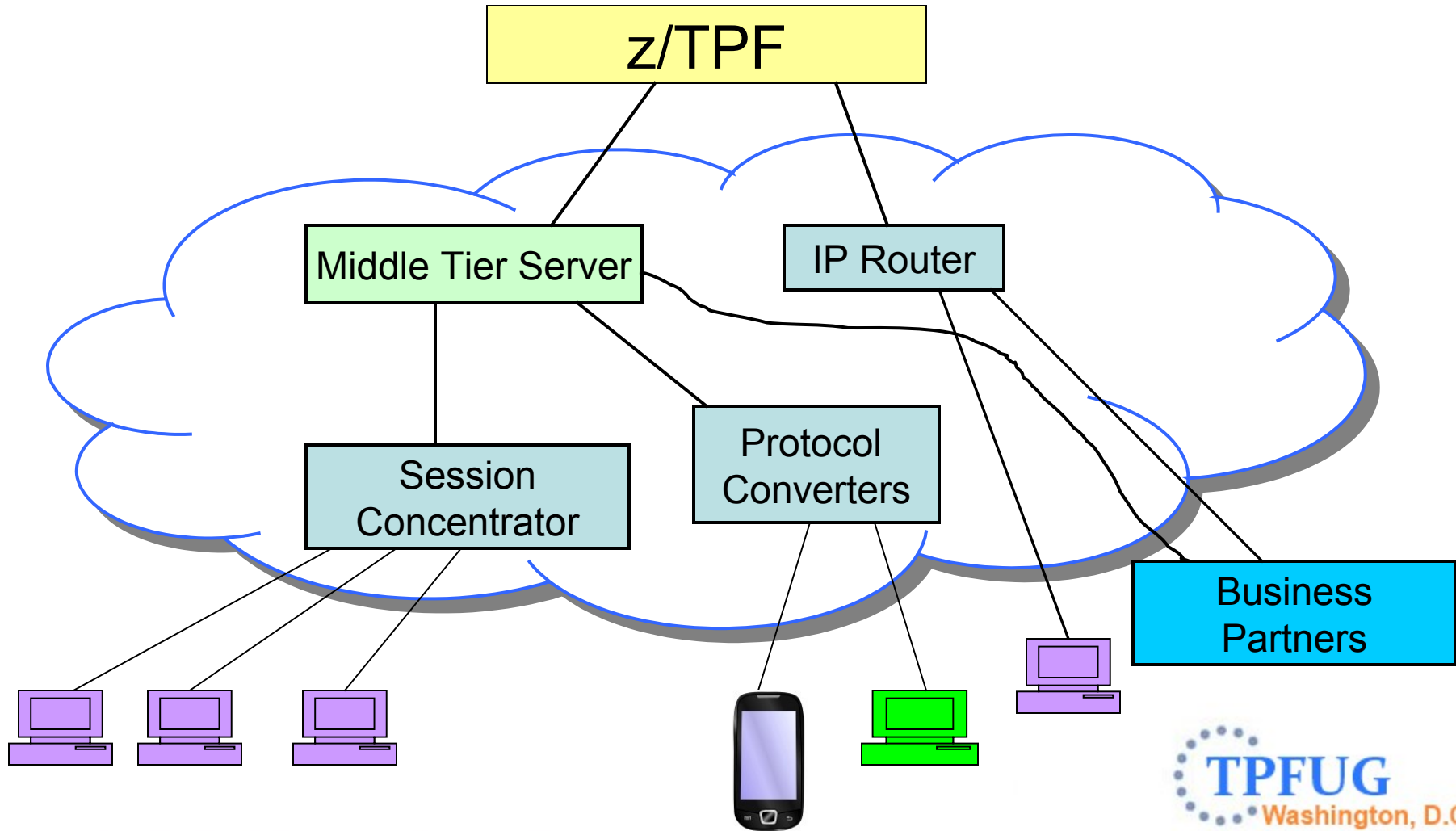
- In the beginning, end user green screen terminals were connected via dedicated networks to TPF
- Systems architectures have changed over time adding more layers in between the end user and server
 - Tiered architectures
 - Session concentrators
 - Mobile
- All of this makes it more difficult for the server to know who the end user is



Back Then ...

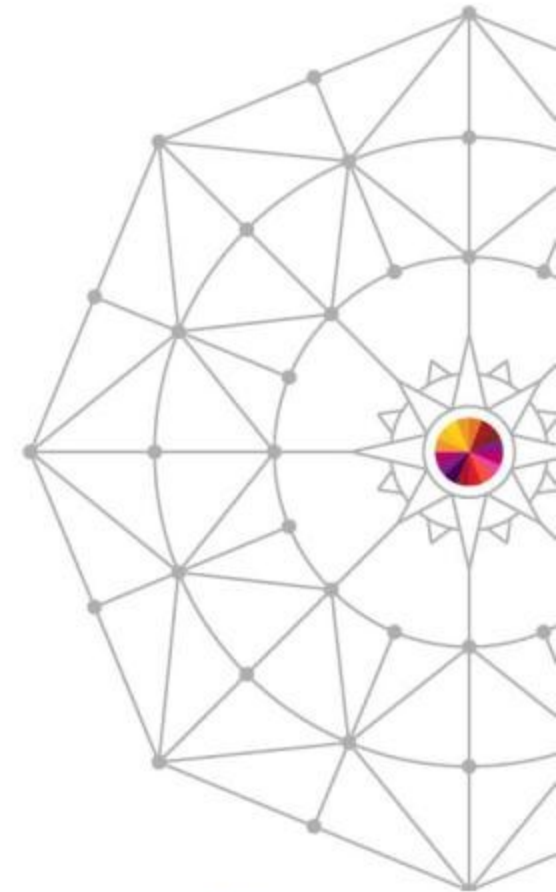


And Now...



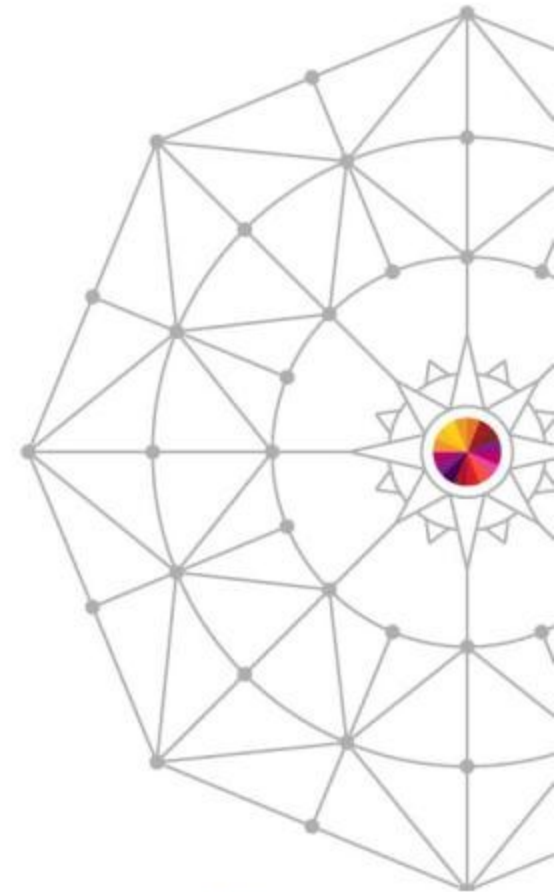
What z/TPF Is Looking At Doing

- Create a new area in the ECB for user credentials information and any other information the application wants to save
- Contents of this area is customer specific
- Size is user defined up to a system imposed maximum value
- APIs will allow application programs to update and read fields in this ECB area
 - Includes getter and setter methods



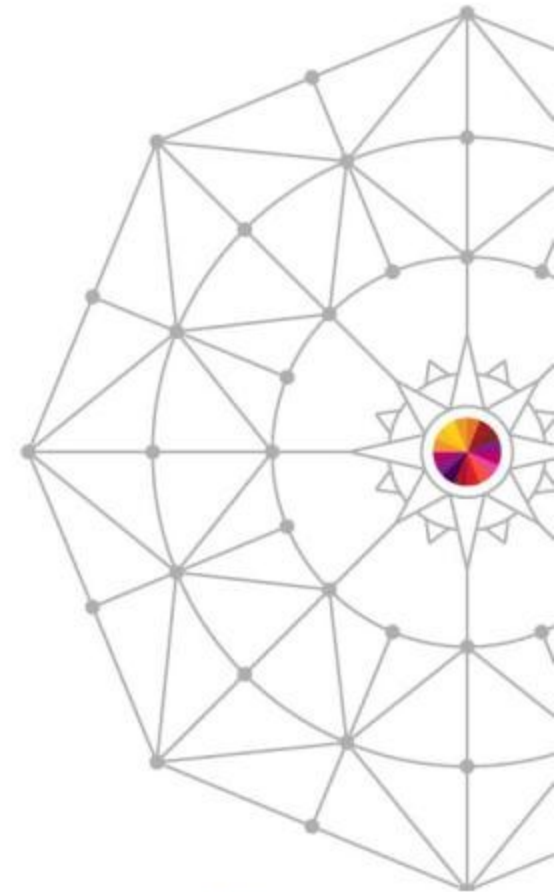
Inheritance of User Credentials Data

- When an ECB creates a new ECB, the user credentials information will be copied from parent ECB to child ECB
 - Rules for when to copy this information will be the same as when the system activation number is copied from parent ECB to child ECB
- In a threaded process, this area is thread unique (each ECB/thread has its own area)
 - Each thread could be processing messages from different users



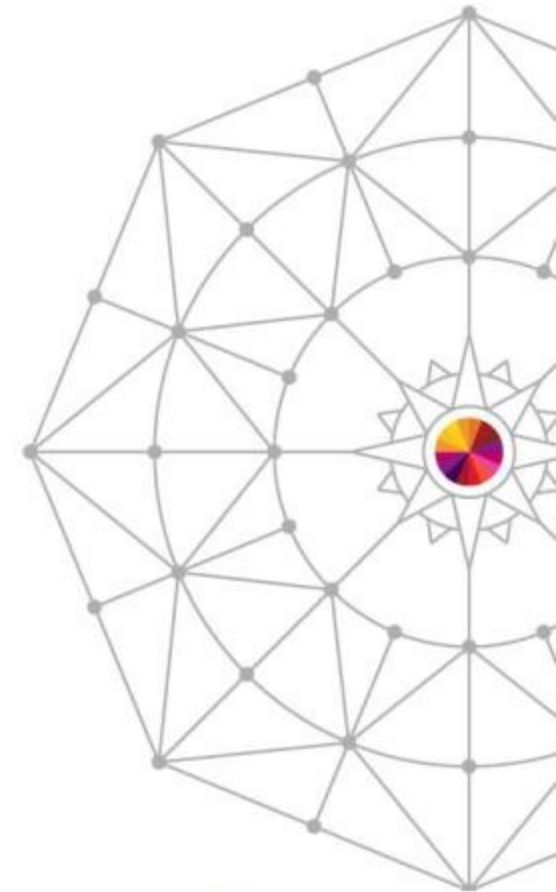
How To Use – Saving User Credentials Data

- When the application program receives an input message, use new APIs to save the user credentials information in the ECB
- Examples of user credential information:
 - User name and password
 - User type/privileges
 - Security token such as SAML or OAUTH
- User credential information can be passed to z/TPF in different ways such as:
 - WS-Security or other header in SOAP message
 - Request headers within an HTTP message
 - Within the user message itself



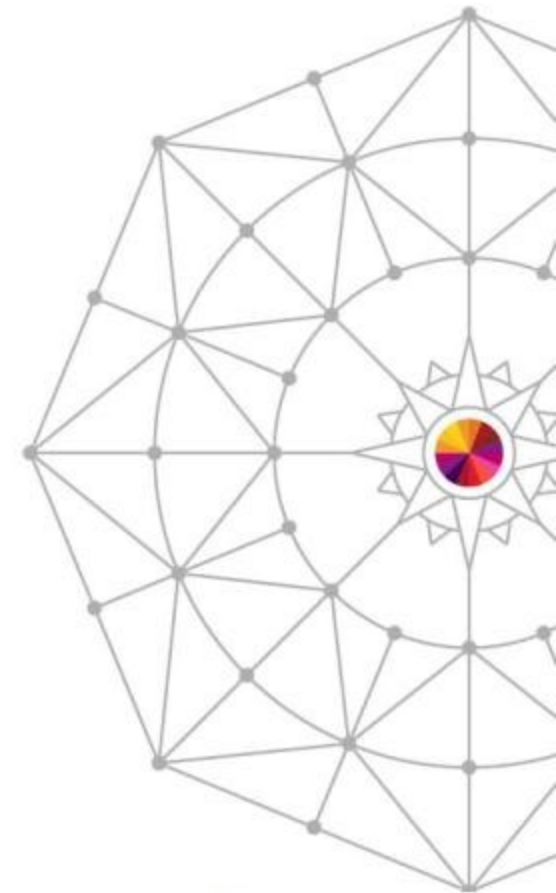
How To Use – Accessing User Credentials Data

- Whenever business logic within the application needs to interrogate the user credentials, it can do so using new APIs
- Examples include:
 - Need to verify who the user is
 - Need to verify what functions the user is authorized to access
 - Need to include/exclude certain data in output message based on who the user is
 - In a distributed transaction, z/TPF needs to invoke services on other platforms and pass along the user credentials information



Status

- Currently designing the solution
- Customer suggestions and feedback at this point in time would be greatly appreciated!



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