### Informix Client/Server Encryption

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Webcast on April 11th 2019

Advanced DataTools

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- The webcast is being recorded. The webcast replay and slides will be available in a few days.
- Please mute your Line background sounds will distract everyone.
- Use the Chat button in the toolbar at the bottom of the screen to ask questions.



### Agenda

- What is encryption?
- Why do we want to use it for Informix?
- Considerations
- Configuring the Server
- Configuring the Client
- Putting it all together

### What is Encryption?

- Protecting data by encapsulating it in a way that only trusted parties can read it
- Many different forms and implementations
- Uses CPU to encrypt to send and more CPU to decrypt when received
- Can be configured for desired strength

## PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)

- Common method of encryption (see HTTPS)
- Two keys are needed, a public key that is okay to share and a private key that only the server should know
- A CA (certificate authority) issues the keys - for this exercise we will 'self-sign' and act as our own CA

### How Informix Uses PKI

- 1. Server sends digital certificate to client
- 2. Client verifies the digital certificate
- If validated the client creates a limited use key, encrypts it using the server's public key and sends it to the server
- 4. Server gets the key, decrypts it, and will use the limited use key as long as the session is active
- 5. All further data on that connection is now encrypted, and only known to the two sides

# Why Is Encryption Important For Informix?

- Avoid someone sniffing passwords
- Verify that the server you connect to is valid
- Avoid having someone stand between you and your server (man in the middle)
- Avoid having your data watched by a third party, by default data is sent in clear text
- Comply with many regulations that require it
- Have data encrypted the entire way to and from the client and server

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### **Encryption Considerations**

- Requires setup on both the server and clients
- Additional CPU overhead on both sides
- May not support old connections (CSDK prior to version 3.x, ADODB, etc)
- Certificates expire
- Larger key size is more secure but higher CPU usage

### What Supports SSL?

- ODBC, JDBC, and SQLJ connections
- DRDA and SQLI
- ESQLC
- dbaccess
- ER connections
- HDR connections
- Informix standard utilities
- Connection Manager
- Distributed queries
- PAM SSO

### **IBM GSKit**

- Primary utility to setup and manage encryption keys for Informix
- Ships with Informix CSDK and Server
- Provides libraries and utilities for SSL and TLS communications
- Used by Informix, DB2, and other IBM products
- Primary utility is gsk8capicmd (or gsk7capicmd if on a legacy system)

### Terminology

- Keystore– Small file-based database of certificates (public and/or private keys)
- Stash file Small local protected file that contains password information to open password protected keystores
- Certificate File that holds public key information

### Putting It All Together

- 1. Configure Server
- 2. Add SSL listener to sqlhosts
- 3. Create Server Keystore
- 4. Create Server Certificate
- 5. Create conssl.cfg file in \$INFORMIXDIR/etc
- 6. Create Client Keystore
- 7. Extract plain text public certificate from server keystore
- 8. Add Public Cert to Client Keystore
- 9. Test

### **Configuring The Server**

- Verify gskit is installed
- Adjust onconfig values
- Update sqlhosts
- Create the keystore and stash files
- Bring the listener online

#### onconfig Changes

- SSL\_KEYSTORE\_LABEL ifx\_encrypt
- NETTYPE socssl,1,50,NET
- VPCLASS encrypt,num=1
- Add a new DBSERVERALIAS for ssl – ifx\_server\_ssl

#### **Update SQLHosts**

ifx\_server\_ssl onsocssl server port

### Setting Up Keystore

- All commands will be run in \$INFORMIXDIR/ssl
- If on a legacy system use gsk7capicmd in place of gsk8capicmd
- If on a 64 bit system the command will have \_64 at the end (gsk8capicmd\_64)
- In this example the DBSERVERNAME is ifx\_server
- The keystore label here is "ifx\_encrypt"
- The DBSERVERNAME must match the keystore and stash filename

#### **Create The Keystore**

gsk8capicmd\_64 -keydb -create -db \ ifx\_server.kdb -pw password -type cms -stash

- Flags
  - -keydb -create : Create a new keystore
  - -db :use the local database ifx\_server.kdb
  - -pw : set the password to the value
  - -type cms : Certificate type we use cms for Informix
  - -stash : Stash the passwords with the files

#### **Create Server Cert**

# Create server cert, the label needs to match the SSL\_KEYSTORE\_LABEL value gsk8capicmd\_64 -cert -create -db ifx\_server.kdb \ -stashed -label ifx\_encrypt -size 2048 \ -default\_cert yes -expire 365 -dn "CN=ifx\_server\_ssl"

- -cert -create : create a new certificate
- -db ifx\_server.kdb : use that file for the database
- -stashed : read the stash file to get the password
- -label ifx\_encrypt : the label we defined in \$ONCONFIG
- -size 2048 : the size of the key pair

#### Create Server Cert (cont.)

# gsk8capicmd\_64 -cert -create -db ifx\_server.kdb \
-stashed -label ifx\_encrypt -size 2048 \
-default\_cert yes -expire 365 -dn "CN=ifx\_server\_ssl"

- -default\_cert yes : this will be the default certificate
- -expire 365 : number of days for the certificate to be valid
- -dn "CN=ifx\_server\_ssl" : Unique name for this certificate, only CN= is required

### Configure Server (cont.)

- At this point you will have two files
   ifx\_server.sth (stash)
  - ifx\_server.kdb (keystore database)
- Both need to have owner/permissions informix:informix 600

### Set Up Local Clients

# Create client keystore gsk8capicmd\_64 -keydb -create -db clikeydb.kdb \ -pw password -type cms -stash # Extract the public cert from the server keystore, write it to ifx\_server.cert (plain text) gsk8capicmd\_64 -cert -extract -db ifx\_server.kdb \ -format ascii -label ifx\_encrypt -pw password \ -target ifx\_server.cert

#### Add Certificate To Keystore

# Add server cert to the keystore
gsk8capicmd\_64 -cert -add -db clikeydb.kdb \
-stashed -label ifx\_encrypt -file ifx\_server.cert \
-format ascii

#### Client conssl.cfg

#### \$INFORMIXDIR/etc/conssl.cfg

SSL\_KEYSTORE\_FILE /opt/informix/ssl/clikeydb.kdb SSL\_KEYSTORE\_STH /opt/informix/ssl/clikeydb.sth

#### **Server Final Steps**

- Bring the engine up, or bring up the SSL listener with onmode -P
- Verify you can connect to the TCP ports via dbaccess
- Verify you can connect to the SSL ports via dbaccess
- Repeat the client keystore creation and cert import for any other UNIX clients

### **Configuring Windows Client**

- Create a directory where the keystore and the stash files can live
- This can be \$INFORMIXDIR/ssl
- For this example we will use c:\ssl

### Set Up conssl.cfg

- Enter the Informix Client SDK directory/etc
- If using more than one version of CSDK it needs to be in all of the etc directories
- Needs to contain
  - SSL\_KEYSTORE\_FILE C:\ssl\clikeydb.kdb
     SSL\_KEYSTORE\_STH C:\ssl\clikeydb.sth
- If using a directory with spaces it needs to use DOS formatting
  - C:\progra~1\inform~1\etc

### Generating Keydb (Windows)

- Copy the ifx\_server.cert file from the server to c:\ssl
- Run a command window as administrator
  - Open start menu
  - Type cmd
  - Right click on 'Command Prompt' choose 'Run as administrator'

### Generating Keydb (cont.)

# Add your gsk8\bin directory to your path if it is not already there set PATH=%PATH%;c:\progra~1\ibm\gsk8\bin cd c:\ssl # Create a new client keydb as on UNIX gsk8capicmd\_64.exe -keydb -create -db clikeydb.kdb \ -pw password -type cms -stash gsk8capicmd\_64.exe -cert -add -db clikeydb.kdb \ -label ifx\_encrypt -file ifx\_server.cert -stashed \ -format ascii

#### Windows Connection

- Set up your ODBC connection as normal
- Make sure to use onsocssl and the dbserveralias value of the ssl listener
- Test your connection

#### **Other Notes**

- You can have multiple servers certificates imported into in a client keyring allowing it to SSL access many systems
- You can reuse a client keyring between multiple client systems
- Make sure any users that need to connect can read from the keystore and stash files

#### **Alternative Options**

- Informix CSM (Connection support modules)
- Permanent or on-demand VPNs
- SSH Tunnels
- SPWDCSM (simple password communication support module)
- Mixed environment
- Using a central CA rather than self signed certificates

#### **Questions?**



# Send follow-up questions to info@advancedatatools.com

# Informix Webcasts from the IBM Champions at Advanced DataTools

- Installing and Upgrading to the New Informix version 14 and using Informix HQ by Lester Knutsen - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 2:00pm EDT
- Informix Databases Migrations and Exports Part 1 by Mike
   Walker Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 2:00pm EDT
- Informix Databases Migrations and Exports Part 2 by Mike Walker - Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 2:00pm EDT

Registration and more information: https://advancedatatools.com/Informix/NextWebcast.html

### Informix Training Updated for Informix 14.XX

Attend classes online on the web, or in person at our training center in Virginia. All you need is a web browser to connect to our WebEx training system and an SSH client (like Putty) to connect to our training lab for hands-on exercises. Each student uses an 8-core Linux server, with 16GB RAM, SSD drives with Informix 12, and several large databases for benchmark exercises.

#### March 11-14, 2019 - Advanced Informix Performance Tuning

#### > April 22-25, 2019 - Informix for Database Administrators

This course is for new database administrators, programmers, and technical support personnel who will be setting up, managing, and tuning IBM Informix databases.

#### September 16-19, 2019 - Informix for Database Administrators

This course is for new database administrators, programmers, and technical support personnel who will be setting up, managing, and tuning IBM Informix databases.

#### > More Information and Registration at:

http://www.advancedatatools.com/Training/InformixTraining.html

### **Informix Training Servers**



Each Student in class will have a server running Informix 12.10 with:

- 8 CPU Cores
- 16 GB RAM
- 1 SSD Disk
- 1-4 Disks



#### Informix Support and Training from the Informix Champions!

Advanced DataTools is an Advanced Level IBM Informix Data Management Partner, and has been an authorized Informix partner since 1993. We have a long-term relationship with IBM, we have priority access to high-level support staff, technical information, and Beta programs. Our team has been working with Informix since its inception, and includes 8 Senior Informix Database Consultants, 4 IBM Champions, 2 IIUG Director's Award winners, and an IBM Gold Consultant. We have Informix specialists Lester Knutsen and Art Kagel available to support your Informix performance tuning and monitoring requirements!

- Informix Remote DBA Support Monitoring
- Informix Performance Tuning
- Informix Training
- Informix Consulting
- Informix Development

#### Free Informix Performance Tuning Webcast replays at:

http://advancedatatools.com/Informix/Webcasts.html Email: info@advancedatatools.com Web: http://www.advancedatatools.com



#### Thank You

#### **Advanced DataTools Corporation**

For more information:

#### info@advancedatatools.com http://www.advancedatatools.com