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PKWare Unveils SecureZip for i- and zSeries

News

Publication Date: **5 April 2005**

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PKWare Inc will today unveil versions of its SecureZip compression-plus-encryption product for IBM Corp's iSeries and zSeries, seeking differentiation from the competition on breadth of platforms supported, ease of use and market reach.

The Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based ISV started life as a compression vendor based on open-standard Zip technology, which a number of other vendors also offer for desktop environments. PKWare is the only one to venture into the enterprise, however, and for the last year has been adding a security play to its portfolio with the SecureZip range alongside the compression-only PKZip products.

Having started out with SecureZip for Windows in April last year, it launched SecureZip for Servers in October, targeting the open systems platforms, and now it will add the proprietary OSes from Big Blue.

Steve Crawford, the company's chief marketing officer for the SecureZip line, said PKWare added support for AES encryption of passwords in the versions of PKZip the i- and zSeries, but now a broader set of security functions have been added to a dedicated security package: triple DES is also supported, as are digital certifications and integration with enterprise directories (LDAP and Active Directory).

Crawford said the only real competition for the combination of compression and encryption SecureZip offers is a PGP-based product from McAfee Inc. The difference there, he argued, is that PGP technology is not based on an open standard, and if an enterprise wants to use it as the basis for its security from desktop to mainframe, it will have to go to two different companies: McAfee for the high end, PGP Corp for the low.

As for ease of use, he explained that partners and customers receiving SecureZip files from a company need only have a free Zip Reader on a Windows platform to be able to read them, or else they can receive self-extracting files. And on market reach, he claimed that 90% of the Fortune 100 are using PKZip, with many already moving to SecureZip, and "PKZip is running on 20% of the mainframes worldwide."

PKWare charges for the two new products by the MIPS capability of the box on which they will be running. The price for SecureZip for iSeries for a box running the p30 is around 6,000 pounds (\$11,000).

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