REPORT REPRINT

Thales unites KeySecure and Vormetric product lines under CipherTrust Data Security Platform

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Over the past 18 months, the two companies have been working to further integrate the various products and assets under their brands. Thales' CipherTrust Data Security Platform combines the Vormetric Data Security Platform with the SafeNet KeySecure offering, as well as new data discovery and classification capabilities, into a single offering.

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Introduction

Early in 2019, Thales put the finishing touches on the $5.7bn mega-merger with fellow encryption giant Gemalto. The current incarnation of Thales brings together Gemalto's $890m acquisition of SafeNet in 2014, along with Thales' $400m purchase of Vormetric in 2015. Since the deal closed, initial integration efforts combined the Thales eSecurity, Vormetric and SafeNet brands into a single business unit – Cloud Protection and Licensing – which itself lies within the Digital Identity and Security global business unit of corporate parent Thales Group.

Despite considerable synergies between the two giants, we also anticipated a Herculean integration effort given the sheer size of the 15,000-strong combined business unit, as well as significant product overlap in encryption and key management. Thales has attempted to negotiate a delicate balance of preserving the specific strengths of each product without alienating either vendor's extensive customer bases or undermining a valuable brand.

Over the past 18 months, the two companies have been hard at work attempting to further integrate the various products and assets under the respective company's brands. The first stage of the journey was the launch of CipherTrust Data Discovery and Classification, followed by the release of CipherTrust Manager in June. The most recent effort is the launch of the CipherTrust Data Security Platform (DSP), which combines the Vormetric Data Security Platform with Gemalto's SafeNet KeySecure offering and the new data discovery and classification capabilities into a single combined offering.

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Complexity is one of the main barriers to deploying data security more broadly, in part because overall data security remains fairly specialized and siloed, forcing enterprises to manage multiple vendors and point products. With the launch of CipherTrust DSP, Thales is looking to simplify the delivery of data security with one of the broadest data security portfolios in the market, spanning most flavors of encryption (application, database, server, file), vaulted and vaultless tokenization, masking, key management, cloud key management and, most recently, data discovery. DSP is intended to offer a migration path for both SafeNet and Vormetric customers, who will not have to update any agent software, and also support both on-premises and cloud resources. That said, there is still integration work to be done – Thales still maintains separate brands for its general-purpose HSMs (Luna) and payments HSMs (payShield). Data loss prevention is a core data security requirement for many firms, and represents a notable gap that we could see Thales addressing in the future to help distance itself from other data security platform aspirants like Broadcom (Symantec) or HelpSystems.

Details

As noted above, CipherTrust DSP spans all flavors of encryption, tokenization, data masking and key management under a single umbrella. CipherTrust Manager is a virtual or physical appliance that handles all the policy and key management for the CipherTrust DSP, and serves as the central management point for all of the CipherTrust connectors and agents.

CipherTrust Manager is essentially the new name for the next generation of the KeySecure appliance, which utilizes a microservices architecture and can supply keys to the CipherTrust (fka Vormetric) tokenization server and the CipherTrust Cloud Key Manager for managing keys across AWS, Azure, IBM Cloud and Google Cloud Platform. It can also control Thales' flagship Vormetric Transparent Encryption, now called CipherTrust Transparent Encryption. In addition to the CipherTrust-branded products, CipherTrust Manager serves as a central key manager for other Thales products, including Thales High-Speed Encryptors, and can use Luna HSM and Luna Cloud HSMs and other Cloud HSMs as a root of trust.

The former SafeNet Luna line of HSMs will remain outside of the CipherTrust brand, while the SafeNet brand will also live on within some of Thales identity and access management offerings, specifically SafeNet Trusted Access. Both the KeySecure and Vormetric brands will go away over time in favor of CipherTrust, while Thales Data Protection On Demand will remain a separate SaaS-based offering that provides a range of data security functions as a service – such as HSMs, cloud key brokering and PKI – without installing any hardware or software.

CipherTrust Transparent Encryption will be the go-to product for file or database encryption. SafeNet ProtectDB will be renamed CipherTrust Database Protection, while SafeNet ProtectV Virtual Machine encryption will be end-of-lifed.

For application-level security, SafeNet ProtectApp and Vormetric Application Encryption will be combined into CipherTrust Application Data Protection, along with a suite of APIs targeting software developers with application encryption and tokenization. The CipherTrust Data Security Platform will also combine two different tokenization offerings, one based on standard random vault-based tokenization, and another vaultless offering that will be united within the Vormetric Tokenization server.

In terms of data discovery and classification, the new offering provides both agent-based and agentless methods to scan data repositories for sensitive data, and classify the data based on data privacy regulations like PCI DSS, HIPAA and GDPR. It also provides risk analysis and reporting, with further automation of discovery and remediation capabilities on the roadmap.