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Security: IBM eServer zSeries partitioning achieves highest certification

IBM eServer zSeries 900 server is the first server to receive the Common Criteria [EAL5 certification level](#) (evaluation assurance level 5) for the security of its logical partitions. The z900's logical partitioning was evaluated against the ISO 15408 Common Criteria standard, recognized in the global IT market. The zSeries is [currently*](#) the only server to have been awarded this prestigious assurance level for partitioning.

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The value of zSeries logical partitioning

This evaluation demonstrates that the zSeries server can be an essential building block for server consolidation and the integration of e-business applications and traditional corporate workloads on a single server. It provides a high degree of assurance that PR/SM can be configured and used in environments where separation of workloads is a requirement, but where the use of a single hardware platform is desirable for reasons of economy, flexibility, security, or management. PR/SM is designed to prevent the flow of information among logical processor partitions, providing highly secure isolation. This isolation allows images of zSeries supported operating systems, including z/OS, z/VM and Linux for zSeries, to run in different logical partitions on a single zSeries server.

The need for security certification is no longer restricted to governments. With the explosion of Internet technology and e-business, commercial users are now increasingly concerned with security issues and they frequently demand that their systems have security certifications similar to those of governments.

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PR/SM was evaluated against the Common Criteria by CSC Ploenzke of Munich Germany, under license from the German Certification Body, Bundesamt fuer Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI), Bonn, Germany. IBM received official documentation on the successful completion of the evaluation on December 6, 2002. The official notice will be posted in January, 2003. This IBM web page will provide a URL to this site as soon as it is available.

Surpasses previous S/390 certification

The S/390 Generation 6 was previously granted an E4 level rating for partitioning security under the European ITSEC (Information Tehcnology Security Evaluation Criteria). This EAL5 from the Common Criteria is a more stringent evaluation.

For more on the Common Criteria see <http://commoncriteria.org/index.html>

*Jan 15, 2003