

SecureZIP® for IBM i provides a single process to efficiently zip, encrypt, and store sensitive information to tape.

An organization's data is its most valuable asset and IBM i data centers are burdened with processing greater amounts of information within strict processing windows using limited resources. Adding to the burden is the need to protect that information from both internal and external threats while meeting the increasing need to transfer sensitive information to various business partners and customers or to offsite storage facilities. As a result, many organizations now mandate that sensitive information be protected in compliance with regulatory pressures, internal requirements, and customer demands for privacy.

SecureZIP secures sensitive information in the IBM i environment utilizing either AES or 3DES encryption. Support for both passphrase- and X.509 digital certificate-based encryption allows for flexibility based on the structure of the organizations' IT environment. And, because SecureZIP is based on the universal ZIP format, data may be exchanged across all major enterprise computing platforms including mainframe, midrange, server, and desktop. The combination of security and efficient data compression makes SecureZIP an ideal choice for securing backup files/archives both for internal use and distribution to external customers, partners, and vendors.

1Step2Tape: At a Glance

Many organizations rely on tape media as a favored method for transferring bulk data to customers and partners or for backups/archive files stored off-site. Historically, such files were created to disk as a first step and then transferred to tape as a separate step. However, as new, faster tape drives are introduced for the IBM midrange, organizations can take advantage of an opportunity to reduce overall job completion time as well as reduce the capital resources required.

1Step2Tape extracts i5 application data directly from the native data stores, compresses it for efficient storage, encrypts it to ensure security, and then writes it to tape, bypassing any intermediate write-to-disk. 1Step2Tape significantly benefits organizations by allowing them to:

- Reduce the time required to complete tape-based backup, archive, and data distribution jobs

- Reduce the I/O and DASD required to complete daily secure backups or distribution of files for customers
- Complete required work inside narrowing production windows with fewer resources

1Step2Tape: Real-time Resource Savings

Sierra Pacific, a leading manufacturer of wood products and PKWARE customer, uses SecureZIP in their System i data center. Each day, information at Sierra Pacific is backed-up to tape media and sent offsite for storage. Strict time windows needed to be met to ensure all information was processed overnight without disrupting daily activities.

In need of a security solution that also facilitated backups, Sierra Pacific chose SecureZIP with 1Step2Tape functionality. Because 1Step2Tape combines data compression and security into a single process, Sierra Pacific was able to cut its backup processing time nearly in half from 10 hours to just 5.5 hours per night.

1Step2Tape: Details

The 1Step2Tape feature enables customers to extract any i5/OS data type directly from the i5 data store, process it into a ZIP archive, and write it to tape in a single step. Data types written into the archive include:

- PF-DTA
- PF-SRC
- SAVF

Other data types are processed first into SAVF format, which is then written into the ZIP archive.

As a consequence, the time required to complete an encrypted backup may be as little as 50% of the time required using legacy workflows, as illustrated by Sierra Pacific's use case.

1Step2Tape & PKZIP®

PKZIP v9 Enterprise Edition for IBM i also includes 1Step2Tape functionality, providing similar benefits and elapsed time reductions for jobs that only require compression. PKZIP for IBM i offers industry-leading data file compression plus cross-platform interoperability derived from use of the ZIP format. Data files can be extracted directly from i5 data stores, compressed and archived, then accessed using a PKWARE ZIP product on any other supported platform. The combination of broad platform support from a single vendor plus the operational efficiencies afforded by 1Step2Tape make PKZIP an excellent tool for migrating data across geographic locations or organizational boundaries.