



SHIELD PLATFORM ENCRYPTION ARCHITECTURE

How to protect sensitive data without
locking up critical business functionality.

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The need for encryption

There were over 63,000 security incidents and nearly 1,400 confirmed data breaches worldwide in 2013¹. A study of 237 data breaches from the second quarter of 2014 showed that encryption was used to secure breached data in only 4% of cases. Strong encryption and key management, the most effective tools for rendering exfiltrated data useless to attackers, were used in less than 1% of cases². According to some estimates, over 3 billion records have been compromised since 2013.³

New security vulnerabilities, like Heartbleed, Shellshock, and POODLE, are reported on a regular basis. While Transport Layer Security (TLS) is one effective tool against data loss, researchers in the security community have demonstrated numerous techniques to compromise TLS and other encryption solutions. News reports in 2013 and 2014 confirmed that RSA accepted \$10 million from the NSA to build backdoors into cryptographic libraries that are used to secure substantial chunks of Internet and corporate IT infrastructure.⁴ Across the industry, there is an increasing awareness that transport security isn't enough to protect sensitive data. Additionally, attackers are targeting a wider array of targets. In the past, attacks focused on high value, financial targets – retail and point of sale, credit card processors, card issuers, and banks. Now, attackers are stealing any personally identifiable information (PII), which can enable further social engineering attacks and more significant compromises.

That's why security and trust are major factors in every company's evaluation of public cloud services. Customers in particular are choosing which business functions to run on the Salesforce platform, what applications they can build to extend those functions, and what data they need to store there to enable those functions. Customers increasingly use the Salesforce platform to build applications that require PII and other sensitive, confidential, or proprietary data. With this sensitive data stored on the Salesforce platform, customers want additional layers of protection on top of our standard security measures. Extra features such as authentication and single sign-on, granular access controls, and advanced activity monitoring give customers control over when and how they protect their data.

1 http://www.verizonenterprise.com/DBIR/2014/reports/rp_Verizon-DBIR-2014_en_xg.pdf

2 <http://www.breachlevelindex.com/pdf/Breach-Level-Index-Report-Q22014.pdf>

3 <http://www.breachlevelindex.com/#!home>

4 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/31/us-usa-security-nsa-rsa-idUSBREA2U0TY20140331>

The need for encryption

Balancing data security with business needs

Choosing to store PII, sensitive, confidential, or proprietary data with any third party often prompts customers to more closely investigate both external regulatory and internal data compliance policies. Internal policies frequently rely on interpretation of external regulations. As customers look at regulations such as PCIDSS, HIPAA/HITECH, and FedRAMP through the lens of cloud-based service adoption, they typically take a pragmatic but conservative approach to data protection in the cloud.

This pragmatic approach includes three requirements shared by a wide variety of customers in regulated industries such as financial services, healthcare, and life sciences, as well as manufacturing, technology, and government.

1. Encrypt sensitive data when it's stored at rest in the Salesforce cloud.
2. Support customer-controlled encryption key lifecycles.
3. Preserve application and Platform functionality.

However, if data is encrypted at rest – depending on where encryption and decryption occurs and where the encryption keys are stored – preserving Salesforce functionality becomes difficult, if not impossible. There's a tradeoff between strong security and functionality. What the business wants often differs from what security and compliance require.

The need for encryption

Principles and design goals

To balance security demands with customers' functional requirements, Salesforce defined a set of principles that drove our decisions around solution design and architecture. We focused on the problems we wanted to solve, clearly defined the boundaries of our solution, and identified the implications and tradeoffs of the design.

Encrypt data at rest.

The Salesforce Shield Platform Encryption solution encrypts data at rest when stored on our servers, in the database, and the file system. We don't address data residency or remote key management, which require off-Salesforce solutions and typically involve on-premises software and complex integrations. To encrypt data at rest and preserve functionality, we built the encryption services natively into the Salesforce platform.

1. Natively integrate encryption at rest with key Salesforce features.

One of the things that makes the Salesforce platform so remarkable is that it is driven by metadata. Shield Platform Encryption uses that metadata to tell the other platform features which data is encrypted. This way we can prevent those features from inadvertently exposing plaintext or ciphertext. And we can ensure that critical business functionality – like partial search – continues to work even when data is encrypted.

2. Use strong encryption.

The Shield Platform Encryption solution uses strong, probabilistic encryption on data stored at rest. Shield Platform Encryption uses the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with 256-bit keys using CBC mode, PKCS5 padding, and random initialization vector (IV). We opted for probabilistic encryption over deterministic encryption. This type of encryption results in a loss of some functionality, such as sorting operations, but we consider this a reasonable tradeoff in favor of security. However, we recognize that in some cases, business requirements depend on preserving more functionality, which might influence what data customers decide to encrypt.

Enable customers to drive the key lifecycle.

We built a key management framework that scales to our massively multi-tenant model and gives you complete control over the key management lifecycle. Since the encryption service is built natively into the Salesforce platform, the encryption keys must reside in the Salesforce environment. Adhering to the principle that customers should have complete control over the key lifecycle, we built key management functionality into the Setup UI and API such that customers decide when to generate, supply, rotate, import, export, and destroy keys. Customers also determine who is responsible for performing these tasks. With the new Bring Your Own Keys (BYOK), you can generate and store tenant secrets outside of Salesforce using your own crypto libraries, enterprise key management systems, or hardware security modules. As with all administration tasks, everything is audited.

5. Protect keys from unauthorized access.

A primary consideration when architecting our key management infrastructure was making encryption keys available to the encryption service while preventing privileged Salesforce employees, such as DBAs, from inappropriately accessing them. This consideration led us to incorporate hardware security modules (HSMs)⁵ into the infrastructure. Shield Platform Encryption uses HSMs to generate cryptographic secrets used to derive organization-specific data encryption keys. The result is a shared key management service that creates tenant-specific derived keys. The keys aren't persisted; they are therefore inaccessible to Salesforce employees and, by extension, malicious external attackers.

6. Encrypt as little data as possible.

Our design gives customers control over what data they encrypt. Your organization administrator chooses whether to turn on encryption for standard fields, custom fields, files, and attachments. You also choose which specific fields to encrypt at rest. The driving principle is to encrypt as little as possible to preserve functionality while keeping private, sensitive, confidential, and regulated data safe.

The need for encryption

Before you encrypt

Before you decide to encrypt data in Salesforce – or in any cloud service – first make sure you’re matching the right security solution to the type of threats you face. If, for example, you are most concerned about protecting against end-user or administrative account takeover attacks, which are usually achieved through social engineering and malware infection, data encryption may not be an appropriate control against such a threat. Consider instead malware detection and activity monitoring as ways to identify when users may have been compromised and a malicious outsider is attempting to gain access to data.

Salesforce Shield Platform Encryption protects data at rest. It shouldn’t be confused with a control that encrypts data in transit, such as Transport Layer Security⁶ (which Salesforce enables by default for your org). Shield Platform Encryption is best suited for:

- Protecting against data loss due to unauthorized database access
- Bolstering compliance with regulatory requirements or internal security policies
- Satisfying contractual obligations to handle sensitive and private data on behalf of customers

The best approach is adopting a defense-in-depth strategy that takes advantage of all the security features Salesforce offers. The [Security Implementation Guide](#)⁷ gives a comprehensive overview of the customer-controlled security capabilities available.

After completing a threat modeling exercise, use the outcome to inform a granular data classification. Identify data elements that are sensitive, private, or confidential. Your resulting strategy should be to encrypt only the most sensitive of those data elements. This will help to balance stronger data protection controls against the need to build and preserve critical business functionality on the Salesforce Platform or when using Sales Cloud or Service Cloud.

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_Layer_Security

⁷ https://resources.docs.salesforce.com/202/latest/en-us/sfdc/pdf/salesforce_platform_encryption_implementation_guide.pdf

What it does

Shield Platform Encryption allows you to encrypt fields, files, and attachments stored in the Salesforce platform. In contrast to Classic Encryption, which uses a custom field type in the Salesforce data model, Shield Platform Encryption allows you to encrypt standard fields, custom fields, and files. You can even manage the lifecycle of your data encryption keys. Shield Platform Encryption uses metadata to keep information in these files and fields secure while preserving the ability to perform common business tasks.

Which data elements can Salesforce administrators encrypt?

Files and Attachments	Standard Fields	Custom Fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Files attached to feeds • Files attached to records • Files in the Content, Libraries, and Files apps • Files managed with Salesforce Files Sync • Notes (new Notes tool only) • Email attachments • Files attached to Chatter posts, comments, and the sidebar • Files attached to Knowledge articles 	<p>On the Account object:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account Name • Description • Fax • Phone • Website <p>On the Contact object:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description • Email • Fax • Home Phone • Mailing Addresses • Mobile • Name (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name) • Other Phone • Phone <p>On the Case Object:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description • Subject <p>On Case Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body (including Internal Comments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • Date/Time • Email • Phone • Text • Text area • Text area (long) • URL

This table compares the features of Shield Platform Encryption and Classic Encryption.

Feature	Classic Encryption	Shield Platform Encryption
Pricing	Included in base user license	Additional fee applies
Encryption at Rest	✓	✓
Native Solution (No Hardware or Software is Required)	✓	✓
Encryption Algorithm	128-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)	256-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)
HSM-based Key Derivation		✓
“Manage Encryption Keys” Permission		✓
Generate, Export, Import, and Destroy Keys	✓	✓
PCI-DSS L1 Compliance	✓	✓
Masking	✓	✓
Mask Types and Characters	✓	
“View Encrypted Data” Permission is Required to Read Encrypted Field Values	✓	✓
Email Template Values Respect “View Encrypted Data” Permission		✓
Encrypted Standard Fields		✓
Encrypted Attachments, Files, and Content		✓
Encrypted Custom Fields	Dedicated custom field type, Limited to 175 characters	✓
Encrypt Existing Fields for Supported Custom Field Types		✓
Search (UI, Partial Search, Lookups, Certain SOSL Queries)		✓
Search Encryption at Rest		✓
API Access	✓	✓
Available in Workflow Rules and Workflow Field Updates		✓
Available in Approval Process Entry Criteria and Approval Step Criteria		✓

How it works

To meet the security requirements of customers while preserving functionality and performance in our multi-tenant environment, we built the encryption service directly into the Force.com platform. The platform's object-relational mapping model includes metadata that describes exactly which data is encrypted. Encrypted data is stored with additional information that uses strong, nondeterministic cryptography supported by the Java Cryptographic Extension. Encryption and decryption occur in the platform's application layer, as application components are materialized by the runtime engine, ensuring that encrypted data isn't persisted in plaintext. Encryption keys are derived on demand from key material generated by HSMs and never persisted. Finally, the architecture supports the simultaneous use of multiple encryption keys, enabling customers to quickly rotate and archive keys without losing access to their data.

Encryption in Force.com platform's application layer

Force.com's foundation is a metadata-driven software architecture that enables multi-tenant applications. Application components, such as Salesforce objects, aren't modeled directly in our underlying relational database. Instead, when customers interact with their data in a Salesforce application, the platform's runtime engine materializes the data using metadata stored separately in Force.com's Universal Data Dictionary (UDD). This way, each tenant's data is kept secure in the shared database, tenants can customize schema in real time without affecting other tenants' data, and the application's code base can be patched or upgraded without breaking tenant-specific customizations. See [The Force.com Multitenant Architecture⁸](#) for details.

The UDD includes metadata that determines which data is encrypted at runtime. The encryption service works in the Force.com platform's application layer. That is, data is encrypted directly before it's stored in the database. The resulting encrypted payload is stored with metadata about the specific key used to encrypt it. In the case of decryption, data is decrypted as it's materialized. It is then pushed up through the application pipeline and appears in plaintext to the user who requested it. In the case of field data, if the user who requested the data does not have the "View Encrypted Data" permission, the data is never decrypted and appears masked to the user.

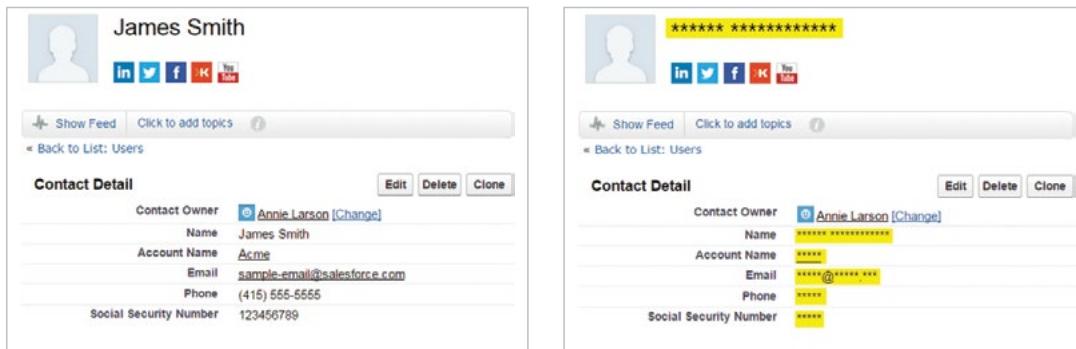


Figure 1: Encrypted field values are only decrypted when requested by users with the "View Encrypted Data" permission (left). Encrypted data appears masked to users without the permission (right).

By embedding the encryption metadata in the UDD, the Shield Platform Encryption architecture allows customers to choose what data to encrypt. Performing the encryption work in the Shield Platform Encryption's application layer enables the engine to strictly manage the flow of encrypted data from the application to the database and vice versa, since the relevant code paths run through the UDD before data is read or stored.

Cryptographic library and algorithms

Shield Platform Encryption uses the Java Cryptography Extension (JCE), to encrypt and decrypt data. Specifically, Shield Platform Encryption uses the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES-256) in CBC mode with randomized IV and PKCS5 for padding. The JCE class SecureRandom is used to generate the IV.

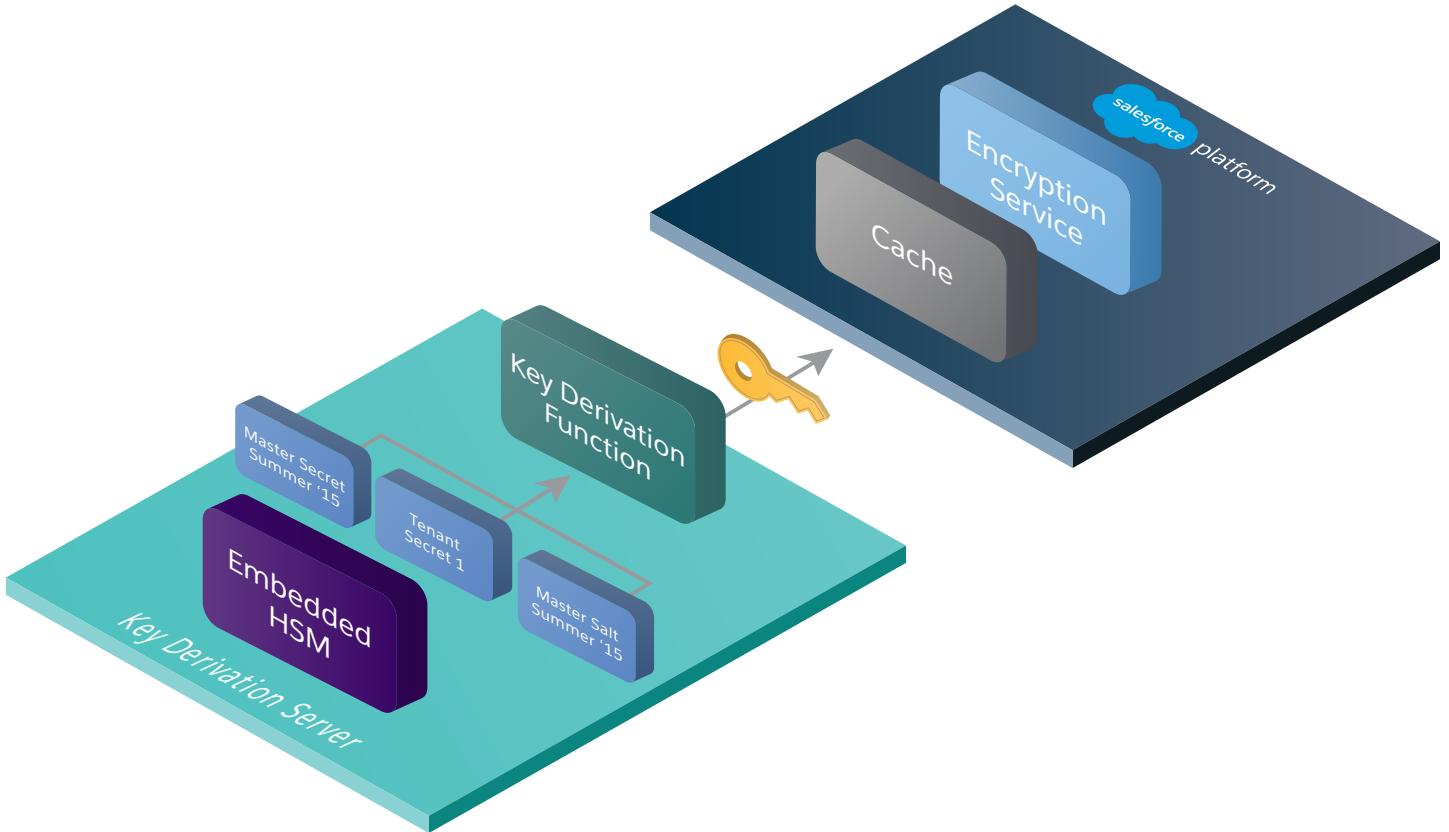


Figure 2: Deriving data encryption keys.

Data encryption keys

The AES-256 keys used to encrypt customer data aren't persisted. Instead, they're derived on demand from secrets generated by logically and physically separated HSMs. The master secret is generated at the start of each Salesforce release and stored securely in Salesforce's internal file system. The customer-specific tenant secret is supplied by customers or generated by customers on demand, and then stored securely in the database. These secrets, along with a master salt generated at the start of each release, are used as inputs to Password-Based Key Derivation Function 2 (PBKDF2) to derive data encryption keys. PBKDF2 is run on a key derivation server in a Salesforce data center. Once derived, data encryption keys are sent (encrypted) back to the encryption service running on the Salesforce platform and stored in the cache of a platform application server until the cache is flushed.

The organization's specific search index key is different than the data encryption key. See the "Search Encryption at Rest process flow" section for more information.

Storing encrypted payloads

Encrypted data is stored in the database with its metadata, including:

- A bit that indicates the field contains ciphertext
- The ID of the customer's tenant secret used to derive the matching encryption key
- A randomized, 128-bit initialization vector (IV) for cryptographic use

The tenant secret ID is used to locate the tenant secret value and creation date. These values are stored in a Salesforce object called TenantSecret. When a user accesses or saves encrypted data, the encryption service sends a request to a key derivation server, which uses the tenant secret and corresponding master secret, identified by the tenant secret creation date, to derive a data encryption key. The random IV is used with the encryption key to nondeterministically encrypt the data.

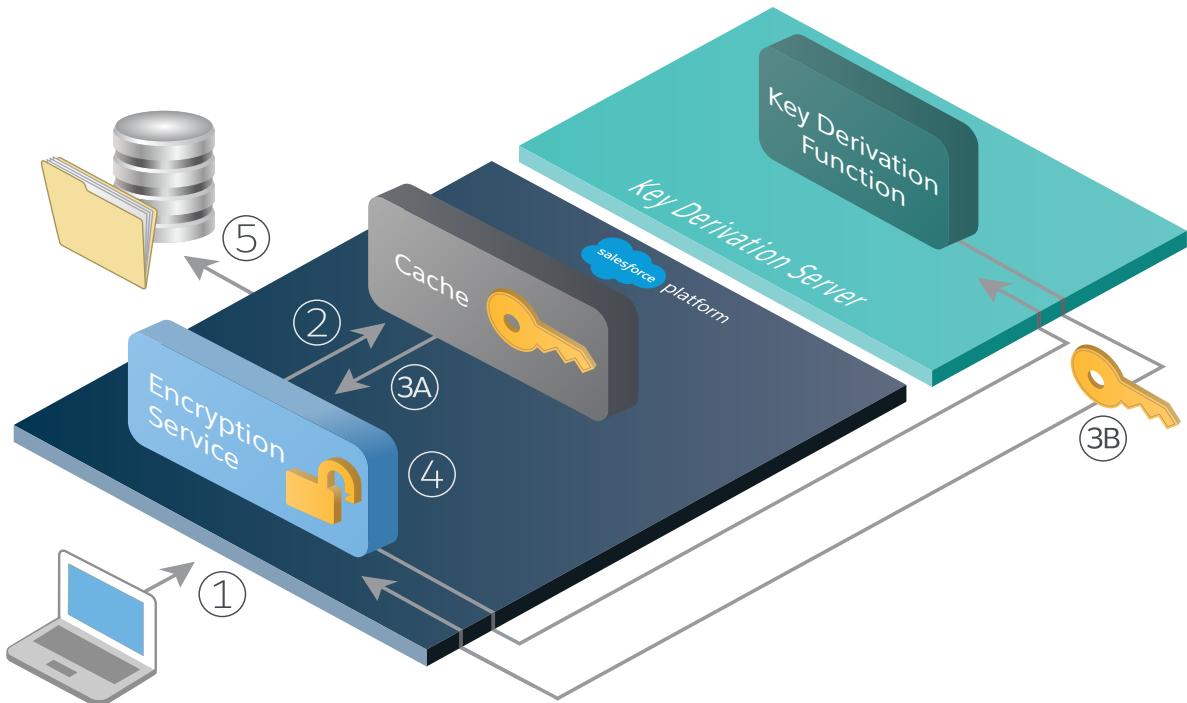


Figure 3: Process flow for encrypting data.

Shield Platform Encryption process flow

Before data is encrypted, a Salesforce administrator must enable encryption and generate a tenant secret. For each field, file, and attachment on which encryption is enabled, the corresponding metadata in the UDD is updated to reflect the new encryption setting. Users must have the “View Encrypted Data” permission to view encrypted field data.

1. When a Salesforce user saves encrypted data, the runtime engine determines from metadata whether the field, file, or attachment should be encrypted before storing it in the database.
2. If so, the encryption service checks for the matching data encryption key in cached memory.
3. The encryption service determines if the key exists.
 - a. If so, the encryption service retrieves the key.
 - b. Otherwise, the service sends a derivation request to a key derivation server and returns it to the encryption service running on the Salesforce platform.
4. After retrieving or deriving the key, the encryption service generates a random initialization vector (IV) and encrypts the data using JCE’s AES-256 implementation.
5. The ciphertext is saved in the database or file storage. The IV and corresponding ID of the tenant secret used to derive the data encryption key are saved in the database.

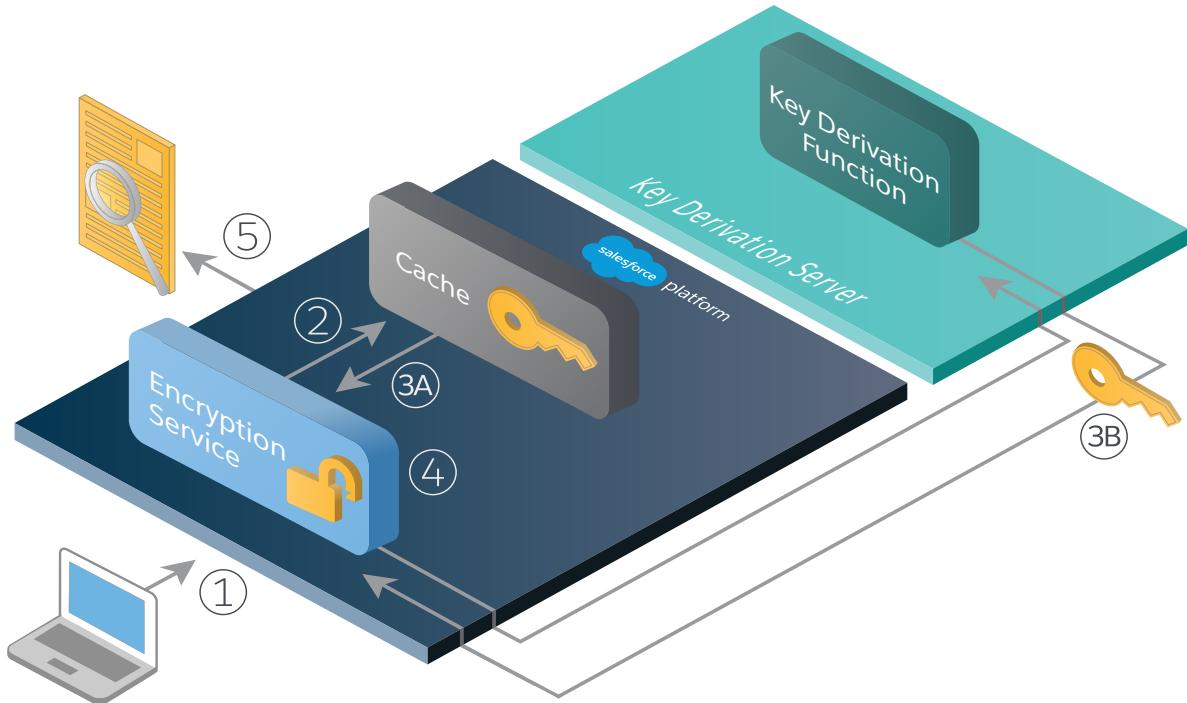


Figure 4: Search encryption at rest

Search Encryption at Rest process flow

The Salesforce search engine is built on the open-source enterprise search platform software Apache Solr. The search index, which stores tokens of record data with links back to the original records stored in the database, is housed within Solr. Partitions divide the search index into segments to allow Salesforce to scale operations. Apache Lucene is used for its core library.

Using Shield Platform Encryption's HSM-based key derivation architecture, metadata, and configurations, Search Encryption at Rest runs automatically when Platform Encryption is in use. The solution applies strong encryption on an org-specific search index .fdt, .tim and .tip file types using an org-specific AES-256 bit encryption key. The search index is encrypted at the search index segment level, and all search index operations require index blocks to be encrypted in memory.

There aren't any changes in Setup or changes to the user interface, so the added protection is seamless and determined by the organization's encryption policy.

The only way to access the search index or the key cache is through programmatic APIs.

Before the search index files are encrypted, a Salesforce security administrator must enable Search Encryption at Rest. The administrator then sets up their encryption policy to determine which data elements need to be embedded with encryption. The admin configures Platform Encryption by selecting fields and files to encrypt. An org-specific HSM-derived key specifically for search index encryption is derived from the tenant secret on demand. The key material is passed to the search engine's cache on a secure channel.

The process when a user creates or edits records:

1. The core application determines if the search index segment should be encrypted or not based on metadata.
2. The core application determines if the search index segment should be encrypted or not based on metadata.
3. The encryption service determines if the key exists in the cache.
 - a. If the key exists in the cache, the encryption service uses the key for encryption.
 - b. Otherwise, the service sends a request to the core application, which in turn sends an authenticated derivation request to a key derivation server and returns the key to the core application server.
4. After retrieving the key, the encryption service generates a random initialization vector (IV) and encrypts the data using JCE's AES-256 implementation.
5. The key ID (identifier of the key being used to encrypt the index segment) and IV are saved in the search index.

The process is similar when a user searches for encrypted data:

1. When a user searches for a term, the term is passed to the search index, along with which Salesforce objects to search.
2. When the search index executes the search, the encryption service opens the relevant segment of the search index in memory and reads the key ID and IV.
3. Repeats steps 3 through 5 in the search index encryption process above.
4. The search index processes the search and returns the results to the user seamlessly.

If Salesforce administrators disable encryption on a field, all index segments that were encrypted are unencrypted and key ID is set to null. This process can take up to seven days.

How it works

Key management

Shield Platform Encryption allows Salesforce administrators to manage the lifecycles of their data encryption keys while protecting the keys from unauthorized access. To ensure this level of protection, data encryption keys are never persisted on disk. Instead, they're derived on demand from the master and tenant secrets.

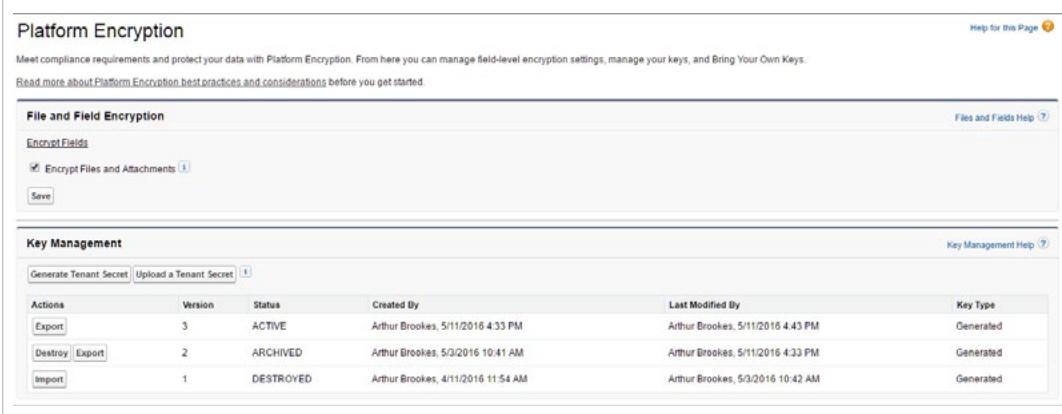
The master secret is generated by a master HSM at the start of each release. The master HSM is “air-gapped” from Salesforce’s production network and stored securely in a bank safety deposit box. Only designated Salesforce security officers can access the safety deposit box and the master HSM stored within.

Tenant secrets are either generated on demand using HSMs embedded in key derivation servers deployed in clusters to each of Salesforce’s data centers, or supplied by the customer using the Bring Your Own Key (BYOK) service.

The Bring Your Own Key service is new as of Winter ‘17, and extends our existing key management architecture via an API service. This gives customers more control and flexibility to use a variety of options for managing tenant secrets. Customers can use open source crypto libraries, their existing HSM infrastructure, or even third-party key brokering services to create and manage tenant secrets outside Salesforce. They can then give Salesforce’s key management service access to those tenant secrets. Customers can revoke this access at any time.

Each key derivation server has access to the release-specific secrets for every Salesforce release. When a data encryption key is needed to encrypt or decrypt customer data, the server derives the key from the master and tenant secrets.

By controlling the lifecycle of your organization’s tenant secrets, you control the lifecycle of the derived data encryption keys. Your Salesforce administrator specifies a user to manage the tenant secrets for your organization and assigns that user the “Manage Encryption Keys” user permission. This user permission allows the key administrator to generate, archive, export, import, and destroy tenant secrets.



The screenshot shows the Salesforce Platform Encryption page. At the top, there's a header with the title "Platform Encryption" and a "Help for this Page" link. Below the header, a message encourages users to meet compliance requirements and protect their data. A link to "Read more about Platform Encryption best practices and considerations" is provided.

The main content area is divided into two sections:

- File and Field Encryption:** This section includes a "Encrypt Fields" button with a checked checkbox for "Encrypt Files and Attachments". There is also a "Save" button.
- Key Management:** This section has buttons for "Generate Tenant Secret" and "Upload a Tenant Secret". It displays a table of tenant secrets:

Actions	Version	Status	Created By	Last Modified By	Key Type
<button>Export</button>	3	ACTIVE	Arthur Brookes, 5/11/2016 4:33 PM	Arthur Brookes, 5/11/2016 4:43 PM	Generated
<button>Destroy / Export</button>	2	ARCHIVED	Arthur Brookes, 5/3/2016 10:41 AM	Arthur Brookes, 5/11/2016 4:33 PM	Generated
<button>Import</button>	1	DESTROYED	Arthur Brookes, 4/11/2016 11:54 AM	Arthur Brookes, 5/3/2016 10:42 AM	Generated

Figure 5: Shield Platform Encryption page with Key Management features

As Figure 5 illustrates, it is possible to have more than one tenant secret in a Salesforce organization. Only the most recent tenant secret is active, meaning only that tenant secret is used to derive the data encryption key used to encrypt data. When you generate a new tenant secret, the active secret becomes archived. Archived tenant secrets are used to decrypt data that was last encrypted when the archived tenant secret was active.

You can destroy an archived tenant secret. If you do, it is no longer possible to derive the encryption key required to decrypt the data that was encrypted using that key. Take special care to backup and protect both archived tenant secrets and encrypted data.

Key rotation and data re-encryption

When you rotate tenant secrets by generating or supplying a new one, the resulting derived data encryption keys rotate as well. New data is encrypted and decrypted using the data encryption key derived from the new, active tenant secret. Existing data stays encrypted with the former key. Salesforce can run a background process to traverse the database and file storage, decrypt existing encrypted data, and then re-encrypt the data using the new data encryption key. This process is transparent to users and administrators and must be initiated by a Salesforce support engineer.

How it works

Key derivation architecture

S

hield Platform Encryption utilizes key derivation servers to derive data encryption keys for encrypting customer data at rest. The keys are derived from fragmented secrets that are securely wrapped and stored in Salesforce's internal file system, ensuring that the keys are never persisted in their composite forms and enabling customers to control the key lifecycle. These secrets and secret-wrapping keys are initialized by a master HSM at the start of each release, or in the case of customer-driven tenant secrets, on demand in production environments by HSMs embedded in the key derivation servers.

The key derivation architecture includes the following processes:

- HSM initialization. Before they're put to use, both the master and embedded HSMs are initialized, which includes the creation of their respective encryption key pairs.
- Per-release secret generation. At the start of each release, the master HSM is plugged into an offline laptop and used to generate the per-release secrets. The secrets are hashed and stored in Salesforce's internal file system for consumption by the embedded HSMs.
- Key derivation server startup. When a key derivation server starts up, it accesses each release's encrypted secrets in the internal file system. Then it decrypts the secrets and stores them in its cache in preparation for key derivation.
- Two options for providing tenant secrets:
 - On-demand tenant secret generation. One of the inputs into the key derivation function that creates your organization's data encryption key is an organization-specific, customer-managed tenant secret. Customers control the lifecycle of their data encryption keys by generating new tenant secrets. When a customer generates a new tenant secret, the request is sent to the key derivation server from the application server and authenticated. Then, an embedded HSM generates a tenant secret, which is encrypted by the key derivation server and sent back to the application server to be stored in the database.
 - Customer-supplied tenant secret upload. The Salesforce Shield Bring Your Own Key (BYOK) service allows customers to create tenant secrets outside of Salesforce using the customer's crypto libraries, enterprise key management system, or hardware security module. They then grant Shield Platform Encryption's key management machinery access to these keys. Customers can encrypt their tenant secrets with a self-signed or certificate authority (CA) certificate's public key. They can revoke Salesforce's access to these tenant secrets on demand via the Key Management tooling in Setup or programmatically via the API. Its cache. The key is then transmitted securely back to the application server.

- Key derivation in production environments. When a customer attempts to read or write encrypted data and the corresponding data encryption key isn't cached, the application server sends a derivation request to the key derivation server. The key derivation server authenticates the request and derives the key using the secrets in its cache. The key is then transmitted securely back to the application server.

HSM initialization, secret generation, and key derivation rely on the following components:

- Master HSM (SafeNet® Luna G5, manufactured by Gemalto®). A FIPS 140-2 hardware-compliant USB device that generates per-release secrets and secret-wrapping keys, and signs the public keys of embedded HSMs. The master HSM is air-gapped from the network at all times and stored in a bank safety deposit box. Access to the master HSM is restricted to designated Salesforce security officers.
- Offline laptop. A machine that the master HSM plugs into while in use. The offline laptop exports the secrets and keys generated by the master HSM to the internal Salesforce file system.
- Embedded HSMs (SafeNet® Luna PCI-E, manufactured by Gemalto®). FIPS 140-2 hardware-compliant PCI devices that are plugged into key derivation servers in Salesforce data centers. Embedded HSMs unwrap secrets that were generated by the master HSM, encrypted, and exported to the Salesforce internal file system. They also generate tenant secrets, the customer-managed fragments of data encryption keys.
- Key derivation servers. Clusters of load-balanced servers deployed to Salesforce's production data centers that derive data encryption keys from master secrets and tenant secrets.
- Application servers. Servers in production environments that run Salesforce. When a customer attempts to read or write encrypted data or generate a tenant secret, the application server communicates with a key derivation server to process the request.
- Salesforce internal file system and source control. The location and source control mechanism for storing encrypted secrets and their hashes.

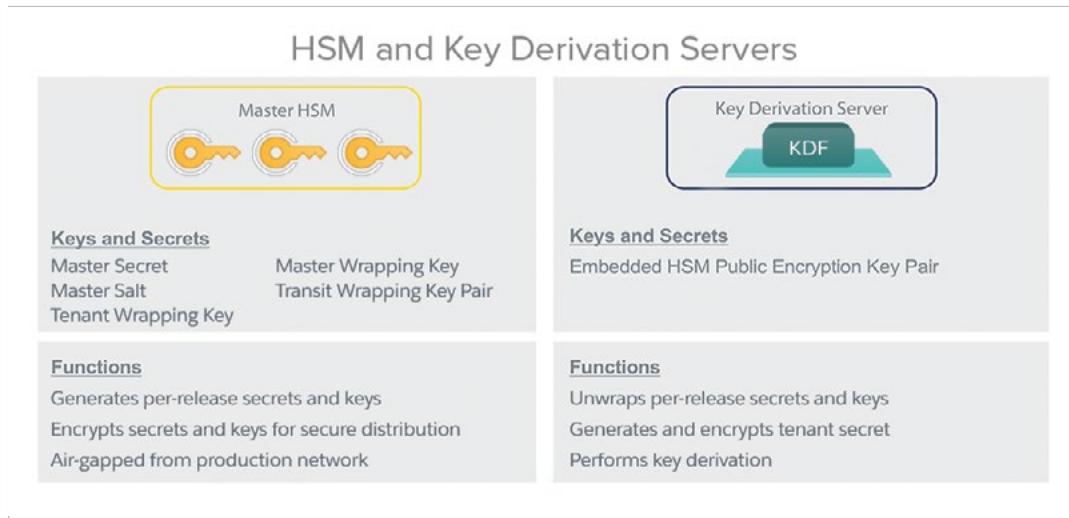


Figure 6: Key derivation architecture components

HSM Initialization

The master HSM and the embedded HSMs must be initialized before they're used. For the master HSM, the initialization process includes creating a master HSM encryption key pair and a master HSM signing key pair. For each embedded HSM, the process includes creating an embedded HSM encryption key pair. The master HSM public signing key is used to sign and verify each embedded HSM's public encryption key. At the start of each release, the master and embedded HSM public encryption keys are used to separately encrypt a per-release master wrapping key, which is in turn used to encrypt the remainder of the per-release secrets used to derive data encryption keys. This way, each embedded HSM is able to securely access the master wrapping key for each release, which it uses to access the rest of the per-release secrets needed for key derivation. The private keys in each pair are accessible only inside their respective HSMs.

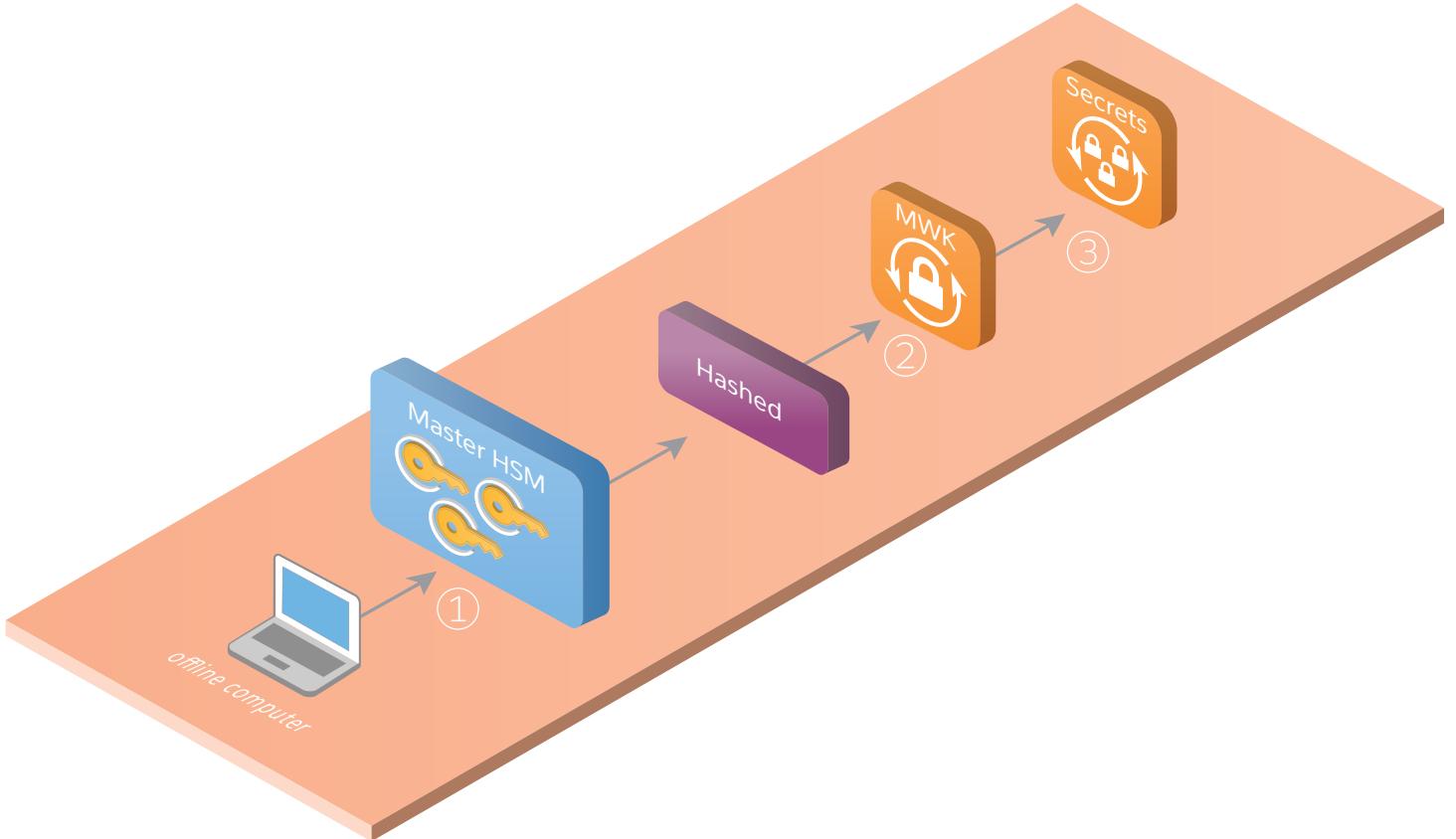


Figure 7: Per-release secret generation

Per-release secret generation

At the start of each release, the master HSM is plugged into the offline laptop and used to generate the per-release secrets and keys (on the HSM itself).

1. The master HSM generates the following secrets:master secret
 - master salt
 - master wrapping key
 - tenant wrapping key
 - transit wrapping key pair

For definitions of each secret and key, refer to the [Key and Secret Glossary](#)⁹. Each secret is hashed using SHA-256.

2. The master wrapping key (MWK) is encrypted with the master HSM public encryption key and stored locally on the laptop along with its hash.
3. Each other secret is encrypted with the master wrapping key and stored on the laptop with their hashes.

⁹ https://help.salesforce.com/apex/HTViewHelpDoc?id=security_pe_definitions.htm&language=en_US

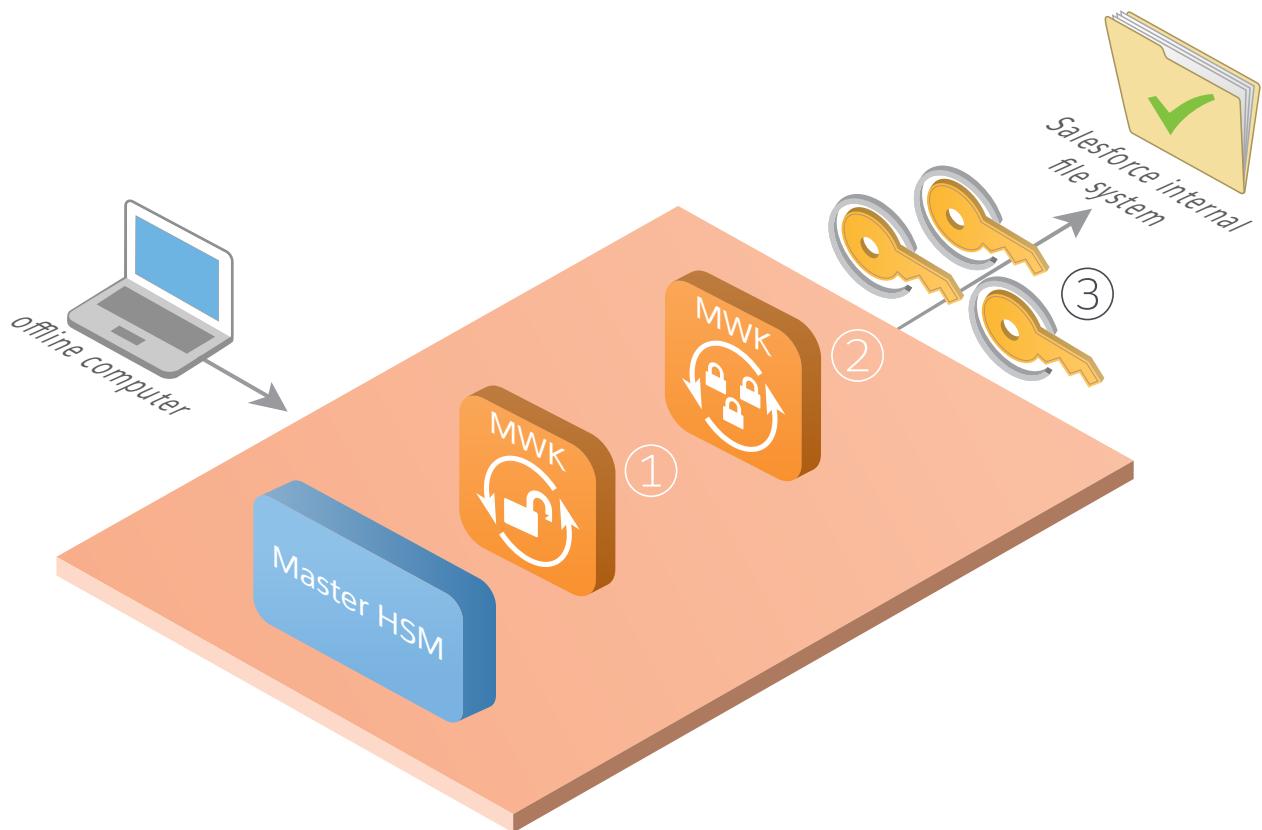


Figure 8: Per-release secret export

Per-release secret export

Once all the secrets are hashed and encrypted, they are checked into source control and exported to the Salesforce internal file system. Additionally, the plaintext master wrapping key is encrypted with each embedded HSM's public encryption key, checked into source control, and stored in the Salesforce internal file system. Each embedded HSM can access the per-release secrets for key derivation by first decrypting the master wrapping key, then using it to decrypt the remaining secrets.

The process for exporting the secrets includes these steps:

1. The master wrapping key is read from the file system of the offline laptop and decrypted on the master HSM.
2. The master wrapping key is encrypted with each of the signed, embedded HSMs public encryption key.
3. The encrypted secrets and their hashes are checked into source control and stored in the Salesforce internal file system.

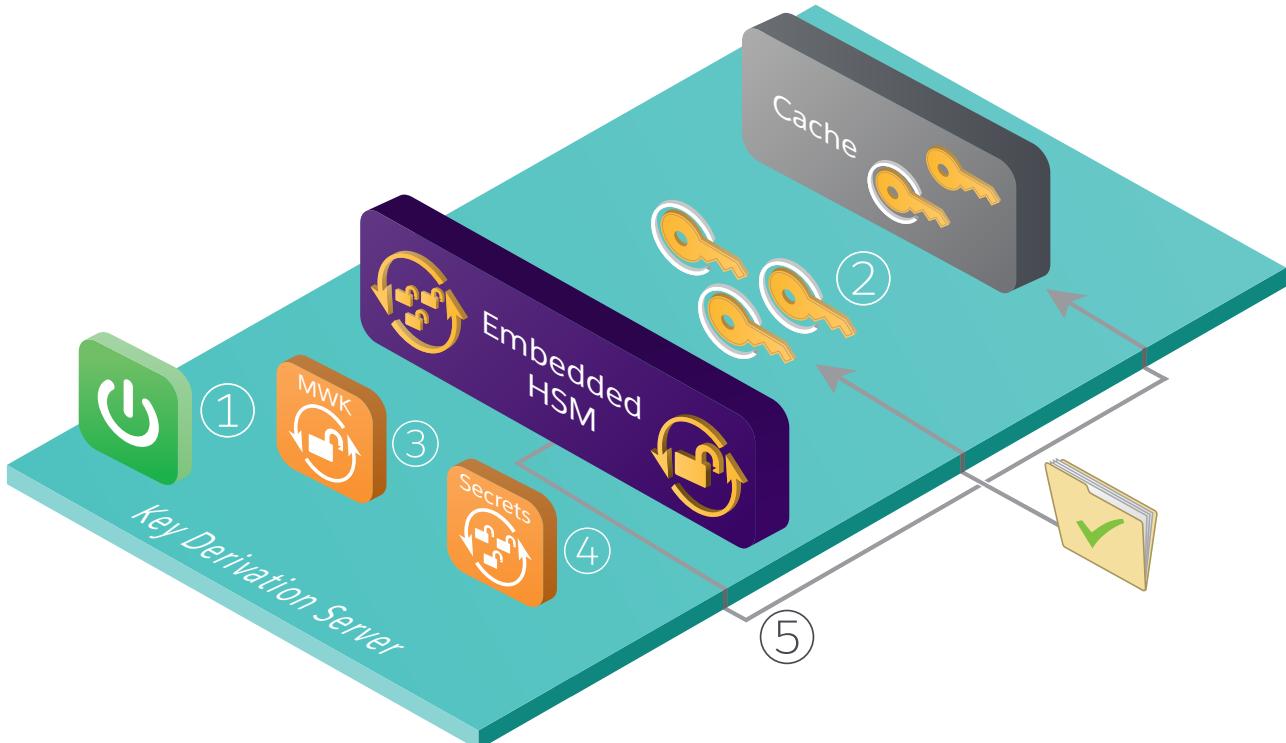


Figure 9: Key derivation server startup

Key derivation server startup

When a key derivation server starts up in a production environment, it accesses each release's encrypted secrets stored in the internal file system, decrypts and validates them, and stores them in its cache in preparation for deriving data encryption keys. The process includes these steps.

1. The key derivation server starts up.
2. The key derivation server accesses the encrypted secrets and their hashes in the appropriate folders in the internal file system.
3. The embedded HSM decrypts the master wrapping key for each release.
4. Using the master wrapping keys, the key derivation server decrypts the rest of the release secrets.
5. The key derivation server validates all the keys and secrets against their hashes and then stores them in its cache.

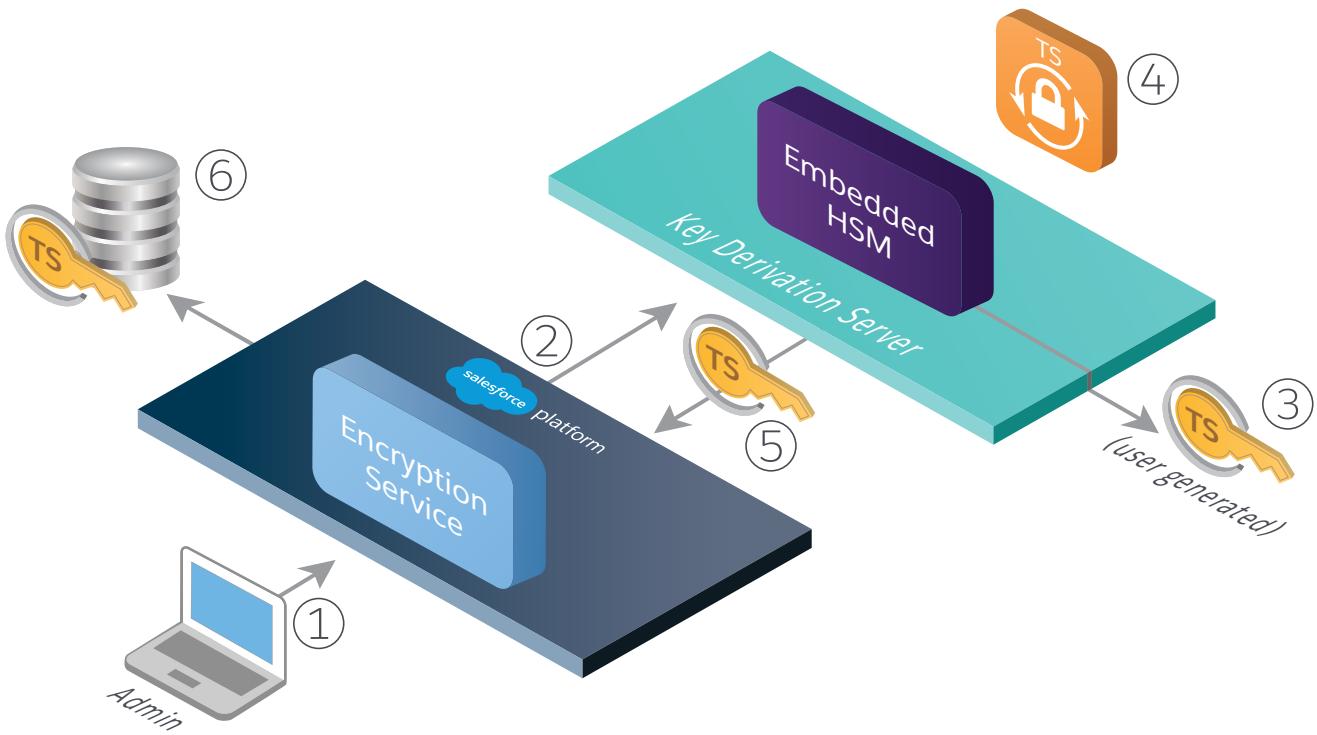


Figure 10: On-demand tenant secret generation

On-demand tenant secret generation

Customers can generate tenant secrets every 24 hours in their production or Developer Edition organizations and every four hours in their sandbox organizations. Tenant secrets can be destroyed at any time. When a customer generates a new tenant secret, all future data is encrypted with the key derived from the current master secret and the new tenant secret. The tenant secret is generated by an embedded HSM connected to a key derivation server. The process of generating a tenant secret includes these steps:

1. An admin attempts to generate a new tenant secret using the UI or API.
2. The encryption service sends an authenticated request to a key derivation server.
3. The embedded HSM generates the tenant secret (TS).
4. The key derivation server encrypts the tenant secret with the per-release tenant wrapping key.
5. The key derivation server sends the encrypted tenant secret back to the encryption service running on the Salesforce platform.
6. The encryption service stores the encrypted tenant secret securely in the database, and is used to derive the org's specific data encryption keys on demand. This encrypted tenant secret can only be decrypted in the key derivation server.

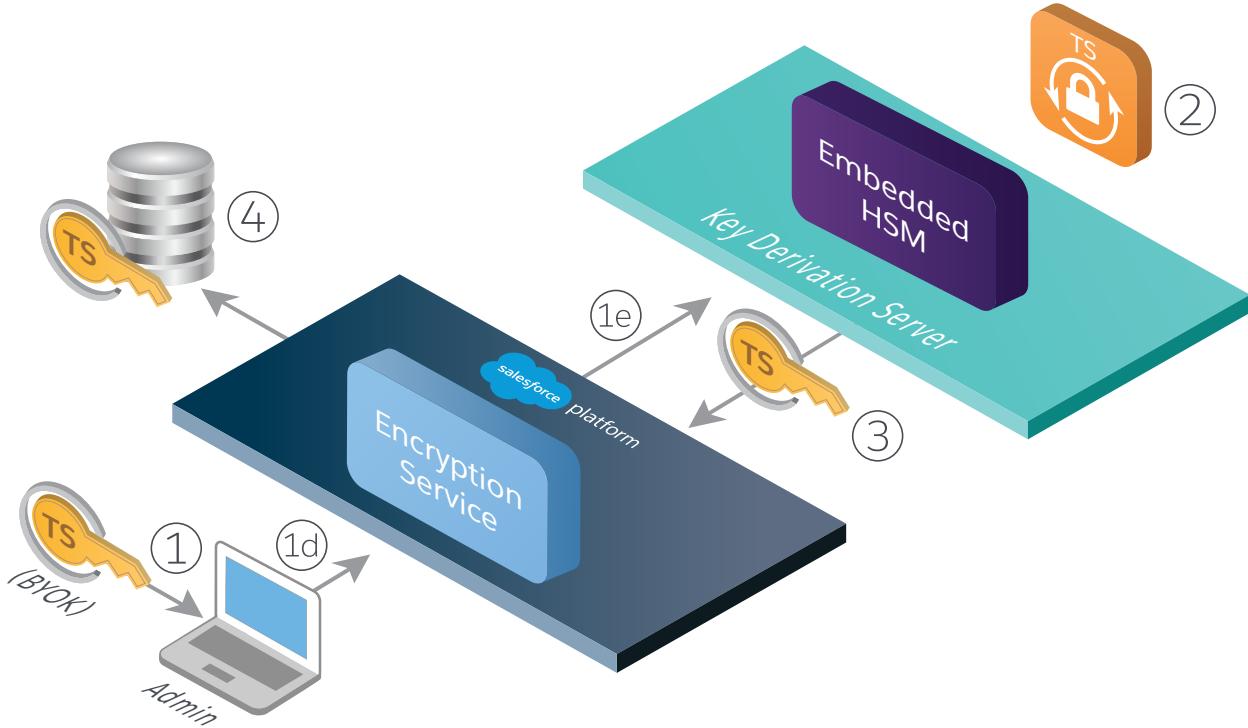


Figure 11: Customer-supplied tenant secret (BYOK)

Customer-supplied tenant secret (BYOK)

Customers can supply their own tenant secret using the Bring Your Own Key (BYOK) service. Once uploaded, BYOK tenant secrets work with the Salesforce key management machinery just like Salesforce-generated tenant secrets. BYOK tenant secrets can be uploaded once every 24 hours in production and Developer Edition orgs, and every 4 hours in sandbox orgs. Additionally, they can be destroyed declaratively or programmatically by the customer at any time. When BYOK tenant secrets are uploaded, all future data is encrypted with the key derived from the current master secret and the new BYOK tenant secret. This org-specific derived data encryption key isn't persisted on disk.

The process for generating and encrypting a BYOK tenant secret will vary depending on whether customers use a crypto service, HSM, or key brokering service. However, all BYOK tenant secrets need to meet the same basic requirements before they can be uploaded to Salesforce. Users need the “Manage Encryption Keys” permissions to upload and rotate tenant secrets, and the “Customize Application” permission to manage certificates. Grant these permissions to authorized users only. The process of generating a customer-supplied tenant secret includes these steps:

1. Users prepare their tenant secret for upload.
 - a. The user generates BYOK-compatible certificate either declaratively or programmatically. This can be either a self-signed or CA-signed certificate. The customer then downloads this certificate.
 - b. The user generates a 256-bit tenant secret using the method of their choice, encrypts it with the public key from their BYOK-compatible certificate, and encodes the encrypted tenant secret to base64.
 - c. The user calculates an SHA-256 hash of the plaintext tenant secret, then encodes this hash to base64.
 - d. The user uploads both the encrypted tenant secret and hashed plaintext tenant secret files to Salesforce.
 - e. The application server then passes the encrypted tenant secret and hashed plaintext tenant secret files to the key derivation server.
 - f. The key derivation server derives the BYOK derived encryption key to unwrap the certificate's private key.
 - g. The customer's uploaded tenant secret is decrypted using the BYOK certificate's private key.
 - h. The tenant secret is then hashed using SHA-256, and compared to the SHA-256 hash provided by the customer.
2. If the hashes match, the key derivation server encrypts the tenant secret with the per-release tenant wrapping key
3. The key derivation server sends the encrypted tenant secret back to the encryption service running on the Salesforce platform.
4. The encryption service stores the encrypted tenant secret securely in the database, and is used to derive the org's specific data encryption keys on demand. This encrypted tenant secret can only be decrypted in the key derivation server.

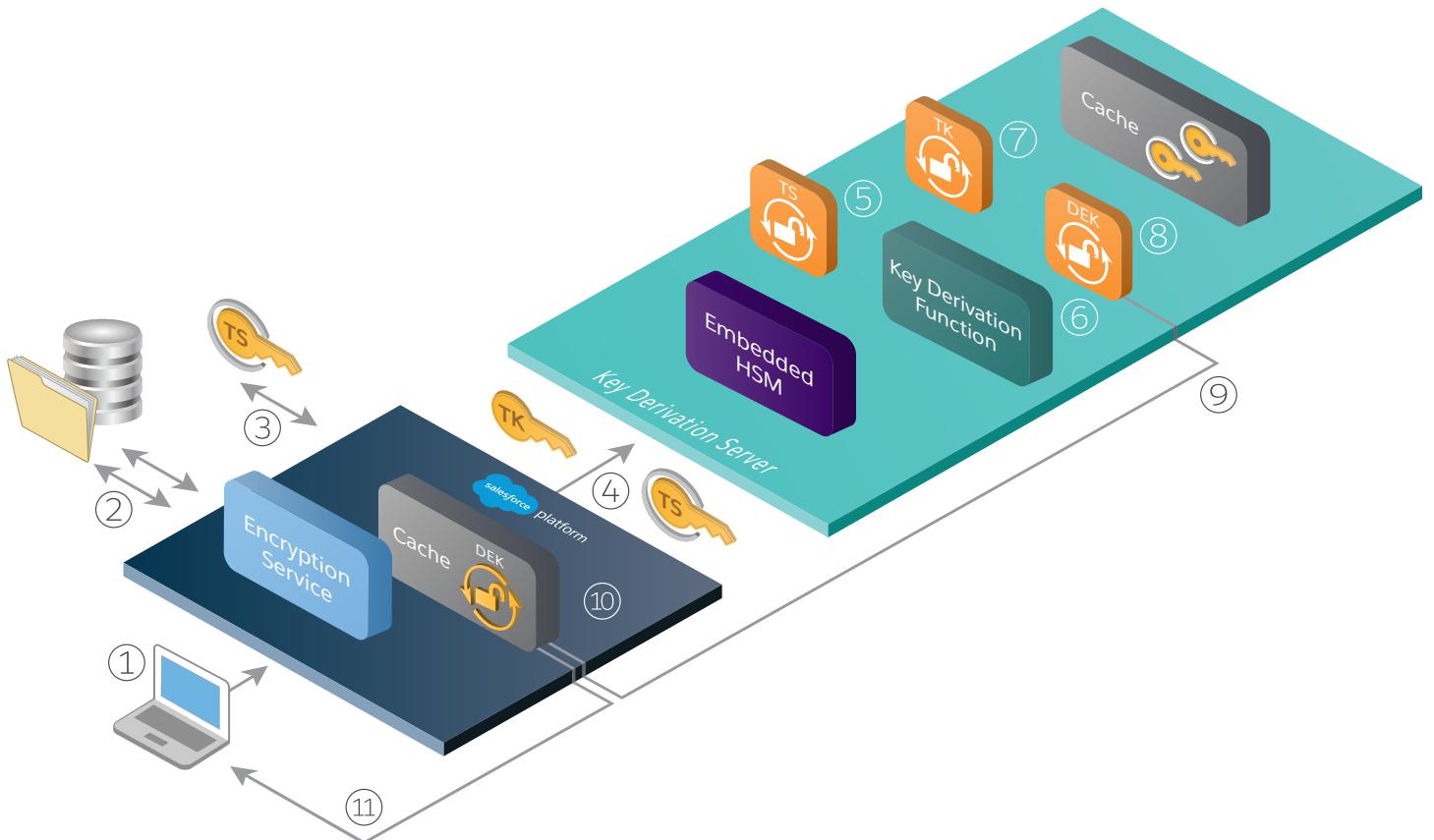


Figure 12: Customer-supplied tenant secret (BYOK)

Key derivation

When a customer attempts to read or write encrypted data, the encryption service transmits the request to a key derivation server to retrieve the appropriate data encryption key (unless the key is already in the application server cache). Once the data encryption key is returned to the encryption service, the key is stored in memory for future requests until the cache is flushed or the organization specific data encryption key is discarded, based on the Least Recently Used (LRU) cache algorithm. The process for deriving the data encryption key during a decrypt request includes these steps (note: encryption is nearly identical):

1. A user attempts to read encrypted data.
2. The Salesforce platform queries the data from the storage engine. This could be the database search index, or file storage.
3. Based on metadata stored with the encrypted data, the encryption service retrieves the appropriate encrypted tenant secret from the database.

4. The encryption service sends an authenticated request for the derived key to a key derivation server. The request includes the following information:
5. The encrypted tenant secret
6. A unique transit key (TK) that's generated on the Salesforce platform application server each time it boots up. The transit key is used to encrypt the derived data encryption key before it's sent back to the encryption service. The transit key is itself encrypted by the encryption service with the transit wrapping public key, which is half of the transit wrapping key pair generated by the master HSM each release.
7. The key derivation server decrypts the tenant secret with the appropriate tenant wrapping key in its cache.
8. The key derivation server derives the requested data encryption key using the appropriate master secret, master salt, and tenant secret as inputs to the key derivation function (PBKDF2WithHmacSHA256).
9. The key derivation server decrypts the application server's transit key with the transit wrapping private key.
10. The key derivation server encrypts the data encryption key (DEK) with the transit key. This ensures that the data encryption key isn't transmitted in the clear.
11. The key derivation server sends the encrypted data encryption key back to the encryption service.
12. The encryption service decrypts the data encryption key and caches it.
13. Using the data encryption key, the encryption service decrypts the customer data and returns it to the user.

PBKDF2 Inputs

Data encryption keys are derived using PBKDF2 with the following values as inputs.

- *PRF*—HmacSHA256
- *Password*—master secret XOR tenant secret
- *Salt*—master salt
- *c*—15,000
- *dkLen*—256

Glossary

These are the keys and secrets used in the key derivation architecture.

Data encryption key

FUNCTION:	Organization-specific key used to encrypt customer data (the “final” key)
TYPE:	AES-256 key
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated on a key derivation server with PBKDF2
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Never persisted on disk in any form. Derived on demand and stored in the cache of an application server on the Salesforce platform.

Embedded HSM encryption key pair

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt and decrypt data that can only be accessed on the embedded HSM
TYPE:	4096-bit RSA key pair
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once, upon initialization of embedded HSM ¹⁰
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Public key is signed by master HSM and stored in the Salesforce internal file system. Private key cannot be accessed outside of embedded HSM.

Master HSM encryption key pair

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt and decrypt data that can only be accessed on the master HSM
TYPE:	4096-bit RSA key pair
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once, upon initialization of master HSM ¹¹
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Public key is stored in the Salesforce internal file system. Private key cannot be accessed outside of master HSM.

Master HSM signing key pair

FUNCTION:	Used to verify the public keys of embedded HSMs
TYPE:	4096-bit RSA key pair
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once, upon initialization of master HSM ⁸
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Signing key pair cannot be accessed outside of master HSM.

¹⁰ <http://www.safenet-inc.com/data-encryption/hardware-security-modules-hsms/luna-hsms-key-management/luna-pci-e/>

¹¹ <http://www.safenet-inc.com/data-encryption/hardware-security-modules-hsms/luna-hsms-key-management/luna-sa-network-hsm/#tab2>

Master salt

FUNCTION:	Used as input to PBKDF2 to derive data encryption keys
TYPE:	256-bit value
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once each release by the master HSM ⁷
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with master wrapping key and stored in the Salesforce internal file system.

Master secret

FUNCTION:	Used in conjunction with organization tenant secrets to derive data encryption keys
TYPE:	256-bit value
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once each release by the master HSM ⁷
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with master wrapping key and stored in the Salesforce internal file system.

Master wrapping key

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt the master secret, master salt, tenant wrapping key, and transit wrapping private key before they are stored in the Salesforce internal file system
TYPE:	AES-256 key
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once each release by the master HSM ⁷
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with each embedded HSM's public encryption key and the master HSM's public encryption key and stored in the Salesforce internal file system.

Tenant secret

FUNCTION:	Combined with the master secret to derive a unique data encryption key
TYPE:	256-bit value
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated on customer demand by an embedded HSM on a key derivation server
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with the tenant wrapping key, sent from the key derivation server to an application server on the Salesforce platform, and stored in the database.

Search index IV

FUNCTION:	Used as input to PBKDF2 to derive data encryption keys
TYPE:	256-bit value
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated per search index segment when the search index segment is updated
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with search key and stored in the search index segment header.

Search index data encryption key

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt and decrypt the search index segment after indexing completes.
TYPE:	AES-256 key
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated on a key derivation server with PBKDF2.
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Never persisted on disk in any form. Derived on demand and stored in the cache of the search index.

Tenant secret

FUNCTION:	Combined with the master secret to derive a unique data encryption key
TYPE:	256-bit value
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated on customer demand by an embedded HSM on a key derivation server
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with the tenant wrapping key, sent from the key derivation server to an application server on the App Cloud, and stored in the database.

Tenant wrapping key

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt tenant secrets before they are stored in the database
TYPE:	AES-256 key
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once each release by the master HSM ⁷
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Encrypted with the master wrapping key and stored in the Salesforce internal file system.

Transit key

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt derived data encryption keys before they are sent from the key derivation server to the application server on the Salesforce platform
TYPE:	AES-256 key
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated on each application server upon startup using the JCE class SecureRandom, and sent to the key derivation server upon a key derivation request
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Stored in application server memory. Never persisted on disk

Transit wrapping key pair

FUNCTION:	Used to encrypt the transit key before it's sent from the application server to a key derivation server
TYPE:	4096-bit RSA key pair
HOW IT'S GENERATED:	Generated once each release by the master HSM ⁷
WHERE IT'S STORED:	Public key is stored in the Salesforce internal file system. Private key is encrypted with master wrapping key and stored on the Salesforce internal file system.

Get Started with Shield Platform Encryption

To see how Shield Platform Encryption can help your company, contact your account executive or call **1-844-463-0828** today.

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