

Venafi Encryption Director™ Symmetric Key Manager™

MONITORING | REPORTING | NOTIFICATIONS



WHAT IT DOES

Venafi Encryption Director Symmetric Key Manager enables organizations to inventory and monitor symmetric keys and provide notifications.



WHY IT'S VALUABLE

Simplify the management of symmetric keys across the enterprise and reduce the unquantified and unmanaged risks that result in data breaches, failed security audits and unplanned system downtime.

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE

Symmetric encryption keys secure data-at-rest and data-in-transit for a wide variety of applications and systems, including databases, tape backup systems, point of sale devices, and credit card processing environments. Many organizations have hundreds or thousands of symmetric keys in use, with different individuals or groups responsible for each. Security and compliance requirements are increasingly driving organizations to develop central inventories and the ability to track who is responsible for each key (or group of keys) and their location. They must also assure the keys are being managed in compliance with corporate security policies as well as applicable regulations or industry requirements.

The challenge is that each application where symmetric keys are stored and managed rely on their own independent storage mechanisms and tracking systems, and there is rarely interoperability between those systems. This has forced organizations to use handwritten ledgers, spreadsheets or homegrown applications to track their symmetric keys. This can be unwieldy and unreliable where hundreds or thousands of keys exist in silos across different groups and where the administrators managing the keys often change.

MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

In addition, organizations have significant operational challenges in assuring that symmetric keys are replaced periodically (e.g. once per year). Unlike certificates, which have an expiration date encoded within them, symmetric keys have no expiration date stored or associated with them. Consequently, keys are infrequently rotated or changed because there is no operational impetus to do so. This is just one example of information that must be tracked and acted upon, otherwise security risks ensue.

When establishing central tracking, organizations must anticipate that they will need to add new information fields to track based on unique organizational and application needs. It is also important to be able to delegate the management of key metadata to the people responsible for keys, as it is implausible for a central organization to keep information up to date.

VENAFI ENCRYPTION DIRECTOR SYMMETRIC KEY MANAGER

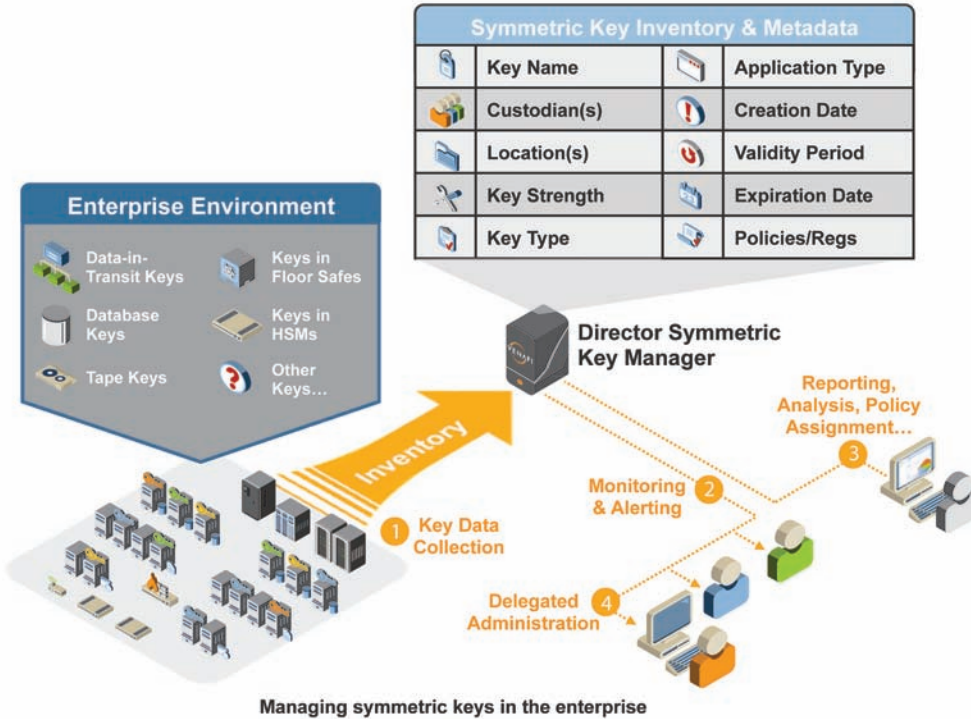
Venafi Encryption Director™ Symmetric Key Manager™ (Director Symmetric Key Manager) enables organizations to establish an enterprise inventory of symmetric keys, independent of the applications where they are deployed, then organize and track those keys. This does not require that all of the keys be stored in Director Symmetric Key Manager. It can serve as the equivalent of a card catalog for all symmetric keys, tracking a broad set of information about each key, including:

- Key Name
- Key Custodian(s)
- Location(s) where the key is stored
- Key Length
- Key Algorithm
- Individual(s) or group(s) to notify in case of issues (e.g. business application owner)
- Creation Date
- Validity Period (e.g. when should it be replaced with a new key)



Director Symmetric Key Manager can be extended to store and track additional information for symmetric keys based on the unique requirements of an organization. In addition, the inventory of symmetric keys can be organized hierarchically to aid in tracking keys assigned to different groups.

This enables the management and administration of keys to be delegated to individual groups for maintaining up-to-date information about the keys, as well as adding information about new keys. This reduces the load on the central group but still enables central oversight and reporting. An audit trail is maintained for all administrative actions that are performed.



FEATURES AND BENEFITS

The rotation or replacement of symmetric keys is a critical best practice in minimizing the risk of a key compromise, which can cause security breaches. Organizations must be able to track the creation date of keys and set validity periods based on policies and security considerations. Director Symmetric Key Manager enables creation dates and validity periods to be assigned to symmetric keys. Validity periods can be assigned to an individual key or at a policy level to groups of symmetric keys.

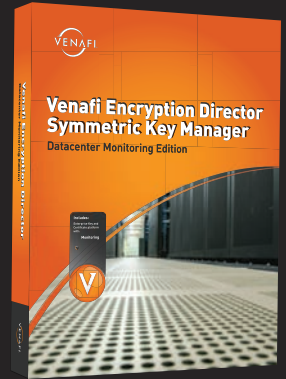
Notification rules can be defined to notify key custodians or other individuals prior to the expiration date of the symmetric key. The number of days prior to expiration is configurable and multiple notifications can be sent as reminders, for instance 90, 60, and 30 days prior to expiration. In addition, if a key is not replaced in a timely manner—15 days prior to expiration, for instance—escalation notifications can be sent to other individuals to assure the key is replaced prior to expiration.

Reports can also be generated to show the inventory of all symmetric keys or individual administrators can view the symmetric keys they are responsible for. The information can be sorted and filtered for analysis—for example, to display all of the keys below a certain key length for target application areas.

Benefits include: a central inventory of symmetric keys across all applications, the ability to track custodians, the ability to assure rotation based on policy. Learn more at www.venafi.com/Director.

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Director Symmetric Key Manager provides monitoring for the following key systems:

- Data-in-Transit Keys
- Database Keys
- Tape Keys
- Keys in Floor Safes
- Keys in HSMs
- Other Key Types



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