

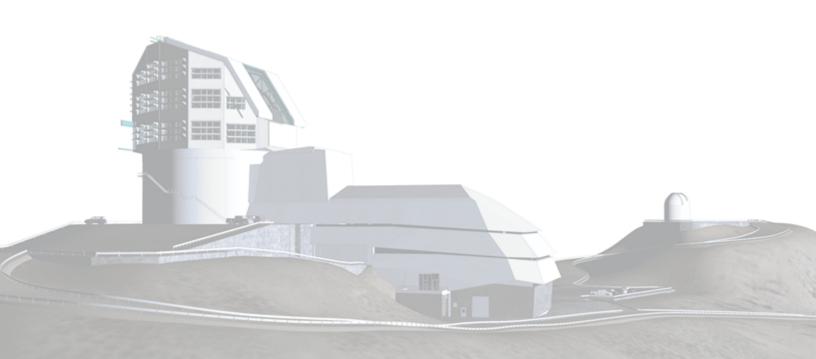
# Vera C. Rubin Observatory Rubin Observatory Project Office

# **CentOS System Disk Encryption**

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**ITTN-048** 

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#### **Abstract**

Disk encryption rises due to the need of protecting the information by converting it into unreadable code that cannot be deciphered easily. It uses hardware or software to encrypt bit by bit all data that goes on a disk. The Linux Unified Key Setup (LUKS) is a disk encryption software, that implements a platform-independent standard ondisk format for use in various tools.

The Policy-Based Decryption (PBD) is a collection of technologies that enable unlocking encrypted root and secondary volumes of hard drives on physical and virtual machines using different methods like a user password, a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) device, a PKCS11 device connected to a system, for example, a special network server. The PBD as technology allows combining different unlocking methods into a policy creating an ability to unlock the same volume in different ways. The current implementation of the PBD in Red Hat Enterprise Linux consists of the Clevis framework and plugins called pins. Each pin provides a separate unlocking capability. For now, the only two pins available are the ones that allow volumes to be unlocked with TPM or with a network server.

The Network Bound Disk Encryption (NBDE) is a subcategory of the PBD technologies that allows binding the encrypted volumes to a special network server. The current implementation of the NBDE includes a Clevis pin for the Tang server and the Tang server itself.

Based on these tools, the Servers System Disk will be encrypted and when they boot, they will request decryption to a centralized server that withholds the Decryption key, avoiding the password prompt at boot.



# **Change Record**

Version	Date	Description	Owner name
1	2021-05-09	First Release	Heinrich Reinking
2	2021-06-01	First Commit Concluded	Heinrich Reinking
3	2021-06-10	Performance Test	Heinrich Reinking
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		SSD and NVMe	

Document source location: https://github.com/lsst-it/ittn-048



### **Contents**

1	Syst	em Dis	k Encryption	1
	1.1	LUKS -	Linux Unified Key Setup	2
	1.2	Clevis		3
	1.3	Clevis	Puppet Profile	3
2	Tang	g Serve	r - Decryption Server	4
	2.1	Tang S	ervice	4
	2.2	Tang P	Suppet Profile and Role	5
3	Lab <sup>*</sup>	Testing	g - Proof of Concept	6
	3.1	Kicksta	art Modifications - Use of Encryption in Provisioning Template	6
	3.2	Test Er	nvironment	7
	3.3	Lab Re	sults	8
	3.4	Perfor	mance Test - Virtual Drive over HDD	9
		3.4.1	CPU Benchmark	9
		3.4.2	Disk Benchmark	10
	3.5	Virtual	Drive over HDD Conclusions - Pros and Cons	13
	3.6	Perfor	mance Test - Virtual Drive over GPFS/Gluster	14
		3.6.1	Environment Setup - GlusterFS	14
		3.6.2	CPU Benchmark	15
		3.6.3	Disk Benchmark	15
	3.7	Virtual	Drive over GPFS/Gluster Conclusions - Pros and Cons	17
	3.8	Perfor	mance Test - Virtual Drive over SDD	18
		3.8.1	CPU Benchmark	18
		3.8.2	Disk Benchmark	19
	3.9	Virtual	Drive over SDD Conclusions - Pros and Cons	21
	3.10	Perfor	mance Test - Virtual Drive over SSD NVMe	22
		3.10.1	CPU Benchmark	22
		3.10.2	Disk Benchmark	23



	3.11 Virtual Drive SSD NVMe Conclusions - Pros and Cons	25
Α	Acronyms	26



## **CentOS System Disk Encryption**

# 1 System Disk Encryption

An encrypted system disk prevents that the data contained in it can be cloned or replicated without the passphrase or authentication server. For this design, the disks will be encrypted through a kickstart passphrase and then removed once the remote Tang server is reached. If a non-authorized user gains physical access to the server:

- If halted and attempted to change the root password, the encryption passphrase prompt will be requested which was deleted.
- If booted through a Live USB OS, the encrypted partitions remain unreadable.
- If the drive is removed/stolen, the disk's data remains cyphered.



#### 1.1 LUKS - Linux Unified Key Setup

According to a paper subscribed by Danut Anton and Emil Simion <sup>1</sup>, LUKS is one of the most common FDE solutions for Linux-based systems. FDE works by encrypting every single bit on a storage device, so if the user doesn't have the password, data cannot be recovered. The most common problem for FDE solutions is password management, which at what concerns this implementation, will be handled by a two-level key hierarchy. A strong master key is generated by an OS, which is used to encrypt/decrypt the hard drive. That key has to be split and encrypted with a secret user key and stored on the device, at the beginning of the memory. The advantage of this approach is that you can have multiple systems with multiple keys, allowing you to have multiple decryption Servers.

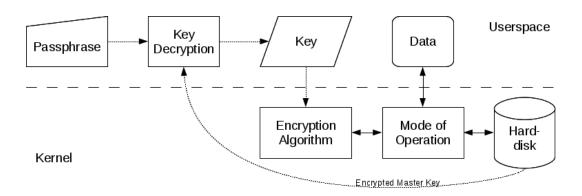


FIGURE 1: LUKS Operational Diagram

https://ieeexplore-ieee-org.usm.idm.oclc.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=8678978



#### 1.2 Clevis

Clevis is a pluggable framework for automated decryption. It can be used to provide automate decryption of data or even automated unlocking of LUKS volumes <sup>2</sup>. Once Clevis has subscribed the decryption to a server, the encryption passphrase is removed, which means in a lost communication event, the server won't be able to decrypt, not even with the passphrase. To prevent this Clevis can subscribe up to 8 keys to 8 different servers/users and it can be restricted to how many of them are required as a minimum. If you set a value t=2, means that at least 2 servers have to be available at the moment of decryption.

#### 1.3 Clevis Puppet Profile

```
1 #Clevis Profile
2 class profile::core::clevis() {
    $packages = [
      'clevis',
      'clevis – luks',
      'clevis -dracut'
6
    1
7
8
    ##Add require packages
    package { $packages:
      ensure => 'present',
11
12
    ->exec { '/sbin/dracut -f --regenerate-all ':
13
           => ['/usr/bin', '/sbin'],
      path
14
      onlyif => 'test ! -f /usr/lib/dracut/modules.d/60clevis/clevis-hook.sh'
15
16
17 }
```

This profile installs the clevis packages needed to encrypt and manage the LUKS encryption drives. This is not quite required, because the clevis packages are being installed during provisioning, but, it grants some useful tools like 'cryptosetup' to check the subscribed Tang servers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://github.com/latchset/clevis



### 2 Tang Server - Decryption Server

### 2.1 Tang Service

Tang <sup>3</sup> is a server for binding data to network presence. In simple terms: you have some data, but you only want it to be available when the system containing the data is on a certain, usually secure, network, This is where Tang comes in. First, the client gets a list of the Tang server's advertised asymmetric keys. This can happen online by a simple HTTP GET. Second, the client uses one of these public keys to generate a unique, cryptographically strong encryption key. The data is then encrypted using this key. Once the data is encrypted, the key is discarded. Some small metadata is produced as part of this operation which the client should store in a convenient location. This process of encrypting data is the provisioning step. Third, when the client is ready to access its data, it simply loads the metadata produced in the provisioning step and performs an HTTP POST to recover the encryption key. This process of encrypting data is the provisioning step.

#### Bind the LUKS device to the Tang server

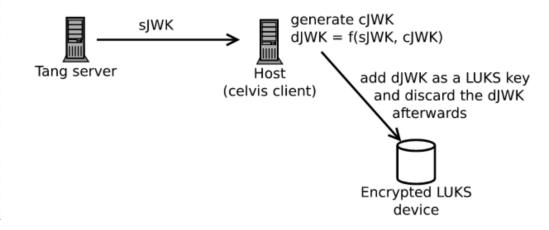


FIGURE 2: LUKS device interaction with Tang Server

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://github.com/latchset/tang



### 2.2 Tang Puppet Profile and Role

```
1 # Tang Server Encryption Module
3 class profile::core::tang() {
    #Variables
    $packages = [
      'tang'
    ]
7
8
    #Add require packages
    package { $packages:
      ensure => 'present',
11
12
13
    systemd::dropin_file {'override.conf':
14
              => 'tangd.socket',
     unit
15
      content => @(OVERRIDE/L)
16
        [Socket]
17
        ListenStream=7500
18
        | OVERRIDE
19
    # Ensure tang service is running
    ->service { 'tangd.socket':
22
      ensure => 'running',
23
      require => Package[$packages],
    }
25
26 }
```

Tang profile handles the installation of the tangd.socket service, and then modifies it so it listens on port 7500 for incoming connections from clevis-dracut.



### 3 Lab Testing - Proof of Concept

#### 3.1 Kickstart Modifications - Use of Encryption in Provisioning Template

Since the drive must be encrypted with LUKS early during the provisioning, new Kickstart Provisioning Template and Partition Tables had to be created at Foreman.

```
# Encrypted VDA - Partition Table

ignoredisk ---only-use=${BOOT_DEV}

zerombr

clearpart ---drives=${BOOT_DEV} ---all ---initlabel

part /boot ---size=1024 ---asprimary ---ondrive=${BOOT_DEV}

part /boot/efi ---size=200 ---asprimary ---ondrive=${BOOT_DEV} ---fstype=efi

# Use an easy passphrase, it will be removed one step later

part pv.boot ---size=1 ---grow ---encrypted ---passphrase=******* ---ondisk=${
BOOT_DEV}

volgroup ${BOOT_VG} pv.boot

logvol / ---vgname=${BOOT_VG} ---size=1 ---grow ---name=root
```

"Encrypted VDA" initialize the System disk with two regular partitions - /boot and /boot/efi - and then a PV, a VG and a LV, been the LV encrypted through LUKS with a temporary password

```
##Kickstart - Encrypted Provisioning Template
#Packages Section
%packages
clevis-dracut
#Post Section - At ******* use the same passphrase written at the Partition Table
%post --log=/mnt/sysimage/root/install.post.log
curl -sfg http://tang01.cp.lsst.org/adv -o adv1.jws
clevis luks bind -f -k- -d /dev/vda3 \
tang '{" url ":" http://tang01.cp.lsst.org", "adv":" adv1.jws"}' <<< "*******"
curl -sf http://tang02.cp.lsst.org/adv -o adv2.jws
clevis luks bind -f -k- -d /dev/vda3 \
tolevis luks bind -f -k- /d /dev/vda3 \
tol
```

In the packages section, clevis-dracut is installed, to then be used at post to communicate with a Tang server(s), subscribe to them and remove the temporary password.



#### 3.2 Test Environment

- Two Tang servers using the tang puppet profile.
- A client with the clevis puppet profile.
- The client VM (clevis01.cp.lsst.org) is provisioned through PXE with 'Encrypted VDA' Partitioning Table and 'Kickstart Encrypted Provisioning Template'.
- During partition creation, clevis01 root partition is encrypted through LUKS with a passphrase.
- Then at packages, clevis-dracut is installed to then communicate with the Tang servers at post section.
- At post, clevis01 subscribes to the Tang servers (tang01.cp.lsst.org and tang02.cp.lsst.org) and the temporary passphrase encryption key is removed as a decryption mechanism.

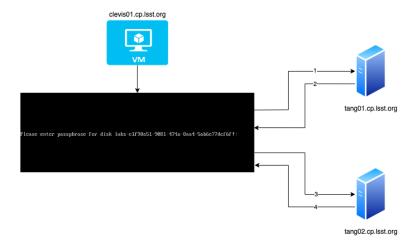


FIGURE 3: Booting procedure for an enrolled or newly enrolled client.

- 1. During boot, the client machine attempts to reach the first Tang server.
- 2. If reached, the decryption server hands over the decryption key.
- 3. If the first Tang server wasn't reachable, it attempts with the next one in the key slot.
- 4. The second Tang server sends the decryption key.



#### 3.3 Lab Results

- The encrypted client clevis01 successfully decrypt during dracut by reaching tang01.
- The primary Tang server (tang01) was powered off and the client was able to decrypt through tang02.
- Both Tang servers were powered off and the server remains on hold requesting a passphrase (which doesn't exist) until at least one of the Tang servers is back online (Figure 3).
- For the scope of this PoC, the deletion and recreation of one or both Tang servers was not done, but presumably the client decryption would not happened and the content would be irrecoverable.
- One way of handling the loss of all Tang servers, is to add the keys to lsst-private repo, but key rotation is suggested by the documentation to increase safety.

```
2021-08-10720:39:36.774608-080:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:37.356081-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.360839-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.373746-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.373746-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.373746-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.47.793299-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.79358-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.79358-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:40.79358-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.806121-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.806121-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.80743-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.80743-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org dracut-inituauus: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.80743-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org systemd: Error communicating with the server!
2021-08-10720:39:51.80743-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org systemd: Started Cryptography Setu for luks-clf09a51-9081-74748-8aaf-5a be677dcf6f.
2021-08-10720:40:00.508665-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org systemd: Started Cryptography Setu for luks-clf09a51-9081-7448-8aaf-5a be677dcf6f.
2021-08-10720:40:00.508665-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org systemd: Reached target Basic System .
2021-08-10720:40:00.508749-00:00 clevis01.cp.lsst.org s
```

FIGURE 4: Access to LUKS encrypted drive while Tang server is rebooting



#### 3.4 Performance Test - Virtual Drive over HDD

Besides securing your data, Encryption has an impact on performance as well. Every written bit of data has to be encrypted before written on disk, which impacts both the CPU and the Disk I/O. In modern CPU architectures, the impact is not as much as it was in the past, but disks do suffer consequences. To test the performance impact of encryption, we are going to use **sysbench**, an open-source tool that performs series of tests to verify systems under intensive load. To have a baseline, two CentOS VM, with the same specs, were deployed: one encrypted with LUKS and a regular not encrypted one.

#### 3.4.1 CPU Benchmark

#### Test: sysbench -test=cpu -cpu-max-prime=20000 run

#### **Encrypted**

```
sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4)
    Running the test with following options:
   Number of threads: 1
    Initializing random number generator
   from current time
   Prime numbers limit: 20000
   Initializing worker threads...
   Threads started!
   CPU speed:
11
     events per second: 314.14
13
   General statistics:
    total time:
                              10.00285
15
     total number of events: 3143
16
     Latency (ms):
18
       min:
                           3.16
19
        avg:
                           3 18
20
                           5.40
21
       95th percentile:
                            3.19
       sum:
                            10000.49
   Threads fairness:
     events (avg/stddev): 3143.0000/0.00
25
      execution time (avg/stddev): 10.0005/0.00
```

#### Not-Encrypted

```
sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4)
    Running the test with following options:
    Number of threads: 1
    Initializing random number generator
5 from current time
6 Prime numbers limit: 20000
    Initializing worker threads...
  Threads started!
11
     events per second: 314.05
12
13
    General statistics:
     total time:
                            10.0025s
15
      total number of events: 3142
16
      Latency (ms):
18
         min:
                           3.16
19
          avg:
                           3.18
20
                           5.21
21
         95th percentile: 3.19
         sum:
                           9995.36
23 Threads fairness:
     events (avg/stddev): 3142.0000/0.00
      execution time (avg/stddev): 9.9954/0.00
```

The results help us know that the CPU architecture, threads, and processing are the same for both VM, which will help us determine the accuracy for the following tests.



#### 3.4.2 Disk Benchmark

#### Test: time sysbench -test=fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 prepare

#### **Encrypted**

#### sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4) 24 files , 1310720Kb each , 30720Mb total Creating files for the test... Extra file open flags: (none) Creating file test\_file.0 Creating file test\_file.1 Creating file test\_file.2 Creating file test\_file.3

# Creating file test\_file.4

#### Creating file test\_file.7 Creating file test\_file.8 Creating file test\_file.9 Creating file test\_file.10 Creating file test\_file.11

Creating file test\_file.12

Creating file test\_file.5 Creating file test\_file.6

Creating file test\_file.13 Creating file test\_file.14 21 Creating file test file.15 Creating file test\_file.16 Creating file test\_file.17

25 Creating file test\_file.19 Creating file test\_file.20 Creating file test file.21 Creating file test\_file.22

Creating file test\_file.18

Creating file test\_file.23 30 32212254720 bytes written in 244.25 seconds (125.77 MiB/sec).

real 4m4.275s 33 user 0m1.205s sys 0m46.108s

#### Not-Encrypted

```
sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4)
    24 files, 1310720Kb each, 30720Mb total
    Creating files for the test...
    Extra file open flags: (none)
    Creating file test_file.0
    Creating file test_file.1
    Creating file test_file.2
    Creating file test_file.3
10 Creating file test_file.4
    Creating file test_file.5
    Creating file test_file.6
13 Creating file test_file.7
    Creating file test_file.8
    Creating file test_file.9
   Creating file test_file.10
    Creating file test_file.11
    Creating file test_file.12
    Creating file test_file.13
    Creating file test_file.14
21
    Creating file test_file.15
22 Creating file test_file.16
    Creating file test_file.17
24 Creating file test_file.18
    Creating file test_file.19
    Creating file test_file.20
27
    Creating file test file.21
28
    Creating file test_file.22
    Creating file test_file.23
30 32212254720 bytes written in 105.24 seconds (291.91
        MiB/sec).
31
    real 1m45.253s
33
    user 0m1.201s
    sys 0m50.978s
35
```

First, there is a preparation stage, in which several files are created, so they can be then moved, synced, copied, and deleted. Based on this operations, **sysbench** will reflect the Disk IO times. Yet, it is important to notice that for only writing the files, the Encrypted vs Not-Encryption rates are significantly impact: while the Not-Encrypted had a rate of 291.91 [MiB/sec], the Encrypted one was only 125.77 [MiB/sec], which result in almost tripling the amount of time required to write 30 GB.



# Test: sysbench fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 -file-test-mode=rndrw -time=1800 -file-rw-ratio=1 -threads=16 -max-requests=0 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### Number of threads: 16 24 files , 1.25GiB each 30GiB total file size Block size 16KiB Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00 Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100 requests. Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled. Using synchronous I/O mode Doing random r/w test Initializing worker threads... Threads started! 13 File operations: 2755.75 14 reads/s: 15 writes/s: 2755.75 1322.96 fsyncs/s: 17 18 Throughput: read, MiB/s: 43.06 written, MiB/s: 43.06 20 21 General statistics: 23 total time: 1800.0206s 24 total number of events: 12301839 25 Latency (ms): 0.00 27 2.34 avg: 28 429.07 95th percentile: 8.74 30 28757517.82 sum: 31 Threads fairness: 33 events (avg/stddev): 768864.9375/3513.22 execution time (avg/stddev): 1797.3449/0.09

```
Number of threads: 16
    24 files , 1.25GiB each
    30GiB total file size
    Block size 16KiB
    Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00
    Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100
    Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled.
    Using synchronous I/O mode
    Doing random r/w test
    Initializing worker threads...
    Threads started!
13
     File operations:
        reads/s:
                                      6842.16
14
15
         writes/s:
                                       6842.16
                                      3284.45
16
        fsyncs/s:
17
18
    Throughput:
        read, MiB/s:
                                      106.91
        written, MiB/s:
                                       106.91
    General statistics:
23
                                       1800.0121s
        total time:
        total number of events:
                                       30543674
    Latency (ms):
                                 0.00
                                 0.94
        avg:
28
        max:
                                  536.87
29
         95th percentile:
                                  3.36
30
                                  28764555.92
        sum:
31
     Threads fairness:
33
      events (avg/stddev):
                                   1908979.6250/7247.20
       execution time (avg/stddev): 1797.7847/0.04
35
```

	top - 17:43:14 up 2:01, 2 users, load average: 18.28, 16.20, 9.58										
	: <b>130</b> tota							0 stop			
%Cpu0					) ni, <b>5</b> .						si, <b>0.0</b> st
%Cpu1					ni, 3.						si, <b>0.0</b> st
KiB Me					<b>836</b> free		27	<b>84</b> use		63660 but	.,
KiB Sv	wap:	9	tot	al,	0 free	∍,		0 use	d. 32	2 <b>87380</b> ava	il Mem
DID	HOED	DD	NI	VIRT	RES	CLID	0	%CPU	OMEN	TIME	COMMAND
	USER	PR				SHR	_				
19480			-20	0	0	0	S	49.0	0.0		kworker/u5:1
19996			-20	0	0	0	s	39.7	0.0		kworker/u5:0
20942		20	0	95056	1816	480	s	30.5	0.0		sysbench
20280			-20	0	0	0	s	30.1	0.0		kworker/u5:2
	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	4.6	0.0	2:20.61	
	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	1.3	0.0		dmcrypt_write
301	root		-20	0	0	0	s	0.7	0.0		kworker/0:1H
6	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	0.3	0.0	0:02.63	ksoftirqd/0
914	root	0	-20	0	0	0	s	0.3	0.0	0:16.65	kworker/1:1H
1296	telegraf	20	0	5274724	36380	3256	s	0.3	0.9	0:18.42	telegraf
1303	root	20	0	433776	8888	2376	s	0.3	0.2	0:01.37	rsyslogd
2235	root	20	0	400184	4680	1968	s	0.3	0.1	0:00.39	sssd_be
21048	hreinki+	20	0	174148	1824	476	s	0.3	0.0	0:00.71	sshd
21099	root	20	0	162176	1508	684	R	0.3	0.0	0:01.59	top
21118	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	0.3	0.0	0:00.81	kworker/0:0
1	root	20	0	125772	3112	1480	s	0.0	0.1	0:06.90	systemd
2	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	0.0	0.0		kthreadd
4	root	0	-20	0	0	0	s	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kworker/0:0H
5	root	20	0	0	0	0	s	0.0	0.0	0:05.81	kworker/u4:0

FIGURE 5: CPU Load while running sysbench



To get a more clear view of the performance results, let's arrange them in a more comfortable way:

Section	Metric	Encrypted	Not-Encrypted	Percentage
File	reads/s	2755.75	6842.1600	Decreased 59.72
Operations	writes/s	2755.75	6842.1600	Decreased 59.72
Operations	fsyncs/s	1322.96	3284.45	Decreased 59,72
Throughput	reads MiB/s	43.06	106.91	Decreased 59.72
Throughput	written MiB/s	43.06	106.91	Decreased 59.72
General	total time	1800.0206	1800.0121	Decreased 0.000472
Stadistics	total number of events	12301839	30543675	Increased 249.29
	min	0	0	0
	avg	2.34	0.94	Decreased 59.83
Latency	max	429.07	536.87	Increased 20.08
	95th Percentile	8.74	3.36	Decreased 38.44
	sum	28757517.82	28764555.92	Increased 0.02
Threads	events (avg/stddev)	768864.9375/3513.22	1908979.6250/7247.2	Increased 40.28/Increased 106.28
fairness	execution time (avg/stddev)	1797.3449/0.09	1797.7847/0.04	Increased 0.02/Decreased 55.56

As shown in Figure 5, during the performance test at the Encrypted VM, the load on the CPU was so high (18.28) that the ssh connection was terminated and the network connection lost. As far as the results goes:

- **Files Operations:** Reads, Writes, and File Sync operations suffered a 49.72 percent due to encryption.
- **Throughput:** lost a 59.72 percentage both at write and read operations while Encrypting.
- **General Statistics:** The number of events compared with the total time for them to occur, shows that, in the same amount of time, 249.29 percentage more events happened at the Not-Encrypted VM.
- **Latency:** In the same time period, the average for the Encrypted vs Not-Encrypted suffered a 59.83 percentage more latency, while the Max increased in a 20.08 percent.
- **Threads Fairness:** The number of events per thread, were 40.28 percent higher in a Not-Encrypted system than in an Encrypted one.



#### 3.5 Virtual Drive over HDD Conclusions - Pros and Cons

- Encrypting a system, impacts in average a 60 percent payload over the read/write operations.
- The encrypted client clevis01 successfully decrypt during dracut by reaching tang01.
- The primary Tang server (tang01) was powered off and the client was able to decrypt through tang02.
- For the scope of this PoC, the deletion and recreation of one or both Tang servers was not done, but presumably, the client decryption would not happen and the content would be irrecoverable.
- One way of handling the loss of all Tang servers is to add the keys to lsst-private repo, but key rotation is suggested by the documentation to increase safety.



#### 3.6 Performance Test - Virtual Drive over GPFS/Gluster

General Parallel File System <sup>4</sup> is a high-performance clustered file system software developed by IBM. It provides concurrent, high-speed file access to applications executing on multiple nodes of clusters. Gluster <sup>5</sup> is a scalable network filesystem suitable for data-intensive tasks such as cloud storage and media streaming. It is free and open-source and can utilize standard hardware. Since GPFS is not an open-source solution, it can not be tested for encryption performance, but GlusterFS offers the same suitable performance attributes from GPFS, and it can be easily mounted and tested. Then, for the GPFS Encryption Test, we are going to try a VM over a GlusterFS.

#### 3.6.1 Environment Setup - GlusterFS

- Over one ESXi hypervisor, with HDD storage, three VMs were deployed: gluster01, gluster02, and gluster03.
- Each VM has a 50GB storage partition and a replica three configuration, which means that meanwhile, one VM is still running, the data will be accessible.
- A glusterFS pool was generated and then mounted into another ESXi hypervisor through NFS.
- The performance tests were performed simultaneously in both VMs (encrypted and notencrypted) to hit as much as possible the gluster storage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/General\_Parallel\_File\_System

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://docs.gluster.org/en/latest/



#### 3.6.2 CPU Benchmark

#### Test: sysbench -test=cpu -cpu-max-prime=20000 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### Number of threads: 1 Prime numbers limit: 20000 Initializing worker threads... Threads started! CPU speed: events per second: 289.40 8 General statistics: 10 00125 9 total time: total number of events: 11 Latency (ms): min: 3.05 3.45 avg: 4.31 14 max: 15 95th percentile: 3.62 9999.21 Threads fairness: 2895.0000/0.00 18 events (avg/stddev): 19 execution time (avg/stddev): 9.9992/0.00 20

#### Not-Encrypted

	,	
1	Number of threads: 1	
2	Prime numbers limit: 20000	
3	Initializing worker threads	
4	Threads started!	
5		
6	CPU speed:	
7	events per second: 289.35	
8	General statistics:	
9	total time:	10.0032s
10	total number of events:	2895
11	Latency (ms):	
12	min:	2.94
13	avg:	3.45
14	max:	3.95
15	95th percentile:	3.62
16	sum:	10000.67
17	Threads fairness:	
18	events (avg/stddev):	2895.0000/0.00
19	execution time (avg/stddev):	10.0007/0.00
20		

#### 3.6.3 Disk Benchmark

#### Test: time sysbench -test=fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 prepare

#### **Encrypted**

```
24 files, 1310720Kb each, 30720Mb total
    Creating files for the test...
    Extra file open flags: (none)
   Creating file test_file.0
    Creating file test_file.1
    #OMITTING OUTPUT FROM
    #FILE2 TO FILE21
8
    Creating file test_file.22
    Creating file test_file.23
    32212254720 bytes written in 79.41 seconds (386.86
        MiB/sec).
13
            1m19.840 s
    real
    user
            0m0.810s
            0m16.460s
16
    sys
17
```

```
24 files , 1310720Kb each , 30720Mb total
     Creating files for the test...
    Extra file open flags: (none)
    Creating file test_file.0
    Creating file test_file.1
    #OMITTING OUTPUT FROM
8
    #FILE2 TO FILE21
    Creating file test_file.22
     Creating file test_file.23
11
    32212254720 bytes written in 75.20 seconds (408.50
        MiB/sec).
13
    real 1m16.082s
14
    user 0m0.833s
    sys 0m19.254s
16
```



# Test: sysbench fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 -file-test-mode=rndrw -time=1800 -file-rw-ratio=1 -threads=16 -max-requests=0 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### Number of threads: 16 Initializing random number generator from current time 24 files , 1.25GiB each 30GiB total file size Block size 16KiB Number of IO requests: 0 Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00 Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100 Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled. Using synchronous I/O mode Doing random r/w test Initializing worker threads... 13 Threads started! File operations: 16 reads/s: 276.79 17 276.79 writes/s: fsyncs/s: 133.06 19 Throughput: 21 read, MiB/s: 4.32 22 written, MiB/s: 4.32 23 General statistics: total time: 1800.0429s 26 total number of events: 1235604 27 Latency (ms): 29 min: 0.00 30 avg: 23.31 31 964.45 32 95th percentile: 125.52 28798820.02 33 sum: Threads fairness: events (avg/stddev): 77225.2500/438.15 36 37 execution time (avg/stddev): 1799.9263/0.01

1	Number of threads: 16	
2	Initializing random number gen	erator from current
	time	
3	24 files , 1.25GiB each	
4	30GiB total file size	
5	Block size 16KiB	
6	Number of IO requests: 0	
7	Read/Write ratio for combined r	
8	Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling requests.	fsync() each 100
9	Calling fsync() at the end of t	est , Enabled.
10	Using synchronous I/O mode	
11	Doing random r/w test	
12	Initializing worker threads	
13		
14	Threads started!	
15	File operations:	
16	reads/s:	309.04
17	writes/s:	309.04
18	fsyncs/s:	148.54
19		
20	Throughput:	
21	read, MiB/s:	4.83
22	written, MiB/s:	4.83
23		
24	General statistics:	
25	total time:	1800.0651s
26	total number of events:	1379587
27		
28	Latency (ms):	
29	min:	0.00
30	avg:	20.88
31	max:	1263.24
32	95th percentile:	110.66
33	sum:	28799044.27
34		
35	Threads fairness:	
36	(. 0 , .	86224.1875/802.36
37	execution time (avg/stddev)	: 1799.9403/0.02
38		



#### **Comparison Table**

Section	Metric	Encrypted	Not-Encrypted	Percentage
File	reads/s	276.79	308.04	Decreased 10.44
Operations	writes/s	279.79	309.04	Decreased 10.44
Operations	fsyncs/s	133.06	148.54	Decreased 10.42
Throughput	reads MiB/s	4.32	4.83	Decreased 10.56
Inrougnput	written MiB/s	4.32	4.83	Decreased 10.56
General	total time	1800.0429s	1800.0651s	Increased 10.42
Stadistics	total number of events	1235604	1379587	Increased 11.65
	min	0.00	0.00	0
	avg	23.31	20.88	Decreased 10.42
Latency	max	964.45	1263.24	Increased 23.65
	95th Percentile	125.52	110.66	Decreased 11.84
	sum	287944820.02	28799044.27	Increased 0.00078
Threads	events (avg/stddev)	77225.25/438.15	86224.1875/802.36	Increased 10.44/Increased 83.12
fairness	execution time (avg/stddev)	1799.9263/0.01	1799.9403/0.02	Increased 0.00078/Increased 100

#### **Impact**

- **Files Operations:** Reads, Writes, and File Sync operations suffered a 10.44 percent due to encryption.
- **Throughput:** Lost a 10.56 percentage both at write and read operations while Encrypting.
- **General Statistics:** The number of events compared with the total time for them to occur shows that 11.65 percentage more events happened at the Not-Encrypted VM in the same amount of time.
- **Latency:** In the same period, the average for the Encrypted vs. Not-Encrypted suffered a 10.42 percentage more latency, while the Max increased by 23.65 percent.
- **Threads Fairness:** The number of events per thread was 10.44 percent higher in a Not-Encrypted system than in an Encrypted one.

#### 3.7 Virtual Drive over GPFS/Gluster Conclusions - Pros and Cons

- The Read/Write operations are significantly lower due to the cluster network-based storage compared to the direct disk RW operations (HDD, SDD, and NVMe).
- Since the RW decreased operations, the performance impact is not as high as in the direct disk but still has an effect between Encrypted vs. Not-Encrypted (in favor of Not-Encrypted).



#### 3.8 Performance Test - Virtual Drive over SDD

#### 3.8.1 CPU Benchmark

#### Test: sysbench -test=cpu -cpu-max-prime=20000 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### [root@encrypted ~]# sysbench --test=cpu --cpu-maxprime=20000 run WARNING: the —test option is deprecated. You can pass a script name or path on the command line without any options. sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4) Running the test with following options: Number of threads: 1 Initializing random number generator from current Prime numbers limit: 20000 Initializing worker threads... 12 Threads started! 15 16 CPU speed: events per second: 279.21 18 19 General statistics: total time: 10.0006s 21 total number of events: 2794 22 23 Latency (ms): 24 3.04 min: 25 3.58 avg: 26 max: 21.07 95th percentile: 9.06 28 9997.23 sum: 29 Threads fairness: events (avg/stddev): 2794.0000/0.00 32 execution time (avg/stddev): 9.9972/0.00 33

1	[root@not–encrypted ~]# sysbench	test=cpucpu-max
	-prime=20000 run	
2	WARNING: the —test option is dep	
	pass a script name or path on	the command line
	without any options.	
3	sysbench 1.0.17 (using system Lua	JIT 2.0.4)
4		
5	Running the test with following o	ptions:
6 7	Number of threads: 1	
/	Initializing random number genera time	tor from current
8		
9		
10	Prime numbers limit: 20000	
11		
12	Initializing worker threads	
13		
14	Threads started!	
15		
16	CPU speed:	
17 18	events per second: 327.59	
19	General statistics:	
20	total time:	10.0011s
21	total number of events:	3277
22	total namber of events.	3277
23	Latency (ms):	
24	min:	3.04
25	avg:	3.05
26	max:	4.47
27	95th percentile:	3.07
28	sum:	9998.90
29		
30	Threads fairness:	
31	events (avg/stddev):	3277.0000/0.00
32	execution time (avg/stddev):	9.9989/0.00
33	_	
33		



#### 3.8.2 Disk Benchmark

#### Test: time sysbench -test=fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 prepare

#### **Encrypted**

#### 24 files, 1310720Kb each, 30720Mb total Creating files for the test... Extra file open flags: (none) Creating file test\_file.0 Creating file test\_file.1 Creating file test\_file.2 Creating file test\_file.3 Creating file test\_file.4 Creating file test\_file.5 Creating file test\_file.6 Creating file test\_file.7 Creating file test\_file.8 Creating file test\_file.9 Creating file test\_file.10 Creating file test\_file.11 Creating file test\_file.12 Creating file test\_file.13 Creating file test\_file.14 Creating file test\_file.15 Creating file test\_file.16 Creating file test\_file.17 21 22 Creating file test\_file.18 Creating file test\_file.19 24 Creating file test\_file.20 25 Creating file test\_file.21 Creating file test\_file.22 Creating file test\_file.23 28 32212254720 bytes written in 444.62 seconds (69.09 MiB/sec). 30 real 7m24 647 s user 0m1.065s 0m24.865s sys

```
24 files , 1310720Kb each , 30720Mb total
     Creating files for the test...
     Extra file open flags: (none)
    Creating file test_file.0
    Creating file test_file.1
     Creating file test_file.2
    Creating file test_file.3
    Creating file test_file.4
     Creating file test_file.5
    Creating file test_file.6
     Creating file test_file.7
    Creating file test_file.8
    Creating file test_file.9
     Creating file test_file.10
    Creating file test_file.11
     Creating file test_file.12
     Creating file test_file.13
    Creating file test_file.14
     Creating file test_file.15
     Creating file test_file.16
21
    Creating file test_file.17
     Creating file test_file.18
     Creating file test_file.19
24
    Creating file test_file.20
25
     Creating file test_file.21
     Creating file test_file.22
     Creating file test_file.23
28
    32212254720 bytes written in 308.17 seconds (99.69
        MiB/sec).
30
    real 5m8.190s
31
     user 0m1.051s
     sys 0m24.147s
33
```



# Test: sysbench fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 -file-test-mode=rndrw -time=1800 -file-rw-ratio=1 -threads=16 -max-requests=0 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### Running the test with following options: Number of threads: 16 Initializing random number generator from current Extra file open flags: (none) 24 files , 1.25GiB each 30GiB total file size Block size 16KiB Number of IO requests: 0 Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00 Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100 requests. 13 Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled. Using synchronous I/O mode Doing random r/w test Initializing worker threads... Threads started! 19 20 21 File operations: reads/s: 2514.25 23 writes/s: 2514 25 24 fsyncs/s: 1207.04 26 Throughput: 27 read, MiB/s: 39.29 28 written, MiB/s: 39.29 29 30 General statistics: 31 total time: 1800.0455s 32 total number of events: 11223964 34 Latency (ms): 35 min: 0.00 36 2.56 avg: 37 max: 54.50 95th percentile: 10.09 28767929.92 39 sum: 40 41 Threads fairness: 701497.7500/2374.58 events (avg/stddev): 43 execution time (avg/stddev): 1797.9956/0.07

```
Running the test with following options:
     Number of threads: 16
     Initializing random number generator from current
4
5
     Extra file open flags: (none)
     24 files , 1.25GiB each
     30GiB total file size
     Block size 16KiB
     Number of IO requests: 0
     Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00
     Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100
        requests.
13
     Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled.
     Using synchronous I/O mode
     Doing random r/w test
16
     Initializing worker threads...
17
     Threads started!
19
     File operations:
         reads/s:
                                        5861.03
23
         writes/s:
                                        5861 03
24
         fsyncs/s:
                                        2813.50
25
26
     Throughput:
27
         read, MiB/s:
                                        91.58
         written, MiB/s:
                                        91.58
29
30
     General statistics:
         total time:
                                               1800.0202s
         total number of events:
                                               26163995
34
     Latency (ms):
35
         min:
                                                  0.00
36
                                                  1.10
         avg:
37
         max:
                                                258.42
38
         95th percentile:
                                                  5.57
39
                                           28768693.60
         sum:
40
     Threads fairness:
42
                                       1635249.6875/3619.10
         events (avg/stddev):
43
         execution time (avg/stddev): 1798.0434/0.03
44
```



#### **Comparison Table**

Section	Metric	Encrypted	Not-Encrypted	Percentage
File	reads/s	2514.25	5861.03	Increased 57.10
Operations	writes/s	2514.25	5861.03	Increased 57.10
Operations	fsyncs/s	1207.04	2813.50	Increased 57.10
Throughput	reads MiB/s	39.29	91.58	Increased 57.10
Inroughput	written MiB/s	39.29	91.58	Increased 57.10
General	total time	1800.0455	1800.0202	Decreased 0.001406
Stadistics	total number of events	11223964	26163995	Increased 233.11
	min	0.00	0.00	0.00
	avg	2.56	1.10	Decreased 57.03
Latency	max	54.5	257.42	Increased 474.17
	95th Percentile	10.09	5.57	Decreased 55.20
	sum	28767929.92	28768693.60	Increased 0.00265
Threads	events (avg/stddev)	701497.7500/2374.5800	1635248.6875/3619.1000	Increased 42.90/Increased 52.41
fairness	execution time (avg/stddev)	1797.9954/0.07	1798.0434/0.03	Increased 0.0027/Decreased 57.14

#### **Impact**

- **Files Operations:** Reads, Writes, and File Sync operations suffered a 57.10 percent due to encryption.
- **Throughput:** Lost a 57.10 percentage both at write and read operations while Encrypting.
- **General Statistics:** The number of events compared with the total time for them to occur shows that 233.11 percentage more events happened at the Not-Encrypted VM in the same amount of time.
- **Latency:** In the same period, the average for the Encrypted vs. Not-Encrypted suffered a 57.03 percentage more latency, while the Max increased by 4743.17 percent.
- **Threads Fairness:** The number of events per thread was 42.90 percent higher in a Not-Encrypted system than in an Encrypted one.

#### 3.9 Virtual Drive over SDD Conclusions - Pros and Cons

- The SDD vs. the HDD shows a high impact over Encrypted vs. Not-Encrypted, being both around 60 percent.
- VM overlay shows that even though one VM was over HDD and the other over SDD, Files Operations shows similar RW rates.



#### 3.10 Performance Test - Virtual Drive over SSD NVMe

#### 3.10.1 CPU Benchmark

#### Test: sysbench -test=cpu -cpu-max-prime=20000 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4) Running the test with following options: Number of threads: 1 5 Initializing random number generator from current time 6 Prime numbers limit: 20000 Initializing worker threads... 11 Threads started! 12 13 CPU speed: 15 events per second: 622.87 General statistics: total time: 10.0009s 18 6230 total number of events: 19 Latency (ms): 1.58 21 1.61 avg: 22 max: 1.92 23 95th percentile: 1.64 24 sum: 9999.43 25 Threads fairness: 6230.0000/0.00 26 events (avg/stddev): execution time (avg/stddev): 9.9994/0.00 28

```
sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4)
     Running the test with following options:
     Number of threads: 1
5
     Initializing random number generator from current
        time
6
8
    Prime numbers limit: 20000
     Initializing worker threads...
11
12
    Threads started!
13
    CPU speed:
         events per second: 622.71
15
16
     General statistics:
         total time:
                                              10.0004s
18
        total number of events:
                                              6228
19
    Latency (ms):
                                                      1.61
              avg:
              max:
                                                      3.65
              95th percentile:
                                                      1.64
24
              sum:
                                                   9998.94
25
    Threads fairness:
                                      6228.0000/0.00
26
         events (avg/stddev):
         execution time (avg/stddev): 9.9989/0.00
28
```



#### 3.10.2 Disk Benchmark

#### Test: time sysbench -test=fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 prepare

#### **Encrypted**

#### sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4) 24 files , 1310720Kb each , 30720Mb total Creating files for the test... Extra file open flags: (none) Creating file test\_file.0 Creating file test\_file.1 Creating file test\_file.2 Creating file test\_file.3 Creating file test\_file.4 Creating file test\_file.5 Creating file test\_file.6 Creating file test\_file.7 Creating file test\_file.8 Creating file test\_file.9 Creating file test\_file.10 Creating file test\_file.11 Creating file test\_file.12 Creating file test\_file.13 Creating file test\_file.14 21 Creating file test\_file.15 Creating file test\_file.16 Creating file test\_file.17 24 Creating file test\_file.18 25 Creating file test\_file.19 Creating file test\_file.20 27 Creating file test\_file.21 28 Creating file test\_file.22 Creating file test\_file.23 30 32212254720 bytes written in 68.30 seconds (449.76 MiB/sec). 1m8.309s 0m0.061s 33 user 34 sys 0m10.984s 35

```
sysbench 1.0.17 (using system LuaJIT 2.0.4)
     24 files, 1310720Kb each, 30720Mb total
    Creating files for the test...
    Extra file open flags: (none)
     Creating file test_file.0
    Creating file test_file.1
    Creating file test_file.2
     Creating file test_file.3
    Creating file test_file.4
     Creating file test_file.5
    Creating file test_file.6
    Creating file test_file.7
     Creating file test_file.8
    Creating file test_file.9
    Creating file test_file.10
     Creating file test_file.11
    Creating file test_file.12
     Creating file test_file.13
     Creating file test_file.14
21
    Creating file test_file.15
    Creating file test_file.16
     Creating file test_file.17
24
    Creating file test_file.18
25
     Creating file test_file.19
     Creating file test_file.20
27
     Creating file test_file.21
28
     Creating file test_file.22
29
     Creating file test_file.23
    32212254720 bytes written in 58.35 seconds (526.51
30
        MiB/sec).
31
32
             0m58.350s
33
             0m0.065s
    user
34
     sys
             0m10.842s
35
```



# Test: sysbench fileio -file-total-size=30G -file-num=24 -file-test-mode=rndrw -time=1800 -file-rw-ratio=1 -threads=16 -max-requests=0 run

#### **Encrypted**

#### Number of threads: 16 Initializing random number generator from current 3 Extra file open flags: (none) 24 files , 1.25GiB each 30GiB total file size Block size 16KiB Number of IO requests: 0 Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00 Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100 Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled. Using synchronous I/O mode 13 Doing random r/w test Initializing worker threads... Threads started! 19 20 File operations: 21 reads/s: 7753.55 22 writes/s: 7753.54 23 fsvncs/s: 3721 91 24 Throughput: 26 read . MiB/s: 121.15 27 written, MiB/s: 121.15 28 29 General statistics: 30 total time: 1800.0066s 31 total number of events: 34612150 32 Latency (ms): 34 min: 0.00 35 avg: 0.83 213.34 36 max: 37 95th percentile: 2.86 28773912.07 sum: 39 40 Threads fairness: 41 events (avg/stddev): 2163259.3750/2817.00 42 execution time (avg/stddev): 1798.3695/0.03

```
Number of threads: 16
     Initializing random number generator from current
3
    Extra file open flags: (none)
    24 files , 1.25GiB each
    30GiB total file size
    Block size 16KiB
    Number of IO requests: 0
    Read/Write ratio for combined random IO test: 1.00
    Periodic FSYNC enabled, calling fsync() each 100
     Calling fsync() at the end of test, Enabled.
13
     Using synchronous I/O mode
    Doing random r/w test
     Initializing worker threads...
16
17
    Threads started!
19
     File operations:
         reads/s:
                                       16655.75
         writes/s:
                                        16655.75
         fsvncs/s:
                                       7994 97
24
     Throughput:
        read, MiB/s:
                                       260.25
27
         written, MiB/s:
                                       260.25
28
29
     General statistics:
30
         total time:
                                               1800.0064s
         total number of events:
                                               74351698
    Latency (ms):
34
        min:
                                                  0.00
35
         avg:
                                                  0.39
36
                                                222.88
         max:
37
         95th percentile:
                                                  1.55
38
         sum:
                                           28756585.90
39
40
     Threads fairness:
       events (avg/stddev):
                                    4646981.1250/35144.16
       execution time (avg/stddev): 1797.2866/0.05
```



#### **Comparison Table**

Section	Metric	Encrypted	Not-Encrypted	Percentage
Tile.	reads/s	7753.55	16655.75	Decreased 53.45
File	writes/s	7753.54	16655.75	Decreased 53.45
Operations	fsyncs/s	3721.91	7994.97	Decreased 53.45
Throughput	reads MiB/s	121.15	260.25	Decreased 53.45
Throughput	written MiB/s	121.15	260.25	Decreased 53.45
General	total time	1800.0066	1800.0064	Decreased 0.000011
Stadistics	total number of events	34612150	74351698	Increased 214.81
	min	0	0	0.00
	avg	0.83	0.39	Increased 53.01
Latency	max	213.34	222.88	Increased 4.47
	95th Percentile	2.86	1.55	Decreased 54.20
	sum	28773912.07	28756584.90	Increased 0.06025
Threads	events (avg/stddev)	2163259.3750/2817.00	4646981.1250/35144.16	Increased 46.55/Increased 1147.53
fairness	execution time (avg/stddev)	1798.3695/0.03	1797.2866/0.05	Decreased 0.0603/Increased 66.6

#### **Impact**

- **Files Operations:** Reads, Writes, and File Sync operations suffered a 54 percent due to encryption.
- **Throughput:** Lost a 54 percentage both at write and read operations while Encrypting.
- **General Statistics:** The number of events compared with the total time for them to occur shows that, in the same amount of time, 215 percentage more events happened at the Not-Encrypted VM.
- **Latency:** In the same period, the average for the Encrypted vs. Not-Encrypted suffered a 53 percentage more latency, while the Max increased by 4.5 percent.
- **Threads Fairness:** The number of events per thread, were 46.55 percent higher in a Not-Encrypted system than in an Encrypted one.

#### 3.11 Virtual Drive SSD NVMe Conclusions - Pros and Cons

- The higher the speed rate from the disk, the less impact encryption produces over the drive.
- Average Latency increases over the Encrypted disk VM.
- The standard deviation over the events of the thread is abnormally high in the Not-Encrypted drive.



# **A** Acronyms

Acronym	Description
CPU	Central Processing Unit
FDE	Full Disk Encryption
GB	Gigabyte
GPFS	General Parallel File System
HDD	Hard Drive Disk
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
IBM	International Business Machines
LUKS	Linux Unified Key Setup
LV	Logical Volume
NBDE	Network Bound Disk Encryption
NFS	Network File System
NVMe	Non Volatile Memory Express
OS	Operating System
PBD	Policy-Based Decryption
PMO	Project Management Office
PV	Physical Volume
PoC	Proof of Concept
SSD	Solid State Drive
TPM	Trusted Platform Module
USB	Universal Serial Bus
VDA	Virtual Drive A
VG	Volume Group
VM	Virtual Machine