ProTech Professional Technical Services, Inc.

Effective RACF Administration

Course Summary

Description

This course is designed to give participants a solid foundation in RACF. Participants will receive a fundamental understanding of how RACF functions along with training in creating and maintaining profiles for users, groups, dataset, TSO resources and CICS transactions. The participants will receive instructions, examples, and exercises for coding all the most commonly used RACF commands. They will be shown how to troubleshoot typical RACF access problems and will examine reports from their own system to understand how their RACF is uniquely configured.

Objectives
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Explain what RACF is and what functions it performs
- Define the contents of each type of RACF profile
- Describe typical everyday RACF commands
- Perform add, change, list, and delete profiles
- Explain resuming IDs and resetting passwords
- Perform add, update and remove profile segments
- Critique what groups are and how they are used
- Describe protecting datasets and general resources
- Define how RACF decides whether to grant access
- Managing interpreting and acting on RACF messages

Topics

- RACF Concepts
- Users
- Groups
- Resource Protection
- Datasets

- General Resources
- General Resources – Logon Controls
- General Resources – CICS Transactions
- RACF Administration
- Troubleshooting Access Problems

Audience

- Entry and mid-level security administrators
- User provisioning personnel
- IT Security Managers
- Help Desk Staff
- IT Auditors
- Technical Support Staff
- Application developers

Prerequisites

Before taking this course, students should have familiarity with the mainframe and using TSO and JCL.

Duration

Four days

Course Outline

I. RACF Concepts
- A. Introduction to RACF
- B. RACF Functions
- C. Profiles & relationships
- D. Initial terminology

II. Users
- A. Identification & authentication
- B. USERID format & options
- C. Password composition & options
- D. User profile, contents & segments
- E. Administrative authorities
- F. RACF commands for user profiles

III. Groups
- A. Concepts, hierarchy & functions
- B. Group profile, contents & segments
- C. RACF commands for group profiles

IV. Resource Protection
- A. Concepts
- B. Resource profiles
- C. Access permissions
- D. WARNING resource profile attribute
- E. Privileged access authorities
- F. RESTRICTED user attribute
- G. Access authorization process

V. Datasets
- A. Dataset basics & protection
- B. Dataset profile & contents
- C. Discrete & generic profiles
- D. Enhanced Generic Naming (EGN)
- E. Uncutting authority
- F. Special considerations
- G. RACF commands for dataset profiles

VI. General Resources
- A. Resource types, names, & protection
- B. General Resource profiles & contents
- C. Discrete, generic & grouping profiles
- D. Undercutting authority
- E. RACLIST & other considerations
- F. RACF commands for general resource profiles

VII. General Resources – Logon Controls
- A. APPL class profiles & permissions
- B. TSO related class profiles & permissions

VIII. General Resources – CICS Transactions
- A. Introduction to CICS
- B. CICS & RACF interface
- C. Transaction class profiles & permissions
- D. CICS user segment

IX. RACF Administration
- A. Administrative authorities
- B. Logging and reporting

X. Troubleshooting Access Problems
- A. Understanding RACF violation messages
- B. Analyzing access requests