System Erase on PowerEdge 14G Servers

Data security is a key consideration throughout the lifecycle of a server, including when the server is repurposed or retired. Many servers are repurposed as they are transitioned from workload to workload, or as they change ownership from one organization to another. All servers are retired when they reach the end of their useful life. When such transitions occur, IT best-practices recommend removing all data from the server to ensure that confidential information is not inadvertently shared. Beyond best practices, in many cases government regulations about privacy rights also necessitate complete data elimination when IT resources are transitioned.

Data erasure is a key capability encompassed in the Dell EMC Security Development Lifecycle (SDL). The SDL and secure server management tools ensure that PowerEdge servers are secure at every stage in the server lifecycle, from server conception, design and manufacturing, to operation and decommissioning. At this final stage (decommissioning/retirement), or when a server is repurposed due to change of workload or ownership, a new capability of PowerEdge 14G servers can simplify data erase.

System Erase, new with iDRAC9 and PowerEdge 14G, simplifies the process of erasing server storage devices and server non-volatile stores such as caches and logs. To meet varying Systems Administrator needs for interactive and programmable operations, System Erase can be performed by the following methods:

- Lifecycle Controller GUI
- WS-Man API
- RACADM CLI

Using one of these three methods, an administrator can selectively reset a PowerEdge server to its original state (factory settings), removing data from internal server non-volatile stores and from storage devices within the server. System Erase can discover server-attached storage including hard disk drives (HDDs), self-encrypting drives (SEDs), Instant Secure Erase (ISE), and non-volatile memory drives (NVMe’s). Data stored on ISE, SED, and NVMe devices can be made inaccessible using cryptographic erase while devices such as non-ISE SATA HDDs can be erased using data overwrite.

Conclusion

Dell EMC PowerEdge 14G servers have the capabilities, features and management options to help ensure the security and integrity of data. When repurposing or retiring servers, IT Administrators can use the System Erase function to easily secure server data.

For step-by-step procedural guidelines about how to perform the System Erase process, see the white paper “Securing 14th generation Dell EMC PowerEdge servers with System Erase” on Dell TechCenter [http://en.community.dell.com/techcenter/extras/m](http://en.community.dell.com/techcenter/extras/m)