

## Problem:

Escrow

No ultimate trust of any one person (or facility, agent, system)

## Solution:

SSSS generates  $n$  keys, with a property of the set  $t$  for threshold, from a secret  $< 1024b$ .

To recover the original secret, one must have  $t$  keys. There is no practical difference between having  $0$  keys and  $n-1$  keys.

So: decide on necessary threshold (or quorum) of those persons to hold escrow keys, generate and distribute.

## Implementation

Available from B. Poettering, <http://point-at-infinity.org/ssss> - deb package available, RPM from dag repository. Mac OS X required GNU MP library.

## Example:

```
$: echo "My Secret ABCD" | ssss-split -t 3 -n 5
```

```
WARNING: couldn't get memory lock (ENOMEM, try to adjust RLIMIT_MEMLOCK!).
```

```
Generating shares using a (3,5) scheme with dynamic security level.
```

```
Enter the secret, at most 128 ASCII characters: Using a 112 bit security level.
```

```
1-68b43b2fea4427d4f601b75e5958
```

```
2-14a95aa2da5f8fc5970ec083bf01
```

```
3-a3f22911ed9ca72a1f5b3d6dc250
```

```
4-dea0b981734d4a414b24996a9444
```

```
5-69fbca32448e62aec3716484e907
```

```
$: ssss-combine -t 3
```

```
WARNING: couldn't get memory lock (ENOMEM, try to adjust RLIMIT_MEMLOCK!).
```

```
Enter 3 shares separated by newlines:
```

```
Share [1/3]: 4-dea0b981734d4a414b24996a9444
```

```
Share [2/3]: 2-14a95aa2da5f8fc5970ec083bf01
```

```
Share [3/3]: 3-a3f22911ed9ca72a1f5b3d6dc250
```

```
Resulting secret: My Secret ABCD
```