The world is in the midst of a transformation that is having a profound effect on each of us as individuals, in business and in society at large. As businesses adapt to capitalize on digital transformation, trust will be the currency that drives the new economy.

Trust is the foundation of digital relationships. Consumer, client, and partner expectations have grown. They demand security, transparency, and greater value in every interaction and transaction as this new currency is exchanged. Data is the new source of business value and differentiation, and data protection is paramount for trust across the ecosystem. Because digital experiences are delivered via the cloud, businesses must be open and connected in order to drive innovation at speed. They must accelerate development and delivery of secure, scalable services with new economic models.

The new IBM z14 is the first system to offer pervasive encryption, enabling you to provide the ultimate protection for your core corporate data and dramatically streamline compliance processes for expanding regulations. No longer do you have to be selective in what you encrypt: 100% is the new standard. With encryption of all your IBM Z data, you can protect your key corporate and client data with no need for application changes, no downtime, and no impact to service level agreements. The IBM z14 also offers IBM Secure Service Containers, allowing data to be protected against external and internal threats from users with elevated credentials. Software developers benefit by not having to create proprietary dependencies in their code to take advantage of these advanced security capabilities. IBM z14’s new data encryption capabilities are designed to address the global epidemic of data breaches. Of the more than nine billion data records lost or stolen since 2013, only 4% were encrypted, making the majority of such data vulnerable to organized cybercrime rings, state actors, and employees misusing access to sensitive information (Source: Gemalto’s Breach Level Index: http://breachlevelindex.com/). With the IBM z14, we have created a data protection engine for the cloud era that will have a significant and immediate impact on global data security.

IBM z14 is a truly transformational system, and it represents innovation in the true sense of the word. In this issue of the IBM Journal of Research and Development, we have assembled papers that showcase both the technical breakthroughs as well as the process innovations—from Offering Management, Design Thinking, and Agile Development—that went into the creation of the z14. I congratulate the authors on the significant accomplishments described in the following papers.
I am extremely proud to have led an outstanding team in the delivery of a breakthrough system and look forward to helping our clients tackle complex problems and accelerate their digital transformation journeys.

R. A. Mauri
General Manager, IBM Z