

## Microsoft 365 Defender Overview

Microsoft 365 Defender is an extended detection and response (XDR) solution that protects across:

- **Endpoints** (Defender for Endpoint)
  - **Office 365** (Defender for Office 365)
  - **Identities** (Defender for Identity, Entra ID Protection)
  - **Cloud Apps** (Defender for Cloud Apps)
  - **Data** (Purview DLP and Insider Risk)
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## Defender Product Suite

- **Defender for Office 365** – Email, links, attachments, phishing
  - **Defender for Endpoint** – Threat & vulnerability management, EDR, ASR
  - **Defender for Cloud Apps** – CASB for Shadow IT, anomaly detection
  - **Defender for Identity** – On-prem AD threat detection
  - **Defender Vulnerability Management** – Exposure insights
  - **Microsoft 365 Defender** – Centralized XDR portal
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## Data Loss Prevention (DLP)

DLP in Microsoft Purview helps protect sensitive data across services.

### Components:

- **Sensitivity Labels** – Classify documents/emails
  - **Sensitive Info Types** – Detect PII, financial, health info via patterns, keywords, checksums
  - **Policy Locations** – SharePoint, Exchange, OneDrive, Teams
  - **File Policies** – Used in Defender for Cloud Apps (MCAS) for alerting and remediation
  - **Purview Console** – Investigate DLP incidents
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## Defender for Office 365

Protects against email-based threats.

### Key Features:

- **Safe Attachments** – Scans attachments (Block, Replace, Monitor, Dynamic Delivery)

- **Safe Links** – URL protection across:
    - Microsoft 365 apps
    - Office for the web
    - Teams
  - **Anti-phishing policies**
  - **Attack simulations**
  - **Remediation via Action Center**
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## **Defender for Endpoint (MDE)**

Provides endpoint protection and EDR capabilities.

### **Capabilities:**

- Threat and vulnerability management
- Attack surface reduction (ASR)
- Endpoint detection and response
- Automated investigation & remediation
- Data retention default: 6 months

### **Setup Highlights:**

- Portal: [security.microsoft.com](https://security.microsoft.com)
- Device Discovery via portal
- RBAC and Device Group configuration

### **Security Controls:**

- Exploit protection
- Network & Web protection
- Controlled folder access
- Device control

### **Response Actions:**

- Isolate device
  - Restrict app execution
  - Collect investigation package
  - Live Response
  - Threat expert consultation
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## **Defender for Identity**

Monitors on-premises Active Directory activity to detect advanced threats.

### **Steps to Configure:**

1. Create instance in Defender for Identity portal
2. Install sensors on domain controllers
3. Configure AD service accounts and permissions (SAM-R)
4. Integrate with M365 Defender and Defender for Cloud Apps

### **Detections:**

- Lateral movement
  - Pass-the-ticket
  - Domain dominance
  - Malicious insider behavior
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## **Defender for Cloud**

CSPM for Azure resources and workloads.

### **Supported Resources:**

- Servers, Containers, App Services, Storage, SQL, Key Vaults, DNS, etc.

### **Capabilities:**

- Continuous security assessments
  - Security recommendations
  - Integration with Azure Resource Graph for asset inventory
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## **Defender for Cloud Apps (MCAS)**

Microsoft's CASB solution.

### **Core Functions:**

- Discover Shadow IT
- Data classification & protection
- Anomaly & threat detection
- Cloud app compliance scoring

### **Policy Types:**

- File policies
- Session policies (real-time)
- Anomaly detection (e.g., impossible travel, infrequent country)

**Data Classifications:**

- Personal, Public, General, Confidential, Highly Confidential
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**Azure AD Identity Protection**

Protects identities via risk-based policies.

**Risk Categories:**

- **User risk** – Leaked credentials, unusual behavior
- **Sign-in risk** – Impossible travel, malware-linked IPs, anonymous IPs

**Response Types:**

- **Self-remediation** – User password reset
- **Admin remediation** – Manual investigation

**Policy Types:**

- **User risk policy**
  - **Sign-in risk policy**
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**Microsoft Purview (Insider Risk)**

Manages internal risks and compliance.

**Focus Areas:**

- Data theft
- Espionage
- Insider trading
- Code-of-conduct violations

**Workflow:**

Policies → Alerts → Triage → Investigate → Take Action

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**Audit Logging****Standard Audit (Default)**

- 90-day retention
- Thousands of events captured

**Advanced Audit (E5)**

- Longer retention

- High-value events (email read/forward, file access)
- Higher API bandwidth

**Setup:**

- Enable in Microsoft 365 Admin Center
  - Assign proper roles
  - Verify licensing
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**eDiscovery****Standard eDiscovery:**

- Content search
- Export results
- Role-based access

**Premium eDiscovery:**

- Custodian management
  - Advanced indexing
  - Review sets, tagging, analytics
  - Legal hold
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**Microsoft Sentinel (SIEM/SOAR)**

Central SIEM for ingesting, analyzing, and responding to incidents.

**Setup Components:**

- Azure tenant, subscription, resource group, workspace
- Enable Sentinel

**Core Features:**

- **Analytics Rules** – Incident detection
  - **Automation Rules** – Conditional, prioritized playbook triggers
  - **Playbooks** – Logic Apps for SOAR automation
  - **Workbooks** – Custom dashboards
  - **Watchlists** – Whitelist users/IPs
  - **Hunting Queries** – Proactive investigation using KQL
  - **Content Hub** – Import analytics rules, playbooks, connectors
  - **Sentinel Repos** – CI/CD integration for MSSPs
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## ASIM & Data Normalization

### ASIM (Advanced Security Information Model):

Standardizes log data from different sources to a common schema.

### Normalization Example:

Match different field names like IP\_Address and IPAddress for consistent analysis.

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## KQL (Kusto Query Language) Essentials

Used extensively in Sentinel for analysis and threat hunting.

### Key Operators:

- where, let, join, extend, project, summarize, render
- mv-expand (expand arrays), todynamic() (parse JSON), split()

### Common Queries:

```
kql  
CopyEdit  
SigninLogs  
| extend dynProps = todynamic(extendedProperties)  
| mv-expand dynProps  
| extend IPAddress = dynProps.IPAddress  
| project toString(IPAddress)
```

### Learn More:

[Join types in KQL \(Docs\)](#)

[Visual Video Guide](#)