

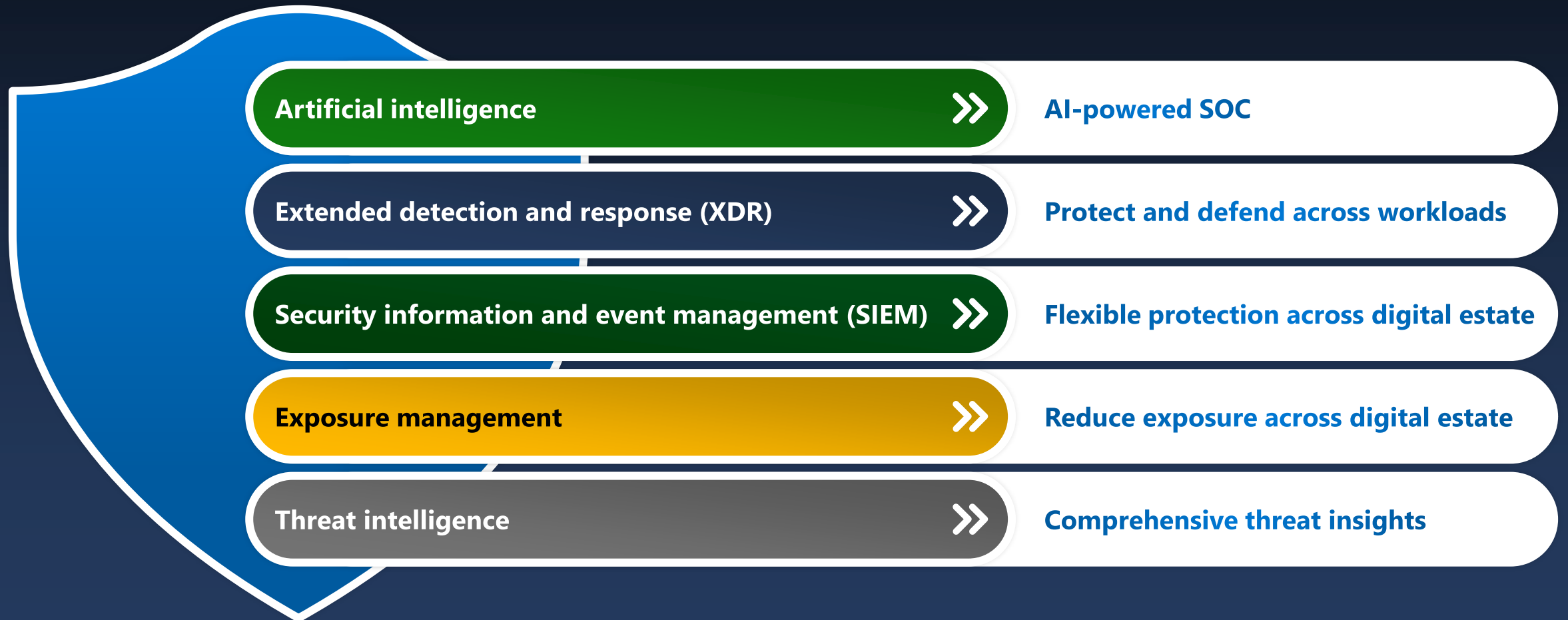
Microsoft's Unified Security Operations Platform

August 2024

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Security Technology Specialist



Microsoft's unified security operations platform





[News](#) [Zero Trust](#) [Microsoft Entra](#) · 9 min read

Simplified Zero Trust security with the Microsoft Entra Suite and unified security operations platform, now generally available

By [Vasu Jakkal](#), Corporate Vice President, Security, Compliance, Identity, and Management
[Joy Chik](#), President, Identity & Network Access

July 11, 2024



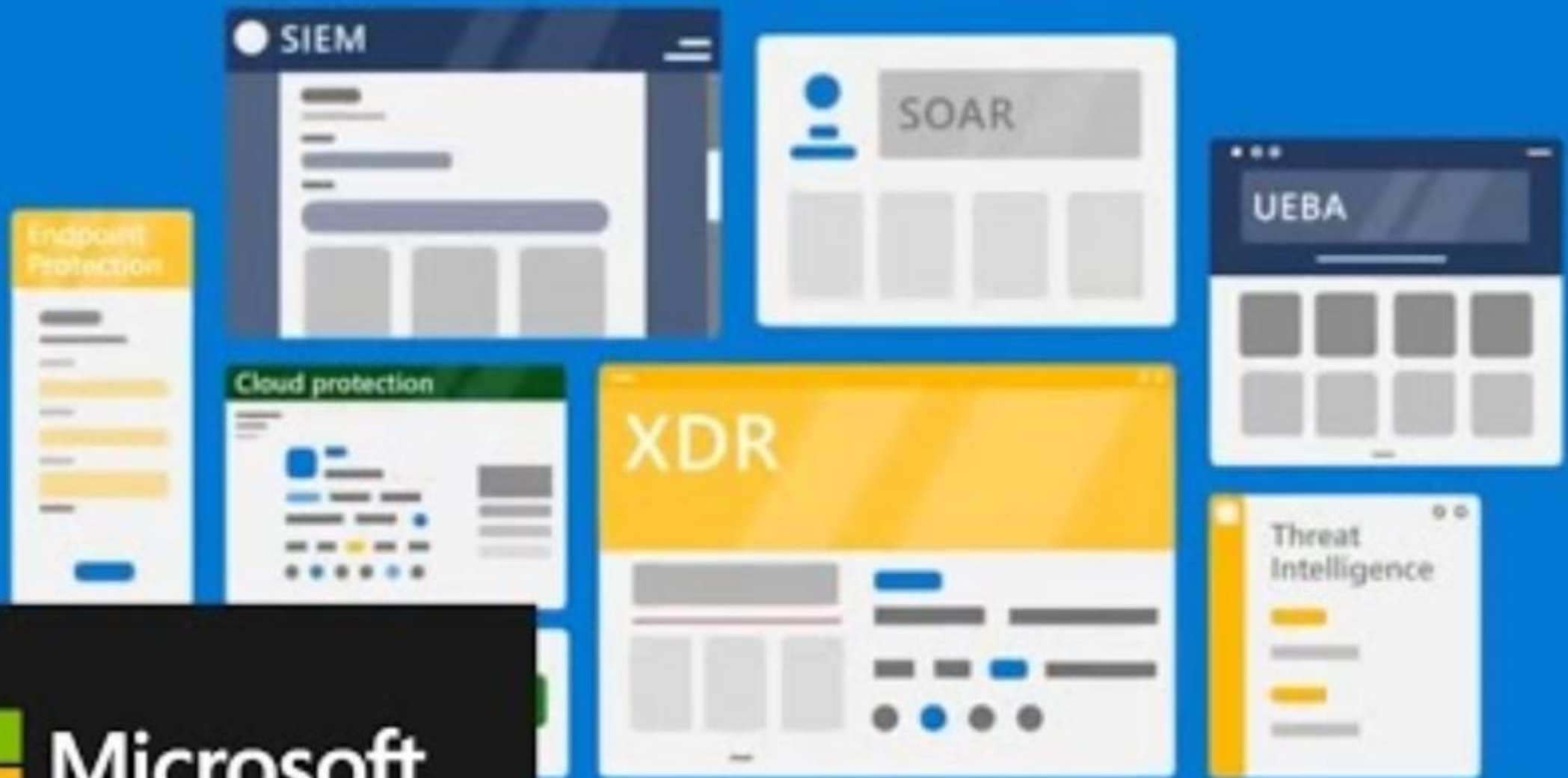
Microsoft Defender

Microsoft Defender XDR

Microsoft Entra ID Governance

[more](#) ▾

We're announcing new capabilities to help accelerate your transition to a Zero Trust security model with the general availability of the [Microsoft Entra Suite](#), the industry's most comprehensive secure access solution for the workforce, and the general availability of Microsoft Sentinel within the [Microsoft unified security operations platform](#), which delivers unified threat protection and posture management. These innovations make it easier to secure access, identify and close critical security gaps, detect cyberthreats, reduce response times, and streamline operations.



Microsoft

What is Microsoft's unified security operations platform?

It is	It's not
A single experience for SIEM, XDR, XSPM, TI and Copilot for security	A product
Unification of features across SIEM and XDR	A new SKU
A differentiator that will help attach SIEM to XDR customers	An upsell

Pricing Isn't changing.

Two SKUs

- Customers purchase SIEM and XDR separately. Defender XDR continues to be licensed based, Microsoft Sentinel continues to be consumption based

Cost savings

- Customers do not need to ingest Defender XDR data into Microsoft Sentinel for hunting or investigations, potentially resulting in cost savings
- Ingestion still required for extended retention

What is happening to Microsoft Sentinel?

- The experience is going to be available in the Defender portal
- Customers can continue to access in Azure, even after onboarding
- Customers need to opt in to the single experience
- We continue to invest in innovation to Microsoft Sentinel

Unified security operations platform in the Defender Portal

Microsoft Copilot for Security

- › Step-by-step, incident-specific remediation guidance
- › Incident and event summary reports
- › Natural language translation to KQL
- › Script analysis
- › Knowledge transfer

Defender Experts

- › Managed detection and response
- › Incident response support
- › Proactive threat hunting

Analyst experience

- › Unified incidents and investigation
- › Unified response actions
- › Unified advanced hunting
- › Attack path modeling
- › Attack surface management
- › Critical asset protection
- › SOC optimization
- › Case management
- › Global search

Defense at machine speed

- › Automatic attack disruption
- › Deception technology
- › Automated self-healing

Security analytics

- › Correlation and normalization
- › UEBA
- › Unified data model
- › Customizable automation
- › Threat intelligence platform and analytics
- › Entity profiles

Data

300+ third-party solutions



- › Business applications
- › Microsoft integrations

- › Modern workplace
- › Industry standards

- › Cloud workloads
- › Users

- › Devices
- › Data storage

- › Infrastructure

Connecting the Sentinel workspace (1 of 2)

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Defender Configuration page. The main heading is "Choose a workspace". Below it, a red-bordered error message states: "Couldn't connect the workspace. Turn on the Defender XDR connector for incidents in Microsoft Sentinel first. Learn how". Below the error is a search bar with the placeholder "Filter for any field...". A table lists available workspaces:

Name	Location	Resource Group
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CyberSOC	westeurope	cybersoc-rg

On the right, the Settings sidebar is visible, listing various settings. The "Microsoft Sentinel" setting at the bottom is highlighted with a red box.

Settings

- Name ▾
- Microsoft Defender portal
- Microsoft Defender XDR
- Endpoints
- Email & collaboration
- Identities
- Device discovery
- Cloud Apps
- Microsoft Sentinel

Required Azure permissions to connect/disconnect:

Subscription owner or User Access Administrator *and* Sentinel Contributor

Scope: Subscription, resource group, or workspace resource for Microsoft Sentinel Contributor

Connecting the Sentinel workspace (2 of 2)

Prerequisites and permissions are in place

The screenshot shows the 'Settings' page for Microsoft Sentinel, specifically the 'Workspaces' section. On the left, under 'Microsoft Sentinel', the 'Workspaces' tab is selected. On the right, there is a list of workspaces with checkboxes. The 'DG-SOC' workspace is checked, while others like 'Cyber' are unchecked. A modal dialog box titled 'Connect DG-SOC?' is overlaid on the settings page. The dialog contains the following text:

Connect DG-SOC?

Only one workspace can be connected at this time.

What to expect when the workspace is connected

- Log tables, queries, and functions in the Microsoft Sentinel workspace will also be available in

Connected!
Connecting the workspace...

This change will only apply to incident creation rules for Microsoft alerts and not to other analytics rules.

- All alerts related to Microsoft Defender XDR products will be streamed directly from the main Microsoft Defender XDR data connector to ensure consistency. **Make sure you have incidents and alerts from this connector turned on in the workspace.**

At the bottom of the dialog, there are two buttons: 'Confirm and proceed' (highlighted with a red border) and 'Cancel'.

Work

Incidents - Microsoft Defender

https://security.microsoft.com/incidents?tid=0527ecb7-06fb-4769-b324-fd4a3bb865eb

Import favoritesDefenderSentinelDefender for CloudDemo Access

Microsoft Defender

Search

10 pending file quarantine actions need approval

Snooze for 1 hour

Home

Exposure management

Investigation & response

Incidents & alerts

Incidents

Alerts

Hunting

Actions & submissions

Partner catalog

Threat intelligence

Assets

Microsoft Sentinel

Identities

Endpoints

Email & collaboration

Incidents

The incident queue now displays incidents according to the latest automatic or manual updates made on incidents. For more information, see inci

Most recent incidents and alerts

Export

Search for name or ID

1 Week

Customize columns

Filter set: Save

Status: Active, In ProgressAlert severity: High, MediumIncident severity: High, MediumIncident assignment: AnyTags: Any

Entities: AnyAlert subscription IDs: AnyAdd filterReset allView less

Incident name	Incident Id	Tags	Severity	Investigation state	Categories	Impact
SAP financial process manipulation (attack disrupt...	529	BEC Fraud +3	High	2 investigation states	Initial access, Persistence, ...	Can
Suspicious authentication activity on one endpoint	851		Medium		Initial access	woc
Multi-stage incident involving Initial access & Lat...	551	Critical asset +5	High	5 investigation states	Initial access, Execution, Pe...	3 D
Multi-stage incident involving Privilege escalation...	751	Brass Typhoon +7	High	4 investigation states	Execution, Persistence, Priv...	3 D
BEC financial fraud attack was launched from a co...	483	BEC Fraud +4	High	3 investigation states	Initial access, Defense evas...	Lee
Multi-stage incident involving Initial access & Dis...	466	Backdoor +2	Medium	2 investigation states	Initial access, Execution, Pe...	vne
Suspicious scheduled task on one endpoint	848		Medium		Execution	cpc
Suspicious authentication activity on one endpoint	849		Medium		Initial access	alpi

Work

Incidents - Microsoft Defender

https://security.microsoft.com/incidents?tid=0527ecb7-06fb-4769-b324-fd4a3bb865eb

Import favoritesDefenderSentinelDefender for CloudDemo Access

Microsoft Defender

Search

Export

Filter set: Save

Status: AnyAlert severity: AnyIncident severity: Any

Service/detection sources: Microsoft Defender for End... +2

Reset allView less

Severity	Investigation state	Categories
High	2 investigation states	Initial access, Persistence, ...
High	4 investigation states	Initial access, Execution, Pe...
High	5 investigation states	Initial access, Execution, Pe...
High	4 investigation states	Execution, Persistence, Priv...
High	3 investigation states	Initial access, Defense evas...
Medium		Execution, Persistence
Medium	2 investigation states	Initial access, Execution, Pe...
Medium		Execution
Informational		Suspicious activity
Informational		Suspicious activity
Informational		Suspicious activity
Informational		Suspicious activity

Reset filter

Service/detection sources

☐ Microsoft Defender for Identity

☐ Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps

☒ Microsoft Defender for Endpoint

☒ Microsoft Defender XDR

☐ Microsoft Defender for Office 365

☐ App Governance

☐ AAD Identity Protection

☐ Microsoft Data Loss Prevention

☐ Microsoft Defender for Cloud

☒ Microsoft Sentinel

Apply

or ID

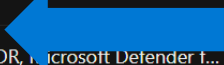
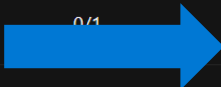
1 Week

Customize columns

ion IDs: Any

Add filter

Service sources	Detection sources	Product n
Microsoft Defender for Clo...	Microsoft Defender for Clo...	Microsoft
Endpoint, Identity, Microso...	EDR, Microsoft Defender t...	Microsoft
Endpoint, Identity, Microso...	EDR, Defender XDR, Micro...	Microsoft
Endpoint, Identity	EDR, Antivirus, Defender X...	Microsoft
Office 365, Defender XDR, ...	MDO, Defender XDR, AAD ...	Microsoft
vnevado-win10e.vnevado.alpineskihouse.co	0/6	EndpointEDRMicrosoft
vnevado-win10e.vnevado.alpineskihouse.co	0/9	EndpointEDRMicrosoft
cpc-u123-mcmlhu u123	2/2	EndpointEDRMicrosoft
	0/1	Microsoft SentinelScheduled detectionMicrosoft
	0/1	Microsoft SentinelScheduled detectionMicrosoft
	0/1	Microsoft SentinelScheduled detectionMicrosoft
	0/1	Microsoft SentinelScheduled detectionMicrosoft



Work

Advanced hunting - Microsoft D...

https://security.microsoft.com/v2/advanced-hunting?tid=0527ecb7-06fb-4769-b324-fd4a3bb865eb

Import favorites

Defender

Sentinel

Defender for Cloud

Demo Access

Microsoft Defender

Search

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Exposure management

Investigation & response

Incidents & alerts

Incidents

Alerts

Hunting

Advanced hunting

Custom detection rules

Actions & submissions

Partner catalog

Threat intelligence

Assets

Microsoft Sentinel

Search

Threat management

Advanced hunting

New query

Schema

Functions

Search

DeviceNetworkInfo

DeviceProcessEvents

DeviceRegistryEvents

Defender Vulnerability Management

DeviceBaselineComplian...

DeviceBaselineComplian...

DeviceBaselineComplian...

DeviceTvmBrowserExtens...

DeviceTvmBrowserExtens...

DeviceTvmCertificateInfo

DeviceTvmHardwareFirm...

DeviceTvmInfoGathering

DeviceTvmInfoGathering...

DeviceTvmSecureConfig...

DeviceTvmSecureConfig...

DeviceTvmSoftwareFide...

Run query

Last 24 hours

Save

Share link

Manage rules

Query

1

Getting started

Results

Query history

0 items

Search

Customize columns

Time

Query

Query time

State

No data available

Work

Advanced hunting - Microsoft D...

←

↺

https://security.microsoft.com/v2/advanced-hunting?tid=0527ecb7-06fb-4769-b324-fd4a3bb865eb

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Import favorites

Defender

Sentinel

Defender for Cloud

Demo Access

☰

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Exposure management

Investigation & response

Incidents & alerts

Incidents

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Advanced hunting

Custom detection rules

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Microsoft Defender

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New query

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SQLAssessmentRecomm...

VMBoundPort

VMComputer

VMConnection

VMProcess

Microsoft Sentinel

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ASimAuditEventLogs

ASimAuthenticationEven...

ASimDhcpEventLogs

ASimDnsActivityLogs

ASimFileEventLogs

ASimNetworkSessionLogs

ASimProcessEventLogs

ASimRegistryEventLogs

ASimUserManagementA...

Run query

Last 24 hours

Save

Share link

Manage rules

Query

1

Getting started

Results

Query history

0 items

Search

Customize columns

Time ↓

Query

Query time

State

No data available

Work

Workbooks - Microsoft Defender

←

↺

https://security.microsoft.com/sentinel/99005f96-e572-4035-b476-836fd9d83d64/cybersoc/CyberSOC/workbooks?tid=0527ecb7-06fb-4769-b324-fd4a3bb865eb

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🔵 Sentinel

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🟡 Demo Access

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Automation

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🔍 Search

🔔

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Workbooks

Refresh

Guides

My workbooks

4

Templates

27

Updates

0

🗃️

More content at
Content hub

My workbooks

Templates

+

Add Workbook

🔍 Search

🔗 Add filter

Name	Content source	Source name
<div>🟢</div> Azure DDoS Protection Workbook	Content hub	Azure DDoS Prot...
<div>🟢</div> Azure Firewall Structured Logs	Content hub	Azure Firewall
<div>🟢</div> Microsoft Web Application Firewall (WAF) - Azure WAF	Content hub	Azure Web Appli...
<div>🟢</div> Web Session Essentials Workbook	Content hub	Web Session Ess...

🗃️+

No workbook selected
Select workbook to view more details

What's in it for customers?

More manageable products	Better hunting capabilities	Improve response and protection
Microsoft Sentinel has a new home in Defender Portal, resulting in one place to manage all their SOC products.	Customers benefit from one place to create queries and search across their data	Automatic attack disruption expanded to 3 rd parties, starting with SAP, more comprehensive incident experience
Cost savings	Analyst experience	Reduction in incident queue
Customers do not need to ingest their Defender XDR data into Microsoft Sentinel to correlate alerts or hunt	Less portal switching, better incident correlation	Improvement in how Defender XDR data is correlated with Sentinel logs reduces the incident queue and delivers more robust insights.

Before: investigations often required two portals

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure portal interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Microsoft Azure' and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Microsoft Sentinel | Incidents >'. The main header displays the incident title 'Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint' with the incident number '7175'. A notification banner states: 'This is the new, improved incident page - Now generally available. You can use the toggle to switch back.' and 'This workspace is locked. You might not be able to make certain changes.' The left sidebar contains filters for 'Medium' severity, 'New' status, and 'Unassigned' owner. A red box highlights the link 'Investigate in Microsoft Defender XDR'. Below the filters, the workspace name 'cybersoc' is shown. The main content area has tabs for 'Overview' and 'Entities'. The 'Overview' tab shows an 'Incident timeline' with a single entry: 'Jun 17 08:56:48 Honeytoken authentication acti... Me... Detected by Microsoft ... Tac...'. The 'Entities' tab shows a list of entities: 'AVORIAZ-Win10V Host' and 'AVORIAZ-DC Host'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Similar incidents' with a table header: 'Severity', 'Incident number', 'Title', and 'Last update time'.

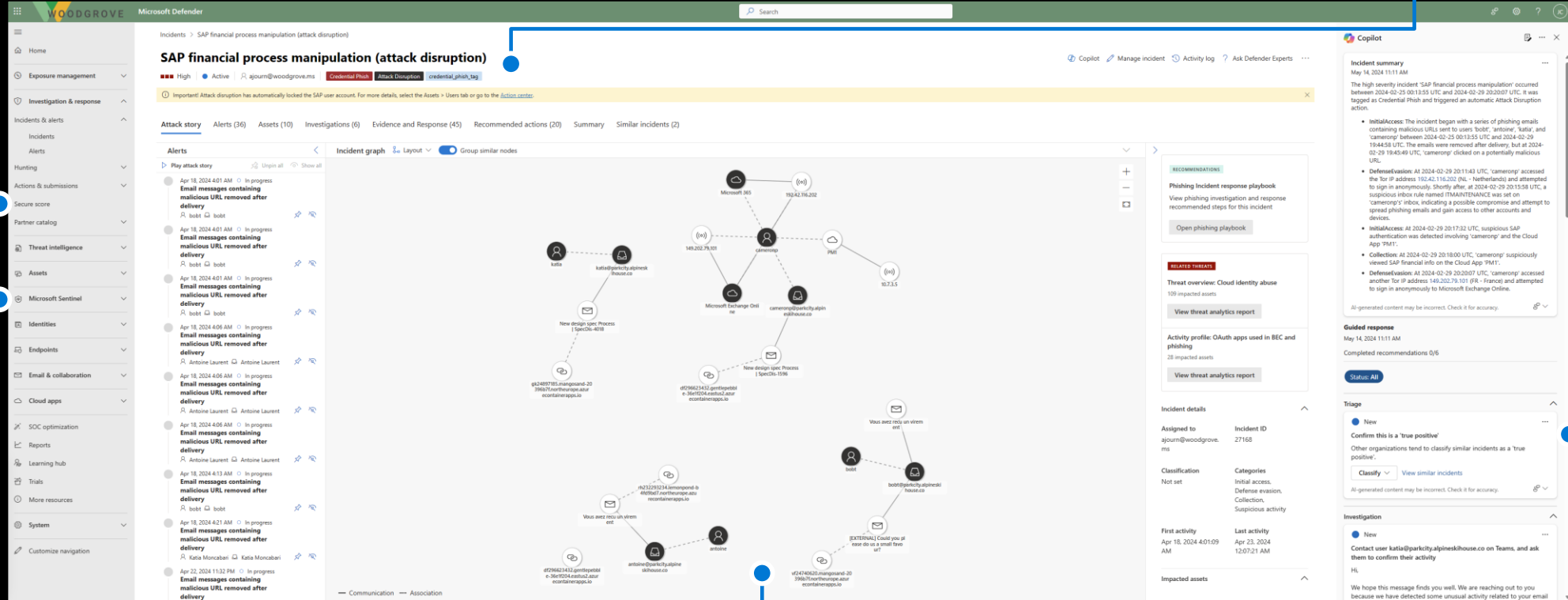
The screenshot shows the Microsoft Sentinel incident details page. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Incidents > Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint'. The main header displays the incident title 'Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint'. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Attack story', 'Alerts (1)', 'Assets (2)', 'Investigations (0)', 'Evidence and Response (0)', 'Summary', and 'Similar incidents (0)'. The 'Attack story' tab is selected. The main content area shows an 'Incident graph' with a 'Layout' dropdown and a 'Group similar nodes' toggle. The graph displays a network diagram with nodes for 'AVORIAZ-Win10V', 'AVORIAZ-DC', and 'vm000001'. A user 'jeff Disabled' is also shown. The right sidebar contains 'Incident details' with the following information: 'Assigned to: Unassigned', 'Incident ID: 3256', 'Classification: Not set', 'Categories: Discovery', 'First activity: Jun 17, 2024 8:56:48 AM', and 'Last activity: Jun 17, 2024 8:57:00 AM'. Below this, there is a section for 'Impacted assets' with a table header: 'Devices (1)', 'Risk Level', and 'Exposure'. The table shows one device: 'vm000001' with a risk level of 'None' and an exposure of 'Low'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Users (1)' with a table header: 'ID' and 'Name'. The table shows one user: '29a26039-3456-4b02-82c7-0e9ed1859e7'.

Now: A single view

Exposure management

Comprehensive incident view

Microsoft Sentinel data



SIEM and XDR workloads

Single attack map

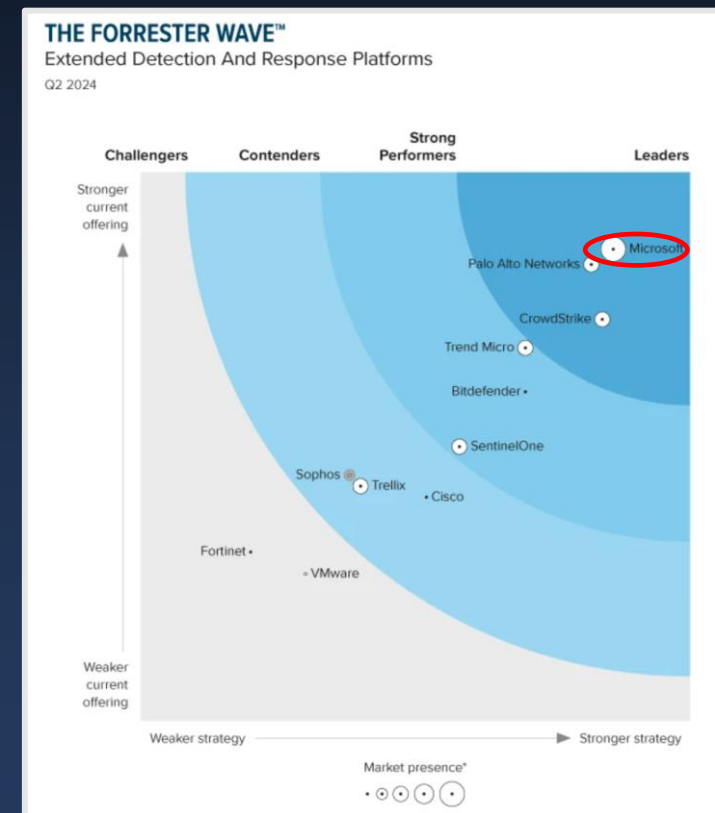
Embedded GenAI

Microsoft is the only vendor with leading SIEM+XDR

Microsoft is named as a Leader in the
2024 Gartner SIEM MQ



Microsoft is again named a leader in the
Forrester Wave for XDR CY2024, Q2



Who else claims to have a security operations platform?



splunk>



Cisco | Splunk

Core Components SIEM, XDR, GenAI

Current offering:

Cisco plans to further integrate XDR, SIEM & GenAI to provide a unified platform for customers. This is a short to mid-term strategy that Cisco is working on and it's currently immature. Cisco is attempting to package natural language search in it's products with Cisco AI Assist.

Areas Microsoft differentiates:

- Mature XDR and recognized leader over Cisco XDR and several individual categories
- Leading in AI and innovation
- Cisco has low market penetration for XDR

Google Cloud

Core Components SIEM, Cloud Security, TI, GenAI

Current offering:

Ties together SIEM, SOAR, TI, and cloud security powered by AI into a unified experience. Google lacks an XDR and tries to compensate for this leveraging Mandiant services.

Areas Microsoft differentiates:

- Microsoft has an industry leading XDR experience in our unified platform.
- Google does not have an XDR.

Palo Alto Networks

Core Components SIEM, XDR, Cloud Security, Network, GenAI

Current offering:

Palo Alto Networks is attempting to bring together the Strata, Prisma, and Cortex into a single experience and powering this with generative AI. Currently the 3 platforms are still separate and requires context switching even within 1st party.

Areas Microsoft differentiates:

- Microsoft has built a 1st party platform with strong integration. Palo Alto Networks has acquired many of its capabilities and still working on integration experience

CrowdStrike

Core Components SIEM, XDR, Data Security, TI, Cloud Security, ITDR, GenAI

Current offering:

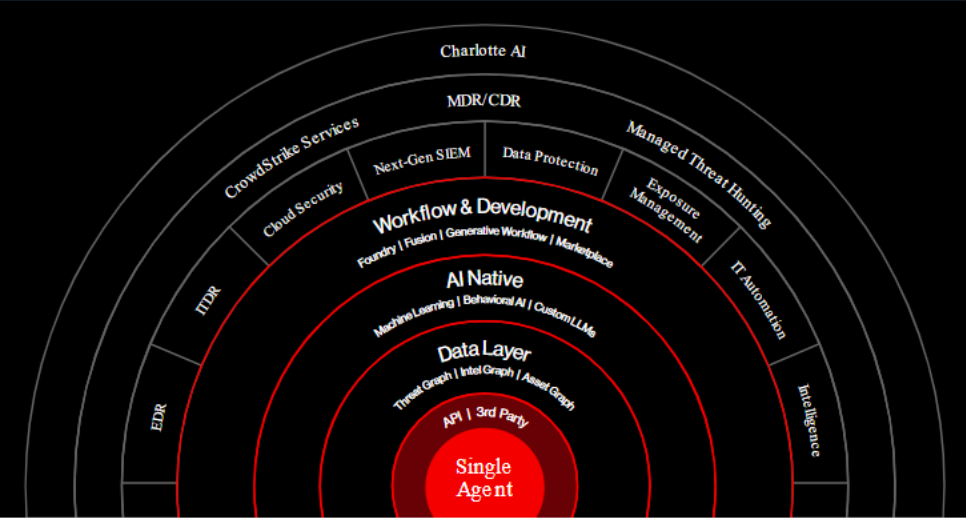
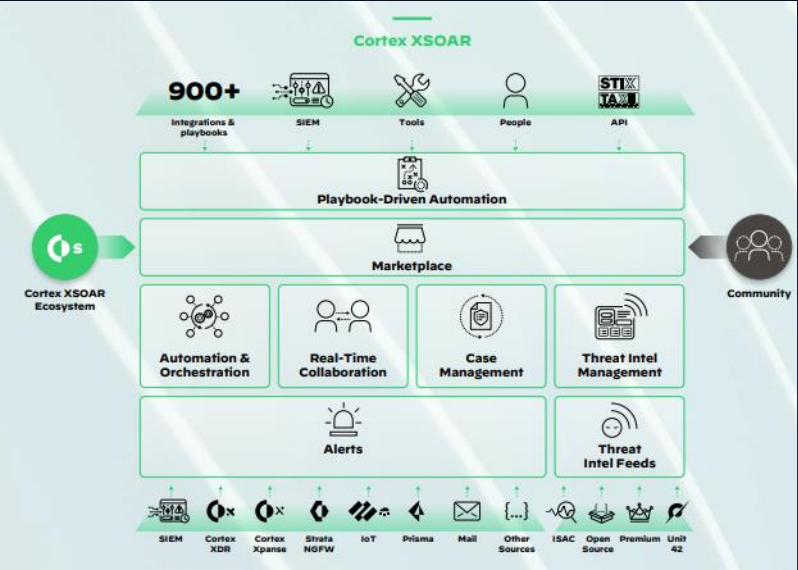
CrowdStrike tells customers it's the unified platform with a single agent. Although CrowdStrike competes across several categories across security, endpoint is still it's core offering but is investing in identity, data protection, cloud security, SIEM, and generative AI.

Areas Microsoft differentiates:

- Microsoft's XDR is viewed by Forrester as a stronger strategy and larger market penetration.
- Microsoft is a leader across several protection categories within XDR. Including endpoint

- Microsoft is forcing the market to change through increased investments or purchasing/merging with other companies in efforts to catch-up.
- Microsoft is the only company on the list that has built it's platform natively, as opposed to attempting to stitch individual acquisitions together into the ecosystem

Competitor Platform View



SIEM			SOAR		
Collection	Enrichment	Detection	Triage	Investigate	Respond
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fast ingestionFast indexingPetabyte scale1 year hot retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contextually enriched dataPrevalence visualizationStatistical analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">YARA-L authoringCurated detectionsUEBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alert prioritizationRelated alert groupingRisk scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contextual mappingCase managementSub-second searchCollaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Playbook libraryIncident managerNo/low code playbook builder300+ integrations
Applied Threat Intelligence					
VIRUSTOTAL MANDIANT Google Cloud					
Powered by Duet AI					
Google Cloud Hyperscale					

Available Material

- GA Announcement Blog published July 11 :<https://aka.ms/ZeroTrustBlog-July2024>
- MS Learn Documentation: <https://aka.ms/onboard-microsoft-sentinel>
- Microsoft Mechanics video: [Microsoft Defender XDR, Copilot for Security & Microsoft Sentinel now in one portal](#)
- AMA: [Microsoft SIEM & XDR: unified security operations](#)
- Webinar: [What's New in Microsoft Sentinel & Unified Portal Enhancements](#)
- Virtual Ninja Training - [Unifying SIEM & XDR: a new era in SecOps](#)
- Get started with the general availability of [Microsoft Sentinel in the Defender Portal](#) with some helpful FAQs.
- Manually deploy playbooks in the [unified experience](#).

SOC Optimisation



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Microsoft Entra Suite Tech Accelerator

Aug 14 2024, 07:00 AM - 09:30 AM (PDT) Microsoft Tech Community

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SOC optimization: unlock the power of precision-driven security management

By  [Michal Shechter](#)

Published May 06 2024 09:07 AM

9,271 Views



Security operations center (SOC) teams actively look for opportunities to optimize both processes and outcomes. Every organization is unique, with its own security challenges. Teams must regularly adjust security controls to keep up with changing threat landscape and business priorities, while balancing investment (cost, SOC resources, time) and security coverage.

Today, we're happy to announce the public preview of a new experience and API – Microsoft Sentinel's SOC Optimization, designed to empower security teams with precision-driven management capabilities. SOC optimization offers **actionable tailored recommendations** that adapt daily to the organization's environment – starting with gaps in data utilization and detection of different types of attacks . These aren't generic tips; they're personalized strategies backed

Co-Authors



[Michal Shechter](#)

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Updated by: [Michal Shechter](#)

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Questions

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