

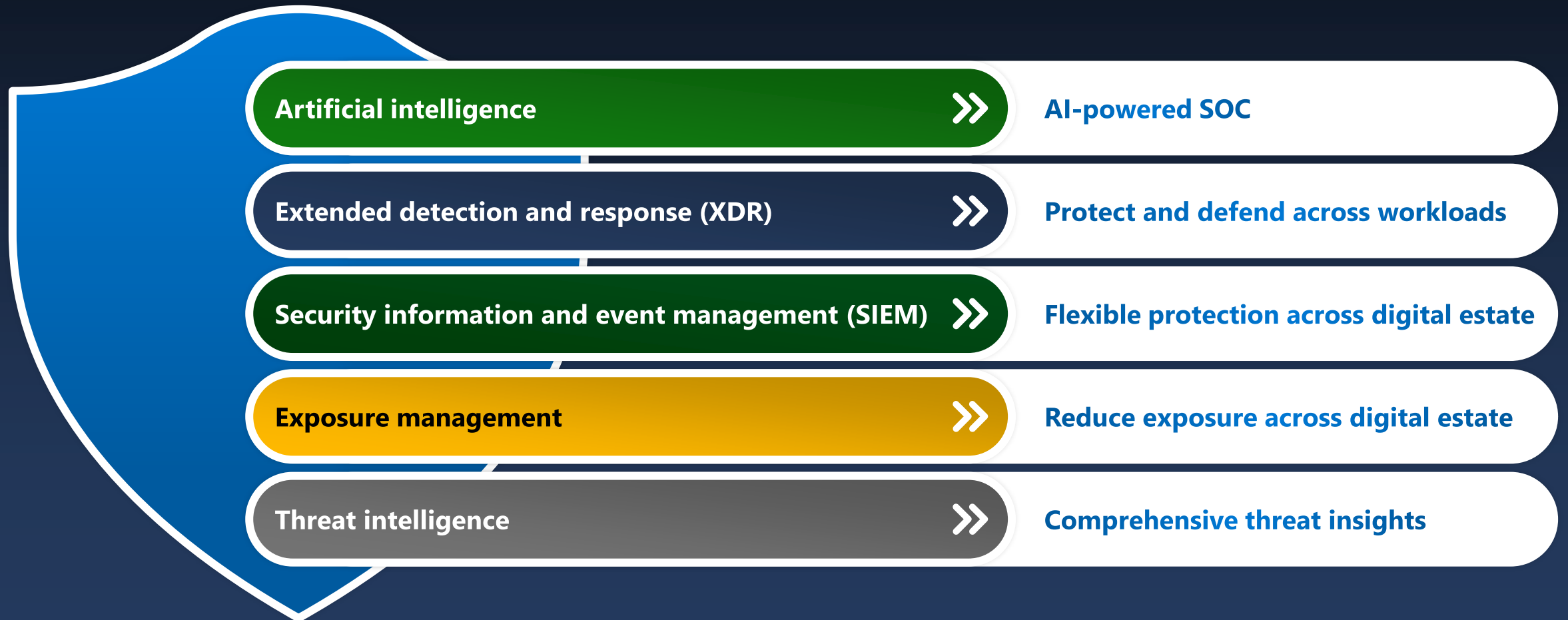
Microsoft's Unified Security Operations Platform

August 2024

Jeff Beckitt
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



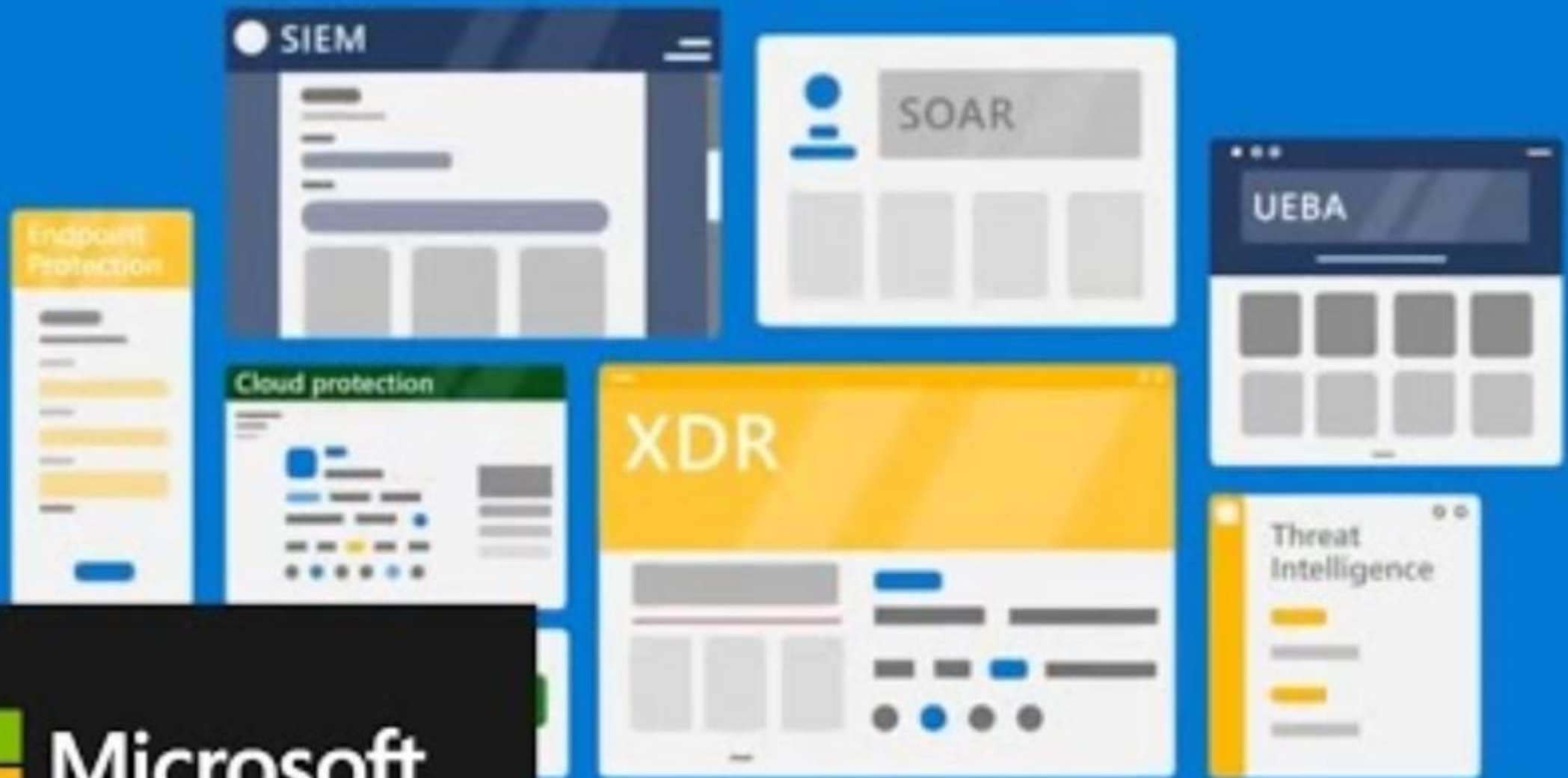
Microsoft Defender

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...

A single experience for SIEM, XDR, XSPM, TI and Copilot for security

Unification of features across SIEM and XDR

Helping you bring SIEM & XDR together

It is not...

A product

A new SKU

Additional Cost

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' link is highlighted. 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

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🌐

🔗 Import favorites

🛡 Defender

🔍 Sentinel

☁ Defender for Cloud

🌐 Demo Access

⋮

🏠 Home

🕒 Exposure management

🛡 Investigation & response

Incidents & alerts

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👤 Identities

🖨 Endpoints

✉ Email & collaboration

Microsoft Defender

🔍 Search

🔔

👤

⚙

?

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🔄

10 pending file quarantine actions need approval

🕒 Snooze for 1 hour

🚨

The incident queue now displays incidents according to the latest automatic or manual updates made on incidents. For more information, [see incident queue](#).

Most recent incidents and alerts

⌵

⬇ Export

🔍 Search for name or ID

📅 1 Week

⚙ Customize columns

Filter set:

💾 Save

Status: Active, In Progress

Alert severity: High, Medium

Incident severity: High, Medium

Incident assignment: Any

Tags: Any

Entities: Any

Alert subscription IDs: Any

Add filter

🔄 Reset all

View less

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

Reset filter

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 | Incident details | Service sources | Detection sources | Product name |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| High | 2 investigation states | Initial access, Persistence, ... | Lee GuLee Gu9/9 | Microsoft Defender for Identity | Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps | Microsoft |
| High | 4 investigation states | Initial access, Execution, Pe... | | Microsoft Defender for Endpoint | Microsoft Defender XDR | Microsoft |
| High | 5 investigation states | Initial access, Execution, Pe... | | Microsoft Defender for Office 365 | App Governance | Microsoft |
| High | 4 investigation states | Execution, Persistence, Priv... | | AAD Identity Protection | Microsoft Data Loss Prevention | Microsoft |
| High | 3 investigation states | Initial access, Defense evas... | | Microsoft Defender for Cloud | Microsoft Sentinel | Microsoft |
| Medium | | Execution, Persistence | vnevado-win10e.vnevado.alpineskihouse.co 0/6 | | EDR, Defender XDR, Micro... | Microsoft |
| Medium | 2 investigation states | Initial access, Execution, Pe... | vnevado-win10e.vnevado.alpineskihouse.co 0/9 | | EDR, Antivirus, Defender X... | Microsoft |
| Medium | | Execution | cpc-u123-mcmlhu u123 2/2 | | EDR, Microsoft Defender f... | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity, Microso... | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity, Microso... | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity, Microso... | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity, Microso... | Microsoft |
| Informational | | Suspicious activity | 0/1 | | Endpoint, Identity, Microso... | Microsoft |

Home

Exposure management

Investigation & response

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Assets

Microsoft Sentinel

Identities

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Cloud apps

Operational technology

Site security

SOC optimization

1 Week

Customize columns

ion IDs: Any

Add filter

Apply

Microsoft Sentinel

Scheduled detection

Microsoft

Work

Advanced hunting - Microsoft D...

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

Import favoritesDefenderSentinelDefender for CloudDemo Access

Microsoft Defender

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DeviceBaselineComplian...

DeviceBaselineComplian...

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DeviceTvmBrowserExtens...

DeviceTvmCertificateInfo

DeviceTvmHardwareFirm...

DeviceTvmInfoGathering

DeviceTvmInfoGathering...

DeviceTvmSecureConfig...

DeviceTvmSecureConfig...

DeviceTvmSoftwareFide...

Run query

Last 24 hours

Save

Share link

Manage rules

Query

1

Getting startedResultsQuery history

0 items

Search

Customize columns

Time ↓QueryQuery timeState

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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ASimDnsActivityLogs

ASimFileEventLogs

ASimNetworkSessionLogs

ASimProcessEventLogs

ASimRegistryEventLogs

ASimUserManagementA...

Run query

Last 24 hours

Save

Share link

Manage rules

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1

Getting started

Results

Query history

0 items

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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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🌐

🔗 Import favorites

🛡️ Defender

🔵 Sentinel

🔵 Defender for Cloud

🟡 Demo Access

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🛡️ Microsoft Sentinel

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Automation

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Microsoft Defender

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🔗

⚙️

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

Microsoft Azure

Search resources, services, and docs (G+)

Home > Microsoft Sentinel | Incidents >

Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint

Incident number 7175

Refresh | Logs | Tasks | Activity log

This is the new, improved incident page - **Now generally available**. You can use the toggle to switch back.

This workspace is locked. You might not be able to make certain changes.

Medium Severity | New Status | Unassigned Owner

Investigate in Microsoft Defender XDR

Workspace name: cybersoc

Description: --

Alert product names: Microsoft Defender for Identity

Tasks: 0/1 completed. View full details

Evidence

Investigate

Overview | Entities

Incident timeline

Search

Add filter

Jun 17 08:56:48 | Honeytoken authentication acti... | Me... | Detected by Microsoft ... | Tac...

Entities

Search

- AVORIAZ-Win10V Host
- AVORIAZ-DC Host

Similar incidents

| Severity | Incident number | Title | Last update time |
|----------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
|----------|-----------------|-------|------------------|

Incidents > Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint

Honeytoken authentication activity on one endpoint

Copilot | Manage incident

Medium | Active | Unassigned

Attack story | Alerts (1) | Assets (2) | Investigations (0) | Evidence and Response (0) | Summary | Similar incidents (0)

Incident graph

Layout | Group similar nodes

AVORIAZ-Win10V

AVORIAZ-DC

jeff Disabled

vm000001

Incident details

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assigned to | Incident ID |
| Unassigned | 3256 |
| Classification | Categories |
| Not set | Discovery |
| First activity | Last activity |
| Jun 17, 2024 8:56:48 AM | Jun 17, 2024 8:57:00 AM |

Impacted assets

| Devices (1) | Risk Level | Exposure |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| vm000001 | None | Low |

Users (1)

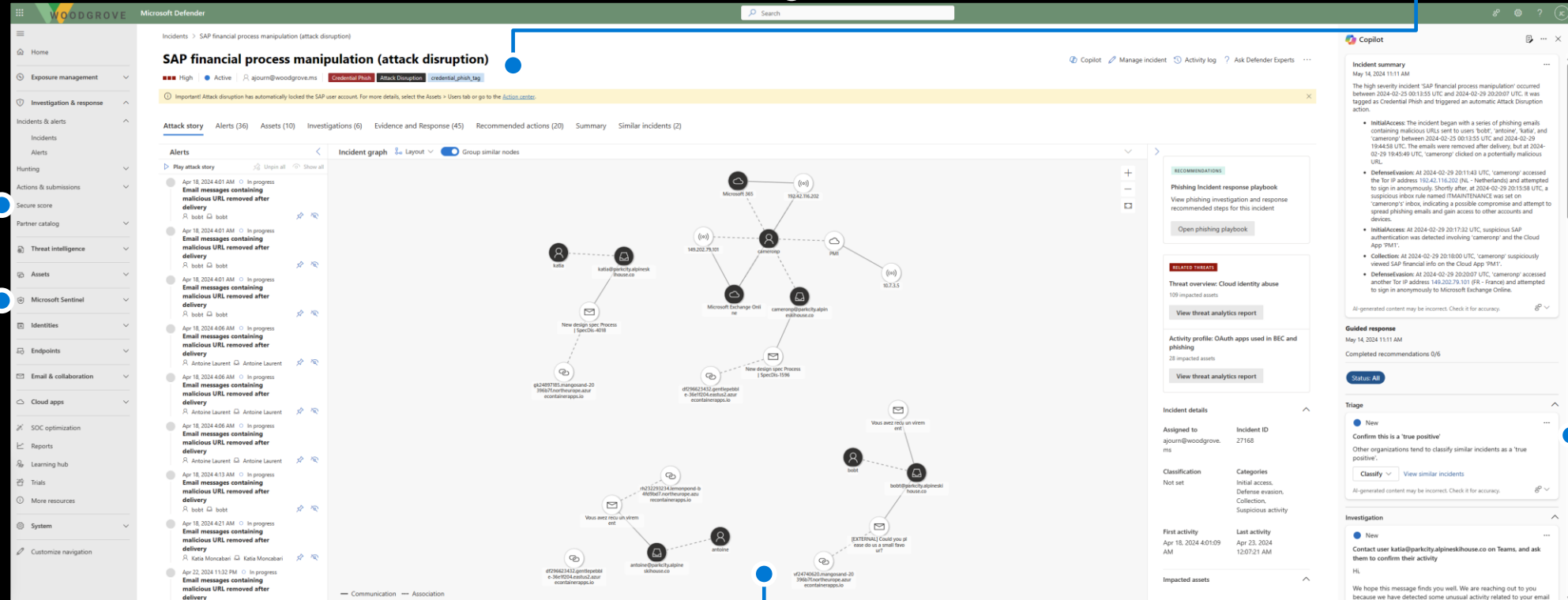
29a26039-3456-4b02-82c7-0e9ed1859e7

Now: A single view

Exposure management

Comprehensive incident view

Microsoft Sentinel data



SIEM and XDR workloads

Single attack map

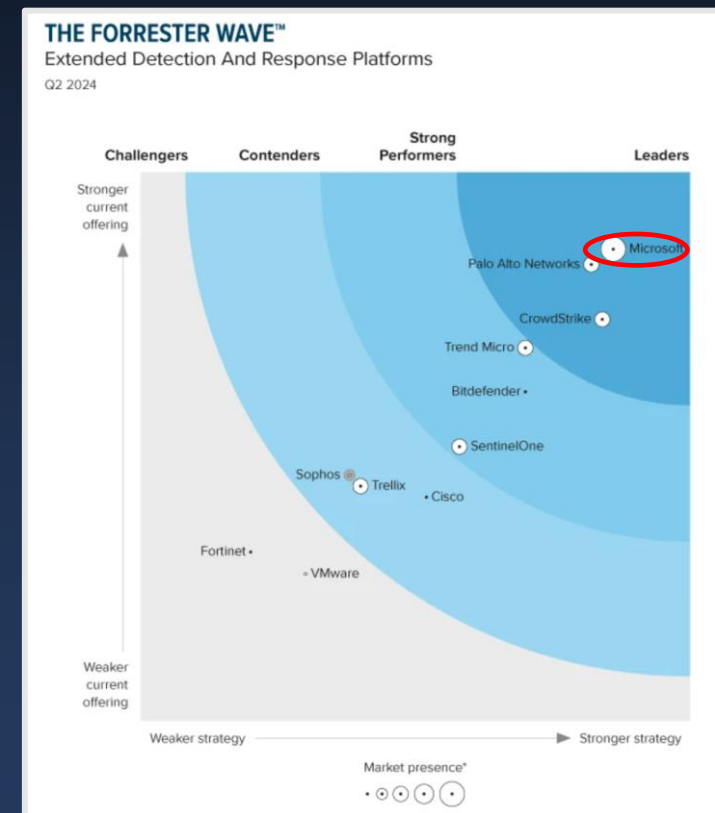
Embedded GenAI

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

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



Tech Community

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Blogs

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Microsoft Learn

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Microsoft Entra Suite Tech Accelerator

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

Find out more

Home > Security, Compliance, and Identity > Microsoft Sentinel Blog > SOC optimization: unlock the power of precision-driven security management

Back to Blog

< Newer Article

Older Article >

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](#)

Version history

Last update: May 06 2024 01:02 AM

Updated by: [Michal Shechter](#)

Share



SOC optimization

Overview

Completed

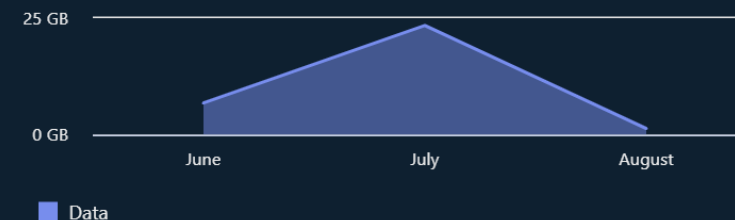
Dismissed

Your optimizations data

Recent optimizations value

- ✔ Utilized SquidProxy_CL table and improved your SOC coverage.

Data ingested



Threat-based coverage optimizations

AiTM (Adversary in the Middle)
Medium | 39/64 Recommended detections

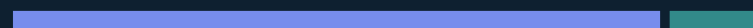
BEC (Financial Fraud)
High | 40/52 Recommended detections

BEC (Mass Credential Harvest)
High | 75/97 Recommended detections

[View all threat scenarios](#)

Optimizations status

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Active | In progress | Completed | Dismissed |
| 32 | 0 | 5 | 0 |



Data connectors

Analytics

Summary Rules

Watchlist

Automation

Identities


Endpoints

✉ Email & collaboration

Cloud apps

 Operational technology

Site security

 SOC optimization Reports Learning hub Trials

 More resources

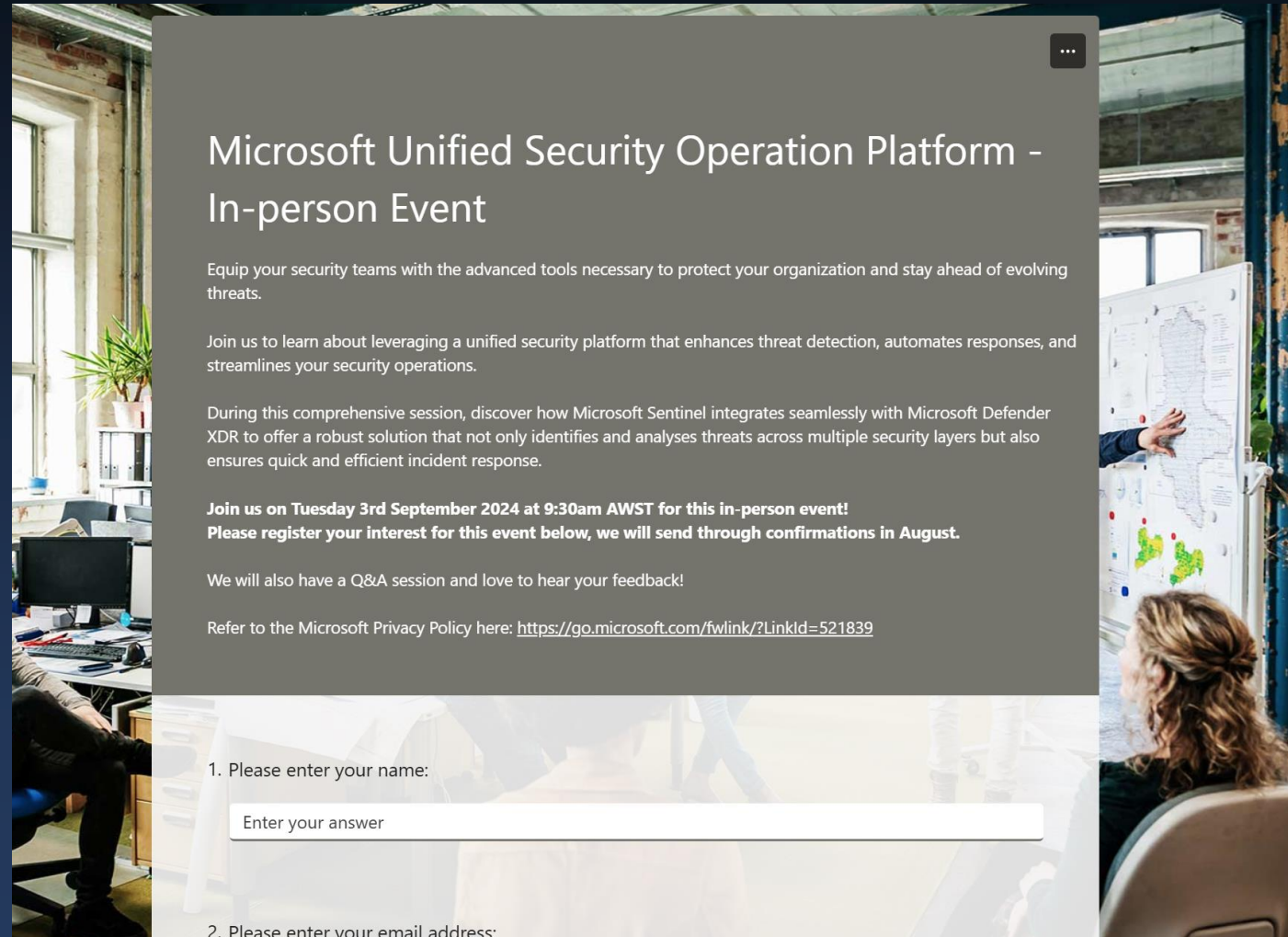
In Person Event - Microsoft Unified Security Operations Platform

Tuesday 3rd September 9.30AM

Jeremy Tan, MS Engineering

Microsoft Perth Office

Level 10, 100 St Georges Tce
Perth WA 6000



Microsoft Unified Security Operation Platform - In-person Event

Equip your security teams with the advanced tools necessary to protect your organization and stay ahead of evolving threats.

Join us to learn about leveraging a unified security platform that enhances threat detection, automates responses, and streamlines your security operations.

During this comprehensive session, discover how Microsoft Sentinel integrates seamlessly with Microsoft Defender XDR to offer a robust solution that not only identifies and analyses threats across multiple security layers but also ensures quick and efficient incident response.

Join us on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 9:30am AWST for this in-person event!
Please register your interest for this event below, we will send through confirmations in August.

We will also have a Q&A session and love to hear your feedback!

Refer to the Microsoft Privacy Policy here: <https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=521839>

1. Please enter your name:

2. Please enter your email address:

[Register Here: Microsoft Unified Security Operation Platform - In-person Event](#)

Questions



For a copy of today's slides, go to this link
<https://aka.ms/snackables-unified-soc>

