M365 BreakGlass Maturity Model

GitHub.com/KuShuSec v1.1

Unprepared

- No breakglass account or app.
- No documented recovery process.
- Breakglass = "hope it never happens."

Reactive

- Breakglass account exists but rarely tested.
- App registrations are unmanaged and unmonitored.
- Secrets stored in plain text or left to expire unnoticed.
- Application Admin is assigned permanently to a few users.
- Offline credentials (e.g., passphrase or QR) stored in secure location.

Baseline Hygiene

- App secrets tracked manually; redirect URIs reviewed occasionally.
- Some use of PIM for privileged roles.
- App Admin role assignments starting to be reduced.
- Breakglass CA exclusions are tightly scoped — only exclude policies that may block emergency recovery (e.g. device state), but maintain sign-in risk or location checks where feasible.

Controlled

- Application Admin role only PIM-eligible with approval workflows.
- Privileged role assignments reviewed via Access Reviews.
- Consent grants require admin approval.
- Breakglass account uses FIDO2/passkey backed MFA.
- Secrets have defined expiry; basic automation for renewal exists.
- Redirect URIs are strictly scoped.
- Monitoring for service principal logins is in place.

Secure by Design

- All workload identities use Workload Identity Federation (WIF).
- Secrets/certs fully automated via key vault or secure pipelines.
- Workload identity Conditional Access policies enforced.
- Entra Workload ID Premium licensing applied universally.
- Alerts for anomalous app behavior integrated into SIEM/SOAR.
- Recovery procedures are documented, tested quarterly.
- Breakglass application exists with clear scoping.
- Adversary emulation (e.g., purple team) used to validate response.
- Recovery planning accounts for Microsoft service outages, misconfigurations, and attacker scenarios.

Automated & Resilient

- Entire breakglass app process is policy-as-code, version-controlled.
- All privileged app access paths are just-in-time and require approval.
- RBAC, CA, identity protection, and detection rules applied to workload identities just like user identities.
- Continuous posture monitoring via Defender for Cloud or Entra Identity Governance.
- Disaster recovery simulation of breakglass scenario part of regular purple team exercises.

Isolated Resilience

- Breakglass identity/app hosted in external (red) tenant.
- Red tenant identity has just-in-time access into primary tenant via B2B or B2B Direct.
- Red tenant identity protected with independent security stack.
- Offline access credential backup exists (QR code, physical token, etc).
- Breakglass identity or app optionally backed by alternate identity provider or tenant to avoid dependency on primary cloud platform.