

The Collective Conspiracy Coven of Conspicuous Insight and Contagious Brilliance

[illegible]

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1 The Certification

1.1 The Candidates

Candidates for this exam are Microsoft Azure security engineers who implement security controls, maintain the security posture, manages identity and access, and protects data, applications, and networks. Candidates identify and remediate vulnerabilities by using a variety of security tools, implements threat protection, and responds to security incident escalations. As a Microsoft Azure security engineer, candidates often serve as part of a larger team dedicated to cloud-based management and security and may also secure hybrid environments as part of an end-to-end infrastructure.

Candidates for this exam should have strong skills in scripting and automation, a deep understanding of networking, virtualization, and cloud N-tier architecture, and a strong familiarity with cloud capabilities, Microsoft Azure products and services, and other Microsoft products and services.

1.2 Content Overview

- Manage identity and access (20-25%)
 - Configure Microsoft Azure Active Directory for workloads
 - Configure Microsoft Azure AD Privileged Identity Management
 - Configure Microsoft Azure tenant security
- Implement platform protection (35-40%)
 - Implement network security
 - Implement host security
 - Configure container security
 - Implement Microsoft Azure Resource management security
- Manage security operations (15-20%)
 - Configure security services
 - Configure security policies
 - Manage security alerts
- Secure data and applications (30-35%)
 - Configure security policies to manage data
 - Configure security for data infrastructure
 - Configure encryption for data at rest
 - Implement security for application delivery
 - Configure application security
 - Configure and manage Key Vault

1.3 Prerequisites

The AZ-500 Azure Security Engineer Exam, like the MS-500 exam, covers a wide range of topics and technologies. Before considering taking this exam, you should first have good knowledge in the Azure technologies themselves which makes sense. You should learn what are the different Azure platform technologies in order to learn how to secure them.

So a good way to do that is to take the Azure AZ-900 (Azure Fundamentals) or the AZ-103 (Azure Administrator) exam first to learn more about Azure technologies. Now this is not a requirement for taking the AZ-500 exam, but it is a good start. If you are familiar with Azure technologies, then you can go and take the AZ-500 Azure Security Engineer Exam right away.

1.4 The exam

The AZ-500 Azure Security Engineer Exam expects you to know how to implement security controls, maintain the security posture, manages identity and access, and protects data, applications, and networks.

As per the AZ-500 Azure Security Engineer Exam official documentation:

Candidates identify and remediate vulnerabilities by using a variety of security tools, implements threat protection, and responds to security incident escalations. As a Microsoft Azure security engineer, candidates often serve as part of a larger team dedicated to cloud-based management and security and may also secure hybrid environments as part of an end-to-end infrastructure

2 Certification Content

2.1 Manage identity and access (20-25%)

2.1.1 Configure Microsoft Azure Active Directory for workloads

- Create App registration
- Configure App registration permission scopes
- Manage App registration permission consent
- Configure multi-factor authentication settings
- Manage Microsoft Azure AD directory groups
- Manage Microsoft Azure AD users
- Install and configure Microsoft Azure AD Connect
- Configure authentication methods
- Implement conditional access policies
- Configure Microsoft Azure AD identity protection

Revision notes

- Create App registration
Tree Supported account types:
 - Azure AD only single-tenant -> LOB app.
 - Azure AD only multi-tenant -> All business and educational users.
 - Azure AD multi-tenant and personal Microsoft accounts -> Widest set of users.
- Configure App registration permission scopes
Uses OAuth 2.0 for third party app access.
MS strongly recommends that you use Microsoft Graph.
Two Permission types:
 - Delegated permissions -> App permission \cap User permission
 - Application permissions -> App permissionInteresting scopes:
 - openid -> Required for OpenID Connect.
 - email -> access to the user's primary email address.
 - profile -> access to a substantial amount of information about the user. See id tokens
 - offline_access -> Maintain access to data you have given it access to.
- Manage App registration permission consent
Consent can be given by individuals or by Admins for an entire tenant.
Admin consent can only be granted with the "admin consent endpoint"

Literature	
Quickstart: Register an application with the Microsoft identity platform	3 (5)
Permissions and consent in the Azure Active Directory v1.0 endpoint	6 (10)
Permissions and consent in the Microsoft identity platform endpoint	18
Configure Azure Multi-Factor Authentication settings	21
Use groups for management	3
Custom installation of Azure AD Connect	26 (90)
Authentication method for Azure Active Directory hybrid identity solution	15+13
Best practices for Conditional Access in Azure Active Directory	6
What is Azure Active Directory Identity Protection?	3
	114

2.1.2 Configure Microsoft Azure AD Privileged Identity Management

- monitor privileged access
- configure access reviews
- activate Privileged Identity Management

Literature	
Start using Privileged Identity Management	3
Deploy Azure AD Privileged Identity Management (PIM)	26
What are Azure AD access reviews?	6+12
	47

2.1.3 Configure Microsoft Azure tenant security

- transfer Microsoft Azure subscriptions between Microsoft Azure AD tenants
- manage API access to Microsoft Azure subscriptions and resources

Literature	
Transfer billing ownership of an Azure subscription to another account	10
Authorize developer accounts by using Azure Active Directory in Azure API Management	4
Authentication flows and application scenarios	10
Azure Active Directory Graph API	4
	28

2.2 Implement platform protection (35-40%)

2.2.1 Implement network security

- configure virtual network connectivity
- configure Network Security Groups (NSGs)
- create and configure Microsoft Azure firewall
- create and configure application security groups
- configure remote access management
- configure baseline
- configure resource firewall

Literature

What is Azure Virtual Network?	5
Create, change, or delete a network security group	13
Tutorial: Deploy and configure Azure Firewall using the Azure portal	7
Application Security Groups now generally available in all Azure regions	6
Security management in Azure	20
Protect your network resources in Azure Security Center	9
Configure Azure Storage firewalls and virtual networks	17
Azure SQL Database and Azure SQL Data Warehouse IP firewall rules	11
	88

2.2.2 Implement host security

- configure endpoint security within the VM
- configure VM security
- harden VMs in Microsoft Azure
- configure system updates for VMs in Microsoft Azure
- configure baseline

Literature

Microsoft Antimalware for Azure Cloud Services and Virtual Machines	10
Security best practices for IaaS workloads in Azure	12
Harden Your Azure Infrastructure Using Azure Security Center Just-In-Time VM Access	10
Manage updates and patches for your Azure VMs	10
Retirement of Security Center features (July 2019)	7
	49

2.2.3 Configure container security

- configure network
- configure authentication
- configure container isolation
- configure AKS security
- configure container registry

- configure container instance security
- implement vulnerability management

Literature

Azure Virtual Network capabilities	3
Service principals with Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)	6
Container Security in Microsoft Azure	45
Security concepts for applications and clusters in Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)	6
Security considerations for Azure Container Instances	9
	69

2.2.4 Implement Microsoft Azure Resource management security

- create Microsoft Azure resource locks
- manage resource group security
- configure Microsoft Azure policies
- configure custom RBAC roles
- configure subscription and resource permissions

Literature

Lock resources to prevent unexpected changes	6
What is role-based access control (RBAC) for Azure resources?	7
Tutorial: Create and manage policies to enforce compliance	14
Custom roles for Azure resources	4
Manage access to Azure resources using RBAC and the Azure portal	6
	37

2.3 Manage security operations (15-20%)

2.3.1 Configure security services

- configure Microsoft Azure monitor
- configure Microsoft Azure log analytics
- configure diagnostic logging and log retention
- configure vulnerability scanning

Literature

Azure Management - Monitoring	3
Manage access to log data and workspaces in Azure Monitor	10
Azure Resource logs overview	2
Vulnerability assessment in Azure Security Center	4
	19

2.3.2 Configure security policies

- configure centralized policy management by using Microsoft Azure Security Center
- configure Just in Time VM access by using Microsoft Azure Security Center

Literature

Working with security policies	9
Manage virtual machine access using just-in-time	11
	20

2.3.3 Manage security alerts

- create and customize alerts
- review and respond to alerts and recommendations
- configure a playbook for a security event by using Microsoft Azure Security Center
- investigate escalated security incidents

Literature

Manage and respond to security alerts in Azure Security Center	2
Security recommendations in Azure Security Center	2
Security Playbook in Azure Security Center (Preview)	3
Security alerts investigation	5
	12

2.4 Secure data and applications (30-35%)

2.4.1 Configure security policies to manage data

- configure data classification
- configure data retention
- configure data sovereignty

Literature

Tutorial: Configure Azure Information Protection policy settings that work together	8
Setting a Storage Analytics data retention policy	2
Retention policy	2
Sample - Allowed region locations	5
	17

2.4.2 Configure security for data infrastructure

- enable database authentication
- enable database auditing
- configure Microsoft Azure SQL Database threat detection
- configure access control for storage accounts
- configure key management for storage accounts
- create and manage Shared Access Signatures (SAS)
- configure security
 - HDInsights
 - Cosmos DB
 - Microsoft Azure Data Lake

Literature

Use Azure Active Directory Authentication for authentication with SQL	9
Get started with SQL database auditing	12
Azure SQL Database Advanced Threat Protection for single or pooled databases	2
Azure Storage security guide	44
Configure customer-managed keys for Azure Storage encryption from the Azure portal	2
Grant limited access to Azure Storage resources using shared access signatures (SAS)	11
Enterprise Security Package configurations with Azure Active Directory Domain Services in HDInsight	7
Security in Azure Cosmos DB - overview	7
Virtual network integration for Azure Data Lake Storage Gen1	6
	100

2.4.3 Configure encryption for data at rest

- implement Microsoft Azure SQL Database Always Encrypted
- implement encryption
 - database

- Storage Service
- disk
- backup

Literature	
Always Encrypted: Protect sensitive data and store encryption keys in the Windows certificate store	12
Transparent Data Encryption (TDE)	11
Azure Storage encryption for data at rest	8
Azure Disk Encryption for virtual machines and virtual machine scale sets	2
Azure Backup - Frequently asked questions	8
	41

2.4.4 Implement security for application delivery

- implement security validations for application development
- configure synthetic security transactions

Literature	
Securing PaaS deployments	12
Unified cross-component transaction diagnostics	4
	16

2.4.5 Configure application security

- configure SSL/TLS certs
- configure Microsoft Azure services to protect web apps
- create an application security baseline

Literature	
Tutorial: Upload and bind SSL certificates to Azure App Service	9
Configure App Service with Application Gateway	5
Securing PaaS deployments	12
	26

2.4.6 Configure and manage Key Vault

- manage access to Key Vault
- manage permissions to secrets, certificates, and keys
- manage certificates
- manage secrets
- configure key rotation

Literature	
Secure access to a key vault	13
About keys, secrets, and certificates	26
Set up Azure Key Vault with key rotation and auditing	14
	53

3 Extended notes

3.1 Manage identity and access

3.1.1 Application management

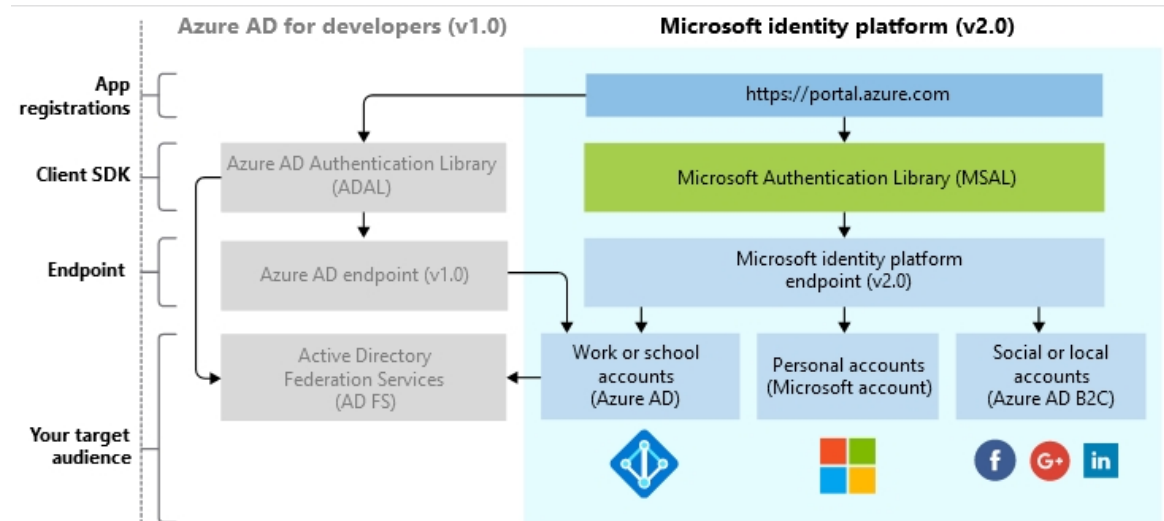


Figure 1: Microsoft identity platform

Permission / scope

Azure AD defines two kinds of permissions:

- Delegated. Applications with signed in users. Can be either user or admin consent. The application is granted permission to act as the signed-in user when making requests. Effective permissions are the *least* privileged intersection of the delegated permissions for the application itself (through consent) and the privileges of the signed-in user. Within organizations, the privileges of the signed-in user may be determined by policy or by group membership.
- Application. Applications without signed in users. Can only be granted by administrator or the user which is stated as owner of the resource application. Effective permissions is the full set of privileges granted by the permission.

Effective permissions are the permissions that your app will have when making requests to an API.

Consent

Applications in Azure AD rely on consent in order to gain access to necessary resources or APIs.

- Static user. All required permissions are pre-specified in the app's configuration in Azure portal.
- Dynamic user. Additional permissions can be obtained when using the application. Users are prompted for additional permissions as required.
- Admin user. Required for specific high-privilege permissions. Must be granted ahead of time, cannot be dynamic.

Trivia and quirks

1. Microsoft identity platform is an evolution of the Azure Active Directory developer platform
2. Preview versions of MSAL libraries have the same level of support as production versions of MSAL and ADAL.

3. Microsoft identity platform (v2.0) endpoint is now OIDC certified

3.1.2 User management

When using groups for managing the following methods should be considered:

Self-service group management. When Azure AD groups are managed by group owners instead of IT administrators.

Dynamic group membership. When a series of rules govern membership in Azure AD groups, by automatically add or remove user accounts.

1. If a new user account matches all the rules for the group, it becomes a member.
2. If a user account isn't a member of the group, but its attributes change so that it matches all the rules for the group, it becomes a member of that group.
3. If a user account is a member of the group, but its attributes change so that it no longer matches all the rules for the group, it is removed as a member of the group.

Group-based licensing. Automating the assigning, and removal, of licenses based on group membership.

Trivia and quirks

1. Self-service group management is available only for Azure AD security and Office 365 groups. *It is not available for mail-enabled groups, distribution lists, or any group that has been synchronized from your on-premises Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS).*

3.1.3 Conditional Access

Application and enforcement

1. All policies that apply must be satisfied.
2. Phase 1 : All policies are evaluated and all access controls that aren't satisfied are collected.
3. Phase 2 : Prompted to satisfy the requirements you haven't met *in order*.
 - (a) Multi-factor authentication
 - (b) Compliant device
 - (c) Hybrid Azure AD joined device
 - (d) Approved client app

The Conditional Access framework provides you with a great configuration flexibility. However, great flexibility also means that you should carefully review each configuration policy before releasing it to avoid undesirable results.

When new policies are ready for your environment, deploy them in phases:

1. Apply a policy to a small set of users and verify it behaves as expected.
2. When you expand a policy to include more users. Continue to exclude all administrators from the policy to ensure that they still have access and can update a policy if a change is required.
3. Apply a policy to all users only if necessary.

- As a first step, you should evaluate your policy using the what if tool.
- Create a user account that is:
 - Dedicated to policy administration
 - Excluded from all your policies

3.1.4 Identity protection

Identity Protection seeks to accomplish three key tasks:

1. Automate the detection and remediation of identity-based risks.
2. Investigate risks using data in the portal.
3. Export risk detection data to third-party utilities for further analysis.

Risk detection

Risk detections in Azure AD Identity Protection include any identified suspicious actions related to user accounts in the directory.

- User
 - Leaked Credentials. *This risk detection indicates that the user's valid credentials have been leaked.*
 - Azure AD threat intelligence. *Microsoft's internal and external threat intelligence sources have identified a known attack pattern.*
- Sign-in
 - Atypical travel. *Sign in from an atypical location based on the user's recent sign-ins.*
 - Anonymous IP address. *Sign in from an anonymous IP address (for example: Tor browser, anonymizer VPNs).*
 - Unfamiliar sign-in properties. *Sign in with properties we've not seen recently for the given user.*
 - Malware linked IP address. *Sign in from a malware linked IP address.*
 - Admin confirmed user compromised. *This detection indicates an admin has selected 'Confirm user compromised' in the Risky users UI or using riskyUsers API.*
 - Malicious IP address. *This detection indicates sign-in from a malicious IP address. An IP address is considered malicious based on high failure rates because of invalid credentials received from the IP address or other IP reputation sources.*

Investigating risk

- Risky users

<u>Information</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Users at risk – Details about detections – History of risky sign-ins – Risk history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reset the user password – Confirm user compromise – Dismiss user risk – Block user from signing in – Investigate further using Azure ATP

- Risky sign-ins. *The risky sign-ins report contains data for up to the past 30 days.*

Information

- Sign-ins indicating risk
- Real-time and aggregate risk levels associated with sign-in attempts
- Detection types triggered
- Conditional Access policies applied
- MFA details
- Device information
- Application information
- Location information

Actions

- Confirm sign-in compromise
- Confirm sign-in safe

- Risk detections

Information

- Information about each risk detection including type
- Other risks triggered at the same time
- Sign-in attempt location
- Link out to more detail from Microsoft Cloud App Security (MCAS)

Actions

- Return to either user risk or sign-in report and take action there

The three reports are found in the Azure portal > Azure Active Directory > Security.

DATE	USER	APPLICATION	STATUS	IP ADDRESS	LOCATION	RISK STATE	REQUEST ID	CONDITIONAL ACCE...
9/10/2019, 3:26:10 PM	Alain Charon	Azure Portal	Success	131.107.174.133	Redmond, Washing...	At risk	5e29879d-e7b6-48...	notApplied
9/10/2019, 3:02:56 P...	Alain Charon	Azure Portal	Interrupted	131.107.147.147	Redmond, Washing...	At risk	cf4d5e5c2-2478-4ee...	notApplied
9/10/2019, 9:15:42 A...	Alain Charon	Microsoft Office 36...	Interrupted	131.107.159.177	Redmond, Washing...	At risk	29e08ac8-4e6e-4e9...	notApplied
9/9/2019, 11:01:05 PM	Alain Charon	Azure Portal	Interrupted	131.107.159.4	Redmond, Washing...	At risk	75442753-71d3-428...	notApplied
9/9/2019, 8:48:10 PM	Alain Charon	Azure Portal	Interrupted	60.47.110.66	Redmond, Washing...	At risk	8a74518c-437e-48...	notApplied

Details	
Request ID	29e08ac8-xxxx-xxxx-4a65c26bab00
Correlation ID	44ff76a8-xxxx-xxxx-41bea9d8be5d
User	Alain Charon
Username	alain.charon@contoso.com
User ID	bab8aed7-xxxx-xxxx-49c3688805e
Application	Microsoft Office 365 Portal
Application ID	00000006-0000-0001-ca00-000000000000
Resource	Windows Azure Active Directory
Resource ID	00000002-0000-0000-c000-000000000000
IP address	131.107.159.177
Location	Redmond, Washington, US
Date	9/10/2019, 9:15:42 AM
Status	Interrupted
Sign-in error code	50140
Failure reason	This error occurred due to 'Keep me signed in' interrupt when the user was signing-in.
Client app	Browser

Figure 2: Identify protection risky sign-ins report

Remediation

1. Technical tools

- (a) Azure Multi-Factor Authentication
- (b) Reset their password using self-service password reset

- (c) Blocking until an administrator takes action

2. Policies

- (a) MFA registration policy. *Can help organizations roll out MFA using a Conditional Access policy requiring registration at sign-in.*
- (b) Sign-in risk policy. *Analyzes signals from each sign-in, both real-time and offline, and calculates a risk score based on the probability that the sign-in wasn't performed by the user. If risk is detected, users can perform multi-factor authentication to self-remediate and close the risky sign-in event to prevent unnecessary noise.*
- (c) User risk policy. *Calculate what it believes is normal for a user's behaviour and use that to base decisions for their risk. If risk is detected, users can perform self-service password reset to self-remediate and close the user risk event to prevent unnecessary noise.*

License requirements

		Premium P2	Premium P1	Basic/Free
Risk policies	User risk policy	✓	✗	✗
Risk policies	Sign-in risk policy	✓	✗	✗
Security reports	Overview	✓	✗	✗
Security reports	Risky users	✓	Limited	Limited
Security reports	Risky sign-ins	✓	Limited	Limited
Security reports	Risk detections	✓	Limited	✗
Notifications	Users at risk detected alerts	✓	✗	✗
Notifications	Weekly digest	✓	✗	✗
	MFA registration policy	✓	✗	✗

Users role with Identity Protection Access

1. Security Reader
2. Security Operator
3. Security Administrator
4. Global Reader
5. Global Administrator

3.1.5 Azure AD Connect

Wizards

- Express. Requires high level of privileges and does not require creating users or configuring permissions. Requires two accounts a) AD DS Enterprise Administrator and b) Azure AD Global Administrator.
- Custom. It is used in all cases where the express installation option does not satisfy your deployment or topology.

Accounts

- Synchronisation
 - AD DS Connector account:
 - Used to read/write information to Windows Server Active Directory.

- ADSync service account:
Used to run the synchronization service and access the SQL database.
- Azure AD Connector account:
Used to write information to Azure AD.
- Installation
 - Local Administrator account:
The administrator who is installing Azure AD Connect and who has local Administrator permissions on the machine.
 - AD DS Enterprise Administrator account:
Optionally used to create the "AD DS Connector account" above.
 - Azure AD Global Administrator account:
Used to create the Azure AD Connector account and configure Azure AD.
After installation this account should be changed from Global Administrator role to the *Directory Synchronization Accounts* role.
 - SQL SA account (optional):
Used to create the ADSync database when using the full version of SQL Server. This account could be the same account as the Enterprise Administrator.

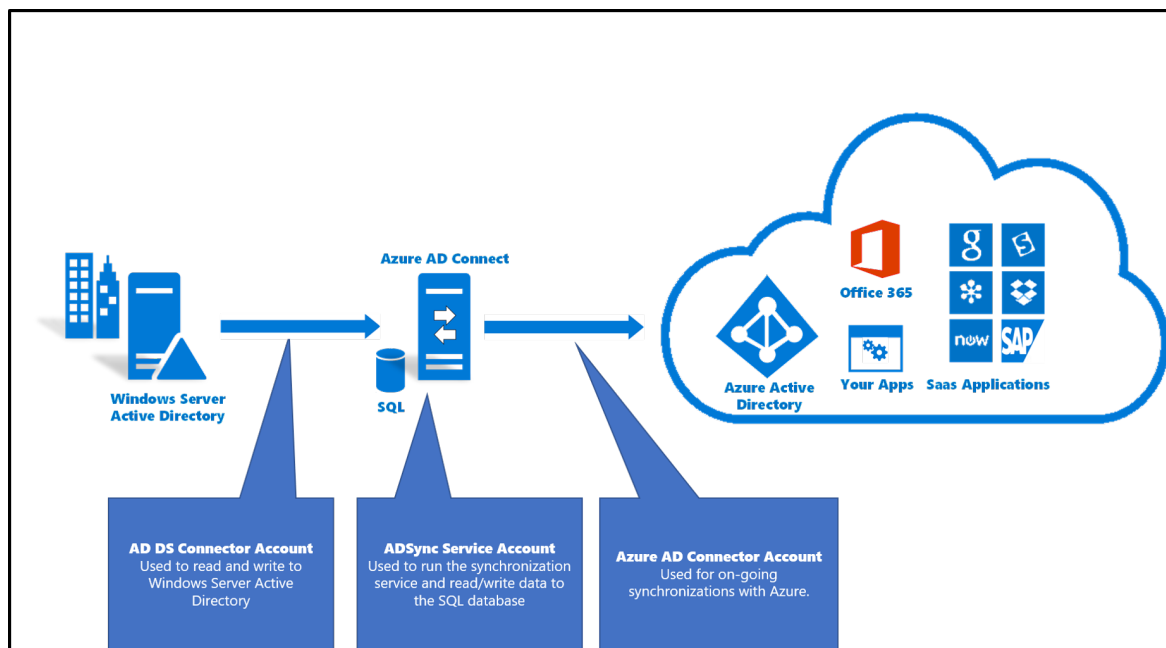


Figure 3: Accounts used for Azure AD Connect

Components

- SQL Server 2012 Express, LocalDB instance
- User sign-in scheme
 - Password Hash Sync. *The users passwords are synchronized to Azure AD as a password hash and authentication occurs in the cloud.*
 - Pass-through Authentication. *The users password is passed through to the on-premises Active Directory domain controller to be validated.*

- Federation with AD FS. *The users are redirected to their on-premises AD FS instance to sign in and authentication occurs on-premises.*
- Federation with PingFederate. *The users are redirected to their on-premises PingFederate instance to sign in and authentication occurs on-premises.*
- Do not configure. *No user sign-in feature is installed and configured. Choose this option if you already have a 3rd party federation server or another existing solution in place.*

Option Enable Single Sign on. *Provides a single sign on experience for desktop users on the corporate network. For Hash or Pass-through.*

Appendix A Glossary

A.1 Acronyms

LOB Line-of-business (application)

OIDC OpenID Connect

SIEM Security information and event management

MCAS Microsoft Cloud App Security

Appendix B Quiz

B.1 Manage identity and access

As an enterprise or software-as-a-service (SaaS) developer you wish to build an application which allows users to sign in using their Personal Microsoft accounts. Which Microsoft Identity platform library provides authentication tools for Personal Microsoft accounts?

- ☐ Microsoft Authentication Library (MSAL)
- ☐ Azure AD Authentication Library (ADAL)
- ☐ .NET DotNetOpenAuth (OAuth)
- ☐ Microsoft Active Directory Library (MADL)

An application which allows users to update their contact information, is created utilising the delegated permission scheme. Can the current user signed in, Bob from HR, update the contact information of his colleague Alice, using the application? *The application has the User.ReadWrite.All delegated permission in Microsoft Graph.*

- ☐ Yes. The effective permissions granted by the application allows signed-in user the ability to update all users.
- ☐ No. The effective permissions granted by the application does not allow signed-in user the ability to update all users.

Create additional questions from <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/develop/v2-permissions-and-consent#using-the-admin-consent-endpoint>

Appendix C Quiz (with answers)

C.1 Manage identity and access

As an enterprise or software-as-a-service (SaaS) developer you wish to build an application which allows users to sign in using their Personal Microsoft accounts. Which Microsoft Identity platform library provides authentication tools for Personal Microsoft accounts?

- ☒ Microsoft Authentication Library (MSAL)
- ☐ Azure AD Authentication Library (ADAL)
- ☐ .NET DotNetOpenAuth (OAuth)
- ☐ Microsoft Active Directory Library (MADL)

An application which allows users to update their contact information, is created utilising the delegated permission scheme. Can the current user signed in, Bob from HR, update the contact information of his colleague Alice, using the application? *The application has the User.ReadWrite.All delegated permission in Microsoft Graph.*

- ☐ Yes The effective permissions granted by the application allows signed-in user the ability to update all users.
- ☒ No. The effective permissions for the application does not allow signed-in user the ability to update all users.