Privileged Identity Management

Research Guide

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Introduction

Our Purpose

Organizations want to limit the number of individuals who have access to secure information or resources because it reduces the possibility of a malicious actor gaining access to an authorized user and inadvertently compromising a sensitive resource. As the number of work-from-home employees and interns grows, we want to address this by properly configuring **Privileged Identity Management** (PIM) **to provide time-based** and **approval-based role activation** to mitigate the risks of **excessive, unnecessary,** or **misused access permissions** on resources that you value.

Problem Statement

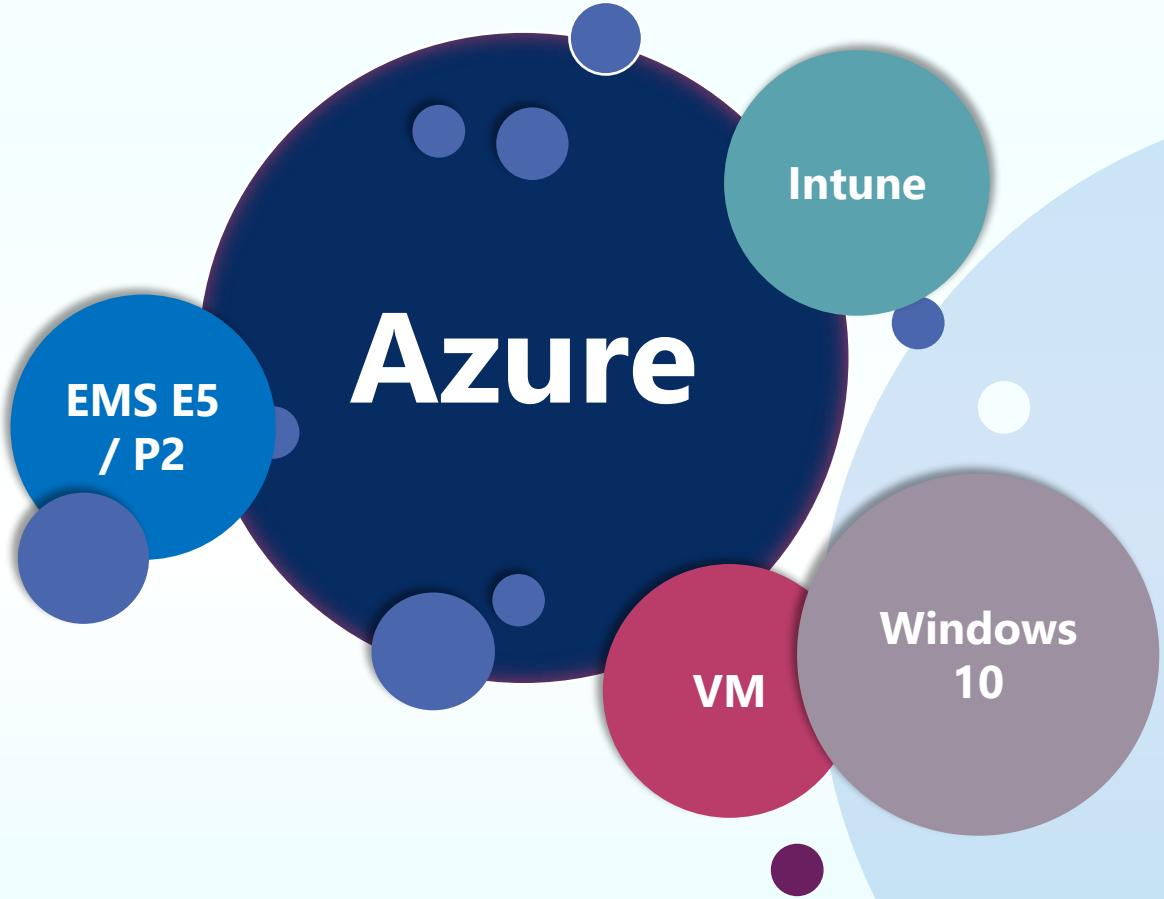
In today's world, Security has become an extreme necessity for almost every organization. On the other hand, **the usage of Azure AD in many companies has enabled them to manage user identities and roles, configure security settings** for the same. However, it is possible to **lose sight of the number of Global Admin accounts** which results in a **lack of permissions** to some of the administrators to perform their daily tasks. In addition to that, there is a higher chance of a serious breach or **privileged users inadvertently impacting a sensitive resource** if any privileged user is not rightly administered.
PIM (Privileged Identity Management), an Azure AD security component designed to administer access to privileged accounts provides the right solution to such issues.

The Solution

PIM (Privileged Identity Management), an Azure AD security component designed to administer access to privileged accounts, provides the right solution to such issues with key features such as:

- Provide Just-In-Time (JIT) access to resources
- Assign time-bound access to resources between firm dates
- Require approval to activate privileged roles
- Enforce Multi-Factor Authentication to activate any role
- Use justifications to understand why users need access
- Get notified when privileged roles are activated

Requirements

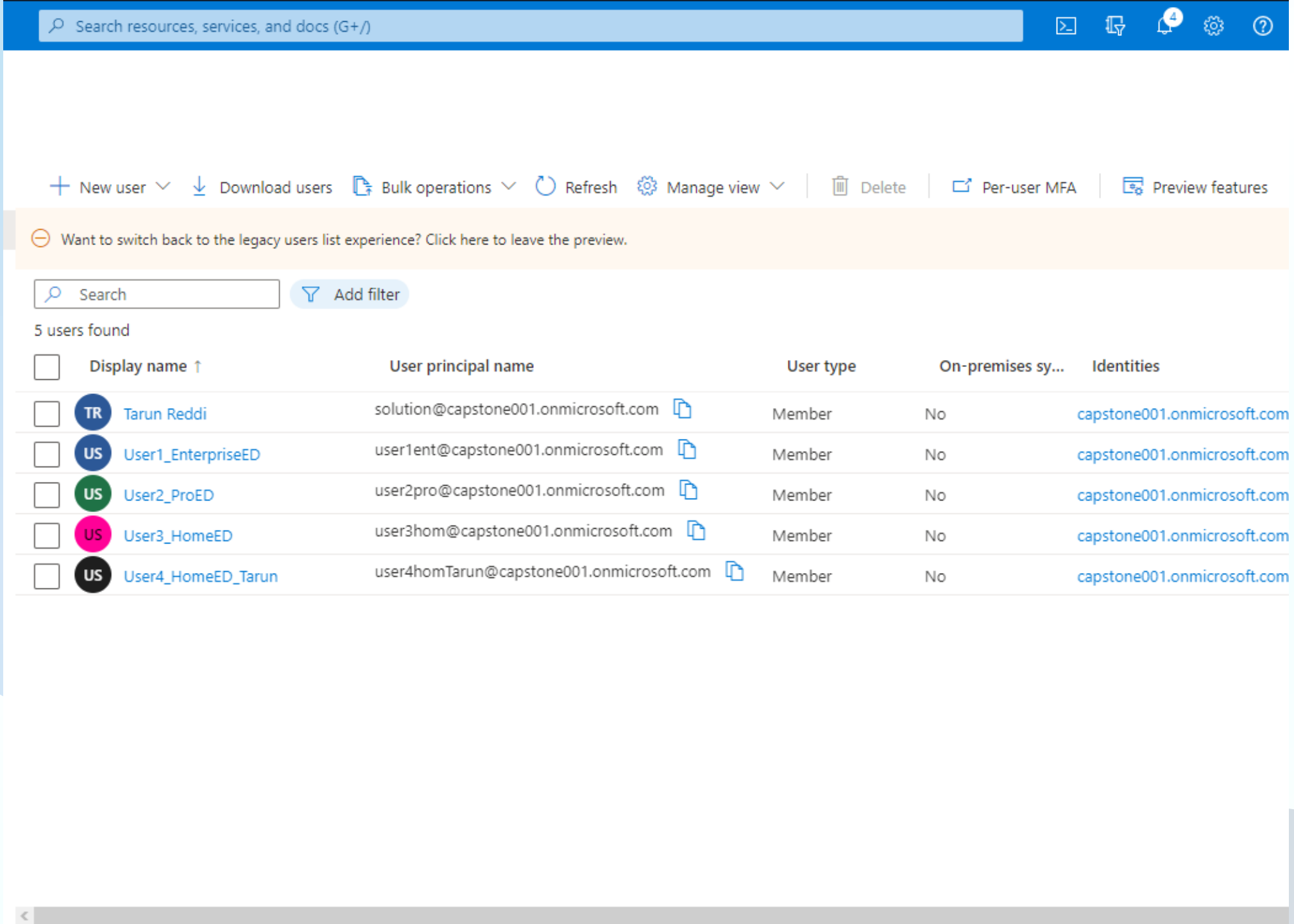


METHODOLOGY:

- **Environment Setup.**
  - Creating Users.
  - Prerequisites.
  - Device enrolment.
- **Compliance configured at the device level.**
  - Properties of the Compliance policies Configured through endpoint security in the MEAD.
  - Applying the established compliance security policies to the users and devices to simulate the workspace environment.

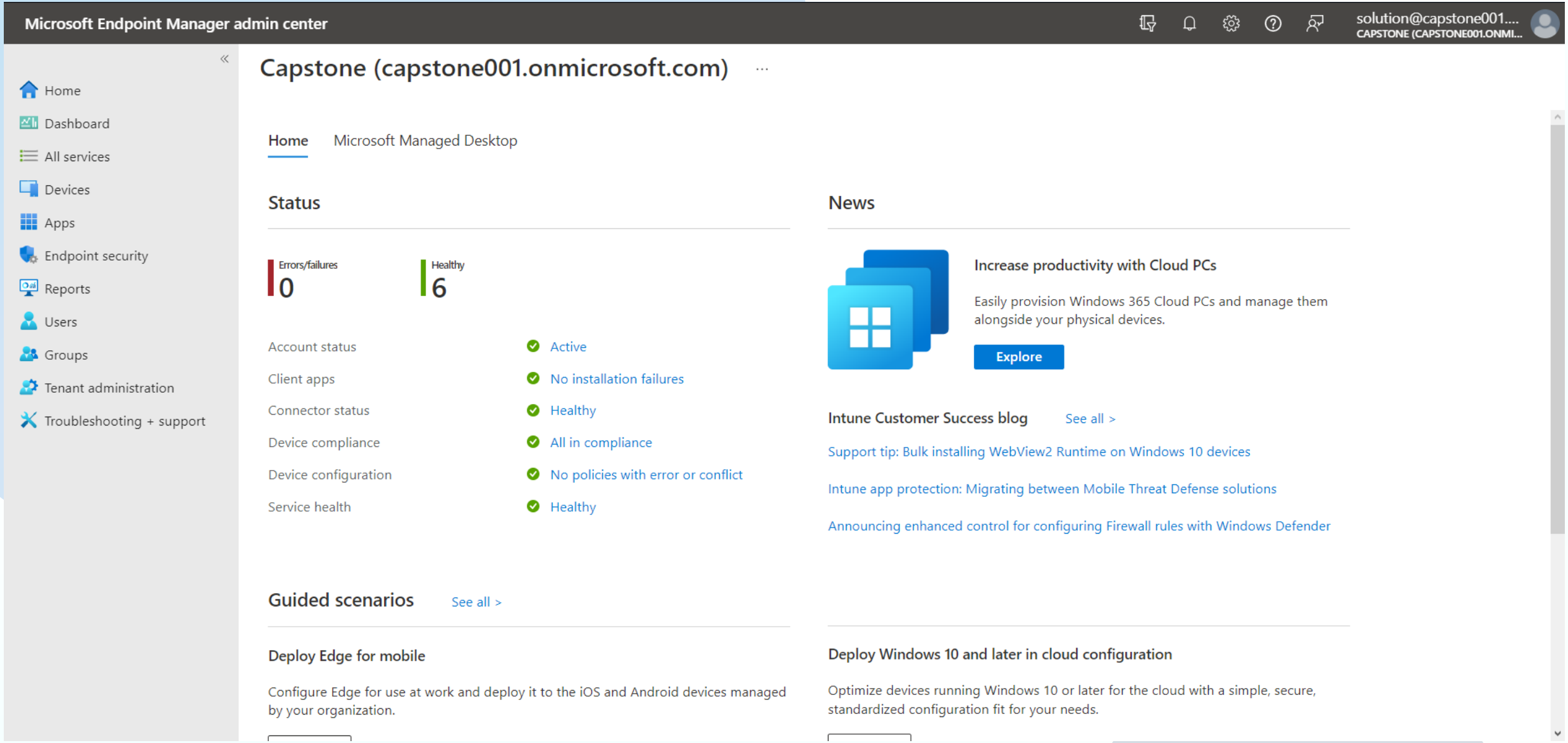
STEP – 1: Creating Users

- We begin with setting up the Intune account (solution@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com), followed by creating 4 users having different Windows 10 edition devices under the domain - **capstone001.onmicrosoft.com -** in the Azure Active Directory.
- Setting up devices into Intune is done by accessing the Microsoft Endpoint Admin Center (MEAD), where we configure the endpoint security through compliance policies to ensure the device and user/employee accounts are secure enough to access the organization’s resources.


Search resources, services, and docs (G+/)
New user
Download users
Bulk operations
Refresh
Manage view
Delete
Per-user MFA
Preview features
Want to switch back to the legacy users list experience? Click here to leave the preview.
Search
Add filter
5 users found
Display name
User principal name
User type
On-premises sy...
Identities
TR Tarun Reddi solution@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com Member No capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
US User1_EnterpriseED user1ent@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com Member No capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
US User2_ProED user2pro@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com Member No capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
US User3_HomeED user3hom@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com Member No capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
US User4_HomeED_Tarun user4homTarun@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com Member No capstone001.onmicrosoft.com

STEP – 2: Prerequisites

A glance into the MEAD:



There are certain prerequisites to be completed before device enrolment into Intune.

1. All users must have the EMS E5 / AD Premium P2 Licenses assigned to be eligible for device enrollment.
2. Mobility (MDM and MAM) should be configured by opting ‘NONE’ option for the MDM and MAM user scope.
3. Individual user usage locations must be assigned to apply the above Licenses for the users.

Once the prerequisites are completed, we can proceed further to add devices one by one.

There are two ways a device can be enrolled:

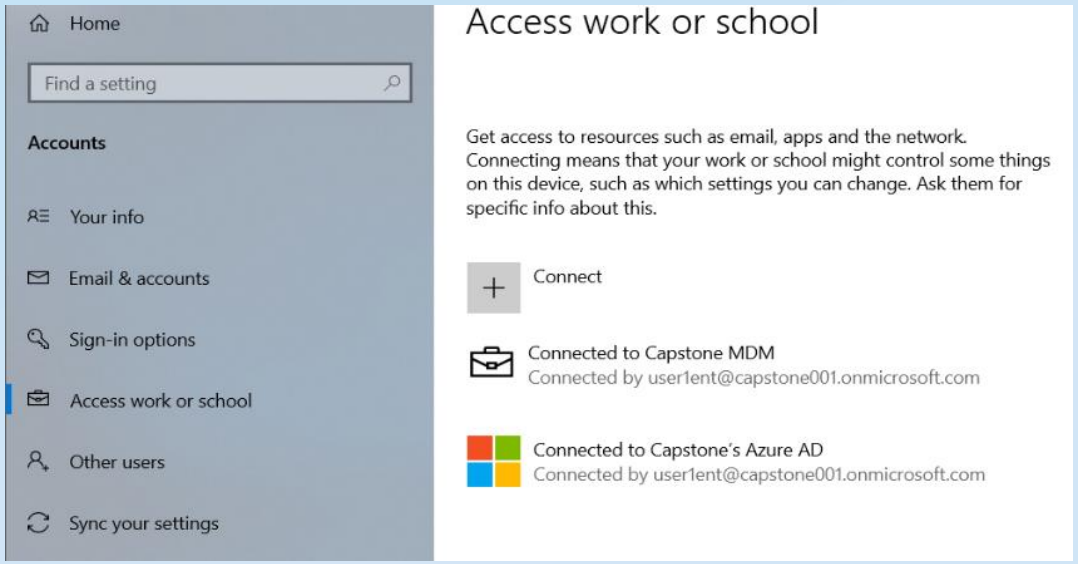
a) **Personal:** A device logged in with a personal Email ID but only the **Company Portal App (Intune app)** is logged in with the corporate Email ID.

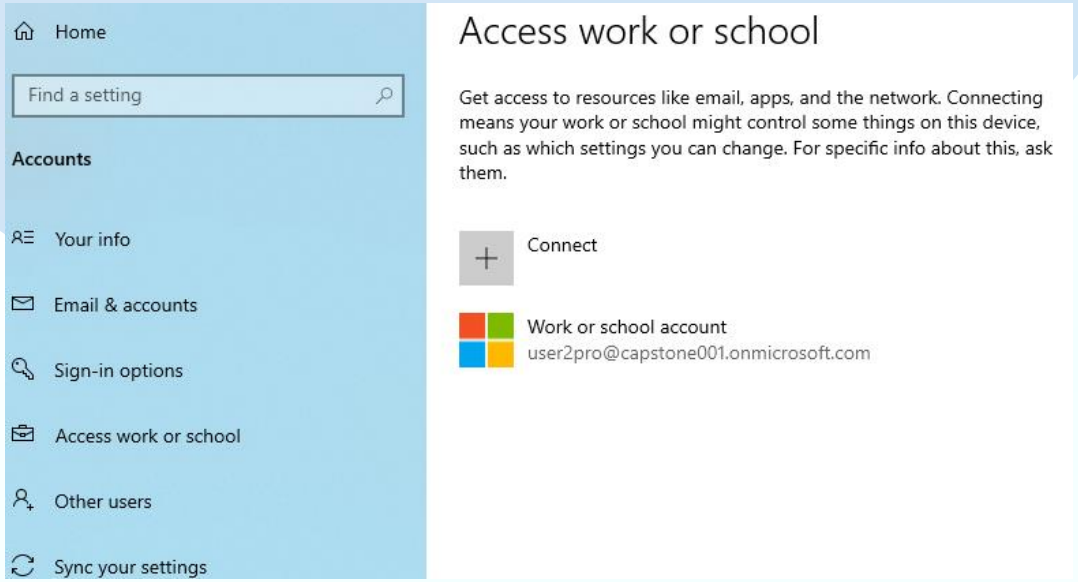
b) **Corporate:** The device is **Azure Joined to the Active Directory** via the work or school account option in the device settings with the corporate Email ID

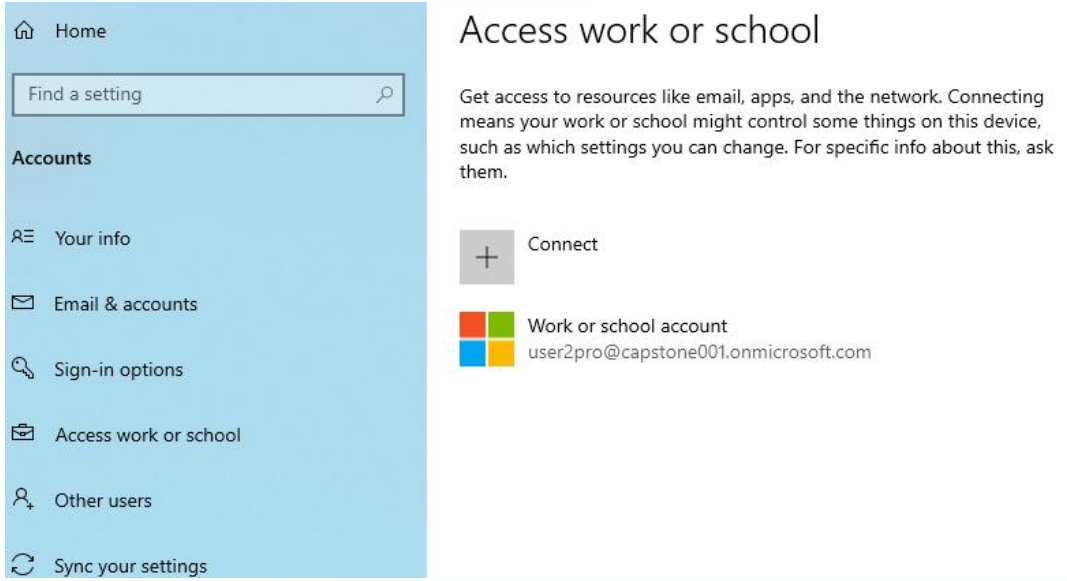
The following image tells us the type of user's device enrolled in Intune

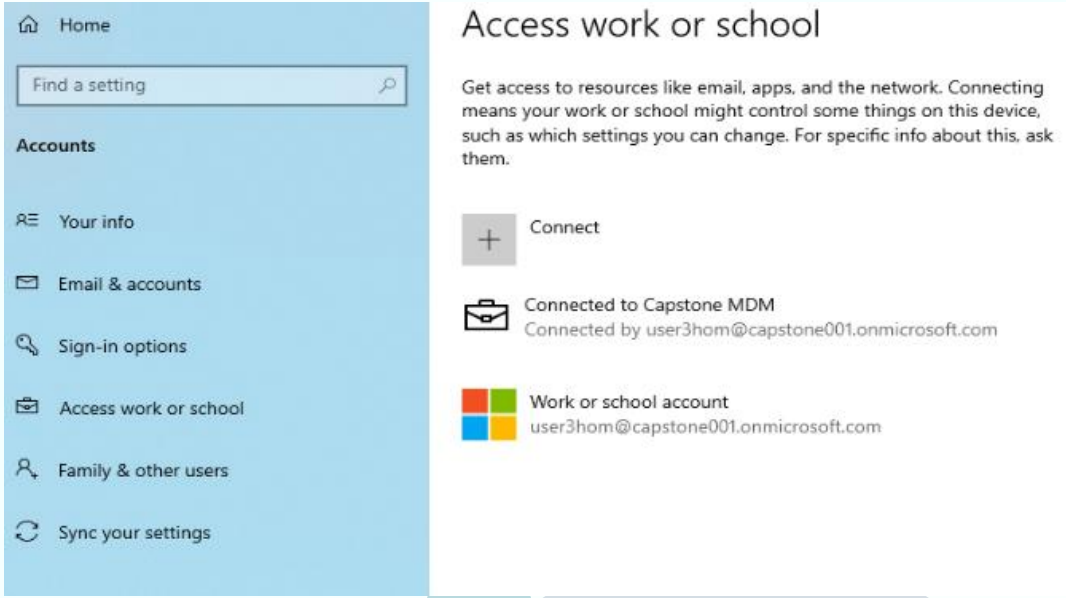
Device name ↑↓	Managed by ↑↓	Ownership ↑↓	Compliance ↑↓	OS	OS version ↑↓
USER1-ENT	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.17763.1
User2-Pro	Intune	Corporate	Compliant	Windows	10.0.19045.2251
User3-Home	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.18362.30
User4Home	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.18362.30

STEP – 3: Device Enrollment









Compliance Configured at the device level

Properties:

Device Health	
Require BitLocker	Require
Require Secure Boot to be enabled on the device	Require
Require code integrity	Require
System Security	
Require a password to unlock mobile devices	Require
Require encryption of data storage on device.	Require
Firewall	Require
Trusted Platform Module (TPM)	Require
Antivirus	Require
Antispyware	Require
Microsoft Defender Antimalware	Require
Microsoft Defender Antimalware security intelligence up-to-date	Require
Real-time protection	Require
Microsoft Defender for Endpoint	
Require the device to be at or under the machine risk score:	Medium

Properties of the Compliance policies Configured through endpoint security in the MEAD.

Endpoint Security – Device Compliance

Name: Basic Device Compliance

Profile type: Windows 10/11 compliance policy

Assigned: Yes**Platform supported:** Windows 10 and later

Groups assigned: 1

Other Properties:

Actions for noncompliance Edit

Action	Schedule	Message template	Additional recipients (via email)
Mark device noncompliant	Immediately		
Add device to retire list	5 days		

Scope tags Edit

Default

Assignments Edit

Included groups

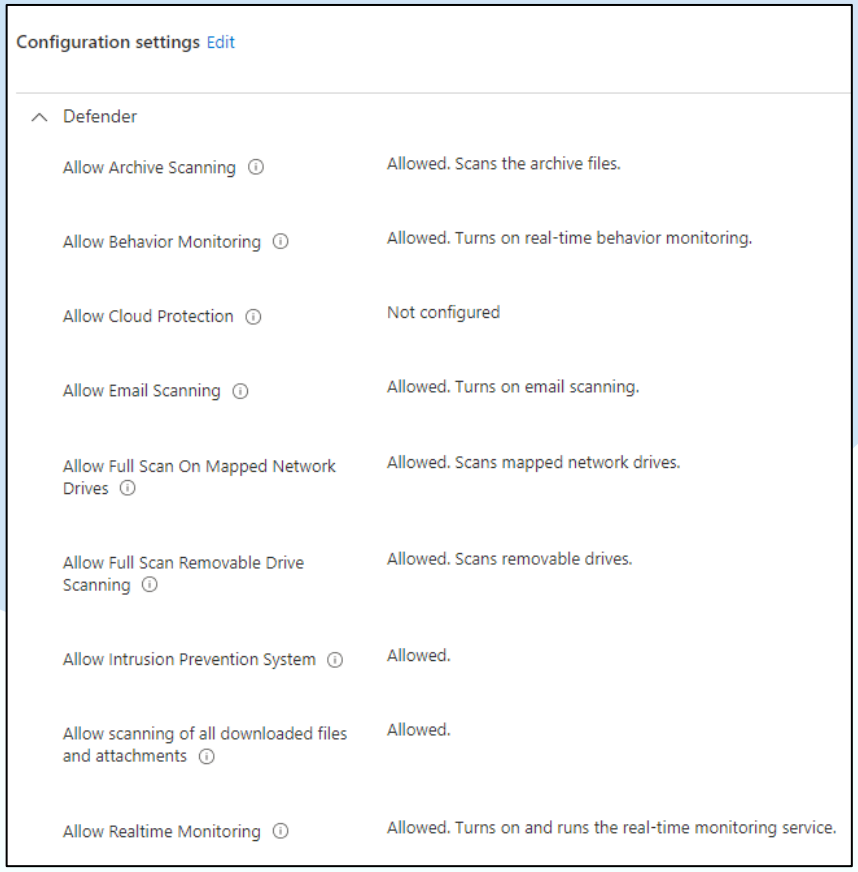
Group	Filter	Filter mode
All Devices	None	None

Excluded groups

Group
No results.

Endpoint Security | Antivirus

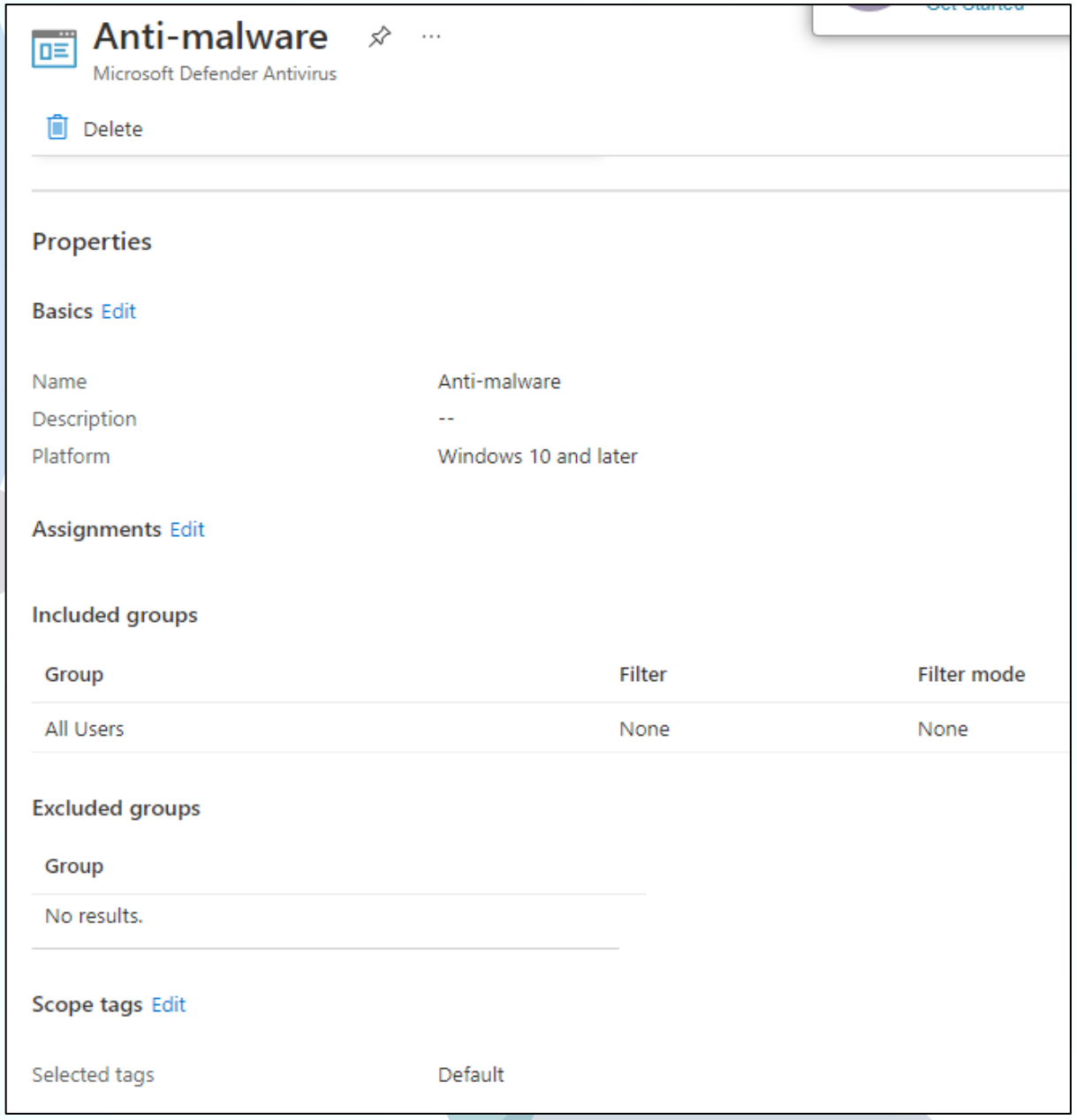
After enabling basic compliance for the devices, we also created Antivirus policy for every user to enhance the protection, by enabling various configurations we are available with, which can be seen below.



Configuration settings Edit

Defender

Allow Archive Scanning	Allowed. Scans the archive files.
Allow Behavior Monitoring	Allowed. Turns on real-time behavior monitoring.
Allow Cloud Protection	Not configured
Allow Email Scanning	Allowed. Turns on email scanning.
Allow Full Scan On Mapped Network Drives	Allowed. Scans mapped network drives.
Allow Full Scan Removable Drive Scanning	Allowed. Scans removable drives.
Allow Intrusion Prevention System	Allowed.
Allow scanning of all downloaded files and attachments	Allowed.
Allow Realtime Monitoring	Allowed. Turns on and runs the real-time monitoring service.



Anti-malware

Microsoft Defender Antivirus

Delete

Properties

Basics Edit

Name	Anti-malware
Description	--
Platform	Windows 10 and later

Assignments Edit

Included groups

Group	Filter	Filter mode
All Users	None	None

Excluded groups

Group
No results.

Scope tags Edit

Selected tags	Default

Allow Scanning Network Files	Allowed. Scans network files.
Allow Script Scanning	Allowed.
Allow User UI Access	Not configured
Avg CPU Load Factor	50
Check For Signatures Before Running Scan	Enabled
Cloud Block Level	Default State
Cloud Extended Timeout	Not configured
Days To Retain Cleaned Malware	5
Disable Catchup Full Scan	Not configured
Disable Catchup Quick Scan	Not configured
Enable Low CPU Priority	Not configured
Enable Network Protection	Enabled (audit mode)

Excluded Extensions	Not configured
Excluded Paths	Not configured
Excluded Processes	Not configured
PUA Protection	Audit mode. Windows Defender will detect potentially unwanted applications, but take no action. You can review information about the applications Windows Defender would have taken action against by searching for events created by Windows Defender in the Event Viewer.
Real Time Scan Direction	Monitor all files (bi-directional).
Scan Parameter	Full scan
Schedule Quick Scan Time	Not configured
Schedule Scan Day	Not configured
Schedule Scan Time	Not configured
Signature Update Fallback Order	Not configured
Signature Update File Shares Sources	Not configured

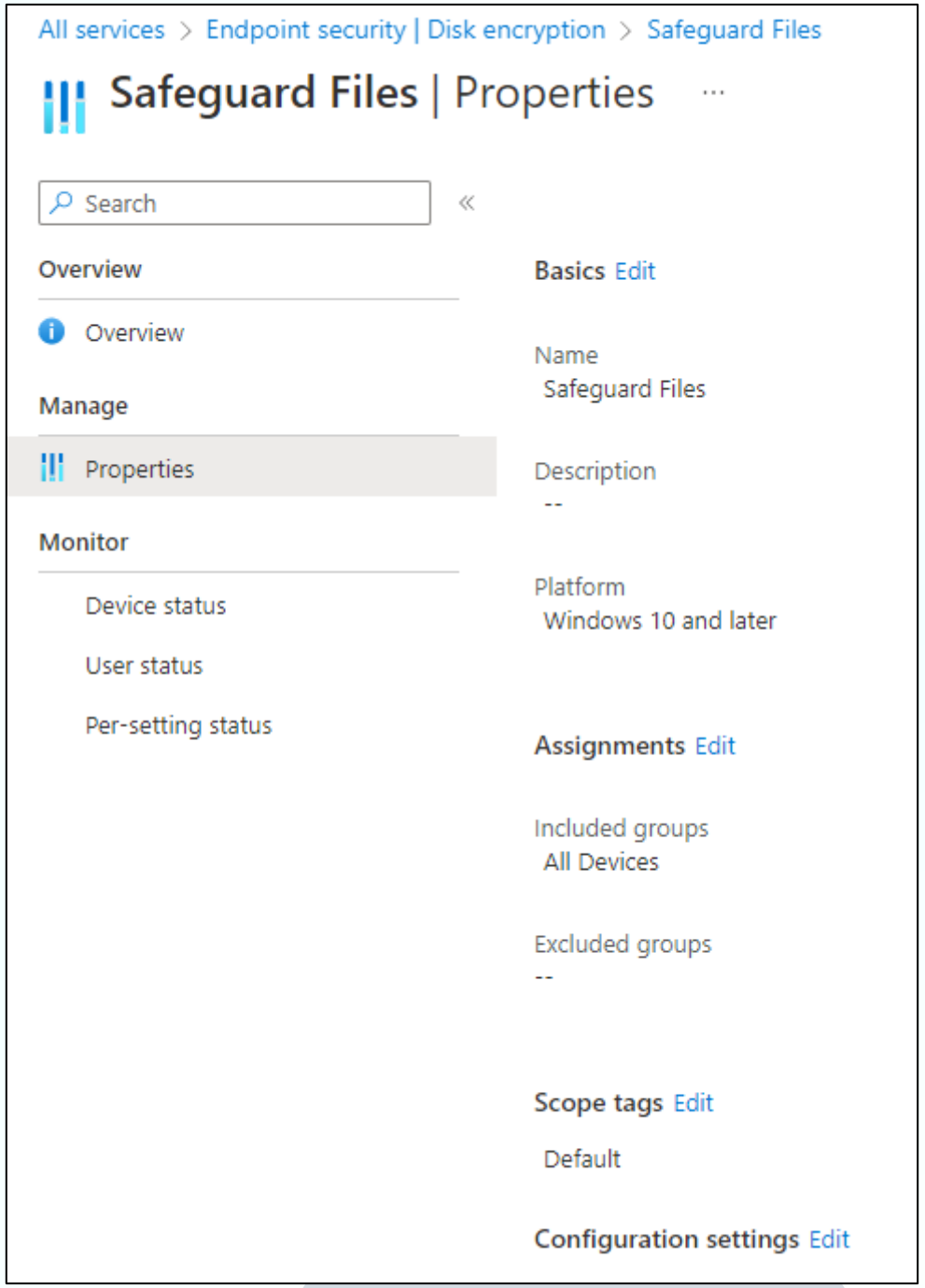
Signature Update Interval	Not configured
Submit Samples Consent	Not configured
Disable Local Admin Merge	Not configured
Allow On Access Protection	Not configured
Remediation action for Severe threats	Not configured
Remediation action for Moderate severity threats	Quarantine. Moves files to quarantine.
Remediation action for Low severity threats	User defined. Requires user to make a decision on which action to take.
Remediation action for High severity threats	Remove. Removes files from system.

Endpoint security | Disk encryption

BitLocker Drive Encryption is a data protection feature that integrates with the operating system and addresses the threats of data theft or exposure from lost, stolen, or inappropriately decommissioned computers. Did you know? You can view the encryption status of all managed devices in the Encryption report (Devices - Monitor - Encryption Report) . This includes the status of encryption on the device, encryption readiness, and any prerequisites missing or errors related to encryption on devices.

Configuration settings

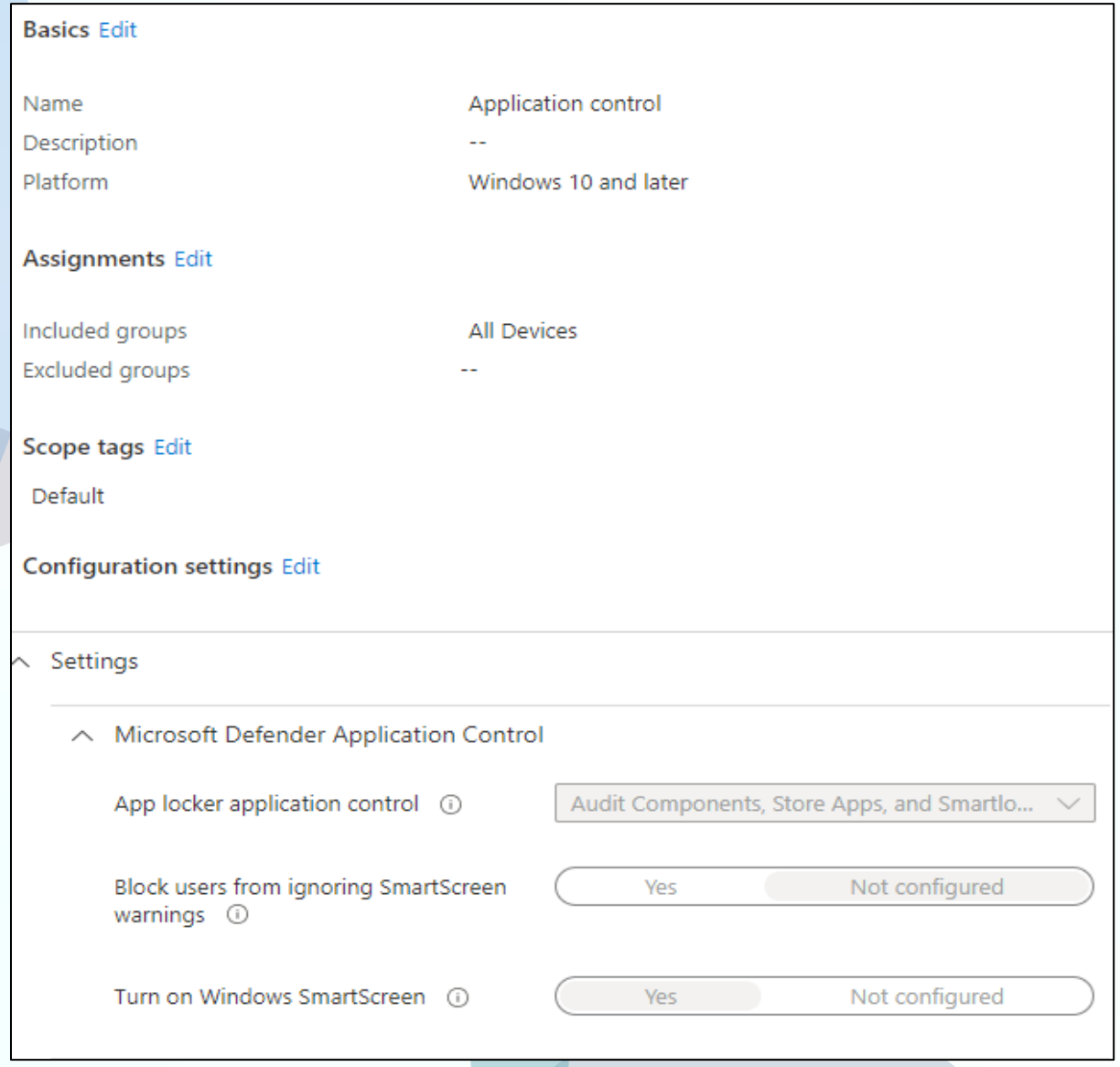
BitLocker system drive policy	{"encryptionMethod":null,"startupAuthenticationRequired":false,"startupAuthenticationTpmUsage":null,"startupAuthenticationTpmKeyUsage":null,"startupAuthenticationTpmPinUsage":null,"startupAuthenticationTpmPinAndKeyUsage":null,"startupAuthenticationBlockWithoutTpmChip":false,"minimumPinLength":null,"recoveryOptions":null,"prebootRecoveryEnableMessageAndUrl":false,"prebootRecoveryMessage":null,"prebootRecoveryUrl":null}
BitLocker fixed drive policy	{"encryptionMethod":null,"requireEncryptionForWriteAccess":false,"recoveryOptions":null}
BitLocker removable drive policy	{"encryptionMethod":null,"requireEncryptionForWriteAccess":false,"blockCrossOrganizationWriteAccess":false}



Endpoint Security | Attack surface reduction

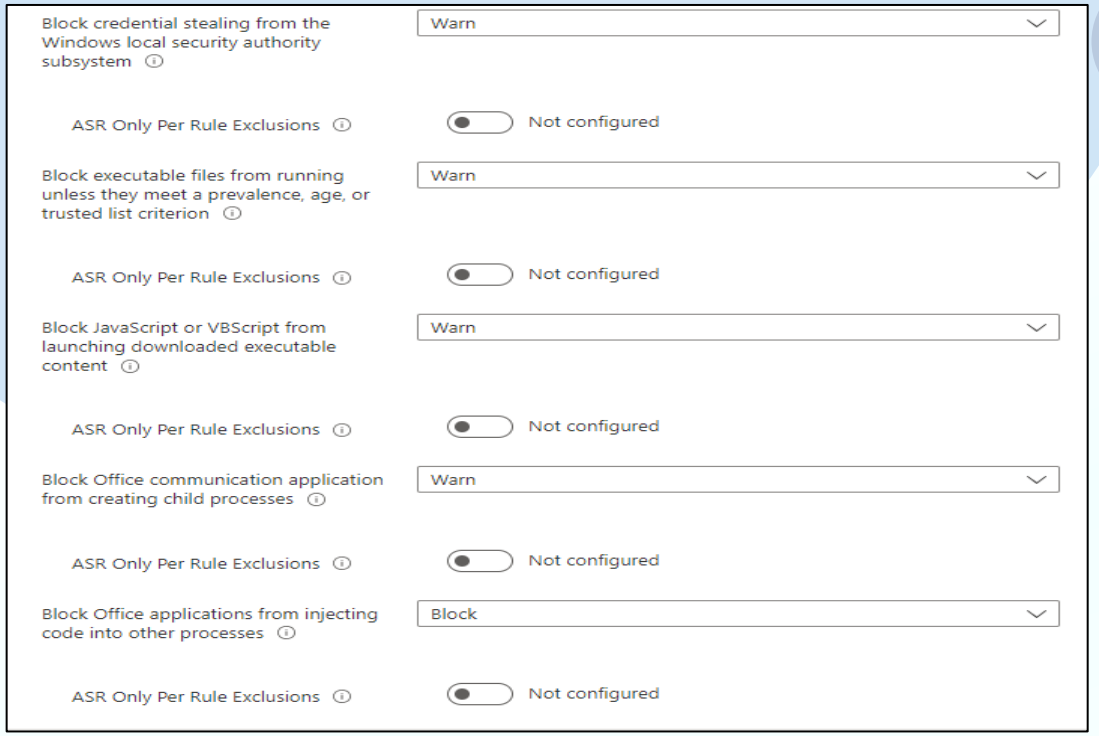
Application control

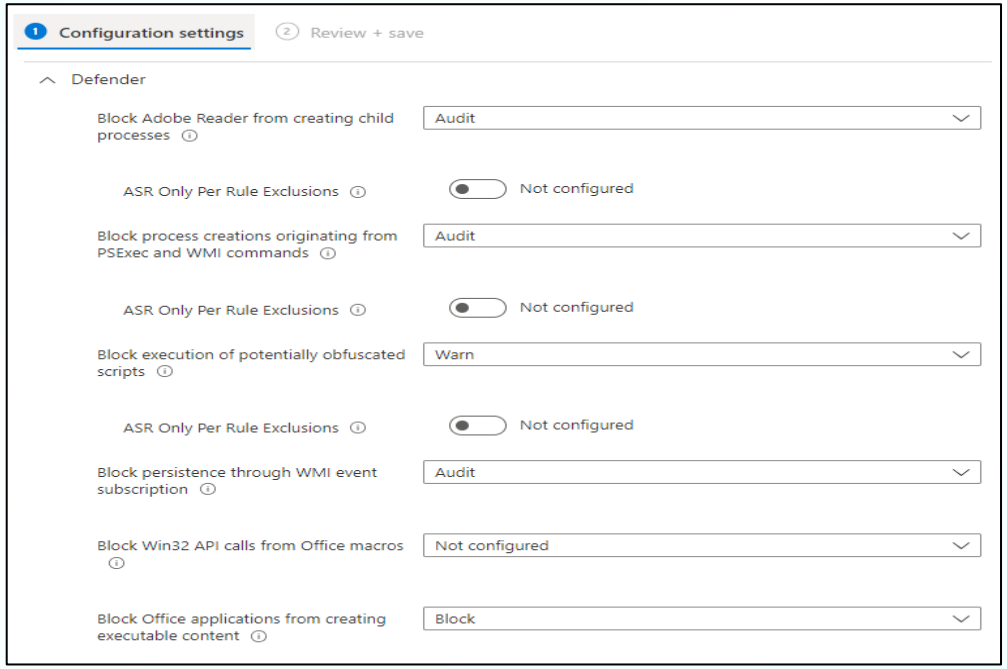
Application control can help mitigate security threats by restricting the applications that users are allowed to run and the code that runs in the System Core (kernel). Application control policies can also block unsigned scripts and MSIs, and restrict Windows PowerShell to run in Constrained Language Mode.

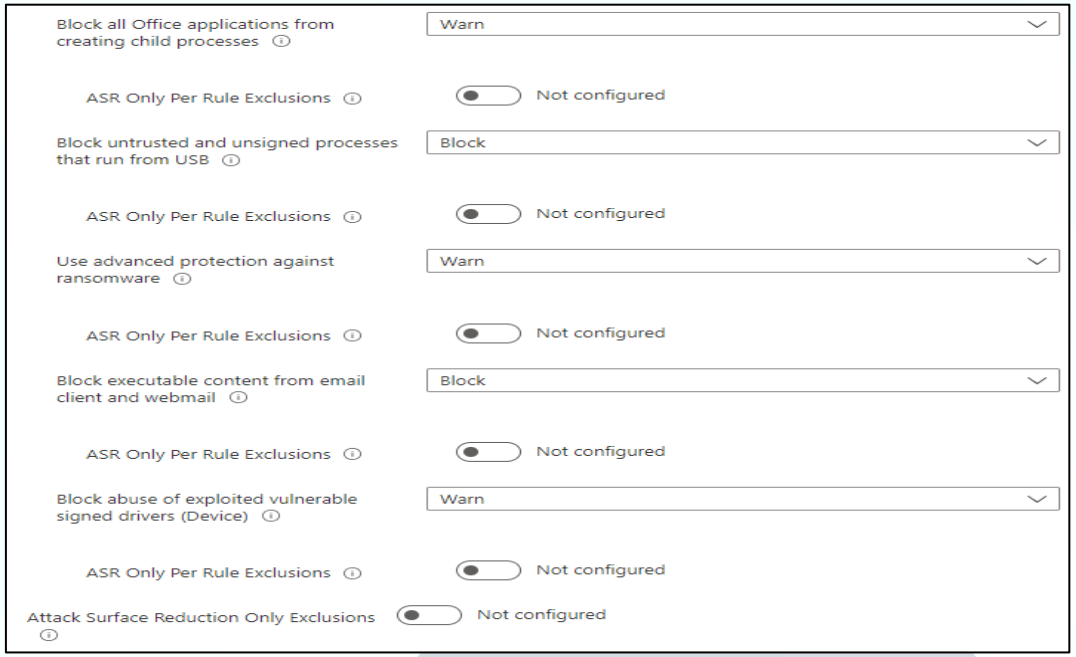


Attack Surface Reduction Rules

Attack surface reduction rules target behaviors that malware and malicious apps typically use to infect computers, including: Executable files and scripts used in Office apps or web mail that attempt to download or run files Obfuscated or otherwise suspicious scripts Behaviors that apps don't usually initiate during normal day-to-day work



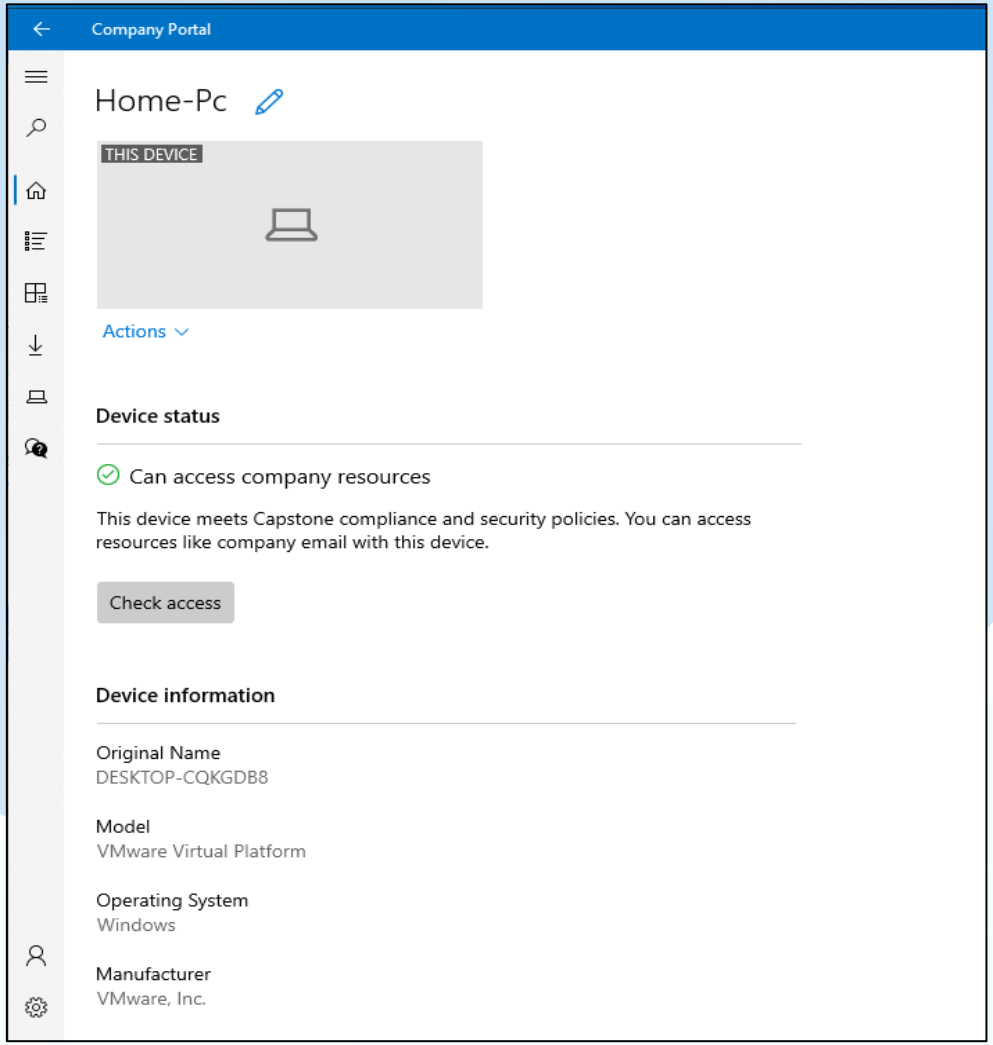


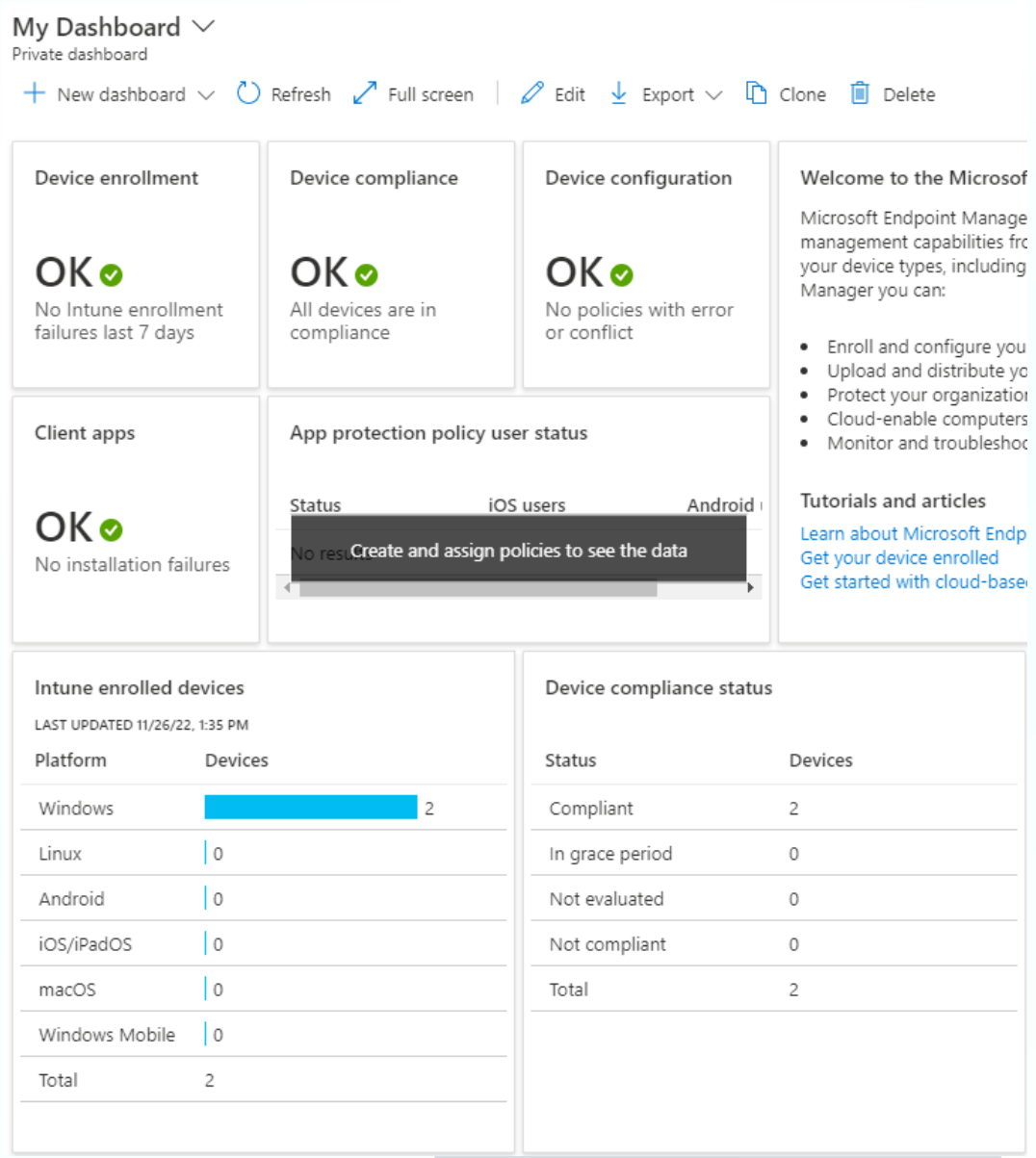


Applying the established compliance security policies to the users and devices to simulate the workspace environment.

userPrincipalName	displayName	userType	identityIssuer
solution@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com	Tarun Reddi	Admin	capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
user2pro@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com	User2_ProED	Member	capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
user4hom@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com	User4_HomeED_Tarun	Member	capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
user1ent@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com	User1_EnterpriseED	Member	capstone001.onmicrosoft.com
user3hom@capstone001.onmicrosoft.com	User3_HomeED_Praveen	Member	capstone001.onmicrosoft.com

To assign the device to the endpoint manager we need to install the “Company Portal” app in the Microsoft windows store and log in using created user credentials. As shown in the snapshots below.





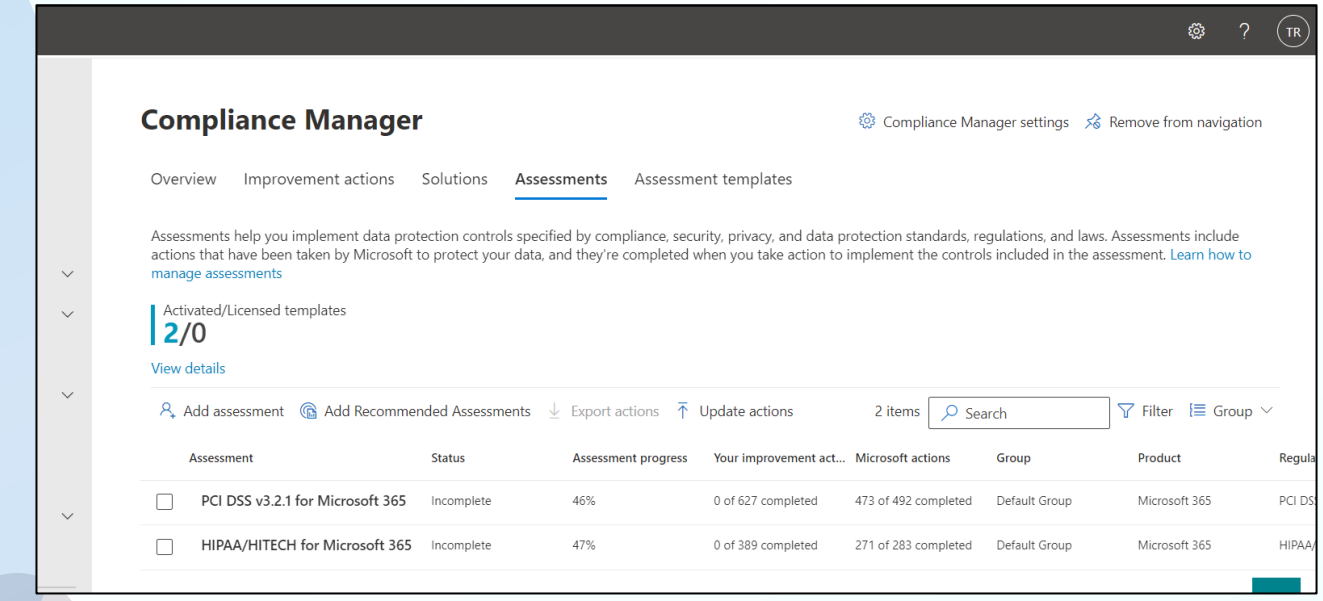
We ensured all devices met the security standards we created.

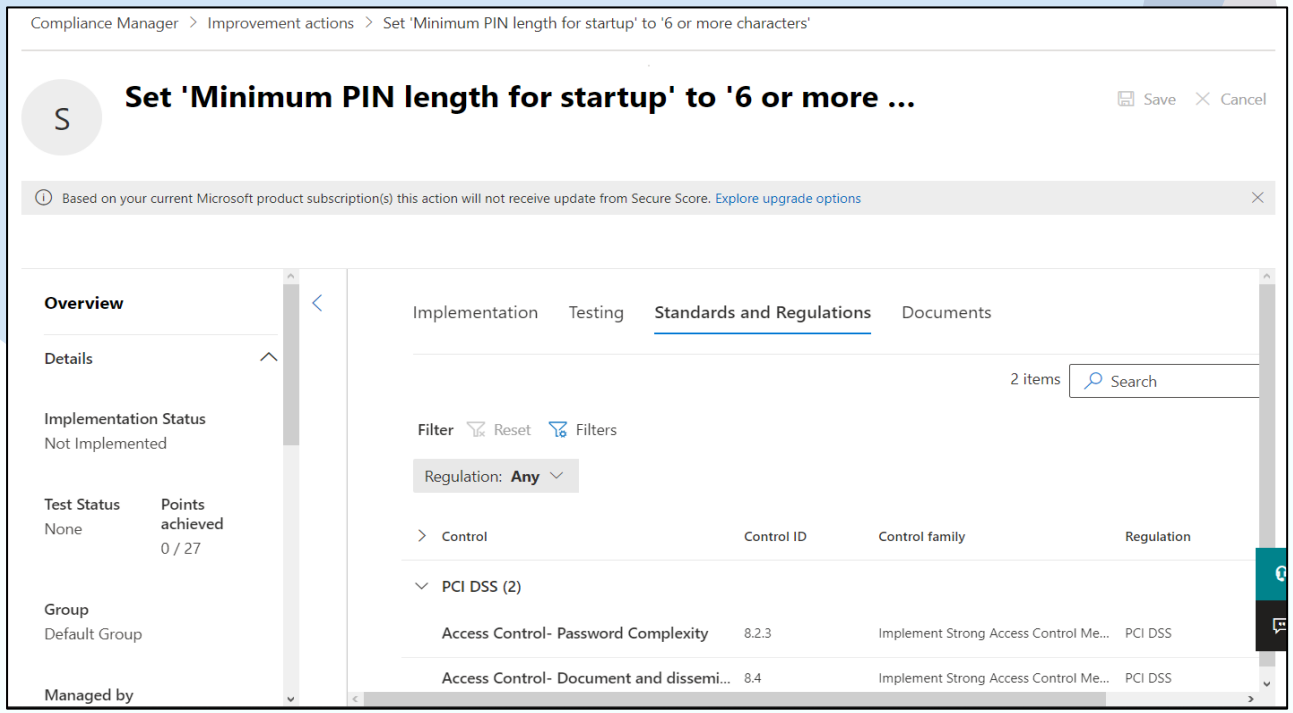
Device name	Managed by	Ownership	Compliance	OS	OS version
USER1-ENT	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.17763.1
User2-Pro	Intune	Corporate	Compliant	Windows	10.0.19045.2251
User3-Home	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.18362.30
User4Home	Intune	Personal	Compliant	Windows	10.0.18362.30

Now we'd like to create a compliance policy based on the PCI DSS, HIPAA standards.
That can be done from the Microsoft preview portal
https://compliance.microsoft.com/homepage

Compliance At Resource Level

Microsoft Azure – Policy | Assessment





An example policy of the PCI DSS | Set ‘Minimum PIN length for startup’ to ‘6 or more characters’

References

- Buchan, J. (2022, August 2). ***Azure Privileged Identity Management. Here's why you need it.*** Performanta. https://www.performanta.com/post/azure-privileged-identity-management-here-s-why-you-need-it

- ***What is Privileged Identity Management?*** - *Azure AD - Microsoft entra*. (n.d.). Microsoft.com. Retrieved October 21, 2022, from https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/privileged-identity-management/pim-configure

- Wrieden, O. (2022, May 3). ***What is Privileged Identity Management and why use it?*** Medium. https://medium.com/@olafwrieden/what-is-privileged-identity-management-and-why-use-it-7f383b3b797a