



BlueOak Financial LLC

Create Hybrid Enterprise Network and Cybersecurity Integration

Report Created by Taralkumar Patel

Date: 03-22-2025

Executive Summary

This project established a secure enterprise network infrastructure, integrating on-premises resources with cloud technologies to achieve centralized management and enhanced cybersecurity. Starting with the deployment of a domain controller and automated user management via PowerShell, the network was expanded to include Azure Active Directory for hybrid identity management.

Security policies were enforced through both on-premises and cloud tools, while Microsoft Intune and Defender for Endpoint ensured device compliance and robust threat protection. The project also laid the groundwork for future enhancements, including advanced log analysis, Microsoft Sentinel for proactive threat detection, AI-driven automation, Zero Trust architecture, and SOAR solutions for automated workflows.

This initiative successfully delivered a scalable, hybrid network aligned with modern security and operational needs.

Introduction

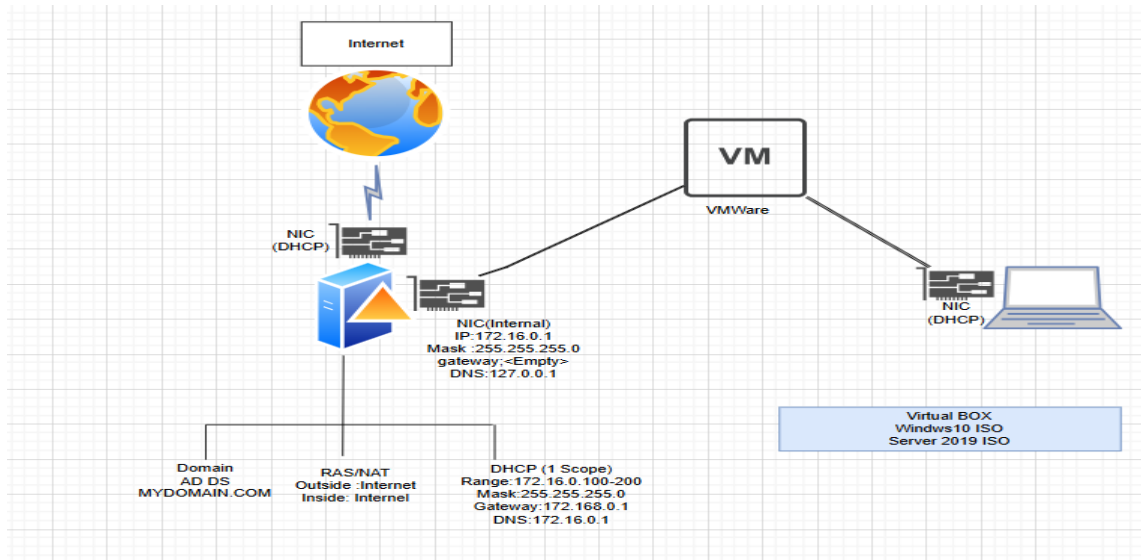
Background: This project was undertaken to address the growing need for a secure, scalable, and centralized network infrastructure to support the organization's operational goals. With an increasing reliance on cloud technologies and the need for robust cybersecurity, the project aimed to modernize and unify on-premises and cloud environments. While preparing for future innovations like Zero Trust architecture and AI-driven automation, it ensured the infrastructure could meet evolving business and cybersecurity demands.

Objectives:

- Build an enterprise network with a domain controller.
- Automate user management using PowerShell.
- Integrate with Azure AD for centralized management.
- Deploy VMs, VLANs and NSGs on Azure Environment.
- Enforce security policies and onboard devices to Intune and Defender.
- Lay the foundation for advanced cybersecurity solutions like Sentinel and SOAR.

Configuration

- **Domain Controller and windows 10 Setup (On-Premises):**



- Downloaded Oracle Virtual BOX and Windows 10 ISO image and server 2019 ISO image from oracle and Microsoft website.
- Configured Windows Server 2019 and Windows 10 in VirtualBox, ensuring the virtual machine settings were optimized based on Above given diagram, Network adapter, the hardware capabilities of my host PC. This included adjusting the allocated memory, CPU cores, and storage space to balance performance and system stability.
- In Windows server check internet adapter Configured internal adapter.
 - Clicked on change adapter Option in settings > Network & Internet > Ethernet
 - Right Clicked on Internal adapter Properties > TCP/ IPv4 > General > use following Ip address > followed diagram > DNS server address – Loopback address
- Created Domain/ AD DS.
 - Go to server manager > add role and features > Server selection > Server Roles – Active Directory Domain Services > Install
 - Post deployment configuration Clicked yellow flag besides manage > Add Forest > Root domain name > provided optional password > Install - restarted the server.
- Created own dedicated admin account.
 - Start > Active Directory Users and Computers > clicked mydomain.com > New > Organizational Unit > Name OU- clicked on it > created new user with logon name and password – Uncheck password never expires > Finish.
 - Right clicked created User in OU > Member of > add > Enter object name and checked names > apply. Sign out and check if successful. Log in with Dedicated admin account.
- Install RAS/NAT to allow windows 10 client to access internet through Domain controller.
 - Add roles and features > Select server > Server Roles > Remote access > Role services > Routing > Add features > Install > Close

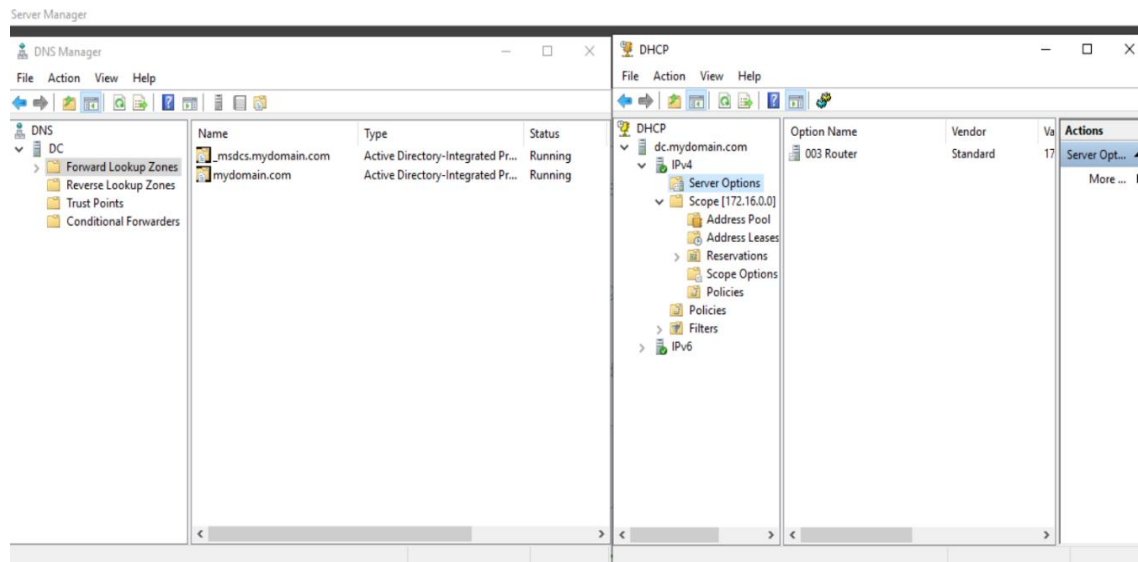
- Tools > Routing and remote access > click DC (Local) > configure and enable > NAT > Select use public Interface to connect to internet > Finish
- Configure DHCP
 - Add roles and features > Select server > Server Roles > DHCP > Install > Close
 - Tools > DHCP > Click IPv4 > New Scope > Followed diagram to assign IP address Range > Lease duration > Config DHCP Options > Entered DC Ip address for default gateway > Activate Scope > Finish.
 - Right clicked DHCP Server to Authorize > refresh. Check IPv4 and IPv6 turned green. Note: Turned Off IE enhance Security configuration to browse internet from server
- Created 1000+ random users using PowerShell script with Random and my name tpatel.
 - Open PowerShell as administrator > Opened PowerShell script > set - Executionpolicy unrestricted > Run the script with navigating to script directory

```

1 # ----- Edit these Variables for your own Use Case ----- #
2 $PASSWORD_FOR_USERS = "Password1"
3 $USER_FIRST_LAST_LIST = Get-Content .\names.txt
4 # -----
5
6 $password = ConvertTo-SecureString $PASSWORD_FOR_USERS -AsPlainText -Force
7 New-ADOrganizationalUnit -Name _USERS -ProtectedFromAccidentalDeletion $false
8
9 foreach ($n in $USER_FIRST_LAST_LIST) {
10     $first = $n.Split(" ")[0].ToLower()
11     $last = $n.Split(" ")[1].ToLower()
12     $username = "${first.Substring(0,1)}${last}".ToLower()
13     Write-Host "Creating user: $($username)" -BackgroundColor Black -ForegroundColor Cyan
14
15     New-ADUser -AccountPassword $password `
16         -GivenName $first `
17         -Surname $last `
18         -DisplayName $username `
19 }

```

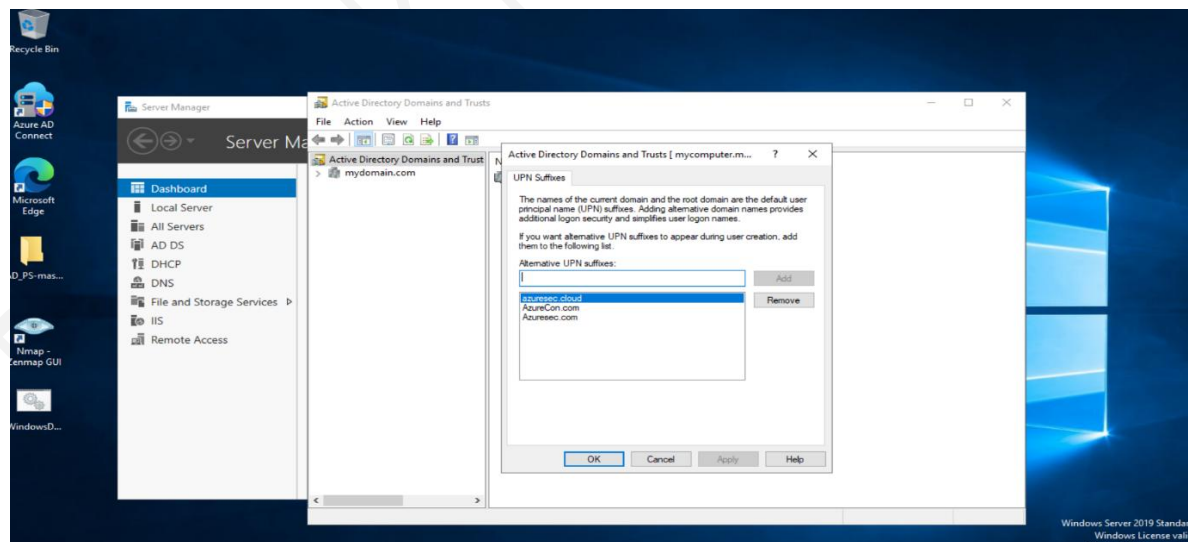
- Checked the created Users in Active Directory Users and Computers > Users
- Tried to ping windows 10 client from DC and did not see the default gateway – Time to troubleshoot.
 - Logged in to DC – checked the lease, Checked the IPv4 server option which was not configured. Right clicked on IPv4 server Options > Selected 003 Router > Added DC IP address > Apply > Restarted Server options.



- On windows client Run CMD as Administrator tried the ping to server, Google.com and checked the Connectivity – Result was successful.

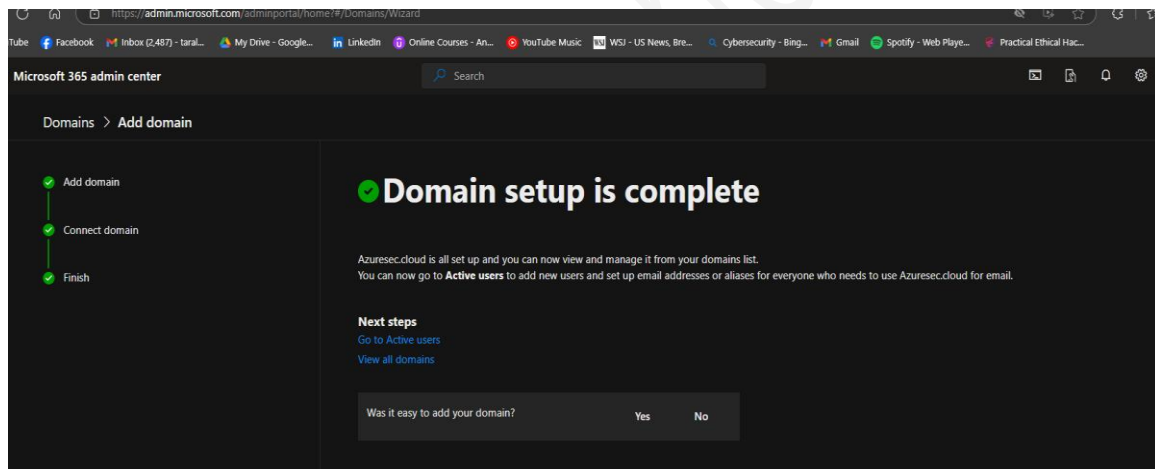
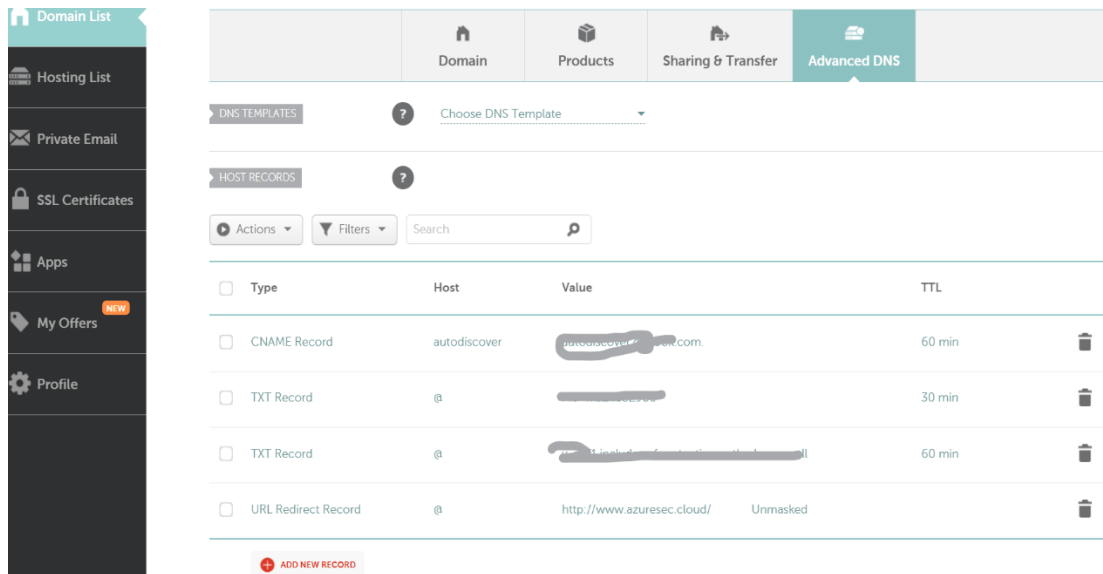
• Azure AD Integration

- Setup steps for Azure AD Connect.
 - On DC go to tools > Active directory Domain and trust > DC properties > Add UPN Suffixes (Domain) > Apply > OK.
 - Go to Active directory Users and Computers > User > properties > Account > Change the extension of user logon name > azuresec. cloud > Apply.

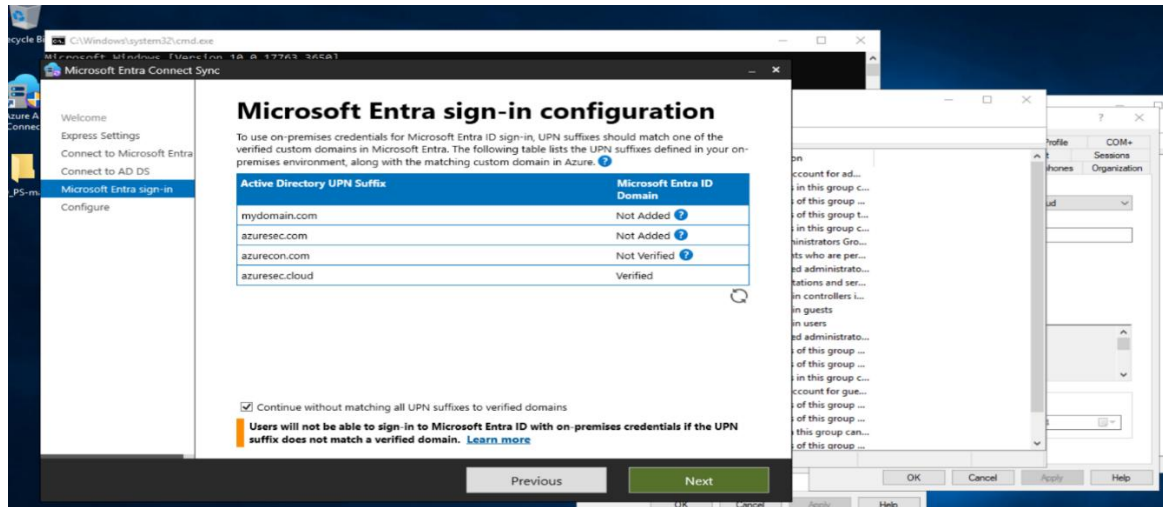


- Synchronizing on-premises resources with Azure AD Connect.
 - In Microsoft 365 admin centre go to settings > Domain > Add Domain > Entered UPN Domain from server (Note: Owned the domain from any sites)

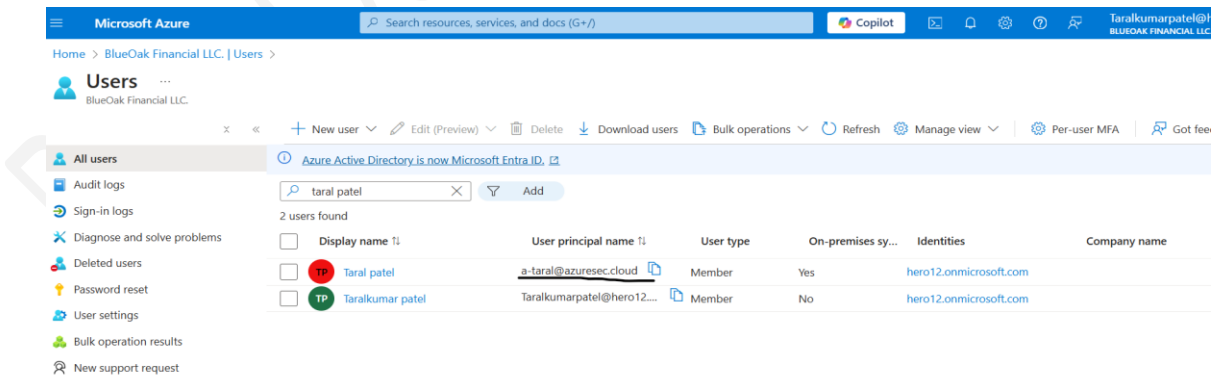
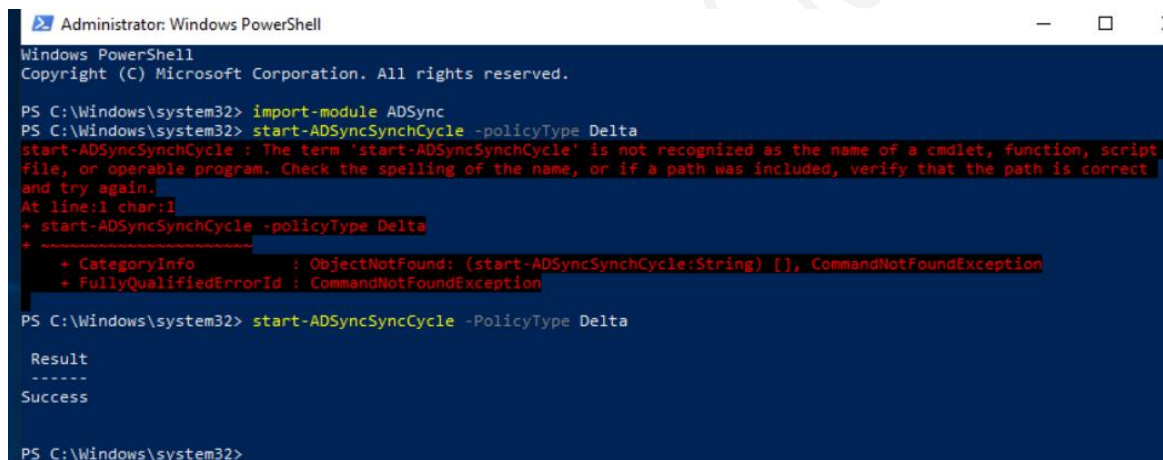
like Namecheap, go daddy etc.) > Verified My own domain by adding some DNS records > Continue.



- Downloaded Azure AD connect on DC > Open it > Use Express settings > Enter Administrator credentials > Verify added domains > Next > install. (Note: System will create a default Azure AD connect service account)

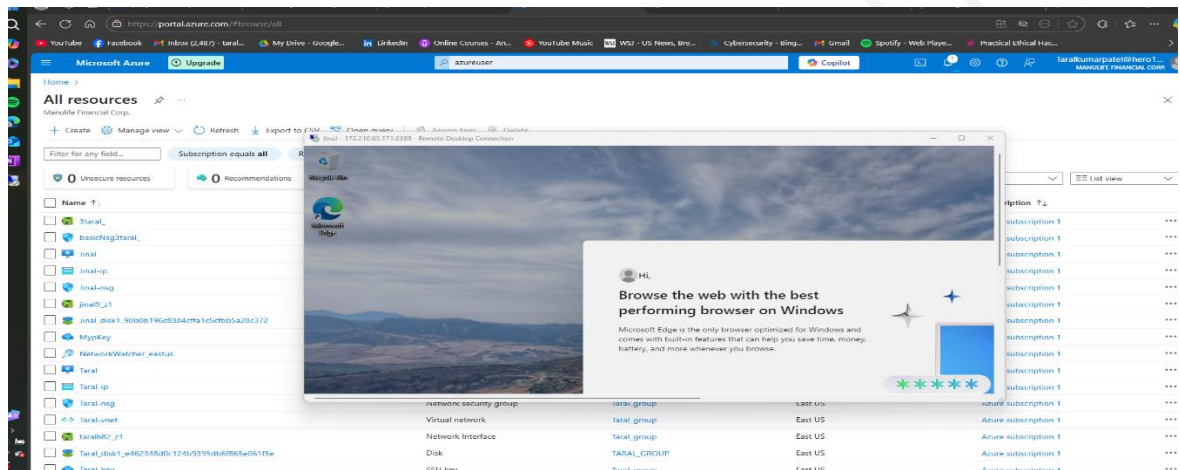


- Open PowerShell administrator > Import -Module Ad Sync > Start - ADSyncSyncCycle -policyType Delta > verified all users Sync from DC to Azure Entra ID.



- **Utilizing Azure to Create Resources and Onboard devices:**

- Deployed VM, V- nets and Network security groups. Deploying windows VMs and Linux VMs are different using connector.
- Azure portal > Create Resource Group and subscription
- Go to Virtual Machines > Create > Subscription > Resource group > VM name > Region > Choose Image > Size > Authentication type > Inbound Port rules (For RDP and SSH).
- Configure Disk > Set up networking – monitoring. Can access the VM.
- I have created Windows 10, Linux (Ubuntu based)



```

azureuser@Taral: ~
operable program or batch file.
C:\Users\Taral\Downloads>ssh -i C:\Users\Taral\Downloads\Taralk.pem azureuser@172.174.235.0
Welcome to Ubuntu 24.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.8.0-1017-azure x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/pro

System information as of Sat Jan 11 15:51:45 UTC 2025

System load:  0.08      Processes:    109
Usage of /:   6.2% of 28.0GB    Users logged in:  0
Memory usage: 20%          IPv4 address for eth0: 10.0.0.4
Swap usage:   0%

Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.

76 updates can be applied immediately.
36 of these updates are standard security updates.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable

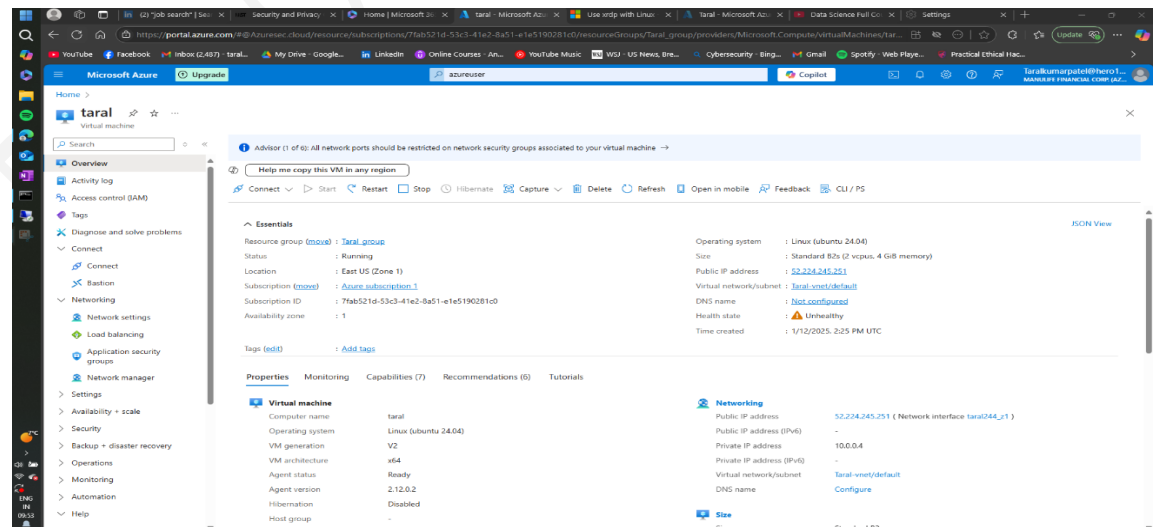
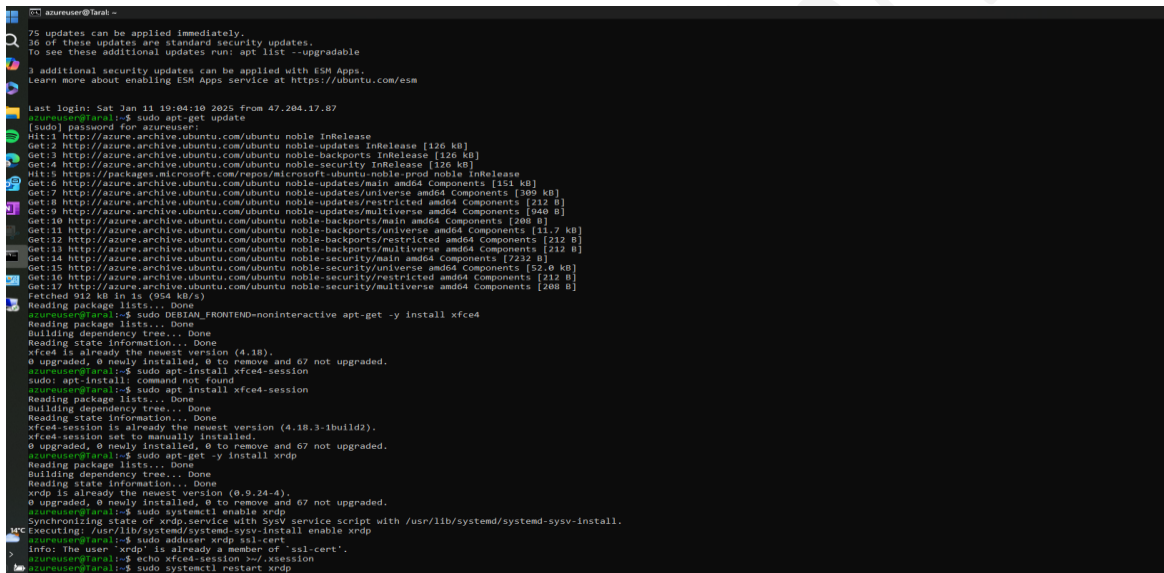
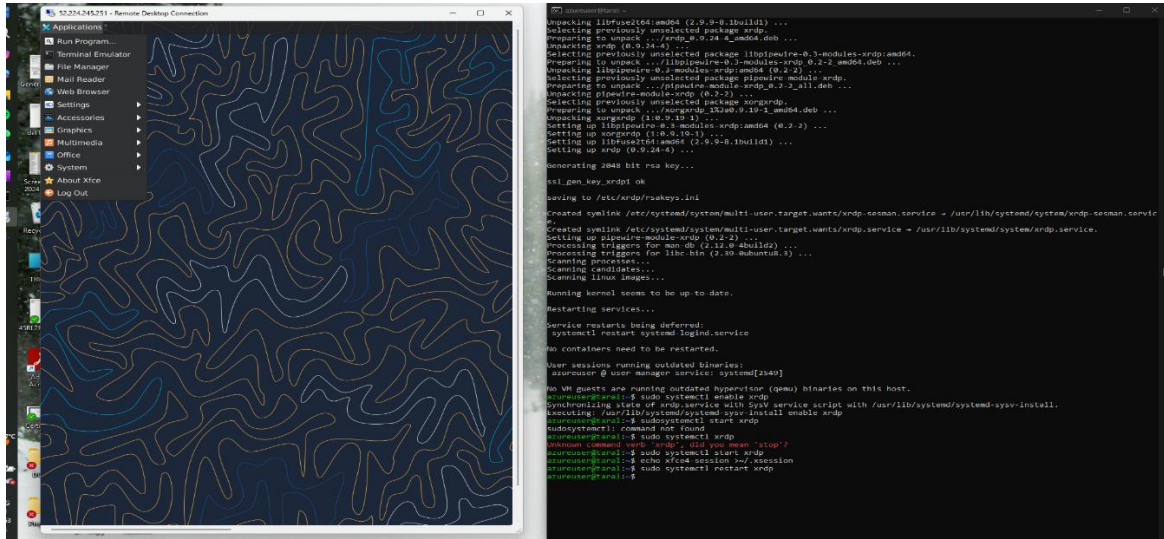
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

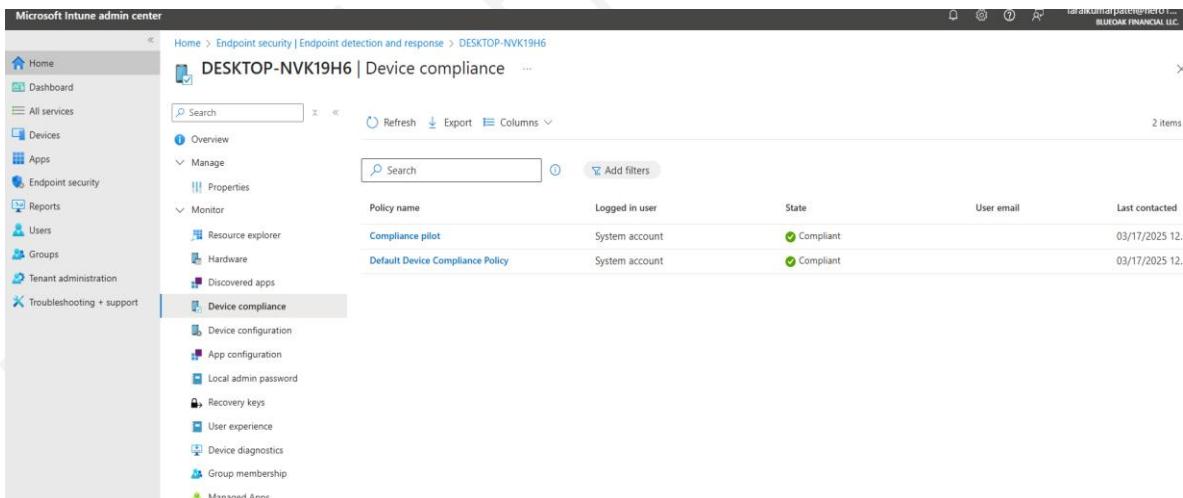
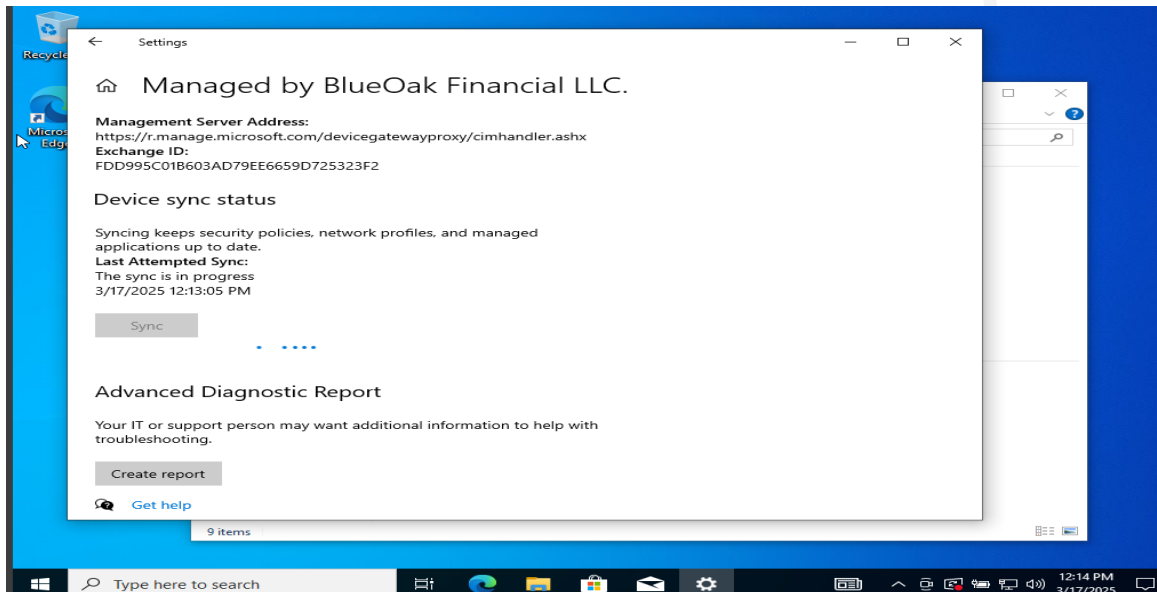
To run a command as administrator (user "root"), use "sudo <command>".
See "man sudo_root" for details.

azureuser@Taral:~$
  
```

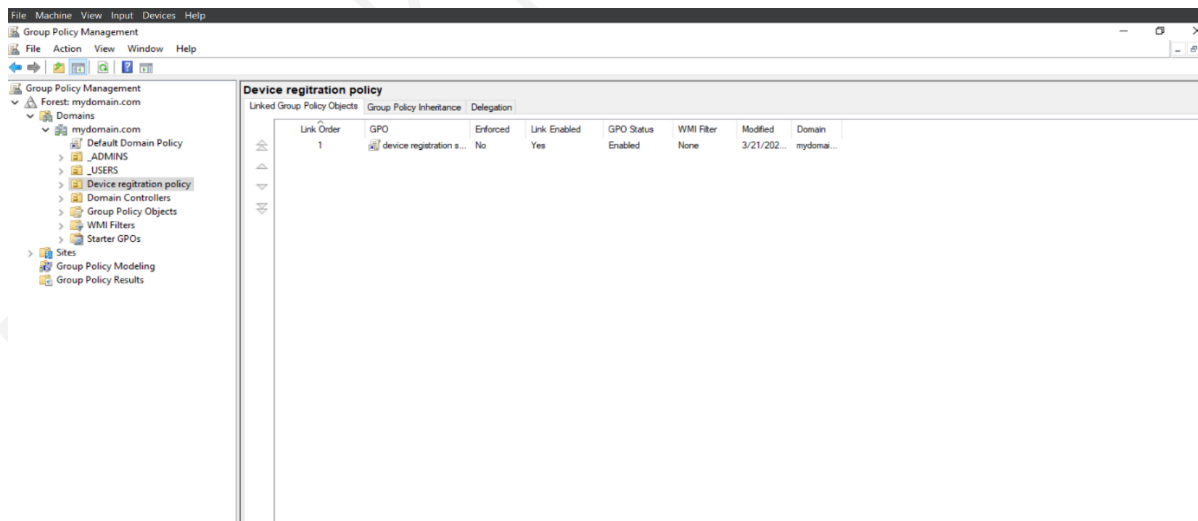
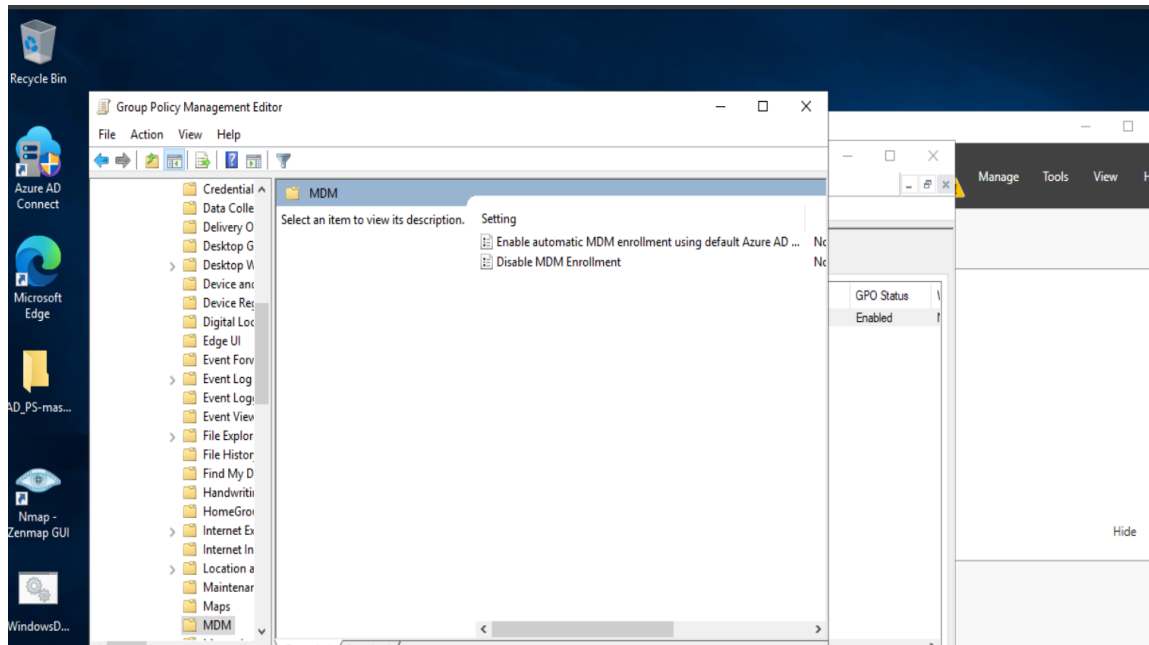
- **Intune and defender:**

- Before Onboarding check that device can be onboarded on Intune or Defender. Deploying this first time Anyone can have different learning experience.
- Windows 10 or 11 devices can be onboarded on Intune by setting on School or organization email in settings and sync them and with compliance policy.

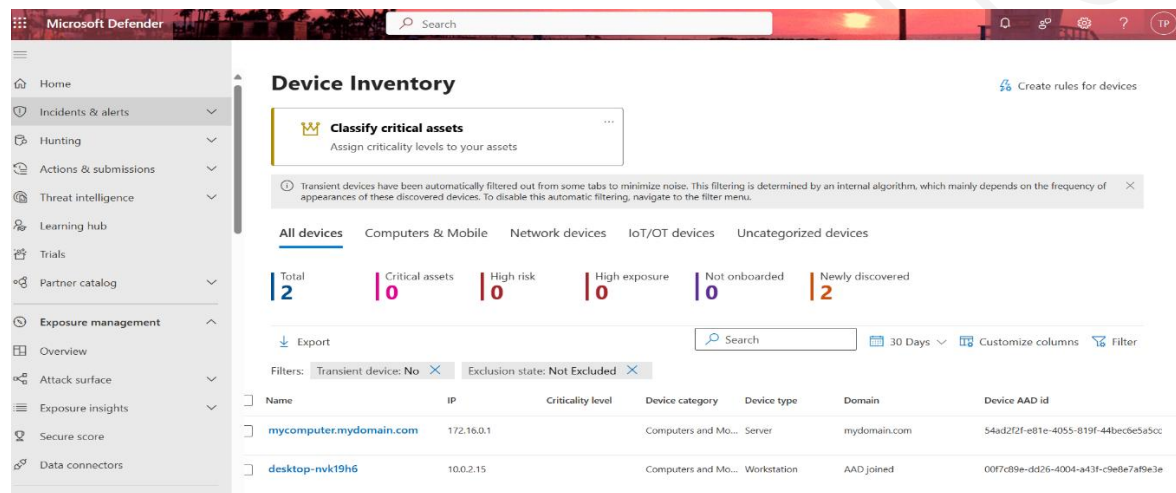
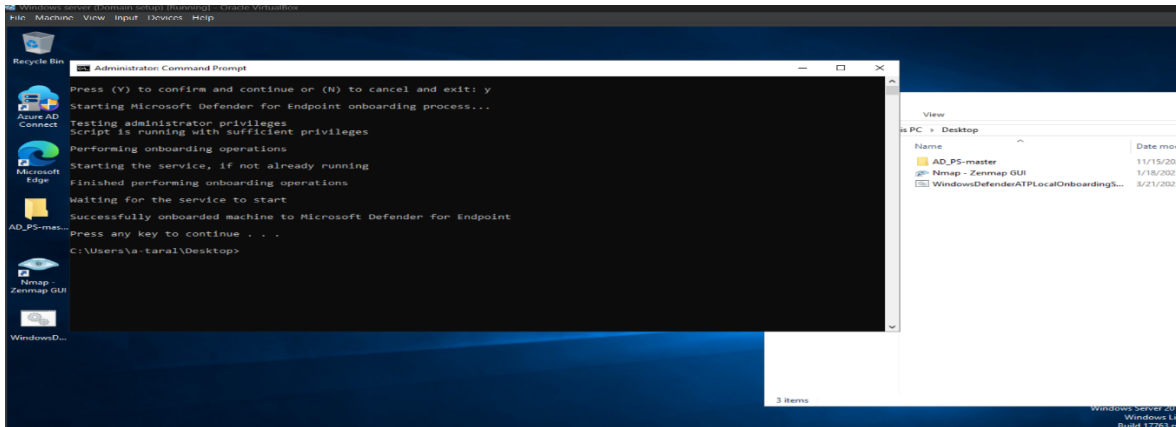


- Onboarded to Device to Microsoft Defender for Endpoint using Deploying preconfigured policy
- However, onboarding server was crone job and completely different approach. Troubleshooted driver dependencies, Corrupted VM issue. (Thanks to Backups and failover plans – **Always Remember.**

- Go to Server (DC) – Go to Active directory users and Computers> OU > Create New OU > Move server Object in new created OU
- Open Group Policy object > Create a GPO in this Domain and link it here > Name GPO > OK.
- Edit GPO by enabling the by enabling administrative templates for

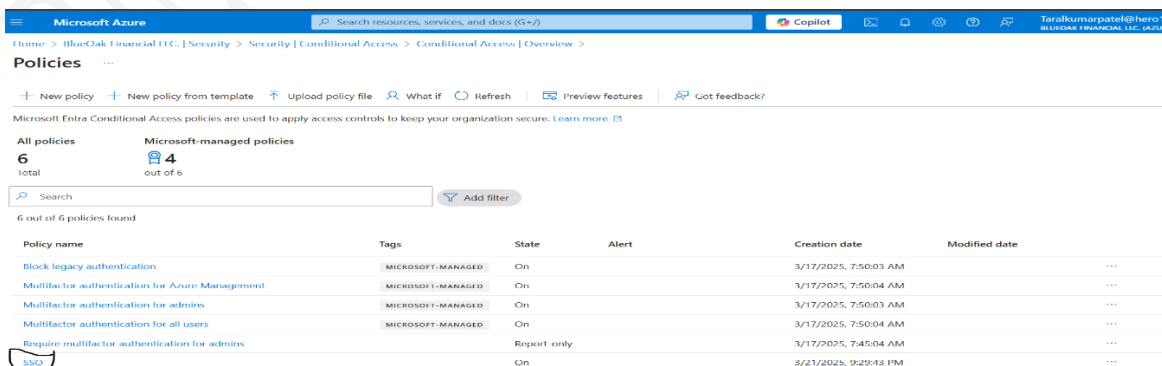


- Now Run the Onboarded package in DC CMD to Onboard device on defender – Successful.



SSO policy:

- Assigning this policy supposed to be first step, Not in my case. I have to done multiple authentication every time across services while completing this project, erious hurdle.
- For SSO I have created Conditional access policy in azure for seamless access between all my services Microsoft 365 Admin centre, Azure Portal, Intune and microsoft Defender.



Solutions Used

- Oracle VM
- Windows Server and AD environment
- Virtualization
- Azure Active Directory (Azure AD)
- Azure AD Connect
- Microsoft Intune
- Microsoft Defender for Endpoint
- (Future plans: Microsoft Sentinel, Defender for Cloud, SOAR solutions)

Lessons Learned

It's important to emphasize the need for thoroughly assessing system integration requirements and leveraging a variety of online resources to address challenges effectively. Troubleshooting connection and Onboarding issues often involves carefully examining system dependencies and their configurations to ensure seamless interoperability and functionality. Always Back Up and Tests your VMs for disaster recovery. Stay organized and never forget to enable SSO For azure Services. Keep in mind the azure naming convention or their services. Navigating azure according to online resource was hurdle as Microsoft always update services name and portals are based on assigned permission. Never forget to apply any theoretical knowledge gained from certificates in Cybersecurity.

Future Recommendations

I aim to design and implement a fully operational enterprise network infrastructure, integrating advanced cybersecurity solutions to enhance security and efficiency. Key initiatives include leveraging advanced log analysis, Microsoft Sentinel for threat detection and response, AI-driven automation for streamlined operations, and Zero Trust architecture to fortify access management. Additionally, I plan to integrate Defender for Cloud for comprehensive cloud protection and deploy a SOAR (Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response) solution to automate workflows and improve incident response capabilities

References

JnHs, *Azure documentation, Microsoft Learn*. Available at: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/?product=popular> (Accessed: 25 March 2025).

Josh Madakor Cyber course - the best hands-on cybersecurity course on the internet! (2025) *LogN Pacific - Helping You Break into IT and Cybersecurity*. Available at: <https://joshmadakor.tech/cyber/> (Accessed: 25 March 2025).

Jaeb, J. (2023) *YouTube*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR8009GgGAQ> (Accessed: 25 March 2025).

Gibson, D. and Shelley, J. (2023) *CompTIA security+: Get certified get ahead: SY0-701 study guide*. United States: Certification Experts, LLC.

Iainfoulds (no date) *Active directory domain services overview, Microsoft Learn*. Available at: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-server/identity/ad-ds/get-started/virtual-dc/active-directory-domain-services-overview> (Accessed: 10 March 2025).