

a Safer, More Secure Cyber World

Congress.isc2.org #ISC2Congress

Emerging threats against cloud application identities and what you should do about it

Etan Basseri

Bailey Bercik

North Star

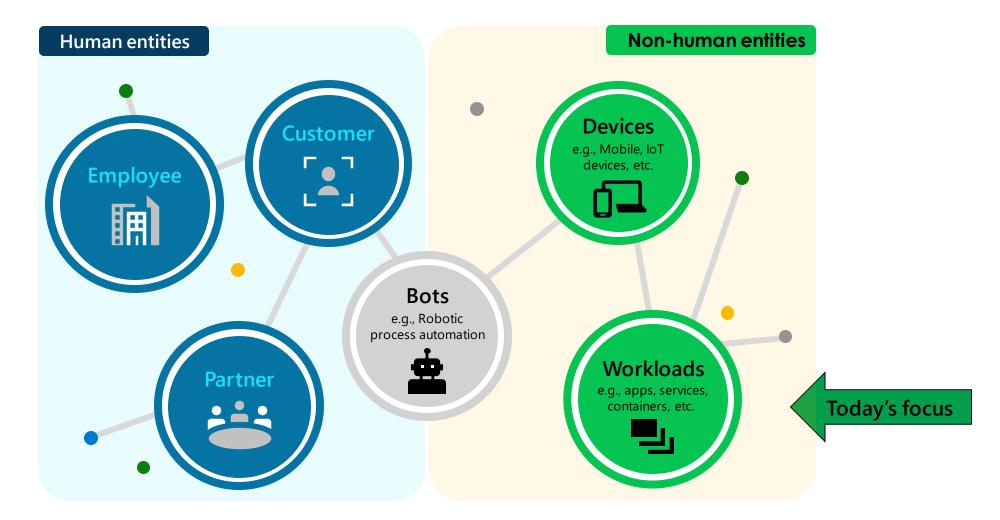
Prevent unauthorized access to a resource by an application or service

Agenda

What is risk?

How to detect How to contain, mitigate and remediate How to protect

What are Workload Identities?



Examples of service-to-service scenarios

(confidential client flow)







CRM Systems



Security Software



tomorrow belongs to those who embrace it today









trending

innovation

home & office

business

finance

education

security

/ innovation

Home / Innovation / Security

Microsoft warns about this phishing attack that wants to read your emails

Attackers have targeted hundreds of organisations, says Microsoft security.



Written by Liam Tung, Contributing Writer on Jan. 25, 2022

WIRED

Careless Errors in Hundreds of Apps Could Expose Troves of Data

Researchers found that mobile applications contain keys that could provide access to both user information and private files from unconnected apps.



BLOG

You Can't Audit Me: APT29 Continues Targeting Microsoft 365

DOUGLAS BIENSTOCK

AUG 18, 2022 | 6 MINS READ

Application Threats

- 26 million user creds stolen by malicious applications from 2018-2020
- 4.9: Average number of incidents involving theft/misuse of a key or certificate an organization is likely to experience in a 24-month period
- 4k+ unique app identities leaked in Github in 2022

Parachute, 2022 Cyber Attack Statistics, Data and Trends Ponemon Institute, State of Machine Identity Management 2021 Microsoft Identity & Network Access Division

Application identity threats







Compromised

Malicious

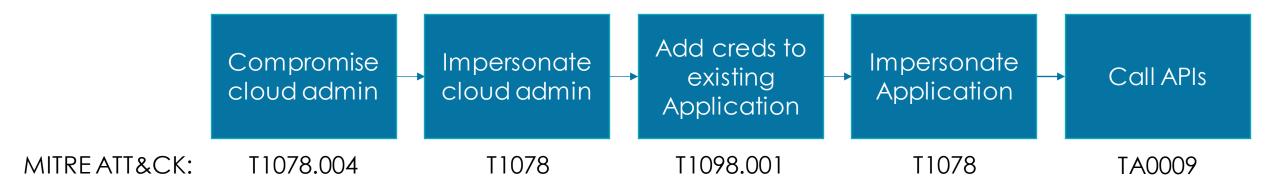
Misconfigured

Legitimate app that has been hijacked

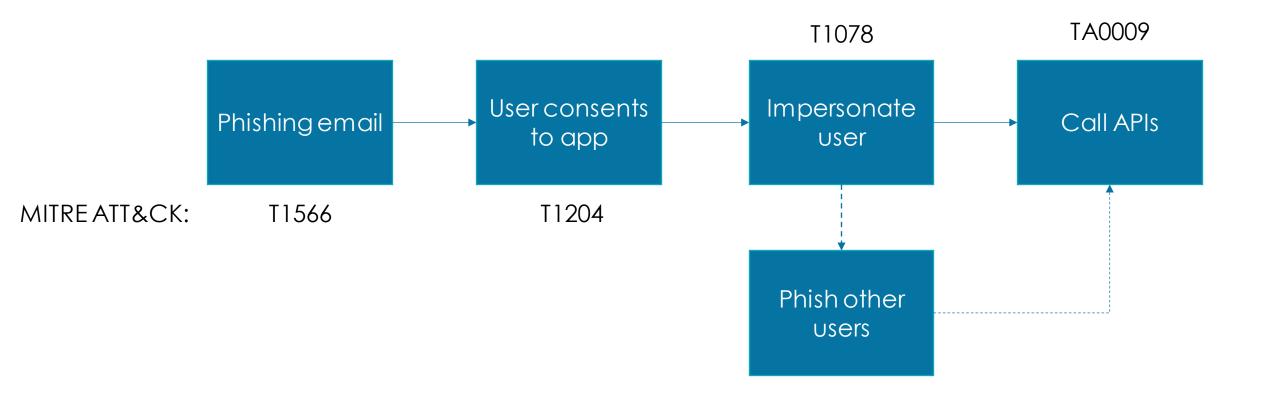
Created by an attacker for bad purposes

Insecure configuration in/outside your identity provider that makes it susceptible to compromise

Attack graph – Compromised app



Attack graph – Malicious app



Attack graph – Misconfigured app



The "Street Light" Effect

What do we focus on?

What needs increased focus?

What new partnerships do we need?



Agenda

What is risk?

How to detect

How to contain, mitigate and remediate How to protect

Sign-in logs



Location

IP address

ASN

Country



Frequency

Most have a predictable pattern



User agent

Anything unexpected or violates security policy



Credential type

Anything unexpected or violates security policy



Resource

Should this identity be accessing this resource?

Audit logs

Permissions

High privilege grant

End user granting applications consent

End user consent blocked on risk level

In Azure – service principal assigned to an Azure AD or Azure RBAC role; changes to Azure Key Vault

Time/process

Changes made outside of normal business processes and schedules

Credential type

Unauthorized changes or types

Configuration

Universal resource identifier (URI) changed or non-standard

Changes to application owners

Logout URLs modified

Secret scanning

Your own tool

Use on-prem / cloud

Customizable

Some OSS options

Vendor tools

Most are cloud-based

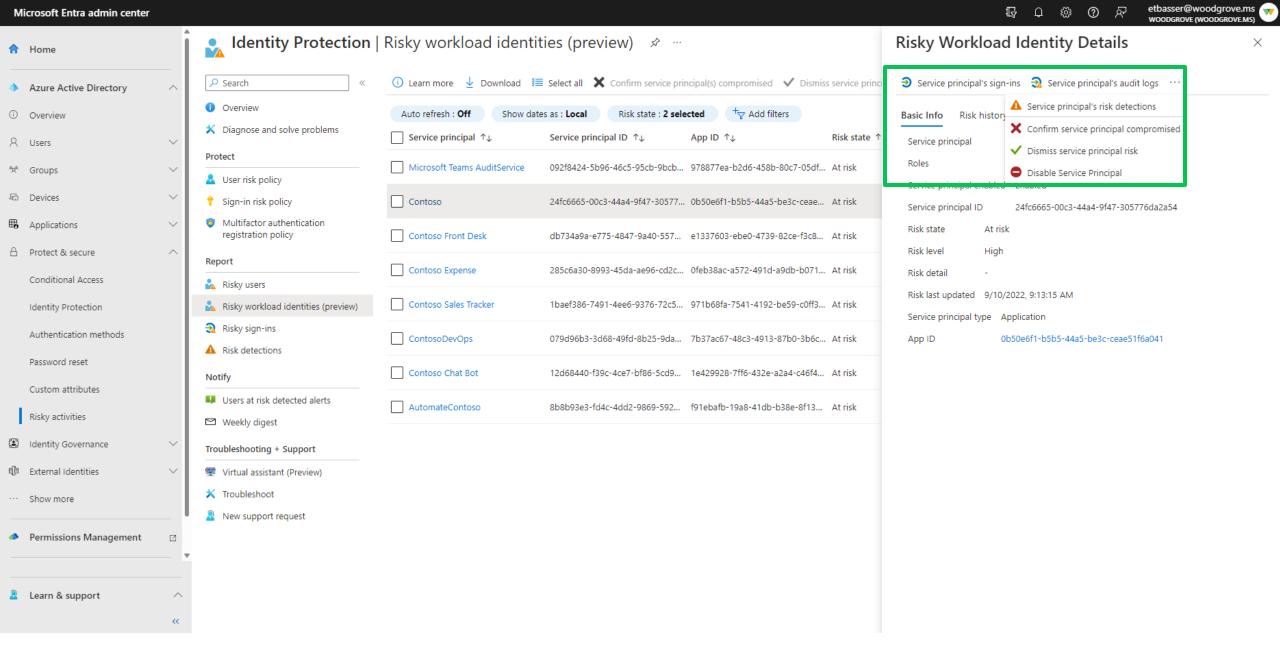
Scalable

More current (secret format)

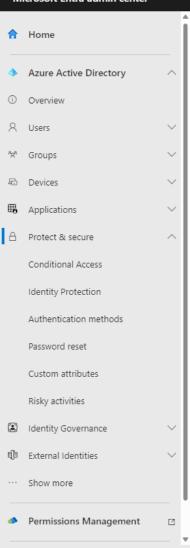
More recall (scans entire service not just your repos)

More precision (some will tell you if the secret is still valid)

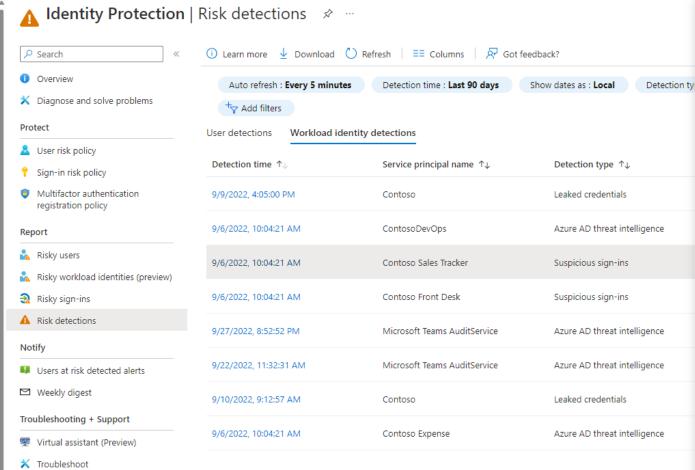
demo

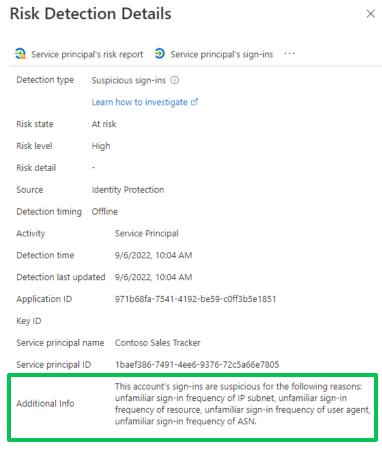






Learn & support





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New support request

Azure Active Directory

Home

Overview

A Users

್ಗೆ Groups

Devices

Applications

A Protect & secure

Conditional Access

Identity Protection

Password reset

Risky activities

Identity Governance

External Identities

Learn & support

Permissions Management

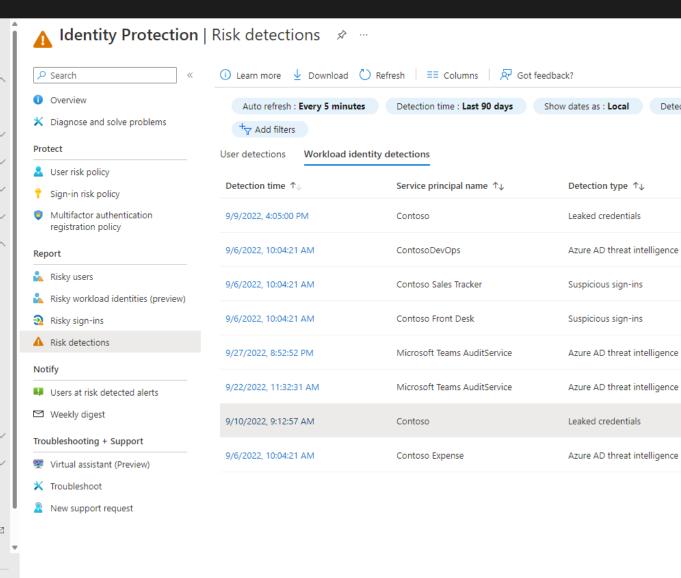
· · · Show more

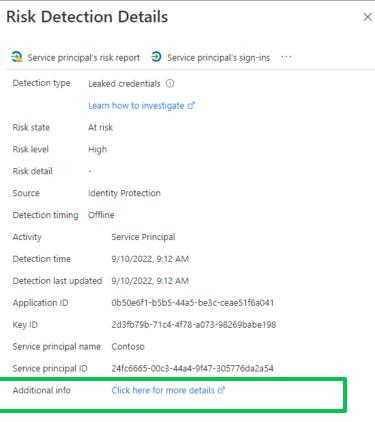
Custom attributes

Authentication methods

Detection ty



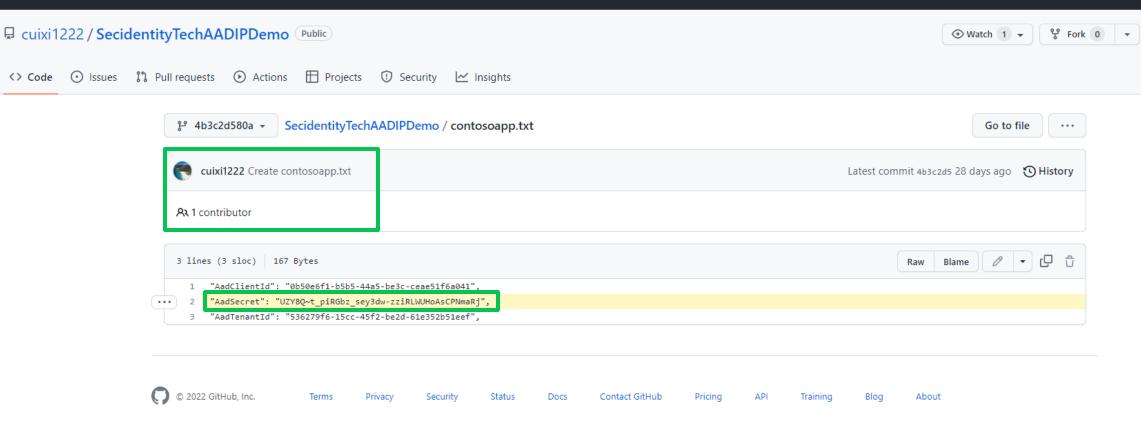




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Agenda

What is risk?
How to detect
How to contain, mitigate and remediate
How to protect

Incident Response Basics



Stay calm and do no harm



Involve your legal team



Be careful when sharing information publicly



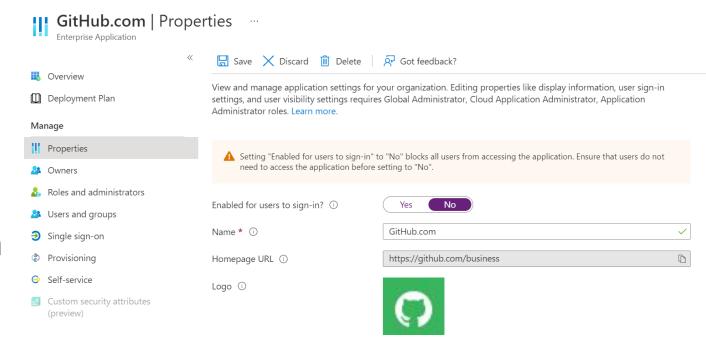
Get help when needed

Containment

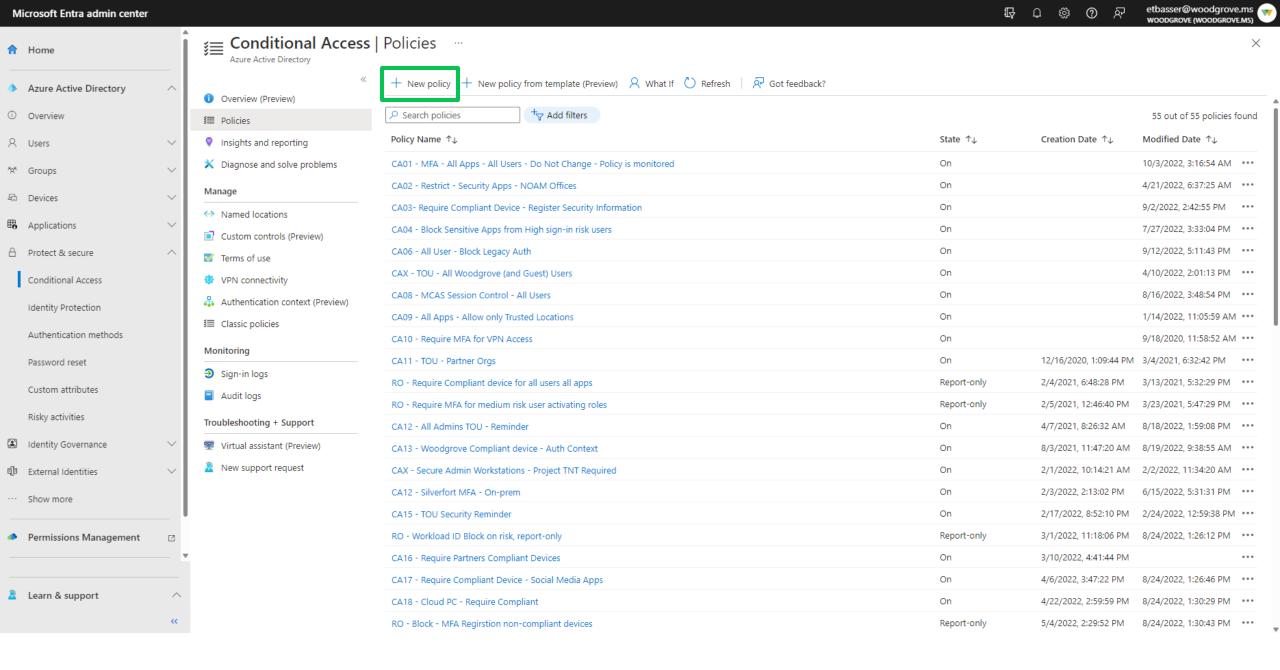
Disable compromised application

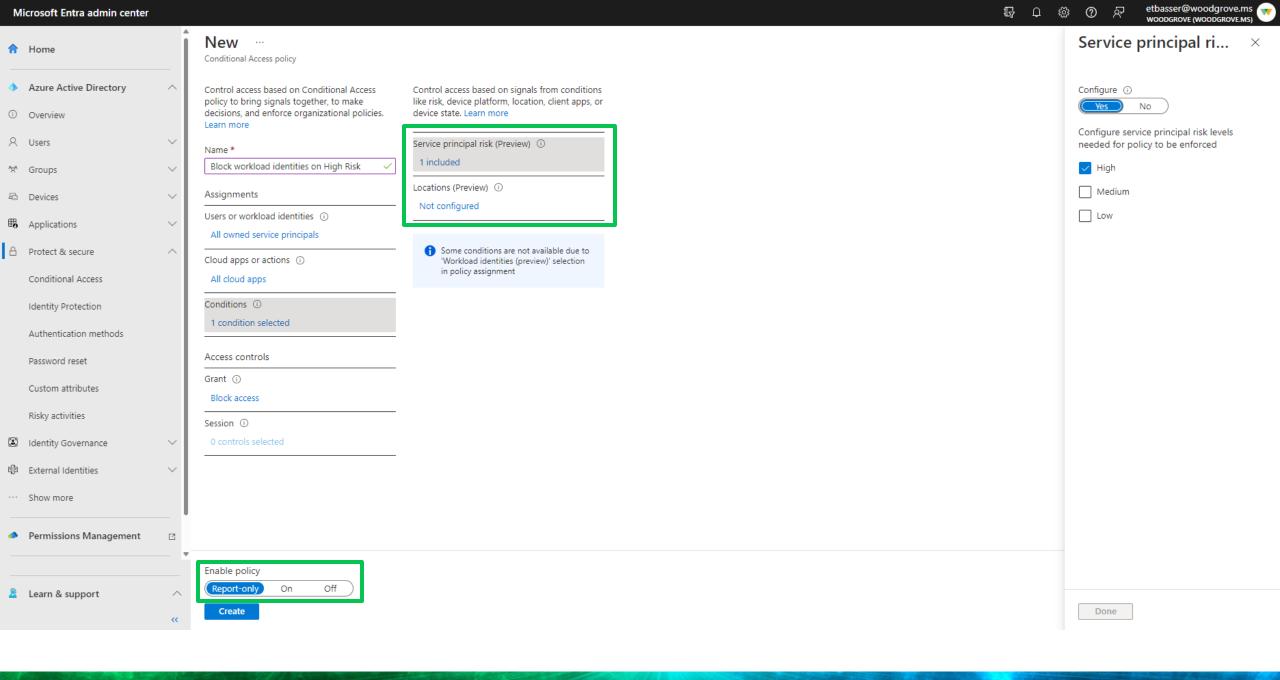
 If admin creds are compromised, coordinate with eviction

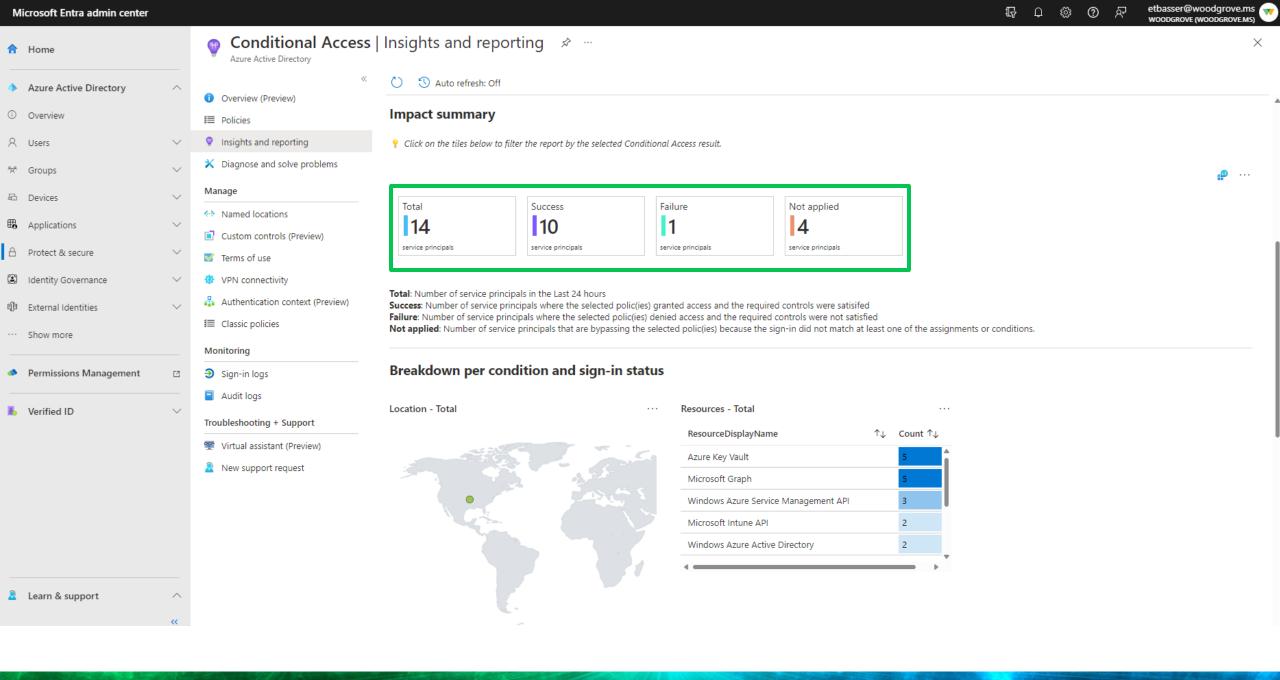
Weigh impact of deletion or key rolling



demo







Recovery

Remediate service principals

Remediate affected service principal resources

Disable or delete malicious apps

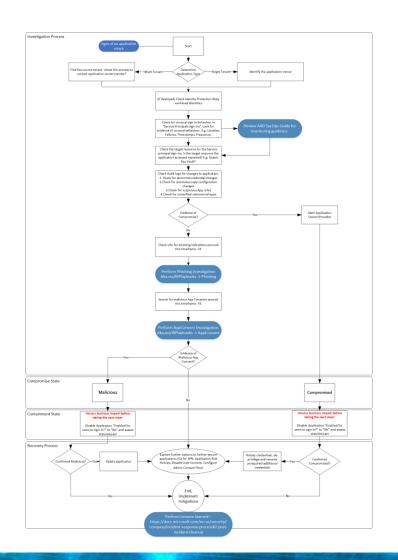
Implement Identity Protection for workload identities

aka.ms/IRPlaybooks

Detailed walkthrough at above link

Investigation process

- Whether an app is malicious or compromised
- Containment and assessing business impact
- Recovery process



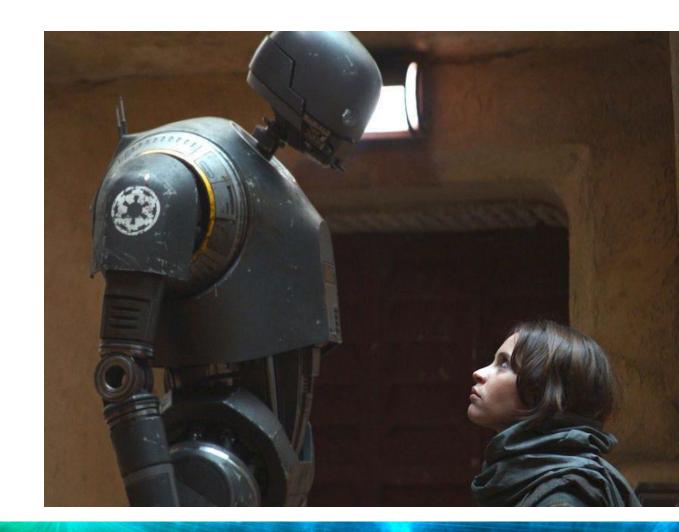
Agenda

What is risk?
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Treat workload identities like user accounts

Good security principles:

- Use strong credentials
- Least privilege
- Lifecycle management
- Monitor anomalies



Strong Credentials

Users

Use modern password guidance

- Discourage weak, easy to guess passwords
- Avoid arbitrary password rules that encourage patterns
- Monitor for leaked credentials

Leverage FIDO2 keys or other passwordless methods

Workload identities

Use X509 certs or managed identities instead of client secrets

Monitor applications to identify those with long credential expiration times

Replace long-lived credentials with credentials that have a short life span

Ensure that credentials don't get committed in code repositories and are stored securely

Least Privilege

Users

Assign admin roles only necessary permissions

Limit admin roles whenever possible

Use just-in-time (JIT) elevation and just-enough-administration (JEA)

Workload identities

Investigate application permissions and ensure they're truly needed

Identify existing applications with highly privileged permissions

Consider limiting end user consent

Analyze when end user consent is blocked

Lifecycle Management

Users

Clean up stale accounts
Recertify access for the accounts

Workload identities

Clean up stale apps and credentials
Recertify access for the accounts
Monitor apps with high permissions
Lower application permissions

Example: If your app only needs to read mail, lower permission from Mail.ReadWrite.All to Mail.Read.All

Monitor Anomalies

Users

Unfamiliar locations

New devices

Actions taken outside of typical working hours

Accessing unusual files

Workload identities

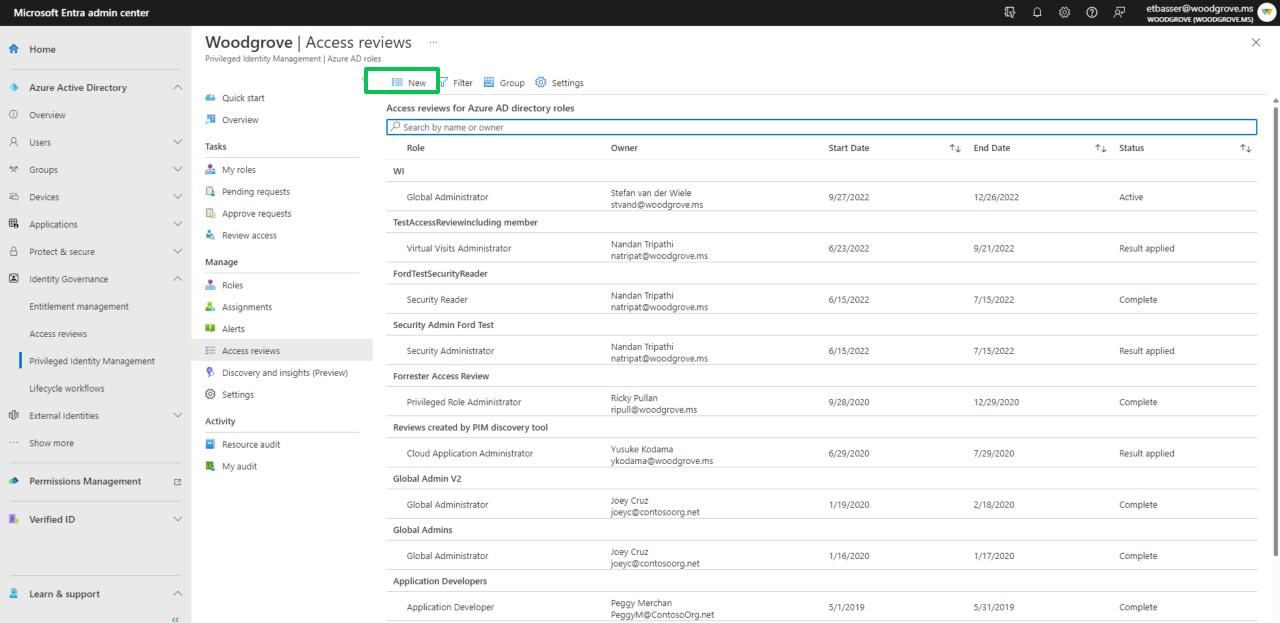
Universal resource identifier (URI) changed or non-standard

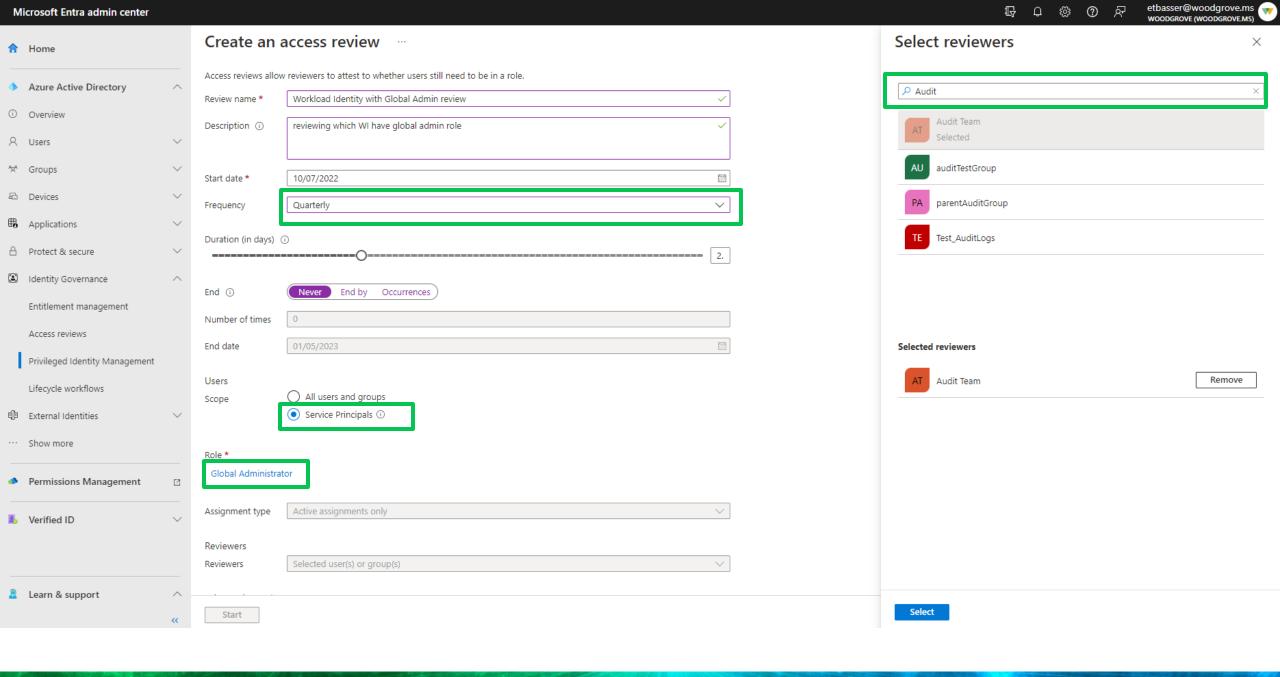
Changes to application owners

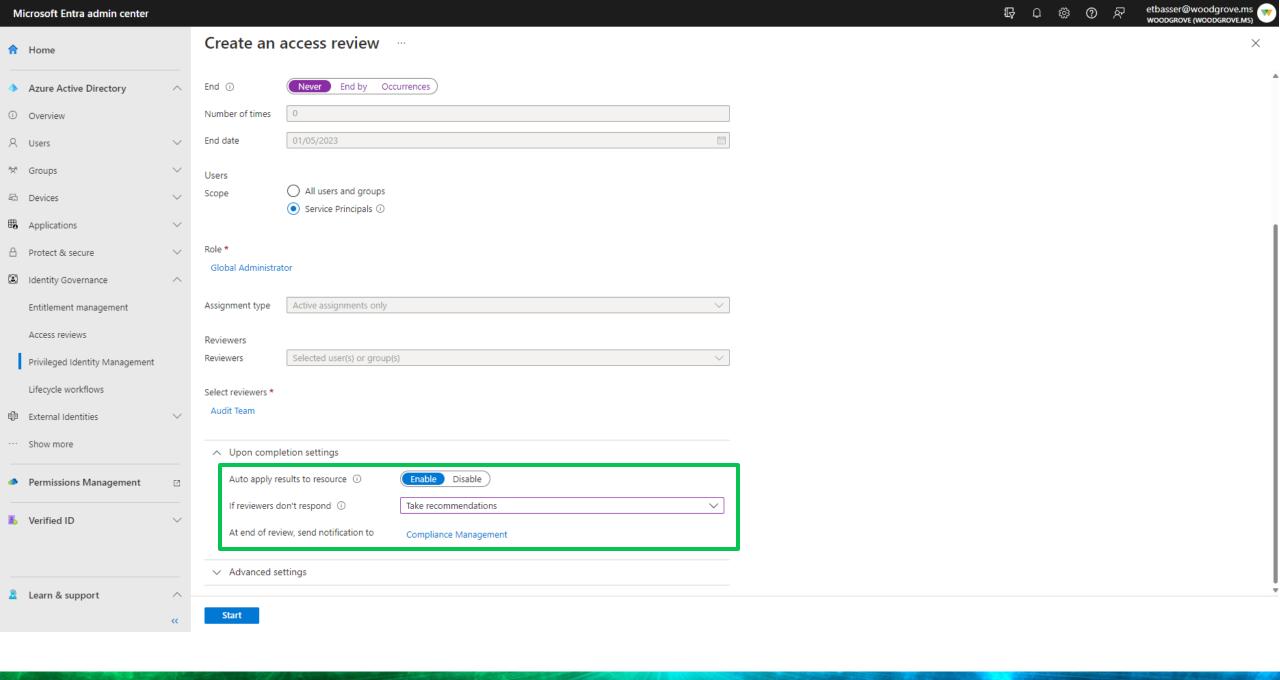
Logout URLs modified

Unauthorized changes to credentials

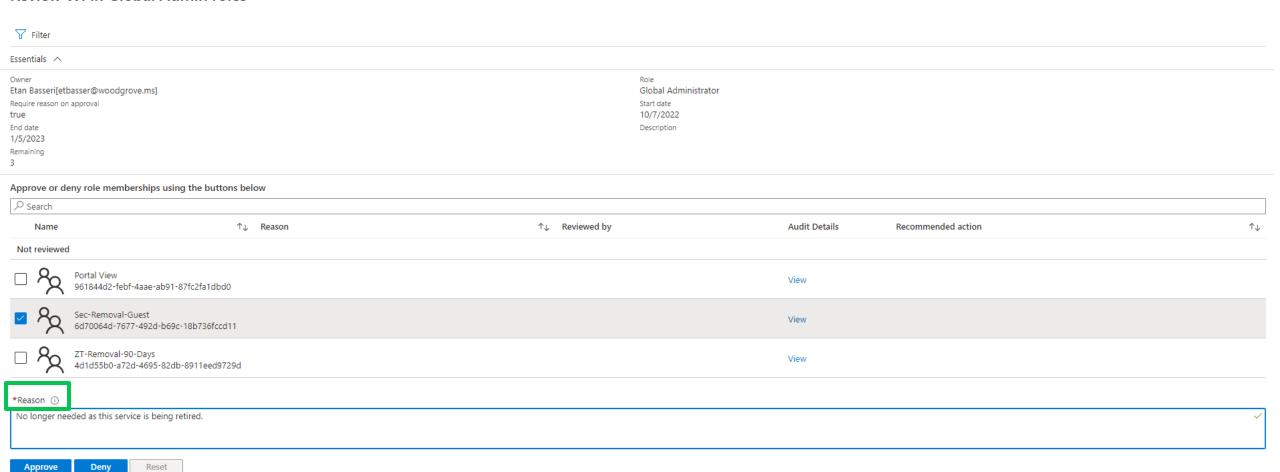
demo







Review WI in Global Admin roles



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Go-Do's

- 1. Identify your app owners
- 2. Security operations guidance aka.ms/AzureADSecOps
- 3. Incident response guidance aka.ms/IRPlaybooks

Questions or comments?



aka.ms/SecurityCongress2022Deck





in Bailey Bercik



Demo