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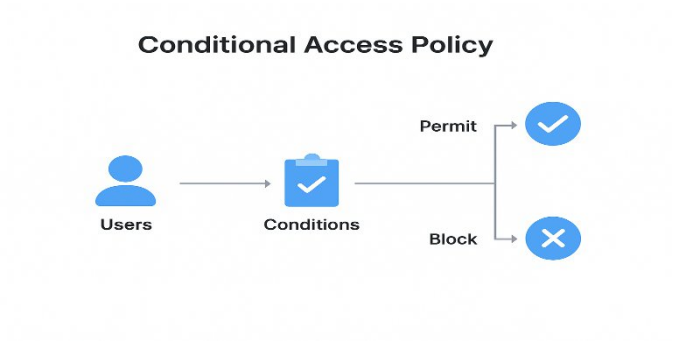
Conditional Access Policy (Microsoft):

What is Conditional Access Policy: Conditional Access Policy is one of **the most powerful tools i Microsoft 365 security**. It helps organizations protect against password theft, risky sign-ins, and unauthorized device access by enforcing conditions that must be met before granting access to company resources.



Purpose: As part of Cybersecurity protection/mitigation, conditional access acts as part of an organization's cybersecurity defense strategy. Its primary purpose is to protect and prevent access from:

- Password Theft
- Risky Sign-ins
- Unmanaged Devices

Conditional Access in Microsoft 365 – Real-World Scenarios:

Conditional Access in Microsoft 365 is where **Security** gets real and **controls the Risk**.

We will learn how to Secure your Business Data:

- 👥 Control access for contractors and temporary staff (browser-only access)
- 📋 Protect sensitive sites like Finance and HR with authentication contexts
- 🚨 Automatically block compromised users with high-risk policies
- ⏱️ Manage sign-in frequency and persistent browser sessions for better security

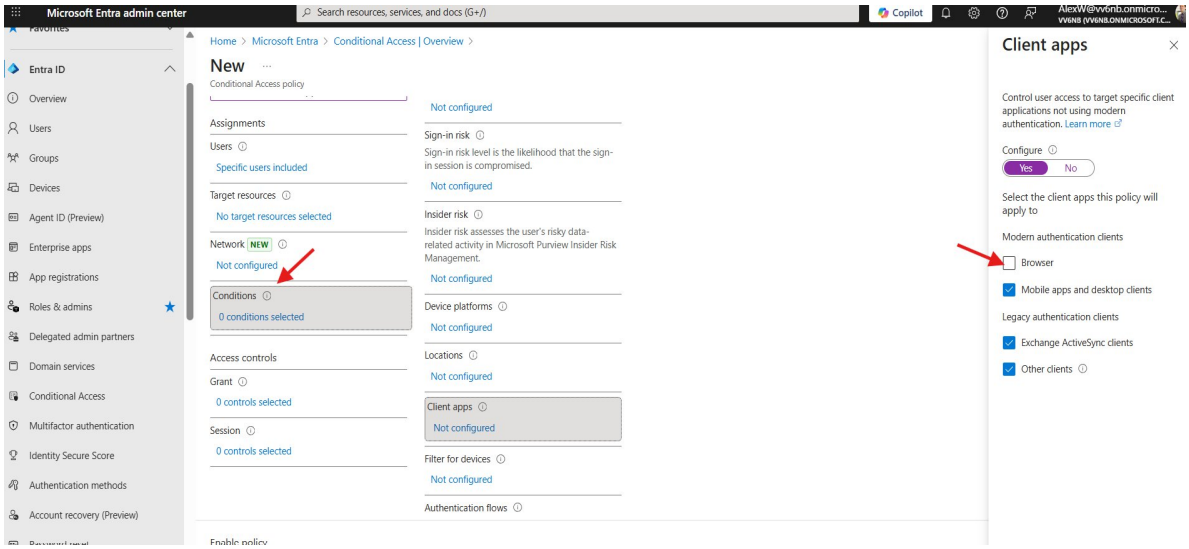
These are practical examples we can implement straight away, designed to help you tighten security without breaking productivity.

Application/Technical Configuration:

Policy 1: Control access for contractors and temporary staff (browser-only access).

Create a policy to **CA-Contractors - All Apps - Block Mobile & Desktops Apps**. Click in Microsoft 365 Admin Center > **Conditional Access > Policies > New Policy**

- Select User > Select Users and Group > Select the Group of Users which is CA - Contractors
- Target Resources > All resources (Formerly “All cloud apps)
- Conditions > Client Apps > Configure Click Yes > Untick Browser
- Click Grant > Block Access

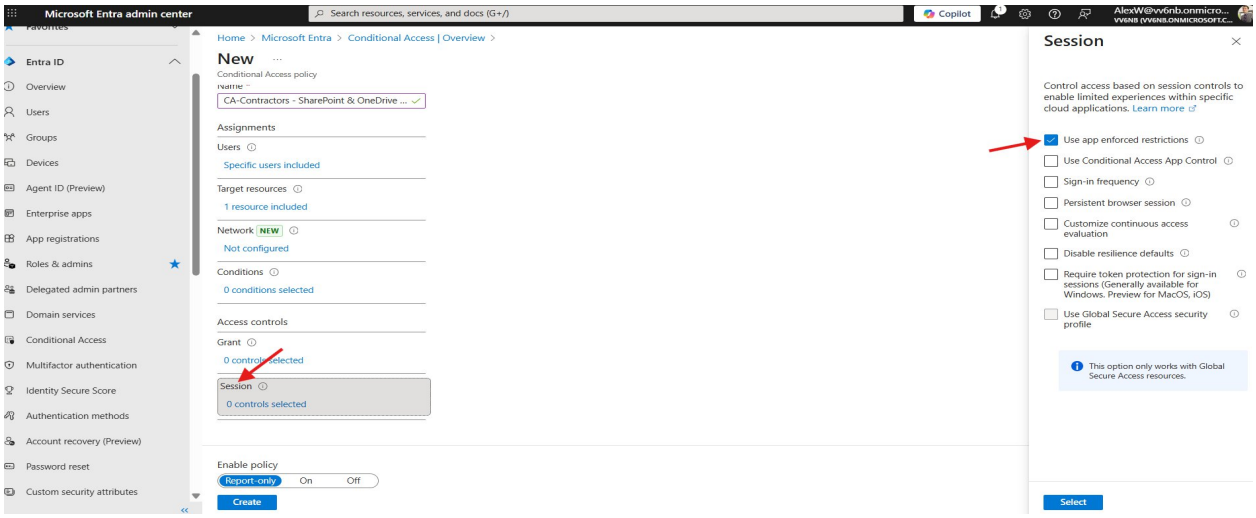


- The purpose of this policy is specifically for the **admins**, while regular staff can use the **Required strong MFA**.

Policy 2: CA-Contractors - SharePoint & OneDrive APP Enforce Restriction

Create a policy to **CA-Contractors - SharePoint & OneDrive APP Enforce Restriction**. Click in Microsoft 365 Admin Center > **Conditional Access > Policies > New Policy**

- Select User > Select Users and Group > Select the Group of Users which is CA - Contractors.
- Target Resources > **Include: Select resources** > Select specific resources: **Office 365** (This includes SharePoint and One Drive)
- Session > Tick/Check Use app enforce restrictions **(They can view, but they can’t download, it’s like a read only.)**

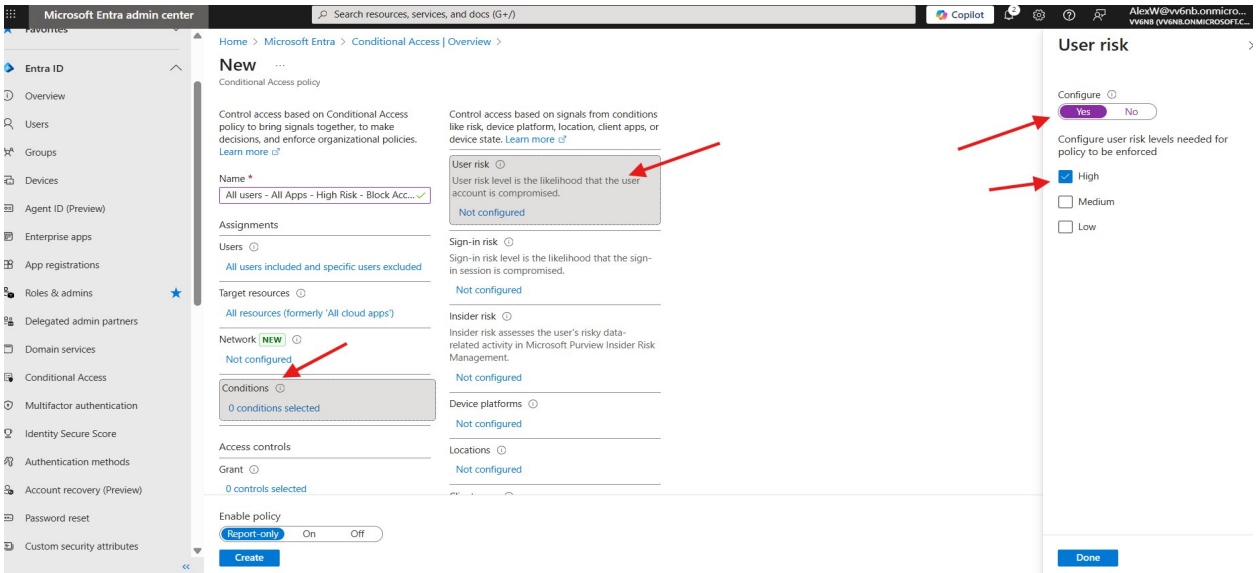


- **click Create**

Policy 3: Entra High Risk User Policy (This is like a Digital Kill Switch) in policy.

Create a policy for **All users - All Apps - High Risk - Block Access**. Click in Microsoft 365 Admin Center > **Conditional Access > Policies > New Policy**

- Select User > **All users (be extra careful not to block your admin account) > Click Exclude > Click All Admin Group of User you create e.g. CA – Break Glass (These are the group of Admin users inside) or your account as an Administrator.**
- Target Resources > All resources (Formerly “All cloud apps)
- Conditions > User risk > Configure = Yes > Click/Tick High > Done



- Click Grant > **Click Block**

Policy 4: Protecting Sensitive Data with Authentication Contexts. Require compliant device conditional access policy.

What is Authentication Context? = Think this as a trigger in any sensitive data or content like: Finance, HR and, Legal. When someone tries to open this, we will **enforce an extra security rule. Now, on this we will target specific sites.**

Microsoft 365 Admin Center > **Conditional Access > Authentication Contexts**

- Click New authentication context > Name: Require Compliant Device for Sensitive Data > Click Save

Now, we will go back to Conditional Access

- Create new policy for **All Users - Auth Context Sensitive Data - Require Compliant Device**. Click in Conditions > Client apps > Configure Yes > Uncheck the browser > Click Done
- Select User > **All users (be extra careful not to block your admin account)** > **Click Exclude > Click All Admin Group of User you create e.g. CA – Break Glass (These are the group of Admin users inside) or your account as an Administrator.**
- **Click Target Resources** > Select what this policy applies to Choose in dropdown the **Authentication context > Click/Tick require Compliant Device for Sensitive Data**
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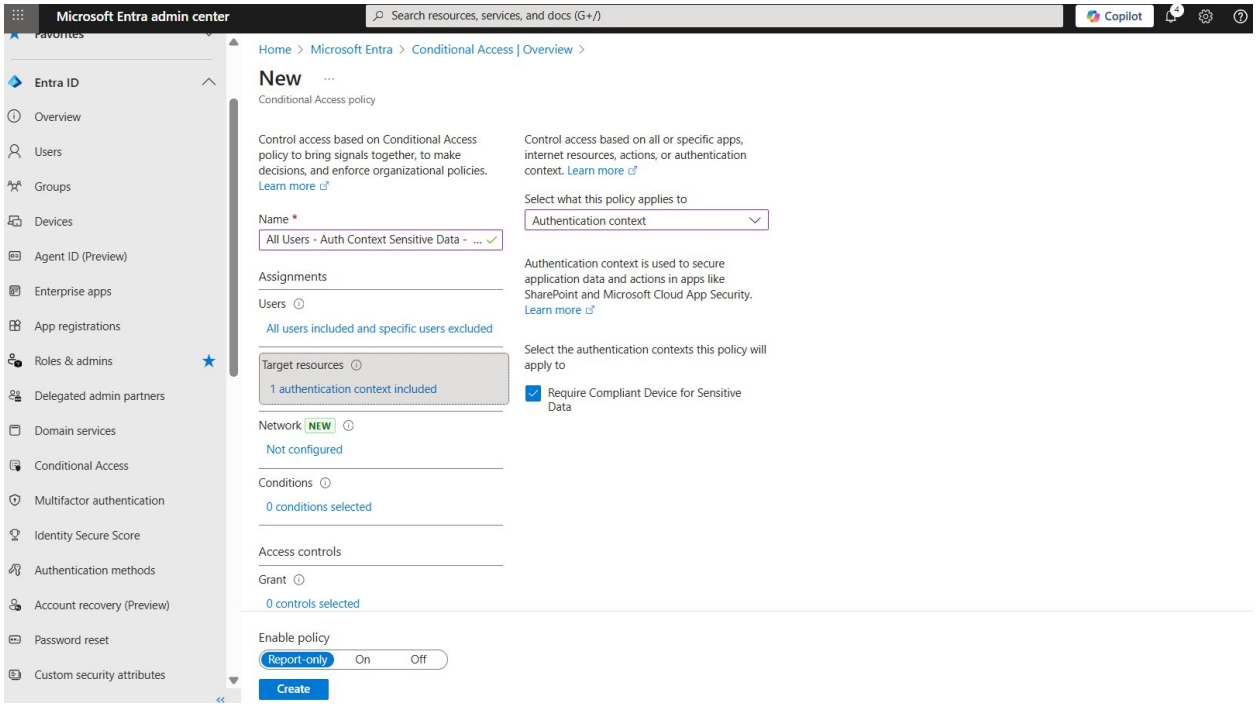
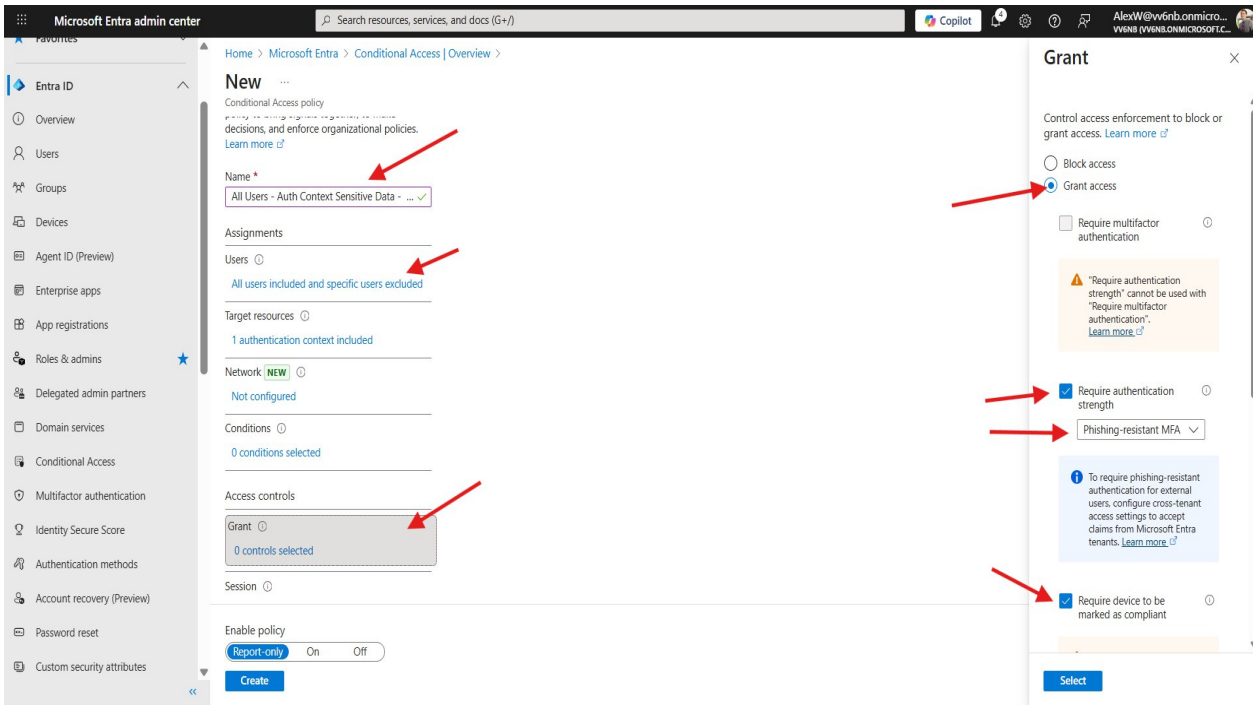
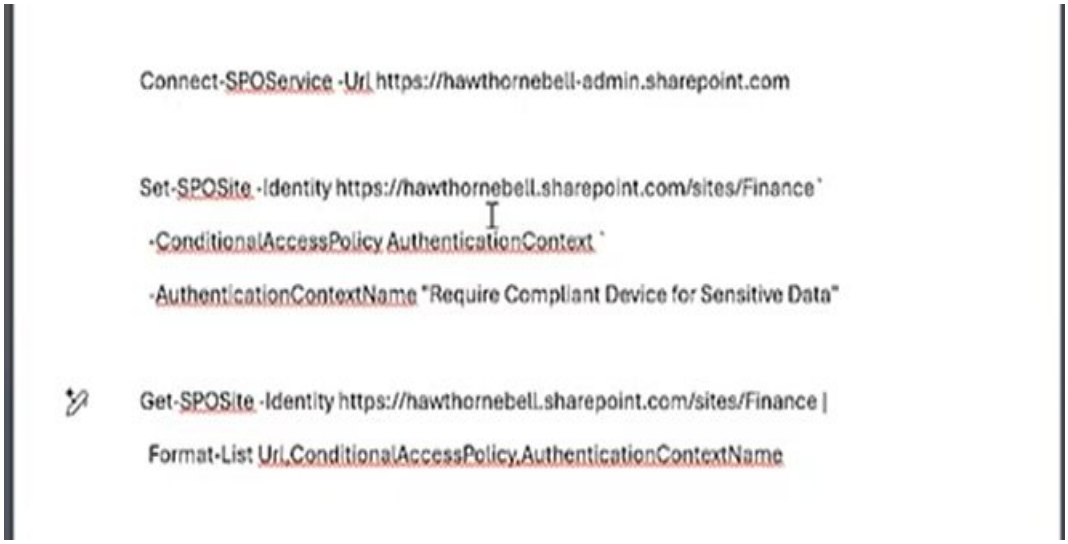


- **Click Grant > Click Grant access > Tick Require authentication strength: Phishing-resistant MFA > Require device to be marked as compliant**



- **Click Create**

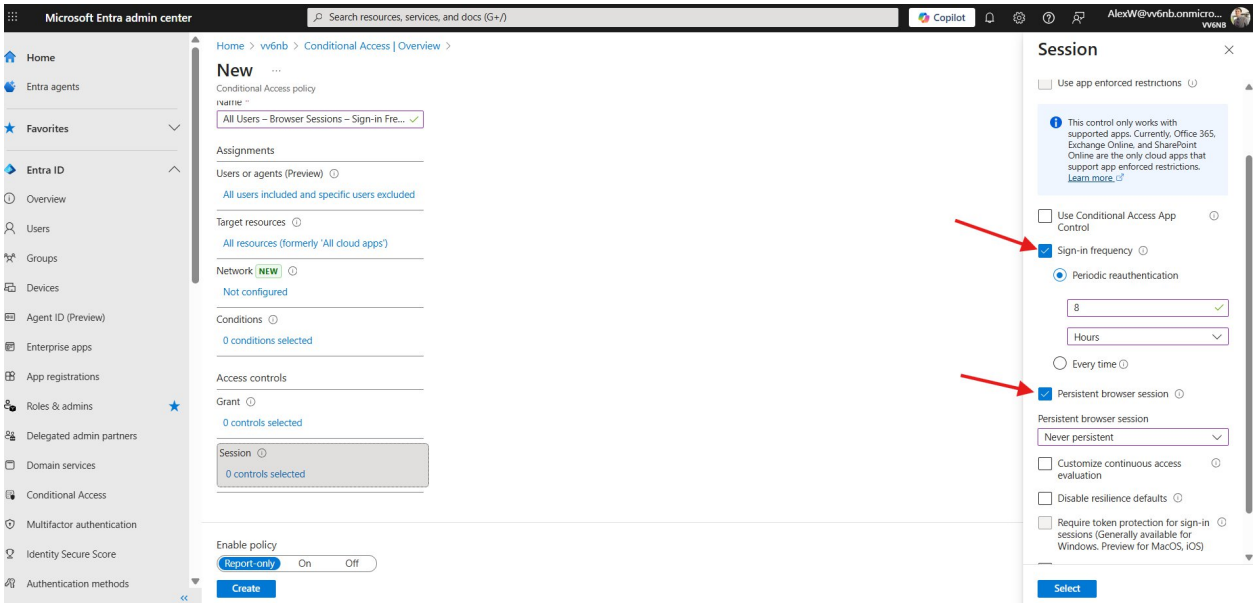
Now, once applied we will configure this with our **PowerShell (run as admin),** copy and paste below.



Policy 5: How long people can stay sign-in: Sign-in Frequency & Persistent Browser sessions

Now, we will go back to Conditional Access

- Create new policy for **All Users – Browser Sessions – Sign-in Frequency**.
- Select User > **All users (be extra careful not to block your admin account) > Click Exclude > Click All Admin Group of User you create e.g. CA – Break Glass (These are the group of Admin users inside) or your account as an Administrator.**
- **Click Target Resources** > All resources (formerly 'All cloud apps')
- **Session >** Click **Sign-in frequency** (8 | hours) > **Click Persistent browser session (Never Persistent)**



Sources:

1. **Advanced Conditional Access for IT Pros | Complete Guide**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkCq8wWN9Sc

2. **How to Set Up Conditional Access in Microsoft 365 (Step-by-Step) By Jonathan Edwards**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oMaZink7kc

" When you train Smarter, you defend Stronger"
Leonard Estos