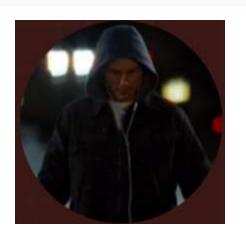


The Current State of Microsoft Identity Security:
Common Security Issues and Misconfigurations



Sean Metcalf Founder/CTO Trimarc @PyroTek3 sean@trimarcsecurity.com





#### **About**

- Founder & CTO @ Trimarc (<u>Trimarc.co</u>), a professional services company that helps organizations better secure their Active Directory, Azure AD/Entra ID, & VMware environments.
- Microsoft Certified Master (MCM) Directory Services
- Enterprise Security Weekly Co-Host (<u>SecurityWeekly.com</u>)
- Former Microsoft MVP
- Speaker: Black Hat, Blue Hat, Blue Team Con, BSides Charm, BSides DC, BSides PR, DEFCON, DerbyCon, TEC
- Security Consultant / Researcher
- AD Enthusiast Own & Operate <u>ADSecurity.org</u> (Microsoft platform security info)



#### Agenda

- Introduction
- The Identity Nexus
- Common Security Issues
  - Active Directory
  - Active Directory Certificate Services (ADCS)
  - Azure AD / Entra ID
- Cloud Security Risk
- Midnight Blizzard & Microsoft
- Okta Integration Concerns
- Attacks: MGM & Caesars
- Current State of Microsoft Identity Security
- Conclusion





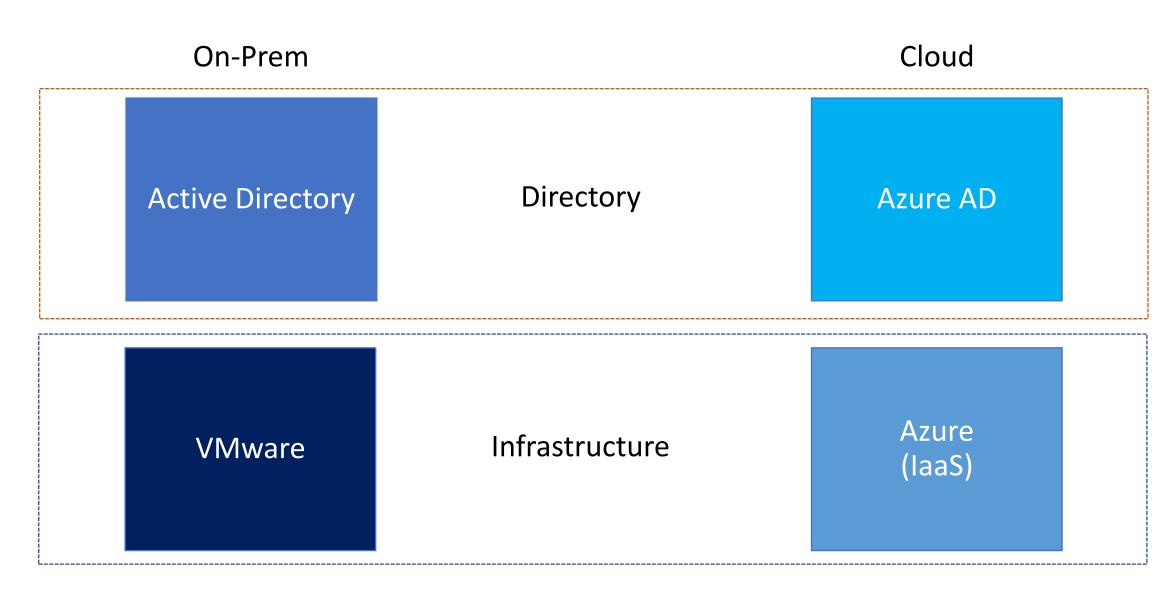
Sean Metcalf
Founder/CTO Trimarc

Defending the Identity Nexus

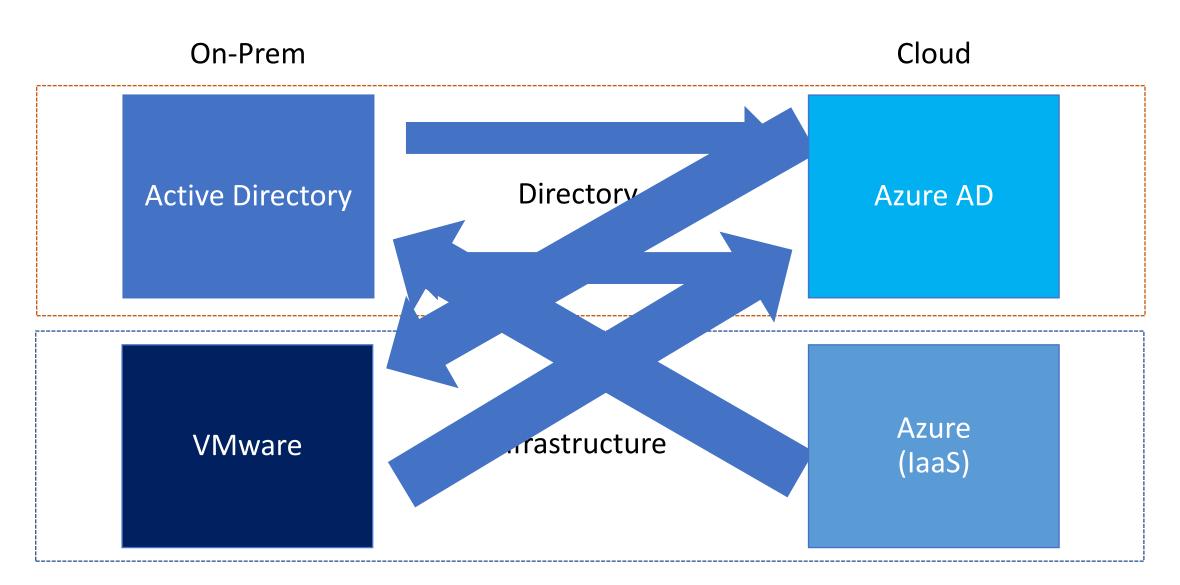


#TEC2022

#### The Identity Nexus



#### The Identity Nexus



# Common Security Issues: Active Directory

#### 2019: Avenues to Compromise



GPO permissions

Modify a GPO to own everything that applies it



**AD Permissions** 

Delegation a decade ago is still in place, so are the groups



Improper group nesting

Group inception = innocuous groups with super powers



Overpermissioned accounts

Regular users are admins



Service account access

Domain Admins (of course!)



Kerberos Delegation

Who really knows what this means?



Password Vaults

Management issues (user accounts with admin rights, improper protection

of server, etc)



**Backup Process** 

What servers backup Active Directory? How is this backup data protected?

#### 2024: Avenues to Compromise



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Modify a GPO to own everything that applies it



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#### 2019: State of Security

- Local Administrator Passwords Not Managed on Workstations or Servers
- Weak Domain Password Policy
- Regular Users in AD Admin Groups
- No Account Naming Standard
- Admin Group Nesting Issues
- Default Domain Controllers Policy is Default
- Service Accounts in Domain Admins
- Accounts with Delegated Rights to AD
- Kerberos Delegation
- Cross-Forest Administration

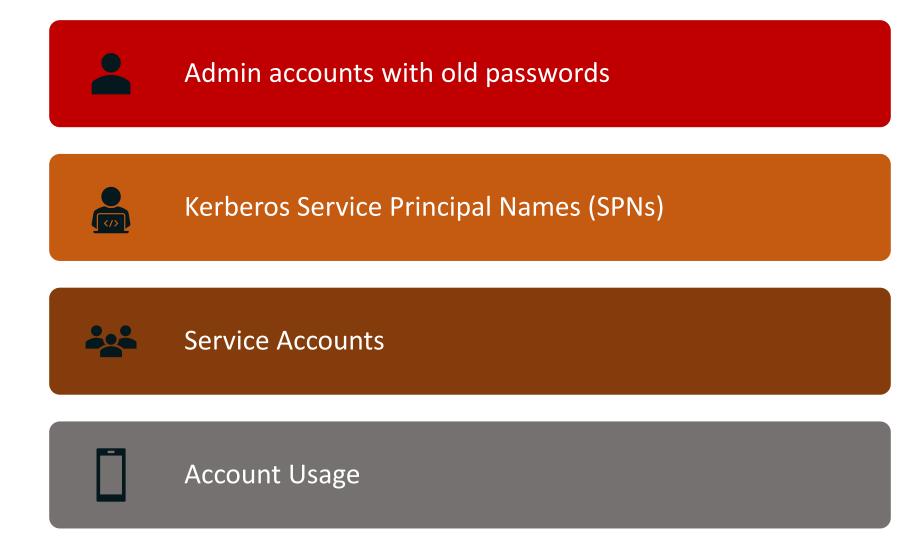
- Default Domain Administrator Account SPN
- Server GPOs Linked to DCs
- Modify Rights to GPOs at Domain /DC Level
- Domain Permission Delegation Issues
- AdminSDHolder Permission Delegation Issues
- Admins Use Regular Workstations for AD Administration
- DCs with minimal event auditing

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## Common AD Security Issues: Active Directory Admins



## AD Admins with Old Passwords

- Ensure privileged account passwords change annually.
- Older passwords are typically poor and easier to guess.
- Password Spraying & Kerberoasting are popular attack methods for compromising accounts lacking strong passwords.



#### 

#### Get-ADGroupMember Administrators -Recursive

#### AD Admin Account Checks



- Passwords change regularly (every year)
- Disable inactive accounts
- Remove disabled accounts
- No SPNs on accounts associated with people
- Member of Protected Users group
- No computer accounts
- Scrutinize Service Accounts
  - What do they do?
  - Where do they run?
  - What computers do they authenticate to?
  - What rights are actually required?

# Action: Improving AD Admin Account Security

(including Service Accounts)



Limit accounts in privileged AD admin groups.



Ensure AD admin accounts have passwords change annually (at a minimum).



Assume no service accounts need to be in AD admin groups.



Ensure all AD admin accounts have "sensitive" bit set and are members of the Protected Users group.

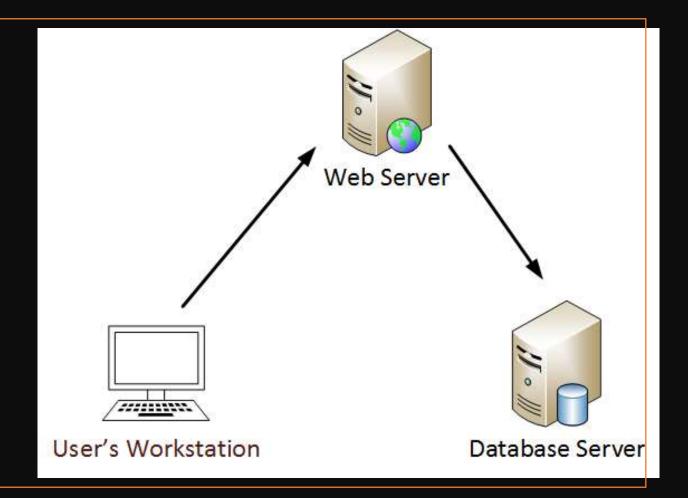


Ensure no AD admin accounts associated with people have Kerberos Service Principal Names (SPNs).



Disable accounts that are no longer in use (and eventually remove from privileged groups).

Common AD Security Issues:
Kerberos Delegation



#### Action List: Kerberos Delegation

#### GOOD:

- Set all AD Admin accounts to: "Account is sensitive and cannot be delegated"
- Account is sensitive and cannot be delegated

Remove all delegation accounts that don't have Kerberos SPNs

#### **BEST:**

- Add all AD Admin accounts to the "Protected Users" group.
- Convert Unconstrained delegation to Constrained delegation.
- Work to remove Kerberos delegation from accounts where no longer required.
- Ensure service accounts with Kerberos delegation have long, complex passwords (preferably group Managed Service Accounts).
- Don't use Domain Controller SPNs when delegating.
- Restrict & monitor who has the ability to configure Kerberos delegation.

#### Limitation:

Service Accounts may not operate fully when added to Protected Users and may also experience issues with "Account is sensitive and cannot be delegated"

#### Common AD Security Issues: Custom Permissions

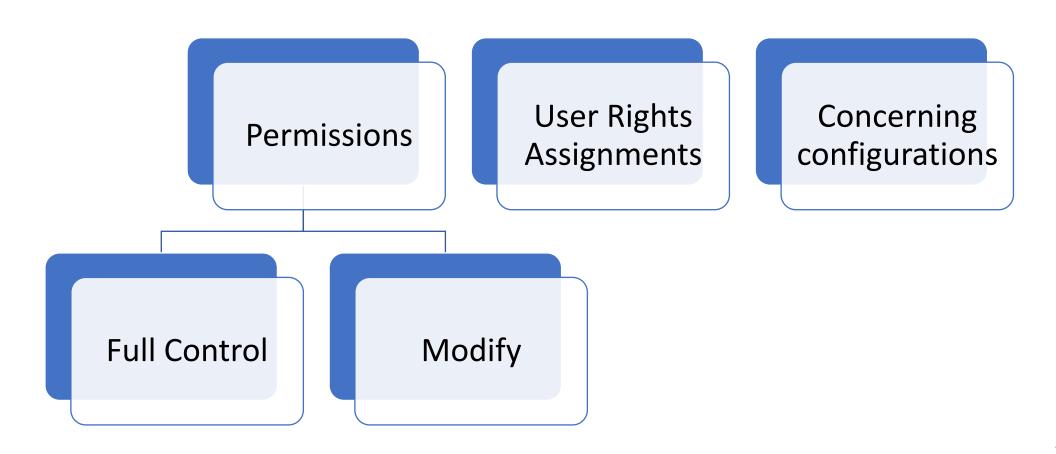
Domain

OUs

Group Policy Objects (GPOs)

Sensitive objects

#### Group Policy Misconfiguration



#### Common AD Security Issues: DCs



Print Spooler service running



Event auditing issues



User Rights
Assignments applied to DCs (via GPO)



Installed applications and agents



Old version of VMware Tools



Insecure remote access tools



Still running Windows Server 2012 (or older!) on DCs

#### Domain Controller Security:

#### User Rights Assignment

- Add workstations to domain
  - Only AD Admins & specific groups/accounts should have this right
- Allow log on locally & Allow log through Terminal Services (RDP)
  - Only "Domain Admins" or "Administrators" should have this right
- Debug programs
  - Not required
- Enable computer and user accounts to be trusted for delegation (Kerberos)
  - Only "Domain Admins" or "Administrators" should have this right
- Load and unload device drivers (can compromise DC)
  - Not required
- Manage auditing and security log (can clear security logs)
  - AD Admins & Exchange groups only
- Take ownership of files or other objects (become owner of AD objects)
  - Only "Domain Admins" or "Administrators" should have this right

Domain Controller Security:

"Not on Domain Controllers" Applications List SQL

**ADFS** 

**Azure AD Connect** 

Management Console (not the agent)

Firefox

Chrome

(old) Remote console software

#### Domain Controller Security:

## Typical DC Agents

#### **VMware Tools**

- You are running the current version, right? (VMware Tools 12.4.0 - 03/21/2024)
- Versions older than 10.1.0 are vulnerable to a significant security issue (VIX API)

#### **EDR**

 Has live response capability (console) with system/admin rights on the DC

#### Management (SCCM)

• Can install/run code on the DC

#### Splunk Universal Forwarder

Default install has the ability to run code

#### DCs: Only Run Supported Versions of Windows

Microsoft Server Operating System	Support Start Date	Mainstream Support End Date	Extended Support End Date
Windows Server 2022	11/2/2021	10/13/2026	10/14/2031
Windows Server 2019	11/13/2018	1/9/2024	1/9/2029
Windows Server 2016	10/15/2016	1/11/2022	1/23/2027
Windows Server 2012R2	11/25/2013	10/9/2018	10/10/2023
Windows Server 2012	10/30/2012	10/9/2018	10/10/2023
Windows Server 2008R2	10/22/2009	1/13/2015	1/14/2020

#### Action: DC Security

#### Ensure Ensure Ensure Ensure Review Ensure Ensure Ensure DC User Ensure DCs are Ensure you are Review all Ensure DCs are Advanced running the only operating agents on DCs Rights running current Auditing is Assignments as Domain and identify Windows current enabled & Controllers with those that can are configured **VMWare Tools** versions & keep configured appropriately in install/run code patched 0 unnecessary version on DC-linked GPOs appropriately in applications virtual DCs DC-linked GPO

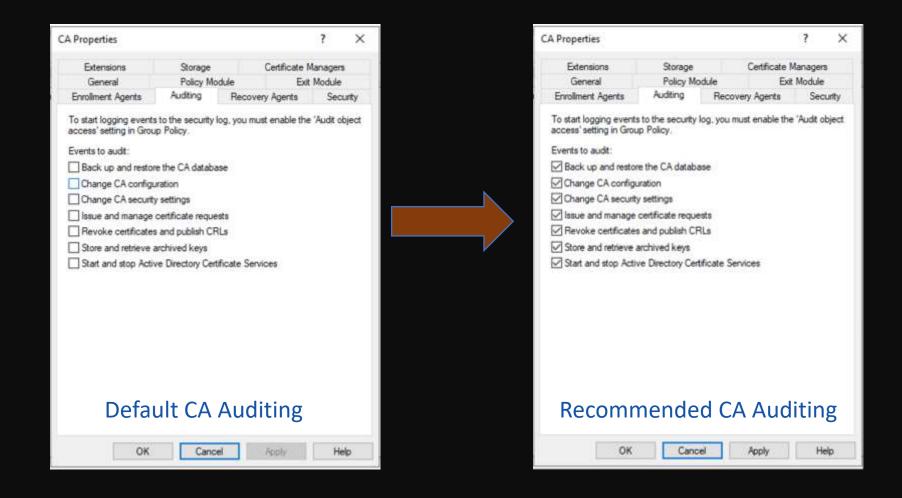
### Common AD Security Issues

**Active Directory Certificate Services (ADCS)** 

#### Active Directory Certificate Services (ADCS) Security Issues

- Auditing Issues
- Misconfigured Certificate Template
  - SAN without Manager Approval
  - SubCA certificate without Manager Approval
  - Overly-permissive AD Object ACLs (ex. auth users with GenericAll)
- Vulnerable PKI Object Access Control (AD permissions)
- EDITF\_ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2
- HTTP Enrollment Enabled

#### **ADCS** Auditing



#### Templates with Dangerous Configs



- Templates options include:
  - Who can enroll/auto-enroll
  - Certificate purpose(s)/approved use(s)
  - Who is this certificate for?
  - Is approval required?
- If a normal user can specify the subject of the certificate, that user can request a certificate on behalf of any other entity in the domain including a Domain Admin or Domain Controller.
- Trimarc has found at least one certificate that matches this description in ~95% of the environments we've assessed.

#### EDITF\_ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2

#### **Controlling User Added Subject Alternative Names**

An Active Directory® Certificate Services CA offers several methods to add subject alternative names (SANs) to a certificate:

- 1. Add from known AD object attributes The CA can add alternative names from a defined subset of attributes when you choose to add the subject information from Active Directory®. The CA performs this addition, and the data is not specified by the user. Manipulation would require an attacker to be able to manipulate the values of attributes for a user in Active Directory®.
- 2. Add as an extension in the certificate request If the template is configured for "supply in request", the extensions requested will be honored by the CA if supported. The alternative names are provided by the requestor.
- 3. Add as an attribute that accompanies the certificate request Requires the CA to allow user-specified alternative names via the EDITF\_ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2 flag. If this flag is set on the CA, any request (including when the subject is built from Active Directory®) can have user defined values in the subject alternative name.

Allowing users to define arbitrary alternative names poses risk to the PKI if it is not implemented with proper controls. Anytime you allow a user to define SANs, implement the following additional controls:

- Requests that may contain user-defined alternative names should be set to "pending" when submitted and reviewed by a Certificate Manager prior to issuance
- . Do not allow a single person to have the ability to both add SANs and approve the request

#### EDITF\_ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2

It is strongly recommended not to enable the EDITF\_ATTRIBUTESUBJECALTNAME2 flag on an enterprise CA. If this is enabled, alternative names are allowed for any Certificate Template issued, regardless of how the subject of the certificate is determined according to the Certificate Template. Using this feature, a malicious user could easily generate a certificate with an alternative name that would allow them to impersonate another user. For example, depending on the issuance requirements, it may be possible for a malicious user to request a new certificate valid for smart card logon and request a SAN which contains the UPN of a different user. Since smart card logon uses UPN mapping by default to map a certificate to a user account, the certificate could be used to log on interactively as a different user, which could be a domain administrator or other VIP account. If this flag is enabled, the CA should be limited to require Certificate Manager approval or limit enrollment permissions to only trusted accounts.

#### Secure Your HTTP Endpoints

#### Enforce & Enable

 Enforce HTTPS & Enable Extended Protection for Authentication (EPA)

#### Disable

Disable NTLM auth on IIS on your AD CS servers

#### Disable

• Disable NTLM auth on your AD CS servers

#### Best Option:

Remove all ADCS HTTP endpoints.

#### **ACTION:** ADCS Security Checks

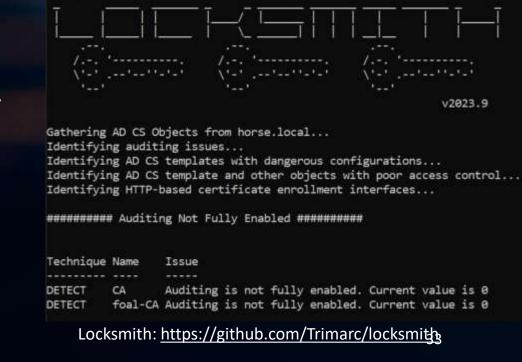
- Lots of areas in default configs for attackers to take advantage of.
- Trimarc finds Critical issues in 99% of environments with ADCS.
- Perform the following to improve ADCS security:
  - Review CA auditing settings
  - Review certificate template configuration
  - Review AD PKI object permissions
  - Check for EDITF ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2

OPERATOR CLASSES

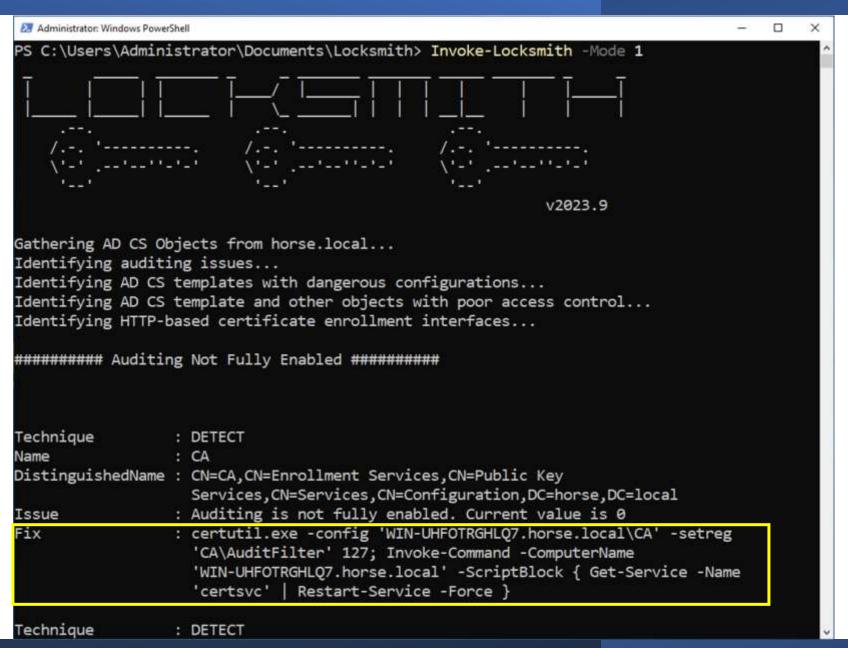
ject.mirror\_mirror\_x

vpes.Operator):
 X mirror to the select

Secure ADCS HTTP endpoints



#### Run Locksmith!



# Common Security Issues: Azure AD/Entra ID

#### Azure AD / Entra ID Common Security Issues

#### **Privileged Account Issues**

- Standard user accounts are members
- Service Accounts / Service Principals are members
- Account(s) authenticate from user workstations
- Using PIM, but all/most are permanently active, not eligible.
- MFA not configured on highly privileged role members

#### Applications with Highly Privileged Permissions

- Highly privileged applications (Trimarc Level 0) with standard user account as owner
- Standard user account in Application Administrator and/or Cloud Application Administration role(s).

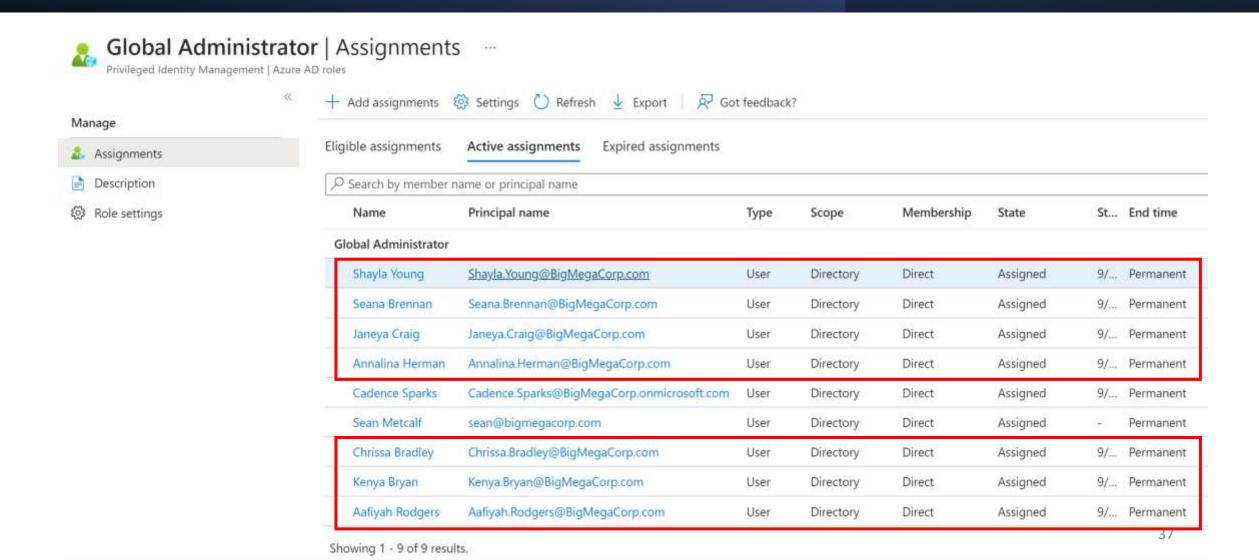
#### **Group Nesting**

• Role Assignable Groups in highly privileged roles (Trimarc Level 0)

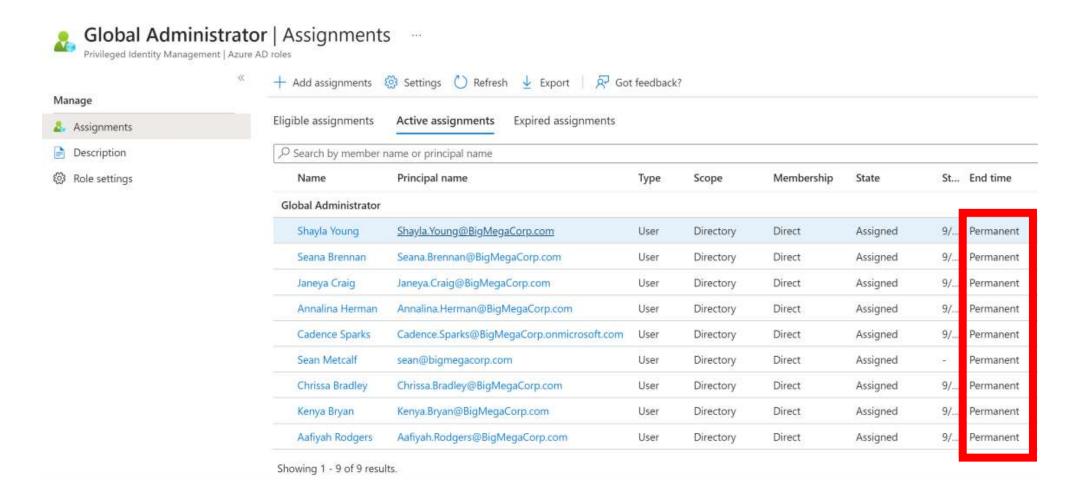
#### Partner Access - Delegated Access Permissions

- Global Administrator
- Helpdesk Administrator

# Highly Privileged Standard User Accounts



# PIM Members are Permanent, Not Eligible



# Admin Accounts without MFA

```
The Following Global Admin Account(s) have MFA Successfully Configured:

UserDisplayName UserPrincipalName IsMfaCapable IsMfaRegistered IsPasswordlessCapable MethodsRegistered

Sean Metcalf sean@bigmegacorp.com True True True {microsoftAuthenticatorPasswordless,}

The Following 7 Global Admin Account(s) don't have MFA Configured:
Cadence.Sparks@BigMegaCorp.com
Kenya.Bryan@BigMegaCorp.com
Janeya.Craig@BigMegaCorp.com
Annalina.Herman@BigMegaCorp.com
Seana.Brennan@BigMegaCorp.com
Chrissa.Bradley@BigMegaCorp.com
Shayla.Young@BigMegaCorp.com
Shayla.Young@BigMegaCorp.com
```

# There are 100 Entra ID Roles!

ole	Description	Template ID
pplication Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of app registrations and enterprise apps.	9b895d92-2cd3-44c7-9d02-a6ac2d5ea5c3
pplication Developer	Can create application registrations independent of the 'Users can register applications' setting.	cf1c38e5-3621-4004-a7cb-879624dced7c
ttack Payload Author	Can create attack payloads that an administrator can initiate later.	9c6df0f2-1e7c-4dc3-b195-66dfbd24aa8f c430b396-e693-46cc-96f3-db01bf8bb62a
ttack Simulation Administrator ttribute Assignment Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of attack simulation campaigns.  Assign custom security attribute keys and values to supported Microsoft Entra objects.	58a13ea3-c632-46ae-9ee0-9c0d43cd7f3d
ttribute Assignment Reader	Read custom security attribute keys and values for supported Microsoft Entra objects.	ffd52fa5-98dc-465c-991d-fc073eb59f8f
ttribute Definition Administrator	Define and manage the definition of custom security attributes.	8424c6f0-a189-499e-bbd0-26c1753c96d4
ttribute Definition Reader ttribute Log Administrator	Read the definition of custom security attributes.  Read audit logs and configure diagnostic settings for events related to custom security attributes.	1d336d2c-4ae8-42ef-9711-b3604ce3fc2c 5b784334-f94b-471a-a387-e7219fc49ca2
ttribute Log Reader	Read audit logs related to custom security attributes.	9c99539d-8186-4804-835f-fd51ef9e2dcd
uthentication Administrator	Can access to view, set and reset authentication method information for any non-admin user.	c4e39bd9-1100-46d3-8c65-fb160da0071f
uthentication Extensibility Administrator uthentication Policy Administrator	Customize sign in and sign up experiences for users by creating and managing custom authentication extensions.	25a516ed-2fa0-40ea-a2d0-12923a21473a
eure DevOps Administrator	Can create and manage the authentication methods policy, tenant-wide MFA settings, password protection policy, and ve Can manage Azure DevOps policies and settings.	e3973bdf-4987-49ae-837a-ba8e231c7286
zure Information Protection Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the Azure Information Protection product.	7495fdc4-34c4-4d15-a289-98788ce399fd
2C IEF Keyset Administrator	Can manage secrets for federation and encryption in the Identity Experience Framework (IEF).	aaf43236-0c0d-4d5f-883a-6955382ac081
2C IEF Policy Administrator illing Administrator	Can create and manage trust framework policies in the Identity Experience Framework (IEF).  Can perform common billing related tasks like updating payment information.	3edaf663-341e-4475-9f94-5c398ef6c070 b0f54661-2d74-4c50-afa3-1ec803f12efe
loud App Security Administrator	Can perform common bining reaced cashs line apparating payment information.  Can manage all aspects of the Defender for Cloud Apps product.	892c5842-a9a6-463a-8041-72aa08ca3cf6
loud Application Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of app registrations and enterprise apps except application proxy.	158c047a-c907-4556-b7cf-446551a6b5f7
loud Device Administrator	Limited access to manage devices in Microsoft Entra ID.	7698a772-787b-4ac8-901f-60d6b08affd2 17315797-102d-40b4-93e0-432062caca18
ompliance Administrator ompliance Data Administrator	Can read and manage compliance configuration and reports in Microsoft Entra ID and Microsoft 365.  Creates and manages compliance content.	e6d1a23a-da11-4be4-3570-befc86d067a7
onditional Access Administrator	Can manage Conditional Access capabilities.	b1be1c3e-b65d-4f19-8427-f6fa0d97feb9
ustomer LockBox Access Approver	Can approve Microsoft support requests to access customer organizational data.	5c4f3dcd-47dc-4cf7-8c3a-3e4207cbfc31
esktop Analytics Administrator	Can access and manage Desktop management tools and services.  Can read basic directory information. Commonly used to grant directory read access to applications and guests.	38a96431-2bdf-4b4c-8b6e-5d3d8abac1a4 88d8e3e3-8f55-4a1e-953a-9b9898b8876b
irectory Readers irectory Synchronization Accounts	Only used by Microsoft Entra Connect service.	d29b2b05-8046-44ba-8758-1c26182fcf32
irectory Synchronization Accounts irectory Writers	Can read and write basic directory information. For granting access to applications, not intended for users.	9360feb5-f418-4baa-8175-e2a00bac4301
omain Name Administrator	Can manage domain names in cloud and on-premises.	8329153b-31d0-4727-b945-745eb3be5f31
ynamics 365 Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the Dynamics 365 product.  Can access Dynamics 365 Business Central environments and perform all administrative tasks on the environments.	44367163-ebs1-44c3-98sf-f5787879f96s 963797fb-eb3b-4cde-8ce3-5878b3f32s3f
dge Administrator	Manage all aspects of Microsoft Edge.	3f1acade-1e04-4fbc-9b69-f0302cd84aef
cchange Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the Exchange product.	29232cdf-9323-42fd-ade2-1d097af3e4de
change Recipient Administrator	Can create or update Exchange Online recipients within the Exchange Online organization.	31392ffb-586c-42d1-9346-e59415a2cc4e
cternal ID User Flow Administrator cternal ID User Flow Attribute Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of user flows. Can create and manage the attribute schema available to all user flows.	6e591065-9bad-43ed-90f3-e9424366d2f0 0f971eea-41eb-4569-a71e-57bb8a3eff1e
cternal Identity Provider Administrator	Can configure identity providers for use in direct federation.	be2f45a1-457d-42af-a067-6ec1fa63bc45
abric Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the Fabric and Power BI products.	a9ea8996-122f-4c74-9520-8edcd192826c
lobal Administrator	Can manage all aspects of Microsoft Entra ID and Microsoft services that use Microsoft Entra identities.	62e90394-69f5-4237-9190-012177145e10
lobal Reader lobal Secure Access Administrator	Can read everything that a Global Administrator can, but not update anything.  Create and manage all aspects of Microsoft Entra Internet Access and Microsoft Entra Private Access, including managin	f2ef392c-3afb-46b3-b7cf-a126ee74c451 ac434307-12b3-4fa1-a708-88bf58caabc1
roups Administrator	Members of this role can create/manage groups, create/manage groups settings like naming and expiration policies, and v	fdd7a751-b60b-444a-984c-02652fe8fa1c
uest Inviter	Can invite guest users independent of the 'members can invite guests' setting.	95e79109-95c0-4d8e-aee3-d01accf2d47b
elpdesk Administrator /brid Identity Administrator	Can reset passwords for non-administrators and Helpdesk Administrators.  Can manage Active Directory to Microsoft Entra cloud provisioning, Microsoft Entra Connect, Pass-through Authenticat	729827c3-9c14-49f7-bb1b-9608f156bbb8
entity Governance Administrator	Manage access using Microsoft Entra ID for identity governance scenarios.	45d8d3c5-c802-45c6-b32a-1d70b5e1e86e
sights Administrator	Has administrative access in the Microsoft 365 Insights app.	eb1f4a8d-243a-41f0-9fbd-c7cdf6c5ef7c
sights Analyst	Access the analytical capabilities in Microsoft Viva Insights and run custom queries.	25df335f-86eb-4119-b717-0ff02de207e9
sights Business Leader tune Administrator	Can view and share dashboards and insights via the Microsoft 365 Insights app.  Can manage all aspects of the Intune product.	31e939ad-9672-4796-9e2e-873181342d2d 3a2e62db-5318-420d-8d74-23affee5d9d5
nizala Administrator	Can manage an aspects of the intolle product.  Can manage settings for Microsoft Kaizala.	74ef975b-6605-40af-a5d2-b9539d836353
nowledge Administrator	Can configure knowledge, learning, and other intelligent features.	b5a8dcf3-09d5-43a9-a639-8e29ef291470
nowledge Manager	Can organize, create, manage, and promote topics and knowledge.	744ec460-397e-42ad-a462-8b3f9747a02c
cense Administrator fecycle Workflows Administrator	Can manage product licenses on users and groups.  Create and manage all aspects of workflows and tasks associated with Lifecycle Workflows in Microsoft Entra ID.	4d6ac14f-3453-41d0-bef9-a3e0c569773a 59d46f88-662b-457b-bceb-5c3809e5908f
lessage Center Privacy Reader	Can read security messages and updates in Office 365 Message Center only.	ac16e43d-7b2d-40e0-ac05-243ff356ab5b
lessage Center Reader	Can read messages and updates for their organization in Office 365 Message Center only.	790c1fb9-7f7d-4f88-86a1-ef1f95c05c1b
licrosoft 365 Migration Administrator licrosoft Entry, Joined Daviso Local Administ	Perform all migration functionality to migrate content to Microsoft 365 using Migration Manager.  Users assigned to this role are added to the local administrators group on Microsoft Entra joined devices.	8c8b803f-96c1-4129-9349-20738d9f9652 9f06204d-73c1-4d4c-880s-6cdb90606fd8
licrosoft Hardware Warranty Administrator	Osers assigned to this role are added to the role administrators group on Microsoft Entra Joined devices.  Create and manage all aspects warranty claims and entitlements for Microsoft manufactured hardware, like Surface and Ho	1501b917-7653-4ff9-a4b5-203eaf33784f
licrosoft Hardware Warranty Specialist	Create and read warranty claims for Microsoft manufactured hardware, like Surface and HoloLens.	281fe777-fb20-4fbb-b7a3-ccebce5b0d96
lodern Commerce Administrator	Can manage commercial purchases for a company, department or team.	d24aef57-1500-4070-84db-2666f29cf966
etwork Administrator ffice Apps Administrator	Can manage network locations and review enterprise network design insights for Microsoft 365 Software as a Service ap Can manage Office apps cloud services, including policy and settings management, and manage the ability to select, unsek	25745bdf-0803-4d80-aa65-822c4493daac
rganizational Branding Administrator	Manage all aspects of organizational branding in a tenant.	92ed04bf-c94a-4b82-9729-b799a7a4c178
rganizational Messages Approver	Review, approve, or reject new organizational messages for delivery in the Microsoft 365 admin center before they are se	e48398e2-f4bb-4074-8f31-4586725e205b
rganizational Messages Writer	Write, publish, manage, and review the organizational messages for end-users through Microsoft product surfaces.	507f53e4-4e52-4077-abd3-d2e1558b6ea2 4ba33ea4-527e-433a-b33d-d3b432e50246
artner Tier1 Support artner Tier2 Support	Do not use - not intended for general use. Do not use - not intended for general use.	e00e864a-17c5-4a4b-9c06-f5b95a8d5bd8
assword Administrator	Can reset passwords for non-administrators and Password Administrators.	966707d0-3269-4727-9be2-8c3a10f19b9d
ermissions Management Administrator	Manage all aspects of Microsoft Entra Permissions Management.	af78dc32-cf4d-46f9-ba4e-4428526346b5
ower Platform Administrator rinter Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of Microsoft Dynamics 365, Power Apps and Power Automate.  Can manage all aspects of printers and printer connectors.	11648597-926c-4cf3-9c36-bcebb0bs8dcc 644cf478-e28f-4e28-b9dc-3fdde9ss0b1f
rinter Technician	Can register and unregister printers and update printer status.	e8cef6f1-e4bd-4ea8-bc07-4b8d950f4477
ivileged Authentication Administrator	Can access to view, set and reset authentication method information for any user (admin or non-admin).	7be44c8a-adaf-4e2a-84d6-ab2649e08a13
rivileged Role Administrator	Can manage role assignments in Microsoft Entra ID, and all aspects of Privileged Identity Management.	e8611ab8-c189-46e8-94e1-60213ab1f814 4a5d8f65-41da-4de4-8968-e035b65333cf
eports Reader earch Administrator	Can read sign-in and audit reports. Can create and manage all aspects of Microsoft Search settings.	0364bb5c-3bdb-4d7b-ac23-58c734862a40
earch Editor	Can create and manage the editorial content such as bookmarks, Q and As, locations, floorplan.	8835291a-918c-4fd7-a9ce-faa49f0cf7d9
curity Administrator	Can read security information and reports, and manage configuration in Microsoft Entra ID and Office 365.	194ac4cb-b126-40b2-bd5b-6091b380977d
ccurity Operator ccurity Reader	Creates and manages security events. Can read security information and reports in Microsoft Entra ID and Office 365.	5f2222b1-57c3-48ba-8ad5-d4759f1fde6f 5d6b6bb7-de71-4623-b4af-96380a352509
ervice Support Administrator	Can read service health information and manage support tickets.	f023fd81-a637-4b56-95fd-791ac0226033
harePoint Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the SharePoint service.	f28a1f50-f6e7-4571-818b-6a12f2af6b6c
sype for Business Administrator	Can manage all aspects of the Skype for Business product.	75941009-915a-4869-abe7-691bff18279e
eams Administrator eams Communications Administrator	Can manage the Microsoft Teams service. Can manage calling and meetings features within the Microsoft Teams service.	69091246-20c8-4a56-aa4d-066075b2a7a8 baf37b3a-610c-45da-9c62-d9d1c5c8914b
eams Communications Support Engineer	Can troubleshoot communications issues within Teams using advanced tools.	f70938a0-fc10-4177-9c90-2178f8765737
eams Communications Support Specialist	Can troubleshoot communications issues within Teams using basic tools.	fcf91098-03e3-41a9-b5ba-6f0ec8188a12
eams Devices Administrator	Can perform management related tasks on Teams certified devices.	3d762c5a-1b6c-493f-843c-55a3b42923d4
enant Creator sage Summary Reports Reader	Create new Microsoft Entra or Azure AD B2C tenants.  Read Usage reports and Adoption Score, but can't access user details.	112ca1a2-15ad-4102-995e-45b0bc479a6a 75934031-6c7e-415a-99d7-48dbd49e875e
ser Administrator	Can manage all aspects of users and groups, including resetting passwords for limited admins.	fe930be7-5e62-47db-91af-98c3a49a38b1
irtual Visits Administrator	Manage and share Virtual Visits information and metrics from admin centers or the Virtual Visits app.	e300d3e7-4a2b-4235-3eff-f1c78b36cc38
iva Goals Administrator iva Pulse Administrator	Manage and configure all aspects of Microsoft Viva Goals. Can manage all settings for Microsoft Viva Pulse app.	92b086b3-e367-4ef2-b869-1def28fb986e 87761b17-1ed2-4af3-9acd-92af50038f60
'indows 365 Administrator	Can provision and manage all aspects of Cloud PCs.	11451d60-acb2-45eb-a7d6-43d0f0125c13
'indows Update Deployment Administrator	Can create and manage all aspects of Windows Update deployments through the Windows Update for Business deploym	32636413-001a-46ae-378c-ce0f6b3620d2
ammer Administrator	Manage all aspects of the Yammer service.	810a2642-a034-447f-a5e8-41beaa378541

# Microsoft's Privileged Entra ID Roles List [PRIVILEGED]

- Application Administrator
- Application Developer
- Authentication Administrator
- Authentication Extensibility Administrator
- B2C IEF Keyset Administrator
- Cloud Application Administrator
- Cloud Device Administrator
- Conditional Access Administrator
- Directory Synchronization Accounts
- Directory Writers
- Domain Name Administrator
- External Identity Provider Administrator
- Global Administrator
- Global Reader

- Helpdesk Administrator
- Hybrid Identity Administrator
- Intune Administrator
- Partner Tier1 Support
- Partner Tier2 Support
- Password Administrator
- Privileged Authentication Administrator
- Privileged Role Administrator
- Security Administrator
- Security Operator
- Security Reader
- User Administrator

As of: 4/22/2024

# Trimarc Level O Entra ID Roles

Effective Full Admin Rights or Capability to Gain Full Admin to Entra ID

### Global Administrator

• Full admin rights to the Entra ID, Microsoft 365, and 1-click full control of all Azure subscriptions From Azure AD to Active Directory (via Azure) — An Unanticipated Attack Path (2020)

### Hybrid Identity Administrator

 "Can create, manage and deploy provisioning configuration setup from Active Directory to Microsoft Entra ID using Cloud Provisioning as well as manage Microsoft Entra Connect, Pass-through Authentication (PTA), Password hash synchronization (PHS), Seamless Single Sign-On (Seamless SSO), and federation settings." <a href="https://medium.com/tenable-techblog/roles-allowing-to-abuse-entra-id-federation-for-persistence-and-privilege-escalation-df9ca6e58360">https://medium.com/tenable-techblog/roles-allowing-to-abuse-entra-id-federation-for-persistence-and-privilege-escalation-df9ca6e58360</a>

### Partner Tier2 Support

 "The Partner Tier2 Support role can reset passwords and invalidate refresh tokens for all non-administrators and administrators (including Global Administrators)."

"not quite as powerful as Global Admin, but the role does allow a principal with the role to promote themselves or any other principal to Global Admin."

The Most Dangerous Entra Role You've (Probably) Never Heard Of

### Privileged Authentication Administrator

Microsoft: "do not use."
 "Set or reset any authentication method (including passwords) for any user, including Global Administrators. ...
 Force users to re-register against existing non-password credential (such as MFA or FIDO) and revoke remember MFA on the device, prompting for MFA on the next sign-in of all users."

### Privileged Role Administrator

• "Users with this role can manage role assignments in Microsoft Entra ID, as well as within Microsoft Entra Privileged Identity Management. ...

This role grants the ability to manage assignments for all Microsoft Entra roles including the Global Administrator role. "

# Trimarc Level 1 Entra ID Roles (1 of 2)

Highly Privileged Rights that have Privilege Escalation Potential Depending on Tenant Configuration or ability to reconfigure the security posture of the tenant

Role	Microsoft Description
Application Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users in this role can create and manage all aspects of enterprise applications, application registrations, and application proxy settings.
Authentication Administrator	This is a privileged role. Set or reset any authentication method (including passwords) for non-administrators and some roles. Require users who are non-administrators or assigned to some roles to re-register against existing non-password credentials (for example, MFA or FIDO), and can also revoke remember MFA on the device, which prompts for MFA on the next sign-in. Perform sensitive actions for some users.
Domain Name Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role can manage (read, add, verify, update, and delete) domain names. Can be used in federation attacks.
Microsoft Entra Joined Device Local Administrator	During Microsoft Entra join, this group is added to the local Administrators group on the device.
Cloud Application Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users in this role have the same permissions as the Application Administrator role, excluding the ability to manage application proxy. This role grants the ability to create and manage all aspects of enterprise applications and application registrations.
Conditional Access Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role have the ability to manage Microsoft Entra Conditional Access settings.
Directory Synchronization Accounts	This is a privileged role. Do not use. This role is automatically assigned to the Microsoft Entra Connect service, and is not intended or supported for any other use.  Privileged rights: Update application credentials, Manage hybrid authentication policy in Microsoft Entra ID, Update basic properties on policies, & Update credentials of service principals
Directory Writers	This is a privileged role. Users in this role can read and update basic information of users, groups, and service principals.  Privileged rights: Create & update OAuth 2.0 permission grants, add/disable/enable users, Force sign-out by invalidating user refresh tokens, & Update User Principal Name of users.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/entra/identity/role-based-access-control/permissions-reference

## Trimarc Level 1 Entra ID Roles (1 of 2)

Highly Privileged Rights that have Privilege Escalation Potential Depending on Tenant Configuration or ability to reconfigure the security posture of the tenant

Role	Microsoft Description
Exchange Administrator	Users with this role have global permissions within Microsoft Exchange Online.  Trimarc flags this role since it is a role that threat actors target.
External Identity Provider Administrator	This is a privileged role. This administrator manages federation between Microsoft Entra organizations and external identity providers. With this role, users can add new identity providers and configure all available settings (e.g. authentication path, service ID, assigned key containers). This user can enable the Microsoft Entra organization to trust authentications from external identity providers.
Helpdesk Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role can change passwords, & invalidate refresh tokens, Invalidating a refresh token forces the user to sign in again.
Intune Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role have global permissions within Microsoft Intune Online, when the service is present. Additionally, this role contains the ability to manage users and devices in order to associate policy, as well as create and manage groups.  Privileged rights: Read Bitlocker metadata and key on devices
Password Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role have limited ability to manage passwords.
Partner Tier1 Support	This is a privileged role. Do not use. The Partner Tier1 Support role can reset passwords and invalidate refresh tokens for only non-administrators. Privileged rights: Update application credentials, Create and delete OAuth 2.0 permission grants, & read and update all properties
Security Administrator	This is a privileged role. Users with this role have permissions to manage security-related features in the Microsoft 365 Defender portal, Microsoft Entra ID Protection, Microsoft Entra Authentication, Azure Information Protection, and Microsoft Purview compliance portal.
User Administrator	This is a privileged role. Can reset passwords for users.

# Azure Privilege Escalation via Service Principal Abuse

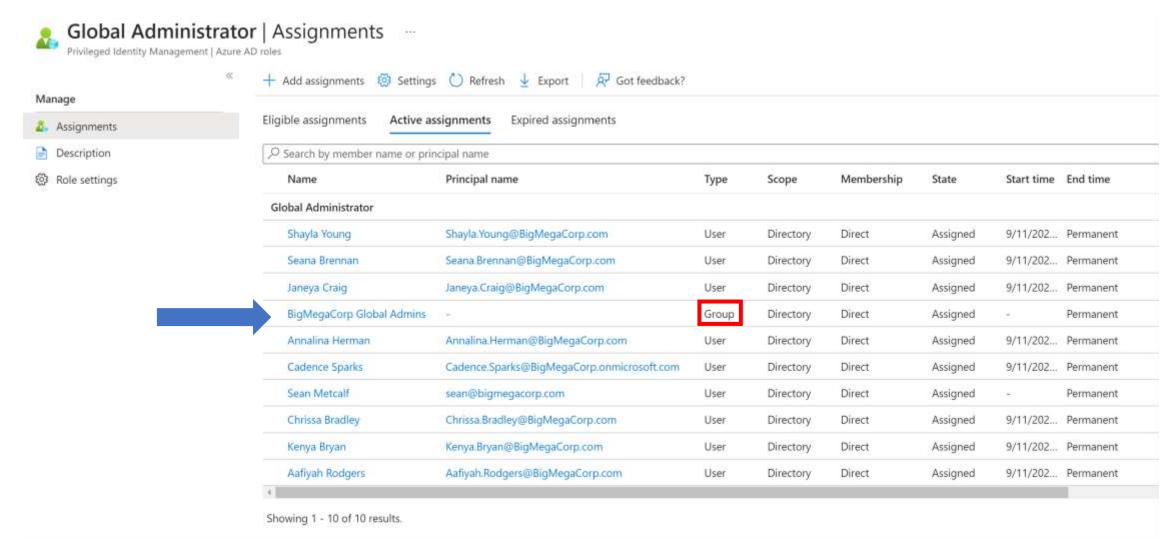


Andy Robbins · Follow

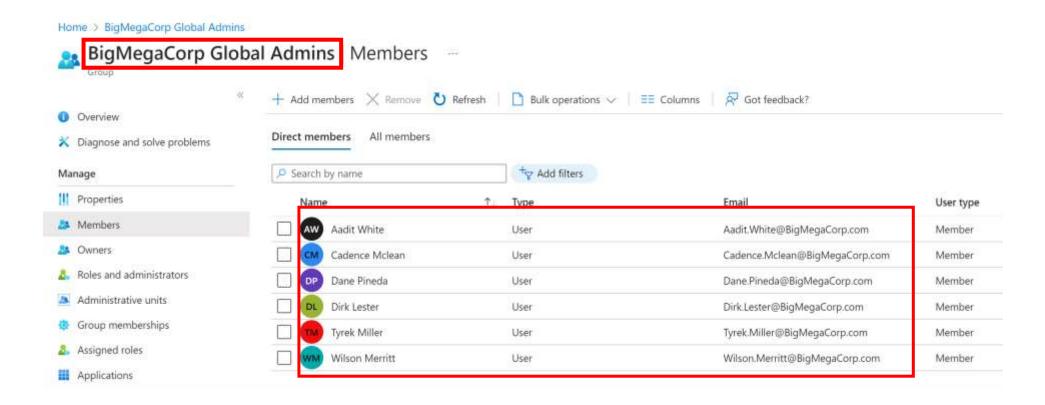
Published in Posts By SpecterOps Team Members · 10 min read · Oct 12, 2021

	Can a User with Role in Column A reset a password for a user with a Role in Row 2?													
	(No Role)	Global Administrator	Privileged Authentication Administrator	Helpdesk Administrator	Authentication Administrator	User Administrator	Password Administrator	Directory Readers	Guest Inviter	Message Center Reader	Privileged Role Administrator	Reports Reader	Groups Administrator	(Any Other Role)
Global Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Privileged Authentication Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Helpdesk Administrator	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Authentication Administrator	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
User Administrator	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Password Administrator	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

# Admin Group Nesting

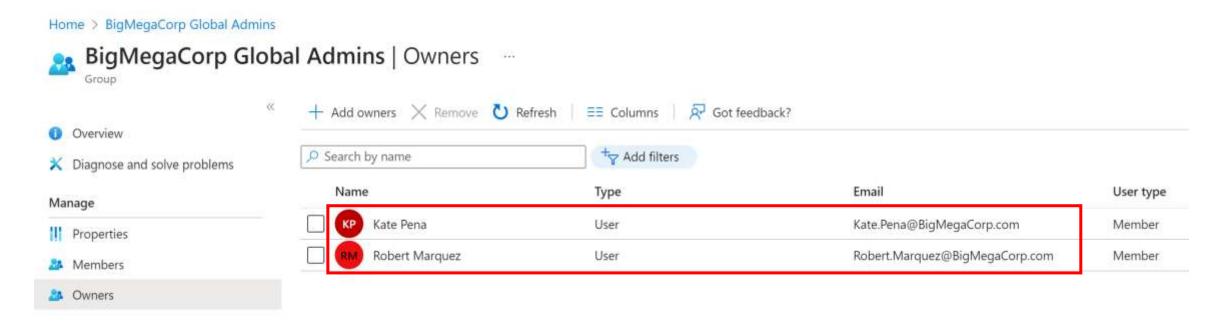


# **Group Nesting**



# Group Owners

Role Assignable Group Owners can manage group membership



# Trimarc Level 0 Applications

Effective Full Admin Rights or Capability to Gain Full Admin to Entra ID

Directory.ReadWrite.All

 "Directory.ReadWrite.All grants access that is broadly equivalent to a global tenant admin." \*

AppRoleAssignment.ReadWrite.All

 Allows the app to manage permission grants for application permissions to any API & application assignments for any app, on behalf of the signed-in user. This also allows an application to grant additional privileges to itself, other applications, or any user.

RoleManagement.ReadWrite.Directory

Allows the app to read & manage the role-based access control (RBAC) settings for the tenant, without a signed-in user. This includes instantiating directory roles & managing directory role membership, and reading directory role templates, directory roles and memberships.

Application.ReadWrite.All

• Allows the calling app to create, & manage (read, update, update application secrets and delete) applications & service principals without a signed-in user. This also allows an application to act as other entities & use the privileges they were granted.

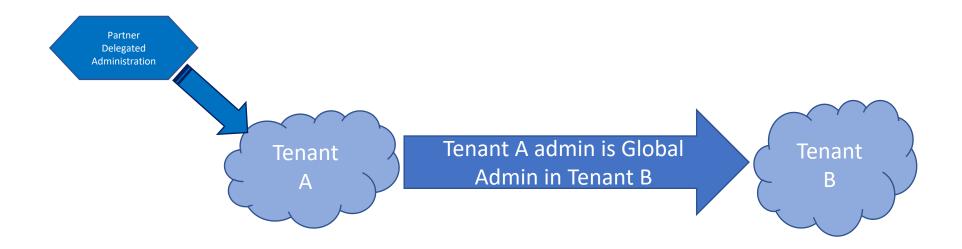
# Reviewing Azure AD Permissions with PowerShell

```
PS C:\> Get-AzureADPSPermissions -ApplicationPermissions | Select ClientDisplayName,ResourceDisplayName,Permission
ClientDisplayName ResourceDisplayName
                                                  Permission
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Device.ReadWrite.All
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Member.Read.Hidden
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Directory.ReadWrite.All
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Domain.ReadWrite.All
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Application.ReadWrite.OwnedBy
Trimarc RD TestApp Windows Azure Active Directory Application.ReadWrite.All
Trimarc KD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Unline
                                                  user.kead.All
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  Mail.ReadWrite
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  MailboxSettings.ReadWrite
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  Contacts.ReadWrite
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  Mailbox.Migration
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  Calendars.ReadWrite.All
Trimarc RD TestApp Office 365 Exchange Online
                                                  Mail.Send
Office 365 ASI App Office 365 Management APIs
                                                  ServiceHealth.Read
Office 365 ASI App Office 365 Management APIs
                                                  ActivityFeed.Read
```

# Who are the Application Owners for TestApp?

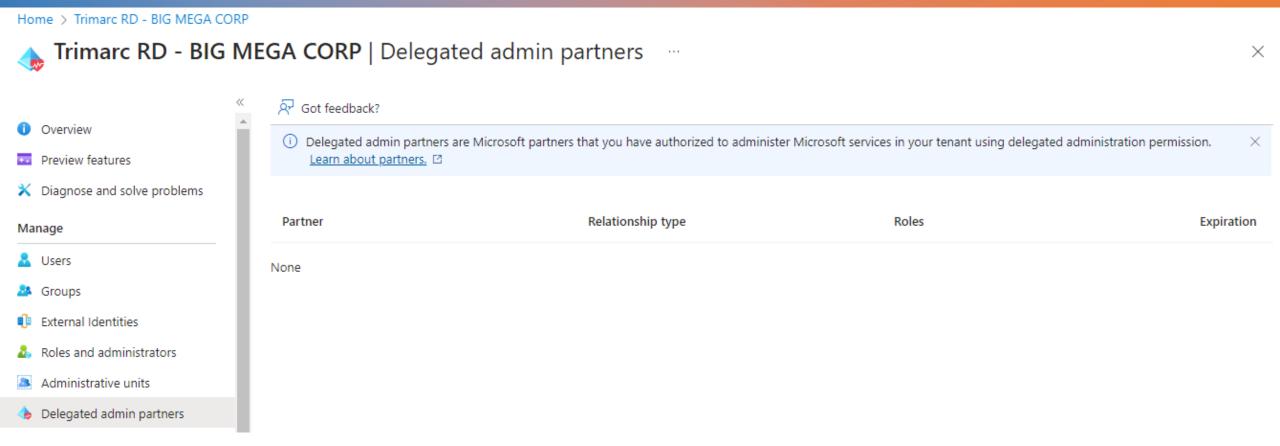
```
PS C:\> Get-AzureADApplication -Objectid $appid | Select displayname,Objectid,appid
DisplayName
               ObjectId
                                                        AppId
Trimarc RD TestApp c8e9b6fe-cc98-4e90-8b7b-15fba500d49c 2f337e5f-8414-45a4-b48f-e0ec2014a1d4
PS C:\> Get-AzureADApplicationOwner -ObjectId $AppId
ObjectId
                                     DisplayName UserPrincipalName
                                                                           UserType
71575fad-39b2-475a-b519-314dde65e7cf Sean Metcalf sean@trimarcrd.com
                                                                           Member
13cf788e-baf0-4b1e-b9fa-46128a6468d0 Joe User
                                                  JoeUser@TrimarcRD.com
                                                                           Member
f4d30f9e-0837-4e3f-974e-ef282a2fcefe Darth Vader
                                                  DarthVader@TrimarcRD.com Member
f2a0fb99-bdaf-49ce-9192-9488ea5d3dae Boba Fett
                                                  BobaFett@TrimarcRD.com
                                                                           Member
```

# Solarigate "Tenant Hopping"



- Tenant Hopping (patent pending ) is when an attacker compromises one tenant to jump to another, often with privileged rights.
- Similar to trust hopping in Active Directory.
- Solarigate attackers leveraged partner connections.

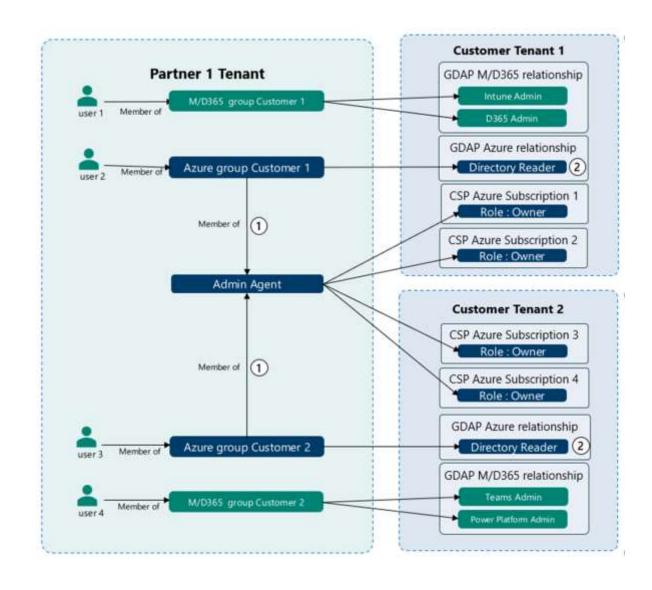
# Delegated Admin

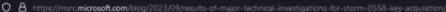


Entra ID Menu Item: Delegated admin partners

https://portal.azure.com/#view/Microsoft\_AAD\_IAM/ActiveDirectoryMenuBlade/~/PartnerRelationships

# Move to Granular Delegated Admin Privileges (GDAP)





### Results of Major Technical Investigations for Storm-0558 **Key Acquisition**

MSRC / By MSRC / September 06, 2023 / 3 min read

On July 11, 2023, Microsoft published a blog post which details how the China-Based threat actor, Storm-0558, used an acquired Microsoft account (MSA) consumer key to forge tokens to access OWA and Outlook.com. Upon identifying that the threat actor had acquired the consumer key, Microsoft performed a comprehensive technical investigation into the acquisition of the Microsoft account consumer signing key, including how it was used to access enterprise email. Our technical investigation has concluded. As part of our commitment to transparency and trust, we are releasing our investigation findings.

### Key acquisition

Microsoft maintains a highly isolated and restricted production environment, Controls for Microsoft employee access to production infrastructure include background checks, dedicated accounts, secure access workstations, and multi-factor authentication using hardware token devices. Controls in this environment also prevent the use of email, conferencing, web research and other collaboration tools which can lead to common account compromise vectors such as malware infections or phishing, as well as restricting access to systems and data using Just in Time and Just Enough Access policies.

Our corporate environment, which also requires secure authentication and secure devices, allows for email, conferencing, web research and other collaboration tools. While these tools are important, they also make users vulnerable to spear phishing, token stealing malware, and other account compromise vectors. For this reason - by policy and as part of our Zero-Trust and "assume breach" mindset key material should not leave our production environment,

Our investigation found that a consumer signing system crash in April of 2021 resulted in a snapshot of the crashed process ("crash dump"). The crash dumps, which redact sensitive information, should not include the signing key. In this case, a race condition allowed the key to be present in the crash dump (this issue has been corrected). The key material's presence in the crash dump was not detected by our systems (this issue has been corrected).

We found that this crash dump, believed at the time not to contain key material, was subsequently moved from the isolated production network into our debugging environment on the internet connected corporate network. This is consistent with our standard debugging processes. Our credential scanning methods did not detect its presence (this issue has been corrected),

After April 2021, when the key was leaked to the corporate environment in the crash dump, the Storm-0558 actor was able to successfully compromise a Microsoft engineer's corporate account. This account had access to the debugging environment containing the crash dump which incorrectly contained the key. Due to log retention policies, we don't have logs with specific evidence of this exfiltration by this actor, but this was the most probable mechanism by which the actor acquired the key.

### Why a consumer key was able to access enterprise mail

To meet growing customer demand to support applications which work with both consumer and enterprise applications, Microsoft introduced a common key metadata publishing endpoint in September 2018. As part of this converged offering, Microsoft updated documentation to clarify the requirements for key scope validation - which key to use for enterprise accounts, and which to use for consumer accounts.

As part of a pre-existing library of documentation and helper APIs, Microsoft provided an API to help validate the signatures cryptographically but did not update these libraries to perform this scope validation automatically (this issue has been corrected). The mail systems were updated to use the common metadata endpoint in 2022. Developers in the mail system incorrectly assumed libraries performed complete validation and did not add the required issuer/scope validation. Thus, the mail system would accept a request for enterprise email using a security token signed with the consumer key (this issue has been corrected using the updated libraries).



https://msrc.microsoft.com/blog/2023/09/results-of-majortechnical-investigations-for-storm-0558-key-acquisition/

Post Incident Review

# According to Microsoft, Storm-0558...

- is a **China-based threat actor** with activities and methods consistent with espionage objectives
- primarily targeted US and European diplomatic, economic, and legislative governing bodies, and individuals connected to Taiwan and Uyghur geopolitical interests
- displayed an interest in targeting media companies, think tanks, and telecommunications equipment and service providers
- Objective is to obtain unauthorized access to email accounts belonging to employees of targeted organizations
- pursues this objective through credential harvesting, phishing campaigns, and OAuth token attacks
- displayed an interest in OAuth applications, token theft, and token replay against Microsoft accounts since at least August 2021
- operates with a high degree of technical tradecraft and operational security.
- are keenly aware of the target's environment, logging policies, authentication requirements, policies, and procedures.
- tooling and reconnaissance activity suggests the actor is technically adept, well resourced, and has an in-depth understanding of many authentication techniques and applications

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2023/07/14/analysis-of-storm-0558-techniques-for-unauthorized-email-access/

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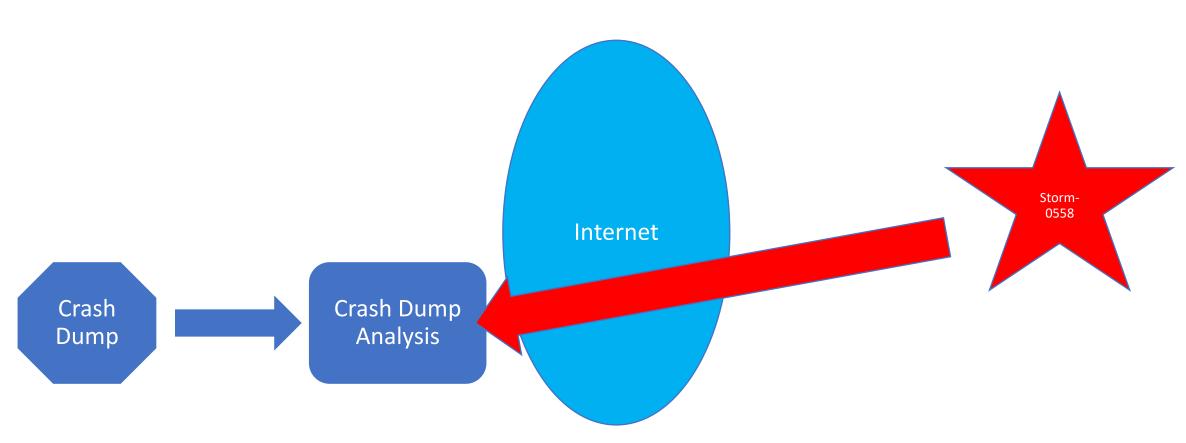
# How Was This Possible? (According to Microsoft)

- Investigation found that a consumer signing system crash in April of 2021 resulted in a snapshot of the crashed process ("crash dump").
- The crash dumps, which redact sensitive information, should not include the signing key.
- In this case, a race condition allowed the key to be present in the crash dump (this issue has been corrected).
- The **key material's presence in the crash dump was not detected by our systems** (this issue has been corrected).
- We found that this crash dump, believed at the time not to contain key material, was subsequently **moved from the isolated production network into our debugging environment on the internet connected** corporate network. This is consistent with our standard debugging processes.
- Our credential scanning methods did not detect its presence (this issue has been corrected).
- Due to log retention policies, we don't have logs with specific evidence of this exfiltration by this actor, but this was the
  most probable mechanism by which the actor acquired the key.
- To meet growing customer demand to support applications which work with both consumer and enterprise applications, Microsoft introduced a **common key metadata publishing endpoint** in September 2018.
- As part of a pre-existing library of documentation and helper APIs, Microsoft provided an API to help validate the
  signatures cryptographically but did not update these libraries to perform this scope validation automatically (this issue
  has been corrected).
- Developers in the mail system incorrectly assumed libraries performed complete validation and did not add the
  required issuer/scope validation. Thus, the mail system would accept a request for enterprise email using a security
  token signed with the consumer key (this issue has been corrected using the updated libraries).
- In-depth analysis of the Exchange Online activity discovered that in fact the actor was forging Azure AD tokens using an acquired Microsoft account (MSA) consumer signing key. This was made possible by a validation error in Microsoft code

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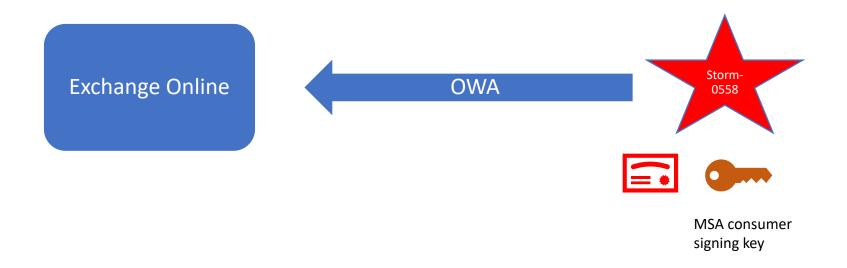
# What Happened?

### April 2021



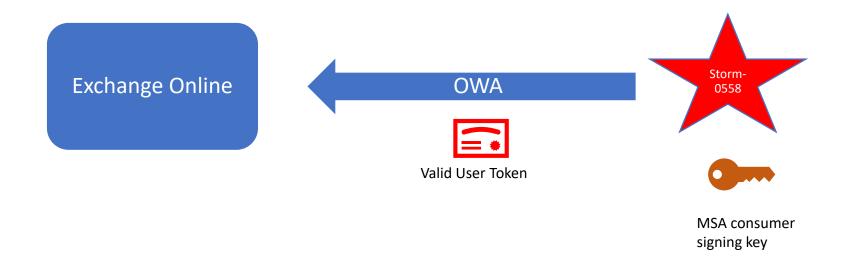
# What Happened?

June 16, 2023



# What Happened?

June 16, 2023



# Gonna tell my kids this was Game of Thrones







### Review of the Summer 2023 Microsoft Exchange Online Intrusion

March 20, 2024 Cyber Safety Review Board When a hacking group associated with the government of the People's Republic of China, known as Storm-0558, compromised Microsoft's cloud environment last year, it struck the espionage equivalent of gold. The threat actors accessed the official email accounts of many of the most senior U.S. government officials managing our country's relationship with the People's Republic of China.

The Board finds that this intrusion was preventable and should never have occurred. The Board also concludes that Microsoft's security culture was inadequate and requires an overhaul, particularly in light of the company's centrality in the technology ecosystem and the level of trust customers place in the company to protect their data and operations. The Board reaches this conclusion based on:

- 1. the cascade of Microsoft's avoidable errors that allowed this intrusion to succeed;
- Microsoft's failure to detect the compromise of its cryptographic crown jewels on its own, relying instead on a customer to reach out to identify anomalies the customer had observed;
- the Board's assessment of security practices at other cloud service providers, which maintained security controls that Microsoft did not;
- Microsoft's failure to detect a compromise of an employee's laptop from a recently acquired company prior to allowing it to connect to Microsoft's corporate network in 2021;
- 5. Microsoft's decision not to correct, in a timely manner, its inaccurate public statements about this incident, including a corporate statement that Microsoft believed it had determined the likely root cause of the intrusion when in fact, it still has not; even though Microsoft acknowledged to the Board in November 2023 that its September 6, 2023 blog post about the root cause was inaccurate, it did not update that post until March 12, 2024, as the Board was concluding its review and only after the Board's repeated questioning about Microsoft's plans to issue a correction;

Throughout this review, the Board identified a series of Microsoft operational and strategic decisions that collectively point to a corporate culture that deprioritized both enterprise security investments and rigorous risk management.

State Department was the first victim to discover the intrusion when, on June 15, 2023, State's security operations center (SOC) detected anomalies in access to its mail systems. <sup>10</sup> The next day, State observed multiple security alerts from a custom rule it had created, known internally as "Big Yellow Taxi," <sup>11</sup> that analyzes data from a log known as MailltemsAccessed, which tracks access to Microsoft Exchange Online mailboxes. State was able to access the MailltemsAccessed log to set up these particular Big Yellow Taxi alerts because it had purchased Microsoft's government agency-focused G5 license that includes enhanced logging capabilities through a product called Microsoft Purview Audit (Premium). <sup>12</sup> The MailltemsAccessed log was not accessible without that "premium" service. <sup>13</sup>

Though the alerts showed activity that could have been considered normal—and, indeed, State had seen false positive Big Yellow Taxi detections in the past—State investigated these incidents and ultimately determined that the alert indicated malicious activity. State triaged the alert as a moderate-level event and, on Friday, June 16, 2023, its security team contacted Microsoft. <sup>14, 15</sup> Microsoft opened and conducted an investigation of its own, and over the next 10 days, ultimately confirmed that Storm-0558 had gained entry to certain user emails through State's Outlook Web Access (OWA). Concurrently, Microsoft expanded its investigation to identify the 21 additional impacted organizations and 503 related users impacted by the attack and worked to identify and notify impacted U.S. government agencies. <sup>16</sup>

Microsoft began notifying potentially impacted organizations and individuals on or about June 19 and July 4, 2023, respectively. <sup>20, 21</sup> As detailed below, this effort had varying degrees of success. Ultimately, Microsoft determined that Storm-0558 used an acquired MSA consumer token signing key to forge tokens to access Microsoft Exchange Online accounts for 22 enterprise organizations, as well as 503 related personal <sup>22</sup> accounts, worldwide. <sup>23</sup> Of the 503 personal accounts reported by Microsoft, at least 391 were in the U.S. and included those of former government officials, <sup>24</sup> while others were linked to Western European, Asia-Pacific (APAC), Latin American, and Middle Eastern countries and associated victim organizations. <sup>25, 26, 27</sup>

# Midnight Blizzard

January 12, 2024



# Microsoft Actions Following Attack by Nation State Actor Midnight Blizzard

/ By MSRC / January 19, 2024 / 2 min read

The Microsoft security team detected a nation-state attack on our corporate systems on January 12, 2024, and immediately activated our response process to investigate, disrupt malicious activity, mitigate the attack, and deny the threat actor further access. Microsoft has identified the threat actor as Midnight Blizzard, the Russian state-sponsored actor also known as Nobelium. As part of our ongoing commitment to responsible transparency as recently affirmed in our Secure Future Initiative (SFI), we are sharing this update.

Beginning in late November 2023, the threat actor used a password spray attack to compromise a legacy non-production test tenant account and gain a foothold, and then used the account's permissions to access a very small percentage of Microsoft corporate email accounts, including members of our senior leadership team and employees in our cybersecurity, legal, and other functions, and exfiltrated some emails and attached documents. The investigation indicates they were initially targeting email accounts for information related to Midnight Blizzard itself. We are in the process of notifying employees whose email was accessed.

The attack was not the result of a vulnerability in Microsoft products or services. To date, there is no evidence that the threat actor had any access to customer environments, production systems, source code, or Al systems. We will notify customers if any action is required.

Topics V Spotlight Resources & Tools V News & Events V Careers V About V

Home / News & Events / Cybersecurity Advisories / Alert

ALERT

# CISA Issues Emergency Directive 24-02: Mitigating the Significant Risk from Nation-State Compromise of Microsoft Corporate Email System

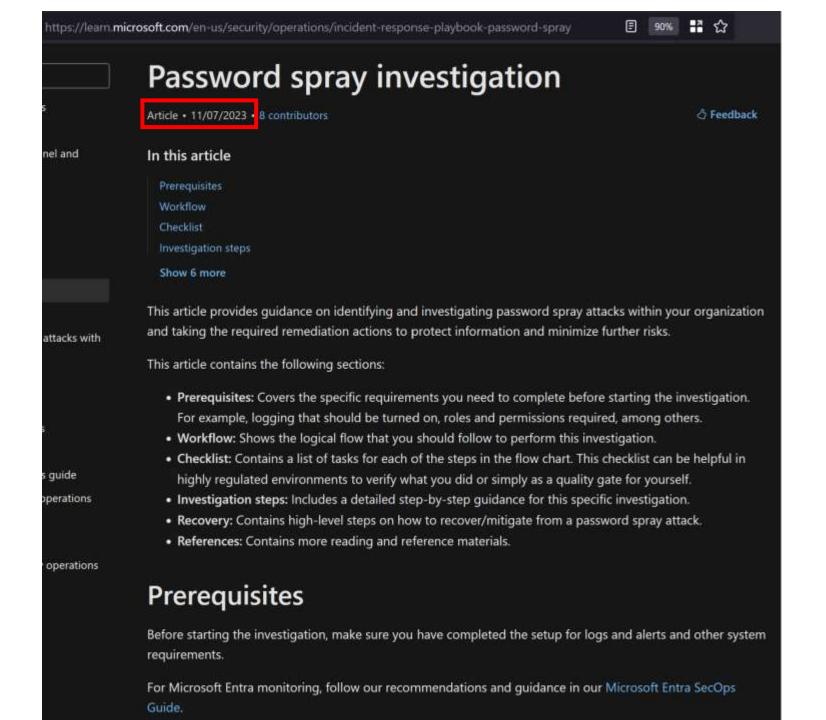
Release Date: April 11, 2024

Today, CISA publicly issued <a href="Emergency Directive"><u>Emergency Directive (ED) 24-02</u></a> to address the recent campaign by Russian state-sponsored cyber actor Midnight Blizzard to exfiltrate email correspondence of Federal Civilian Executive Branch (FCEB) agencies through a successful compromise of Microsoft corporate email accounts. This Directive <a href="https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/ed-24-02-mitigating-significant-risk-nation-state-compromise-microsoft-corporate-email-system"><u>https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/directives/ed-24-02-mitigating-significant-risk-nation-state-compromise-microsoft-corporate-email-system</a></u> requires agencies to analyze the content of exfiltrated emails, reset compromised credentials, and take additional steps to secure privileged Microsoft Azure accounts.

While ED 24-02 requirements only apply to FCEB agencies, other organizations may also have been impacted by the exfiltration of Microsoft corporate email and are encouraged to contact their respective Microsoft account team for any additional questions or follow up. FCEB agencies and state and local government should utilize the distro <a href="MBFedResponse@Microsoft.com">MBFedResponse@Microsoft.com</a> for any escalations and assistance with Microsoft. Regardless of direct impact, all organizations are strongly encouraged to apply stringent security measures, including strong passwords, multifactor authentication (MFA) and prohibited sharing of unprotected sensitive information via unsecure channels.

# What We Know

- Midnight Blizzard a Moscow-supported espionage team also known as APT29 or Cozy Bear –
  "utilized password spray attacks that successfully compromised a legacy, non-production test tenant
  account that did not have multifactor authentication (MFA) enabled."
- After gaining initial access to a non-production Microsoft system, the intruders compromised a legacy test OAuth application that had access to Microsoft's corporate IT environment.
- The actor created additional malicious OAuth applications.
- They created a new user account to grant consent in the Microsoft corporate environment to the actor controlled malicious OAuth applications.
- The threat actor then used the legacy test OAuth application to grant them the Office 365 Exchange Online full\_access\_as\_app role, which allows access to mailboxes.
- They then used this access to steal emails and other files from corporate inboxes belonging to top Microsoft executives and other staff.
- They used residential broadband networks as proxies to make their traffic look like it was all legitimate traffic from work-from-home staff, since it was coming from seemingly real users' IP addresses.
- This all happened in late November, Microsoft didn't spot the intrusion until January 12, and the
  compromised email accounts included those of senior leadership and cybersecurity and legal
  employees.
- "If the same team were to deploy the legacy tenant today, mandatory Microsoft policy and workflows would ensure MFA and our active protections are enabled to comply with current policies and guidance, resulting in better protection against these sorts of attacks."





# Okta

- Identity & Access Management (IAM) company
- IDP that competes with Azure AD
- AD Integration
  - Delegated Access: Allows users to sign into Okta using AD credentials
  - Okta AD Agent: Sync users & groups with Okta and and also answering authentication requests from Okta as users log into the portal



### **Okta for Red Teamers**

Adam Chester (@\_xpn\_)
<a href="https://www.trustedsec.com/blog/okta-for-red-teamers/">https://www.trustedsec.com/blog/okta-for-red-teamers/</a>



ERVICES EVEN

### September 18, 2023

By Adam Chester in Red Team Adversarial Attack Simulation

For a long time, Red Teamers have been preaching the mantra "Don't make Domain Admin the goal of the assessment" and it appears that customers are listening. Now, you're much more likely to see objectives focused on services critical to an organization, with many being hosted in the cloud.

With this shift in delegating some of the security burden to cloud services, it's commonplace to find identity Providers (IDP) like Microsoft Entra ID or Okta being used. This means that our attention as attackers also needs to shift to encompass these services too.

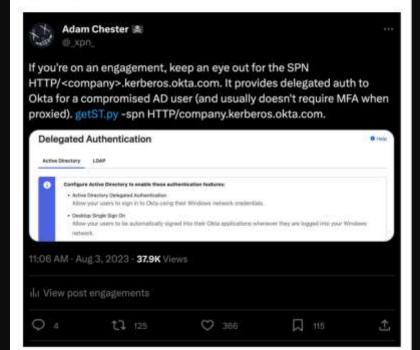
In this blog post, I'll discuss some of the post-exploitation techniques that I've found to be useful against one such provider, Okta, which has been one of the more popular solutions found in customer environments.

It should be noted that everything in this post is by design. You'll find no Odayz here, and many of the techniques require administrative access to pull off. However, to say that the methods demonstrated in this post have been a helpful during engagements is an understatement. Let's dive in.

### OKTA DELEGATED AUTHENTICATION

Well start with a technology offered to users deploying their Okta tenant alongside traditional onprem Active Directory (AD), and that is Delegated Authentication.

I recently Tweeted a method that I've found useful when compromising Delegated Authentication enabled tenants:



# Attacking Okta: Delegated Access

- Compromise a User Account in AD
  - Leverage this to auth to Okta to SSO to other systems (typically with no MFA)

```
> ticketer.py -domain-sid S-1-S-21-4170871944-1575468979-147100471 -domain lab.local -dc-1p DC01 -mesKey db22ab9c89f2f0df45024f9dfabbed44173397065d8f5b7e172200ca38ed4393 -user-id 1118 -spn HTTP/example.kerberos.dkta.com testuser
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation

[*] Creating basic skeleton ticket and PAC Infos
[*] Customaring ticket for lab.local/testuser

[*] PAC_LOGON_INFO
[*] PAC_CIENT_INFO_TYPE
[*] EncTicketPart
[*] EncTicketPart
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[*] PAC_FIRVSVR_CHECKSUM
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[*] EncTicketPart
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[*] EncTicketPart
[*] Saving ticket in testuser.ccache

Impacket Impacket Impacket | Machine | Mac
```

- Compromise the Okta service Account in AD
  - Auth to Okta as any AD user & SSO to other systems

```
> ticketer.py -domain-xid S-1-S-21-4170871944-1575468879-147100471 -domain lab.local -dc-ip DC01 -mesKey db22ab9c88f2fdd
45024f9dfabbed44173397065d8f5b7e172200ca38ed4393 -user-id 1118 -spn HTTP/example.kerberos.okta.com testuser
Impacket v0.10.0 - Copyright 2022 SecureAuth Corporation

[*] Creating basic skeleton ticket and PAC Infos
[*] Customizing ticket for lab.local/testuser
[*] PAC_LOGON_INFO
[*] PAC_CLIENT_INFO_TYPE
[*] EncTicketPart
[*] EncTicketPart
[*] Signing/Encrypting final ticket
[*] PAC_SERVER_CHECKSUM
[*] PAC_PRIVSVR_CHECKSUM
[*] PAC_PRIVSVR_CHECKSUM
[*] EncTicketPart
[*] Saving ticket in testuser.ccache
```

# Attacking Okta: Okta AD Agent

- Capture AD Credentials (cleartext username & password)
  - Compromise AD users who are authenticating to Okta
- Okta Skeleton Key (Fake AD Agent)
  - Leverage AD Admin rights

```
> python ./main.py --tenant-domain STENANT_DOMAIN --skeleton-key MibbleMobble99 pauth --machine-name OCB3 --Windows-orain lab.local --code uz9h7o1h
cloud-Wine (OKTA Version).. by Expn_

[*] Creating Agent Joken

[*] Taken Created; DOe1Nz* 10ESC5

[*] Getting bomain ID

[*] Domain ID is No. 697

[*] Initialising AD Agent

[*] Agent ID is a53; i9?

[*] Sending Agent Checkin

[*] PPING Roceived

[*] Username: test.user@lab.local

[*] Passmord: Password123
```

### Okta investigating reports of possible digital breach

By Mary Kay Mallonee, Andrea Cambron and Sean Lyngass, CNN Updated 4:09 PM EDT, Tue March 22, 2022





The Olda Inc. website on a laptop computer arranged in Dobbs Ferry, New York, U.S., on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021

Okta, an identity authentication service with more than 15,000 customers, said Tuesday that an attacker had access to a support engineer's taptop for five days in January. But the service itself was not breached, according to the company.

The Okta service that customers use to authenticate logins "has not been breached and remains fully operational," Okta Chief Security Officer David Bradbury said in a blog post Tuesday.

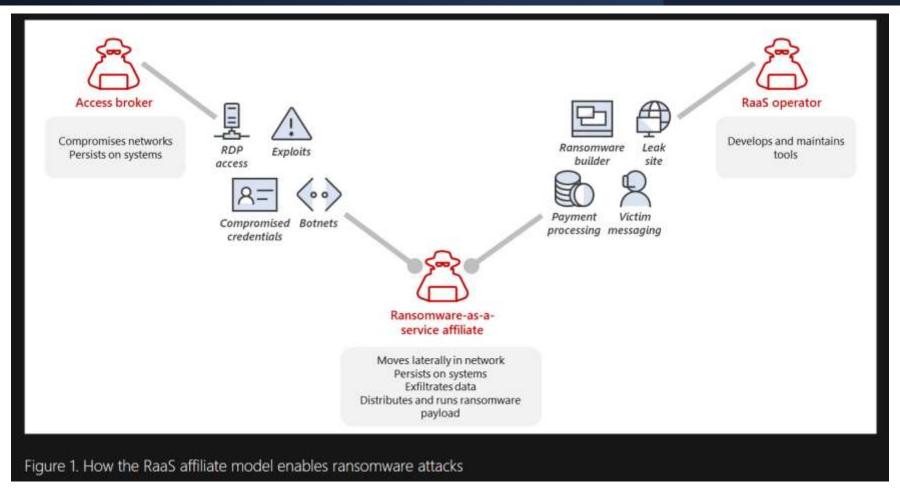
"The potential impact to Okta customers is limited to the access that support engineers have," Bradbury said, adding that these engineers are unable to download customer databases or create or delete users. "Support engineers are also able to facilitate the resetting of passwords and MFA factors for users, but are unable to obtain those passwords."

#### Lapsus\$ (LAPSUS\$)

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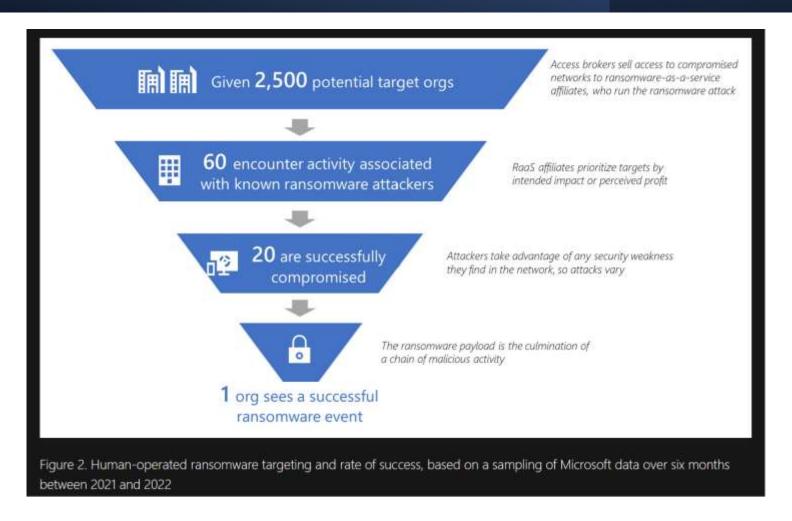


## The Business of Cybercrime



https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2022/05/09/ransomware-as-a-service-understanding-the-cybercrime-gig-economy-and-how-to-protect-yourself/

## The Business of Cybercrime



#### A timeline of the MGM Resorts hack

September 7: A social engineering attack is launched against the IT support vendor employed by Caesar's Entertainment by hacking gang Scattered Spider. The hotelier pays around half of the \$30 million ransom to the hackers. This gang is later linked to the MGM Resorts cyber attack.

September 11: MGM Resorts puts out a statement saying a "cyber security incident" has affected some of the company's systems. An investigation into the cyber attack is launched and the relevant authorities contacted.

September 12: MGM Resorts makes a second statement reporting that all "resorts including dining, entertainment and gaming are still operational" and that its guests "continue to be able to access their hotel room and [its] Front Desk is ready to assist our guests as needed".

September 12: Guests report a number of issues with MGM Resorts' online booking system and casino. The company's main website is reported as being down.

September 13: VX Underground, host of "one of the largest collection of malware source code, samples, and papers on the internet", makes a post on X saying the MGM cyber attack was the result of vishing. VX Underground also reports that ransomware gang, ALPHV, were responsible for the attack.

**September 13**: Sources close to the cyber attack say that the hacking group, Scattered Spider, are responsible for the hack.

September 13: Financial services company Moody's says the cyber attack may negatively impact MGM'S credit. The company also notes that the cyber security incident highlights "key risks" in MGM's reliance on technology.

September 18: Cyber security experts suggest that ALPHV and Scattered Spider were working together to launch the attack.

https://www.cshub.com/attacks/news/a-full-timeline-of-the-mgm-resorts-cyber-attack#









Book a room Offers Entertainment Dining Pools Casino Spas & salons Nightlife MGM Rewards

MGM Resorts recently identified a cybersecurity issue affecting some of the Company's systems. Promptly after detecting the issue, we quickly began an investigation with assistance from leading external cybersecurity experts. We also notified law enforcement and took prompt action to protect our systems and data, including shutting down certain systems.

Although the issue is affecting some of the Company's systems, the vast majority of our property offerings currently remain operational, and we continue to welcome tens of thousands of guests each day. We are ready to welcome you.

Below is additional information to assist you during your stay.

https://www.mgmresorts.com/en/maintenance/faq.html



X

All ALPHV ransomware group did to compromise MGM Resorts was hop on LinkedIn, find an employee, then call the Help Desk.

A company valued at \$33,900,000,000 was defeated by a 10-minute conversation.

8:45 PM · Sep 12, 2023





5.2K



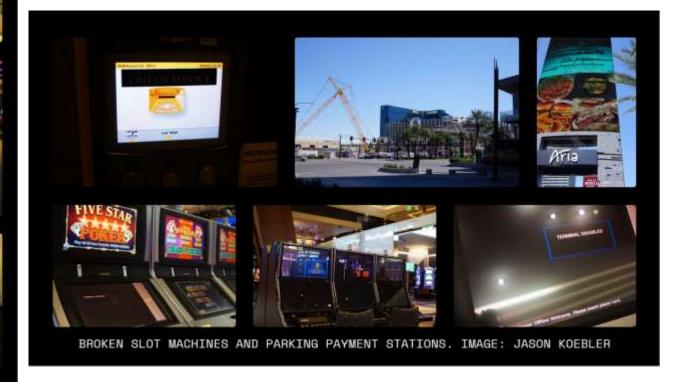
Reply



Copy link



HACKED SLOT MACHINES, ATMS, PLAYERS CARD DISPENSERS, SPORTS BOOK TERMINALS, ETC. IMAGES: JASON KOEBLER



https://www.404media.co/inside-mgms-hacked-casinos/

## MGM Attacker Notes

- We had been lurking on their Okta Agent servers sniffing passwords of people whose passwords couldn't be cracked from their domain controller hash dumps.
- We continued having super administrator privileges to their Okta
- Along with Global Administrator privileges to their Azure tenant.
- Their network has been infiltrated since Friday.
- We successfully launched ransomware attacks against more than 100 ESXi hypervisors in their environment on September 11th
- This was after they brought in external firms for assistance in containing the incident.

## Caesars Entertainment SEC Filing

#### Item 8.01 Other Events.

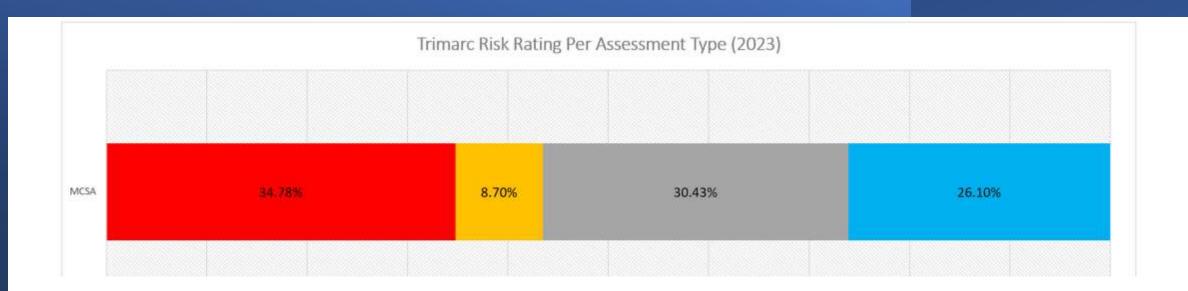
Caesars Entertainment, Inc. (the "Company," "we," or "our") recently identified suspicious activity in its information technology network resulting from a social engineering attack on an outsourced IT support vendor used by the Company. Our customer-facing operations, including our physical properties and our online and mobile gaming applications, have not been impacted by this incident and continue without disruption.

After detecting the suspicious activity, we quickly activated our incident response protocols and implemented a series of containment and remediation measures to reinforce the security of our information technology network. We also launched an investigation, engaged leading cybersecurity firms to assist, and notified law enforcement and state gaming regulators. As a result of our investigation, on September 7, 2023, we determined that the unauthorized actor acquired a copy of, among other data, our loyalty program database, which includes driver's license numbers and/or social security numbers for a significant number of members in the database. We are still investigating the extent of any additional personal or otherwise sensitive information contained in the files acquired by the unauthorized actor. We have no evidence to date that any member passwords/PINs, bank account information, or payment card information (PCI) were acquired by the unauthorized actor.

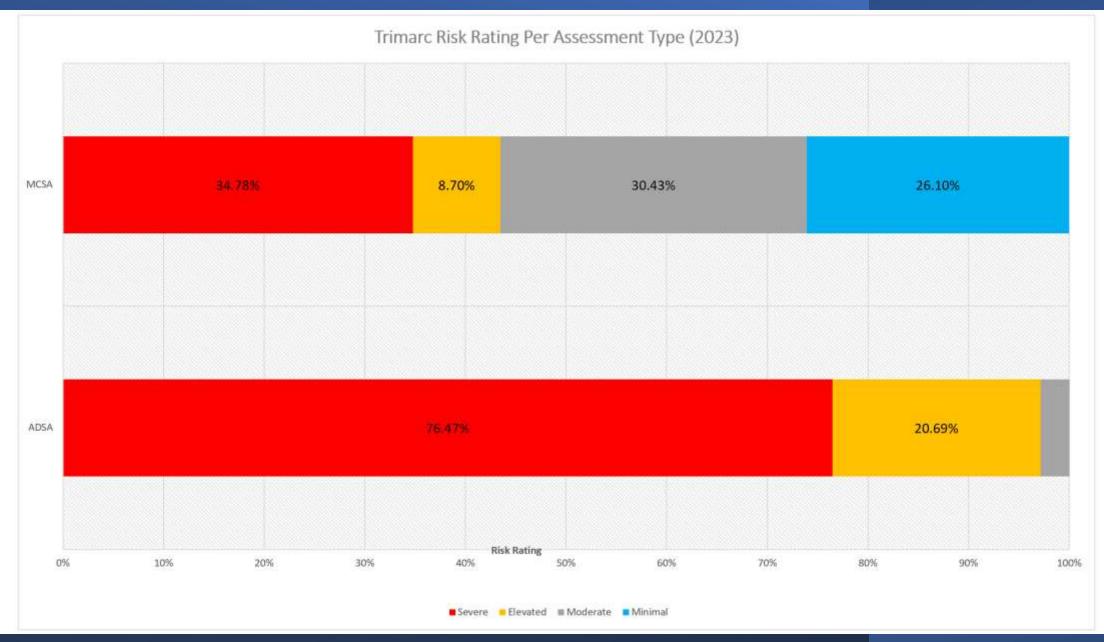
We have taken steps to ensure that the stolen data is deleted by the unauthorized actor, although we cannot guarantee this result. We are monitoring the web and have not seen any evidence that the data has been further shared, published, or otherwise misused. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution,

In September of this year, a social engineering attack on another casino operator and hotelier, Caesar's Entertainment, saw the company pay around US\$15 million to hackers. The malicious actors were able to gain access to and steal customer data including driver's license and potentially social security numbers by targeting the IT support vendor Caesar's Entertainment employs.





■Severe ■ Elevated ■ Moderate ■ Minimal



#### Fix Common Issues



### **Active Directory**

Tool:

https://github.com/Trimarc/Invoke-TrimarcADChecks

Article:

https://www.hub.trimarcsecurity.com/post/securing-active-directory-performing-an-active-directory-security-review



#### **ADCS**

Locksmith Tool:

https://github.com/Trimarc/locksmith

#### Conclusion



There are typical security issues in most enterprise environments (AD & Azure AD/Entra ID)

Identifying common security issues and resolving them improves system security.

Fixing these issues provides improved breach resilience.



Slides, Video & Security Articles: Hub.TrimarcSecurity.com

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Questions?