

active directory privileged access management

Active Directory Privileged Access Management: A Comprehensive Guide

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Summary: This comprehensive guide explores the critical aspects of Active Directory privileged access management (PAM). It outlines best practices for securing privileged accounts, minimizing the attack surface, implementing robust monitoring and auditing, and mitigating common pitfalls. We cover topics ranging from least privilege principles to advanced techniques like Just-in-Time (JIT) access and privileged access workstations. Understanding and implementing effective Active Directory privileged access management is crucial for preventing breaches and protecting your organization's sensitive data.

Keywords: Active Directory privileged access management, PAM, privileged account management, Active Directory security, least privilege, Just-in-Time access, JIT access, privileged access workstations, PAW, security auditing, identity and access management, IAM, cybersecurity best practices.

1. Understanding the Risks of Unsecured Privileged Accounts in Active Directory

Active Directory (AD) is the backbone of many organizations' IT infrastructure. However, its inherent power makes it a prime target for attackers. Unsecured privileged accounts – those with extensive administrative rights – represent the most significant vulnerability within Active Directory privileged access management. Compromising a single domain administrator account can grant attackers complete control over the entire

environment, enabling data breaches, system disruption, and ransomware attacks. Therefore, robust Active Directory privileged access management strategies are essential.

2. Implementing the Principle of Least Privilege in Active Directory

A cornerstone of effective Active Directory privileged access management is the principle of least privilege. This means granting users only the minimum access rights necessary to perform their job functions. Avoid granting domain administrator rights unnecessarily. Instead, leverage granular permissions and group policy objects (GPOs) to assign specific access rights to individual users or groups based on their roles. This significantly reduces the impact of a compromised account.

3. Securely Managing Domain Administrator Accounts

Domain administrator accounts are the most powerful accounts within Active Directory. Their security must be treated with utmost care. Best practices include:

Limiting the number of domain administrators: Keep this number as small as possible.

Using dedicated privileged accounts: Avoid using personal accounts for administrative tasks.

Implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA): Make MFA mandatory for all privileged accounts.

Regularly rotating passwords: Enforce strong password policies and frequent password changes.

Account lockout policies: Configure appropriate account lockout thresholds to prevent brute-force attacks.

4. Leveraging Just-in-Time (JIT) Access for Privileged Accounts

Just-in-Time access provides privileged access only when needed, for a defined duration. This drastically reduces the window of opportunity for attackers. JIT access solutions automate the provisioning and de-provisioning of privileged accounts, eliminating the need for standing privileged accounts. This significantly improves Active Directory privileged access management.

5. Implementing Privileged Access Workstations (PAWs)

Privileged access workstations are isolated, hardened workstations used

exclusively for administrative tasks. They are separated from the regular network, reducing the risk of malware compromising administrative accounts. PAWs should be regularly patched and monitored for suspicious activity. This is a critical component of effective Active Directory privileged access management.

6. Comprehensive Auditing and Monitoring of Privileged Accounts

Regularly auditing and monitoring privileged accounts is crucial for detecting suspicious activities. Implement robust logging and alerting systems to track all privileged account actions. Analyze logs for anomalies, such as unusual login times or access attempts from unfamiliar locations. This proactive approach strengthens Active Directory privileged access management.

7. Common Pitfalls to Avoid in Active Directory Privileged Access Management

Over-privileged accounts: Granting excessive access rights.

Lack of MFA: Failure to enforce multi-factor authentication.

Insufficient auditing and monitoring: Not tracking privileged account activities.

Weak password policies: Using easily guessable or reusable passwords.

Neglecting patch management: Failing to update systems with security patches.

8. Integrating Active Directory Privileged Access Management with Other Security Tools

Effective Active Directory privileged access management requires integration with other security tools, such as SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) systems, vulnerability scanners, and intrusion detection systems. This allows for comprehensive security monitoring and threat detection.

9. Conclusion

Effective Active Directory privileged access management is paramount for securing your organization's IT infrastructure. By implementing the best practices outlined in this guide and avoiding common pitfalls, you can significantly reduce your attack surface and protect your sensitive data from malicious actors. Regular review and adaptation of your PAM strategy are essential in the ever-evolving threat landscape.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between PAM and IAM? PAM focuses specifically on managing privileged accounts, while IAM encompasses the broader management of all user identities and access rights.
1. Is JIT access suitable for all privileged accounts? While ideal for many situations, JIT might not be practical for all roles requiring continuous access.
1. How often should I rotate privileged account passwords? A common recommendation is every 30-90 days, but this depends on your specific risk tolerance.
1. What are the key features of a good PAM solution? Strong authentication, centralized management, detailed auditing, and integration with other security tools.
1. How can I identify over-privileged accounts in my Active Directory? Regular audits and utilizing tools that analyze permissions and identify excessive access rights.
1. What is the role of security awareness training in PAM? Training users to understand and follow security policies is vital for effective PAM.
1. How can I ensure the security of my PAWs? Implement strong security measures like disk encryption, regular patching, and network segmentation.
1. What are the legal and compliance implications of poor PAM? Failing to implement adequate PAM can lead to significant legal and financial consequences, including fines and reputational damage.

1. How can I measure the effectiveness of my PAM strategy? Track key metrics such as the number of security incidents related to privileged accounts, the time taken to respond to security incidents, and user satisfaction with the PAM system.

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Francis, 2017-06-30 Become a master at managing enterprise identity infrastructure by leveraging Active Directory About This Book Manage your Active Directory services for Windows Server 2016 effectively Automate administrative tasks in Active Directory using PowerShell Manage your organization's network with ease Who This Book Is For If you are an Active Directory administrator, system administrator, or network professional who has basic knowledge of Active Directory and are looking to gain expertise in this topic, this is the book for you. What You Will Learn Explore the new features in Active Directory Domain Service 2016 Automate AD tasks with PowerShell Get to know the advanced functionalities of the schema Learn about Flexible Single Master Operation (FSMO) roles and their placement Install and migrate Active directory from older versions to Active Directory 2016 Manage Active Directory objects using different tools and techniques Manage users, groups, and devices effectively Design your OU structure in the best way Audit and monitor Active Directory Integrate Azure with Active Directory for a hybrid setup In Detail Active Directory is a centralized and standardized system that automates networked management of user data, security, and distributed resources and enables interoperation with other directories. If you are aware of Active Directory basics and want to gain expertise in it, this book is perfect for you. We will quickly go through the architecture and fundamentals of Active Directory and then dive deep into the core components, such as forests, domains, sites, trust relationships, OU, objects, attributes, DNS, and replication. We will then move on to AD schemas, global catalogs, LDAP, RODC, RMS, certificate authorities, group policies, and security best practices, which will help you gain a better understanding of objects and components and how they can be used effectively. We will also cover AD Domain Services and Federation Services for Windows Server 2016 and all their new features. Last but not least, you will learn how to manage your identity infrastructure for a hybrid-cloud setup. All this will help you design, plan, deploy, manage operations on, and troubleshoot your enterprise identity infrastructure in a secure, effective manner. Furthermore, I will guide you through automating administrative tasks using PowerShell cmdlets. Toward the end of the book, we will cover best practices and troubleshooting techniques that can be used to improve security and performance in an identity infrastructure. Style and approach This step-by-step guide will help you master the core functionalities of Active Directory services using Microsoft Server 2016 and PowerShell, with real-world best practices at the end.

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Directory from older versions to Active Directory 2016 Control users, groups, and devices effectively
Design your OU structure in the most effective way Integrate Azure AD with Active Directory
Domain Services for a hybrid setup Who this book is for If you are an Active Directory administrator,
system administrator, or network professional who has basic knowledge of Active Directory and is
looking to become an expert in this topic, this book is for you.

active directory privileged access management: Privileged Access Management for Secure Storage Administration: IBM Spectrum Scale with IBM Security Verify Privilege Vault Vincent Hsu, Sridhar Muppidi, Sandeep R. Patil, Kanad Jadhav, Sumit Kumar, Nishant Singhai, IBM Redbooks, 2021-01-08 There is a growing insider security risk to organizations. Human error, privilege misuse, and cyberespionage are considered the top insider threats. One of the most dangerous internal security threats is the privileged user with access to critical data, which is the crown jewels of the organization. This data is on storage, so storage administration has critical privilege access that can cause major security breaches and jeopardize the safety of sensitive assets. Organizations must maintain tight control over whom they grant privileged identity status to for storage administration. Extra storage administration access must be shared with support and services teams when required. There also is a need to audit critical resource access that is required by compliance to standards and regulations. IBM® Security™ Verify Privilege Vault On-Premises (Verify Privilege Vault), formerly known as IBM Security™ Secret Server, is the next-generation privileged account management that integrates with IBM Storage to ensure that access to IBM Storage administration sessions is secure and monitored in real time with required recording for audit and compliance. Privilege access to storage administration sessions is centrally managed, and each session can be timebound with remote monitoring. You also can use remote termination and an approval workflow for the session. In this IBM Redpaper, we demonstrate the integration of IBM Spectrum® Scale and IBM Elastic Storage® Server (IBM ESS) with Verify Privilege Vault, and show how to use privileged access management (PAM) for secure storage administration. This paper is targeted at storage and security administrators, storage and security architects, and chief information security officers.

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active directory privileged access management: *Mastering Identity and Access Management with Microsoft Azure* Jochen Nickel, 2019-02-26 Start empowering users and protecting corporate data, while managing identities and access with Microsoft Azure in different environments Key Features Understand how to identify and manage business drivers during transitions Explore Microsoft Identity and Access Management as a Service (IDaaS) solution Over 40 playbooks to support your learning process with practical guidelines Book Description Microsoft Azure and its Identity and access management are at the heart of Microsoft's software as service products, including Office 365, Dynamics CRM, and Enterprise Mobility Management. It is crucial to master Microsoft Azure in order to be able to work with the Microsoft Cloud effectively. You'll begin by identifying the benefits of Microsoft Azure in the field of identity and access management. Working through the functionality of identity and access management as a service, you will get a full overview of the Microsoft strategy. Understanding identity synchronization will help you to provide a well-managed identity. Project scenarios and examples will enable you to understand, troubleshoot, and develop on essential authentication protocols and publishing scenarios. Finally, you will acquire a thorough understanding of Microsoft Information protection technologies. What you will learn Apply technical descriptions to your business needs and deployments Manage cloud-only, simple, and complex hybrid environments Apply correct and efficient monitoring and identity protection strategies Design and deploy custom Identity and access management solutions Build a complete identity and access management life cycle Understand authentication and application publishing mechanisms Use and understand the most crucial identity synchronization scenarios Implement a suitable information protection strategy Who this book is for This book is a perfect companion for developers, cyber security specialists, system and security engineers, IT consultants/architects, and system administrators who are looking for perfectly up-to-date hybrid

and cloud-only scenarios. You should have some understanding of security solutions, Active Directory, access privileges/rights, and authentication methods. Programming knowledge is not required but can be helpful for using PowerShell or working with APIs to customize your solutions.

active directory privileged access management: The Zero Trust Framework and Privileged Access Management (PAM) Ravindra Das, 2024-05-02 This book is about the Zero Trust Framework. Essentially, this is a methodology where the IT/Network Infrastructure of a business is segmented into smaller islands, each having its own lines of defense. This is primarily achieved through the use of Multifactor Authentication (MFA), where at least three more authentication layers are used, preferably being different from one another. Another key aspect of the Zero Trust Framework is known as Privileged Access Management (PAM). This is an area of Cybersecurity where the protection of superuser accounts, rights, and privileges must be protected at all costs from Cyberattackers. In this regard, this is where the Zero Trust Framework and PAM intertwine, especially in a Cloud-based platform, such as Microsoft Azure. However, as it has been reviewed in one of our previous books, the use of passwords is now becoming a nemesis, not only for individuals but for businesses as well. It is hoped that by combining the Zero Trust Framework with PAM, password use can be eradicated altogether, thus giving rise to a passwordless society.

active directory privileged access management: Mastering Identity and Access Management with Microsoft Azure Jochen Nickel, 2016-09-30 Start empowering users and protecting corporate data, while managing Identities and Access with Microsoft Azure in different environments About This Book Deep dive into the Microsoft Identity and Access Management as a Service (IDaaS) solution Design, implement and manage simple and complex hybrid identity and access management environments Learn to apply solution architectures directly to your business needs and understand how to identify and manage business drivers during transitions Who This Book Is For This book is for business decision makers, IT consultants, and system and security engineers who wish to plan, design, and implement Identity and Access Management solutions with Microsoft Azure. What You Will Learn Apply technical descriptions and solution architectures directly to your business needs and deployments Identify and manage business drivers and architecture changes to transition between different scenarios Understand and configure all relevant Identity and Access Management key features and concepts Implement simple and complex directory integration, authentication, and authorization scenarios Get to know about modern identity management, authentication, and authorization protocols and standards Implement and configure a modern information protection solution Integrate and configure future improvements in authentication and authorization functionality of Windows 10 and Windows Server 2016 In Detail Microsoft Azure and its Identity and Access Management is at the heart of Microsoft's Software as a Service, including Office 365, Dynamics CRM, and Enterprise Mobility Management. It is an essential tool to master in order to effectively work with the Microsoft Cloud. Through practical, project based learning this book will impart that mastery. Beginning with the basics of features and licenses, this book quickly moves on to the user and group lifecycle required to design roles and administrative units for role-based access control (RBAC). Learn to design Azure AD to be an identity provider and provide flexible and secure access to SaaS applications. Get to grips with how to configure and manage users, groups, roles, and administrative units to provide a user- and group-based application and self-service access including the audit functionality. Next find out how to take advantage of managing common identities with the Microsoft Identity Manager 2016 and build cloud identities with the Azure AD Connect utility. Construct blueprints with different authentication scenarios including multi-factor authentication. Discover how to configure and manage the identity synchronization and federation environment along with multi -factor authentication, conditional access, and information protection scenarios to apply the required security functionality. Finally, get recommendations for planning and implementing a future-oriented and sustainable identity and access management strategy. Style and approach A practical, project-based learning experience explained through hands-on examples.

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AD Connect, as well as Active Directory for administration on cloud and Windows Server 2019 Key Features Expert solutions for the federation, certificates, security, and monitoring with Active Directory Explore Azure AD and AD Connect for effective administration on cloud Automate security tasks using Active Directory and PowerShell Book Description Active Directory is an administration system for Windows administrators to automate network, security and access management tasks in the Windows infrastructure. This book starts off with a detailed focus on forests, domains, trusts, schemas and partitions. Next, you'll learn how to manage domain controllers, organizational units and the default containers. Going forward, you'll explore managing Active Directory sites as well as identifying and solving replication problems. The next set of chapters covers the different components of Active Directory and discusses the management of users, groups and computers. You'll also work through recipes that help you manage your Active Directory domains, manage user and group objects and computer accounts, expiring group memberships and group Managed Service Accounts (gMSAs) with PowerShell. You'll understand how to work with Group Policy and how to get the most out of it. The last set of chapters covers federation, security and monitoring. You will also learn about Azure Active Directory and how to integrate on-premises Active Directory with Azure AD. You'll discover how Azure AD Connect synchronization works, which will help you manage Azure AD. By the end of the book, you have learned about Active Directory and Azure AD in detail. What you will learn Manage new Active Directory features, such as the Recycle Bin, group Managed Service Accounts, and fine-grained password policies Work with Active Directory from the command line and use Windows PowerShell to automate tasks Create and remove forests, domains, and trusts Create groups, modify group scope and type, and manage memberships Delegate control, view and modify permissions Optimize Active Directory and Azure AD in terms of security Who this book is for This book will cater to administrators of existing Active Directory Domain Services environments and/or Azure AD tenants, looking for guidance to optimize their day-to-day effectiveness. Basic networking and Windows Server Operating System knowledge would come in handy.

active directory privileged access management: Mastering Active Directory Dishan Francis, 2021-11-30 Become an expert at managing enterprise identity infrastructure with Active Directory Domain Services 2022. Purchase of the print or Kindle book includes a free eBook in the PDF format. Key Features Design and update your identity infrastructure by utilizing the latest Active Directory features and core capabilities Overcome migration challenges as you update to Active Directory Domain Services 2022 Establish a strong identity foundation in the cloud by consolidating secure access Book Description Mastering Active Directory, Third Edition is a comprehensive guide for Information Technology professionals looking to improve their knowledge about MS Windows Active Directory Domain Service. The book will help you to use identity elements effectively and manage your organization's infrastructure in a secure and efficient way. This third edition has been fully updated to reflect the importance of cloud-based strong authentication and other tactics to protect identity infrastructure from emerging security threats. Mastering Active Directory, Third Edition provides extensive coverage of AD Domain Services and helps you explore their capabilities as you update to Windows Server 2022. This book will also teach you how to extend on-premises identity presence to cloud via Azure AD hybrid setup. By the end of this Microsoft Active Directory book, you'll feel confident in your ability to design, plan, deploy, protect, and troubleshoot your enterprise identity infrastructure. What you will learn Install, protect, and manage Active Directory Domain Services (Windows Server 2022) Design your hybrid identity by evaluating business and technology requirements Automate administrative tasks in Active Directory using Windows PowerShell 7.x Protect sensitive data in a hybrid environment using Azure Information Protection Learn about Flexible Single Master Operation (FSMO) roles and their placement Manage directory objects effectively using administrative tools and PowerShell Centrally maintain the state of user and computer configuration by using Group Policies Harden your Active Directory using security best practices Who this book is for If you are an Active Directory administrator, system administrator, or IT professional who has basic knowledge of Active Directory and is looking to become an expert in this topic, this book is for you. You need to have some experience of working

with Active Directory to make the most of this book.

active directory privileged access management: Identity Attack Vectors Morey J. Haber, Darran Rolls, 2019-12-17 Discover how poor identity and privilege management can be leveraged to compromise accounts and credentials within an organization. Learn how role-based identity assignments, entitlements, and auditing strategies can be implemented to mitigate the threats leveraging accounts and identities and how to manage compliance for regulatory initiatives. As a solution, Identity Access Management (IAM) has emerged as the cornerstone of enterprise security. Managing accounts, credentials, roles, certification, and attestation reporting for all resources is now a security and compliance mandate. When identity theft and poor identity management is leveraged as an attack vector, risk and vulnerabilities increase exponentially. As cyber attacks continue to increase in volume and sophistication, it is not a matter of if, but when, your organization will have an incident. Threat actors target accounts, users, and their associated identities, to conduct their malicious activities through privileged attacks and asset vulnerabilities. Identity Attack Vectors details the risks associated with poor identity management practices, the techniques that threat actors and insiders leverage, and the operational best practices that organizations should adopt to protect against identity theft and account compromises, and to develop an effective identity governance program. What You Will Learn Understand the concepts behind an identity and how their associated credentials and accounts can be leveraged as an attack vector Implement an effective Identity Access Management (IAM) program to manage identities and roles, and provide certification for regulatory compliance See where identity management controls play a part of the cyber kill chain and how privileges should be managed as a potential weak link Build upon industry standards to integrate key identity management technologies into a corporate ecosystem Plan for a successful deployment, implementation scope, measurable risk reduction, auditing and discovery, regulatory reporting, and oversight based on real-world strategies to prevent identity attack vectors Who This Book Is For Management and implementers in IT operations, security, and auditing looking to understand and implement an identity access management program and manage privileges in these environments

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approaches, leverage modern digital identity standards to improve digital relationships, and provide data governance and privacy-enhancing capabilities Plan for cyber-resilience: work with the SOC, IT, business groups, and external sources to coordinate incident response and to recover from outages and come back stronger Integrate your learnings from this book into a quick-hitting rational cybersecurity success plan Who This Book Is For Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and other heads of security, security directors and managers, security architects and project leads, and other team members providing security leadership to your business

active directory privileged access management: Windows 2000 Active Directory Edgar Brovick, Doug Hauger, 2000 Annotation Windows 2000 is one of most anticipated software releases in history and is a realization of a vision for desktop computing that Microsoft has been articulating for the past six years. The keystone and most eagerly anticipated new feature in the new administrative power inherent in the Windows 2000 Active Directory (AD). Windows 2000 Active Directory will provide the ideal foundation for achieving synergy between information about users, network infrastructure elements, and applications. Active Directory will provide the means to manage the entire network infrastructure from a single application. Active Directory will be a huge stumbling block for most administrators who need to get Windows 2000 up and running. Windows 2000 Active Directory will offer hands-on insight into the workings of the new and complex world of Active Directory. Through the use of case studies, troubleshooting tips, check lists, mitigation recommendations, and technological explanations, the reader will receive the expert advice of experienced authors and beta testers.

active directory privileged access management: How Zero Trust Privileged Access Management (PAM) Defines Modern Enterprise Security Justin McCarthy, 2024-06-06 Traditional security measures focusing on controlling access at the front door are no longer sufficient in today's complex IT environments. Simply validating privileged users and managing entry points overlooks the critical aspect of monitoring user activity within applications and data repositories. The future of security lies in applying fine-grained permissions to control user actions on critical resources, and continuously assessing the risk profile of those users. This necessitates a shift towards a Zero Trust model for privileged access management (PAM), where permissions are evaluated in a continuous fashion, and every action is evaluated in real-time against policies. Zero Trust PAM is the most effective way for organizations to adapt to the evolving threat landscape while ensuring operational agility and productivity.

active directory privileged access management: Microsoft Identity and Access Administrator Exam Guide Dwayne Natwick, Shannon Kuehn, 2022-03-10 This certification guide focuses on identity solutions and strategies that will help you prepare for Microsoft Identity and Access Administrator certification, while enabling you to implement what you've learned in real-world scenarios Key FeaturesDesign, implement, and operate identity and access management systems using Azure ADProvide secure authentication and authorization access to enterprise applicationsImplement access and authentication for cloud-only and hybrid infrastructuresBook Description Cloud technologies have made identity and access the new control plane for securing data. Without proper planning and discipline in deploying, monitoring, and managing identity and access for users, administrators, and guests, you may be compromising your infrastructure and data. This book is a preparation guide that covers all the objectives of the SC-300 exam, while teaching you about the identity and access services that are available from Microsoft and preparing you for real-world challenges. The book starts with an overview of the SC-300 exam and helps you understand identity and access management. As you progress to the implementation of IAM solutions, you'll learn to deploy secure identity and access within Microsoft 365 and Azure Active Directory. The book will take you from legacy on-premises identity solutions to modern and password-less authentication solutions that provide high-level security for identity and access. You'll focus on implementing access and authentication for cloud-only and hybrid infrastructures as well as understand how to protect them using the principles of zero trust. The book also features mock tests toward the end to help you prepare effectively for the exam. By the end of this book, you'll have

learned how to plan, deploy, and manage identity and access solutions for Microsoft and hybrid infrastructures. What you will learn Understand core exam objectives to pass the SC-300 exam Implement an identity management solution with MS Azure AD Manage identity with multi-factor authentication (MFA), conditional access, and identity protection Design, implement, and monitor the integration of enterprise apps for Single Sign-On (SSO) Add apps to your identity and access solution with app registration Design and implement identity governance for your identity solution Who this book is for This book is for cloud security engineers, Microsoft 365 administrators, Microsoft 365 users, Microsoft 365 identity administrators, and anyone who wants to learn identity and access management and gain SC-300 certification. You should have a basic understanding of the fundamental services within Microsoft 365 and Azure Active Directory before getting started with this Microsoft book.

active directory privileged access management: Zero Trust and Third-Party Risk Gregory C. Rasner, 2023-08-24 Dramatically lower the cyber risk posed by third-party software and vendors in your organization In *Zero Trust and Third-Party Risk*, veteran cybersecurity leader Gregory Rasner delivers an accessible and authoritative walkthrough of the fundamentals and finer points of the zero trust philosophy and its application to the mitigation of third-party cyber risk. In this book, you'll explore how to build a zero trust program and nurture it to maturity. You will also learn how and why zero trust is so effective in reducing third-party cybersecurity risk. The author uses the story of a fictional organization—KC Enterprises—to illustrate the real-world application of zero trust principles. He takes you through a full zero trust implementation cycle, from initial breach to cybersecurity program maintenance and upkeep. You'll also find: Explanations of the processes, controls, and programs that make up the zero trust doctrine Descriptions of the five pillars of implementing zero trust with third-party vendors Numerous examples, use-cases, and stories that highlight the real-world utility of zero trust An essential resource for board members, executives, managers, and other business leaders, *Zero Trust and Third-Party Risk* will also earn a place on the bookshelves of technical and cybersecurity practitioners, as well as compliance professionals seeking effective strategies to dramatically lower cyber risk.

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active directory privileged access management: Pentesting Active Directory and Windows-based Infrastructure Denis Isakov, 2023-11-17 Enhance your skill set to pentest against real-world Microsoft infrastructure with hands-on exercises and by following attack/detect guidelines with OpSec considerations Key Features Find out how to attack real-life Microsoft infrastructure Discover how to detect adversary activities and remediate your environment Apply the knowledge you've gained by working on hands-on exercises Purchase of the print or Kindle book includes a free PDF eBook Book Description This book teaches you the tactics and techniques used to attack a Windows-based environment, along with showing you how to detect malicious activities and remediate misconfigurations and vulnerabilities. You'll begin by deploying your lab, where every technique can be replicated. The chapters help you master every step of the attack kill chain and put

new knowledge into practice. You'll discover how to evade defense of common built-in security mechanisms, such as AMSI, AppLocker, and Sysmon; perform reconnaissance and discovery activities in the domain environment by using common protocols and tools; and harvest domain-wide credentials. You'll also learn how to move laterally by blending into the environment's traffic to stay under radar, escalate privileges inside the domain and across the forest, and achieve persistence at the domain level and on the domain controller. Every chapter discusses OpSec considerations for each technique, and you'll apply this kill chain to perform the security assessment of other Microsoft products and services, such as Exchange, SQL Server, and SCCM. By the end of this book, you'll be able to perform a full-fledged security assessment of the Microsoft environment, detect malicious activity in your network, and guide IT engineers on remediation steps to improve the security posture of the company. What you will learn Understand and adopt the Microsoft infrastructure kill chain methodology Attack Windows services, such as Active Directory, Exchange, WSUS, SCCM, AD CS, and SQL Server Disappear from the defender's eyesight by tampering with defensive capabilities Upskill yourself in offensive OpSec to stay under the radar Find out how to detect adversary activities in your Windows environment Get to grips with the steps needed to remediate misconfigurations Prepare yourself for real-life scenarios by getting hands-on experience with exercises Who this book is for This book is for pentesters and red teamers, security and IT engineers, as well as blue teamers and incident responders interested in Windows infrastructure security. The book is packed with practical examples, tooling, and attack-defense guidelines to help you assess and improve the security of your real-life environments. To get the most out of this book, you should have basic knowledge of Windows services and Active Directory.

active directory privileged access management: Introduction to Windows Server 2016 Gilad James, PhD, Windows Server 2016 is a server operating system developed by Microsoft, designed as a successor to Windows Server 2012. It was released to the public on September 26, 2016. The operating system is packed with new and improved features, including enhanced security, hyper-converged infrastructure, cloud integration, and virtualization improvements. Windows Server 2016 supports hybrid cloud environments, allowing users to run applications on-premises or in the cloud. This allows for efficient and secure workload mobility, as well as improved data protection and disaster recovery. Additionally, the operating system includes new features such as Shielded Virtual Machines, which add an extra layer of security by encrypting virtual machines, and Remote Desktop Services that make it easier to manage and deliver applications to remote desktop users. With these new features, Windows Server 2016 aims to provide a comprehensive, easy-to-use solution for enterprise-level computing. Overall, Windows Server 2016 is an improved and more secure version of Windows Server 2012. It was designed with greater focus on cloud technologies, and hence, it offers features such as the Azure cloud connector and the ability to create a hybrid cloud configuration. Windows Server 2016 is a highly capable operating system that adds a layer of security and flexibility to enterprise computing, thus making it easier for users to set up and manage their own servers and workloads.

active directory privileged access management: Microsoft Identity Manager 2016 Handbook David Steadman, Jeff Ingalls, 2016-07-19 A complete handbook on Microsoft Identity Manager 2016 - from design considerations to operational best practices About This Book Get to grips with the basics of identity management and get acquainted with the MIM components and functionalities Discover the newly-introduced product features and how they can help your organization A step-by-step guide to enhance your foundational skills in using Microsoft Identity Manager from those who have taught and supported large and small enterprise customers Who This Book Is For If you are an architect or a developer who wants to deploy, manage, and operate Microsoft Identity Manager 2016, then this book is for you. This book will also help the technical decision makers who want to improve their knowledge of Microsoft Identity Manager 2016. A basic understanding of Microsoft-based infrastructure using Active Directory is expected. Identity management beginners and experts alike will be able to apply the examples and scenarios to solve real-world customer problems. What You Will Learn Install MIM components Find out about the MIM synchronization, its

configuration settings, and advantages Get to grips with the MIM service capabilities and develop custom activities Use the MIM Portal to provision and manage an account Mitigate access escalation and lateral movement risks using privileged access management Configure client certificate management and its detailed permission model Troubleshoot MIM components by enabling logging and reviewing logs Back up and restore the MIM 2015 configuration Discover more about periodic purging and the coding best practices In Detail Microsoft Identity Manager 2016 is Microsoft's solution to identity management. When fully installed, the product utilizes SQL, SharePoint, IIS, web services, the .NET Framework, and SCSM to name a few, allowing it to be customized to meet nearly every business requirement. The book is divided into 15 chapters and begins with an overview of the product, what it does, and what it does not do. To better understand the concepts in MIM, we introduce a fictitious company and their problems and goals, then build an identity solutions to fit those goals. Over the course of this book, we cover topics such as MIM installation and configuration, user and group management options, self-service solutions, role-based access control, reducing security threats, and finally operational troubleshooting and best practices. By the end of this book, you will have gained the necessary skills to deploy, manage and operate Microsoft Identity Manager 2016 to meet your business requirements and solve real-world customer problems. Style and approach The concepts in the book are explained and illustrated with the help of screenshots as much as possible. We strive for readability and provide you with step-by-step instructions on the installation, configuration, and operation of the product. Throughout the book, you will be provided on-the-field knowledge that you won't get from whitepapers and help files.

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to integrate various organizational functions—from HR to physical security—to enhance overall protection. This book covers many case studies and best practices for safeguarding communications, operations, and access; alongside strategies for the responsible acquisition, development, and maintenance of technology. It also discusses effective responses to security incidents. Santos provides a detailed examination of compliance requirements in different sectors and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework. LEARN HOW TO Establish cybersecurity policies and governance that serve your organization's needs Integrate cybersecurity program components into a coherent framework for action Assess, prioritize, and manage security risk throughout the organization Manage assets and prevent data loss Work with HR to address human factors in cybersecurity Harden your facilities and physical environment Design effective policies for securing communications, operations, and access Strengthen security throughout AI-driven deployments Plan for quick, effective incident response and ensure business continuity Comply with rigorous regulations in finance and healthcare Learn about the NIST AI Risk Framework and how to protect AI implementations Explore and apply the guidance provided by the NIST Cybersecurity Framework

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Jeroen Mulder, 2024-09-03 As businesses increasingly adopt cloud-first strategies, managing workloads across multiple cloud platforms becomes a critical challenge. This comprehensive book provides practical solutions and in-depth knowledge to efficiently operate in a multi-cloud world. Learn to leverage frameworks from AWS, Azure, GCP, and Alibaba Cloud to maximize the benefits of multi-cloud environments. Understand cloud networking, software-defined networking, and microservices to optimize cloud connectivity. Develop a robust data strategy to ensure data quality, security, and integrity across multiple cloud platforms. Discover how automation and AI can help maintain compliance with governmental and industry regulations in the cloud. Designed for cloud architects, IT administrators, and technical managers, this book is also valuable for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of cloud technologies and multi-cloud strategies. FEATURES • Uses frameworks from AWS, Azure, GCP, and Alibaba Cloud to maximize the benefits of multi-cloud environments • Provides practical instructions and real-world examples for managing multi-cloud environments • Features insights into cloud-native technologies, serverless functions, and container orchestration with Kubernetes • Explores the details of multi-cloud connectivity, storage, compute, data management, security, and compliance • Includes companion files with code samples and color figures available for downloading

active directory privileged access management: Mastering Windows Security and

Hardening Mark Dunkerley, Matt Tumbarello, 2022-08-19 A comprehensive guide to administering and protecting the latest Windows 11 and Windows Server 2022 from the complex cyber threats Key Features Learn to protect your Windows environment using zero-trust and a multi-layered security approach Implement security controls using Intune, Configuration Manager, Defender for Endpoint, and more Understand how to onboard modern cyber-threat defense solutions for Windows clients Book Description Are you looking for the most current and effective ways to protect Windows-based systems from being compromised by intruders? This updated second edition is a detailed guide that helps you gain the expertise to implement efficient security measures and create robust defense solutions using modern technologies. The first part of the book covers security fundamentals with details around building and implementing baseline controls. As you advance, you'll learn how to effectively secure and harden your Windows-based systems through hardware, virtualization, networking, and identity and access management (IAM). The second section will cover administering security controls for Windows clients and servers with remote policy management using Intune, Configuration Manager, Group Policy, Defender for Endpoint, and other Microsoft 365 and Azure cloud security technologies. In the last section, you'll discover how to protect, detect, and respond with security monitoring, reporting, operations, testing, and auditing. By the end of this book, you'll have developed an understanding of the processes and tools involved in enforcing security controls and implementing zero-trust security principles to protect Windows systems. What you will learn Build a multi-layered security approach using zero-trust concepts Explore best practices to

implement security baselines successfully Get to grips with virtualization and networking to harden your devices Discover the importance of identity and access management Explore Windows device administration and remote management Become an expert in hardening your Windows infrastructure Audit, assess, and test to ensure controls are successfully applied and enforced Monitor and report activities to stay on top of vulnerabilities Who this book is for If you're a cybersecurity or technology professional, solutions architect, systems engineer, systems administrator, or anyone interested in learning how to secure the latest Windows-based systems, this book is for you. A basic understanding of Windows security concepts, Intune, Configuration Manager, Windows PowerShell, and Microsoft Azure will help you get the best out of this book.

active directory privileged access management: Active Directory and PowerShell for Jobseekers Mariusz Wróbel, 2024-02-09 Start your career in Identity and Access Management field by learning about Active Directory and automate your work using PowerShell KEY FEATURES ● Understand Active Directory design and architecture. ● Deploy AD test environment in Azure and implement it using PowerShell. ● Manage the AD environment in a secure way and automate management using DevOps and PowerShell. DESCRIPTION “Active Directory and PowerShell for Jobseekers” takes you by the hand, and equips you with essential skills sought after by employers in today's IT landscape. This book walks you through every step of the Active Directory lifecycle, covering design, deployment, configuration, and management. Automation using PowerShell is emphasized, helping you learn how to automate processes with scripts. It begins with Active Directory management, creating a development environment in Azure. In the next stage you get a thorough overview of environment creation, configuration, monitoring, security settings and recovery. With examples presented through both manual steps and automated PowerShell scripts, this book allows readers to choose their preferred method for learning PowerShell automation. Additionally, it also introduces DevOps tools for cloud infrastructure, covering update management, monitoring, security, and automation resources. By the end of this book, you'll be confident and prepared to tackle real-world Active Directory challenges. You will also be able to impress potential employers with your in-demand skills and launch your career as a sought-after IT security specialist. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ● Learn about building the AD test environment in Azure. ● Configure Windows Servers to become AD domain controllers including DNS. ● Configure Active Directory to support network topology and customers' needs. ● Secure and automate infrastructure management. ● Get familiar with interview questions that are related to the AD and PowerShell related jobs market. WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR This book is for junior system administrators or students who would like to learn about Active Directory or for readers who want to become Active Directory engineers. TABLE OF CONTENTS 1. Introduction 2. Setting up the Development Environment 3. Active Directory Environment Creation 4. Active Directory Environment Configuration 5. Active Directory User Management 6. Active Directory Group Management 7. Active Directory Security Management 8. Monitor Active Directory 9. Active Directory Disaster Recovery 10. Manage Windows Server Using PowerShell 11. Securing PowerShell for AD Management 12. PowerShell DSC for AD Configuration Management 13. Interview Questions

active directory privileged access management: Contemporary Identity and Access Management Architectures: Emerging Research and Opportunities Ng, Alex Chi Keung, 2018-01-26 Due to the proliferation of distributed mobile technologies and heavy usage of social media, identity and access management has become a very challenging area. Businesses are facing new demands in implementing solutions, however, there is a lack of information and direction. Contemporary Identity and Access Management Architectures: Emerging Research and Opportunities is a critical scholarly resource that explores management of an organization's identities, credentials, and attributes which assures the identity of a user in an extensible manner set for identity and access administration. Featuring coverage on a broad range of topics, such as biometric application programming interfaces, telecommunication security, and role-based access control, this book is geared towards academicians, practitioners, and researchers seeking current research on identity and access management.

active directory privileged access management: *In Zero Trust We Trust* Avinash Naduvath, 2024-02-27 Before an enterprise answers “How can we achieve a Zero Trust architecture?” they should be asking “Why are we looking at Zero Trust as an access model? Does it align with our vision?” In an innovative format, Cisco security architecture expert Avinash Naduvath guides you through the philosophical questions and practical answers for an enterprise looking to start the Zero Trust journey. A conversational model will take you from the initial stages of identifying goals and pitching solutions, through practical tasks that highlight tangible outcomes—including common primary use cases—in order to bring focus to the correct implementation and maintenance of a Zero Trust architecture. For a future where success is measured as much by the security of a system as by the functionality, *In Zero Trust We Trust* is designed to help everyone at every stage and level of leadership understand not only the conceptual underpinnings, but the real-world context of when, how, and why to deploy Zero Trust security controls. This book provides the starting point for helping you change the mindset of others, and getting them to understand why Zero Trust isn’t simply a conversation to be had, but a movement to embrace. Origins of the Zero Trust philosophy in security architecture explained, and why it took so long to catch on Detailed examination of how to ask the right questions so as to implement the right security answers for clients Understanding the metrics by which to measure Zero Trust success, and what maintaining that success looks like Identifying the stakeholders and empowering a Zero Trust team within an enterprise Examples of how to catalyze opinion and tailor tactics to motivate investment in secure Zero Trust architecture Implement, monitor, feedback, repeat: Presenting and building a roadmap for a sustainable security architecture Looking ahead to a Zero Trust Lifecycle Framework and a blueprint for the future

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