

# TOP-5 LESSONS LEARNED FROM DEFENDING M365

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# SHOULD DEFENDING M365 BEAPRIORITY?

What do you think? Why?

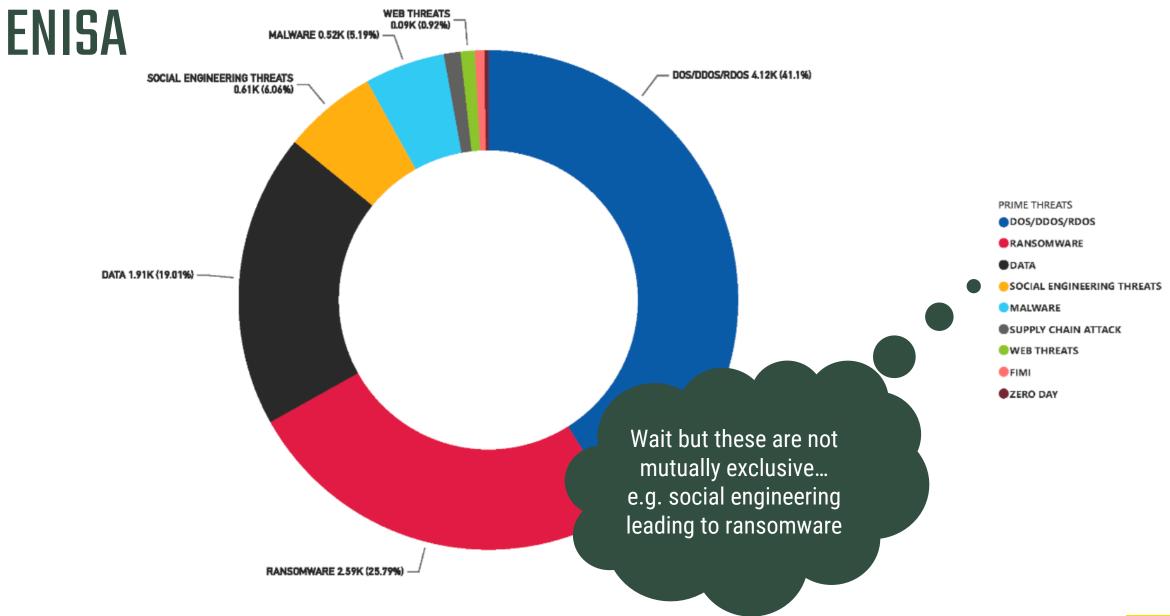


#### **ENISA**











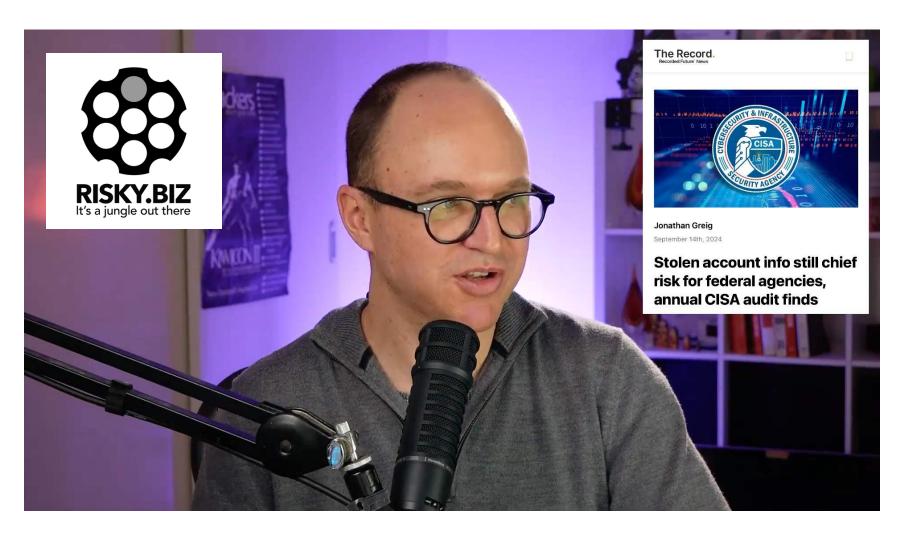
https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/enisa-threat-landscape-2024/

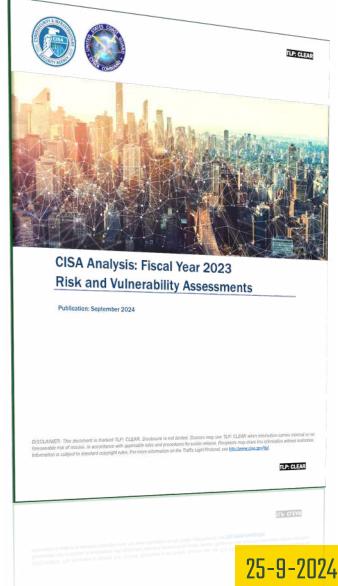


There has also been a rise in compromises of cloud-based identities secured with multi-factor authentication (MFA). Particularly concerning is the growing use of web proxy or adversary-in-the-middle (AiTM) phishing pages, which can bypass many MFA implementations by stealing sensitive session tokens. Attackers commonly use credential-harvesting forms or phishing pages to collect login details from their victims. These phishing sites, designed to mimic popular login portals, pass the user's credentials and MFA codes to the attacker. AiTM phishing pages go beyond standard credential-harvesting techniques by using infrastructure designed to defeat typical MFA methods. Unlike traditional phishing forms, AiTM pages function as a reverse web



#### RISKY BUSINESS 18-SEPT-24 - CISA AUDIT







#### 41% THROUGH STOLEN CREDS

TLP: CLEAR



#### **INITIAL ACCESS**

WHAT

Initial Access [TA0001] is the phase of malicious activity where threat actors attempt to obtain unauthorized access to a victim's internal network. Gaining initial access to an organization's network is one of the first active steps in a successful attack. Threat actors could use techniques—such as targeted spear phishing, valid accounts and credentials, or exploiting critical vulnerabilities and weaknesses on network edge devices—to gain an initial foothold within a network. If threat actors establish initial access, they could execute other techniques—such as privilege escalation—to ultimately steal information, disrupt operations, or preposition for future actions on objectives. Preventing initial access should be a main goal in protecting network assets and data, both internally and externally.

HOW

Threat actors use a variety of attack paths-- such as., gaining access to valid accounts, targeted spear phishing, leveraging insecure ports or protocols, or exploiting public-facing applications- to compromise a victim's network. RVA analyses revealed that Valid Accounts [T1078] were the most common successful attack technique, responsible for 41% of successful attempts. A common technique under this tactic is cracking password hashes, which was successful in 89% of USCG assessments to access Domain Administrator accounts. Valid accounts can be accessed internal or external to the network through default or stolen administrator accounts, or former employee accounts that have not been removed from the active directory. Additionally, initial access brokers that sell exploits and valid credentials to nation-state and criminal threat actors are seen more frequently as the profits are rising for criminal activity. 2.3 Threat actors can compromise a valid administrator account if organizations do not change default passwords, or through brute force if a weak password is in place. In many cases, this attack technique is possible because the valid account allowed unauthorized users to install or execute insecure software (such as unpatched or out-of-date software) on a system or network. Figure 2 demonstrates a valid account execution.

CISA RVA 2024:

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/FY23%20RVA%20Analysis%20508.pdf



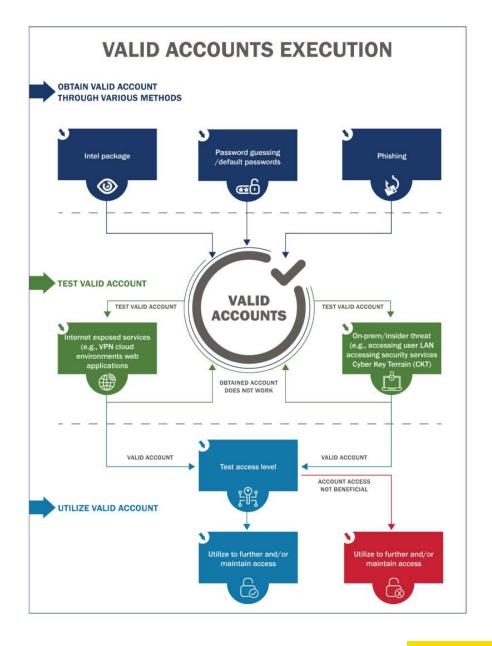


Figure 2: Valid Account Execution

#### **FY23 RVA Results**

MITRE ATT&CK™ TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

#### **Initial Access**

Threat actors attempt to obtain unauthorized initial access into a victim's network. Actors use techniques, such as Valid Accounts T1078 or Spear Phishing Link T1566.002s, to gain this access. After obtaining initial access, actors can then execute other techniques to move about the network.

#### **Mitigations**

Organizations can mitigate the risks associated with this technique by adhering to the following <u>CPGs</u>:

CPG 1.E Mitigating Known Vulnerabilities CPG 2.A Changing Default Passwords

CPG 2.H Phishing-Resistant Multifactor Authentication CPG 2.M Email Security

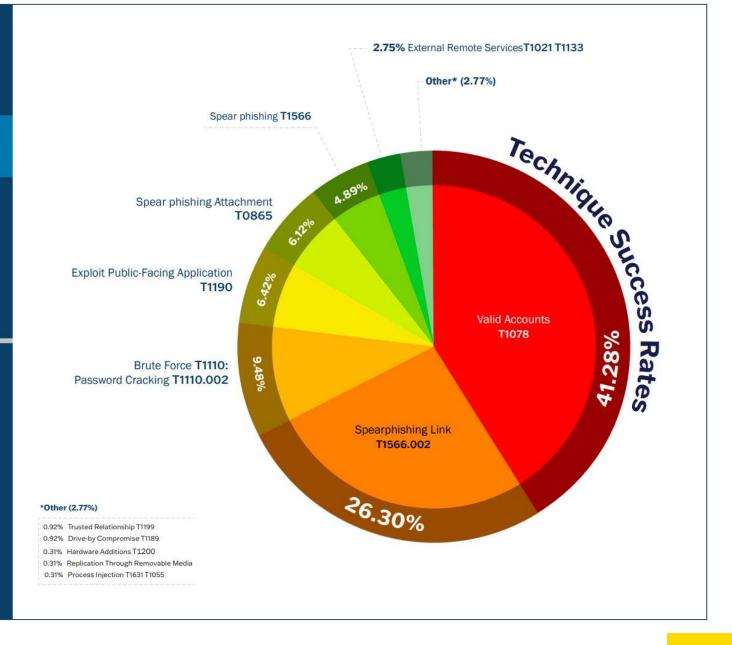
CPG 2.N Disable Macros by Default

CPG 2.W No Exploitable Services on the Internet



ATT&CK

This advisory uses the MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge (ATT&CK) and Pre-ATT&CK frameworks. See the ATT&CK for Enterprise and Pre-ATT&CK frameworks for referenced threat actor techniques





# 5 LESSONS LEARNED



# LESSON#1 AITM&TOKEN REPLAY

MFA-resilient Phishing Techniques



#### #1: AITM & TOKEN REPLAY



#### Microsoft Threat Intelligence

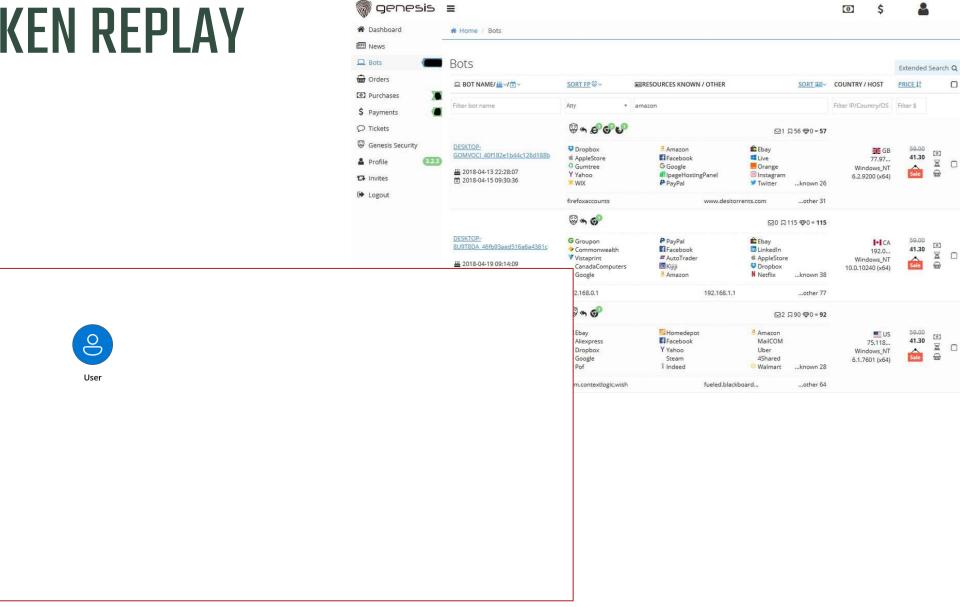
44,407 followers 1mo • 🕲 + Follow

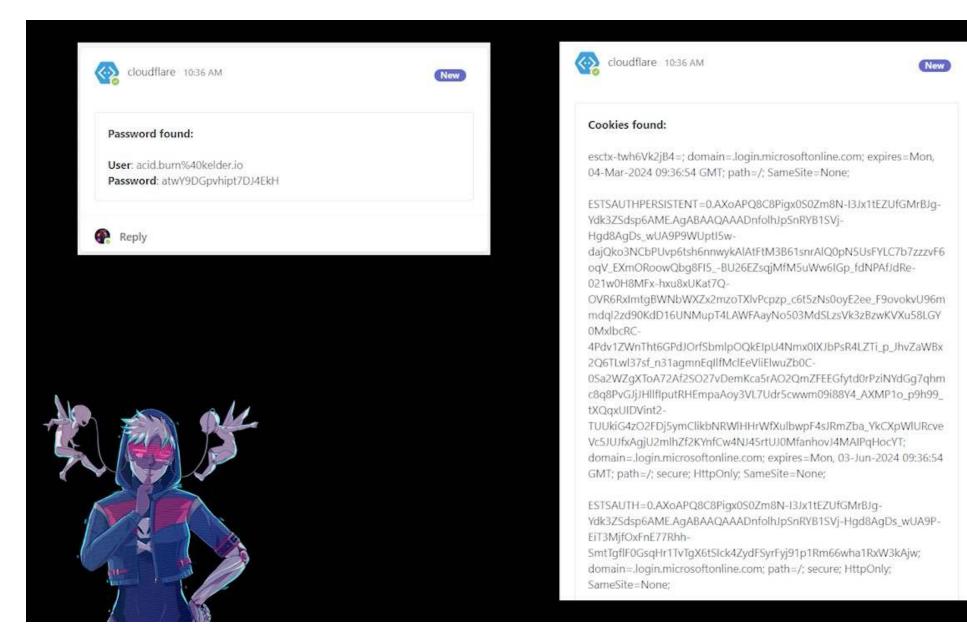
Microsoft has detected a 111% year-over-year increase in token replay attacks, and incidents are continuing to grow. In token replay attacks, attackers steal tokens – authentication artifacts that grant users access to resources – commonly via malware or adversary-in-the-middle (AiTM) attacks, and then replay the token from somewhere else to impersonate users and access their data.

While token theft constitutes fewer than 5% of all identity compromises, Microsoft expects threat actors to continue using this technique, especially since it allows attackers to circumvent protection measures like multi-factor authentication (MFA).

In this blog post, Microsoft provides details on the mechanics of tokens, the token theft attack chain, and how Microsoft protects customers against token theft through token binding. We also provide recommendations for a systematic defense-in-depth approach to counter token theft attacks: https://msft.it/6042ISqTq

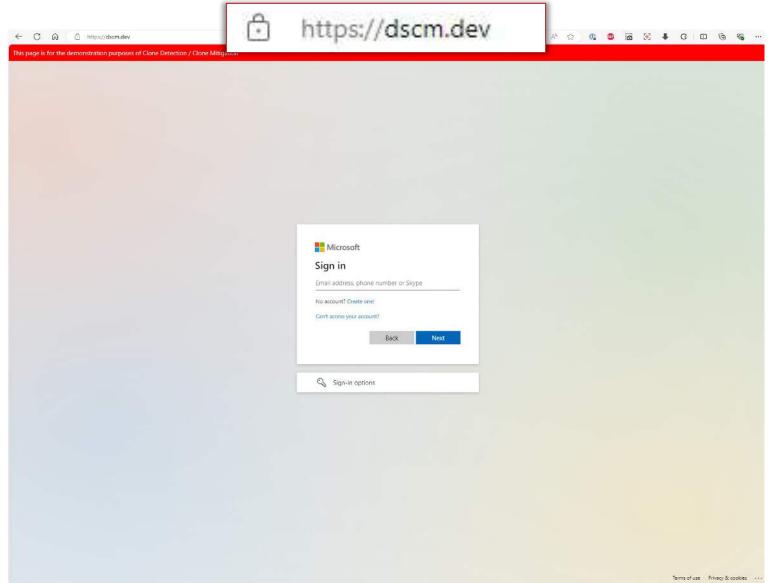






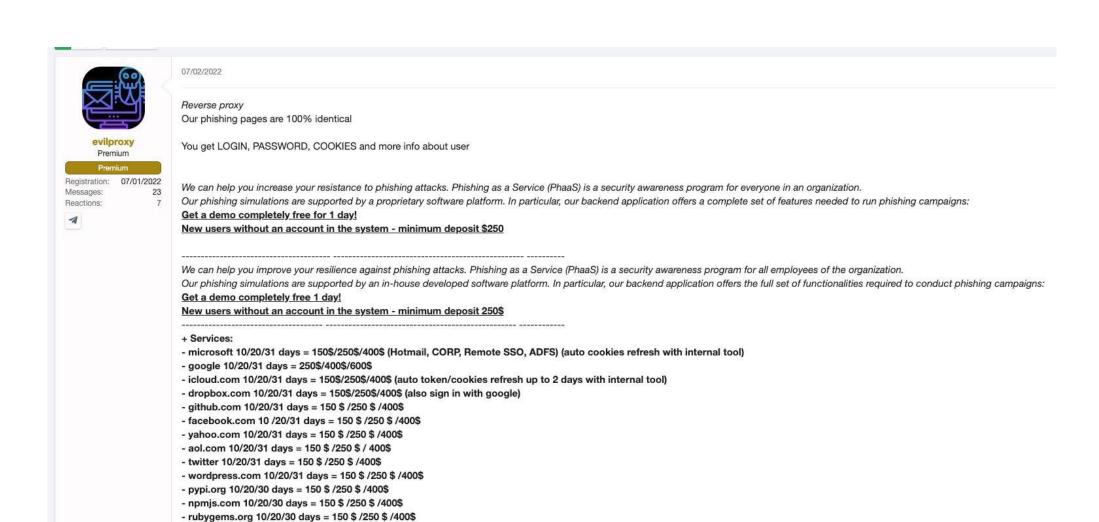


#### **EVILGINX POC**



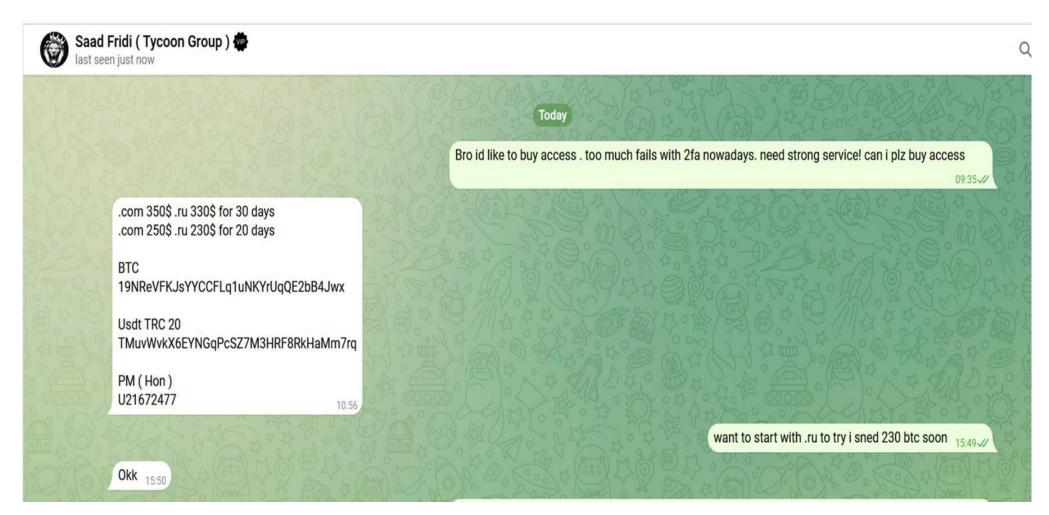


#### CAAS > EVILPROXY





#### CAAS > TYCOON





#### **MEASURES VS AITM?**

- Phishing Resistant MFA
  - Passkeys
  - Windows Hello
  - FIDO2 key
  - Certificates
- Compliance-based Conditional Access
  - Non-BYOD friendly
- Custom CSS
- SafeLinks

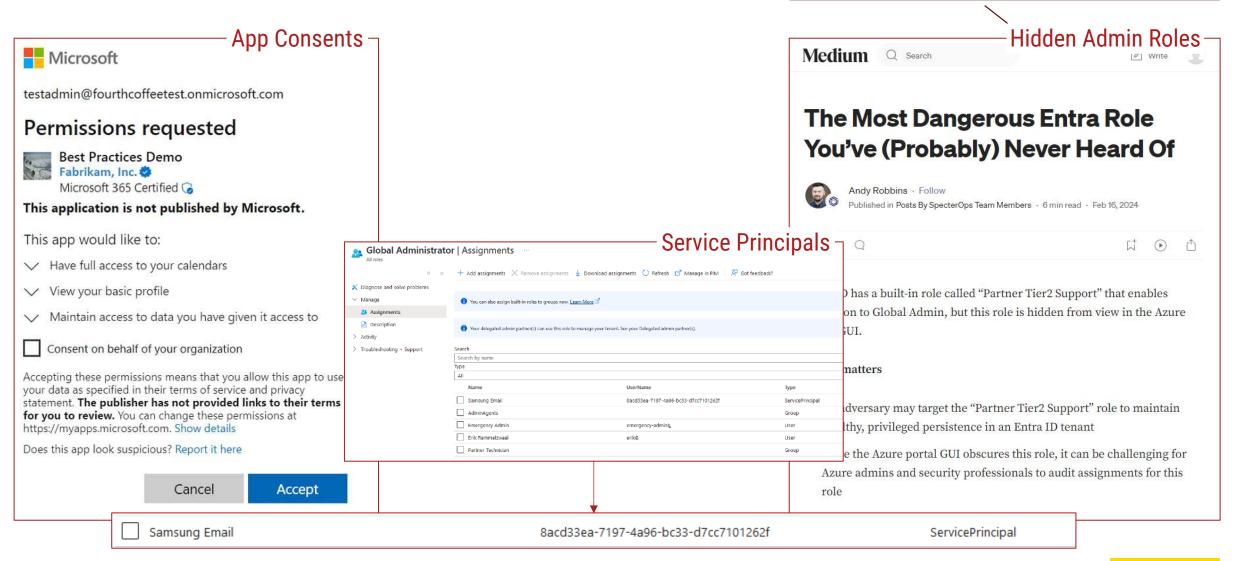


## LESSON #2 PRIVILEGE MANAGEMENT

It is not all about users...



#### #2: PRIVILEGE MANAGEMENT++





Directory Synchronization

On Premises Directory Sync

Accounts

Account

Partner Tier1 Support

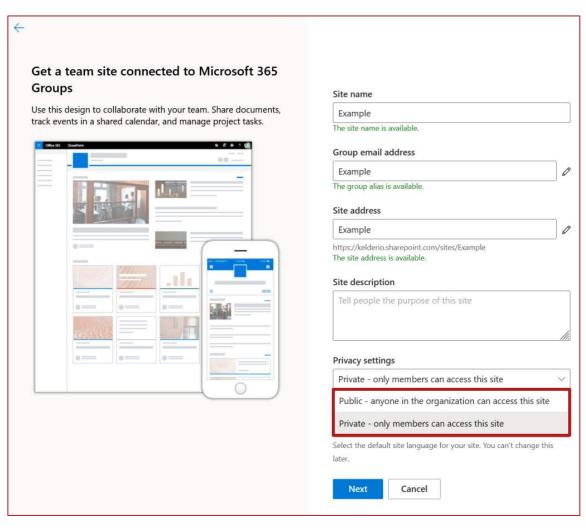
Partner Tier2 Support

# LESSON #3 PUBLIC TEAMS & SITES

Modern day open SMB shares



#### #3: PUBLIC TEAMS & SHAREPOINT SITES





https://zolder.io/blog/public-sharepoint-sites-the-new-open-shares/



#### Fortinet confirms breach that likely leaked 440GB of customer data



The cybersecurity company said a threat actor had unauthorized access to files on a third-party cloud-shared drive.



Credit: JHVEPhoto / Shutterstock

Fortinet has confirmed a data breach that has allegedly compromised 440GB of Azure SharePoint files containing Fortinet customer data.

https://www.csoonline.com/article/3520517/fortinet-confirms-a-breach-that-likely-leaked-440-qb-of-customer-data.htm



# LESSON #44 'FREE' SIEM

Make use of what you pay for



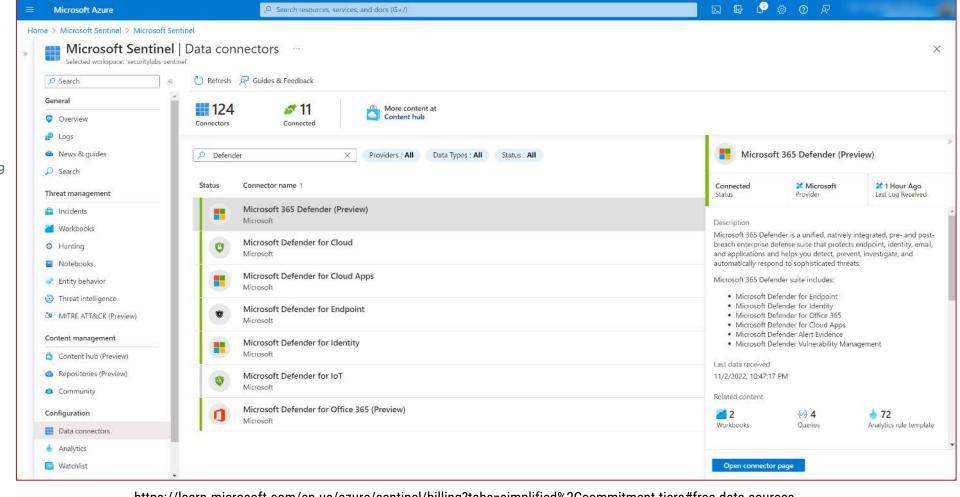
#### #4: FREE LOGGING & MONITORING



#### Free data sources

The following data sources are free with Microsoft Sentinel:

- Azure Activity Logs
- · Microsoft Sentinel Health
- Office 365 Audit Logs, including all SharePoint activity, Exchange admin activity, and Teams
- Security alerts, including alerts from the following sources:
  - o Microsoft Defender XDR
  - o Microsoft Defender for Cloud
  - o Microsoft Defender for Office 365
  - o Microsoft Defender for Identity
  - Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps
  - o Microsoft Defender for Endpoint
- Alerts from the following sources:
  - o Microsoft Defender for Cloud
  - o Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps



 $\underline{https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/sentinel/billing?tabs=simplified \% 2C commitment-tiers\#free-data-sources$ 

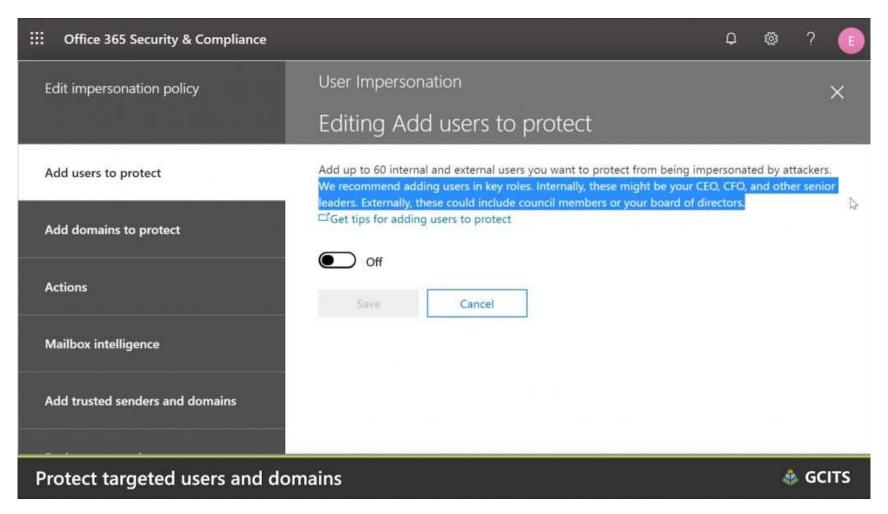


## LESSON #5 PREMIUM ANTI-PHISHING

Make use of what you pay for



#### **USER IMPERSONATION**

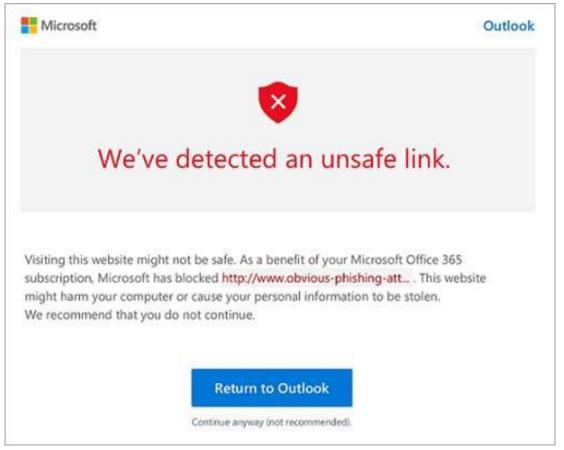


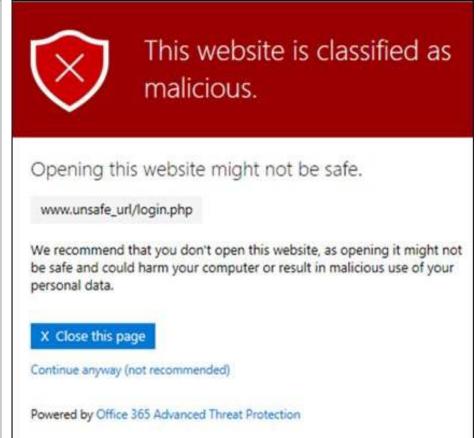


#### PHISHING MAILTIPS



#### **SAFELINKS**





#### **ATTIC SECURITY**

Automated, scalable cybersecurity operations for SMB. We also have Al.



