



Password Sprays & Token Plays: The Art of Staying Secure in Microsoft Entra

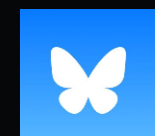
Thomas Naunheim
Eric Woodruff



Thomas Naunheim

Cyber Security Architect @glueckkanja AG

- From Koblenz/Lahnstein, Germany
- Microsoft MVP (Identity & Access, Cloud Security)

 @naunheim.cloud

 @Thomas_Live

 /in/ThomasNaunheim

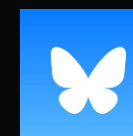
 cloud-architekt.net



Eric Woodruff

Chief Identity Architect @ Semperis

- From Schenectady, New York
- Microsoft MVP (Identity & Access)



@ericonidentity.com



@ericonidentity



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@ericonidentity@infosec.exchange



ericonidentity.com

Identity is (still) under attack...

600 million

identity attacks
per day...

Microsoft Entra data,
Microsoft Digital Defense Report
2024

99%

are password
attacks.

Microsoft Entra data,
Microsoft Digital Defense Report
2024

111%

increase in token
replay attacks.

Microsoft Entra data, How to
break the token theft cyber attack
chain, 2024

146%

rise in AiTM
phishing attacks.

Microsoft Entra data,
Microsoft Digital Defense Report
2024



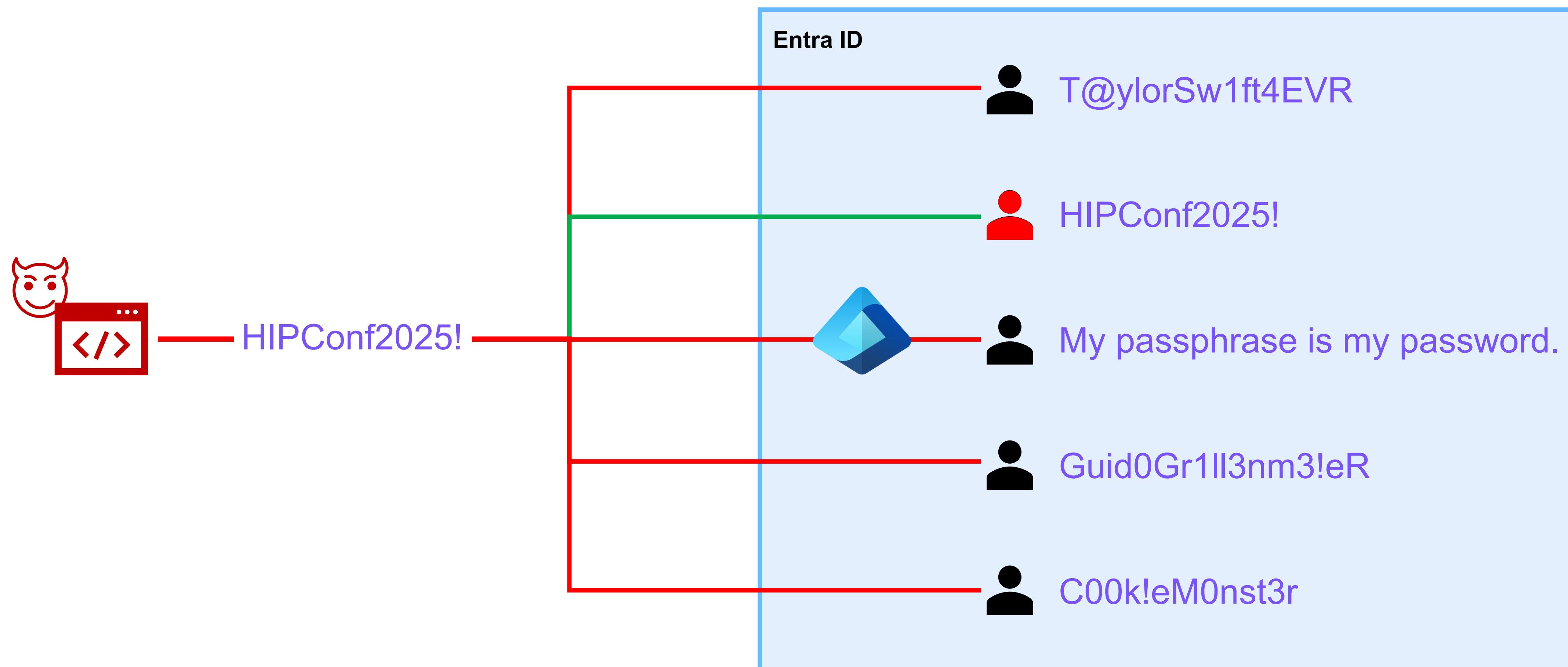
Agenda

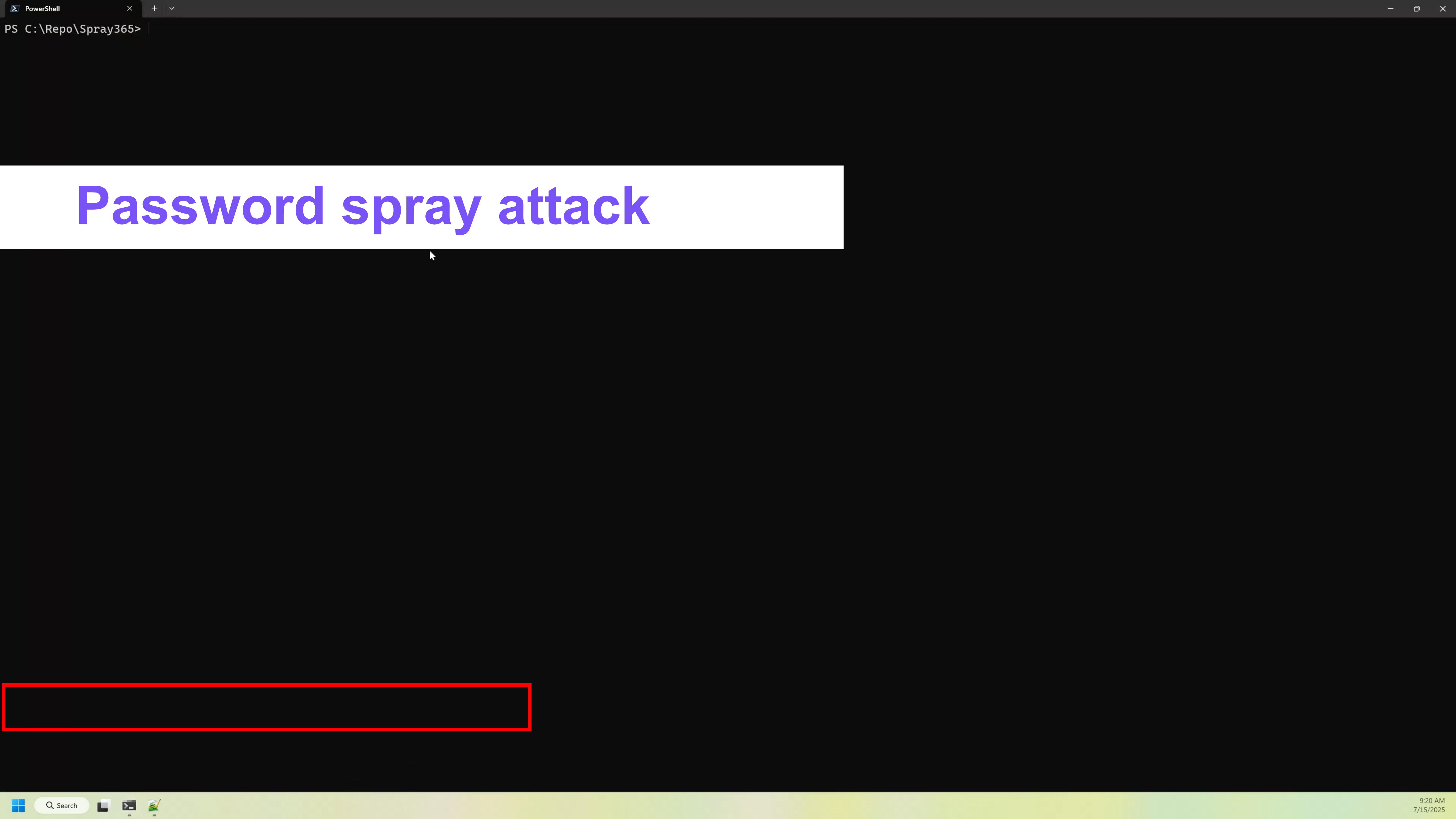
- Password-based attacks
- Token theft & replay
- Abusing privileges of OAuth2 applications
- Mitigation



Password-based attacks

Overview of password spray attacks





Password spray attack





Always MFA? Find your single factor auth...

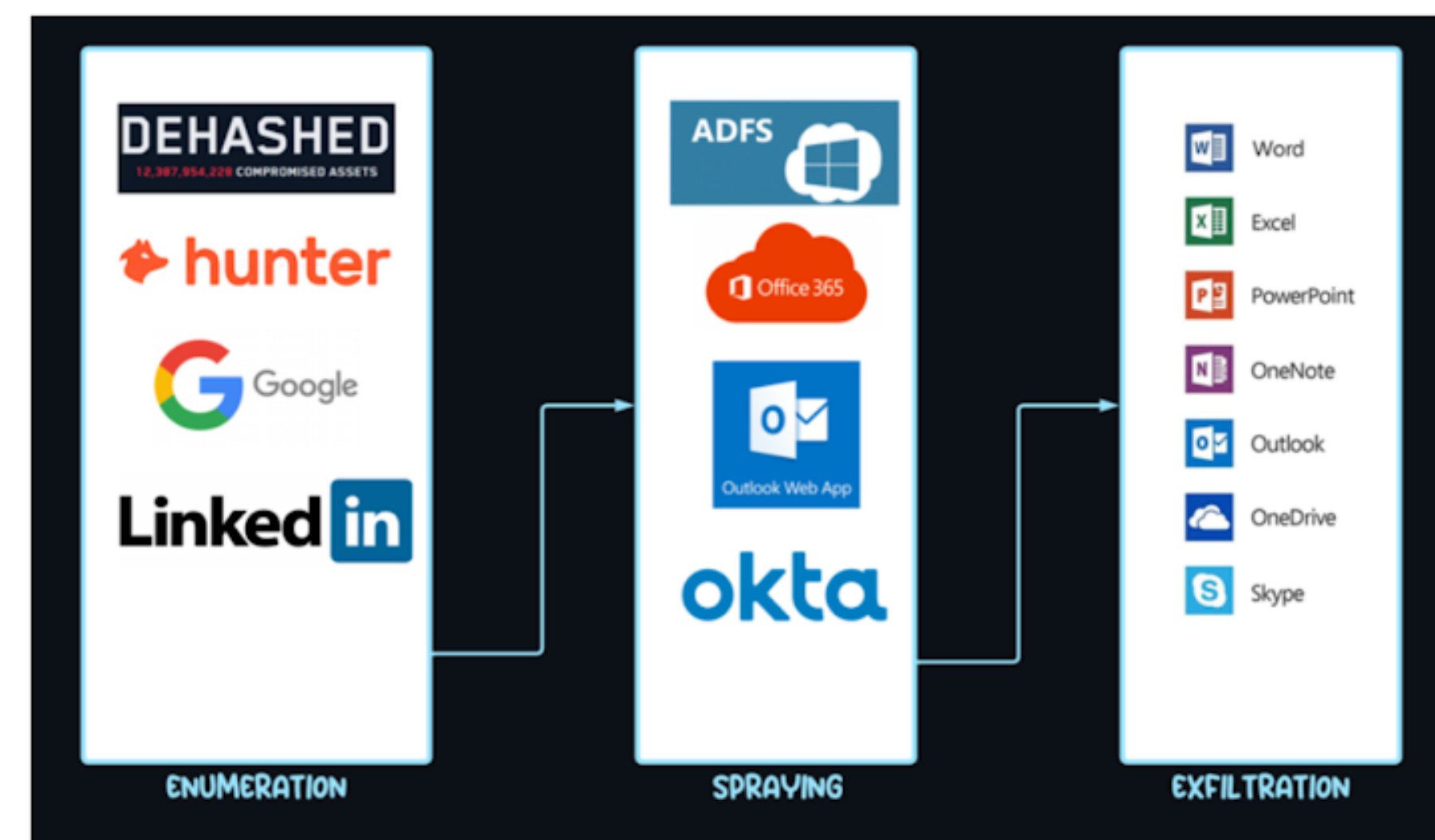
- Exclusion for (trusted) locations
- Service accounts and service principals
- SaaS applications
 - Local user accounts
 - Multiple identity providers

Are password spray attacks still a risk?

Over 80,000 Microsoft Entra ID Accounts Targeted Using Open-Source TeamFiltration Tool

Jun 12, 2025 Ravie Lakshmanan

The UNK_SneakyStrike activity has been described as "large-scale user enumeration and password spraying attempts," with the unauthorized access efforts occurring in "highly concentrated bursts" targeting several users within a single cloud environment. This is followed by a lull that lasts for four to five days.





Password spray in Entra ID Protection

January 2025

General Availability - Real-time Password Spray Detection in Microsoft Entra ID Protection

A password spray attack is where multiple identities are attacked using common passwords in a unified brute force manner. The risk detection is triggered when an account's password is valid and has an attempted sign in. This detection signals that the user's password was correctly identified through a password spray attack, not that the attacker was able to access any resources.

- Calculated in real-time or offline
- License requirement: Microsoft Entra ID P2
- [Tips for investigating password spray detections.](#)

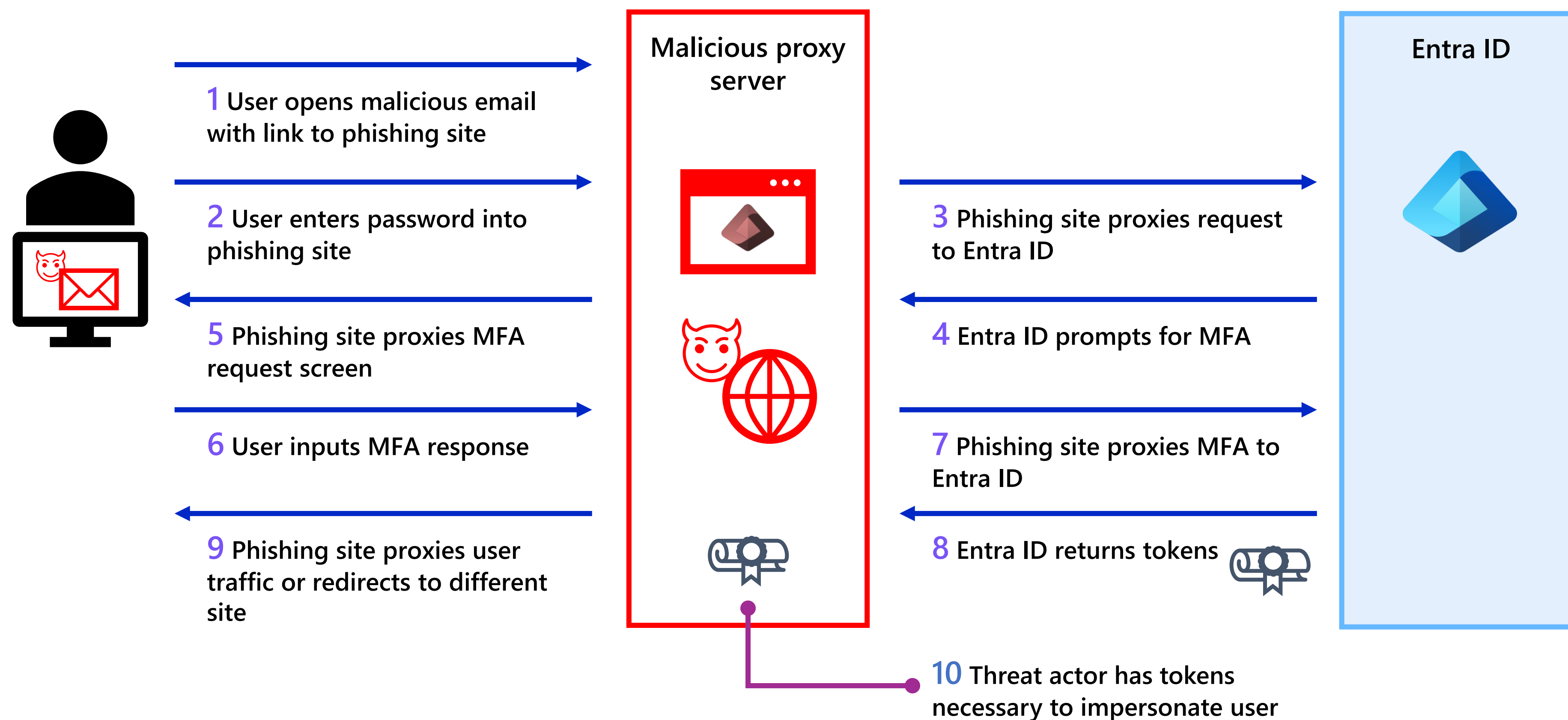
Risk Detection Details

 User's risk report  User's sign-ins  User's risky sign-ins  Linked risky sign-in  User's risk detections	
Detection type	Password spray ⓘ
Risk state	Confirmed compromised
Risk level	High
Risk detail	M365D admin dismissed detection
Attack type(s)	Brute Force: Password Spraying, Brute Force: Password Guessing
Source	Identity Protection
Detection timing	Offline
Activity	Sign-in
Detection time	9/4/2025, 10:26 AM
Detection last updated	9/5/2025, 4:14 PM
Token issuer type	Microsoft Entra ID
Sign-in time	9/3/2025, 3:17 AM
IP address	
Sign-in location	Washington, Virginia, US
Sign-in client	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/139.0.0.0 Safari/537.36 Edg/139.0.0.0 OS/10.0.26100
Sign-in request id	564a6409-6ad5-4215-8308-19f928731b00
Sign-in correlation id	01990d26-0289-7ebd-a587-a4a419f5f57d

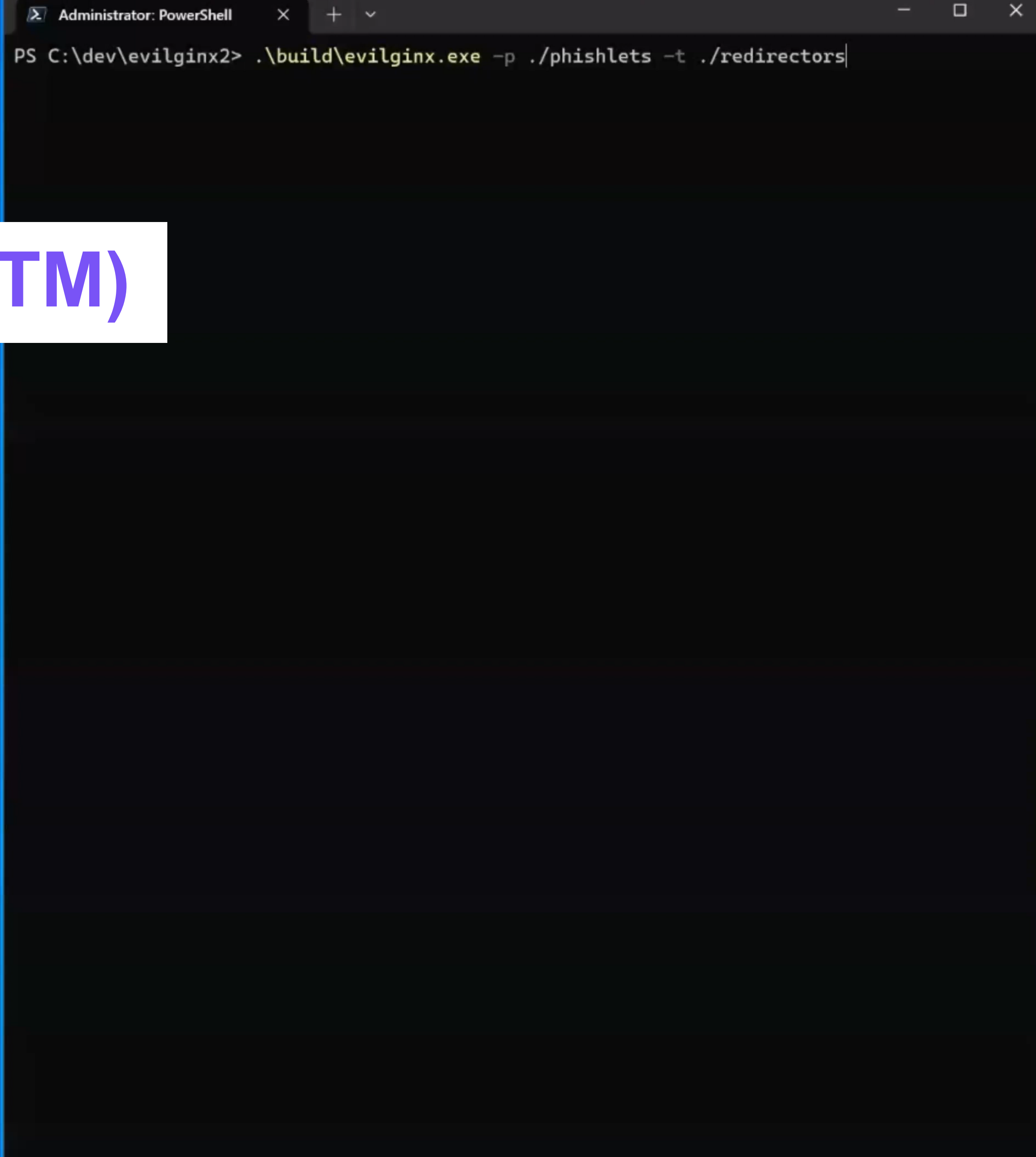


Token theft & replay

Overview of attacker-in-the-middle (AiTM)



Attacker-in-the-middle (AiTM)



A screenshot of a Windows PowerShell terminal window. The title bar at the top reads "Administrator: PowerShell" and includes standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close). The command prompt shows the current directory as "C:\dev\evilginx2" and the command being executed is ".\build\evilginx.exe -p ./phishlets -t ./redirectors". The command is partially executed, with a cursor at the end of the line.

```
PS C:\dev\evilginx2> .\build\evilginx.exe -p ./phishlets -t ./redirectors|
```

AiTM attack disruption in Microsoft Defender XDR

High | Resolved | u101@a.alpineskihouse.co | BEC Fraud | Credential Phish | AiTM attack | Attack Disruption | AlpineSkiHouse | SAPClient

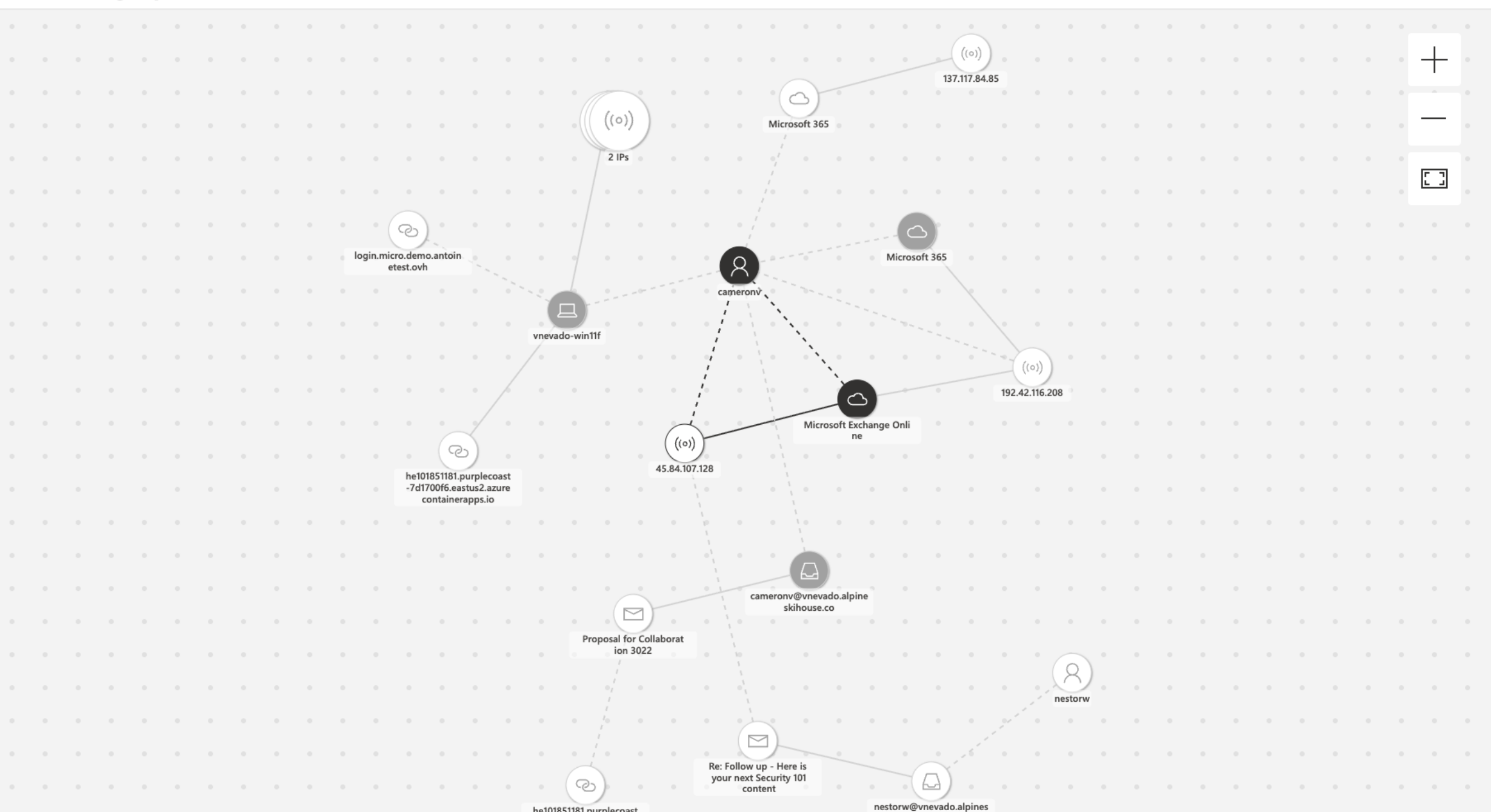
Attention! Attack disruption initiated multiple response actions. For more details, go to the [Action center](#).

Attack story | Alerts (16) | Assets (5) | Investigations (0) | Evidence and Response (20) | Recommended actions (22) | Summary | Similar incidents (0)

Play attack story | Unpin all | Show all

- Mar 10, 2025 2:28 PM | Resolved
Risky sign-in after clicking a possible AiTM phishing URL
Cameron V
- Mar 10, 2025 2:29 PM | Resolved
Activity from a Tor IP address
Cameron V
- Mar 10, 2025 2:29 PM | Resolved
Compromised user account in a recognized attack pattern
Cameron V
- Mar 10, 2025 2:31 PM | Resolved
Suspicious Outlook rules
Cameron V
- Mar 10, 2025 2:31 PM | Resolved
BEC financial fraud
Cameron V

Incident graph | Layout | Group similar nodes



The incident graph illustrates the relationships between various entities involved in the attack. Key nodes include IP addresses (e.g., 137.117.84.85, 192.42.116.208, 45.84.107.128), email accounts (e.g., cameronv@vnevado.alpineskihouse.co, nestorw@vnevado.alpineskihouse.co), and domains (e.g., login.micro.demo.antoine-test.ovh, he101851181.purplecoast-7d1700f6.eastus2.azurecontainerapps.io). The graph shows how these entities are interconnected, providing a visual representation of the attack's scope and impact.

Attack disruption

Automated response took place.

Disruption incident summary and impact
Attacker leveraged 1 compromised accounts.

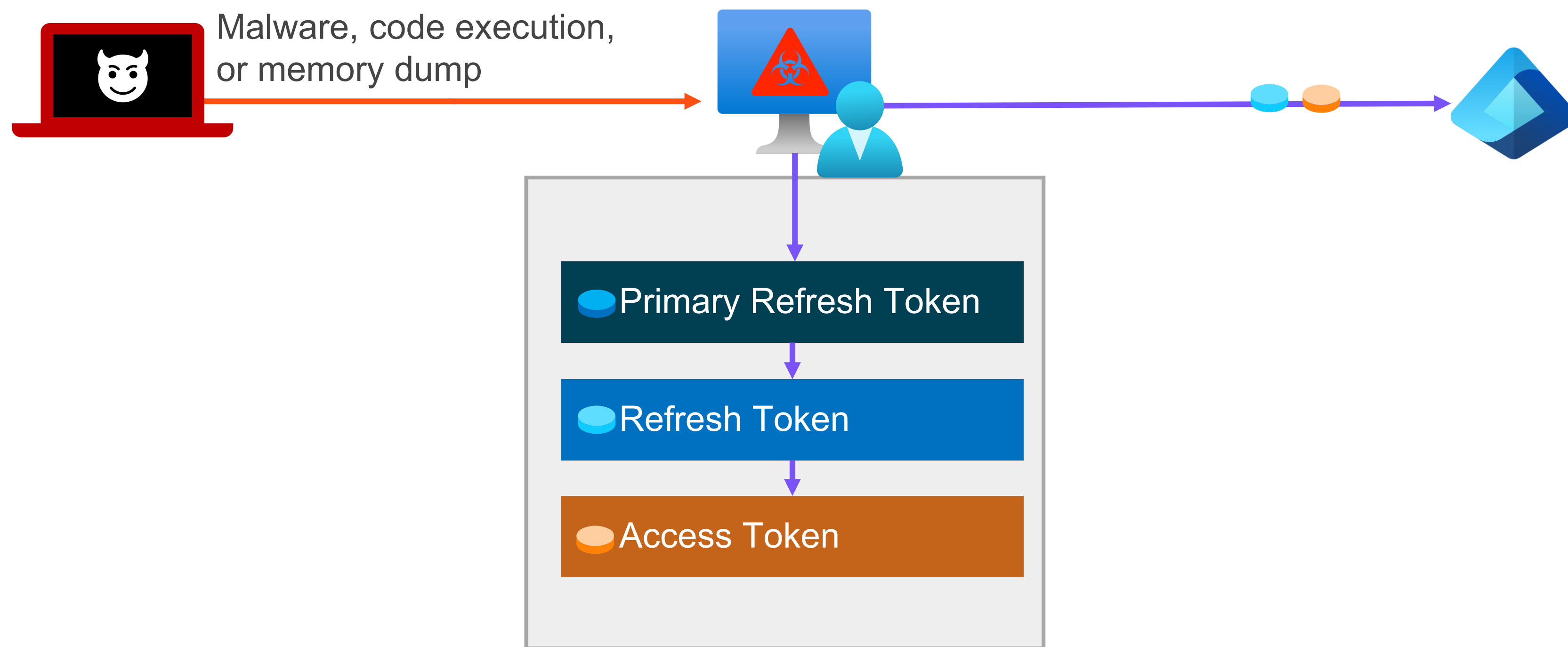
Accounts
Contained 1

View actions in action center

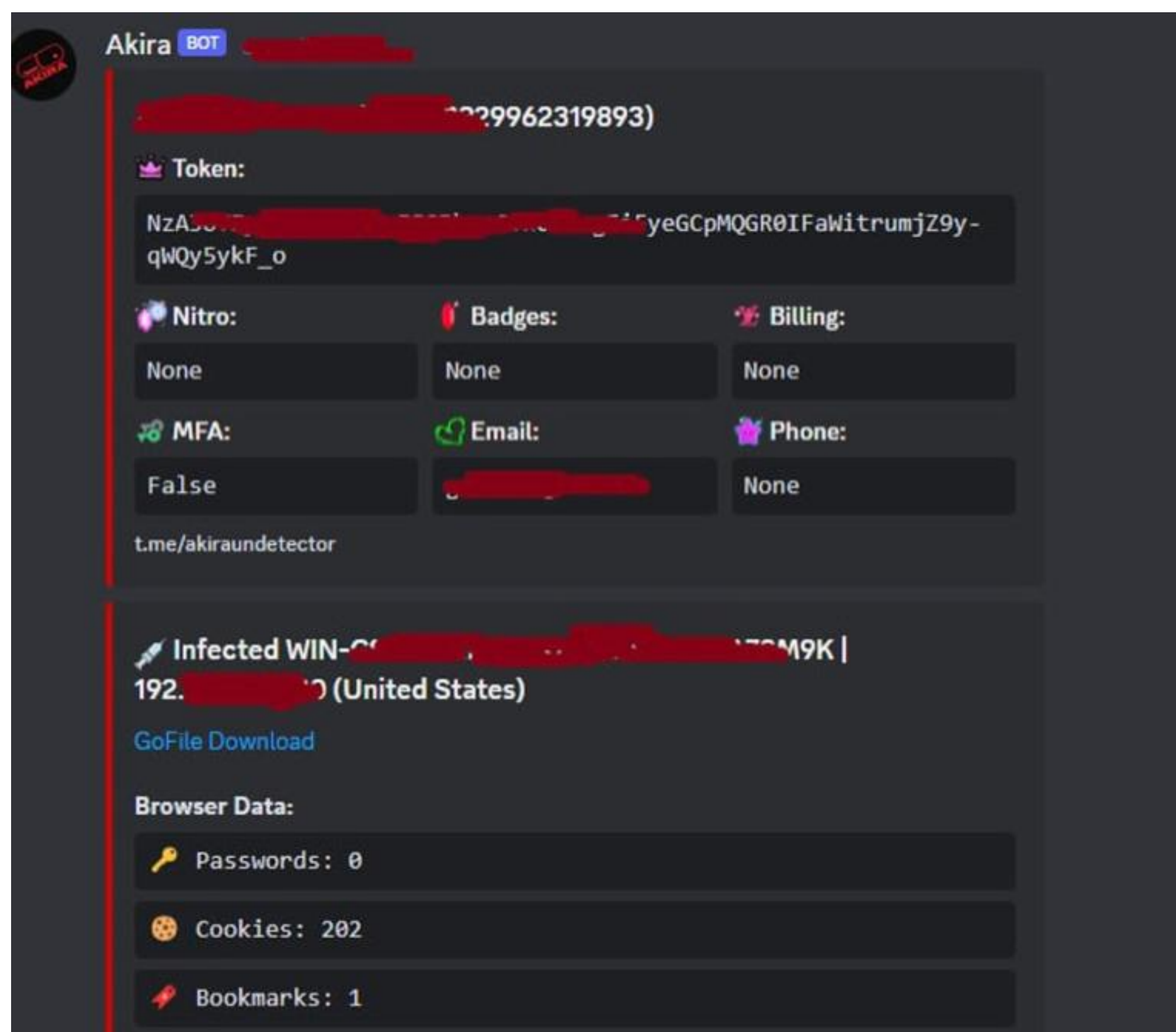
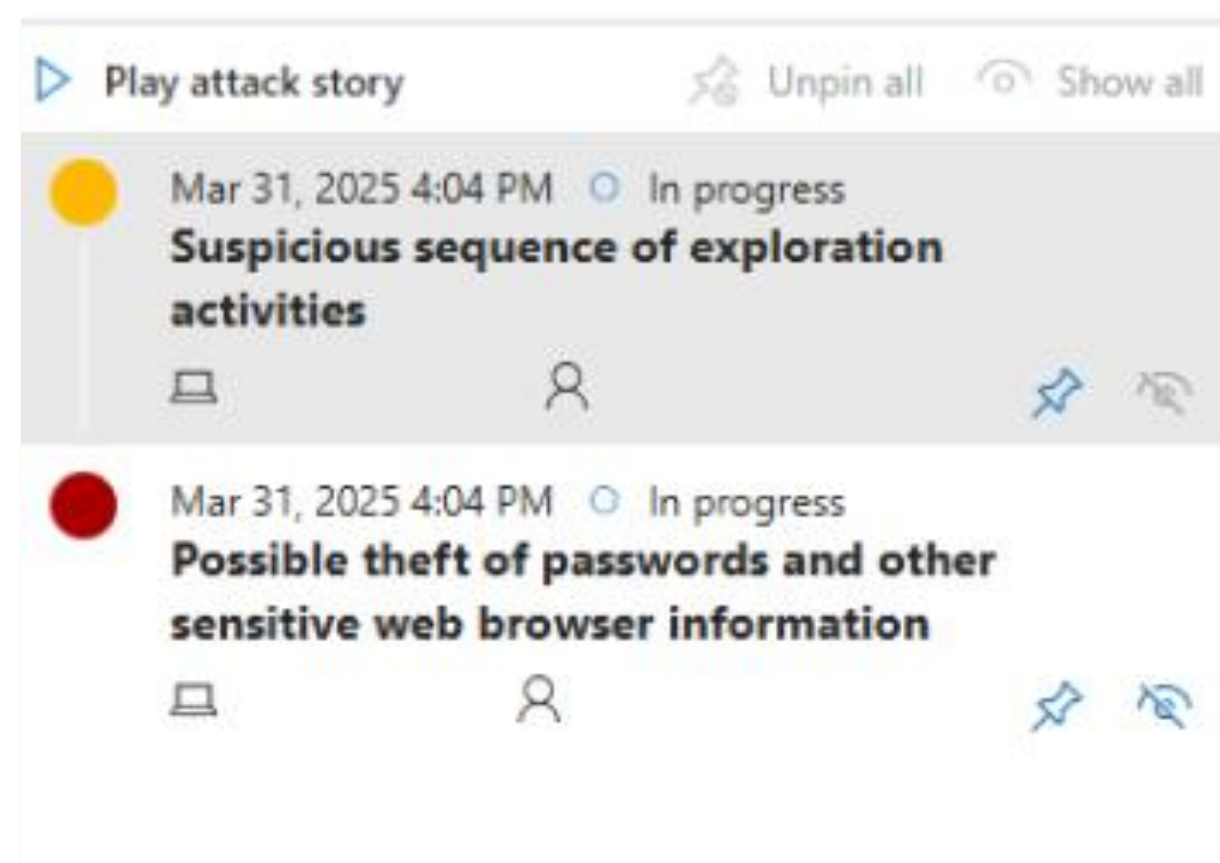
RECOMMENDATIONS
Phishing Incident response playbook
View phishing investigation and response recommended steps for this incident

Open phishing playbook

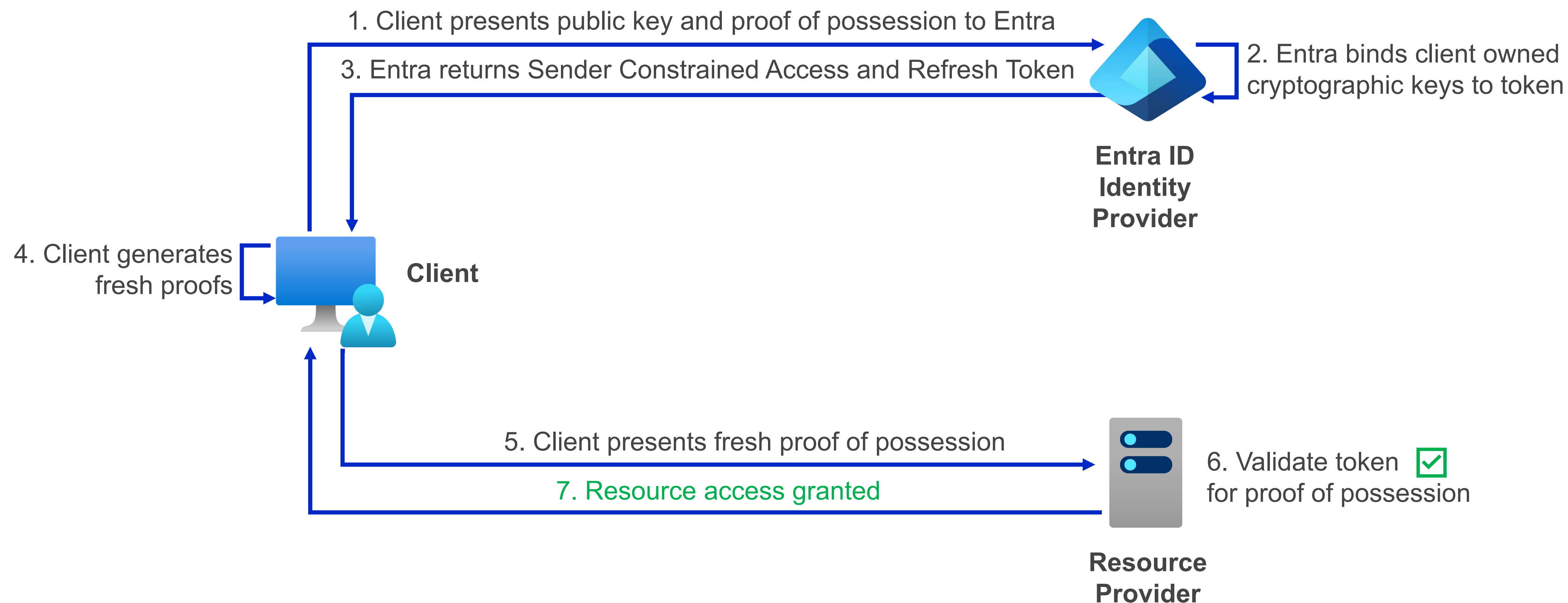
Exfiltrate token from Entra ID-joined device



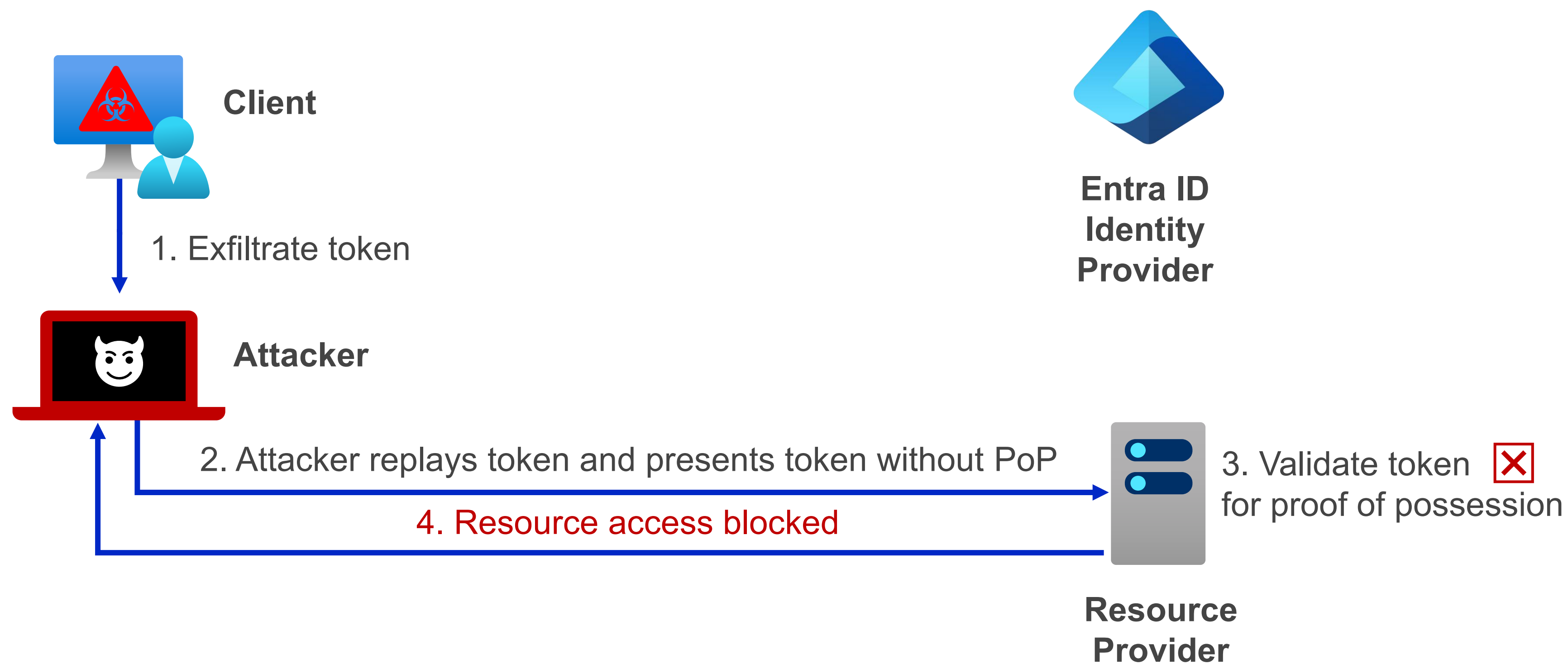
Real world story: Akira Stealer



Mitigation by token binding (proof-of-possession)



Mitigation by token binding (proof-of-possession)



... did you say cookies?



C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.

+

▼

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.4652]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\AdeleVance>dsregcmd /status

Session cookie replay

Using Cookie Bite PoC by Varonis

Victim

Device Name : DESKTOP-1NS51H1

Device Details

DeviceId : 7e27c2f6-3f52-4d90-ac8c-35ad1998dce7
Thumbprint : 1322844BF6D2509EFAF743CC9D84BD70BEBA4E0E
DeviceCertificateValidity : [2025-07-16 08:18:39.000 UTC -- 2035-07-16 08:48:39.000 UTC]
KeyContainerId : 976b97a2-30a5-4c85-89e3-209b8c0cb4f0
KeyProvider : Microsoft Platform Crypto Provider
TpmProtected : YES
DeviceAuthStatus : SUCCESS

Tenant Details

TenantName : C4A8 Ando
TenantId : 19e61dac-ecff-427a-94c0-df49ff2f2331
AuthCodeUrl : https://login.microsoftonline.com/19e61dac-ecff-427a-94c0-df49ff2f2331/oauth2/authorize

16°C
Teilw. sonnig

M365

ENG
DE

08:34
22/07/2025

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.4656]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Thomas>dsregcmd /status

+-----+

Session cookie replay

Using Cookie Bite PoC by Varonis

Attacker

Device Name : clpen2-vm

+-----+
| User State |
+-----+

NgcSet : NO
WorkplaceJoined : NO
WamDefaultSet : NO

+-----+
| SSO State |
+-----+

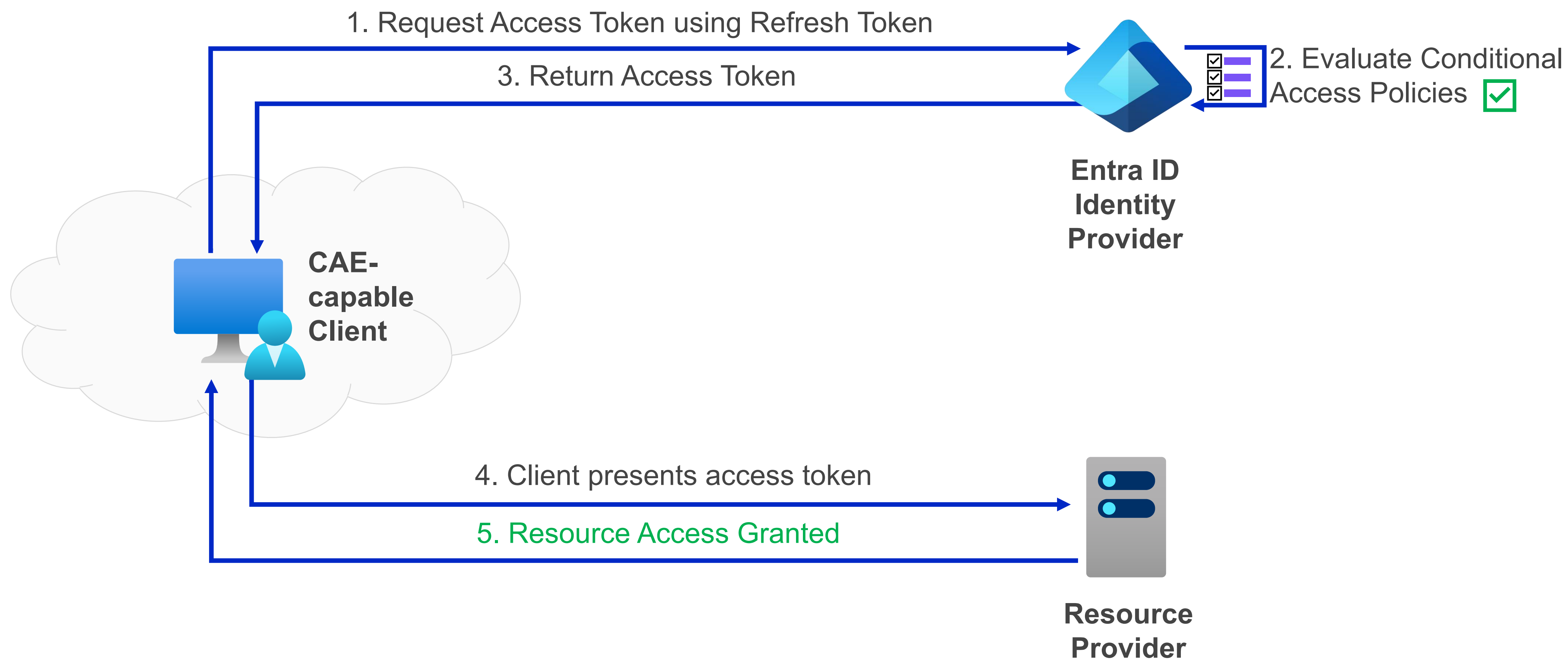
AzureAdPrt : NO
AzureAdPrtAuthority : NO
EnterprisePrt : NO
EnterprisePrtAuthority : NO

+-----+
| IE Proxy Config for Current User |

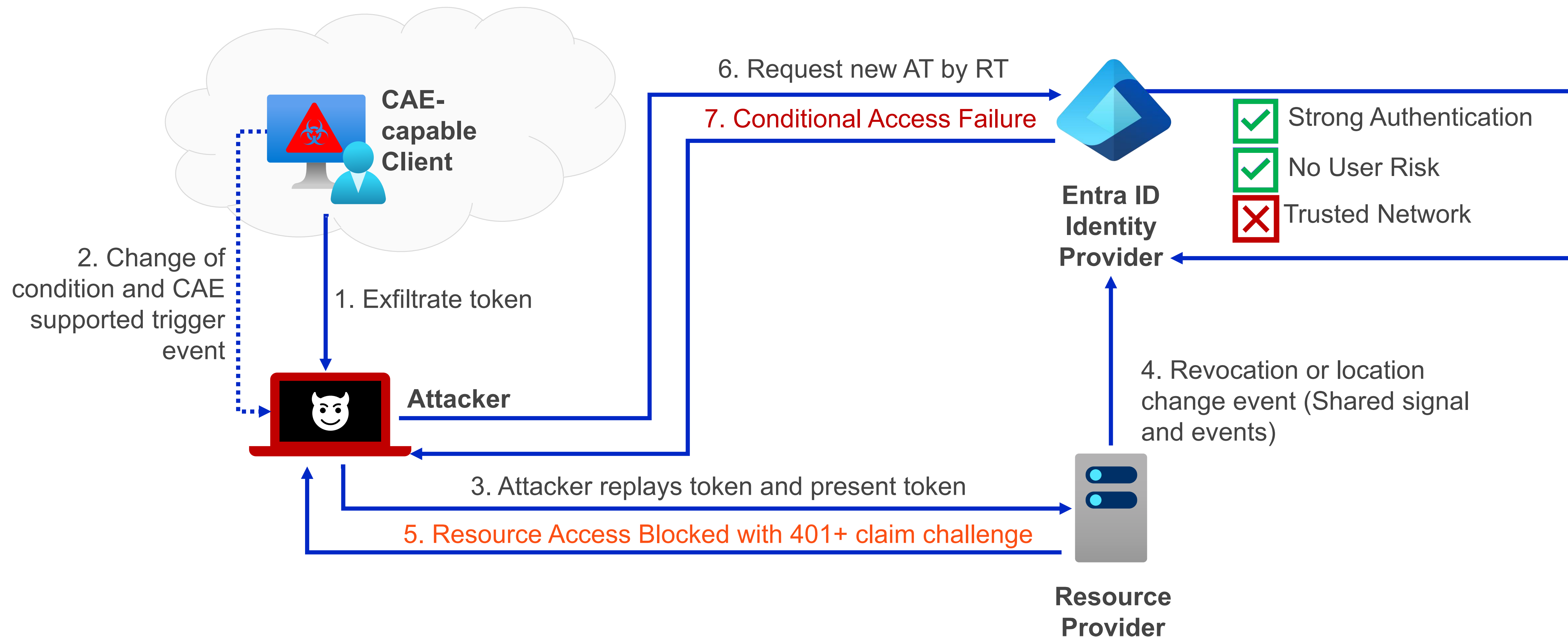
Sign-in logs from victim vs attacker

AppDisplayName	OfficeHome	OfficeHome
ClientAppUsed	Browser	Browser
BrowserDetails	Chrome 138.0.0	Chrome 138.0.0
Location	DE	US
DeviceTrustType	Azure AD joined	Azure AD joined
IsCompliant	true	true
IPAddress	87.163.7.44	132.196.242.136
UserAgent	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)
Grant Controls ↑↓		Grant Controls ↑↓
Result ↑↓		Result ↑↓
Require multifactor authentication		Require multifactor authentication
Success		Success
Require compliant device		Require compliant device
Success		Success

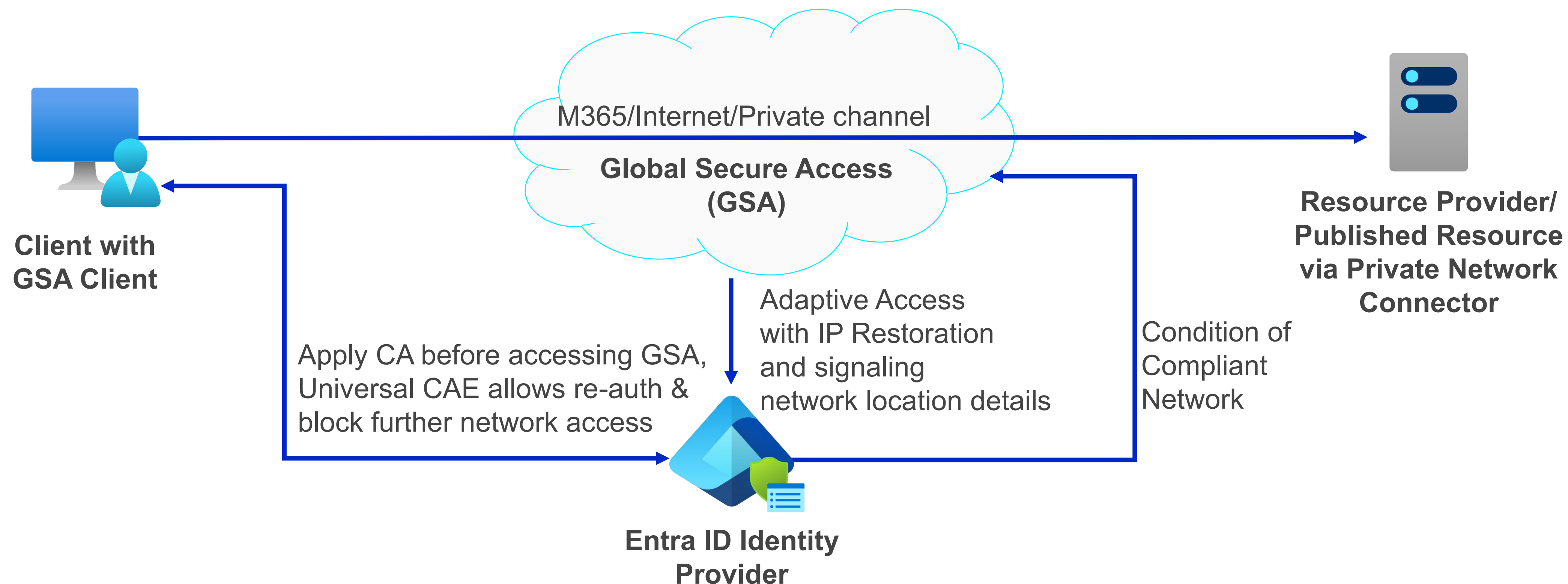
Token acquisition using refresh token



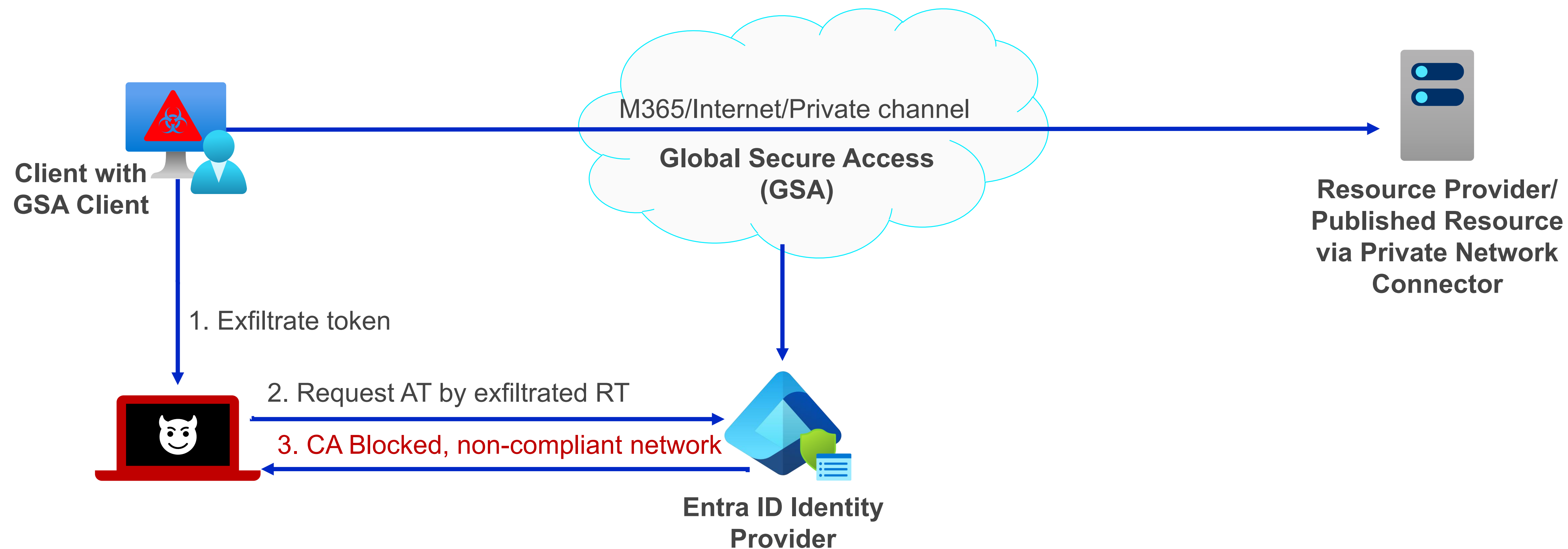
Revoke issued AT (Continuous Access Evaluation)



Mitigation by compliant network (GSA) signal



Mitigation by compliant network (GSA) signal





Abusing privileges of OAuth applications

Change in user consent as part of Microsoft Secure Future Initiative (SFI)

Require admin consent for third-party apps accessing files and sites

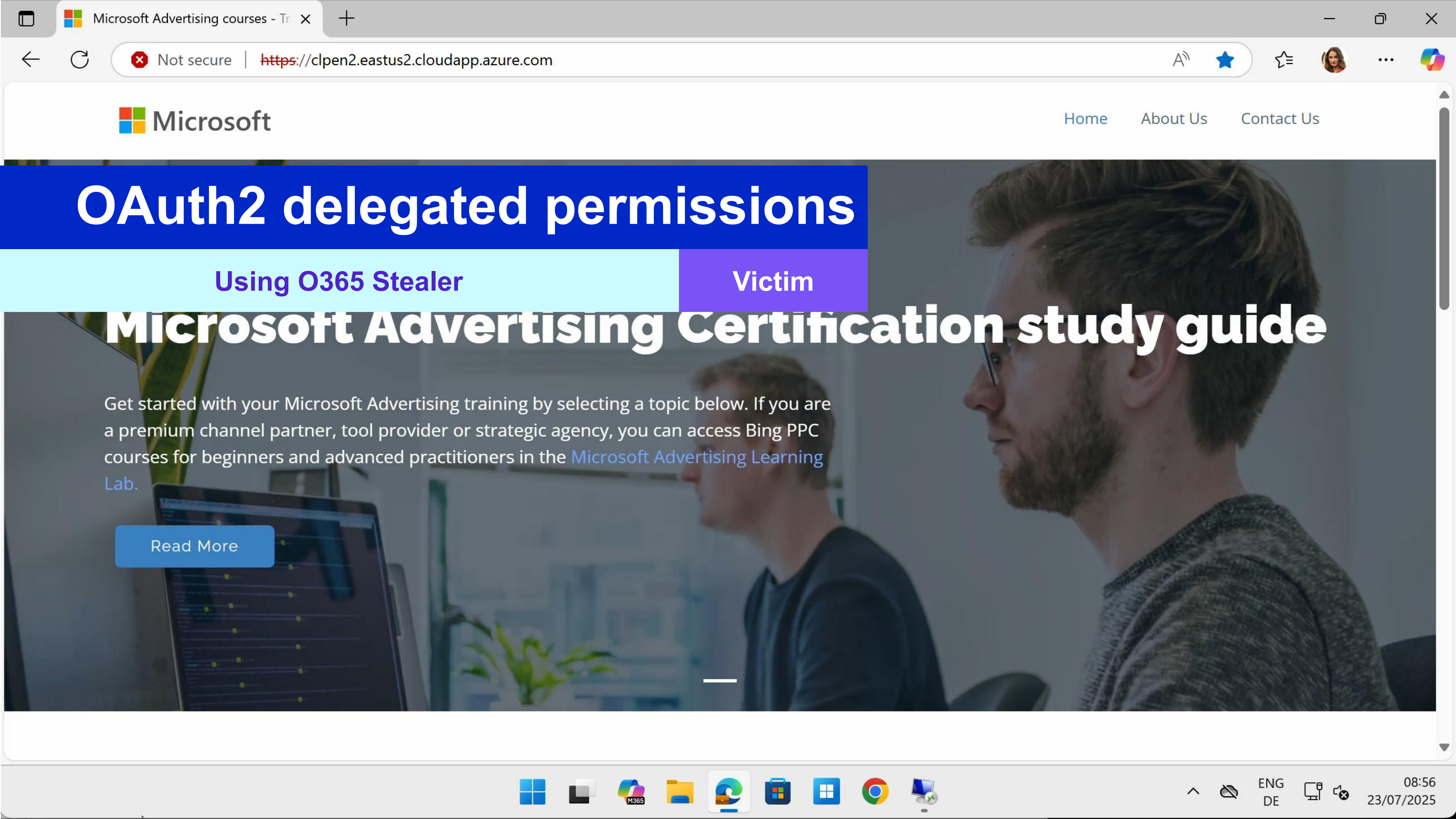
Users allowing third-party apps to access file and site content can lead to overexposure of an organization's content. Requiring admins to consent to this access can help reduce overexposure. With this change, Microsoft managed [App Consent Policies](#) will be enabled, and users will be unable to consent to third party applications accessing their files and sites by default. Instead, they can request administrators to consent on their behalf. To configure admin consent, follow instructions here: [Configuring the Admin Consent workflow](#). Customers who have already blocked user consent, turned on our previously recommended consent settings, or applied custom user consent settings will not be affected by this change. Admins can also configure granular app access policies, such as limiting user access to the application for specific users or groups. Learn more [here](#).

Who has admin consent permissions?

Granting tenant-wide admin consent requires you to sign in as a user that is authorized to consent on behalf of the organization.

To grant tenant-wide admin consent, you need:

- A Microsoft Entra user account with one of the following roles:
 - Privileged Role Administrator, for granting consent for apps requesting any permission, for any API.
 - Cloud Application Administrator or Application Administrator, for granting consent for apps requesting any permission for any API, *except* Microsoft Graph app roles (application permissions).
 - A custom directory role that includes the [permission to grant permissions to applications](#), for the permissions required by the application.



OAuth2 delegated permissions

Using O365 Stealer

Victim

Microsoft Advertising Certification study guide

Get started with your Microsoft Advertising training by selecting a topic below. If you are a premium channel partner, tool provider or strategic agency, you can access Bing PPC courses for beginners and advanced practitioners in the [Microsoft Advertising Learning Lab](#).

Read More



ENG
DE



08:56
23/07/2025

OAuth2 delegated permissions

Using O365 Stealer

Attacker

365-STEALER

Turn On Auto Refresh

365-Stealer Configuration

Run 365-Stealer

Shutdown 365-Stealer

Refresh All User's Data

Index

Folders (1)

Get New Token

Actions

Delete

Disruption of malicious OAuth app created by user

Compromised user account used to create a malicious OAuth application (attack ...

Copilot

Manage incident

Tasks

High

Resolved

u2330@ash.alpineskihouse.co

Critical asset

OAuth App Abuse

Attack Disruption

Attention! Attack disruption initiated a disable app action on a rogue OAuth app. For more details go to the [Action center](#).

Attack story

Alerts (12)

Assets (4)

Investigations (0)

Evidence and Response (17)

Summary

Similar incidents (0)

Play attack story

Unpin all

Show all

Aug 22, 2025 7:42 AM

Resolved

Malicious OAuth application registration by a compromised user

Abbi Montf...

M1cr0s0ft-Conf...

Aug 22, 2025 7:42 AM

Resolved

Suspicious OAuth app registered through Azure CLI or PowerShell

Abbi Montfulleda

Aug 22, 2025 7:42 AM

Resolved

Suspicious OAuth app registration

Abbi Montfulleda

Aug 22, 2025 7:42 AM

Resolved

Risky user updated an app that accessed Email and performed Email activity through Graph API

Abbi Montfulleda

Aug 22, 2025 7:45 AM

Resolved

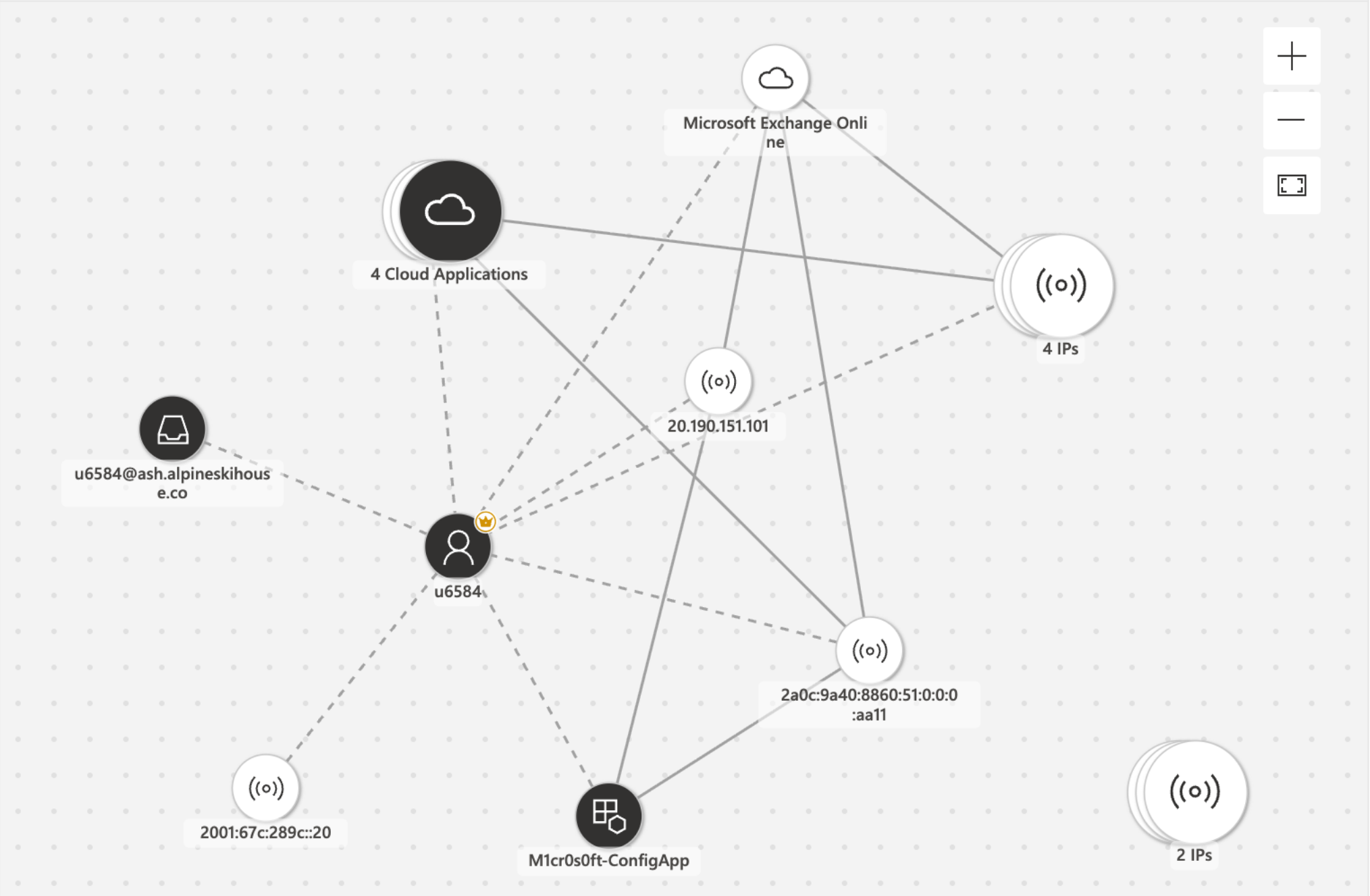
Suspicious inbox rule created by an OAuth app

Abbi Montfulleda

Incident graph

Layout

Group similar nodes



```
graph TD; User((u6584)); Cloud[4 Cloud Applications]; Exchange[Microsoft Exchange Online]; IPs1((4 IPs)); IP1((20.190.151.101)); IP2((2a0c:9a40:8860:51:0:0:aa11)); IP3((2001:67c:289c::20)); App[M1cr0s0ft-ConfigApp]; User -.- Cloud; User -.- Exchange; User -.- IP1; User -.- IP2; User -.- IP3; User -.- App; Cloud -.- Exchange; Cloud -.- IP1; Cloud -.- IP2; Cloud -.- IP3; Cloud -.- App; Exchange -.- IP1; Exchange -.- IP2; Exchange -.- IP3; Exchange -.- App; IP1 -.- IP2; IP1 -.- IP3; IP2 -.- IP3; IP2 -.- App; IP3 -.- App; App -.- IP1; App -.- IP2; App -.- IP3;
```

RELATED THREATS

Activity Profile: OAuth apps used in BEC and phishing

48 impacted assets

View threat analytics report

Threat Overview Profile: Cloud identity abuse

29 impacted assets

View threat analytics report

Incident details

Assigned to

u2330@ash.alpineskihouse.co

Incident ID

18046

Classification

Categories



Mitigation



User Mitigation

Authentication methods and credentials

Advanced policies to protect sensitive access

Zero Trust signals

ITDR and identity security posture

Device compliance and endpoint security

Stronger AD password policy

Restrict use of device code flow

Risk-based Conditional Access Policies

Restrict user consent and enable admin approval

Require device state or compliance in CA baseline

Banned password protection

Restrict access from unmanaged devices by Session Policy

No location-based CA exclusions

Avoid delegation of Application Admin and Ownership

Require TPM for Windows Hello and Secure Enclave for macOS

Adoption of passwordless authentication

Defender for Cloud Apps in combination with Edge MAM

Implement compliant network checks as condition in CA and take benefit of Universal CAE

Track exposed token and session cookies in Exposure Management

Enable Defender EDR capabilities

Require phishing-resistant authentication

Implement authentication context for sensitive actions

Access to cloud apps and on-premises resources by Global Secure Access

Adopt detection and hunting for unusual activities in post-authentication

Device compliance in combination with requiring low machine risk score

User doesn't know their password (SCRIL in AD)

Implement Token Protection for applicable cloud applications

Enable strict enforcement of CAE for applicable applications

Automated incident response playbook to revoke tokens for compromised identities

Windows Enrollment attestation and monitor browser extension in Defender TVM



User Mitigation Foundational

Authentication
methods and
credentials

Advanced policies to
protect sensitive
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Questions?



HYBRID
IDENTITY
PROTECTION
conf25

