

PIMp Your Administration: Strengthening Zero Trust with Entra ID

Klaus Bierschenk

Director Consulting Expert, CGI



How many Entra ID Roles do we have today?

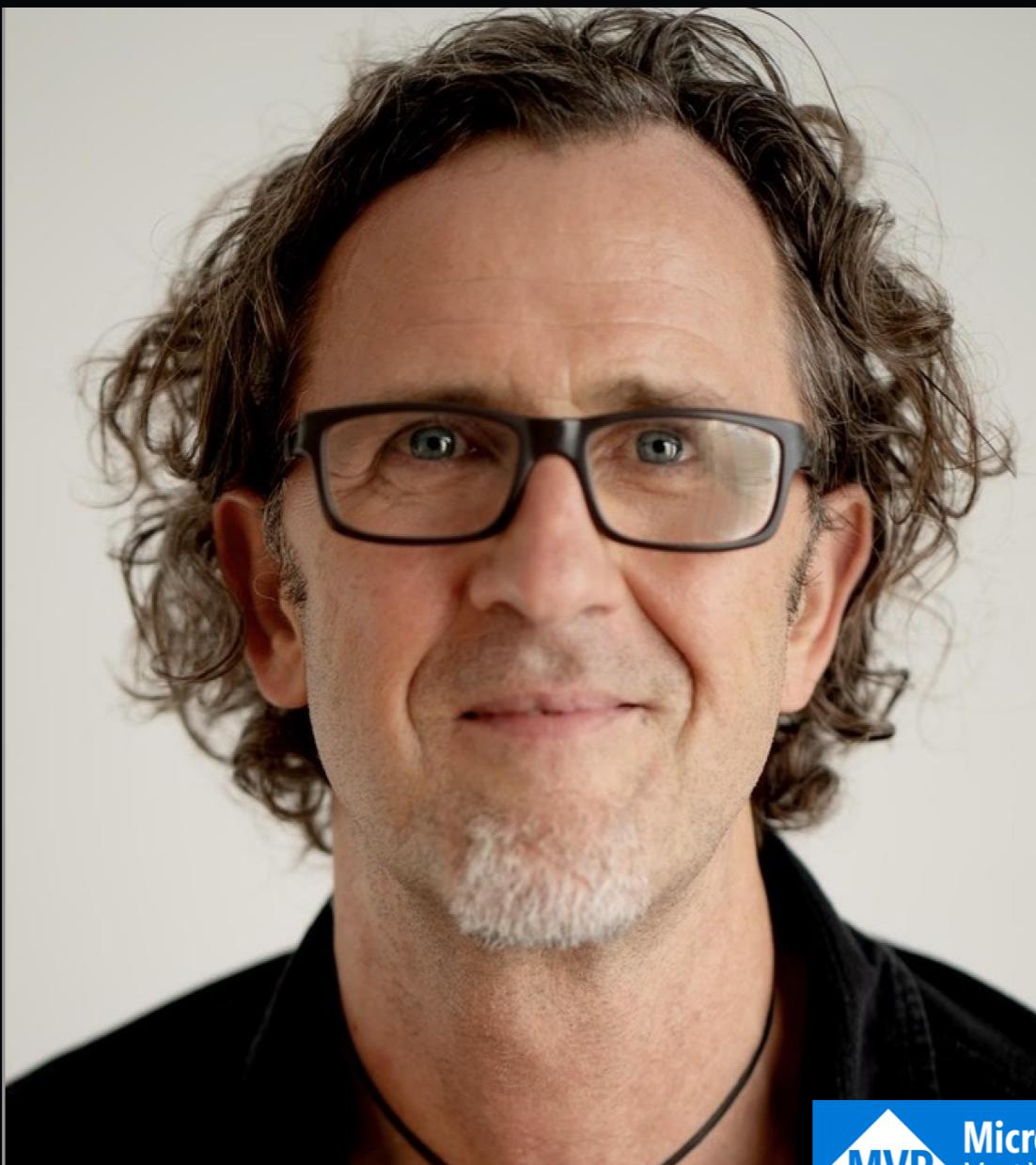
134

How many Azure Roles do we have today?

828

This is why you need PIM for JIT and JEA

Meet the Speaker



Klaus Bierschenk

Director Consulting Expert / CGI Germany

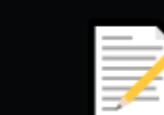
- Based in Murnau, Bavaria
- Living with my Family, two cats, and two snakes
- Mountain lover and Ultrarunner



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Improve Administration – Today's Topics

- ❖ PIM Concepts Explained Using an Example Environment (School)
- ❖ Improve: PIMp Your Administration with Other Technologies
- ❖ PIM for Groups – where does eligibility belong?
- ❖ Key Things You Should Know About PIM





M365
Con

School (or Similar) Environment Model

1 School-wide



Multiple GA configurations



No permanent GAs

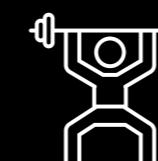


No User Entra Admin Center access

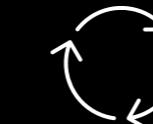


No changes to default roles

2 Class Level Access



Class Admins

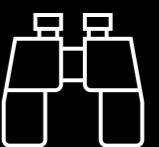


Manual Role Assignment

3 Sensitive Student Support



Protect groups



Monitor sensitive objects



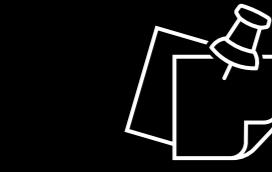
PIM Basic

PIM for Groups

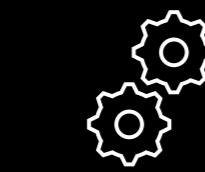
Admin Units

School (or Similar) Environment Model

1 School-wide



Multiple GA configurations



No permanent GAs



No User Entra Admin Center access



No changes to default roles

Use PIM for Groups to manage multiple Global Administrator access

Built-in roles are not be modified

Only Break-Glass Accounts are permanently assigned

End users do not have access to the Entra Admin Center

GA activation is blocked on mobile devices (Conditional Access)



PIM Basic

PIM for Groups

Admin Units

Demo

Tenant Settings

- *Multiple GAs via Groups*
- *Built-in Roles are not modified*
- *Protected Actions*



Edge Datei Bearbeiten Anzeigen Verlauf Favoriten Profil Tab Fenster Hilfe

PIM-GA-ConfigEngineer - Microsoft Edge Conditional Access - Microsoft Edge

https://entra.microsoft.com/#view/Microsoft_AAD_ConditionalAccess/ConditionalAccessBlade/~/Overview/menuId//fromNav/identity

Microsoft Entra admin center Search resources, services, and docs (G+)

Copilot 6 Notifications Settings Help Search

klaus@kbrun.de MAIN IDENTITY LAB (KBCORP20...)

Home > Home > Conditional Access | Overview

Microsoft Entra ID

Overview Policies Deleted Policies (Preview) Insights and reporting Diagnose and solve problems

Getting started Overview Coverage Tutorials

Policy Summary

Manage

Named locations Custom controls (Preview) Terms of use

VPN connectivity Authentication contexts Authentication strengths

Classic policies

Monitoring

Sign-in logs Audit logs

Troubleshooting + Support

New support request

Agent Identities There are 5 agent identities in your tenant See all unprotected sign-ins See all policies protecting agents

Policy Snapshot 7 Enabled 1 Report-only 5 Off View all policies

Devices 1% of sign-ins in the last 7 days were from unmanaged or non-compliant devices See all noncompliant devices See all unmanaged devices

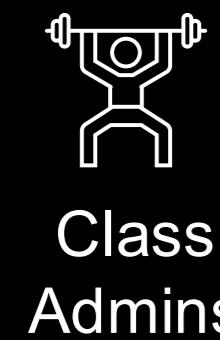
Conditional Access Optimization Agent 0 suggestions View suggestions

Users 3 users signed in during the last 7 days without any policy coverage See all unprotected sign-ins

Applications Browse a list of applications that are not protected by your policies. View top unprotected apps

School (or Similar) Environment Model

2 Class Level Access



Class
Admins



Manual Role
Assignment

Students are assigned using a dynamic membership rule

Class Admins are assigned to Administrative Units manually

Challenge:

Annual admin changes at the end of the school year

AU Admins change every year

Do we handle this manually — or automate it?



PIM Basic

PIM for Groups

Admin Units

Demo

Delegated permissions:

- *AU administration settings*
- *Lifecycle workflows (Example)*





School (or Similar) Environment Model

3 Sensitive Student Support



Control access to groups and objects



Protect
groups



Monitor
sensitive objects

Only specific user should have access - no Global Admins

Alert on changes via simple Alert Rule and Action Group

Blog
alert...

Of course data still needs to be protected
(*Purview, SPO-permissions, etc.*)



PIM Basic

PIM for Groups

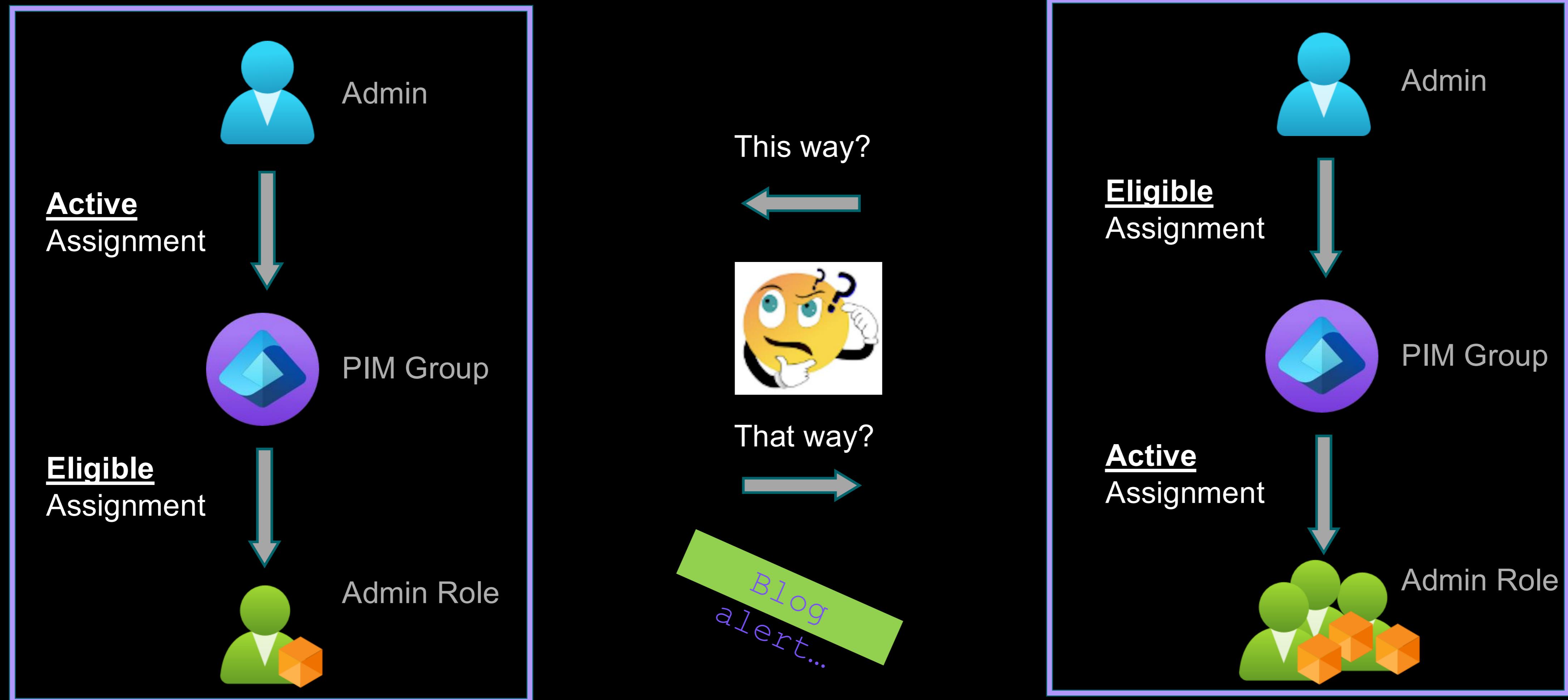
Admin Units

Demo

*Protecting sensitive
objects in Microsoft Entra ID*



PIM for Groups – where does eligibility belong?



Demo

PIM for Groups ...



Home >

Privileged Identity Management | Quick start

Privileged Identity Management

What's new

Get started

Quick start

Tasks

My roles

My requests

Approve requests

Review access

Manage

Microsoft Entra roles

Groups

Azure resources

Activity

My audit history

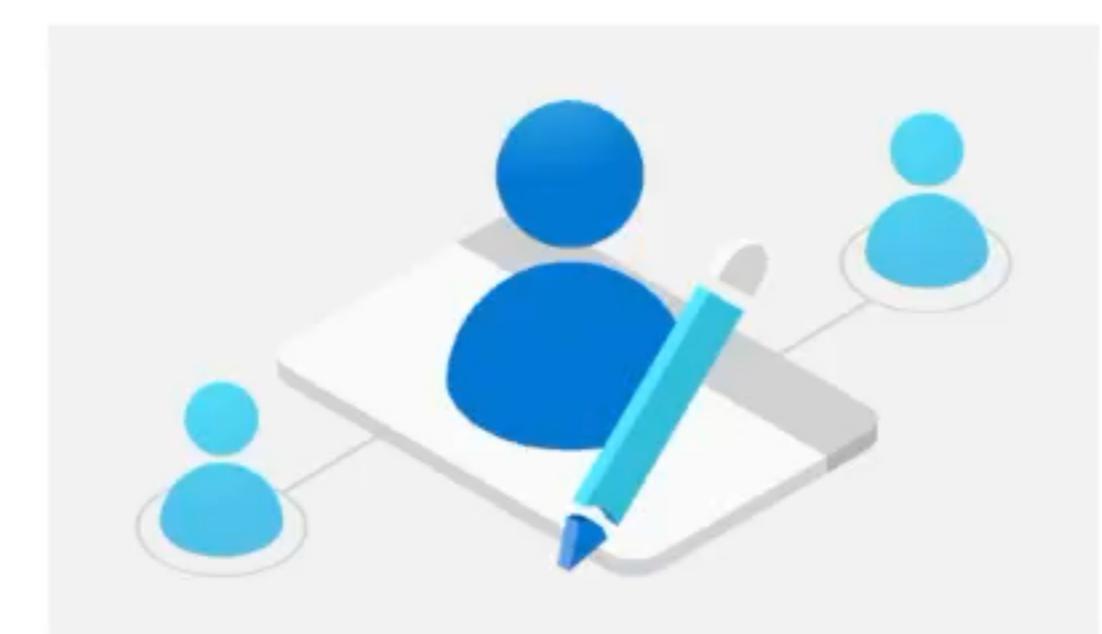
Troubleshooting + Support

Troubleshoot

New support request

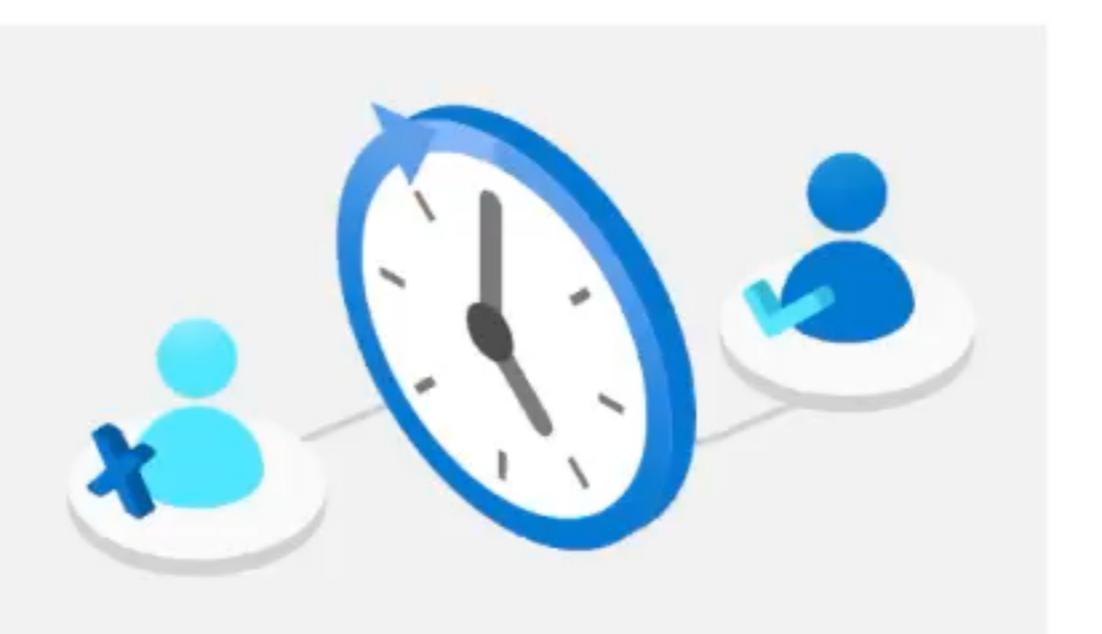
Manage your privileged access

Use Privileged Identity Management to manage the lifecycle of role assignments, enforce just-in-time access policy, and discover who has what roles. [Learn more](#)



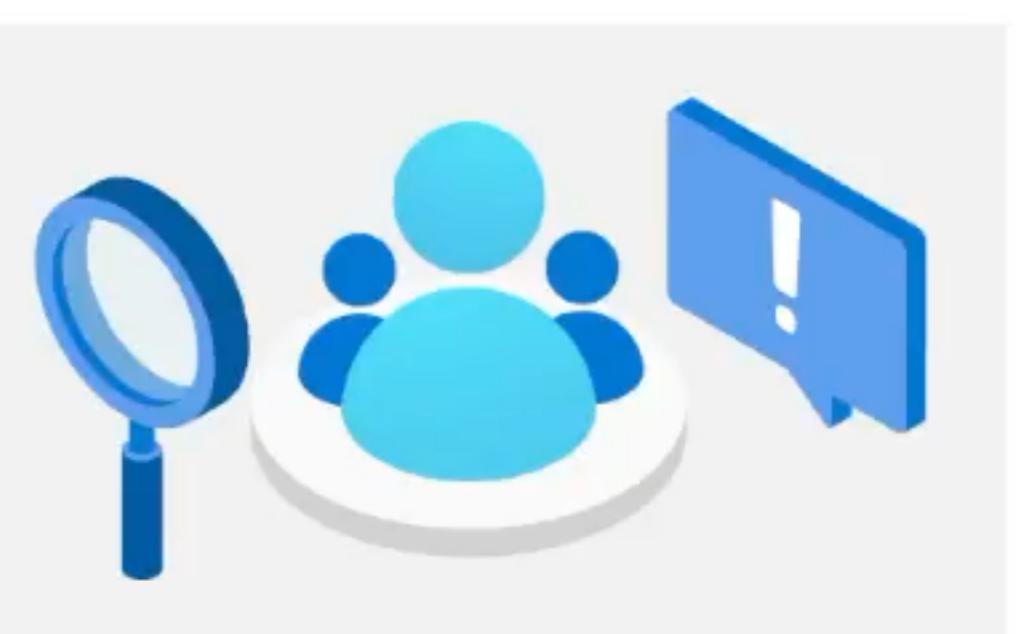
Manage access

Users with excessive access are vulnerable in the event of account compromise. Ensure your organization manages to least privilege by periodically reviewing, renewing, or extending access to resources.

[Manage](#)

Activate just in time

Reduce the potential for lateral movement in the event of account compromise by eliminating persistent access to privileged roles and resources. Enforce just in time access to critical roles with PIM.

[Activate](#)

Discover and monitor

It is common for access to critical resources to go undetected. Ensure you know who has access to what, and receive notifications when new assignments are granted to accounts in your organization.

[Discover](#)

What else? Things You Should Know!

❖ Role activation not visible? Takes too long?

<https://aka.ms/pim/tokenrefresh>

(not officially documented)

❖ Entra Admin Center Access restricted?

→ direct URL through Azure Portal

→ or via Entra Admin Center

both links are in the appendix slide

→ Does not work with Admin Portal Target in Conditional Access Policy

❖ The fastest way: aka.ms/pim

Administration center

[Learn more](#)

Restrict access to Microsoft



Yes

Entra admin center

A Few More Things You Should Know!

- ❖ **No integration with MyAccess.microsoft.com**
(not an Admin Portal Target)
- ❖ **Don't forget licensing**
Users benefiting from PIM must be licensed
- ❖ **Delayed cleanup with PIM groups – cosmetic only**
- ❖ **Auditing**
Role activation: Resource audit
Group activation: Audit logs (**Service=PIM, Category=Group Management**)
- ❖ **Ask Security Copilot ...**



Demo

*Security Copilot
and PIM ...*



Microsoft Entra



Report on ownerless groups and suggest next steps (assign owner / archive). +2

Security Copilot agents are here

Discover a whole new way to automate security with AI.

[Learn more about agents](#)[Go to agents](#)

Richard Langley

6614c641-2c2c-4fa4-af93-01835fc05d77

[View user profile](#)

My role assignments

1

- High privileged role assignments
- Other role assignments

[Manage my roles](#)

Shortcuts

[Add](#)[User sign-ins](#)[Audit logs](#)[Authentication Methods](#)[Blocked users](#)[Domain names](#)

Main Identity LAB

Tenant ID f5c07476-f2f0-45bf-8745-34a90b6a2a...**Primary domain** kbcorp2021.onmicrosoft.com

61

[View users](#)

55

[View groups](#)

24

[View devices](#)

34

[View apps](#)

Users at high risk

No detections found

No user detections with risk level "high" in the last 365 days.

[View high risk users](#)

Copilot

Use Copilot to support your work in identity and access management.

Select one of the suggestions below to get started.

Summarize

Report on ownerless groups and suggest next steps (assign owner / archive).

Analyze

List all apps with expiring credentials.

Troubleshoot

List devices that have been inactive for over 30 days for an audit review.

Learn

What is the guest invite setting in my tenant?



Wrap up - takeaway

- ❖ JIT and JEA on a group-to-role basis (1:1 or 1:n relationships)
- ❖ Administrative Units + PIM for Groups enable real-world delegation models
- ❖ Full automation of admin roles is intentionally limited – but governance fills the gap



Further Resources ...



Microsoft Learn

[Licensing Infos](#)

[Use Microsoft Entra groups to manage role assignments](#)

[Restricted management administrative units in Microsoft Entra ID](#)



Best Practices & Community

[Restricted management administrative units in Microsoft Entra ID](#)

[custom activation is not working in PIM -> Tokenrefresh](#)

[Direkt URL thru Azure Portal](#)

[Direct URL thru Entra Portal](#)



NothingButCloud Blog

[Zero Trust in Entra ID: Monitoring Break-Glass Accounts and Other Sensitive Operations](#)

[Demystifying Assignment Strategies with 'PIM for Groups'](#)

[When Static Roles Are Not Enough: Dynamic Admin Assignment for Entra AUs \(class admin demo\)](#)

<https://github.com/KlaBier/Powershell/tree/main/CreateSecCopilotSCU>



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Thank you 

Questions?

