



SECURE ENVIRONMENT ROADMAP

In today's environment, it is imperative to understand what security measures you are currently taking to prevent attacks on your systems and to know what you should be doing to decrease your vulnerability.

With so many different options being flooded in the market, it can be hard to know what products can help you with what.



Interlink Cloud Advisors solicited input from their clients on what security tools they had deployed and in what order. From that data, we developed a summary of the layered security offerings that are available to you from Microsoft. From basic security to advanced protection, you can now understand the layers necessary to ensure that your environment stays safe. We encourage our clients to always be adding new levels of protection to keep ahead of threats.



+100 Level

Microsoft blocks approximately 4.5 million new malware files every day across its global ecosystem¹

Endpoint Protection (Centrally Managed AV)	Defender for Endpoint Plan 1
Up-to-Date Firewall with Monitoring	Windows Defender Firewall (managed by Intune)
Complex Password Policies	AD Enforced, Entra Password Protection
Automated Patching (Operating System)	Intune + Azure Update Manager
Deep Email Scanning/Safe Link Rewrite	Defender for Office 365 Plan 1
Device Management	Intune/Group Policy
Multi-Factor Authentication for Cloud & Remote Access	Entra ID Plan 1 Conditional Access
End User Security Awareness Training	Threat Simulator (Defender for Office 365 Plan 2)
Mandatory Device Encryption	Bit Locker (Windows Enterprise + Intune)

+200 Level

Identity-based attacks surged by 32% in early 2025 with over 97% exploiting passwords rather than modern authentication¹

Enterprise Single Sign on for all Applications	Entra ID Plan 1
Device Compliance Policies integrated with MFA	Intune + Entra ID Plan 1
Outbound Email Encryption	Microsoft 365 Message Encryption
Email Data Loss Prevention	Purview Data Loss Prevention (E3)
Extended Detection and Response (XDR) across Devices, Identity, Email, Cloud	Defender Suite
Shadow IT/AI Detection	Defender for Cloud Apps
Passwordless SSO for End Users	Windows Hello for Business
MFA for On-Premise Admin Accounts	AD Certificate Services + SmartCards
Secure Organization Data on BYOD	Intune Mobile Application Management Policies
Risk Based Conditional Access	Entra ID Plan 2 (part of Defender Suite)
Manual Application of Sensitivity Labels	Purview Information Protection (E3)
Access Management for Cloud Admin Accounts	Entra Privileged Identity Management
Basic Data Governance	Purview Data Lifecycle Manager - Global Policies

¹Microsoft Digital Defense Report (2025)

²Microsoft Data Security Index Report (2026)

+ 300 Level

32% of surveyed organizations data security incidents involve use of GenAI tools²

Endpoint Data Loss Protection	Purview Data Loss Prevention (E5)
Regular Elevated Permissions Auditing	Entra ID Plan 2 Access Reviews
Automated Data Classification and Sensitivity Labels	Purview Information Protection (E5)
Protect and Govern 3rd Party SaaS/AI Applications	Defender for Cloud Apps
Local Admin Access Control	Intune Endpoint Privilege Management
Centralized Security Operations and Incident Response (SIEM + SOAR + SOC + MDR)	Sentinel + Ontinue
Define, Detect & Act on Insider Risk	Purview Insider Risk Management
Protection for Storage, SQL Instances & Containers	Defender for Cloud
Secure Service Edge/Zero-Trust Network Access	Entra Private Access
AI Monitoring and Data Governance	SharePoint Advanced Management + Purview Data Security
Compliance Tracking and Enforcement (NIST, HIPAA, etc.)	Purview Compliance Manager
Vulnerability Management and Attack Surface	Defender for Endpoint P2/Business/Servers + Intune Enterprise App Management
Agent Governance and Management	Agent 365

+ 400 Level

More than 50% of cyberattacks in 2025 had financial motives such as extortion or ransom¹

Threat Activity Monitoring & Alerting	Defender Threat Intelligence
Server Protection & JIT Server Admin	Defender for Cloud
Cloud Activity Monitoring & Alerting	Defender for Cloud
Automated Access Reviews for Administration & Sensitive Data	Entra ID Plan 2
Enterprise Identity Automation and Governance	Entra Suite/Entra ID Governance
PII & Privacy Management	Priva
Application Control	AppLocker & Windows Defender Application Control
AI Powered Security and Threat Protection	Security Copilot
Data Curation and Cataloging	Purview Data Lifecycle Manager + Purview Data Map

¹Microsoft Digital Defense Report (2025)

²Microsoft Data Security Index Report (2026)