

Zero Trust: Identity and Access Management Paves the Way

People have been talking about zero trust ever since [Forrester introduced the term](#) back in 2010—but adopting zero trust has never felt as urgent as it does now. As organizations pursue more digital projects, adapt to a workforce that works both on-site and remotely, and explore new possibilities in the cloud, the idea of [zero trust](#) is central to IT security today. That includes in government, as evidenced by its inclusion in a White House [executive order](#). Identity—the very notion of who can be trusted and with what—is central to zero trust. As you contemplate the role of zero trust in your security strategy, keep the following fundamentals in mind.

Zero trust is about the right level of trust

The name suggests having no trust, but it is more specifically about not assuming trust unless there is a clear basis for trust—even inside an organization’s network perimeter. In that sense, zero trust means establishing the right level of trust, whether in a user or a device, before allowing access to resources. The level of trust required will differ depending on who or what wants to be trusted with access, what they want access to and other factors—all of which will change as the access environment and context change.

Zero trust is an ongoing endeavor

Zero trust isn’t a technology or a product; it’s a mindset. Employing the principles of zero trust is therefore an ongoing endeavor, not a one-and-done deployment. Zero trust is about thinking of trust as something to be established continuously, through a process of dynamic decision-making that is constantly informed by changing context and risk.

Zero trust is in the details (defined by NIST)

NIST has defined seven tenets of zero trust as part of its [zero trust architecture](#). Adhering to these tenets requires attention to a multitude of detailed tasks in the service of key goals: securing all communications regardless of location, granting access on a per-session basis and determining access by dynamic policy. Multiple components of identity and access management—including a policy engine, policy administrator and policy enforcement informed by data access policy—are essential to realizing these goals.

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SecurID: Assembling key components of zero trust

SecurID offers the requisite identity and access management capabilities needed to address NIST's tenets of zero trust, with:

Role- and attribute-based access, conditional access and risk-based analytics—all fundamental to establishing a policy engine and policy decision point as required by NIST

The ability to act as policy administrator, with **a range of authentication methods** to determine access when requested at the policy enforcement point

Governance and lifecycle capabilities that provide the foundation for **governance-focused and visibility-driven authorization** of access to resources

Integration with identity systems such as Microsoft Active Directory (AD) and cloud-based Azure AD and Amazon Web Services (AWS) AD to integrate identities with the policies, administration and methods required by a zero trust architecture

[Learn more](#) about how SecurID addresses the IAM challenges zero trust presents, with comprehensive capabilities from authentication to identity governance and lifecycle.

About SecurID

SecurID, an RSA business, is the trusted identity platform for 13,000 organizations around the world, managing 50 million identities and providing secure, convenient access to 30 million users. SecurID empowers organizations to thrive in a digital world, with complete capabilities for modern authentication, lifecycle management and identity governance. Whether in the cloud or on-premises, SecurID connects people with the digital resources they depend on everywhere they live, work and play. For more information, go to securid.com.