

# Tips to Implement MFA for Your SAP Applications

**John Mortimer**, Consultant, CyberSafe

SAPinsider  
Las Vegas

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**2023**



## In This Session

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Why we need MFA

Where you need to use it

How to implement it in an SAP landscape

# Speaker

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Security Consultant

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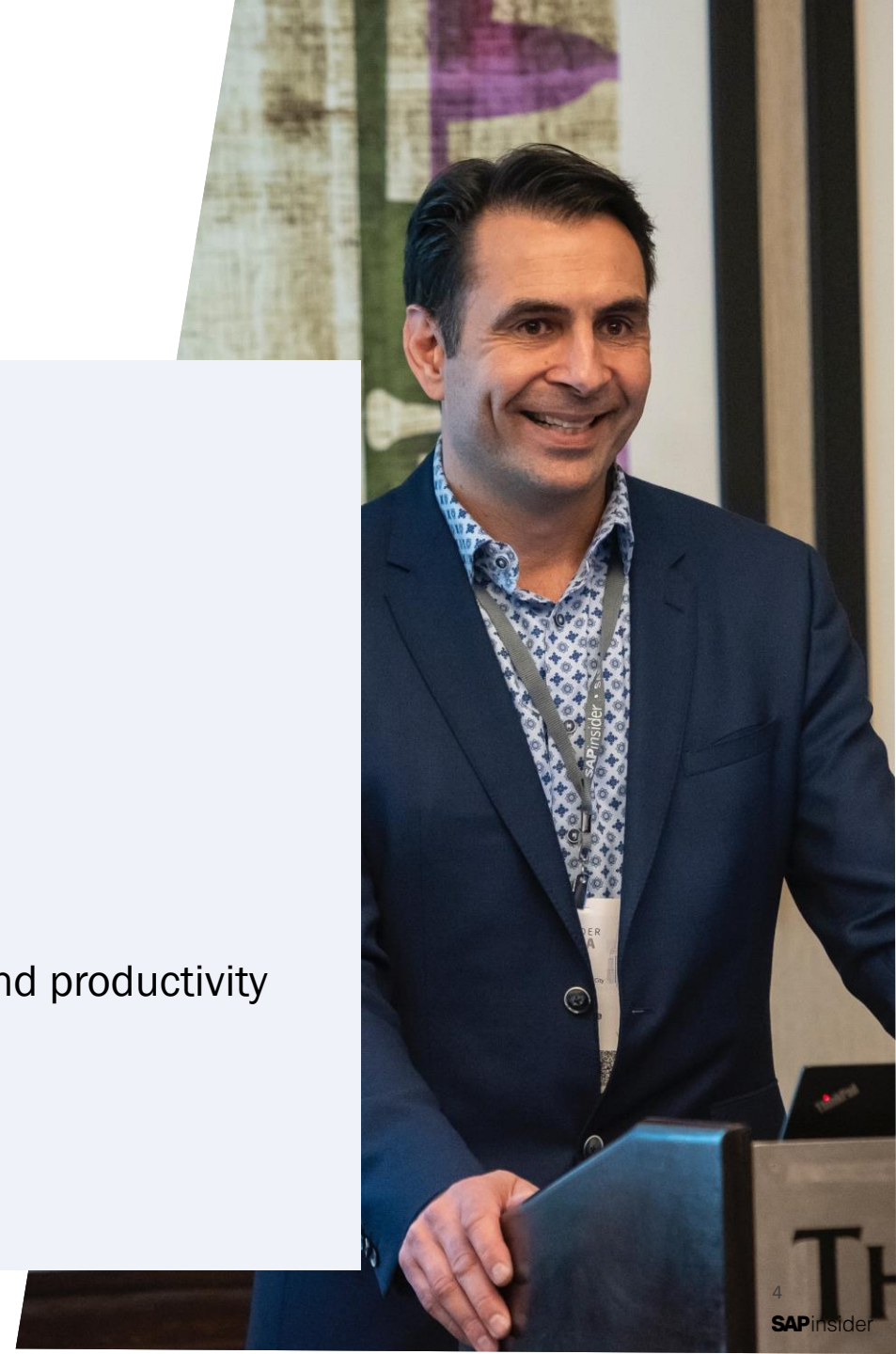




# What We'll Cover

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- About CyberSafe
- The SAP Security Challenge
- Top Security Mistakes in SAP environments
  - Password Issues
  - Weak user access controls
- Zero Trust
- MFA - The pros and cons
- How to use SSO with MFA to maximize security and productivity
- Wrap up



# About CyberSafe

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SAP® PartnerEdge Partner  
SAP Certified products



29+ years  
experience



TrustBroker® products  
used for flexible SAP  
user authentication  
(SSO and MFA)



Enterprise customers  
worldwide  
from 5-100,000 users

# The SAP Security Challenge

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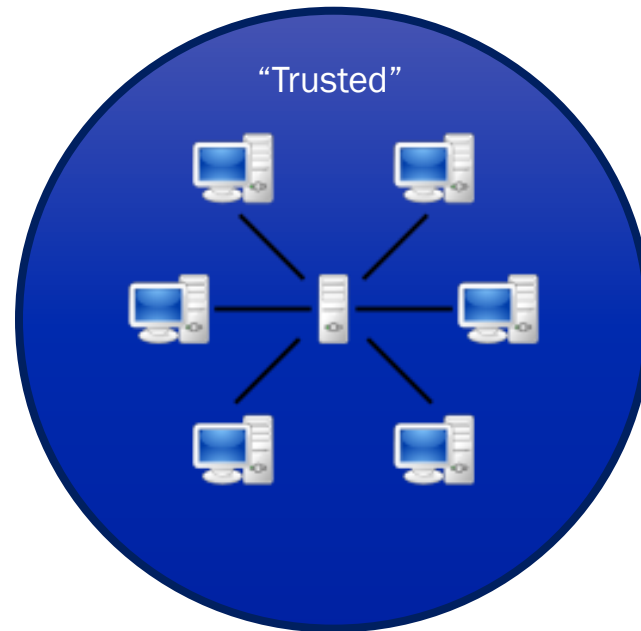
# The SAP Security Challenge

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- SAP systems often hold the company's most valuable data
- Traditionally, SAP products were not fully integrated with enterprise security
- SAP systems are now fully connected to the Internet and vulnerable to outside attacks.

# Traditional Network Security

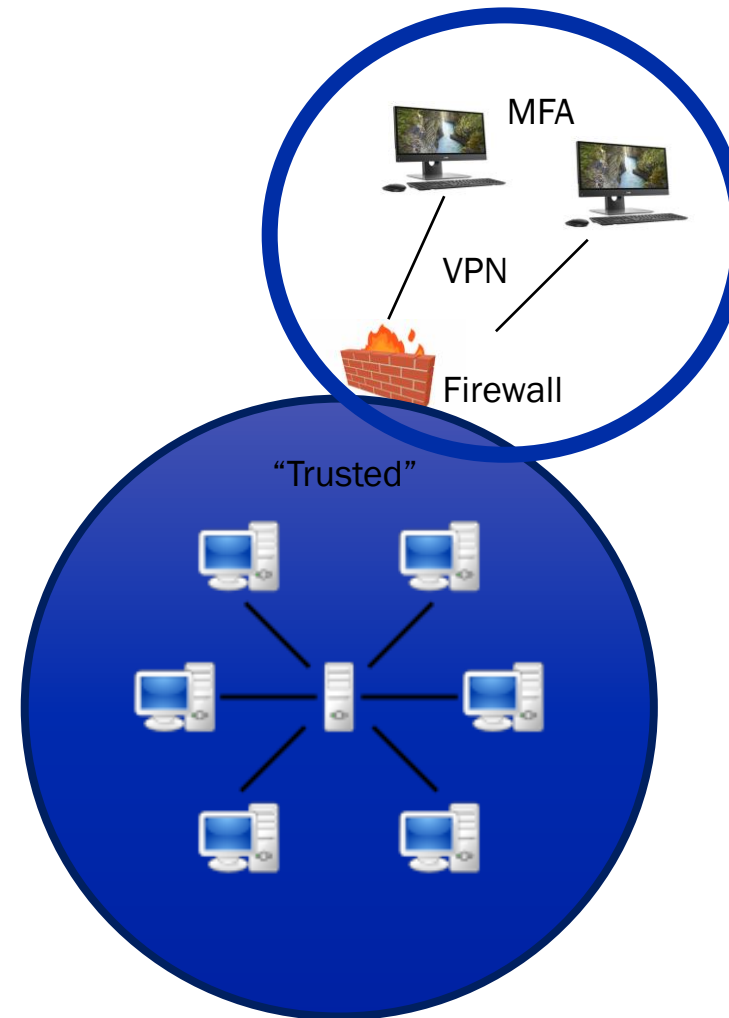
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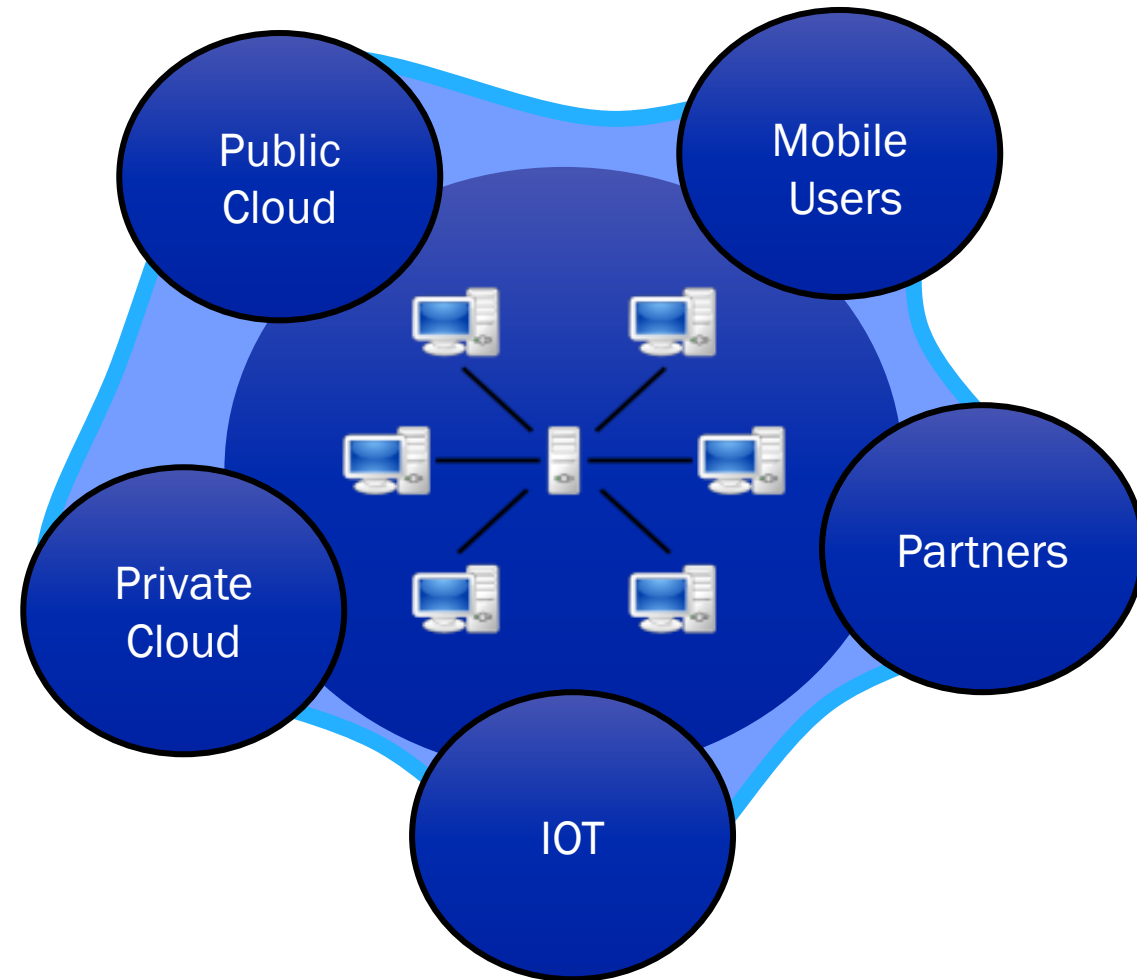
# Perimeter Based Security

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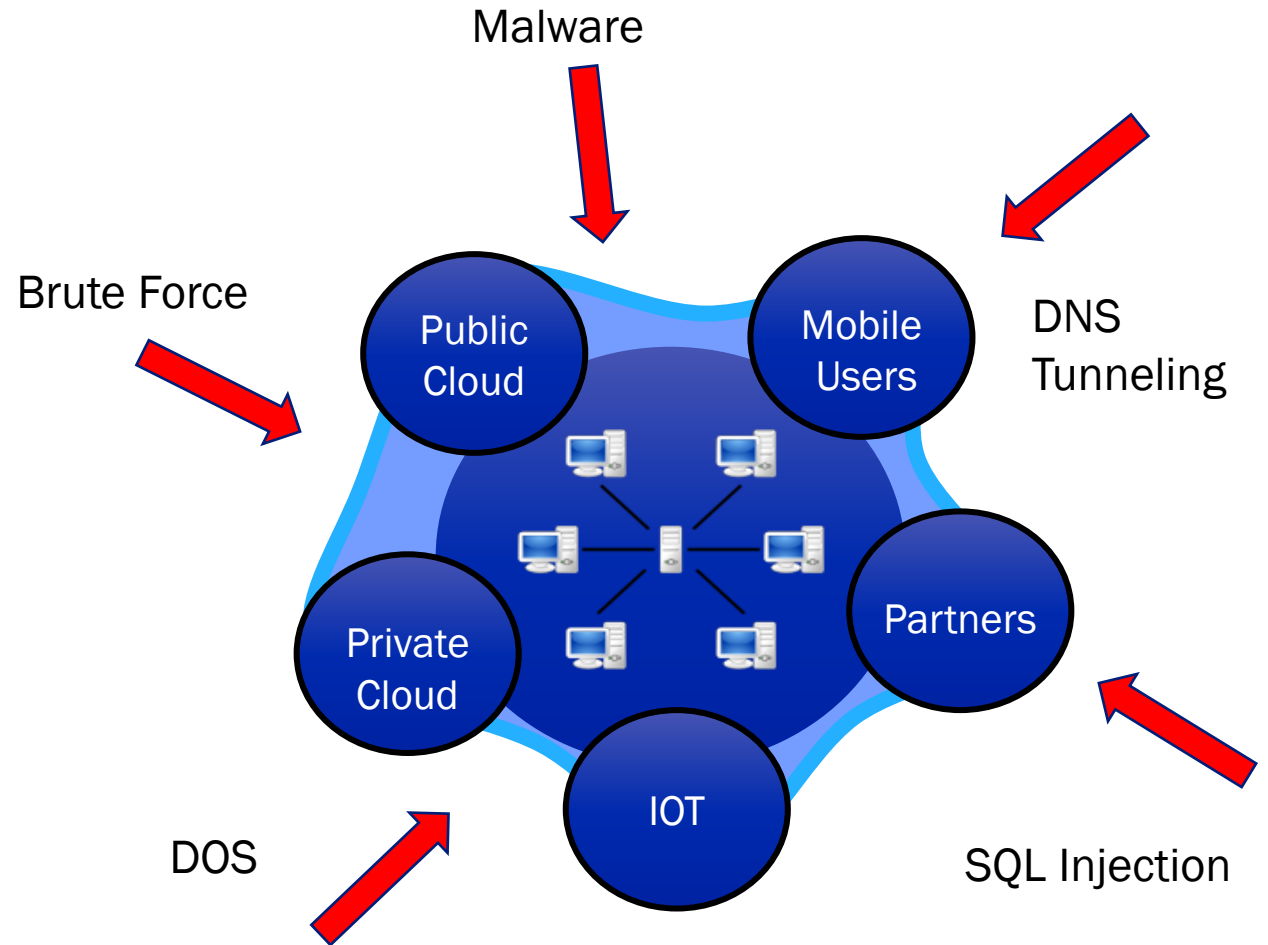
# Where is the new perimeter?

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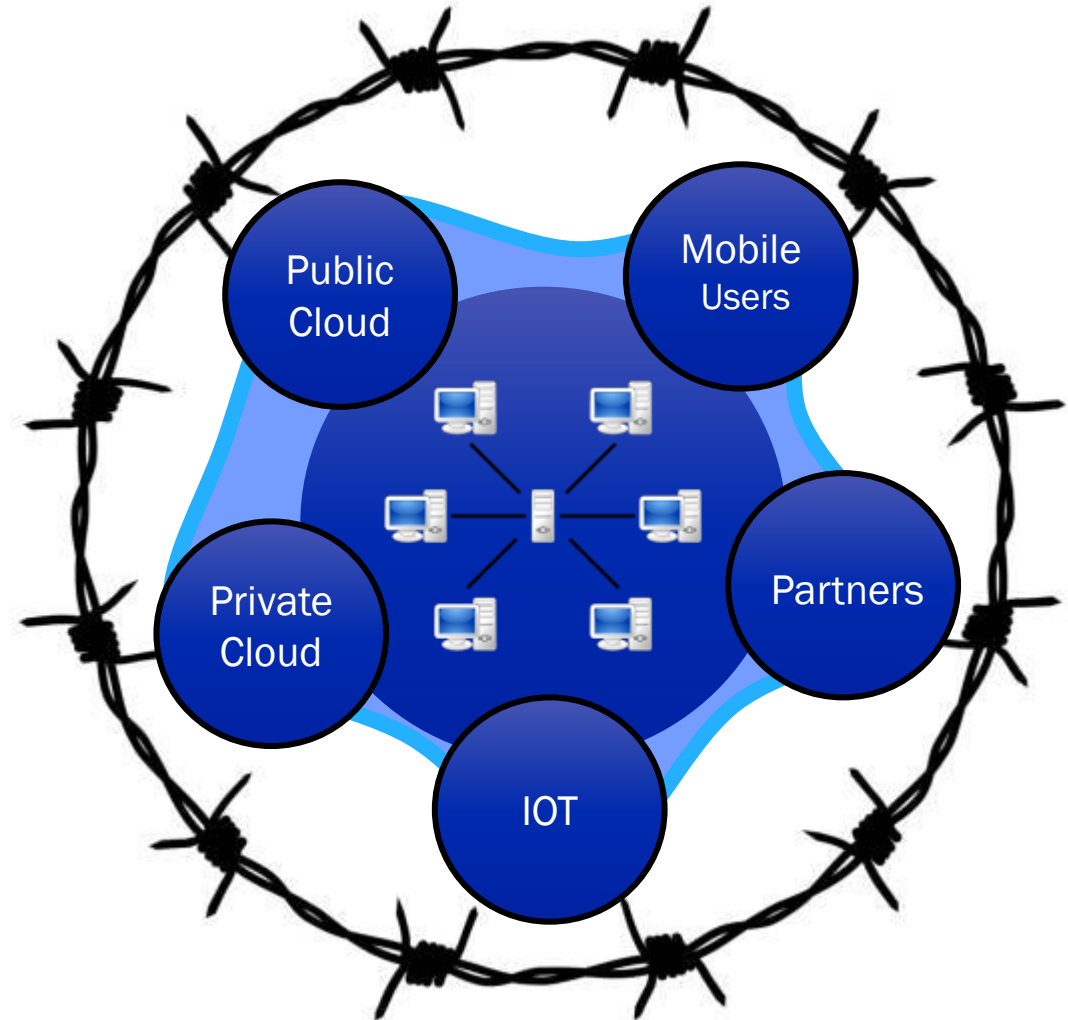
# What is an Outsider Attack?

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# Outsider attack prevention

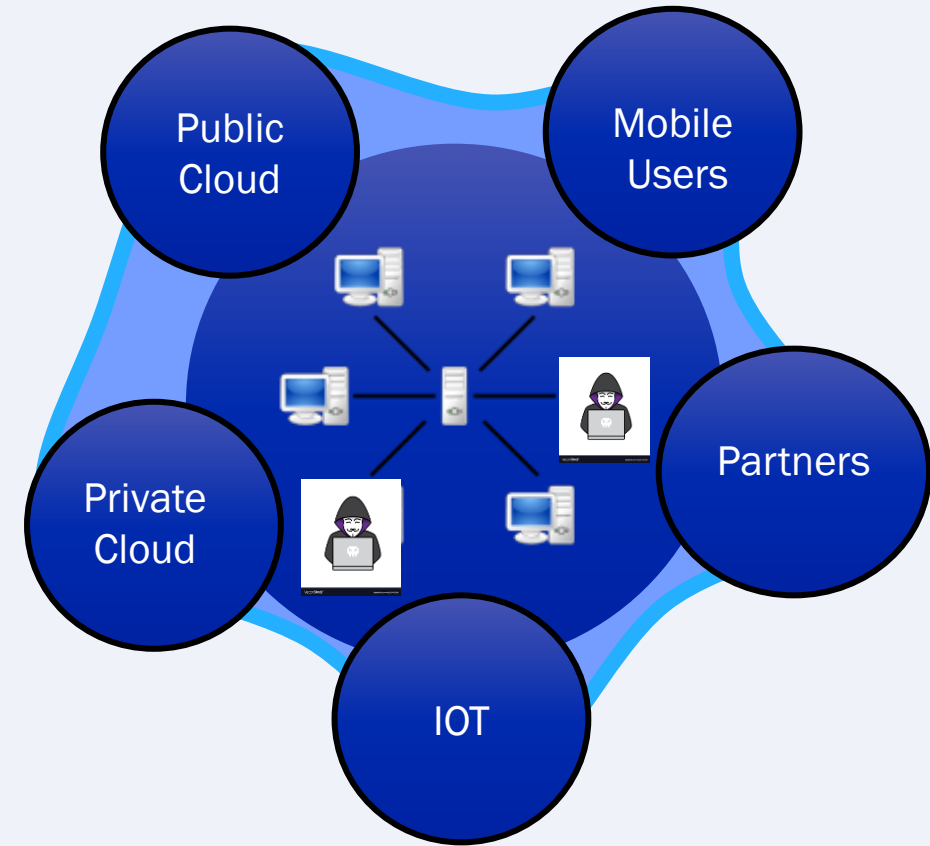
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# Insider Attacks

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A malicious attack on an organization comes from people within the organization (such as employees, former employees, contractors or business associates) who have inside information concerning the organization's security practices, data and computer systems.



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insider\\_threat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insider_threat)



# 33% of all data breaches are Insider Attacks

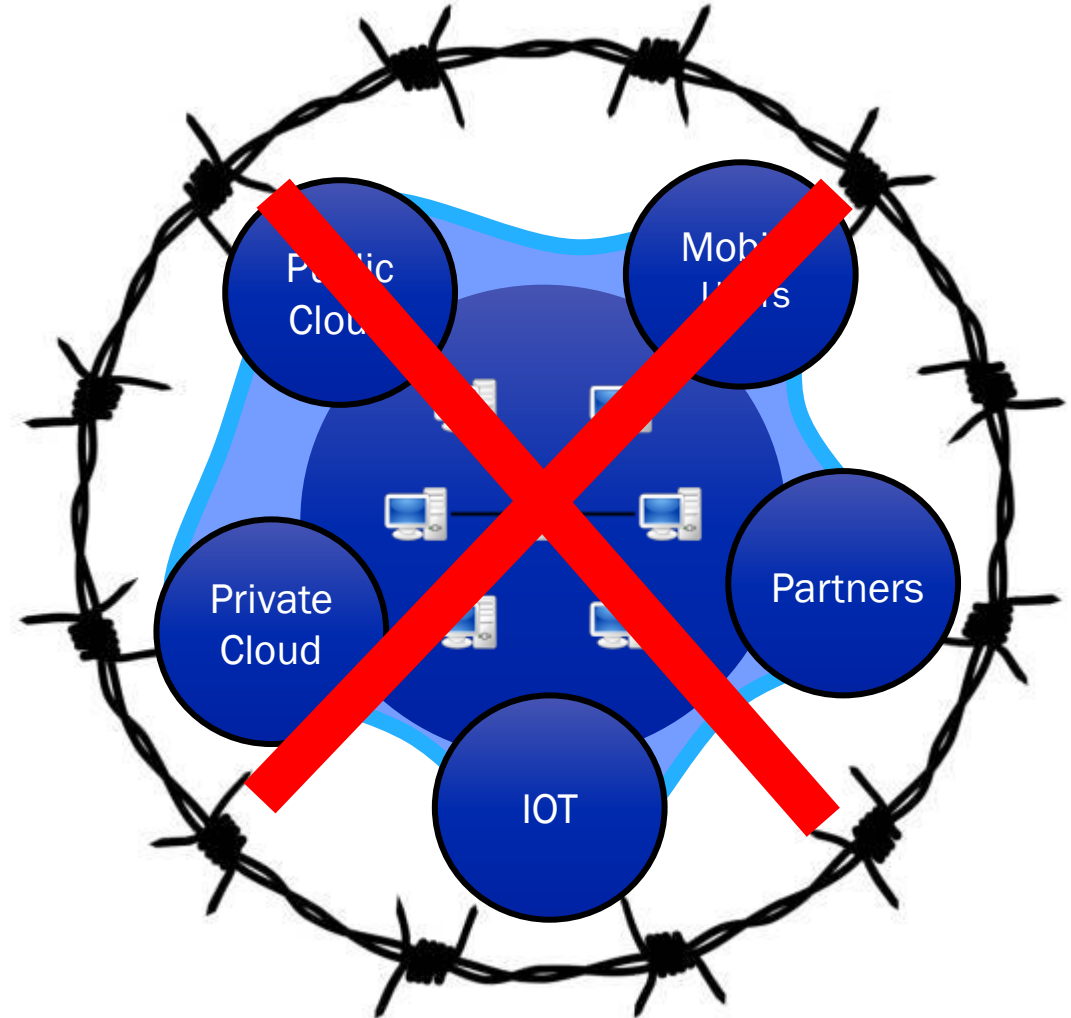
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- **Negligent insiders**, or employees or contractors who make mistakes that unintentionally cause incidents.
- **Criminal and malicious insiders**, or those who intentionally cause damage to an organization from the inside.
- **Infiltrators/Credential thieves**, or those who target insiders' login information to gain unauthorized access to applications and systems.

Infiltrators/credential thieves cause the most damage, costing organizations an average of nearly \$3 million per year.

# Trusted Zone Security is no longer valid

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# Cyber Crime Continues to grow

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In the last 5 years:

Cybercrime has increased by 67%  
Cost of each cyber breach increased 72% to \$13.3m

Source: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cost of Cybercrime Study, conducted by Accenture Security and the Ponemon Institute  
[https://www.accenture.com/\\_acnmedia/pdf-96/accenture-2019-cost-of-cybercrime-study-final.pdf](https://www.accenture.com/_acnmedia/pdf-96/accenture-2019-cost-of-cybercrime-study-final.pdf)

# Top Security Mistakes

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# Security Mistakes in SAP environments

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- Poor password management
- Weak user access controls
- Sloppy patch management...
- Misconfigured ACLs...
- Insecure custom code...
- Unprotected data...
- Inadequate logging and auditing...
- Failure to have an emergency response plan...



Source: <https://www.csoonline.com/article/3404470/top-8-security-mistakes-in-sap-environments.html>



# Security Mistakes in SAP environments

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- Poor password management
- Weak user access controls
- Sloppy patch management...
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- Unprotected data...
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Source: <https://www.csoonline.com/article/3404470/top-8-security-mistakes-in-sap-environments.html>



**PASSWORD**

**81% of breaches are caused  
by stolen/weak passwords**

( Source: Verizon DBIR 2017 – <https://bit.ly/2BBPK8y>)

## The Solution – Strong Passwords?

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**6Qf8Ue%f5&R!z**

# Users like memorable passwords

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## 2007

1. password
2. 123456
3. qwerty
4. abc123
5. letmein

## 2020

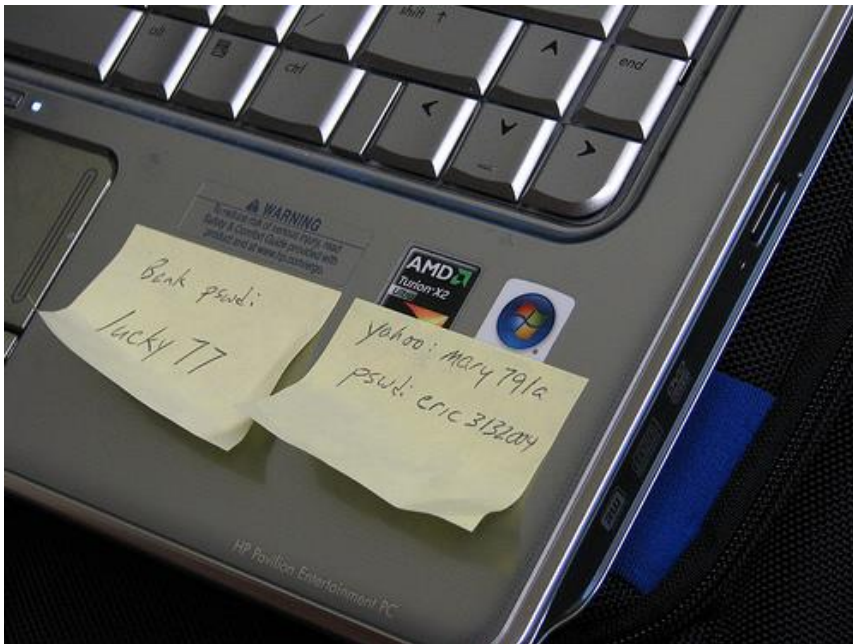
1. 123456
2. 123456789
3. qwerty
4. password
5. 12345

Source: <https://cybernews.com/best-password-managers/most-common-passwords/>



# Methods of credentials exploitation

- Negligence and poor practices





# Social Engineering

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## Methods of credential exploitation

- Credential thieves
- Phishing
- Spear Phishing
- Vishing



# Social Engineering - Phishing example

It's easy! Reset your password now.



Customer Care

[Help Center](#) [My Account](#)

## It's easy! **Reset your password now.**

Hello 

Please enter the following verification code on our website, and you'll be able to reset your password.



If you didn't request a password change, please visit our [Help Center](#). Please do not reply to this email. This mailbox is unmonitored.

-Your Walmart Customer Care Team

**Stay connected**



Mobile  
apps



# Weak User Access Controls

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- Privileged Users
  - Targeted by hackers
- Joiners, Movers and Leavers (JML)
  - Permission Creep
  - Developers/Contractors
  - Leavers
    - Dismissed employee
    - Notice period

# SAP Data Breach Example

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# SAP Data Breach - Example

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## Sony Pictures Entertainment



- Hacked by North Korea in 2014, initially by Malware
- Username and password combinations stored in cleartext



# SAP Data Breach - Example

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## Sony Pictures Entertainment

GTS Unix Server Privileged...tion Review - 07112013.xlsx	Oct 16, 2014, 6:02 PM	50 KB	spreadsheet
<b>GTS Unix Server Privileged...tion Review - 07292013.xlsx</b>	<b>Oct 16, 2014, 7:24 PM</b>	<b>51 KB</b>	<b>Spreadsheet</b>
Hold Codes- Passwords.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 7:49 PM	18 KB	Micros...ksheet
idm server storage migration.xlsx	Oct 16, 2014, 7:26 PM	16 KB	Spreadsheet
IFDS Passwords.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 7:46 PM	16 KB	Micros...ksheet
Important Passwords - TAAS, Outlook, Novell.txt	Oct 16, 2014, 6:36 PM	110 bytes	text
IP and Password.rtf	Oct 16, 2014, 6:06 PM	6 KB	rich text (RTF)
IT Security Assessment Questions for PRISM.xlsx	Oct 16, 2014, 5:40 PM	54 KB	Spreadsheet
ITPS Without Passwords 08_14_2014.xlsx	Oct 16, 2014, 7:56 PM	563 KB	Spreadsheet
karrie's Passwords.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 6:21 PM	15 KB	Micros...ksheet
Login and Passwords.xlsx	Oct 16, 2014, 7:43 PM	11 KB	Spreadsheet
Login_Password_Conne.txt	Oct 16, 2014, 7:33 PM	67 bytes	text
Logins and Passwords.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 7:33 PM	32 KB	Micros...ksheet
Master Application List.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 10:09 PM	177 KB	Micros...ksheet
Master Intern Password List.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 6:42 PM	15 KB	Micros...ksheet
Master Inventory.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 10:09 PM	737 KB	Micros...ksheet
Master Server List.zip	Oct 16, 2014, 7:21 PM	423 KB	ZIP archive
Master_Password_Sheet.xls	Oct 16, 2014, 7:36 PM	142 KB	Micros...ksheet
McAfeepassword.txt	Oct 16, 2014, 6:33 PM	509 bytes	text



**"Hackers don't break in,  
they log in."**

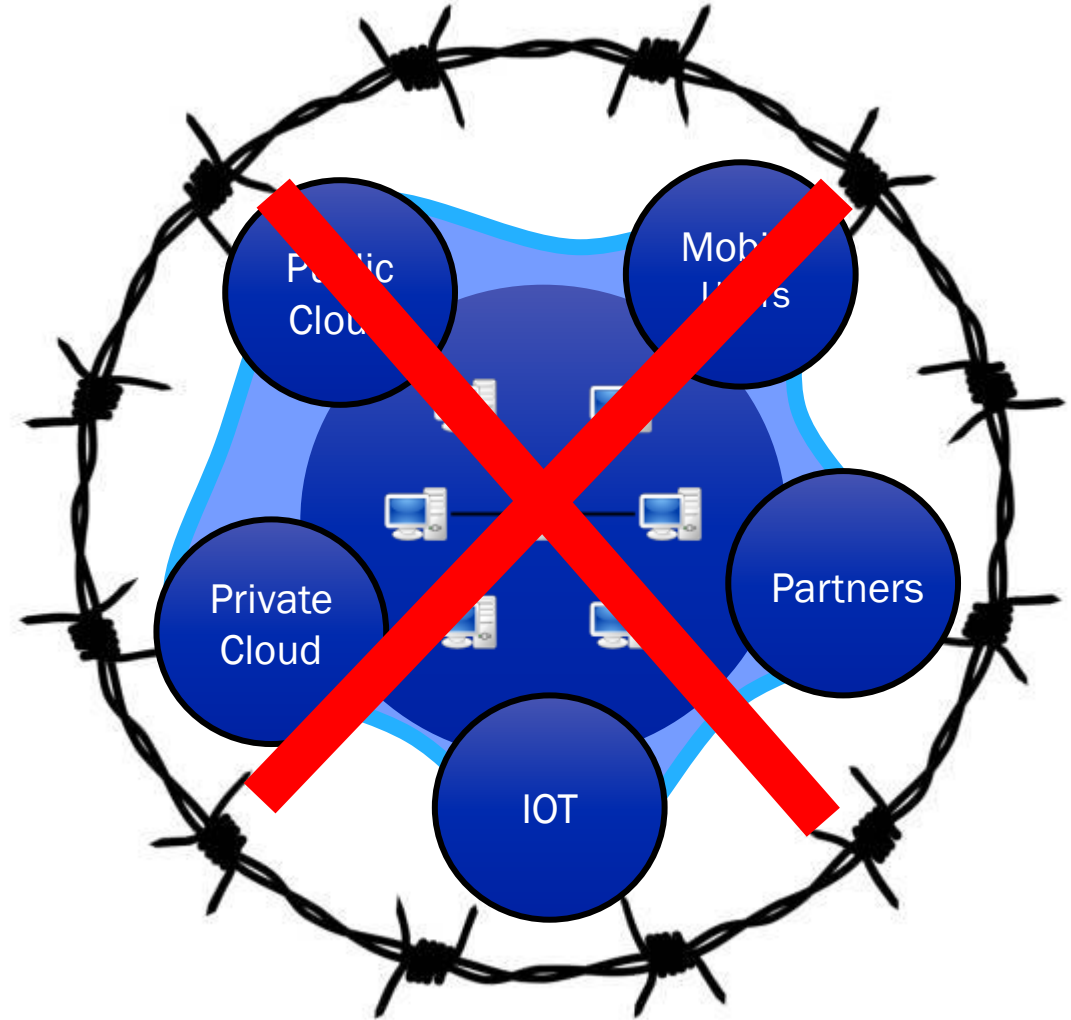
*Bret Arsenault  
Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)  
Microsoft*

# Zero Trust

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# Trusted Zone Security is no longer valid

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# The future – Zero Trust

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## White House instructs all agencies to adopt a zero trust approach to cybersecurity

While the concept behind zero trust is not new, the implications of shifting away from “trusted networks” are new to most enterprises ...

The strategy requires agencies to meet objectives by the end of 2024. In addition, the strategy places a significant emphasis on stronger enterprise identity and access controls, **including multi-factor authentication (MFA)** ...

Source: <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/96987-white-house-instructs-agencies-to-adopt-zero-trust-approach-to-cybersecurity>

# There is no Trusted Zone – so assume Zero Trust

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1

Focus on  
Critical Data

2

Limit who has  
access

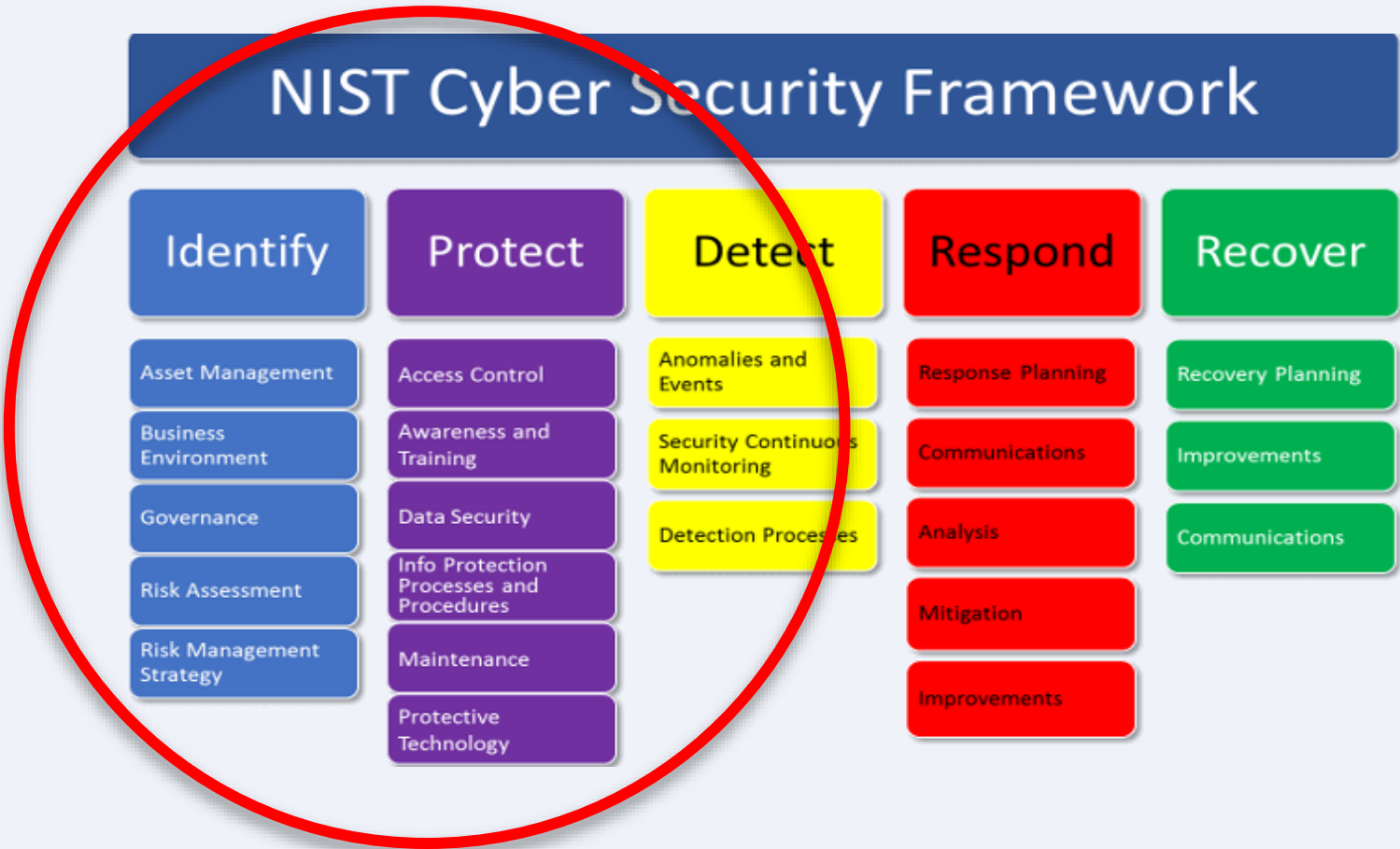
3

Stop relying on  
passwords

4

Use MFA to  
authenticate  
users

# Prevention is better than the cure



Source: <https://www.givainc.com/blog/index.cfm/2019/7/24/5-Key-Changes-Made-to-the-NIST-Cybersecurity-Framework-V11>



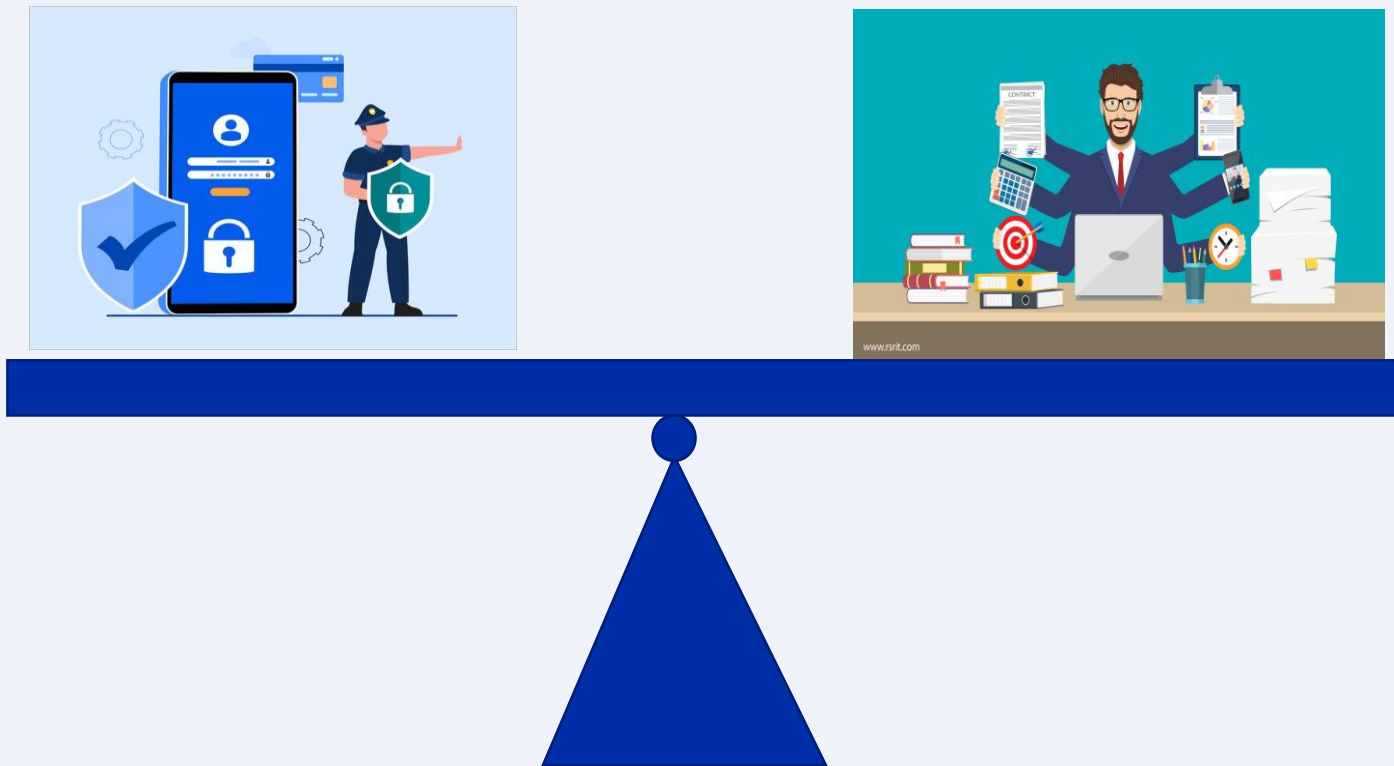
# Single Sign-On for SAP Systems

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- Single Sign-On reduces the number of passwords by using Active Directory credentials instead of each SAP system having a different SAP password.
- Saves money and wasted time (time = money) on password resets
- More secure
  - Not having to keep a list of multiple passwords
  - Session is encrypted
  - Passwords are not transmitted over the network

# Security vs Productivity

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# MFA – the pros and cons

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# MFA – What is it?

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## Something You Know



Username, password, PIN or security questions

## Something You Have



Smartphone, one-time passcode or Smart Card

## Something You Are



Biometrics, like your fingerprint, retina scans or voice recognition

Popular MFA products: Microsoft Azure MFA , PingID, Okta, Duo, RSA SecurID

# Microsoft MFA Survey

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- 99.9% of compromised accounts did not use multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Recent increase in uptake of MFA but mainly for VPN's (COVID-19 impact)
- Only 11% of all enterprise accounts use an MFA solution overall.

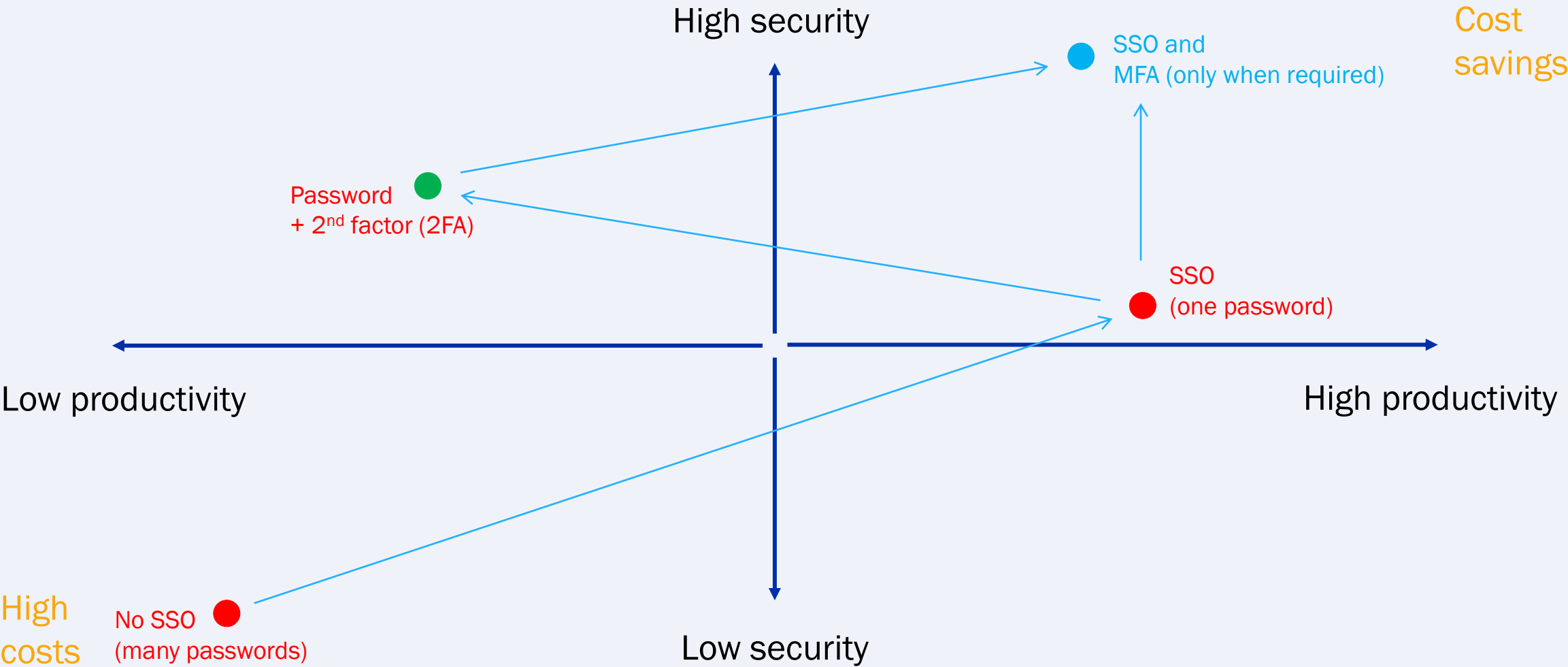
Source: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-99-9-of-compromised-accounts-did-not-use-multi-factor-authentication/>

# How to use SSO with MFA

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# Security, Cost, Authentication, Productivity



# Protecting access to SAP systems and data

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Using CyberSafe **TrustBroker** balances security and user productivity

Example 1:

- Use SSO by default, and
- Enforce MFA when the user accesses confidential or critical data

Example 2:

- Use SSO by default, and
- Enforce MFA when:
  - An administrator logs on, or
  - When an administrator performs an administrative task after logon

# Protecting access to SAP systems and data

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## Using CyberSafe balances security and user productivity

Authentication policy checks:

- SAP role assignment, e.g. does the user have an administrative role assigned
- Logon to systems that hold sensitive data, e.g. SAP Finance, HR system & personal data
- Logon from a certain network address range, e.g. Mobile workers
- When running specific SAP transactions, e.g. User administration transactions such as SU01
- When using Electronic Signatures, e.g. Approval of bank payments
- When accessing specific Dynpro fields and screens
  - Credit Card numbers being displayed
  - Payment amount > \$x

# A typical user experience with SAP GUI when using CyberSafe TrustBroker®

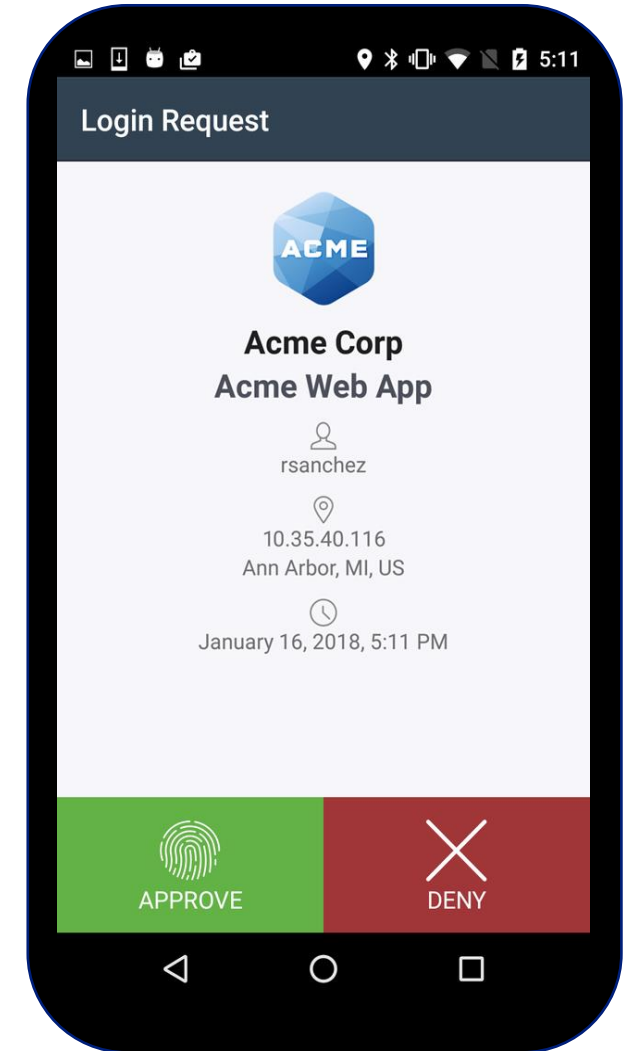
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- Logon to workstation using **Active Directory** credentials (1<sup>st</sup> factor)
- Use SAP GUI or a web browser to logon to the SAP system (no credentials required, due to SSO)
- TrustBroker checks its authentication policy to determine if MFA is required.  
If it is, then:

The user receives a push notification on their phone (2<sup>nd</sup> factor)

The user presses the **APPROVE** button and uses their fingerprint

- Logon to the SAP system is successful



# Wrap Up

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# Move from perimeter-based security towards Zero Trust

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All resources are  
accessed in a secure  
manner regardless of  
location

Access Control is on  
a “need to know”  
basis and is strictly  
enforced

Never Trust and  
Always Verify

Apply MFA



# Move towards a Passwordless future with SAP

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- Come to our booth to talk to our experts, We can give a personalized demo to your company, and arrange a free proof-of-concept

# Where to Find More Information

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- Talk to our experts. Meet us on booth **1155** (Grand Ballroom)
- Register to try and win a Microsoft Xbox
- Web: <https://CyberSafe.com/SAP>



# Key Points to Take Home

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- Do not rely on Trusted Zones
- Move towards Zero Trust
- Know where your sensitive data is stored
- Protect access using policies and SSO/MFA
- Balance Security with User Productivity
- Plan for a passwordless future

# Thank you! Any Questions?

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Please remember to complete  
your session evaluation.



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