3 steps to easily manage and secure privileged access.

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Effective management of privileges and credentials is essential for the security of your organisation. With 74% of data breaches happening due to privileged credential abuse, it’s an area that organisations must address. Cyber attackers can abuse credentials through several methods. The main approaches are social engineering and phishing, exploiting poor password hygiene and password reuse, and taking advantage of initial access brokers selling these credentials on the dark web.

To combat this, it’s vital to upgrade your approach to privileged access management. Here are three steps you can take to easily manage and secure your privileged access, helping to reduce the likelihood of both internal and external attacks:

1. Simplify compliance reporting

2. Deploy Zero Trust Network Access

3. Secure contractor access to your business

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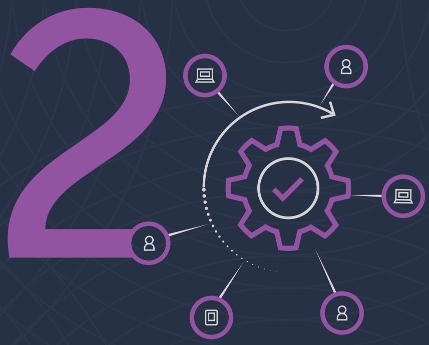
1. Simplify compliance reporting

To show clients or customers that your organisation has a proven track record of being safe and secure to work with in terms of network and data security, it’s important to meet high standards of compliance. Gaining certifications from organisations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a great way to show your customers that you can be trusted with their data. However, for you to gain and keep these certifications, the ISO will conduct an audit once a year to verify that you are complying with their standards.

CloudGen Access automatically creates a clear system of record of the who, what, and when of privileged access, logging the identity, device, and location of every user who attempts to access your network, successfully or otherwise. These records are then ready to present to the auditors without any need to manually track or input data. This aspect of the solution runs in the background, meaning that there is no extra time or effort, or cost, required to keep these records, and no need to rush and check that your records are accurate and up to date just before an audit — it’s already been done for you. You can also use these logs to create streamlined reports of system access across the organisation for any other party that requires this information.



2. Deploy Zero Trust Network Access

Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA) has become a bit of a buzzword in recent years, with people and organisations adding all sorts of baggage to it. To put it simply, ZTNA is a philosophy for network security that is based on the premise of trusting nothing and no one until verified. With the increasing numbers of remote and hybrid workers since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the rising reliance on the cloud, it's never been more important to verify and manage users and devices attempting to access your network from outside of the perimeter.

With this solution, there is no need for outdated VPNs or other complicated ways of accessing networks. ZTNA allows you to implement unparalleled access control across all users and devices quickly and easily, enabling employees and partners to access any web applications and cloud workloads that their role requires without increasing the attack surface. Instead of adding obstacles to routes into access, such as frequently entering login details, ZTNA adds guard rails to the network so that routes into access can be accelerated. By granting permissions to each network user based only on the applications and workloads that they need to carry out their responsibilities, you can guarantee that each user has exactly the amount of access they need — no more and no less.

3. Secure contractor access to your business

Third-party access to your business' systems and applications is often unavoidable, but also beneficial. It can allow you to cherry-pick suitable candidates for work without being restricted by location or internal skillsets. However, this requires another layer of security to minimise the risks of granting that access to your applications and systems. Otherwise, it's an opportunity for threats to sneak past network boundaries.

CloudGen Access allows you to enable role-based, secure access to apps and data, ensuring that the third party can access only what they need for their role. One way to think about this is as resource access rather than network access. A third party won't need access to everything within your network, so it's much more efficient, and more secure, to simply grant them access to the resources and applications that they need.

To make sure that only verified users can access any part of the network, the system generates and stores a device certificate on a hardware keystore, which acts as an ID for the device. If the correct login is used, but from another device — which could potentially be less secure — the attempt is automatically denied. Trust is given on a contextual and conditional basis, meaning you have optimal control over who accesses your systems, and with which device.

The time to deploy ZTNA is now

With the exploitation of privileged credentials kickstarting so many successful data breaches in recent years, it’s vital that businesses take action to securely manage their privileges and network access before it’s too late.

Try Barracuda CloudGen Access free or 14 days to see first-hand how you could easily simplify your compliance, deploy Zero Trust Network Access, and secure third-party access to your systems. Or get in touch with us if you have questions.

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About Barracuda

At Barracuda we strive to make the world a safer place. We believe every business deserves access to cloud-first, enterprise-grade security solutions that are easy to buy, deploy, and use. We protect email, networks, data, and applications with innovative solutions that grow and adapt with our customers' journey. More than 200,000 organisations worldwide trust Barracuda to protect them—in ways they may not even know they are at risk—so they can focus on taking their business to the next level. For more information, visit barracuda.com.

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