Calean Tech

Use AI to defend against AI

Simple Entra ID measures that stop most identity attacks, and how to keep an eye on them every day.

AI made attacks cheaper. AI-written phishing emails got a 54% click-through rate, against 12% for standard ones, according to Microsoft. The good news: the measures that protect your identity the most are small.

Where attacks get in

More than 97% of identity attacks are password spray or brute force attacks, according to the Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2025. In Verizon's 2025 Data Breach Investigations Report, credential abuse was the leading way in, at 22% of cases.

The target is the password. So defense starts with identity.

Five small measures

- [ ] **Turn on MFA for everyone.** Multifactor authentication reduces the risk of account compromise by 99.22%, according to a Microsoft Research study.
- [ ] **Block legacy authentication.** More than 97% of credential stuffing attacks and more than 99% of password spray attacks use legacy protocols, according to Microsoft. With them blocked, those attacks stop.
- [ ] **Keep few administrators.** Privileged accounts are the favorite target. Fewer admins, fewer doors.
- [ ] **Use Conditional Access.** Ask for more verification when access comes from an odd place or an unmanaged device.
- [ ] **Watch directory changes.** A new admin or a new rule at an odd hour deserves a question: was this expected?

Fight fire with fire

Use AI in your favor. Measures nobody watches fade over time, and that is where **onGuard for Entra ID**, by IPC Global, comes in.

- Collects 37 Entra ID and Microsoft 365 identity, security and usage extracts every day, with read-only permissions.
- Flags risky directory changes with one question: “was this expected?”.
- Produces reports mapped to CIS Microsoft 365 Foundations Benchmark and NIST SP 800-53 controls. They are assessments, not a certification or an audit.
- Runs in your own AWS account. Your data stays with you.

Sources

- Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2025, Microsoft, October 2025.
- How effective is multifactor authentication at deterring cyberattacks?, Microsoft Research, May 2023.
- Block legacy authentication with Conditional Access, Microsoft Learn, 2026.
- 2025 Data Breach Investigations Report, Verizon, 2025.