Higher Education Takes Steps to a Microsoft 365 Zero Trust Implementation

Learn how Pasadena City College uncovered vulnerabilities with a security health check and created a strategy for a Zero Trust security framework.
Why a Zero Trust Framework

Identity
Automate risk detection, remediation, and secure access to resources with strong authentication across the entire digital estate.

Applications
Maintain highly secure employee access to cloud and mobile apps, as well as remote access to on-premises enterprise apps.

End points
Defend the larger attack surface created by the growing number and diversity of endpoints using a flexible, integrated approach to management.

Network
Reduce perimeter-based security vulnerabilities and improve scalability of security solutions for cloud-based environments.

Data
Classify, label, and protect data across cloud and on-premises environments to help prevent inappropriate sharing and reduce insider risks.

Infrastructure
Protect hybrid infrastructure, including on-premises IT and cloud environments, with more efficient and automated management.
About Pasadena City College

Pasadena City College is a local, international and online community college that offers 92 academic areas of study. In fall of 2021, PCC had a total of 22,499 students. Rated as one of California’s top city institutes for higher education, Pasadena City College supports a safe and secure campus both in person and remote.

Steps to Zero Trust Security

Pasadena City College’s primary objective in their steps to zero trust is to reduce costs and mitigate risks. This is accomplished by reducing the amount of separate security applications (leveraging AAD from A5 licensing). As well as creating protected segments by access controls. This ensures that only authorized users can access specific resources. PCC’s Zero Trust implementation plan applies to their tenant for staff with 5400 members and their tenant for students with 101,000 members.
Success Measures with a Security Health Check and Zero Trust Strategy

Steps to a Zero Trust framework start with a security health check and the success measure is identifying vulnerabilities before a breach happens. This is followed by strategies to set the foundation for an improved security posture.

A Zero Trust framework to achieve the needed unified approach in security and standardizing identity with separation at the ID level.

Project Objectives:

- Identity and Access Management Strategy
- On-Prem Azure AD Health Check
- Identity Road Map

Challenges:

Pasadena City College’s identity management challenges included unifying identities, addressing security concerns, and standardizing identity protocols. They also need to manage identities across multiple tenants with varying features. Currently using Cisco Duo, they aim to transition to Azure Multi. Additional concerns include setting a timeline for unification, streamlining the process, replicating policies, ensuring security and compliance, centralizing control, and establishing governance over all three tenants’ identities.
Discoveries and Roadmap Solutions with JourneyTEAM

Health check discoveries:

• MFA was enabled for less than 1% of their total accounts.

• Their tenants faced password spray attacks daily

Key Roadmap solutions:

• Consolidation to a single AD and M365 tenant will simplify many processes for their IT team.

• Consistent security posture for all accounts.

• Single pane of glass for security monitoring.

• Easy provisioning process, not reliant on aging scripts created by retired sysadmin.

• Consolidate M365 services to Pasadena.edu tenant.

• Integrate Google Workspace environment to Entra ID for Authentication.

• Decommission AD tenant used for students.

• Enable Intune and decommission SCCM so all computers are Entra joined.

JourneyTEAM reduced costs through a software consolidation plan and license optimization. As well as mitigated risk through solutions against the daily password attacks. The IT team at Pasadena City College is set up for success with key findings and a well-structured plan to follow, reducing the stress associated with complex IT projects.
GET STARTED WITH A MICROSOFT 365 ZERO TRUST IMPLEMENTATION

Through the collaborative efforts of both teams, Pasadena City College’s steps to a Zero Trust security framework was productive. The college leveraged the insights from the security health check to reduce risk. The Zero Trust specialists at JourneyTEAM ensured a thorough health check with key takeaways of vulnerabilities paired with a strategy roadmap of implementation to streamline the internal workflow of their IT team.

The Next Steps

**STEP 1**
Contact JourneyTEAM Experts

**STEP 2**
Get end-to-end guidance

**STEP 3**
Enjoy efficiency, scalability, security, and so much more