

Well-Architected: Public Cloud Security Posture

A construction worker wearing a yellow hard hat and a high-visibility green and black jacket is working on a laptop. The background is a blurred industrial setting at night with blue lighting.

10.10.2022

elisa

A SUSTAINABLE
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DIGITALISATION

Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM)

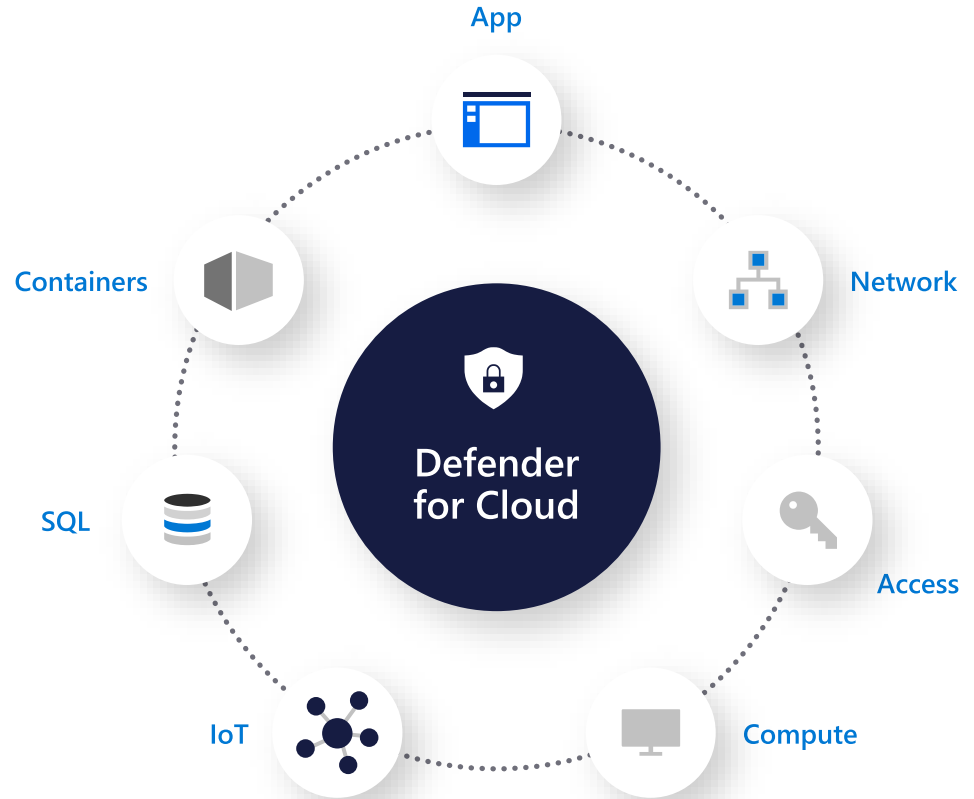
- Visualization of security posture of all cloud assets in a holistic way
- Identifying misconfiguration and cyber threats
- Continuous monitoring of assets and remediation based on recommendations
- Should be part of Cloud Operations



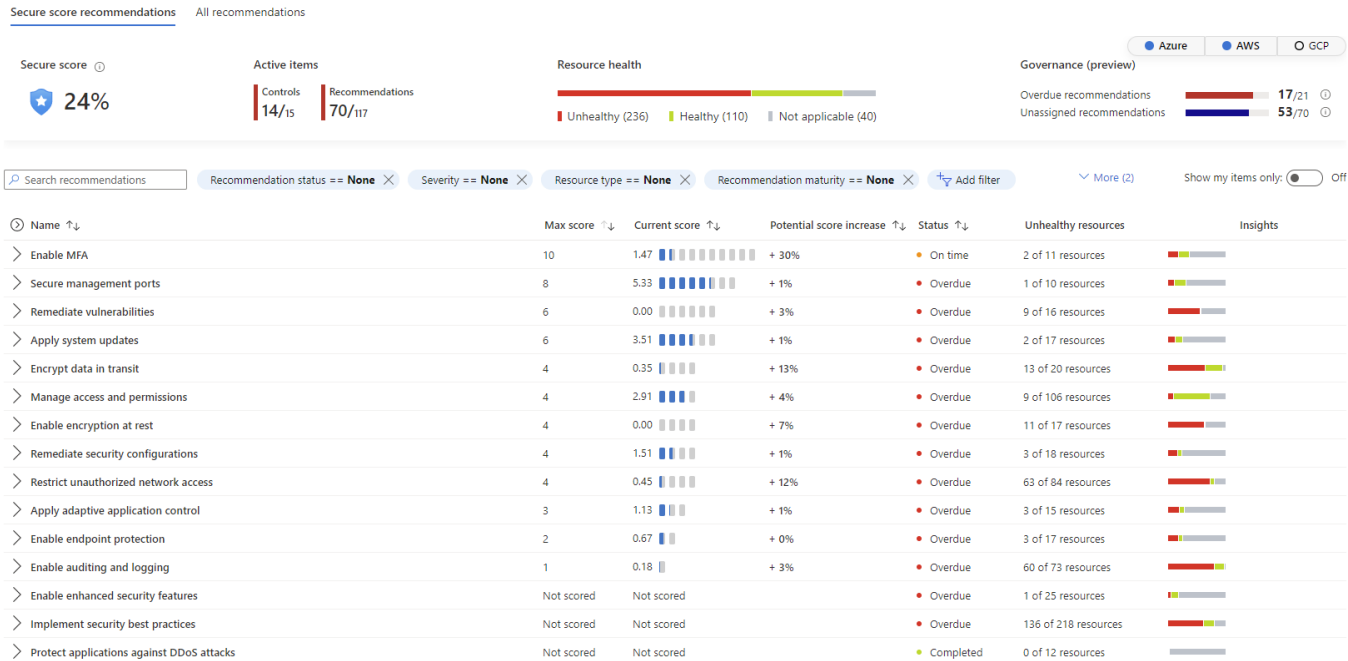
Defender for Cloud

Industry's most mature cloud native CSPM

- Get a bird's-eye security posture view across Azure, and other supported public clouds
- Continuously monitor and protect all your cross-cloud resources
- Actionable best practice recommendations going beyond NIST/CIS
- Get visibility into the compliance state of your Azure environment



Secure score recommendations - example



Secure score recommendations

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Azure Security Center dashboard. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation icons. Below that, the 'Microsoft Defender for Cloud | Overview' section shows a summary of 9 Azure subscriptions, 2 AWS accounts, 1 GCP project, 464 assessed resources, 98 active recommendations, and 287 security alerts. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Security posture' (66/85 unassigned recommendations, 17/23 overdue), 'Regulatory compliance' (17 of 43 passed controls), 'Workload protections' (88% resource coverage), and 'Inventory' (6 unmonitored VMs). A prominent yellow banner with the text 'Let's check Your Secure score!' is overlaid across the center. On the right side, there are alerts for 'OMI vulnerabilities detected (CVE-2022-29149)' and 'Upgrade to New Containers plan'.

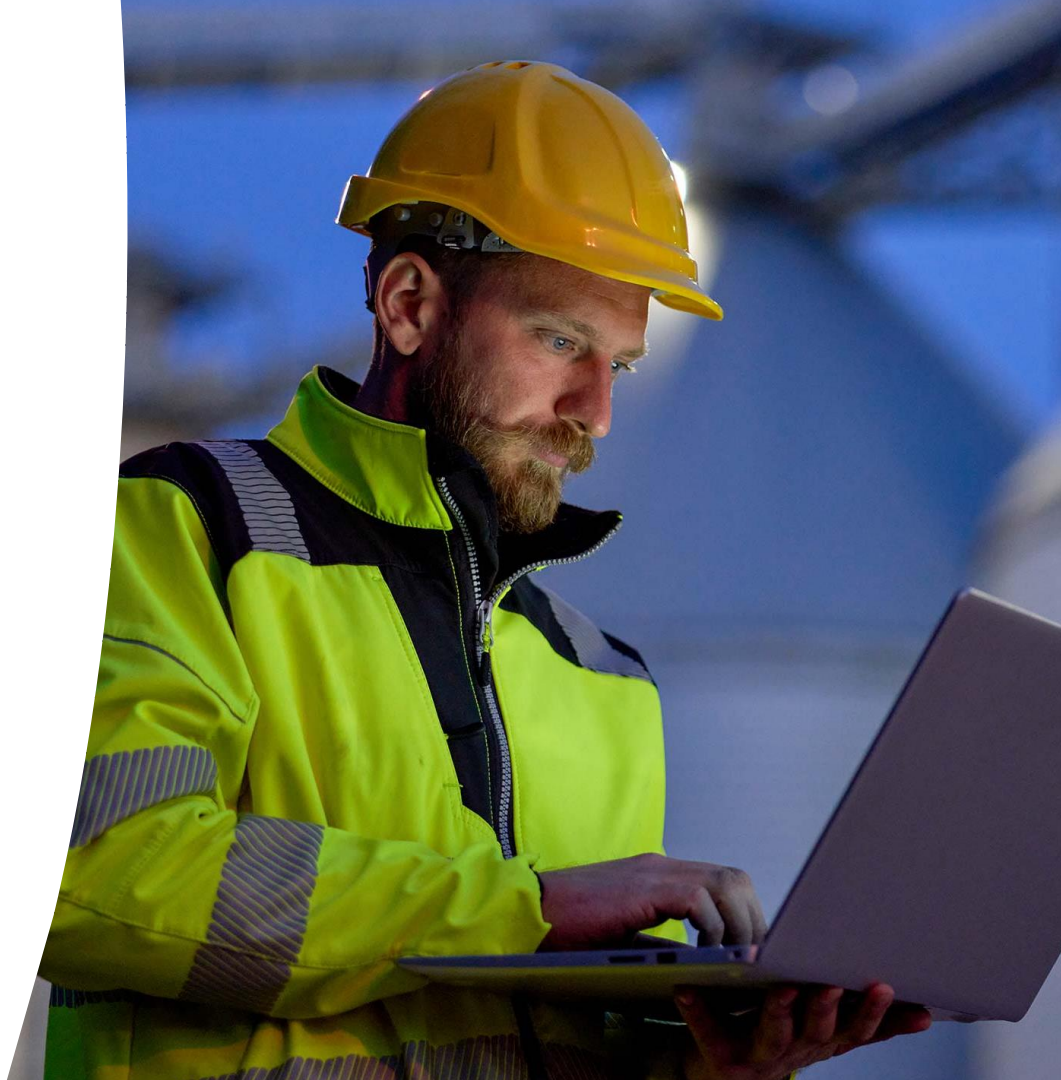
Public Cloud Security Posture Analysis and Remediation as a Service

- Expert led one-time analysis and remediation of current situation
 - Close co-operation with applications' owners and/or vendors
- Ability to onboard customer to continuous monitoring and start of remediation service

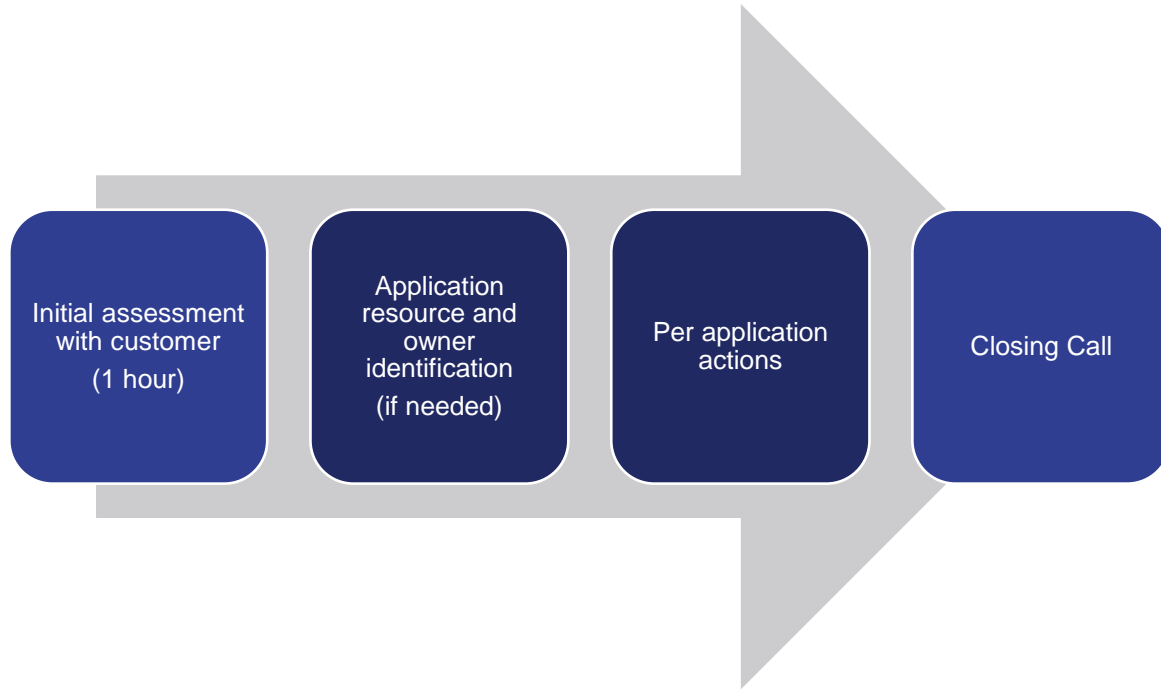


Scope

- Azure workloads that are deployed in customer's Azure environment
- All workload types are supported
- Assessments uses only free Azure posture management features



Phasing



Timeline: Depends on applications and availability of customer/provider resources



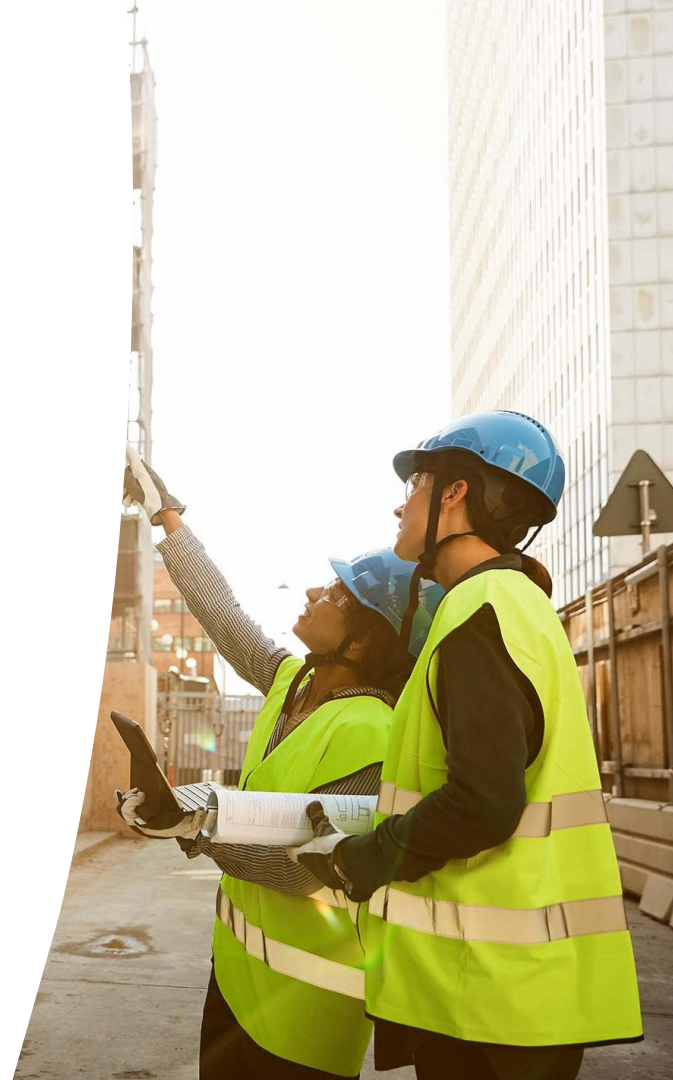
Initial assessment

- Overview for Defender for Cloud information
 - Secure Score
 - Recommendations
 - High level configuration check for Defender for Cloud
- First application
 - Identification
 - Tags
 - Recommendations → Actions



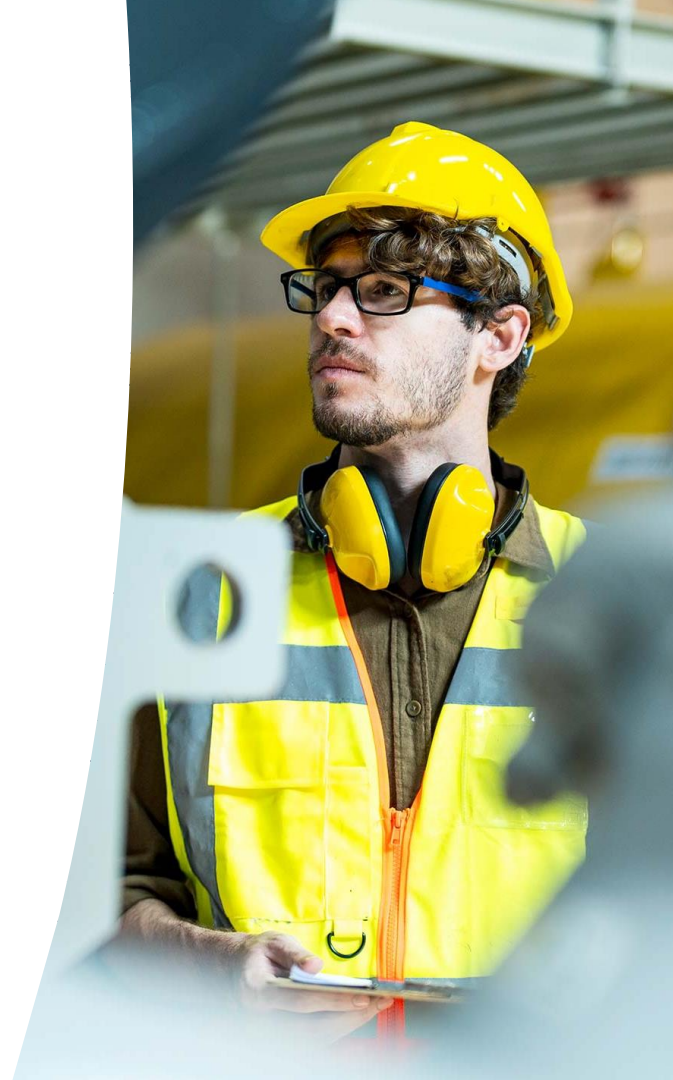
Application resource and owner identification (if needed)

- Information can be used in **automated actions** and is needed for per application actions in this service
- Every resource is mapped to application and owner is identified
- Documented in Tags: Application, Owner



Per application actions

- Identify needed changes - Workshop if needed
- Work with application owner or 3rd party provider
- Implement changes or document exempt



Example – Wordpress based website (PaaS)

Recommendations

Security Center continuously monitors the configuration of your Azure resources to identify potential security vulnerabilities and recommends actions to mitigate them

Description	↑↓	Resource type	↑↓	Count	↑↓	Severity
FTPS should be required in web apps		 web application		1		 High
Public network access should be disabled for MySQL servers		 Azure Database for My...		1		 Medium
Private endpoint should be enabled for MySQL servers		 Azure Database for My...		1		 Medium
Web apps should request an SSL certificate for all incoming requests		 web application		1		 Medium
Managed identity should be used in web apps		 web application		1		 Medium

Actions taken by Elisa

- Workshop with vendor to check if changes are possible
- Enable FTPS, HTTPS enforcement
- Exempt Private Endpoint requirements as virtual network is not feasible

Time used (2 hours)

- 1 hour workshop with vendor
- 1 hour for changes and exempt documentation

Pre-requirements



- All permissions are subscription-level permissions
- **Reader + Tag Contributor** permissions for application resource and owner identification
- **Security reader** permissions for assessment phase
- **Contributor** permissions for enablement of Cloud Workload Protection and governance audits

Deliverables



All applications in Azure evaluated and security recommendations either **Fixed** or **Exempted**



Resources are mapped to applications and are documented in Azure (Tags)



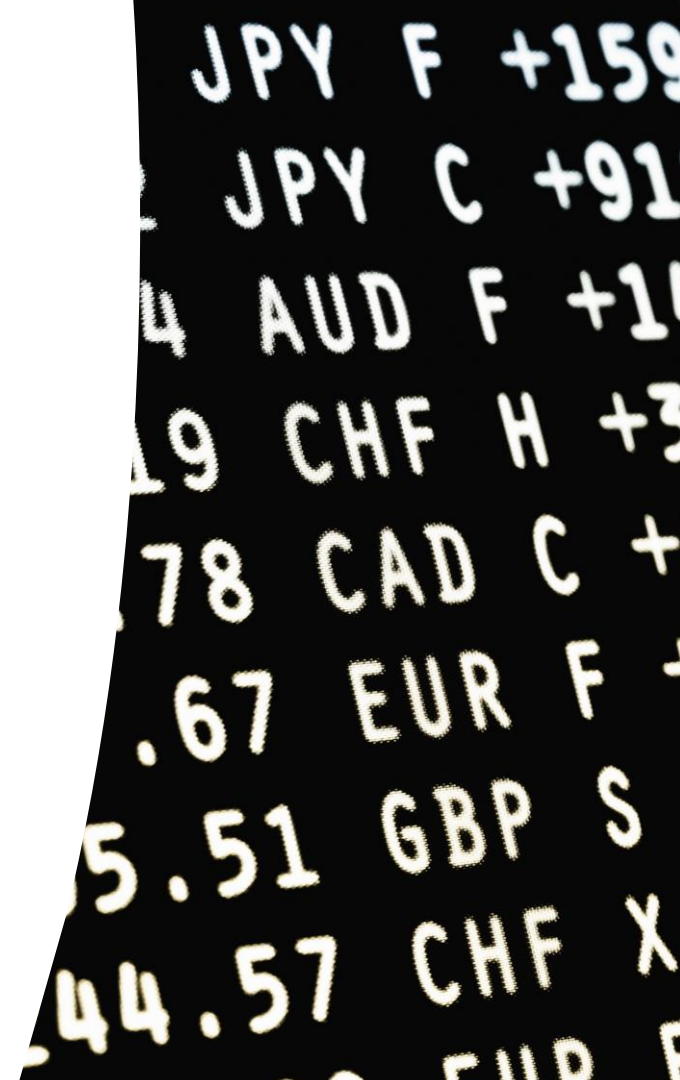
Applications' ownership is clarified and documented in Azure (Tags)



Documentation of findings and actions that have been taken

Pricing

- 750€ fixed pricing for initial assessment and actions for the first application
- Next applications for time and material basis
 - Estimate per application is 1-8 hours



Optional work items

- Posture analysis for other public clouds by using Microsoft Defender for Cloud
- Continuous posture monitoring by Elisa with SLA backed start of remediation
- Workload protection assessment and configuration based on Defender for Cloud – also in other clouds and on-premises
- Hardened landing zone configuration to avoid posture management affects afterwards



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