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Top 5 Recommended Responses to the White House OMB Memo

Nations and enterprises around the world are facing a rise in attacks against infrastructure, IT systems, and end users. In response, the White House is mandating milestones for cybersecurity in the OMB "Zero Trust Cybersecurity" memo. To help organizations respond without a misstep, here are the Top 5 recommended responses for authentication.

1. "Agency systems are isolated from each other …"

This requirement does limit most cloud architectures by virtue of being shared by design. The Axiad Cloud Platform is hosted by name-brand CSPs, provides a dedicated instance per customer, and isolates each customer's credentials in a specialized hardware module. The net result is that authentication is secure end-to-end, even if an agency or enterprise is compromised, at scale.

2. "Identity: … Phishing-resistant MFA protects … from sophisticated online attacks."

The Axiad Cloud portfolio provides phishing-resistant MFA across authentication methods including Certificate-Based Authentication, across a wide range of government-grade (AAL3) authenticators such as smartcards and USB keys, across a broad range of OSs, and for multiple IAMs running in parallel. With Axiad, a single platform provides the range of phishing-resistant MFA approaches needed by an agency or department.

3. "MFA must be enforced at the application layer, instead of the network layer."

There are a great number of cloud, on-premises, and mobile applications in use by agencies. Authorization for these applications is generally managed by multiple IAMs that each authenticate in a limited number of ways. Axiad Cloud portfolio supports multiple IAMs running in parallel with a holistic authentication SaaS platform. IT and self-service capabilities enable application layer MFA at scale while minimizing demands on IT and end users.

4. "When authorizing users to access resources, agencies must consider at least one device-level signal alongside identity information about the authenticated user."

Device-level signals are effectively provided by smart card and USB key authenticators. The challenge historically has been the effort needed to enroll the authenticator and issue the appropriate credential has been prohibitive. Axiad Cloud includes a Credential Dashboard with self-service capabilities to enable this requirement to be met at scale.

5. "Large agencies with many different systems requiring user authentication will only be able to efficiently perform baseline operations, … , by consolidating authentication."

Axiad Cloud is a comprehensive, secure, and efficient authentication SaaS platform that provides consolidated authentication across the most complex environments. It enables consolidated authentication for the entire set of end users (defined as "agency staff, contractors, and partners" in the memo). Axiad Cloud's programmability enables both individual and group actions to be reliably and quickly executed.

Learn more about the White House OMB "Zero Trust Cybersecurity" memo and responses in our blog and at zerotrust.cyber.gov.