Secure your Intune Automation with Managed Identities

by Jan Ketil Skanke and Sandy Zeng

Sponsors

onedeploy
Windows Deployment Reimagined

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Insight

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Jan Ketil Skanke
Microsoft MVP · Security
Intune | Identity & Access Managment

Role
Principal Cloud Architect

Focus
Intune · Identity · Security

Blog, Hobbies and more
Fotball, F1, Speaking, Coding

Intune Guardian

PIM Portal
Policy Management Tool

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From Finland, Happiest Country in the world

"When we move the workloads to the cloud, we should also move our operations and automations"

Why do we automate?

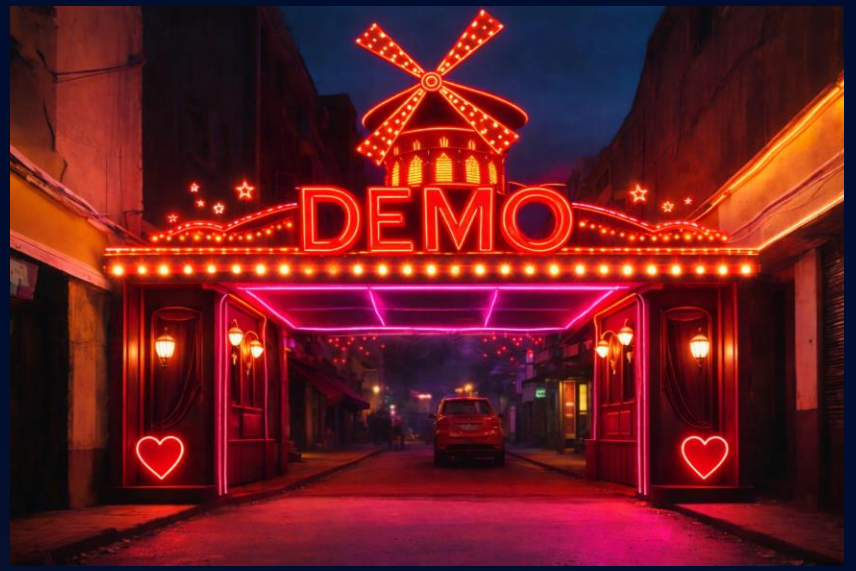
- Event driven tasks
  - Triggered by monitoring
- Repeated tasks
  - Human triggered
- Governance
  - Workflows and Desired State
  - Configurations by code
- Other

The problem with Apps & Secrets

- Credential leakage
- Misuse
- Lateral movement
- Management overhead

App Takeover

Lateral Movement risks



What are Managed Identities

Managed Identities in Microsoft Entra

- Credential-Free Authentication
  - Azure resources can securely access other services without storing secrets or credentials in code.

- Entra ID Integration
  - Managed identities are registered in Microsoft Entra ID, enabling RBAC and policy enforcement like any other identity.
- Two Identity Types
  - System Assigned
  - User Assigned

User-Assigned Managed Identity

- Created as a standalone Azure resource
- Can be assigned to one or more resources
- Lifecycle independent of any specific resource
- Multiple identities can be assigned to a single resource
- Requires manual creation and assignment
- RBAC in Azure

System-Assigned Managed Identity

- Created with an Azure resource (e.g., Azure Function, Logic App)
- Lifecycle tied to the resource
  - (deleted when the resource is deleted)
- Only one per resource
- No manual management required

Key Differences

System-Assigned

- Lifecycle Tied to resource
- One per resource
- No sharing
- Automatic management
- Deleted with resource
- Simple, resource-scoped

User-Assigned

- Independent lifecycle
- Many per resource
- Can be shared
- Manual management
- Manual deletion
- Shared and reusable

Usage

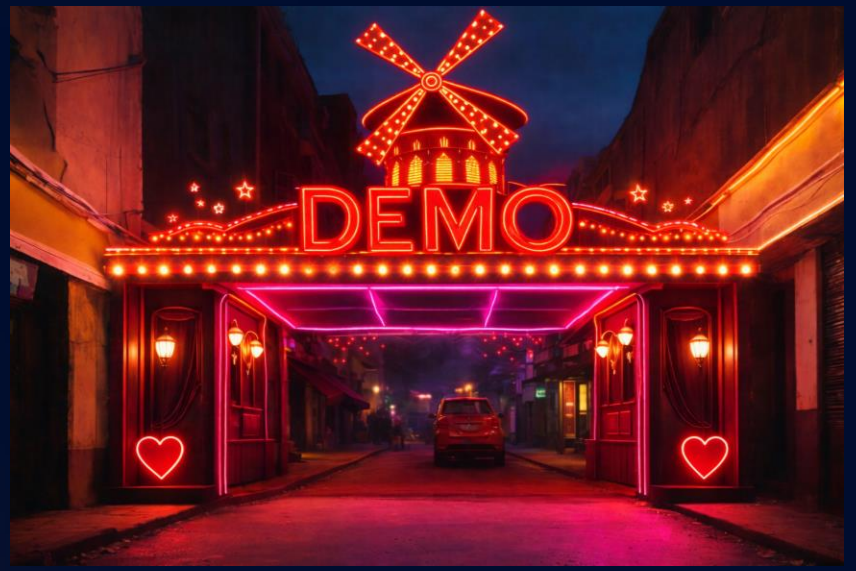
- Use system-assigned for simple, resource-specific scenarios
- Use user-assigned for sharing identities across resources or when you need more control

- Follow least privilege principle
- Remember to assign correct permissions’
- Watch for “dangling” user-assigned identities after resource deletion

Managed Identities in Action

How to setup and configure Managed Identities in Logic Apps, Azure Functions and Azure Automation

Assign Graph API Permissions and authenticate



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Best Practices & Pitfalls

- Always think least privilege
- Control your RBAC in both Azure and Entra ID

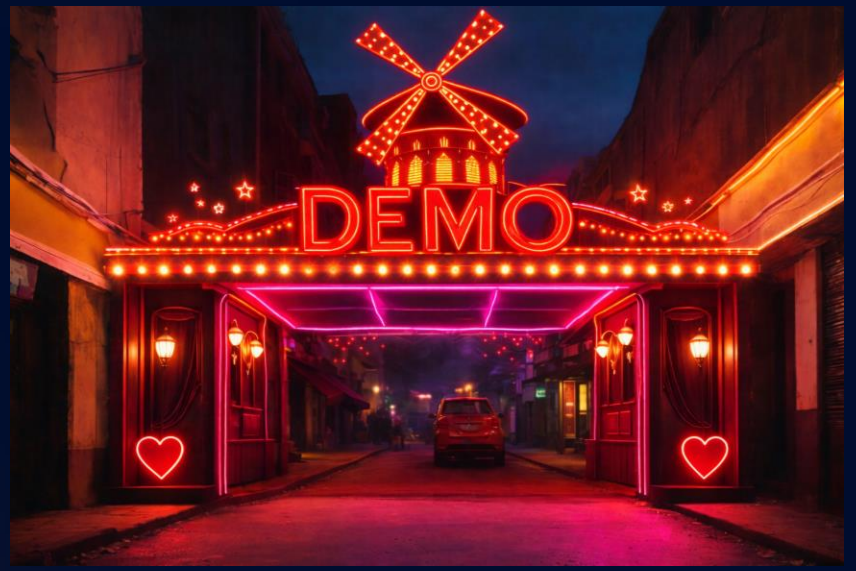
- Some common mistakes
  - Impatience when assigning new permission (Token Lifetime)
  - Permission Spree on User Assigned

Complete samples

Logic App

Azure Function App

Azure Automation



Github:

Remove Primary User:
https://github.com/sandytsang/MSIntune/tree/d55c66b3759433b4b2a32939ecd266577c3b5c6f/AzureFunctionApp/Remove%20Primary%20User

Change Primary User based on SignIn Logs:
https://github.com/sandytsang/MSIntune/tree/d55c66b3759433b4b2a32939ecd266577c3b5c6f/AzureAutomationAccount/Change-PrimaryUser

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We would love to hear what you liked and how we could improve!

Thanks!