# MS Azure Cloud Configuration Audit

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With so much of our critical data already in the cloud, now is the time to ensure that yours and your client's cloud environments are configured and protected in accordance with industry best practice.

Security configuration is the management and control of configurations for an information system with the goal of enabling security and managing risk. Breaches or incidents happen because hackers or bad actors are systematically looking for cloud environments and other systems that have not been hardened, often taking advantage of known vulnerabilities. Once an attacker has exploited the system, their goal is to start leveraging the attack, usually by making changes.

By setting a gold standard configuration for your systems and continuously monitoring for indicators of compromise, organisations can quickly identify a breach.
Testing your configuration regularly provides you and your clients the ability to continuously harden systems to reduce the attack surface. Hardened systems provide less opportunity for the hackers or bad actors to launch a successful attack.

**75%**
of Enterprises point to cloud security issues as a top concern*.

*https://www.cloudwards.net/cloud-computing-statistics/

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# Elmdale's, independent Microsoft Azure Cloud Configuration Audit, provides two configuration assessments per annum

## What is a Microsoft Azure Cloud Platform Configuration

Elmdale's assessment is based on CIS Azure Foundations Framework, which is a compliance standard for securing Microsoft Azure resources. The benchmark offers prescriptive instructions for configuring Azure services in accordance with industry best practises.

## Why it is important

Any organisation that uses cloud resources provided by Azure can help safeguard sensitive IT systems and data by complying with the CIS Azure foundations framework. Cloud misconfigurations and cyber-attacks are a constant concern for organisations that operate in the cloud, so security is of the utmost importance.

## Target Audience

This assessment is for anyone who plans to develop, deploy, assess or secure solutions that incorporate Microsoft Azure, so system and app administrators, helpdesk, DevOps personnel, security analysts and compliance analysts. In addition, those that sit outside of IT who provide governance, audit and oversight, looking for an independent assessment.

According to cybersecurity experts, the most pressing cloud security challenges are misconfiguration of the cloud infrastructure (**68%**); unauthorised access (**58%**); insecure API (**52%**); accounts, services or traffic hijacking (**50%**) and external data sharing (**43%**)**.

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## How it works

The Azure Foundations Framework Audit includes **9 sections**, covering 111 different controls, ensuring a thorough and detailed analysis of yours or your client's systems.

### The 9 sections are:

1 Identity and Access Management

2 Security Centre

3 Storage Accounts

4 SQL Services

5 SQL Databases

6 Logging and Monitoring

7 Networking

8 Virtual Machines

9 Other Security Considerations

**73%**
of the cybersecurity incidents involved external cloud assets, with the rest involving on-premises IT assets. Last year, cloud assets were only involved in **27% of** breaches***.

***https://www.datacenterknowledge.com/security/ report-cloud-security-breaches-surpass-prem-ones-first-time

This document is focused on Google MS Azure and AWS reviews are also available.

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36%
of organisations
suffered a serious
cloud security data
breach in 2021*

*www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021
/07/27/cloud-security-data-leak/

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# Elmdale IT Services Ltd

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