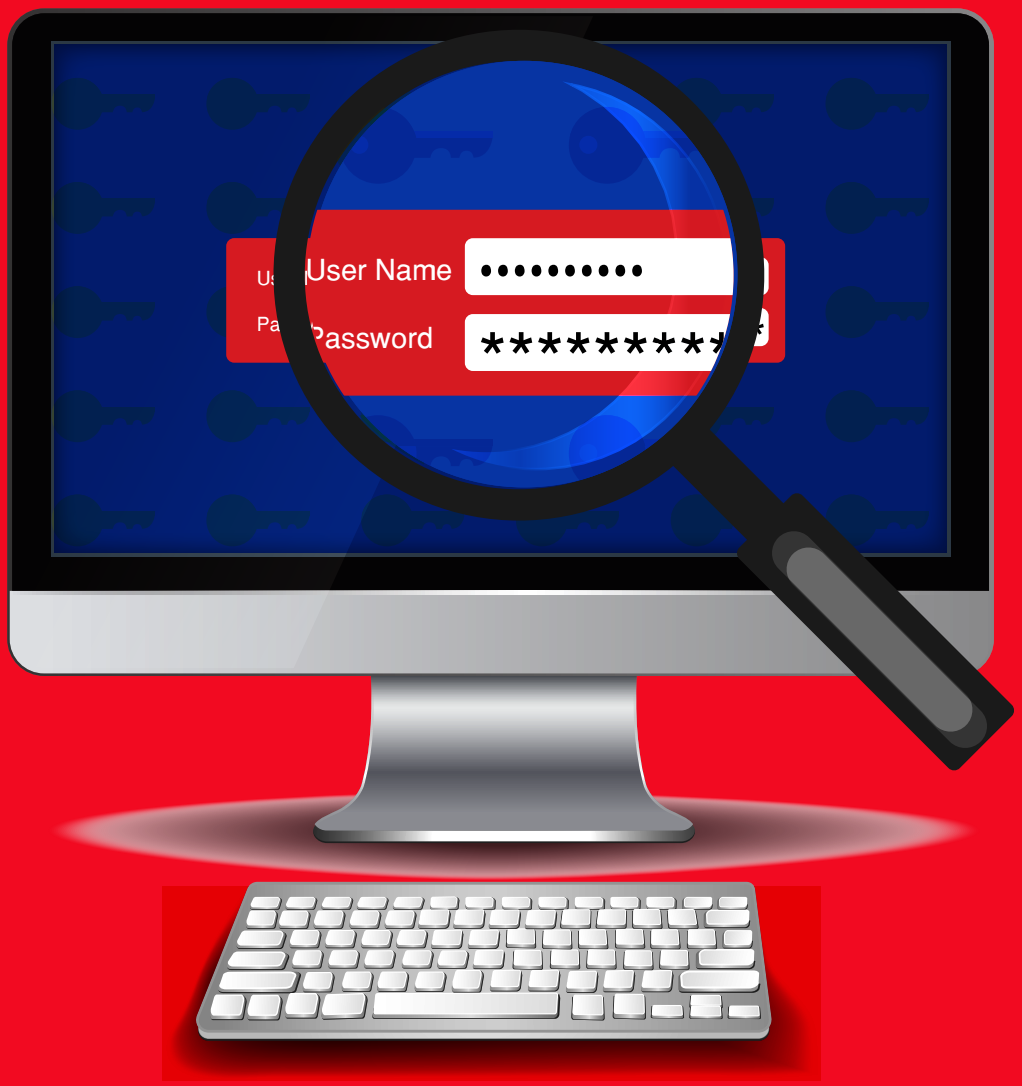
happiest minds

Managing Access, a Challenge

Access Governance – RBAC and ABAC Solution



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Introduction

Problem Statement:

A few years ago Managing Identity was easy, however with the growing businesses and the increasing in complex infrastructure, cloud, virtualization, mobility, etc., Managing Identity and Access has become a challenging affair for many Organizations across the globe. Strict governance & regulations such as SOX Compliance, HIPPA, and all the way managing rights are no longer adequate and easy. All the manual procedures, scripts, and spreadsheets are no longer sufficient to manage the access controls in a timely manner.

Solution:

The best way to address to all these problems is through RBAC (Role Based Access Control). RBAC is a regulatory method that provides access to computers or network resources to the employees or non-employees based on their roles and responsibility within or outside of the organization. In case, of a role change or the employee's contract termination, the access rights can be easily managed thus avoiding any kind of security risk.

With time Enterprises wanted to move beyond RBAC groups of users and permissions. They wanted a method that would provide access based on the attributes such as date, time, user location, etc., for better management of the dynamically changing systems and networks. Thus came, ABAC (Attribute Based Access Control) which provides access to employees (or contractors) based on who they are rather than what they do. It provides permissions to access control in a flexible manner by using labeled objects and user attributes.

If industry experts are to be believed, in future ABAC will become widely accepted as an authorization model of choice for businesses. It was argued that ABAC is more flexible in terms of access control as compared to RBAC and that they could coexist to provide an overall access control experience.
For instance, RBAC ensures the employee or non-employee needs access in terms of their positions or roles. Therefore giving a 360-degrees access and rights information that the employee or contractors need. This helps in better reporting, accountability and traceability with a 360-degree user access view and control. In addition to that, RBAC gives manager all insight of employee/contractor, all access rights, which gives the ability to take the appropriate decision themselves. Periodically (re)certification of user accounts mitigates security risks and increases the regularity governance.

As mentioned, RBAC also offers to standardize reports for auditing and management reviews, which reduces the access rights threats & risks and increases the transparency and better control on access. RBAC solution or services offer a complete solution for user access management that can easily comply with audits while achieving measures reduction in management costs and increase in overall TCO. This will help in reducing the network and security risks. Correct access to Employees/-Contractors will not only increases the transparency, user satisfaction but also increases the productivity.