

How Are You Applying the Core Tenets of Zero Trust?

A combination of technological advancements and workforce transformations has dissolved the traditional security perimeter. The movement of critical assets to the cloud and the rise of telework mean ever-expanding perimeters for federal agencies to defend. Implementing a zero trust architecture enhances security posture, enables continuity of operations, and augments digital transformation. **Provide the right people the right access to the right resources in the right context — and assess continuously for minimal mission impact.**

Under a zero trust framework, all network traffic is untrusted and always verified. Comprehensive zero trust models apply fundamental security principles to all endpoints, applications, and user identities. At Merlin, we follow five core tenets for the successful application of zero trust. Following these tenets ensures that effective security design principles exist at every layer of the IT stack.

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Identity as a Perimeter

Cloud and mobile users expand the security perimeter. Therefore, effective implementation of zero trust requires going beyond traditional on-premises network boundaries and focusing on user identity.

Least Privilege

With user identity as the new security perimeter, flexible and granular access controls are needed. Utilizing the concept of least privilege ensures that users only have access to the bare minimum they require.

Intrinsic Workload Security

As more applications and data move to the cloud, these vital assets require new security paradigms. Implementing security as close to the asset as possible is important, especially in an environment of expanded perimeters.

Micro-Segmentation

The network is the foundation for zero trust, serving as the command center for security policies and analysis. Implementing granular security controls to create trust boundaries keeps adversaries out and reduces the security risks from lateral movement.

Integration & Automation

This is the tenet that enables rapid detection and response to incidents throughout the IT stack. Integrating across the various technologies that enable zero trust, and using policy-driven security and automation, are key principles of our zero trust approach.



Advancing Zero Trust Maturity for Government

Merlin helps federal agencies adopt these core tenets and implement a comprehensive strategy that enables them to achieve full zero trust architecture, on their terms. Zero trust is an incremental journey with risk tolerance, speed of execution, and breadth of implementation all key considerations. No matter where an agency is in its path to zero trust, we deliver the solutions needed at the pace and scope desired. With our portfolio of best-in-class security partners and emerging technologies, we can secure every layer of your IT stack, from endpoints to applications, to data and users.



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About Merlin

Merlin is a powerful ecosystem of cybersecurity investment, innovation, technical expertise, and go-to-market acceleration with 25 years of experience working with the U.S. Public Sector. Through Merlin, federal civilian, defense, state, local and education customers access innovative cybersecurity solutions that have been strategically curated due to their ability to effectively meet public sector requirements and mission priorities. Merlin does this by selectively partnering with best-in-class cybersecurity brands, investing in visionary emerging technologies and accelerating growth and value creation for its partners. This enables the U.S. Public Sector to successfully keep ahead of today's critical threats, accelerate modernization initiatives, and defend our nation. Learn more at merlincyber.com.