

MICROSOFT ENTRA

QUICK WINS for financial services



What is Microsoft Entra?

Microsoft Entra (formerly Azure Active Directory) is Microsoft's cloud-based Identity and Access Management (IAM) service — and for financial institutions, it is fast becoming a core part of digital trust and regulatory compliance.



For banks, insurers, and investment firms, it enables:

- Secure workforce and partner access → one login across Microsoft 365, SaaS, trading platforms, and core banking systems.
- Stronger authentication → MFA, passwordless, passkeys, and biometrics to defend against phishing and account takeover.
- Smarter access control → Conditional Access and risk-based policies that respond to fraud risk and transaction sensitivity.
- Governance and compliance → visibility into privileged accounts, third-party consultants, and audit trails that regulators demand.

Why it matters for financial services:

- Regulatory frameworks (DORA, NIS2, GDPR, PCI DSS) now require demonstrable identity controls.
- Fraud and credential theft are among the top attack vectors in the sector.
- Business continuity and customer trust depend on secure, resilient access.
- Misconfigurations, legacy policies, and weak governance are leading causes of audit findings and fines.

In short - Microsoft Entra is the gatekeeper for your digital finance operations.

Get it right, and you deliver both resilience and compliance
Get it wrong, and every connected system is at risk.

The good news? You can discover the weak spots yourself. Keep on reading...

MICROSOFT ENTRA

QUICK WINS for financial services



We identified a few different levels in implementation difficulty, level 1 are quick wins you can tackle yourself, from level 2 and beyond we suggest contacting a professional...

Level 1: Quick wins you can check today

MFA Baseline

- Where to look: Entra → Security → Authentication methods → Policies
- What to check: Verify all users (incl. execs & contractors) are covered by MFA.
- Action: Still see “per user MFA”? → Time to modernize.

Conditional Access Basics

- Where to look: Entra → Security → Conditional Access → Policies
- What to check: Do you have at least:
 - Block legacy auth policy?
 - Require MFA for risky sign-ins?
 - Baseline admin-role protection
- Action: Update policies to reflect fraud and compliance risk.

Guest & consultant Access Review

- Where to look: Entra → Users → External users
- What to check: Sort by last sign-in date. Dormant guests hanging around?
- Action: disable accounts or review access together with business sponsors.

Privileged Role Assignments

- Where to look: Entra → Roles & administrators
- What to check: Are admins permanently assigned, or using PIM (Privileged Identity Management)?
- Action: Implement PIM for high-risk roles (e.g., finance systems, SWIFT integrations).

MICROSOFT ENTRA

QUICK WINS for financial services



Level 2 & beyond: Where you'll need expert help

If you spotted gaps above, you're not alone. But the real test of maturity is in:

- Enforcing phishing-resistant authentication for sensitive transactions.
- Applying risk-based Conditional Access tuned to fraud scenarios.
- Managing break-glass accounts to meet resilience requirements.
- Governing app registrations (think Bloomberg, Refinitiv, SAP, Salesforce).
- Integrating monitoring & alerts into your SOC/SIEM.
- Aligning identity practices with DORA, NIS2, PCI DSS and local regulators.



These aren't "checklist fixes", they require architecture, licensing, and governance expertise.

ACEN helps **financial organizations** move from "we enabled MFA" to a fully governed, risk-based Microsoft Entra posture.

We secure access without slowing down your business. Make an appointment today for a one-on-one conversation and some free advice you can use immediately.

Sit down with our experts for a focused walkthrough of Entra.

In a 30-minute, one-on-one session, we will show you a current real-life setup, show key Entra capabilities and discuss quick wins for security and compliance.

[Book a demo now](#)

→ www.acen.eu/en/microsoft-entra-demo

