

Editing Sample: Research Report

Final copy edit of a report evaluating 19 identity and access management (IAM) vendors. The work: fixing grammar and clarity in dense security prose, and enforcing one style.

Type	Vendor evaluation for CISOs, CIOs, and IAM architects
Length	About 21,000 words in draft, about 17,000 published
My role	Copy editor and fact-checker
Scope	More than 100 edited paragraphs; product names checked against vendor questionnaires

Accuracy and consistency

Applying in-house style guide and ensuring consistency throughout

Issue	Before	After
One spelling per term	non-human, Non-human	nonhuman (22 instances)
Acronyms spelled out on first use in each profile	ITDR, SDKs, LDAP, EMR	identity threat detection and response (ITDR); software development kits (SDKs)
Acronyms not re-expanded once defined	privileged access management (PAM), repeated	PAM
Compound modifiers hyphenated	zero trust frameworks, policy as code support, AI informed access reviews	zero-trust frameworks, policy-as-code support, AI-informed access reviews
Product and brand capitalization	Saas, Idp	SaaS, IdP
Typos	amoung, acces, products., code.crip	among, access, products., code.

Line edits

Grammar in technical prose

Before

However, has limited integrations which impact posture analysis across Idp systems or connected SaaS services. In addition the posture insights more PAM-centric rather than applicable configuration changes among integrated vendors.

After

However, it has limited integrations, which impacts posture analysis across identity provider (IdP) systems or connected SaaS solutions. In addition, the posture insights are more PAM-centric rather than applicable configuration changes among integrated vendors.

Two missing words ("it," "are"), subject-verb agreement, two missing commas, a typo, an acronym expanded on first use, and two capitalizations corrected. The technical claim is unchanged.

Untangling a pricing explanation

Before

The solution is split into two different licensing models: one for AD360, the on-prem solution, and Identity360, the SaaS offering. AD360 is best suited for organizations heavily invested in Active Directory. Licensing has some complexity due to pricing based on usage metrics across components, charging by technicians and domains for ADManager Plus, and ADAudit Plus is licensed by the number of domain controllers, file servers, Windows servers, and workstations audited, and users and any requirement for endpoint MFA for ADSelfService Plus.

After

The identity portfolio is split across two licensing models: AD360, the on-prem suite, and Identity360, the SaaS offering. AD360 is best suited for organizations heavily invested in Active Directory, but its licensing can be complex because pricing varies across components. ADManager Plus charges by the number of technicians and domains, while ADAudit Plus is licensed based on the number of domain controllers, file servers, Windows servers, workstations, and users being audited, as well as any requirements for endpoint MFA through ADSelfService Plus.

The original buried three products' pricing in one run-on sentence with a broken parallel structure. I split it so each product gets its own clause, and a buyer can see what drives cost for each.

Cutting redundancy

Before

The licensing model is driven by a single factor that determine the cost: the number of identities to be managed. [...] Pricing is transparent, with predictable costs tied to identity counts and chosen modules. Larger deployments or advanced use cases may involve more complex pricing discussions.

After

The number of identities to be managed determines the initial cost of the licensing model. [...] Pricing is transparent; larger deployments or advanced use cases may involve more complex pricing discussions.

The paragraph said twice that cost depends on identity count. I kept it once, fixed the agreement error ("factor that determine"), and joined the two pricing sentences so the caveat follows the claim directly.

Making a long list scannable

Before

...Microsoft Entra Permissions Management enables management and enforcement of least-privilege access across multicloud environments: Microsoft Entra Verified ID is a decentralized identity solution...; Microsoft Entra Workload ID manages identities for non-human entities...: and finally the Microsoft Entra Agent ID under the Microsoft Agent 365 product specifically governs AI agents...

After

...Microsoft Entra Permissions Management, which enables management and enforcement of least-privilege access across multicloud environments; Microsoft Entra Verified ID, which is a decentralized identity solution...; Microsoft Entra Workload ID, which manages identities for nonhuman entities...; and the Microsoft Entra Agent ID under the Microsoft Agent 365 product, which specifically governs AI agents...

A six-product list in one sentence, with colons and semicolons mixed as separators. I made every item follow the same pattern (product name, "which," what it does) and made every separator a semicolon, so readers can pick out each product.