

Apono vs. Microsoft Entra ID PIM

Beyond Role Activation: Just-in-Time and Just-Enough Privileged Access at Runtime

Why Apono Wins



Runtime Privilege Provisioning

Privileges are provisioned at runtime, tightly scoped, and automatically removed when work is complete.

Adaptive Policy Engine

Policies continuously adapt to infrastructure changes, reducing RBAC maintenance and privilege sprawl.

Access in Seconds, Not Minutes

Engineers receive required access in seconds, not after 5 to 20 minute activation delays.

Apono Approach

Apono provisions privileges dynamically across multi-cloud environments at runtime rather than relying on predefined role assignments. Access is granted based on policy at the moment it is requested, scoped to the specific resource or action required, and automatically removed when the task is complete.

This model removes the dependency on standing roles and shifts access control from managing static role definitions to governing real-time privilege decisions.

Microsoft Entra PIM Approach

Microsoft Entra ID Privileged Identity Management builds on Azure RBAC by introducing approval workflows and time-bound activation of predefined roles. Users request activation of roles that were assigned in advance, and the scope of access is determined by those role definitions.

This strengthens governance within Azure but retains a role-based structure that must be designed, assigned, and maintained over time.

Limitations of Entra ID PIM's Model

- **Static, Predefined Roles:** Access scope is determined by roles designed in advance, making least privilege dependent on continuous role maintenance as environments evolve.
- **RBAC Complexity at Scale:** As infrastructure grows, roles multiply and overlap, increasing operational overhead and audit burden.
- **Azure-Centric Control Model:** Applying consistent privileged access governance across AWS and other clouds introduces fragmentation that slows change and increases coordination overhead.

Why Apono was chosen over Entra ID PIM

Customer Snapshot

Customer

A leading global animal health company focused on developing medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and technology solutions for livestock producers and companion animal veterinarians worldwide.

Challenge

Experienced delays in Just-in-Time access due to SCIM synchronization requirements within Microsoft PIM, particularly when provisioning access to AWS resources, slowing response times and impacting operational agility.

Solution

Enabled real-time, cloud-native Just-in-Time access across AWS, Azure, and Kubernetes without SCIM synchronization delays, providing a centralized privileged access control plane with consistent policy enforcement and unified audit visibility across environments.

Outcome

Microsoft PIM by removing activation latency and cross-cloud fragmentation, delivering immediate, policy-driven access across environments without the operational delays and workflow friction of role-based SCIM provisioning.

ROI

Reduced access provisioning time from 5–20 minute SCIM synchronization delays to real-time, policy-driven access delivered in seconds, accelerating response times and eliminating workflow bottlenecks.

Comparison Overview

Category	Microsoft Entra PIM 	Apono
Model	Role activation within static Azure RBAC	Runtime, policy-driven privilege provisioning
How Access Is Granted	Users activate pre-assigned roles	Privileges granted at request time based on policy
Privilege Scope	Determined by predefined role definitions	Tightly scoped to the specific task or resource
Standing Access	Roles remain assigned, activation is temporary	No pre-assigned roles or standing privileges
Least Privilege Enforcement	Dependent on role design and ongoing maintenance	Built-in Just-Enough privilege scoping
Adaptability to Change	Role updates required as environments evolve	Policies dynamically adapt to infrastructure changes
Operational Overhead	Continuous RBAC design and maintenance	Automated policy orchestration
User Experience	Activation workflow within Azure	Streamlined request and automatic provisioning
Audit & Visibility	Azure service logs	Centralized cross-environment dashboard
Licensing	Premium Azure add-on	Purpose-built Just-in-Time and Just-Enough platform

About Apono

Founded in 2022 by Rom Carmel and Ofir Stein, Apono delivers a Cloud Privileged Access Platform purpose-built for modern, fast-moving environments. With support for both human and non-human identities, Apono helps security and DevOps teams enforce least privilege at scale without slowing down delivery.

Trusted by Fortune 500 enterprise and recognized in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Privileged Access Management two years running, Apono is shaping the future of secure cloud access.

Apono

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