COHESITY

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

When identity fails, business stops

84% of organizations experienced an identity-related breach last year. In financial services, the average cost: $6.08M per breach.

How identity-based attacks put financial services in the crosshairs

Financial services led all industries in breaches in 2025, with compromised credentials being the #1 attack vector. Your identity attack surface continues to expand daily due to:

- **Legacy AD infrastructure**: Active Directory (AD) is a highly prevalent and decades-old identity system where vulnerabilities and misconfigurations have built-up over the years. Coupled with an aging infrastructure, many financial services firms cite inadequate protection and lack of visibility over security gaps affecting their most critical identity and access management systems.
- **Hybrid environment complexity:** Cloud identity systems expand the attack surface, and attackers are now pivoting between on-prem AD and cloud identity systems in hybrid environments. That introduces more blind spots and thus more vulnerabilities that can be exploited.
- **High concentration of attacks:** Attackers see identity as the front door to an organization's network and data. Cohesity's CERT team finds that 95% of security incidents involve AD. This is largely because attackers know that identity underpins enterprise access. Compromising AD means the business is forced into a standstill.

Financial services case study

First Horizon Bank: Stolen Credentials Drain Customer Accounts (April 2021)

Target: First Horizon Bank – $87.5 billion-asset financial institution based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Attack Vector: Compromised credentials combined with exploitation of third-party security software vulnerability. Attackers obtained login credentials from an unknown source, then leveraged them to access customer accounts.

Business Impact:

- Nearly 200 customer accounts compromised
- Customer funds fraudulently withdrawn from accounts
- Attackers accessed sensitive personal information including SSNs, addresses, account numbers
- Bank forced to reimburse customers, close and reopen all affected accounts

Cohesity Identity Resilience:
Detect, withstand, and recover from identity-based attacks

Detect	Continuously monitor and harden AD and Entra ID against identity threats and vulnerabilities with threat intelligence from leading identity security experts. Reduce attack likelihood by 25% while spending 40% less time monitoring.
Withstand	Automate rollback of malicious and suspicious identity changes to prevent compromise. Protect AD and Entra ID data with immutable, hardened backups. Simplify identity recovery testing to meet RTO objectives and enhance readiness.
Recover	Fast, automated, malware-free AD forest recovery and Entra ID with a few clicks for 90% faster recovery. Advanced post-breach forensics that speed remediation and prevent follow-on attacks and validate trust in your identity systems.

How identity compromise affects financial services

Everything is at risk of immediately stopping:

- Wire transfers and ACH payments
- ATM networks and card authorization systems
- Loan processing and credit approvals
- Trading platforms and securities settlement
- Mobile banking and customer portals
- Internal operations (anything from email, file access, to business applications)

Cost of downtime: $2.7M in lost labor and revenue. Without identity resilience, recovery can take weeks.

Is your identity infrastructure resilient?

- ✓ Have you tested and proven that you can meet your identity recovery RTOs after a cyber-incident in the last 90 days?
- ✓ Do you have immutable backups of AD and Entra ID?
- ✓ Can you detect identity-based attacks (Golden Ticket, DCSync) and automatically remediate them in real-time?
- ✓ Can you validate that your identity recovery is malware-free?
- ✓ Can you perform recoveries without internet access?

If you answered "no" to any of these, your business is at risk.

Get a free identity security assessment today.

Contact your Cohesity rep to schedule a no-obligation assessment of your identity security posture.

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