

What Is Conditional Access?

Conditional Access is a set of if-then rules that checks the situation before allowing someone into Microsoft 365.

Think of it as a security checkpoint for every sign-in.

The password matters, but so do the person, device, location, and level of risk.

STEP 1

Microsoft checks the sign-in context



PERSON

Who is signing in?



DEVICE

Is the device managed?



LOCATION

Where is the request from?



RISK

Does anything look unusual?



STEP 2: POLICY DECISION

IF the conditions match, THEN apply the required access control.



STEP 3

Microsoft responds

ALLOW

Normal access

VERIFY

Require MFA

LIMIT

Restrict the session

BLOCK

Deny access

Two quick examples

NORMAL SIGN-IN

Known employee + managed laptop + normal location = Allow access

SUSPICIOUS SIGN-IN

Stolen password + unknown device + unusual location = Verify or block

Want the complete guide?

Read practical examples, licensing notes, and rollout guidance.

calpcc.com/conditional-access-small-business-guide/

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