

IT SECURITY ASSESSMENT & CLOUD GOVERNANCE REVIEW.



Brand Lounge ME - UAE | KSA | UK - Campaign Branding Agency of the year - Middle East 2025.

The Project

As part of an ongoing IT security and governance initiative, I recently completed a comprehensive IT Security Assessment for Brand Lounge ME across their cloud environment built on Google Workspace and Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

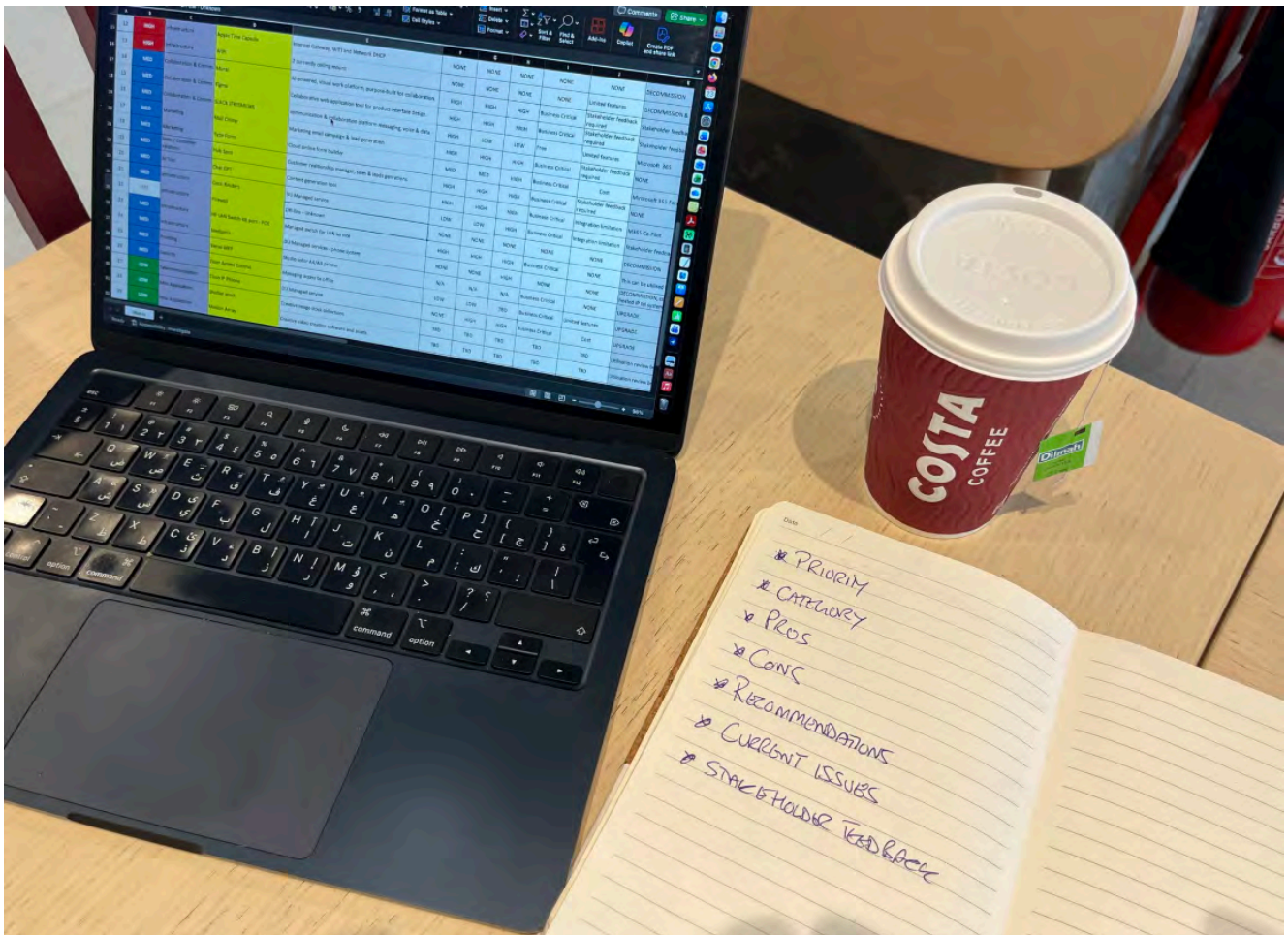
The objective of the assessment was simple:
identify security gaps, reduce operational risks, improve governance, and strengthen the overall security posture of the organization while ensuring scalability for future business growth.

Like many growing businesses, the client had rapidly adopted cloud technologies to support collaboration, communication, and remote operations. However, over time this created challenges around access control, data management, storage governance, and user accountability.

The assessment focused on aligning the client's cloud environment with security best practices while maintaining operational efficiency and user productivity.

Case study

The Scope



- Authentic image - Designing a traffic light system risk assessment report for the management.

The assessment covered a detailed review of the following areas:

Identity & Access Management (IAM)

- Review of privileged access accounts
- User role permissions
- Access control structures
- Principle of Least Privilege implementation
- RBAC (Role-Based Access Control)

Shared & Generic Email Accounts

- Review of shared mailbox usage
- Identification of generic accounts without accountability
- Risk analysis around credential sharing and access misuse

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Password Management Policy

- Password complexity requirements
- Password rotation policies
- Weak password exposure risks
- User authentication standards

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

- MFA enforcement review across users and administrators
- High-risk account protection
- Security posture validation for remote access

Data Loss Prevention (DLP)

- Review of DLP controls and policies
- Sensitive data exposure risks
- Data sharing governance

Data Retention & Legal Hold

- Retention policy review
- Email and document lifecycle governance
- Storage optimization opportunities
- Compliance readiness

Organization Workspace Storage Access

- Review of storage ownership and permissions
- Oversharing risks
- Unmanaged cloud storage exposure

Data Sprawl Risk Mitigation

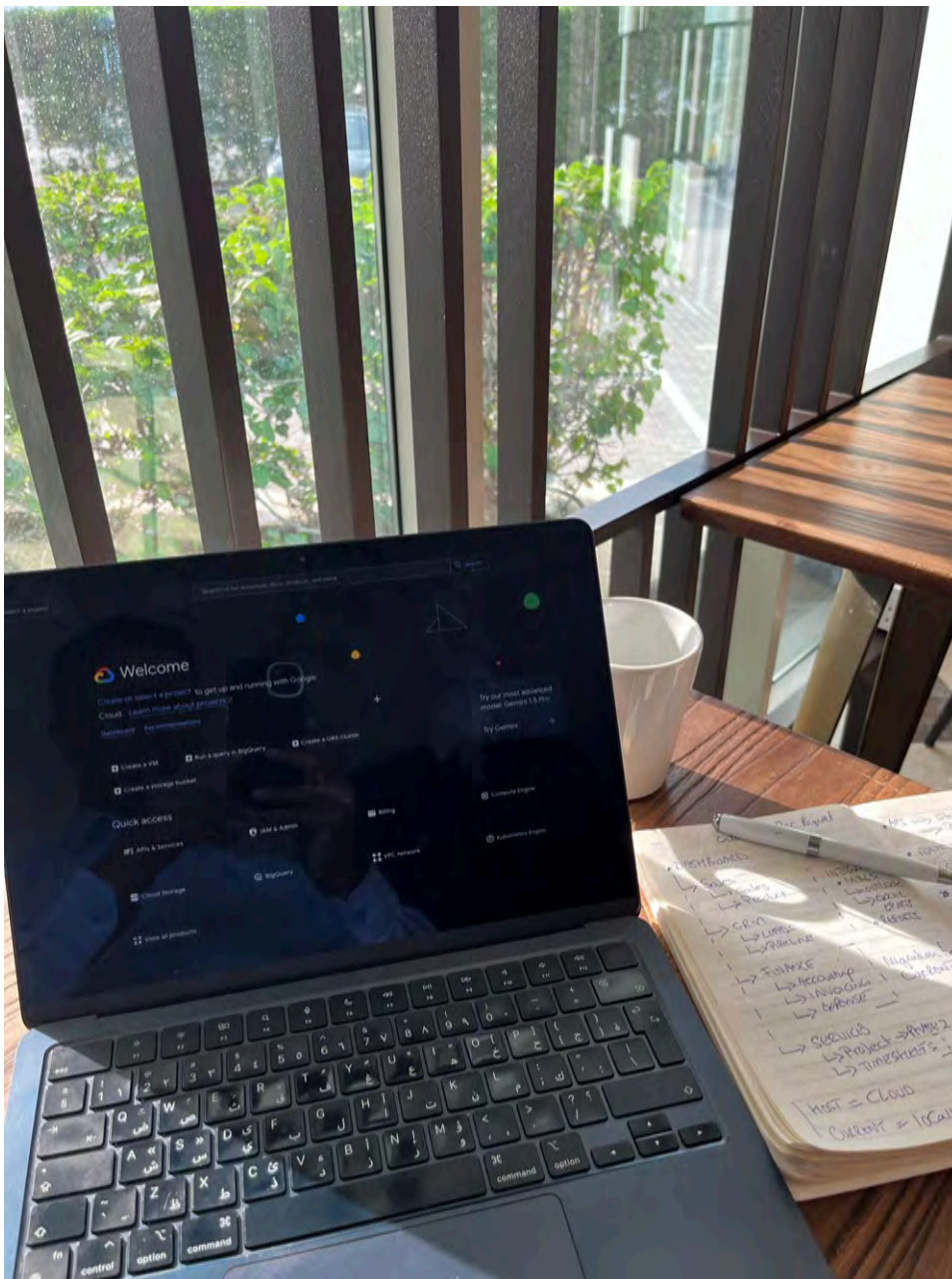
- Identification of uncontrolled data growth
- Duplicate and orphaned data risks
- Governance and operational efficiency recommendations

Case study

The Platforms & Technologies Used

The assessment was conducted across the following cloud platforms:

- Google Workspace
- Google Cloud Platform (GCP)
- Google Admin Console
- Google Vault
- Google Identity & Access Management (IAM)
- Google Drive Governance & Sharing Controls



- Authentic image - Reviewing the Google Cloud Platform (GCP).

Case study

The Challenges

One of the biggest challenges faced during the assessment was the rapid growth of the organisation's cloud ecosystem without a formal governance structure being implemented early on.

Common issues identified included:

- Excessive privileged access rights
- Overuse of generic shared email accounts
- Inconsistent MFA adoption
- Unstructured file-sharing practices
- Lack of clear data ownership
- Unmanaged storage growth
- Limited visibility into retained and archived data
- Increased risk of data sprawl across departments

These are common trends often seen in startups and fast-growing SMBs where speed of operations initially takes priority over governance and security controls.

Overcoming The Challenges

The engagement focused on balancing security, usability, and operational practicality.

Key recommendations and remediation strategies included:

Strengthening Identity Security

- Enforcing MFA across all users
- Reducing unnecessary administrative privileges
- Implementing role-based access control (RBAC)

Improving Accountability

- Reducing reliance on generic shared accounts
- Introducing clearer ownership and access accountability

Enhancing Data Governance

- Implementing structured retention policies
- Applying legal hold procedures where required
- Improving data lifecycle management

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Reducing Data Sprawl

- Reviewing inactive and redundant data
- Restricting oversharing permissions
- Improving organisational storage governance

Improving Security Awareness

- Aligning users and management teams with cloud security best practices
- Providing strategic recommendations for long-term governance maturity

The Outcome

Following the assessment, the client achieved:

- Improved cloud security posture
- Stronger identity and access governance
- Reduced risk of unauthorised access
- Better accountability across shared systems
- Improved compliance readiness
- Reduced data sprawl risks
- Better visibility into storage and archived data
- More scalable cloud governance foundations

Most importantly, the organization gained a clearer understanding of the risks associated with unmanaged cloud growth and the importance of implementing governance early.

The Conclusion

Cloud platforms like Google Workspace and Google Cloud Platform provide businesses with incredible flexibility, scalability, and operational efficiency.

However, without proper governance, security controls, and data management policies in place, organisations can quickly face challenges around security exposure, compliance risks, uncontrolled storage growth, and operational inefficiencies.

This assessment helped Brand Lounge ME establish stronger security foundations while creating a roadmap for scalable and secure cloud operations moving forward.

In my experience, the most successful businesses are not the ones that grow the fastest — they are the ones that put the right operational and security foundations in place early, then scale confidently on top of them.

Case study

The Client

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Sector : Branding, Creative, Design Agency



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Project completion Date

The month of May 2026

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