

Microsoft Azure Active Directory as SAML IdP with Pulse Connect Secure Deployment Guide

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Microsoft Azure Active Directory as SAML IdP with Pulse Connect Secure - Deployment Guide

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Revision History

Revision and Date	Added/Updated /Removed	Remarks
3.0, February 2021	Updated	Updated the document with the latest MS Azure navigation
2.0, February 2019	Updated	Updated the document with the latest MS Azure navigation
1.0, May 2018	Initial release	

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Introduction

This document describes how to set up Pulse Connect Secure for SP-initiated SAML authentication using the Microsoft Azure Active Directory as the SAML IdP. It also describes the user experience with Web browser and Pulse Secure Client access methods.

Prerequisites

Ensure you have the following:

- Administrative access to the [Azure Management Portal](#)
 - Azure subscription that includes Active Directory
- Pulse Connect Secure appliance running 8.2R1 or later

Configurations

The set up includes the following process steps:

- Microsoft Azure Active Directory Configuration
- Pulse Connect Secure Configuration

Microsoft Azure Active Directory Configuration

This section covers the configurations required on Microsoft Azure AD.

Microsoft Azure AD configurations include:

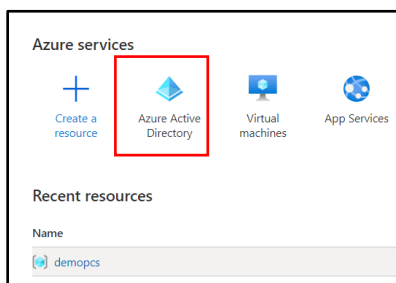
- Setting Up PCS as Enterprise Application
- Configuring Single Sign-on Settings
- Assigning User to Application

Setting Up PCS as Enterprise Application

Perform the following steps:

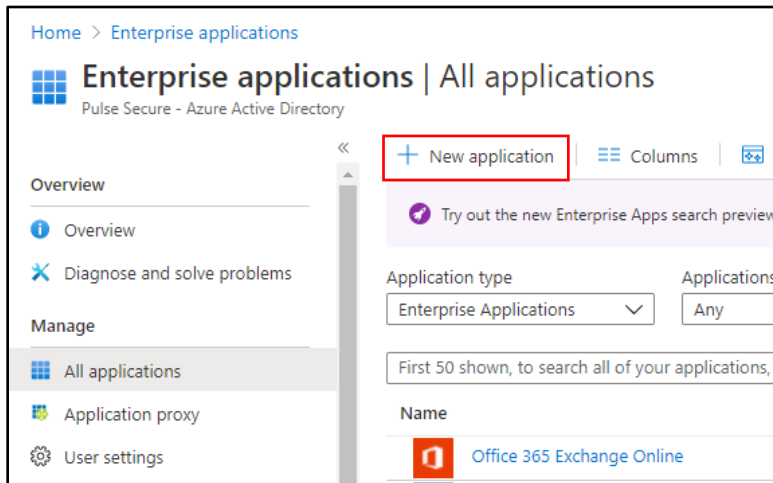
1. Log into the [Azure Management Portal](#).
2. On the Azure Services page, select **Azure Active Directory**.

Figure 1: Azure Services - Enterprise applications



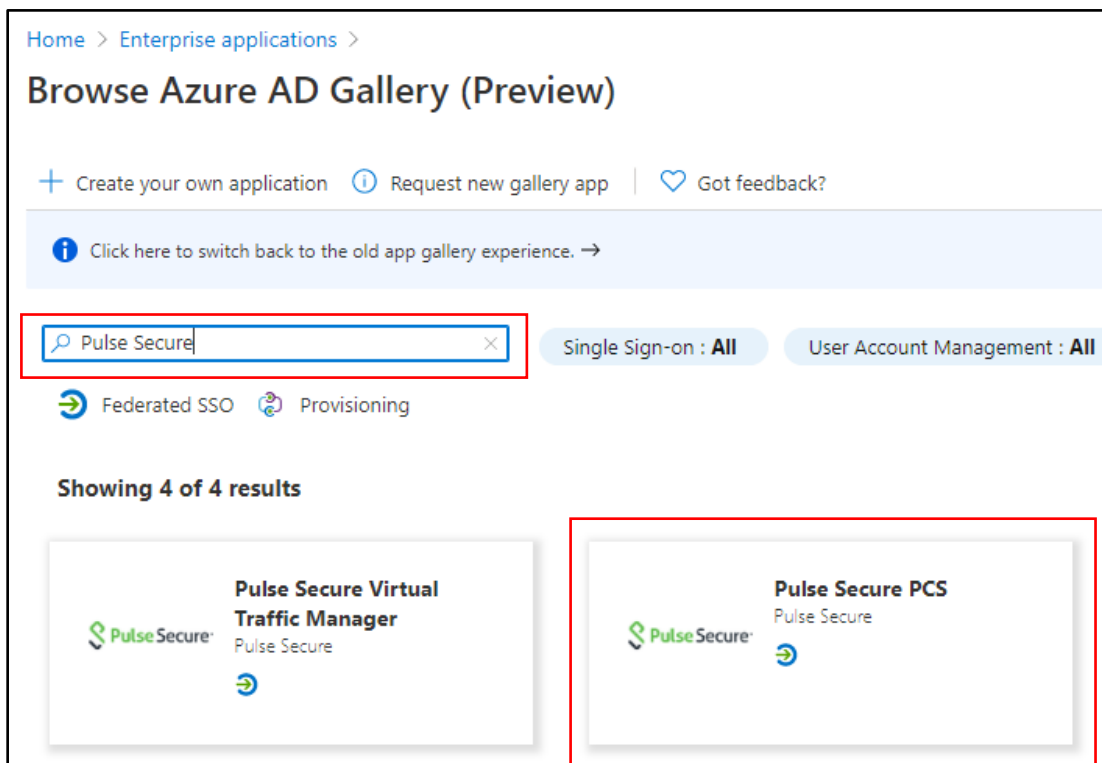
3. On the left pane, select **Enterprise applications**.
4. In the Enterprise applications page, click **New application**.

Figure 2: Azure AD - Enterprise applications



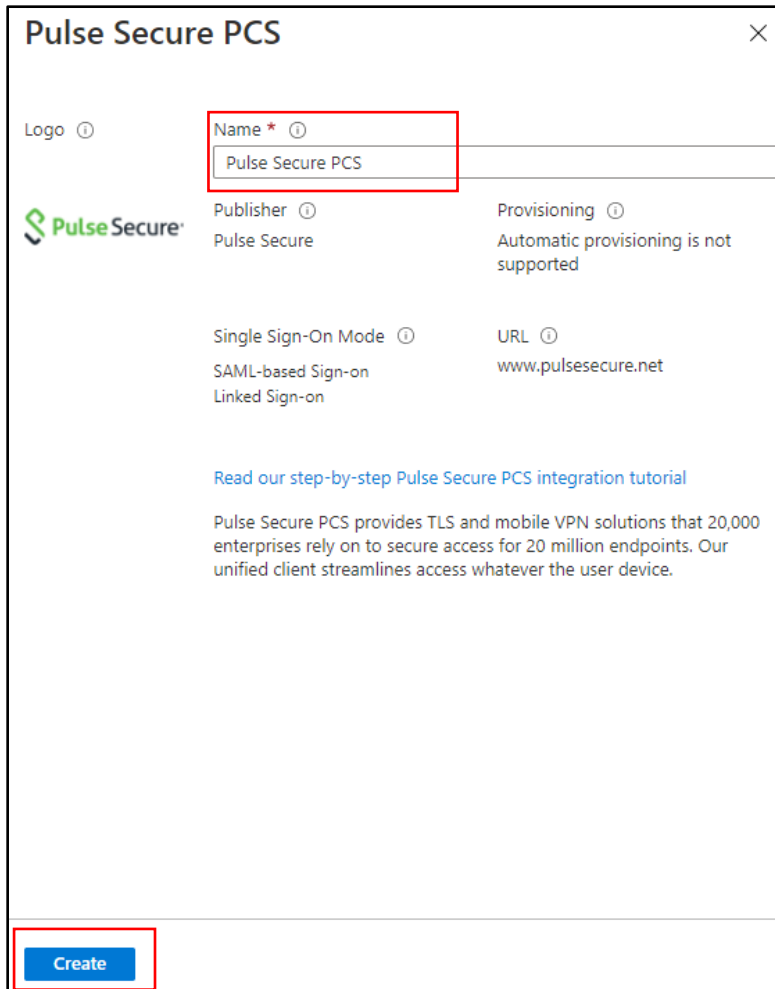
5. In the Browse Azure AD Gallery page, search with keyword **Pulse Secure**, and then select **Pulse Secure PCS** from the search result.

Figure 3: Azure AD - Select Pulse Secure Application



6. In the window that is displayed, enter a unique name, and click **Create**.


Figure 4: Azure AD – Create Pulse Secure Application



Pulse Secure PCS ✕

Logo ⓘ

Name * ⓘ
Pulse Secure PCS

 Publisher ⓘ
Pulse Secure

Provisioning ⓘ
Automatic provisioning is not supported

Single Sign-On Mode ⓘ

SAML-based Sign-on
Linked Sign-on

URL ⓘ
www.pulsesecure.net

[Read our step-by-step Pulse Secure PCS integration tutorial](#)

Pulse Secure PCS provides TLS and mobile VPN solutions that 20,000 enterprises rely on to secure access for 20 million endpoints. Our unified client streamlines access whatever the user device.

Create

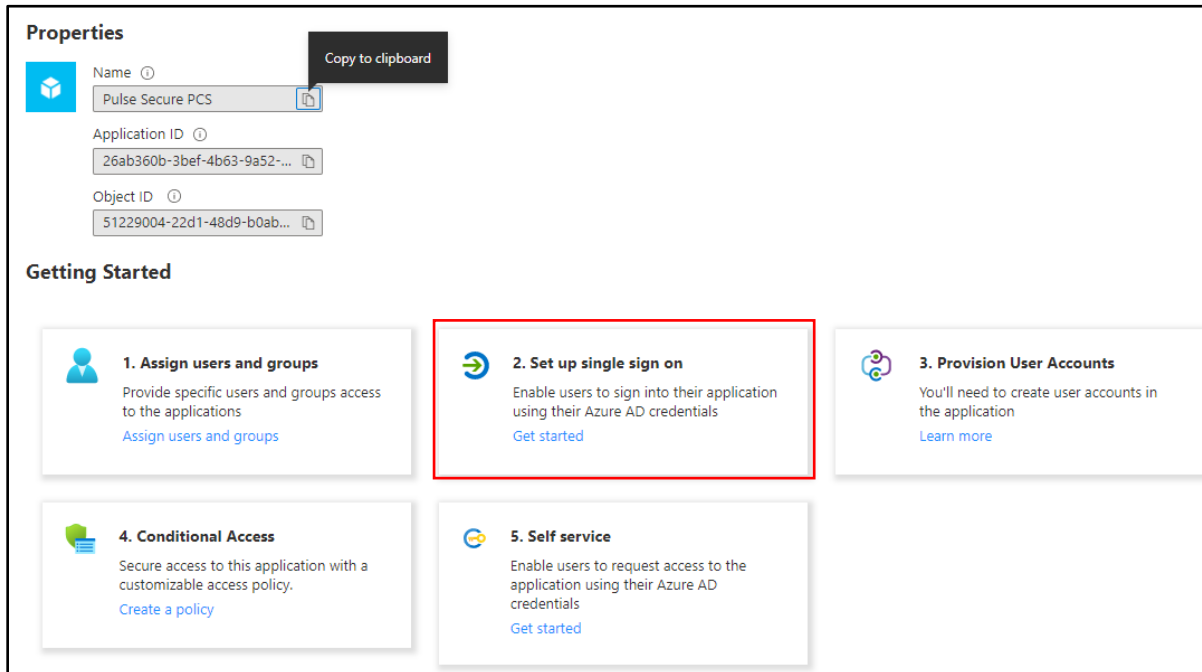
This completes setting up of enterprise application.

Configuring Single Sign-on Settings

After successfully configuring the enterprise application, the Getting Started page is displayed. Perform the following steps:

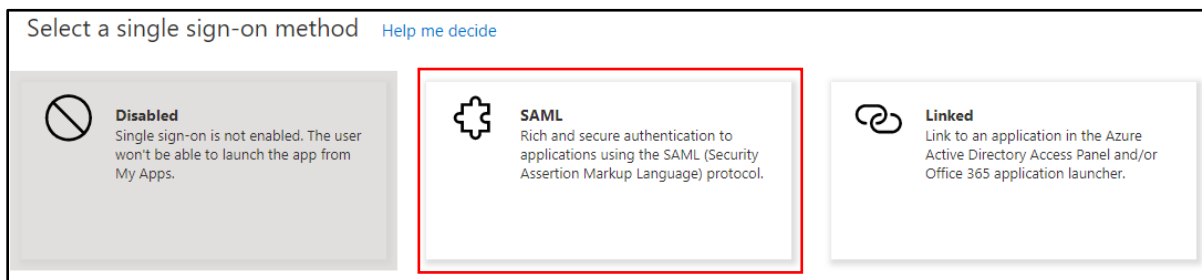
1. In the Getting Started page, select **Single sign-on**.

Figure 5: Azure AD - Single Sign-on settings



2. Select **Single sign-on method** as SAML.

Figure 6: Single Sign-on method



3. The Entity ID of Pulse Connect Secure is: `https://[FQDN of PCS]/dana-na/auth/saml-endpoint.cgi?p=sp1`

NOTE: SP1 in the above Entity Id indicates that this is the first SAML Service Provider. If there are any existing SPs, then this number changes. Please check PCS configurations for exact number.

4. Reply URL of Pulse Connect Secure is `https://[FQDN of PCS]/dana-na/auth/saml-consumer.cgi`
5. Configure Sign on URL as `https://[FQDN of PCS]/dana-na/auth/saml-consumer.cgi`

Figure 7: Azure AD - Pulse Connect Secure settings

Set up Single Sign-On with SAML

Read the [configuration guide](#) for help integrating Pulse Secure PCS.

1 Basic SAML Configuration Edit

Identifier (Entity ID)	https://pcs1/dana-na/auth/saml-endpoint.cgi?p=sp1
Reply URL (Assertion Consumer Service URL)	https://pcs1/dana-na/auth/saml-consumer.cgi
Sign on URL	https://pcs1/dana-na/auth/saml-consumer.cgi
Relay State	Optional
Logout Url	Optional

2 User Attributes & Claims Edit

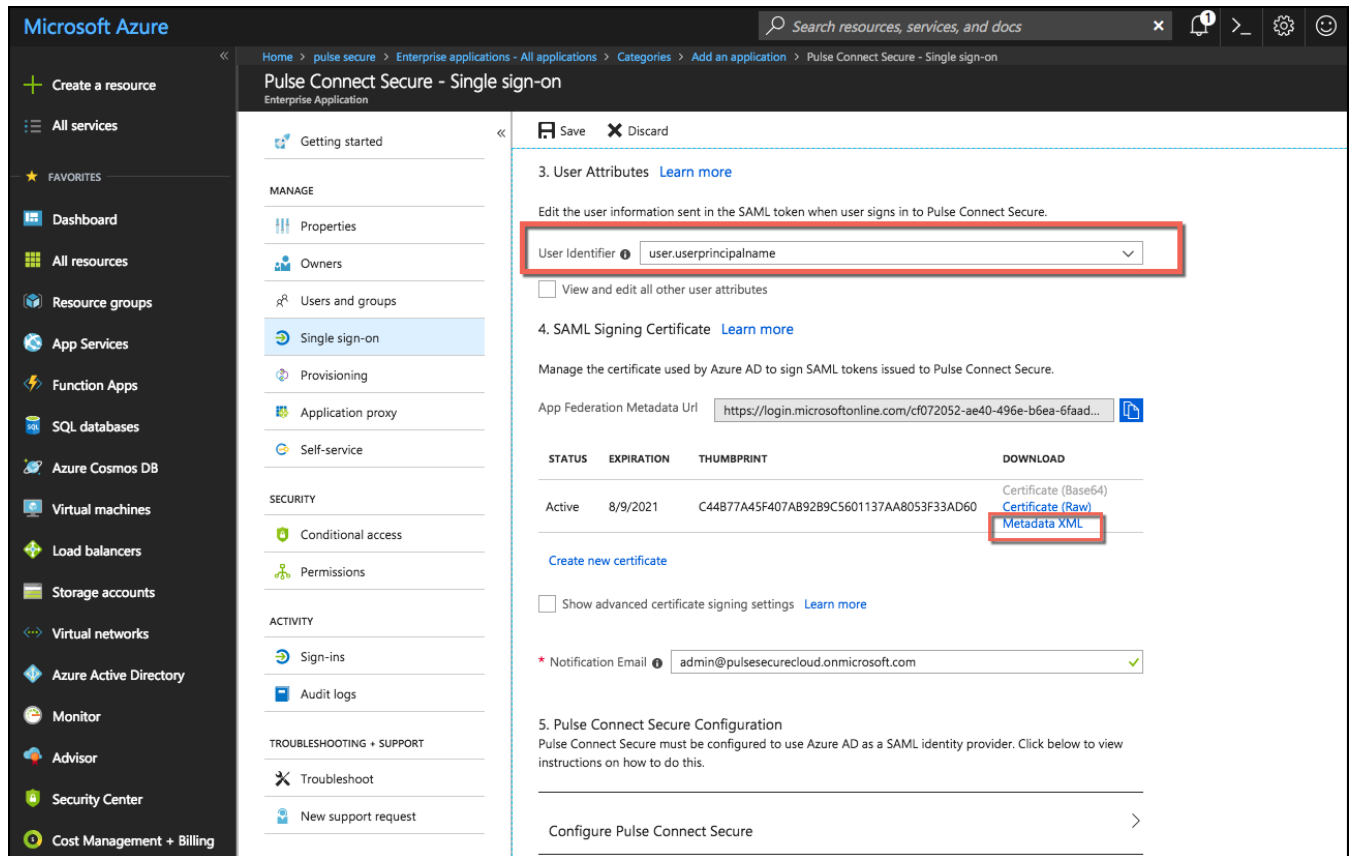
givenname	user.givenname
surname	user.surname
emailaddress	user.mail
name	user.userprincipalname
Unique User Identifier	user.userprincipalname

6. Select **User Identifier** from the drop-down list.

NOTE: User Identifier value is sent as Subject Name in SAML response. Please choose appropriate one of your choice.

7. Click **Metadata XML** to download Azure AD IdP metadata. This will be uploaded to Pulse Connect Secure to retrieve Azure AD SAML IdP configurations.

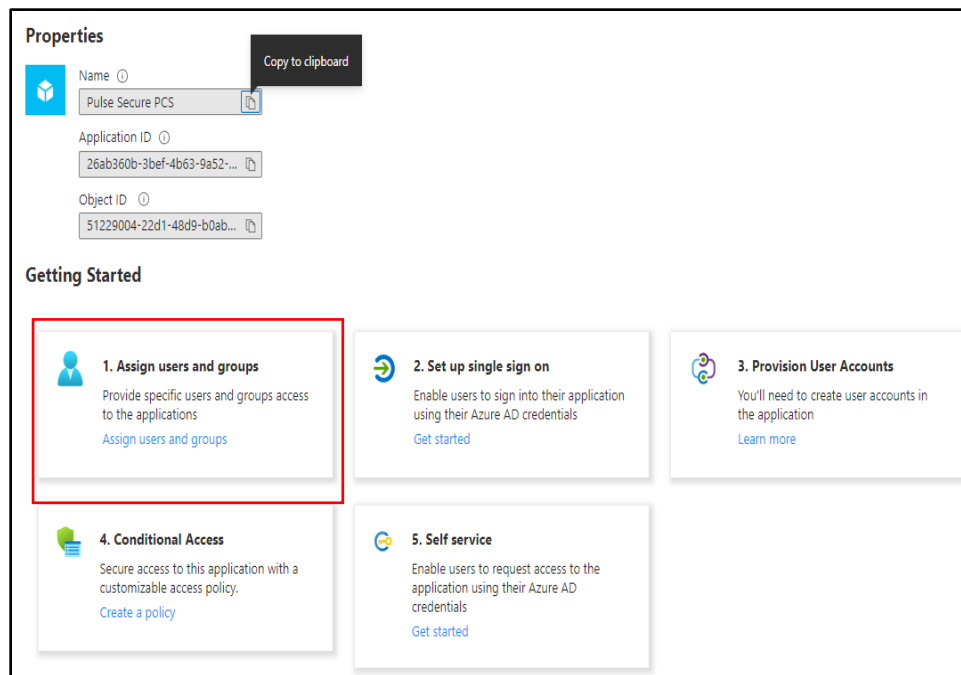
Figure 8: Azure AD - User attributes



Assigning User to Application

1. In the Getting Starting page, select **Assign users and groups**.

Figure 9: Azure AD - Assign user to application



2. Select the user who needs access to PCS.
3. Click **Add User**.

Figure 10: Azure AD - Add user

The screenshot shows the 'Add user' interface in Azure AD. At the top, there are action buttons: '+ Add user' (highlighted with a red box), 'Edit', 'Remove', 'Update Credentials', 'Columns', and 'Got feedback?'. Below these is an information banner: 'The application will appear on the Access Panel for assigned users. Set 'visible to users?' to no in properties to prevent this. →'. A search bar contains the text 'First 100 shown, to search all users & groups, enter a display name.' Below the search bar is a table of users:

	Display Name	Object Type	Role assigned
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malcolm Stephen	User	Default Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	User11	User	Default Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	User22	User	Default Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	User33	User	Default Access

4. Microsoft MFA is then set on the user in Azure AD.

The screenshot shows the 'multi-factor authentication' settings page in Azure AD. The page title is 'multi-factor authentication' with sub-sections 'users' and 'service settings'. A note says 'Before you begin, take a look at the multi-factor auth deployment guide.' Below this, there are controls for 'View: Sign-in allowed users' and 'Multi-Factor Auth status: Enforced' with a 'bulk update' button. A table below shows the MFA status for users:

	DISPLAY NAME	USER NAME	MULTI-FACTOR AUTH STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/>			Enforced

Pulse Connect Secure Configuration

This section covers the SAML configurations required to configure PCS as SAML SP. The other basic configurations like creating Realms and Roles are not covered.

Pulse Connect Secure configuration includes:

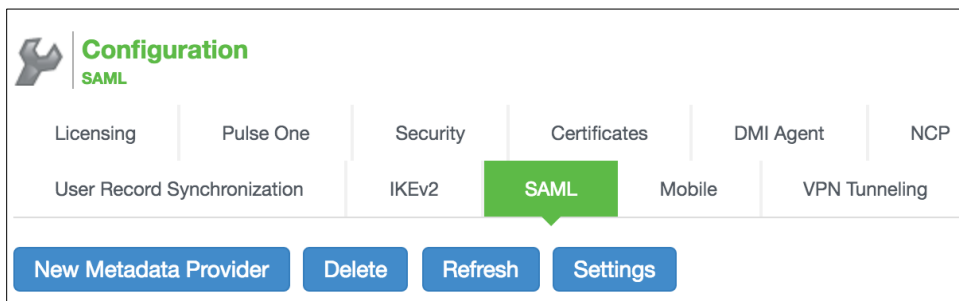
- Configuring Azure Active Directory as SAML Metadata Provider
- Configuring SAML Authentication Server

Configuring Azure Active Directory as SAML Metadata Provider

Perform the following steps:

1. Log into the Pulse Connect Secure admin console.
2. Navigate to **System > Configuration > SAML**.
3. Click **New Metadata Provider**.

Figure 11: PCS: SAML Configuration



4. Provide a name for the new metadata provider.
5. Select **Location** as *Local*.
6. Upload Azure AD metadata file by clicking **Browse** and selecting the file.

i **NOTE:** Azure AD metadata is the XML file that should be downloaded from Azure portal. For details, see the 'Microsoft Azure AD Configurations' section above.

Figure 12: PCS: Azure AD as SAML IdP in PCS

SAML > New Metadata Provider

Name: Label to reference metadata provider.

Metadata Provider Location Configuration

Location: Local Remote Location of metadata provider

Upload Metadata File: Pulse Secure PCS.xml
Current File: None

Metadata Provider Verification Configuration

Accept Unsigned Metadata If checked Connect Secure accepts unsigned metadata.

Signing Certificate:

Issued To:
 Issued By:
 Valid:
 Details: [▶ Other Certificate Details](#)

Upload Certificate: No file chosen

Enable Signing Certificate status checking
(Uses configuration in [Trusted Client CAs](#). This applies to the certificate configured above as well as the one comes along with the Metadata.)

7. Select **Accept Unsigned Metadata**.
8. Select **Roles as Identity Provider**.
9. Click **Save Changes**.

Figure 13: PCS: Select Identity Provider role

Metadata Provider Filter Configuration

Roles: Identity Provider Service Provider Policy Decision Point

Entity Ids to import:

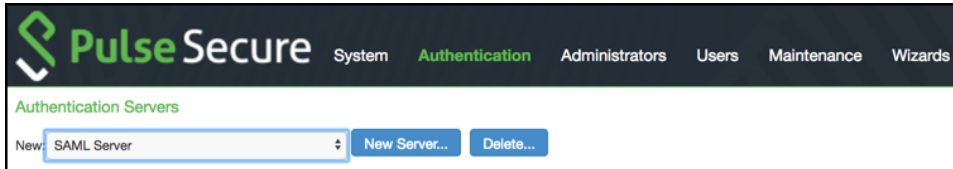
Save Changes

Configuring SAML Authentication Server

To create a SAML authentication server:

1. Navigate to **Authentication > Auth Servers**.
2. Select **New: SAML Server** and click **New Server**.

Figure 14: PCS: Authentication server selection



3. Provide **Server Name**.
4. Select **SAML Version** as *2.0*, and **Configuration Mode** as *Metadata*.
5. Select Azure AD Entity Id from the **Identity Provider Entity Id** drop-down list.

Figure 15: PCS: SAML Server settings

 The screenshot shows the 'New SAML Server' configuration page. The 'Server Name' field contains 'MS-Azure'. Below this is a 'Settings' section with the following fields:

- * SAML Version: Radio buttons for 1.1 and 2.0 (2.0 is selected).
- * Connect Secure Entity Id: Text input field containing 'https://aws.psgec.com/dana-na/auth/saml-endpoint.c'.
- * Configuration Mode: Radio buttons for Manual and Metadata (Metadata is selected).
- * Identity Provider Entity Id: Dropdown menu showing 'https://sts.windows.net/1b7a19a5-e893-4e9a-800e-76111d1d1be6/'.
- Identity Provider Single Sign On Service URL: Text input field containing 'https://login.microsoftonline.com/1b7a19a5-e893-4e9a-800e-76111d1d1be6/saml2'.
- User Name Template: Text input field with an example: '<assertionNameDN.uid>, uid from X509SubjectName. The entire assertion name identifier if not specified; Or <userAttr.attr>, attr from AttributeStatement attributes.'
- Allowed Clock Skew (minutes): Text input field containing '5'.
- Support Single Logout

NOTE: Azure AD Metadata automatically sets various parameters for the SAML authentication server.

6. Single Logout is an optional setting. If this option is selected, it prompts for a new authentication after logout. If this option is not selected and you have not closed the browser, you can reconnect without authentication.
7. Select **Requested Authn Context Class** as *Password*, and **Comparison Method** as *exact*.
8. Set the **Metadata Validity** in terms of number of days.
9. Click **Save Changes**.

Figure 16: PCS: SSO Method settings

SSO Method

Artifact
 Post

Response Signing Certificate:
 Issued To: Microsoft Azure Federated SSO Certificate
 Issued By: Microsoft Azure Federated SSO Certificate
 Valid: Aug 9 12:46:38 2018 GMT - Aug 9 12:46:37 2021 GMT
 Details: [Other Certificate Details](#)

Select Certificate: Microsoft Azure Federated SSO Certificate Delete

Enable Signing Certificate status checking
(Uses configuration in [Trusted Client CAs](#). This applies to the certificate configured above as well as the one comes along with the SAML response.)

Select Device Certificate for Signing: Not Applicable Certificate used for signing the Requests initiated by

Select Device Certificate for Encryption: Not Applicable Certificate used by the IdP for wrapping encryption k

Select Requested Authn Context Classes to be sent in the AuthRequest:

Available:	Selected:
InternetProtocol	Password
InternetProtocolPassword	
Kerberos	
MobileOneFactorUnregistered	
MobileTwoFactorUnregistered	

Comparison Method for Authentication Classes: exact

Service Provider Metadata Settings

Metadata Validity: days 1 - 9999. Specifies the time in days after which metadata for the SAML Auth Server should be refreshed by the Id

Do Not Publish Connect Secure Metadata Prevents the Metadata for the SAML Auth Server to be published at the location specified by the Connect Secure

Download Metadata

User Record Synchronization

Save Changes

* indicates required field

End-User Flow

Access through Browser (SP Initiated SSO)

1. Open web browser and access Pulse Connect Secure URL (Example: <https://vpn.pulsesecure.net>)
It automatically redirects to Microsoft login page.
2. Provide Email Id.
3. When prompted for password, provide password.
4. Click **Sign In**.
After successful authentication, user gets redirected to Pulse Connect Secure portal giving access to corporate resources.

Troubleshooting

For any issues with Pulse Connect Secure, submit a request with Pulse Secure support team and provide following PCS logs:

- Navigate to **System > Log/Monitoring**. Click **Save All Logs** and save the logs.
- Provide server debug logs with event codes "saml, auth, soap, dsdash, cloudsecure" at level 50.
- Provide Policy tracing for the specific user session with proper realm.

References

Microsoft Azure documentation: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/>

Requesting Technical Support

Technical product support is available through the Pulse Secure Global Support Center (PSGSC). If you have a support contract, then file a ticket with PSGSC.

- Product warranties—for product warranty information, visit <https://www.pulsesecure.net>.