

Consider the following points before selecting and implementing a Zero Trust technology solution for your organization. This checklist can be used to guide conversations with potential ZTNA vendors. Learn more about ZTNA in [this article](#).

1. Consider Architectural Elements - Does the solution easily integrate with your current IT environment?

Determine whether Zero Trust will apply to on-premise resources, cloud resources, and applications or end users.

Consider the kinds of credentials that will be used in the Zero Trust architecture.

Determine the access management technologies that will be used.

Consider common assets such as physical servers, virtual servers, cloud workloads, end-user laptops, and mobile devices.

Determine whether agents from third-party tools are compatible with the workload types involved.

2. Evaluate the Core Pillars of Zero Trust - Has your organization defined how Zero Trust will be implemented and enforced?

Ensure the ZTNA solution interfaces with identity stores in real time to enforce user access on predefined policies.

Evaluate the microsegmentation needs and compatibility with your workloads.

Evaluate decision criteria for the ZTNA solution including device location, device validation, user validation, user access, and behaviors.

3. Considerations in Tools and Services - Does the solution align with core key Zero Trust Principles?

Is the product a complete VPN replacement?

Does the product have cloud access broker capabilities?

Does the product require an agent to be installed on a device?

Does the product integrate with Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions?

Does the product offer a microsegmentation engine (usually agent-based) to enforce limited access to users?

Does the product include identity store integration, network and application discovery, and policy assignment?

Does the ZTNA vendor offer support to troubleshoot issues?

Validate ZTNA vendor security practices to ensure they are appropriately safeguarding credentials and access to your environment by following Third-Party Risk Management (TPRM) best practices.

4. Implementation of Zero Trust - How will your organization enforce strict access mechanisms at the user, device and application level?

Define the least level of access required for users and groups.

Define requirements over device posture that can connect to resources.

Design the Zero Trust architecture based on how data moves across the network and how users access information.

Group and categorize services and systems for access and authorization requirements.

Enforce a least privileged access model once identities are challenged, confirmed, and validated (through integration with directory services).

Assure ongoing monitoring is in place to continuously detect and track traffic in the environment.