

# Identity Is the New Perimeter

## Why Credential Based Attacks Are Winning

Traditional perimeter security is obsolete. Credentials are now the universal currency of access, and credential-based attacks dominate. This analysis examines why identity has become the critical attack vector and what organizations must do differently.

## Why Credentials Are the Target

Compromised credentials bypass authentication, pass through firewalls, and provide legitimate system access. Attackers appear as authorized users. Network security controls designed for perimeter defense cannot detect legitimate authentication with stolen credentials. 1.8 billion credentials stolen in H1 2025. 65% of initial access uses identity-based techniques. 88% of web app attacks use stolen credentials.

## Why Traditional Defense Fails

Firewalls, IPS, and endpoint protection all assume "if authenticated, then legitimate." But credential compromise means attackers have legitimate credentials. Password complexity is irrelevant once credentials are stolen. Traditional security controls were designed for

perimeter defense when work was location-based. They're ineffective against distributed credential-compromise attacks.

## Identity-First Security

Credential hygiene (minimize credentials, use hardware keys, enable passwordless authentication). Privilege minimization (least-privilege access). Lateral movement detection (monitor unusual access patterns). Credential reuse detection (stolen credentials used from unusual locations). Anomalous behavior analysis (deviations from normal patterns). Rapid credential invalidation (average remediation currently 94 days—far too slow).

### Key Statistics

65% of initial access via identity techniques | 1.8B credentials stolen H1 2025 | 88% of web app attacks use stolen credentials | 22% of breaches from credential abuse

## Moving Forward

Organizations without identity-first security are fundamentally unprepared. Unified Core addresses credential-based threats through identity-focused detection, lateral movement analysis, and rapid response to compromise. The organizations winning against modern threats explicitly focus on credential protection.