

PAPER

June
2026

**Why Portuguese Organizations
Can No Longer Afford
Fragmented Access Control**



Securing what matters,
enabling what's next

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CONTENTS

- 02 Executive Summary Perspective
- 03 The Hidden Risk Behind Traditional Access Models
- 04 Identity Solutions: From IT Function to Strategic Infrastructure
Beyond Silos: The Power of an Integrated Identity Ecosystem
- 05 A Market Gap Still Underdeveloped In Portugal
Automation as the Real Differentiator
- 06 Conclusion: Identity Is No Longer Optional



Executive Summary

This paper explores how Identity has become a critical pillar of enterprise security, exposing the risks of fragmented access control and manual governance. It presents Hexa Engineering's integrated approach to Identity Solutions, combining governance, access and privilege management to strengthen security, compliance and operational resilience through automation.

Perspective

In today's enterprise environments, security is no longer defined by networks, firewalls or physical boundaries.

It is defined by identity.

Every access request, every system interaction, every privileged action and every digital process begins with one fundamental question:

Who is accessing what, and under which conditions?

Yet despite its central role, Identity Management remains one of the most underestimated and underdeveloped capabilities across organizations, particularly in Portugal.

While cybersecurity investment continues to grow, identity governance is still often treated as a secondary technical topic rather than what it truly is: the foundation of operational trust.

The Hidden Risk Behind Traditional Access Models

Most organizations believe they have identity under control because they have directory services, access groups or basic authentication mechanisms in place.

In practice, however, identity is still managed through fragmented processes, manual interventions and legacy structures operating far beyond their original purpose.

This often results in:

- › onboarding and offboarding processes that depend on manual execution
- › access rights that accumulate without clear justification
- › excessive privileges granted by default
- › limited governance and weak auditability
- › a false sense of control over critical systems

These issues rarely surface until something breaks. A compliance failure. An insider incident. A critical access that was never revoked. Identity is often invisible, until it becomes urgent.



1 Identity Solutions: From IT Function to Strategic Infrastructure

The real value of identity emerges when it is no longer treated as a set of disconnected tools, but as an integrated operating model.

At Hexa Engineering, we approach Identity Solutions as a strategic layer that connects governance, access and privilege into one coherent ecosystem.

Our work is built around three core pillars:

- › Identity Governance (IGA)

Ensuring that identities are centrally governed, auditable and aligned with organizational roles.

- › Identity & Access Management (IAM)

Managing access consistently across systems, applications and users, with lifecycle control.

- › Privileged Access Management (PAM)

Controlling high-risk privileged accounts with rigor, traceability and structured oversight.

The convergence of these domains transforms identity from a security obligation into an operational advantage.

2 Beyond Silos: The Power of an Integrated Identity Ecosystem

The strongest Identity Solutions are not built in isolation.

They are built when governance, access and privilege stop functioning as separate technical silos and begin operating as a unified and automated lifecycle.

This enables organizations to:

- › centralize identity governance
 - › automate access provisioning and removal
 - › reduce privilege exposure
 - › increase security maturity and audit readiness
 - › eliminate operational inefficiencies
- create scalable foundations for growth
- › create scalable foundations for growth

Identity becomes not shown as a control mechanism, but as infrastructure.

3 A Market Gap Still Underdeveloped in Portugal

One of the most striking realities of the Portuguese IT landscape is that Identity is still widely recognized as important, but rarely implemented with true maturity.

Many organizations assume it is already covered.

Many vendors treat it as a product deployment.

Few approach it as a full transformation of governance, lifecycle and privilege accountability.

This creates a gap.

A domain that is central to security, compliance and operational resilience, yet still underserved in terms of expertise and execution capability.

Hexa Engineering positions itself as one of the few players in Portugal with the depth to design and deliver full-scope Identity Solutions at enterprise level.

4 Automation as the Real Differentiator

What distinguishes best-in-class identity programs is not complexity. It is automation.

Organizations cannot sustain manual access control in environments where teams scale rapidly, systems expand continuously and regulatory expectations increase.

Hexa Engineering introduces intelligent automation that turns identity into a motor of efficiency and control:

- › full lifecycle access management
- › structured privilege governance
- › resilient, auditable processes
- › reduced dependency on informal execution
- › higher operational confidence

The result is not simply stronger security.

It is stronger execution.



Conclusion: Identity Is No Longer Optional

Identity has become one of the defining pillars of modern enterprise security and operational efficiency.

Yet it remains one of the least mature domains in many organizations.

In Portugal especially, the opportunity is clear: the organizations that address identity governance now will build resilience, compliance and scalability ahead of the curve.

Those that continue to rely on fragmented and manual access models will face increasing exposure over time.

Hexa Engineering exists to close that gap. By integrating governance, access and privilege into a single delivery model, we help organizations transform identity into a foundation of trust, efficiency and long-term control.