

2026 Executive Summary

Do you feel empowered to thrive in an environment where IAM is at the core of business operations and cybersecurity? We look forward to working with you as you advance your organization by enhancing automation, strengthening IAM and cybersecurity controls, and enabling smarter, faster decision-making.

We hope to see you at Gartner Identity & Access Management 2027!



Paul Rabinovich,
Conference Chair and VP Analyst, Gartner



Top takeaways

1

Implement IAM as the business control plane to enable resilient and secure digital services

IAM is essential to modern business, yet its value is often unrecognized due to budget limitations, communication issues, and insufficient decision-making authority for IAM teams. Change this perception by using outcome-driven metrics, storytelling, and clear strategy communication to advocate for greater recognition and decision rights.

“The apple does not exist without the core. Business does not exist without identity.”

Michael Kelley,
Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

2

Build organization trust, orchestrate change, and raise awareness

Lead IAM transformation by building organizational trust, orchestrating change, and raising awareness as an active instigator and facilitator. Practice “unasking” to challenge assumptions, and focus on delivering a steady foundational IAM product that generates business value through applied insight.

“Great managers are brilliant at answering the questions they are asked. Great leaders are brilliant at unasking the question.”

Rebecca Archambault,
Sr Director Analyst, Gartner

Continued on next page



Top takeaways

3

Adopt Gartner's identity fabric principles and taxonomy for IAM to evolve your deployment

Begin with focused use cases and IAM controls rather than attempting to tackle everything at once. Regularly validate your architecture, share identity data to provide better context between security and identity tools, and utilize zero-trust and cloud migration initiatives to secure additional resources.

“Zero-trust journeys require an identity-first security approach, and it must be powered by a radically modernized IAM infrastructure.”

Erik Wahlstrom,
VP Analyst, Gartner

4

Prioritize IAM for AI agents using current capabilities to meet immediate business needs

Extend IAM controls to AI agents by implementing workload identities, dynamic authentication, and fine-grained, context-aware authorization. Ensure robust governance, visibility, and secure multi-agent human oversight as the central point.

“Tool calling and inter-agent calling protocols drive consistency and interoperability. But, they must be matured and battle-tested at the internet scale.”

Homan Farahmand,
VP Analyst, Gartner

5

Integrate ITDR into your IAM strategy and roadmap

Inventory current ITDR and observability tools and use NIST CSF 2.0 to identify gaps. Leverage existing solutions, clarify alert sources, and collaborate with leadership to optimize response processes. Ensure ITDR alerting and response are coordinated with border cybersecurity efforts, extend IDR practices beyond core identity systems, and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

“Identity threat detection and response is a discipline that protects the core identity infrastructure.”

Mary Ruddy,
Distinguished VP Analyst,
Gartner



Save the Date!

[Join us 8 – 9 March 2027 in London, U.K. for Gartner Identity & Access Management Summit!](#)