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Cloud Native Protection Platform (CNAPP)

Buyer's Guide

This guide explores the CNAPP landscape, the problems it aims to solve, what a complete CNAPP should include

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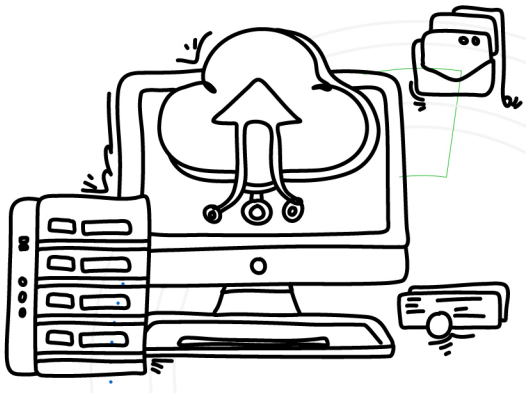

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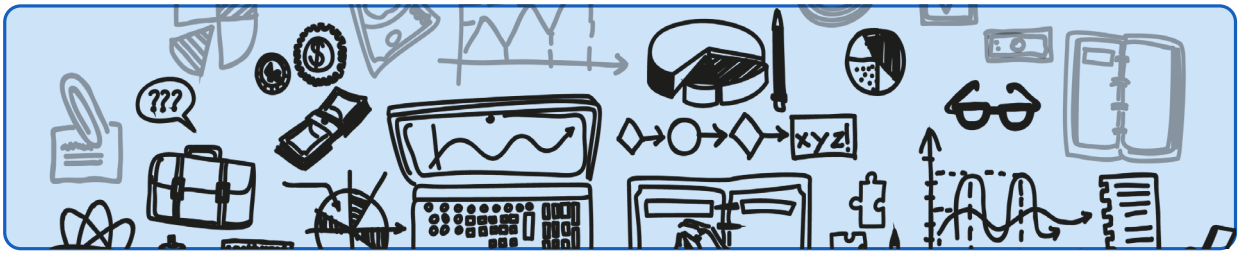


Cloud Native Protection Platform (CNAPP) Buyer's Guide

Cloud adoption has fundamentally transformed how applications are built, deployed, and scaled. Enterprises today rely on cloud-native architectures containers, Kubernetes, serverless, APIs, and infrastructure-as-code to drive agility and innovation. However, this transformation has also reshaped the threat landscape, introducing new attack vectors, operational complexities, and security blind spots.

Traditional security models, built for static, on-premise infrastructure, are no longer sufficient. Point solutions that address isolated problems—such as misconfigurations, vulnerabilities, or runtime threats—struggle to keep pace with the dynamic nature of cloud environments. As organizations adopt multi-cloud strategies and accelerate DevOps practices, the need for a unified, lifecycle-centric security approach has become critical.

This is where Cloud Native Application Protection Platforms (CNAPP) emerge as a strategic imperative rather than a tactical upgrade. This buyer's guide explores the CNAPP landscape, the problems it aims to solve, what a complete CNAPP should include, how to evaluate vendors, and how SecPod's Saner Cloud fits into this evolving security paradigm.

The Current CNAPP Landscape

Over 90% of organizations now run workloads across more than one cloud, yet most still rely on fragmented security tools to protect them.

The modern cloud environment is highly dynamic, distributed, and ephemeral. While these characteristics enable speed and scalability, they also introduce several persistent security challenges

Fragmented Tooling and Visibility

Most organizations secure their cloud environments using a collection of point solutions—CSPM for misconfigurations, CWPP for runtime protection, vulnerability scanners for workloads, and IAM tools for identity governance.

These tools often operate in silos, producing disconnected insights with little contextual correlation.
The result is fragmented visibility. Security teams struggle to understand how a misconfiguration, an exposed workload, and excessive permissions might combine to create a real attack path. Without a unified view, risks are assessed in isolation rather than in context.

Expanding Attack Surface

Cloud-native environments dramatically expand the attack surface. Every workload, identity, API, storage bucket, and service configuration represents a potential entry point. Misconfigured storage services, overly permissive IAM roles, exposed management ports, and vulnerable container images remain among the most common causes of cloud breaches.
Attackers increasingly exploit these weaknesses not through sophisticated zero-days, but through simple configuration errors and privilege escalation opportunities that go undetected.
"60–70% of cloud security incidents are traced back to misconfigurations or excessive permissions rather than zero-day exploits"

DevOps Velocity vs. Security Controls

DevOps teams prioritize speed, automation, and continuous delivery. Security teams, however, are often brought in late—after applications are deployed and risks are already in production. This disconnect leads to reactive security, where vulnerabilities and misconfigurations are discovered only after exposure.
Embedding security into CI/CD pipelines is essential, yet many legacy tools are not designed to integrate seamlessly into developer workflows, creating friction and resistance.

Alert Fatigue and Poor Prioritization

Cloud security tools generate massive volumes of alerts. Not all vulnerabilities are exploitable. Not all misconfigurations are equally risky. Without intelligent prioritization, security teams are overwhelmed by noise and struggle to focus on issues that truly matter.
Severity scores alone are insufficient. Risk must be assessed in the context of exposure, exploitability, identity access, and business impact.

Compliance in a Continuous World

Regulatory and industry frameworks such as CIS, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, NIST, and ISO require continuous adherence. However, compliance is still treated as a periodic exercise in many organizations. Manual audits and spreadsheet-driven reporting are error-prone and fail to reflect real-time posture.
These challenges collectively highlight the need for a unified, continuous, and context-aware cloud security model.

The Possible Solution: The CNAPP Approach

Cloud Native Application Protection Platforms (CNAPP) represent a shift from fragmented tooling to an integrated security platform designed specifically for cloud-native environments.
Rather than addressing isolated security concerns, CNAPP provides end-to-end protection across the cloud application lifecycle—from development and deployment to runtime and continuous operations.
At its core, CNAPP consolidates multiple security domains into a single platform. This unification enables security teams to correlate risks across configurations, workloads, identities, and vulnerabilities, revealing attack paths that would otherwise remain hidden.

CNAPPs are designed to operate across all stages of the cloud lifecycle:

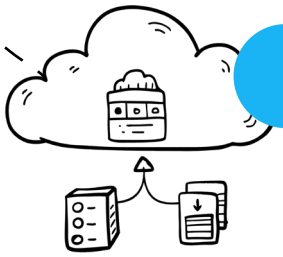
Build Time
Scanning infrastructure-as-code, container images, and configurations before deployment

Deploy Time
Ensuring secure defaults and policy enforcement

Runtime
Monitoring workloads, identities, and network activity for threats

Post-Deployment
Continuous posture management, compliance monitoring, and remediation

Another key fundamental to CNAPP is Automation. From continuous discovery and monitoring to policy enforcement and remediation workflows, CNAPP enables security teams to scale without proportionally increasing operational overhead.



What Does CNAPP Consist Of?

While implementations differ, a comprehensive CNAPP typically integrates the following core capabilities:

Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM)

CSPM continuously assesses cloud infrastructure against best practices and security benchmarks. It identifies misconfigurations such as open storage buckets, insecure network rules, and unencrypted resources, helping organizations maintain a strong security baseline.

Cloud Workload Protection Platform (CWPP)

CWPP focuses on protecting workloads including virtual machines, containers, Kubernetes clusters, and serverless functions at runtime. It detects vulnerabilities, malware, anomalous behavior, and unauthorized activity within workloads.

Cloud Infrastructure Entitlement Management (CIEM)

CIEM addresses identity-related risks by analyzing permissions and entitlements across cloud environments. It identifies excessive privileges, unused permissions, and risky access paths, enabling least-privilege enforcement and reducing the risk of lateral movement.

Vulnerability and Risk Management

CNAPP integrates vulnerability scanning across cloud workloads, container images, and infrastructure components. More importantly, it prioritizes vulnerabilities based on real-world risk rather than raw CVSS scores.

Compliance and Governance

Continuous compliance monitoring maps cloud configurations and controls against regulatory frameworks. Automated evidence collection and reporting ensure organizations remain audit-ready at all times. Together, these capabilities provide a holistic security posture that aligns with the realities of cloud-native environments.

Questions to Ask Yourself When Choosing a CNAPP Vendor

Most CNAPP buying decisions fail not because the platform lacks features, but because organizations ask the wrong questions. The following questions are intentionally uncomfortable. They are designed to surface gaps in visibility, ownership, and decision-making that often remain hidden until after a breach or a failed audit.

When Something Breaks in the Cloud, Do We Know Why — or Only What?

Many security platforms are excellent at telling you what is wrong:

- A misconfiguration exists
- A vulnerability is present
- A policy has been violated

Far fewer can explain why it matters.

Ask yourself whether your security tooling can answer follow-up questions such as:

- What does this issue expose?
- Which identities can reach it?
- What could an attacker realistically do next?

If your team still has to manually piece together these answers across tools, the platform is reporting symptoms, not risk.

Are We Prioritizing Work — or Just Ranking Problems?

Most platforms assign a severity score. Very few help decide what to do first. Ask yourself:

- If ten "critical" issues appear today, can your team confidently choose one to fix first?
- Do your teams agree on why that issue is more important than the others?
- Would two different analysts reach the same conclusion?

If prioritization still depends on individual judgment, institutional knowledge, or gut instinct, risk management is inconsistent — and unscalable.
True prioritization removes debate, not just reorders lists.

How Much of Our Cloud Risk Is Self-Imposed?

The majority of cloud security incidents do not involve advanced attacks. They exploit:

- Insecure defaults
- Overly permissive identities
- Forgotten assets

Ask yourself:

- How often do new risks appear because of routine changes?
- Are those risks detected immediately or discovered much later?
- Do we prevent risky patterns, or simply react to them?

If your cloud security posture degrades every time something changes, the issue is not attacker sophistication — it is lack of security barriers.

Do We Truly Understand Our Identities — or Are We Avoiding Them?

Identity is the most complex and least understood layer of cloud security.
Ask yourself:

- Can we clearly explain why each identity has its current level of access?
- Do we know which permissions are never used?
- If one identity were compromised, could we predict the blast radius?

If identity reviews are avoided because they are "too complex" or "too risky to change," then identity has already become a liability.
The easiest attack path in the cloud is often the one nobody audits.

Is Security Integrated Into Delivery — or Positioned as a Final Checkpoint?

Security that operates at the end of the pipeline has limited influence.

Ask yourself:

- Are insecure configurations blocked before deployment?
- Do developers receive feedback while they can still act on it?
- Is security guidance clear, automated, and consistent?

If security is still delivered as tickets after deployment, then the organization is operating in reactive mode, regardless of the tools in place.
Security cannot "catch up" to DevOps. It has to move with it.

Are We Continuously Compliant — or Just Periodically Aligned?

Compliance is often treated as proof of security, yet it usually lags behind reality. Ask yourself:

- Could we demonstrate compliance posture today without preparation?
- Are compliance failures discovered during audits or during operations?
- Is compliance data trusted across teams?

If compliance evidence requires manual assembly, screenshots, or last-minute reviews, then compliance is a reporting exercise, not a security control.

When Risk Is Identified, How Reliably Is It Removed?

Detection alone does not reduce risk.

Ask yourself:

- Are remediation steps clear and repeatable?
- Is remediation automated where possible?
- Do fixes introduce new risks?

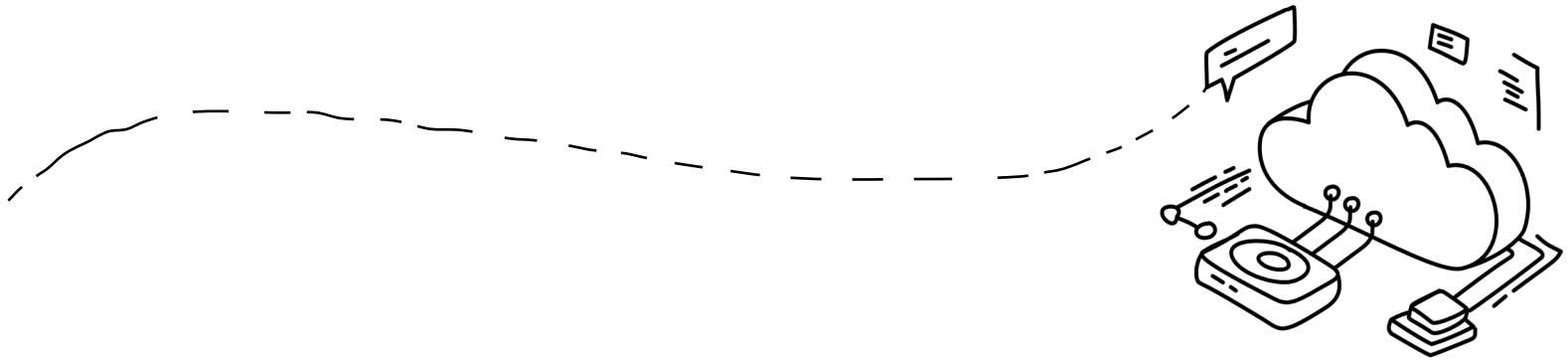
If remediation is slow, inconsistent, or avoided due to fear of breaking systems, then risk accumulates even when it is well understood.

Unfixed risk is indistinguishable from unknown risk.

A More Important Question Than "Which CNAPP?"

Consider this-
Are we trying to improve cloud security outcomes or just gain more visibility?
Visibility without action increases awareness, not safety.

The right CNAPP changes how decisions are made, how work is prioritized, and how quickly risk is reduced.



SecPod's Saner Cloud

SecPod's Saner Cloud is a Cloud Native Application Protection Platform designed to address the operational and security challenges of modern cloud environments.
Built with a strong foundation in risk-based vulnerability and posture management, Saner Cloud brings together visibility, prioritization, compliance, and remediation into a unified platform.

Comprehensive Cloud Visibility

Saner Cloud continuously discovers and maps cloud assets across AWS and Azure environments. It provides a consolidated view of workloads, configurations, identities, and security posture, eliminating blind spots that often arise in complex cloud estates.

Beyond Traditional Vulnerability Scanning

Unlike tools that focus solely on CVEs, Saner Cloud identifies a wide range of cloud risks, including:

- Misconfigurations across cloud services
- Identity and entitlement risks
- Exposure and policy violations
- Posture Anomalies

Risk-Based Prioritization Using SSVC

Saner Cloud leverages Stakeholder-Specific Vulnerability Categorization (SSVC) to prioritize risks based on exploitability, exposure, and organizational impact. This approach translates technical findings into actionable decisions, helping teams focus on what truly matters.

Continuous Compliance and Governance

The platform continuously assesses cloud environments against benchmarks such as CIS, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, and NIST. Automated reporting and evidence generation simplify audits and reduce manual compliance effort.

Automated and Controlled Remediation

Saner Cloud supports automated remediation workflows with approval mechanisms, enabling organizations to remediate risks quickly while maintaining governance and oversight.

Who Benefits and Why?

SECURITY LEADERS AND CISOS

Gain strategic visibility into cloud risk, compliance posture, and remediation effectiveness, enabling informed decision-making and board-level reporting.

CLOUD AND DEVOPS TEAMS

Benefit from early risk detection and automated checks that integrate into existing workflows without slowing innovation.

SECURITY OPERATIONS TEAMS

Experience reduced alert fatigue through contextual prioritization, allowing them to focus on high-impact risks.

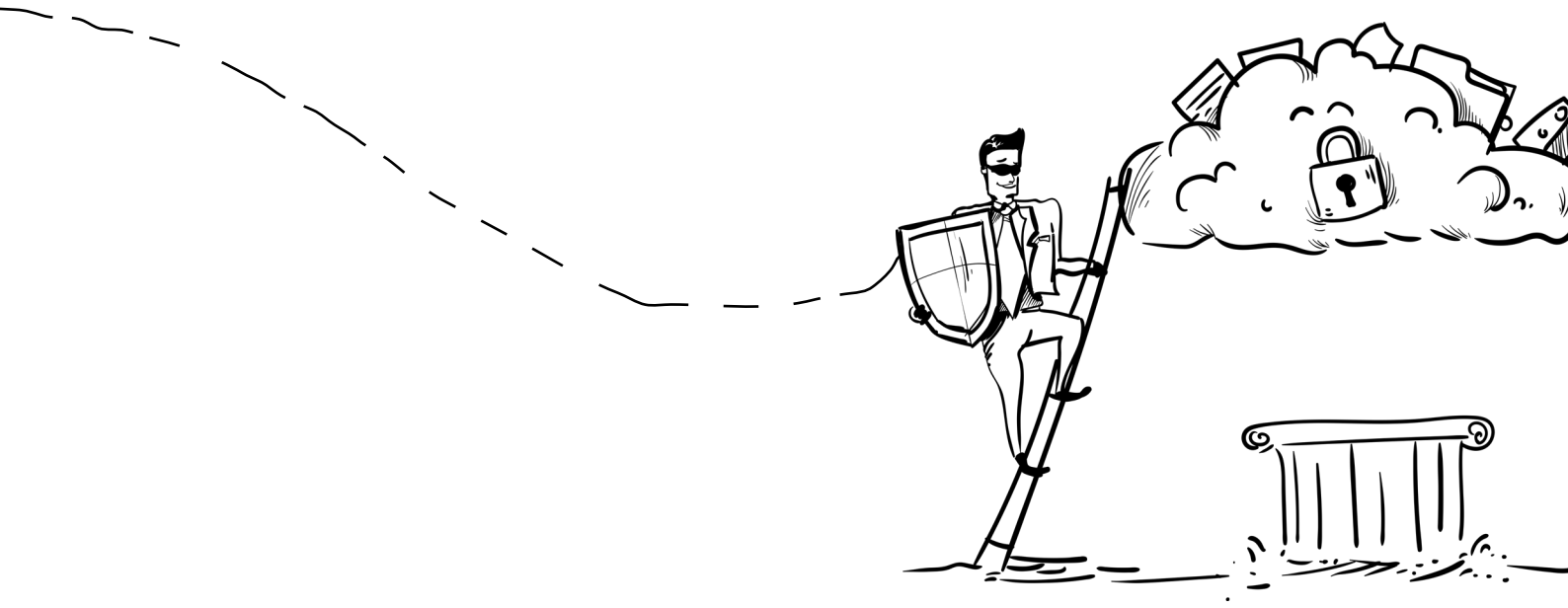
COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT TEAMS

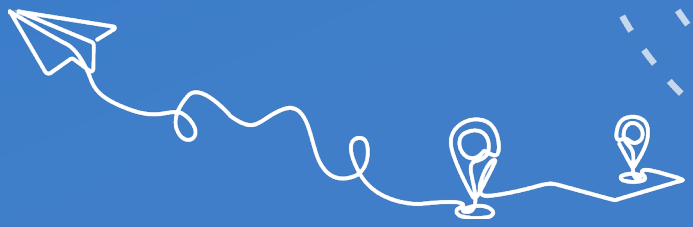
Leverage continuous compliance monitoring and audit-ready reporting to simplify regulatory obligations.

Conclusion

As cloud-native adoption accelerates, security must evolve beyond fragmented tools and reactive controls. CNAPP represents a fundamental shift toward unified, lifecycle-centric cloud security—one that aligns with modern development practices and operational realities.

Choosing the right CNAPP tool requires careful evaluation of visibility, intelligence, automation, and scalability. Platforms like SecPod's Saner Cloud demonstrate how integrated risk management, compliance, and remediation can simplify cloud security while improving outcomes. For organizations seeking to secure their cloud-native environments without compromising agility, CNAPP is no longer optional—it is essential.





SecPod is a leading cybersecurity technology company committed to preventing cyberattacks through proactive security. Its mission is to secure every connected computing device across modern enterprises by delivering preventive, automated, and intelligent cybersecurity.

At the core of SecPod's offerings is the Saner Platform - a suite of solutions that help organizations establish a strong security posture and prevent cyberattacks before they strike. The platform includes:

Cloud Security

An AI-fortified Cloud-Native Application Protection Platform (CNAPP) that delivers continuous visibility, security compliance, and risk mitigation for cloud environments.

Vulnerability & Exposure Management

A Continuous Vulnerability and Exposure Management (CVEM) solution that delivers continuous visibility, identifies, assesses, and remediates vulnerabilities across enterprise devices and network infrastructure.

Endpoint and Patch Management

A Continuous Risk Remediation solution that minimizes the attack surface by eliminating potential risks across the IT infrastructure.

With its suite of cutting-edge and comprehensive solutions, SecPod empowers organizations to stay ahead of evolving threats and build a resilient security framework.