Decision Card

Maximo Security Layer Decision Card

Most Maximo security messes happen because someone solves a record problem with an application, site, or security group-count fix. Name the layer first, then build. This card tells you which layer answers which question, what not to reach for, and the one rule that quietly defeats a careful restriction.

The three layers

LAYER	WHAT IT CONTROLS
Application security	Which applications a person can open and which actions they can take inside them.
Site and org authorization	Which sites and orgs a security group operates in.
Data level security	Which individual records and fields a person can touch, inside the apps and sites they already have.

Which layer solves which problem

IF THE PROBLEM IS	USE THIS LAYER	DO NOT SOLVE IT BY
A button or action some people should not have	Application security	A data restriction
Two teams that belong to different sites	Site authorization	A security group per team, or conditions
Same site, people must see different records	Data level security, row restriction	A security group per storeroom, crew, or region
One field hidden or locked for some users	Attribute restriction	A row restriction
Access that follows each user's own scope	Conditional data restriction	A static security group per thing

The rule that defeats a careful restriction

ACCESS COMBINES TOWARD MORE, NEVER LESS

A user gets the combined effect of every security group they are in. Application and site access take the most permissive group. Data restrictions OR together, so the broader condition wins, and any security group with no condition on the object grants full access. One broad group defeats the careful restriction you built somewhere else. Independent groups are not a most-restrictive switch either, so do not count on them to tighten a user's scope. Test the result against the user's full membership. The OR-combine rule is clearest for row level restrictions. Attribute restrictions can behave differently, so test those on their own.

Before you call a restriction done

- ☐ List every security group the user will actually hold, not just the one you built.
- ☐ Confirm none of those groups opens the object without the condition.
- ☐ Log in as that user and check the application, the lookups, related records, and views.
- ☐ If it works in isolation but not in the full profile, it is not done.

NAME THE LAYER FIRST

Get the layer right and you stop fighting Maximo. Get it wrong and you build a maze.

This card helps you diagnose. Building the conditional restriction that scopes to each user, and doing it without a security group for every storeroom, is the Maximo Right-Sizing Playbook. It walks the full process, including the truck-storeroom solve worked end to end. https://amzn.to/4aCKmoD

Group combination behavior verified against IBM MAS security documentation, June 2026. Brock Industries.