

# Digital transformation and compliance: what leaders need to know

## Meeting the compliance challenge

Legal and compliance professionals face the challenging task of maintaining control over information in a world of ever-proliferating data, devices and work styles. With the growing complexity of regulations governing privacy and security, tasks such as archiving, eDiscovery and data privacy notifications are more important than ever.

Cloud technology is critical to solving these challenges. The cloud computing revolution is driven by the realisation among enterprise leaders – from Fortune 50 giants to agile startups – that they can create more value through their core activities if they can delegate IT infrastructure and broad business software functions to trusted partners.

Leveraging the investment and experience of cloud providers in compliance and privacy can help you reduce risk and meet regulatory requirements with less effort, so you can keep up with a fast-changing compliance environment. By building on a technology foundation that is verified to be in compliance with key regulations for your industry, you reduce the number of audits and certifications you need to oversee. And, by using scalable, integrated solutions for archiving and eDiscovery, you can reduce the cost and complexity inherent in managing and using multiple tools for your legal and compliance needs.

## Improve compliance with a unified solution

Increasing your commitment to cloud technology by adopting Microsoft 365, which includes Enterprise Mobility + Security and Windows 10, as well as Office 365 ProPlus, lets you classify data and apply protections that stay with that data, supporting collaboration while guarding against data leakage. With Microsoft 365, you can use an identity-based approach to security and compliance, so you can give the right people access to information they need – all in one intelligent solution that is designed to work across your entire enterprise.

## 5 ways

Here are five ways that Microsoft 365 can help you meet ever-growing compliance requirements and strengthen your security posture.

- 01 Help protect sensitive data throughout its lifecycle
- 02 Gain flexible control over how people use data with a single, unified identity
- 03 Get control over mobile, SaaS and line-of-business applications
- 04 Minimise privileged access
- 05 Enable single sign-on for maximum security and user convenience

### 01

#### Help protect sensitive data throughout its lifecycle



The data and documents produced by your organisation are essential to communication and collaboration among employees, partners and suppliers, yet ensuring only authorised individuals can use that information is critical to compliance.

Azure Information Protection, part of Microsoft 365, is a cloud-based solution that enables you to discover, classify, label and protect sensitive documents and emails. You can automate the classification of files using a rich set of rules and conditions, or you can enable users to manually classify and label documents themselves. Protection actions – such as encryption, access restrictions, visual markings and end-user notifications – help keep data protected across devices, apps and services.

Microsoft 365 also includes Advanced Data Governance, which applies machine learning to help find and retain important data while eliminating trivial, redundant and obsolete data that could cause risk if compromised. Advanced Data Governance provides proactive policy recommendations and automatic data classifications, allowing you to take actions on data – such as retention and deletion – throughout its lifecycle.

[Learn more about Azure Information Protection and Advanced Data Governance](#)

### 02

#### Gain flexible control over how people use data with a single, unified identity



Employees expect to work anywhere, on any device, whether that device is approved by IT or not. And employees are not the only users who connect to your systems – customers, suppliers and other outside partners may have to do so as well. Today, the 'outside' of your corporate network is no longer defined by your firewall, but by the credentials your employees, suppliers and customers use to log on to your network, often from remote locations. In this environment, identity is the new difference-maker, enabling you to stay in control of data access and identify user activity across your entire IT ecosystem.

Organisations with Microsoft 365 can use Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) to centralise identity and access management and enable deep compliance management, governance and productivity across devices, data, apps and infrastructure. Azure AD is built to work for apps in the cloud, on mobile devices or on premises and it connects seamlessly with your on-premises directory to simplify compliance and security in hybrid IT scenarios.

With Azure AD, you can also enable conditional access, which allows you to block users with non-compliant devices or locations to help keep attackers out of your network.

[Learn more about Azure AD](#)

### 03

#### Get control over mobile, SaaS and line-of-business applications



Your users are probably relying on an ever-growing number of internal and third-party tools, including cloud-based software as a service (SaaS) apps. Maintaining visibility and control over mobile applications used to require fully enrolling devices in a mobile device management solution.

Now, with Microsoft 365, you can use Mobile Application Management (MAM) in Intune to manage internal and external applications from a single cloud-based solution. Users don't have to enrol their devices for MAM to protect your organisation's data within an application.

MAM enables your users to more securely access corporate information using the Office mobile and line-of-business apps they know, while helping to ensure data security by restricting certain actions, like copy, cut, paste and save as, to only those apps managed by Intune.

[Learn more about MAM in Intune](#)

### 04

#### Minimise privileged access



A key principle of modern security is ensuring least-privilege access, meaning that users are provided with the minimum administrative permissions for the shortest period necessary to do their jobs. This reduces the chance of a malicious user having high-level access or an authorised user inadvertently impacting a sensitive resource.

Using Azure AD Privileged Identity Management (PIM), you have granular control over access privileges to your IT resources. You can easily see which users are assigned and enable on-demand, "just in time" administrative access to Microsoft Online Services such as Office 365, as well as see a history of administrator activation, including what changes administrators made to Azure resources.

[Learn more about Azure AD PIM](#)

### 05

#### Enable single sign-on for maximum security and user convenience



Many organisations rely on software as a service (SaaS) applications such as Office 365, Box and Salesforce for end-user productivity. Historically, IT staff needed to create and update user accounts in each SaaS application individually and users had to remember a different password for each SaaS application. The alternative is for users to create their own, potentially insecure credentials for each service. The more identities they have, the more likely they are to forget or lose one of them, creating a potential security risk.

By providing users with the convenience of single sign-on across all types of application, you can help reduce the risks and headaches associated with having multiple identities.

Azure AD extends on-premises AD into the cloud, enabling users to use their primary organisational account not only to sign in to their domain-joined devices and company resources, but also all of the web and SaaS applications needed for their job. Application access can be automatically provisioned or de-provisioned based on group membership and employee status. Plus, Azure AD integrates out of the box with many of today's popular SaaS applications.

[Learn more about single sign-on with Azure AD](#)



As your organisation pursues the power of digital technology to transform its business, adopting the latest cloud solutions can make it easier for you to keep users, data and systems in compliance while enabling better collaboration and greater creativity.

Enhancing your compliance capabilities by getting Office 365 as part of Microsoft 365 gives you powerful, integrated tools for intelligently assessing your compliance risk, governing and helping protect your data and effectively responding to regulatory requirements.

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