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The most secure and flexible Microsoft Office 365 Solution

Why and How to Secure & Backup Microsoft Office 365

BYTES
TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Why and How to Secure & Backup Microsoft Office 365

Uptake of Office 365 is growing fast

The number of businesses choosing to use Office 365 is rapidly increasing. Bytes alone has helped over 1,500,000 business users move to the Microsoft cloud platform, and forecasts state that within the next six months 78% of all enterprises will be using or plan to use Office 365 – a 600% increase compared with a similar study conducted in 2014.

The benefits to businesses for using Office 365 are well documented, with the top three being:

Purchasing flexibility - there is a product bundle and payment plan to suite every business, enabling you to cost-effectively flex your Office 365 environment as your business needs change.

Accessibility - As Office 365 provides web-enabled access to email, documents, collaboration tools and much more, you can work anytime you need, from anywhere you are – keeping you connected, in control and open for business whenever you need.

Collaboration - Harnessing the power of Yammer, SharePoint, OneDrive for Business, and Skype for Business makes collaborating with people inside and outside of your business straightforward – helping you to get work done, faster.

In addition to the commercial and functional benefits of Office 365, there are also the benefits it provides to internal I.T. teams, specifically:

- no ongoing maintenance costs associated with managing the hardware and software required to run these services in-house;

- no upgrades,

- no new servers.

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Why Secure and Backup Office 365

Despite the infrastructure and maintenance-related benefits, Office 365 still needs to be supplemented with security solutions capable of reducing the risks of malware threats and guard against service outages and security breaches, as these risks haven't disappeared in the new cloud and Office 365 world.

Office 365 Security and Backup Concerns

While Office 365 is a great tool for business productivity and does include some native security functionality, there are several areas where additional solutions are needed to provide peace of mind over the threat and impact of cyber-attacks and the adherence to corporate governance and general compliance. These include:

Firewall and Web Security: Office 365 doesn't provide a secure web gateway to protect and control end user internet access or a firewall to secure the perimeter of the organisation.

Email Security and Continuity: Microsoft Exchange Online (included in the E1, E3 and E5 Office 365 plans) doesn't provide the critical email continuity features you may have deployed on your premises.

Next-Gen Endpoint Security: Office 365 doesn't provide defenses on endpoint devices against dangerous malware threats such as ransomware.
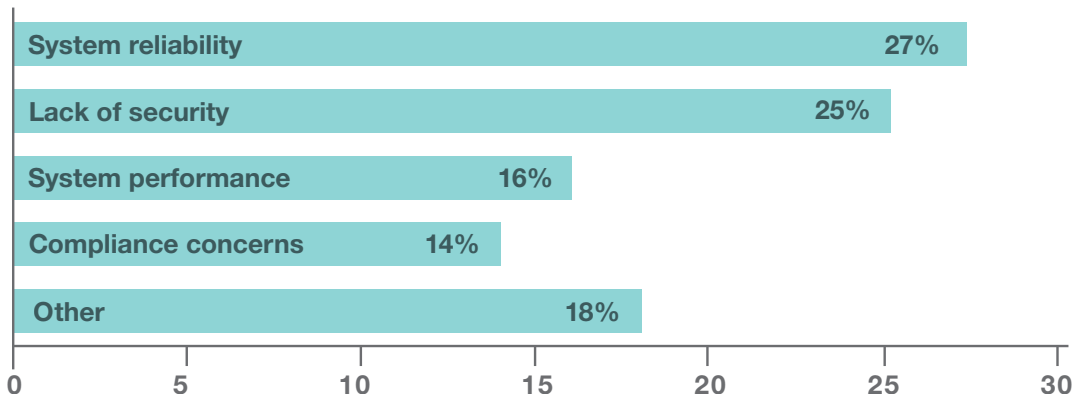
Backup and Disaster Recovery: Office 365 doesn't replace the need to have a backup of your data for compliance and disaster recovery reasons.

Analysts state that by 2018, 40% of Office 365 environments will rely on third-party tools to provide the required level of security, and by 2020 this number will increase to 50%.
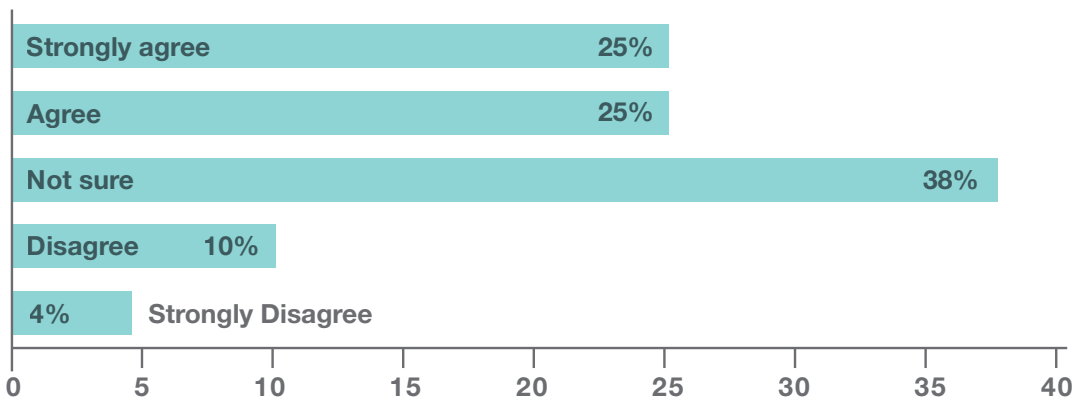
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Findings from a recent survey cited "System reliability" and "Lack of security" as the biggest concerns with using Office 365 as an email platform

What are your biggest concerns with using Office 365 as your email platform?

Concern	Percentage
System reliability	27%
Lack of security	25%
System performance	16%
Compliance concerns	14%
Other	18%

0   5   10   15   20   25   30

So it comes as no surprise 50% of the respondents either "Strongly agree" or "Agreed" when asked whether they felt third-party security solutions are essential to extend inadequate Office 365 security.

Third-party security solutions are essential to extend inadequate Office 365 security

Response	Percentage
Strongly agree	25%
Agree	25%
Not sure	38%
Disagree	10%
Strongly Disagree	4%

0   5   10   15   20   25   30   35   40

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Office 365 Security and Backup Best Practices

As covered earlier, the benefits of shifting to the cloud are numerous – no upgrades, no new servers, no maintenance and significant savings in management hours. So it makes sense to look for a security and backup solution that offers the same benefits. Here's a quick overview of the key features every cloud security and backup solution complementing Office 365 needs:

1. Simple cloud-based management
Office 365 makes management easy – so should your security solution.

How many dashboards do you look at today? When choosing a security solution make sure that you can manage everything through a single pane of glass and save yourself significant amounts of time.

2. Integrated security for superior protection
Office 365 provides a full suite of interconnected functionality – so should your security solution.

Look for security solutions that share relevant information in order to make faster, more accurate decisions that provide better security. For example, are your files kept secure when moving from the cloud to your mobile and endpoint devices? Are compromised devices automatically isolated and their privileges revoked (e.g. removing encryption keys and network access)?

3. Business email continuity
The financial impact of email downtime can be significant. You therefore need a solution that will keep your email flowing if Office 365 goes down. Email spooling and an emergency inbox so employees can continue to access their email during an outage are critical features for every security solution. On-top of this look for powerful antivirus, anti-spam and anti-phishing protection.

4. Full Office 365 continuity (Backup and Disaster Recovery)
With Office 365, Microsoft takes on much of the responsibility associated with maintaining the core infrastructure, however this doesn't replace the need to have a backup of your data for a variety of reasons, including the need to follow the 3-2-1 Rule of backup in addition to facilitating eDiscovery and meeting internal policies and compliance requirements.

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How to Secure and Backup Microsoft Office 365

CloudFlex from Bytes, is the most secure and flexible Microsoft Office 365 solution.

There is no single software vendor that provides every third-party tool necessary to completely protect, backup and recover Office 365 which is why the CloudFlex Office 365 security, backup and disaster recovery solution combines carefully selected, tested and complementary industry-leading products and services from the world's best-in-class software vendors.

The solution comprises:

- a cloud-managed platform that brings all of your security needs together into one easy to use package. It delivers advanced protection right across your corporate network – including endpoints, mobile devices, web, email, WiFi, encryption, server and network.

- a 'single pane of glass' for management, meaning you can access all of your security solutions in one place. For example, while managing your email gateway you'll get automatic alerts if a mobile device is compromised, so there's no need to check each solution in turn.

- synchronized security, which shares contextual information to provide better security. For example a compromised endpoint device can be automatically isolated from the wider corporate network. The same device will have its encryption keys automatically revoked so that it can't access encrypted files.

- email spooling and an emergency inbox, so if Office 365 goes down, your email stays up. It also provides advanced antivirus, anti-spam, and anti-phishing defenses to secure against the latest malware attacks, phishing campaigns, and infected websites.

- Full backup and disaster recovery capabilities, so if Office 365 goes down your employees can keep working.

About CloudFlex
CloudFlex, from Bytes, is the most secure and flexible Microsoft Office 365 solution. It provides businesses with a set of turnkey solutions and services designed to increase information security and employee productivity – helping businesses run faster.

For more information about CloudFlex
visit **www.bytes.co.uk/office-365**
email **cloudflex@bytes.co.uk**
or call **01372 418 500**

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