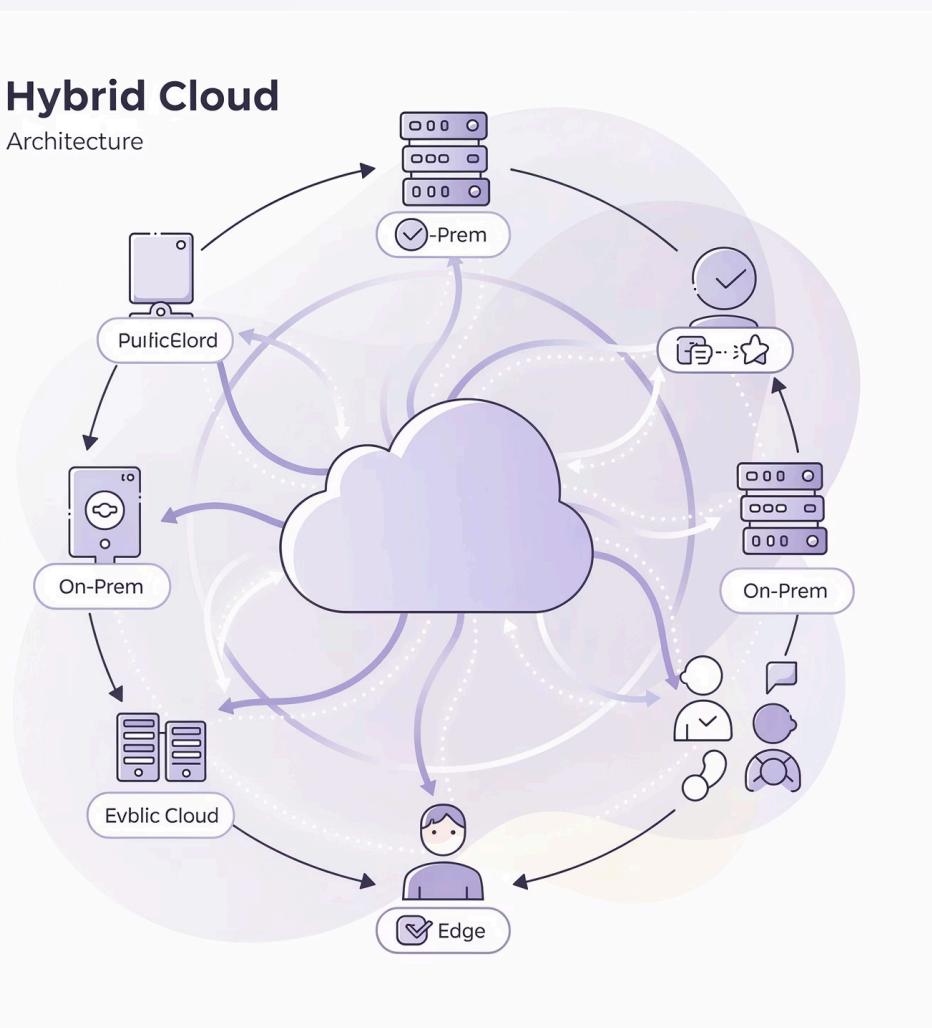




Best Practices Guide for Microsoft 365 Infrastructure

Essential strategies for security, device management, storage optimisation, and Cloud PC deployment

The Modern Microsoft 365 Infrastructure Landscape



Infrastructure now blends on-premises, hybrid, and cloud components, creating a complex ecosystem that demands sophisticated management approaches.

IT professionals remain essential: managing tenant setup, governance frameworks, and hybrid connectivity solutions. Their expertise bridges traditional infrastructure with modern cloud services.

Key disciplines include networking, security, enterprise architecture, and governance—each critical to maintaining a robust Microsoft 365 environment.

Security Foundations: Protecting Your Microsoft 365 Environment



Multi-Factor Authentication

Implement MFA for all users to reduce breaches by up to 99.9%. This single step transforms your security posture.



Conditional Access

Enforce device and location compliance policies. Control access based on risk signals and contextual factors.



Advanced Threat Protection

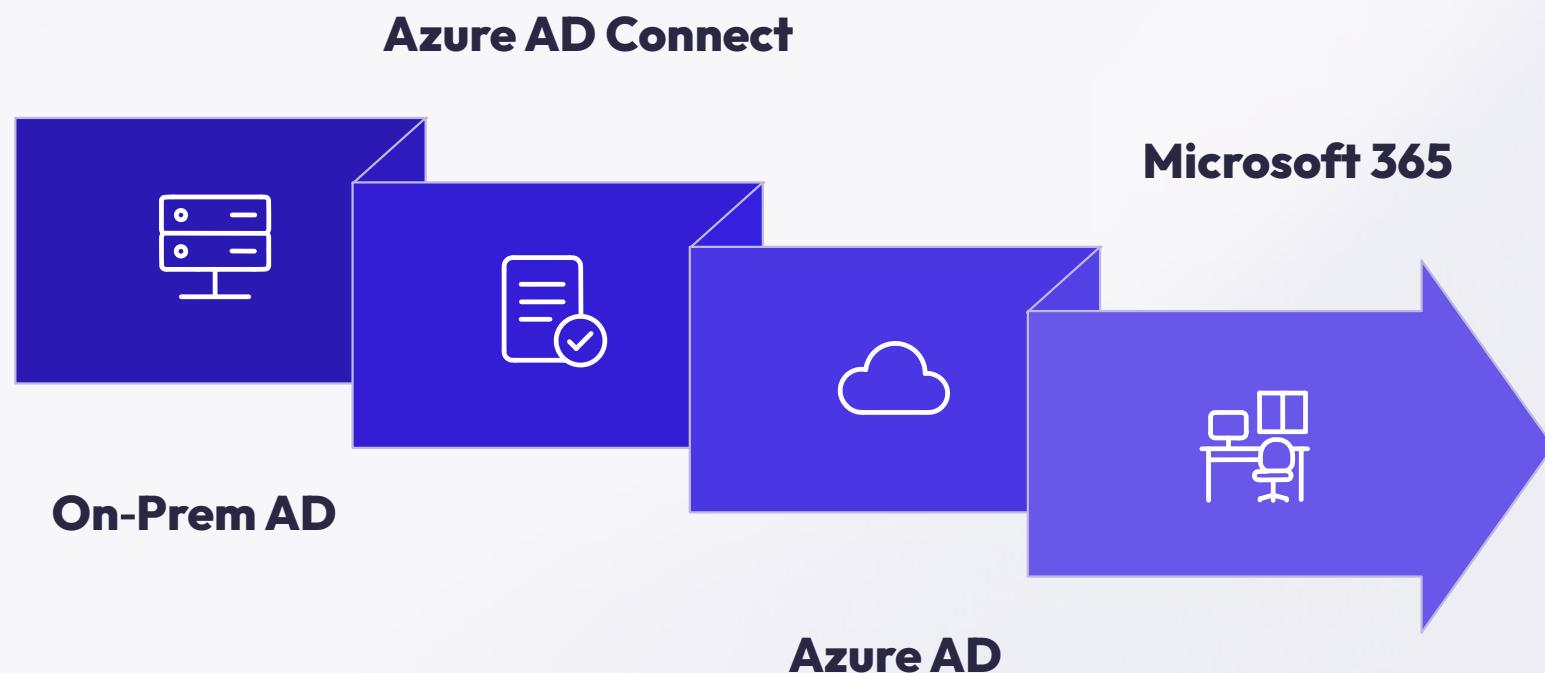
Leverage Microsoft Defender for Endpoint and Cloud App Security for real-time threat detection and response.



Permission Governance

Regularly review security groups and permissions to prevent privilege sprawl and maintain least-privilege access.

Seamless Identity: Synchronising On-Premises IT with Microsoft 365



Effective identity synchronization is the bedrock of a robust hybrid Microsoft 365 environment. Azure AD Connect ensures a consistent user experience by seamlessly replicating user accounts, passwords, and groups from your on-premises Active Directory to Azure AD, enabling unified access to both cloud and on-premises resources.

Device Management Best Practices

1

Unified Device Control

Manage devices with Microsoft Endpoint Manager (Intune) for centralised, streamlined control across all endpoints.

2

Compliance Enforcement

Enforce device compliance policies to secure access to Microsoft 365 resources and protect sensitive data.

3

Remote Access Enablement

Support hybrid work environments by enabling secure remote device access and Cloud PC capabilities.

4

Automated Security Updates

Keep devices protected with automated patching schedules and standardised security baselines.

Storage Strategy: Optimising SharePoint, OneDrive, and Exchange

SharePoint Online

Centralised team collaboration platform with governance controls on site creation, external sharing, and content lifecycle.

OneDrive for Business

Personal cloud storage with integrated data loss prevention policies and seamless synchronisation across devices.

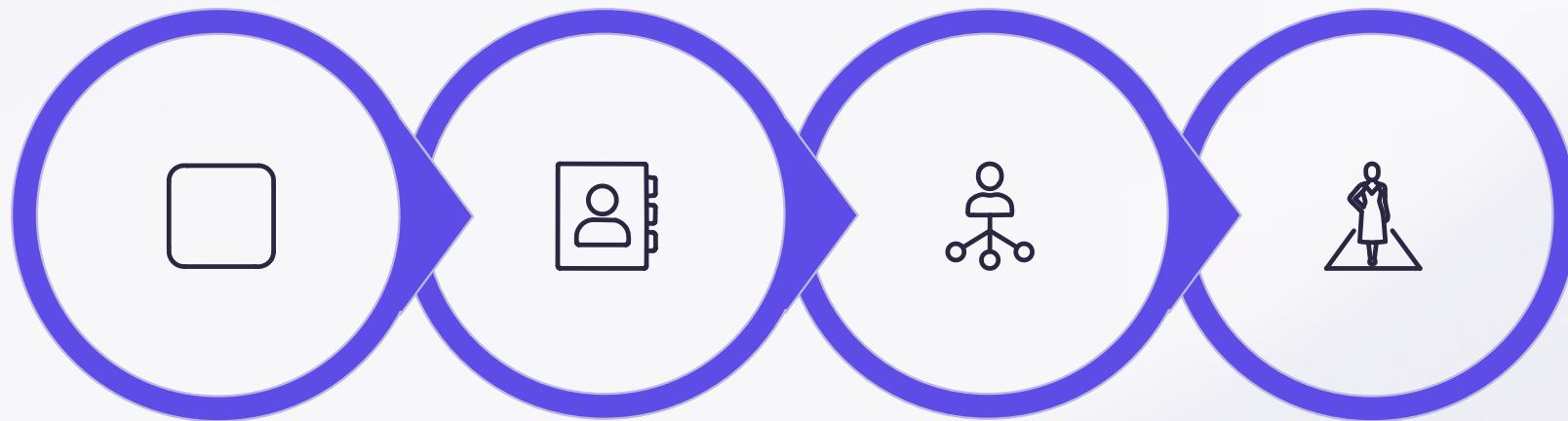
Exchange Online

Enterprise email with archive and retention policies designed to meet regulatory compliance requirements.

Cost Optimisation

Monitor storage usage patterns and apply intelligent lifecycle management to control costs whilst maintaining accessibility.

Cloud PCs and Hybrid Infrastructure Integration



Deploy Cloud PCs

Integrate with Azure AD

Optimise Connectivity

Assess Maturity

Windows 365 Cloud PCs provide scalable, secure remote desktops that seamlessly integrate with on-premises resources through Azure AD and VPN connections. Strategic network planning reduces latency whilst the Microsoft 365 Maturity Model helps assess and evolve your infrastructure competency.

Network Connectivity: The Backbone of Microsoft 365 Performance

Direct Internet Breakouts

Enable local internet egress for Microsoft 365 traffic to bypass unnecessary network hops and reduce latency significantly.

Leverage Microsoft Tools

Use Microsoft's network connectivity principles and assessment tools to continuously evaluate and optimise your network configuration.

Prioritise Performance Metrics

Focus on low latency and high reliability to improve Teams call quality, Outlook responsiveness, and SharePoint collaboration speed.

Eliminate Hairpinning

Avoid routing Microsoft 365 traffic through corporate datacentres unnecessarily, which introduces delays and degrades user experience.

Governance and Automation: Sustaining Infrastructure Health

Automation First

Leverage PowerShell and Microsoft Graph API to automate tenant configuration, policy enforcement, and routine administrative tasks.

01

Establish clear ownership and comprehensive documentation for all infrastructure components

02

Conduct regular audits of configurations and access controls to prevent drift and vulnerabilities

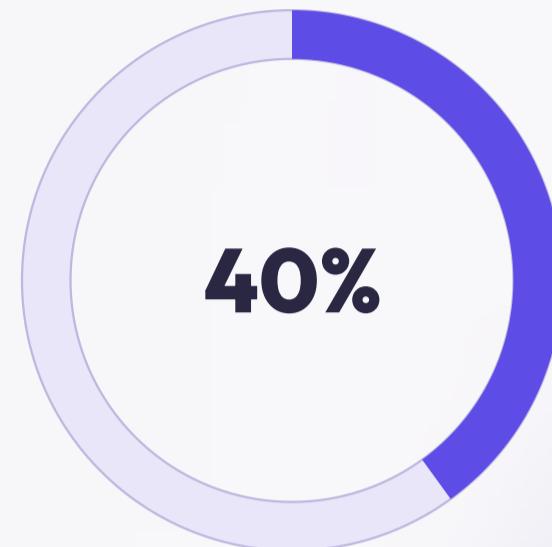
03

Track continuous improvement using Microsoft Secure Score and Compliance Manager metrics

Real-World Impact: From Reactive to Proactive Management

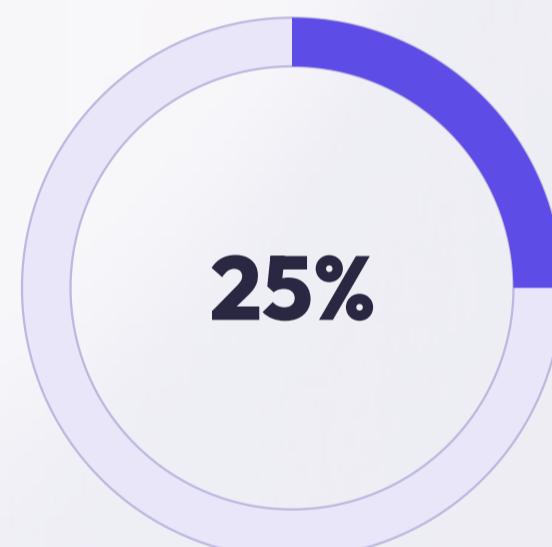
Organisations transitioning from Level 100 (ad hoc) to mature infrastructure practices experience measurable improvements in security, performance, and user satisfaction.

These statistics demonstrate the tangible value of implementing Microsoft 365 infrastructure best practices across enterprise environments.



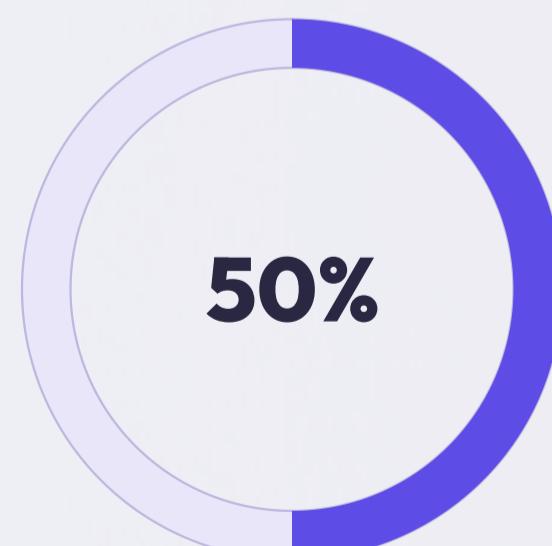
Call Quality Improvement

Reduction in Teams call issues after network optimisation



Productivity Increase

Remote worker productivity gain from Cloud PC adoption



Faster Response

Reduced incident response times through security automation

Building Resilient, Secure, and Efficient Microsoft 365 Infrastructure

Embrace Hybrid Reality

Navigate hybrid infrastructure with clear security and network strategies that bridge cloud and on-premises environments.

Govern with Purpose

Manage devices and storage with robust governance frameworks to protect data integrity and enhance user experience.

Pursue Maturity

Continuously assess and evolve your infrastructure maturity to extract maximum value from Microsoft 365 investments.

Act Now

Start today: leverage Microsoft's comprehensive tools and proven best practices to empower your organisation.

Ready to Transform Your Microsoft 365 Infrastructure?

Apply these best practices to create a secure, efficient, and future-ready environment that enables your organisation to thrive in the modern workplace.