

THE INSIGHTS



Published: 20th March 2024

Welcome to your March update

We know it's difficult to keep up with the number of changes and releases that come from Microsoft.

That's why every month, we highlight the latest updates that are important to your business.

Contents

-  New service plan for Copilot 365 customers
-  Copilot for 365 in Teams chat on mobile
-  More unified cross-platform endpoint management
-  Updated labels for external participants in meetings
-  The new Microsoft Planner app in Microsoft Teams
-  Release of In-Person Events, including Hybrid RSVPing
-  Microsoft Azure Information Protection Plan 1 end of sale



MICROSOFT COPILOT

New service plan for customers using Microsoft 365 Copilot

The following products are being updated with a new Microsoft Copilot in SharePoint service plan:

- Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365 Original
- Microsoft 365 Copilot Developer
- Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365 A3 and A5

The service plan will enable various copilot features, including Copilot in OneDrive and AI Sharing Summaries in Word.

[Copilot in OneDrive](#) will allow you to ask open-ended questions and get information from files in your OneDrive without having to open the files. It will also summarise one or multiple files.

This new capability will help you quickly retrieve information from files in your OneDrive. Copilot in OneDrive will be accessible directly in OneDrive for web and in the file viewer in Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, and SharePoint. It will be available for work and school customers with a Copilot for Microsoft 365 licence.

When will this happen?

- OneDrive: early May 2024, and we expect to complete the rollout by end of May 2024
- AI Sharing in Word: mid-March 2024 and expect to complete by late March 2024

What does this mean for me?

Copilot's conversational AI means users can ask open-ended questions to retrieve the data they need, helping them to search in their individual voice to retrieve document summaries. Not only saving time and effort, but allowing them to work in a style that's natural to each individual.

Copilot for Microsoft 365 in Teams chat on mobile

The new [Copilot for Microsoft 365](#) will be available in the Teams iOS and Android App for Copilot licensed users. This update will bring the Copilot app into the Teams Chat List on mobile for easy discovery and access.

When will this happen?

- Early March 2024 and expected to complete by mid-March 2024

What does this mean for me?

Employees now have the power of Copilot from more devices, allowing them to work faster and more freely wherever they are, enhancing productivity and your hybrid working strategy.

SECURITY UPDATES

More unified cross-platform endpoint management

Last year, Microsoft declared that macOS device management with Microsoft Intune was entering a new era of capability, and this month, the “await final configuration” feature is generally available.

The new “await final configuration” for macOS Automated Device Enrolment (ADE) enables the device to be set up with the correct policies, such as VPN and WiFi profiles, before end users land on the Home Screen, so there is no confusion or gaps to get productive and be secure. This capability is covered in detail in the new guide to [macOS device enrollment](#).

When will this happen?

- March 2024

What does this mean for me?

Technology is often the first thing a new starter will experience when joining a new company, especially if they are fully remote. So, the pre-configuration of their devices is a crucial part of creating a positive and seamless experience for your employees, as well as easing the management of your devices for your IT team.

Updated labels for external participants in meetings

After recently announcing admins now have more control over what organisations users can collaborate with through Teams, Microsoft is now updating the labels for meeting participants' names.

To bring consistency and accuracy to the user labels, Microsoft is introducing the term Unverified, which will be seen for all meeting participants who do not have a trusted relationship with the organiser. All participants who are not part of the meeting organiser's organisation but are configured as a trusted relationship with the organiser will continue to be termed as External.

Organisers and meeting participants in your organisation who attend meetings with users outside of their organisation (with or without a Microsoft Entra ID) will see these changes that reflect the trust level of the participant with the organiser (External, Unverified, or no label).

When will this happen?

- Mid-February 2024 and expected to complete by early March 2024 for all the in-meeting participant views

What does this mean for me?

This update will help your users to more easily identify the organisations that are trusted entities and will force them to more explicitly verify why they need to collaborate with new third parties.

This will put a break in the chain for your users before they interact with third parties and will help minimise the risk of socially engineered cyber attacks from bad actors looking to exploit organisations with more relaxed collaboration controls.

PRODUCTIVITY UPDATES

The new Microsoft Planner app in Microsoft Teams

The new Microsoft Planner is a single, unified work management experience.

Built on Microsoft Power Platform, [the new Planner](#) will enable customised reporting through Microsoft Power BI and configurable workflows through Microsoft Power Automate. It also integrates with Microsoft Viva Goals, connecting to your objectives and key results to inform plans and provide high-level visibility.

It brings together the simplicity of To Do, the collaboration of Planner, the power of Project, and the intelligence of Copilot into a single, simple solution.

The new Planner enables you to stay in the flow of work with integrations across other Microsoft 365 experiences such as Microsoft Loop, Microsoft Outlook, Viva Goals, and Teams. You can bring existing Planner plans into a Loop workspace and track your team plan alongside other project content in one place. Emails you flag in Outlook, or action items assigned to you from Teams meetings are also visible in Planner.

- Microsoft are updating the app name for the Tasks by Planner and To Do app in Microsoft Teams to Planner
- Planner in Teams will maintain all existing functionality of the Tasks app while adding support to access all your plans, the power of Microsoft Project, and the intelligence of Copilot
- If your organisation does not have a Microsoft 365 license, users must use the To Do app to create new lists. If your organisation purchases at least one Microsoft 365 license, users can access the full functionality of Planner

When will this happen?

- Early March 2024 and expect to compete by mid-March 2024

What does this mean for me?

These Microsoft Planner improvements give you more capabilities through a single app, so that you can access everything you need from one place.

Release of In-Person Events (IPE) including Hybrid RSVPing (HRSVP)

Both meeting organisers and attendees will have new functionalities at their disposal. While scheduling meetings, organisers will be able to request in-person attendance via a new “in-person event” toggle. While responding (RSVP) to in-person meeting invites, attendees will be able to confirm whether they can participate in person or only participate virtually/online.

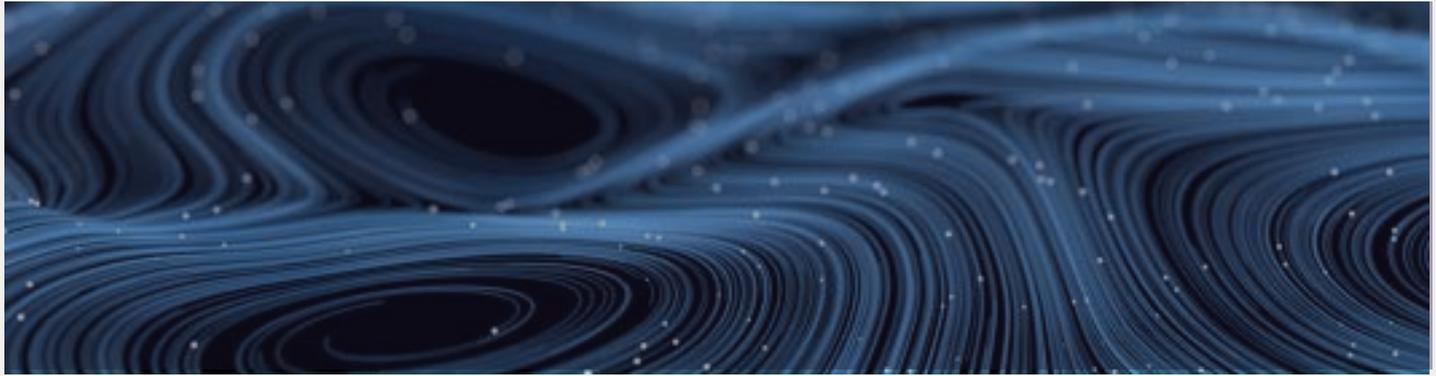
For not-in-person invites, the RSVP options will continue to be the same. These new functionalities will only be available on Microsoft Outlook on the Web (OWA) and the new Outlook Desktop for Windows.

When will this happen?

- Late March and expected to complete by mid-April 2024

What does this mean for me?

With hybrid working being the norm for most organisations, the ability to highlight whether you will be attending meetings in-person or virtually helps with everything from meeting room management and hot desking, to individuals managing their days in the off to maximise collaboration and socialising.



Microsoft Azure Information Protection Plan 1 end of sale – January 2024

Azure Information Protection (AIP) is being modernised to provide an advanced classification, labelling, and protection stack for customers with Microsoft Purview Information Protection and Microsoft 365.

Affected customers were notified of the upcoming retirement of the AIP Unified Labelling add-in for Office via message centre posts in April 2023, and Microsoft continue to encourage customers to migrate to the equivalent / superior capabilities Information Protection features that are built into Microsoft 365

Native labelling and other classification and protection capabilities that are in AIP are included as part of subscription plans and offers that include Microsoft Purview Information Protection:

- Microsoft 365 E3
- Microsoft 365 E5 Information Protection and Governance
- Microsoft 365 E5
- Office 365 E3
- Office 365 E5
- Enterprise Mobility and Security E3
- Enterprise Mobility and Security E5
- Microsoft 365 F3 and Business Premium

When will this happen?

- April 2024

What does this mean for me?

While these modernisations won't change the functionality of Purview, they will make data protection less challenging to understand and implement within the tool.



To talk to our experts about how any of these changes may impact your AI strategy, hybrid working strategy, or security strategy, [book a free consultation with our team today.](#)