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# THE INSIGHTS

**Published: 27th November 2024**

## Welcome to your November 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.

### News
- Webinar: The AI Opportunity with Microsoft Copilot for 365

### Copilot updates
- Intelligent recap for adhoc meetings

### Security updates
- Brand impersonation protection for Teams chat

### 365 updates
- Location updates enhance hybrid working

# MICROSOFT NEWS

## Support for Office 2016 and Office 2019 will end on October 14, 2025

In less than a year, Microsoft will end support for Office 206 and Office 2019. After the 14th October 2025, no further updates, security fixes, or technical support will be available for these versions of Office.

While the applications may continue to function, using unsupported software could lead to **potential security risks** and other issues that will hinder wider IT modernisation such as your cloud, AI and security strategies.
Applications and services that will be affected:

| Office suites | Office 2016, Office 2019 |
|---|---|
| Office applications | Access 2016, Access 2019, Excel 2016, Excel 2019, OneNote 2016, Outlook 2016, Outlook 2019, PowerPoint 2016, PowerPoint 2019, Project 2016, Project 2019, Publisher 2016, Publisher 2019, Skype for Business 2016, Skype for Business 2019, Visio 2016, Visio 2019, Word 2016, Word 2019 |
| Productivity servers | Exchange Server 2016, Exchange Server 2019, Skype for Business Server 2015, Skype for Business Server 2019 |

Read the full list of end of support suites, apps and servers end October 14, 2025

## Microsoft Defender for Cloud remediated threats 30% faster than other solutions, according to Forrester TEI study.

A new report has revealed how Microsoft Defender for Cloud customers are saving time and increasing productivity. Forrester Consulting conducted a Total Economic Impact™ (TEI) study to provide a framework for organisations to evaluate the benefits and potential financial impact of Defender for Cloud. Highlights from the report include:

- Defender for Cloud was found to register 50% fewer false positives than legacy security solutions.
- Reduced the investigation and remediation times of legitimate threats by 30%.
- Businesses saw an average 30% improvement in SecOps productivity.
- Reduced licensing costs by 10% when compared to legacy security solutions.

If you want to learn more about how you can leverage Microsoft's Defender suite to modernise your security operations, read our Modern SecOps brochure.

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# MICROSOFT COPILOT

## Copilot users can now create charts, graphs, and data analysis

Reporting and data analysis just got easier. You can now create graphs and charts using natural language prompts in Copilot Business Chat to perform detailed reporting and analysis.

## Intelligent recap support for ad-hoc meetings and calls

After this rollout, users in your tenant can turn on the recording or transcription to get intelligent recap for ad-hoc meetings started from Meet now or chat (1:1 chat or group chat), just as they can with scheduled meetings. After these meetings end, users will see the meeting thumbnail in the meeting chat or call chat. Users can select the View recap button to access the Recap page.
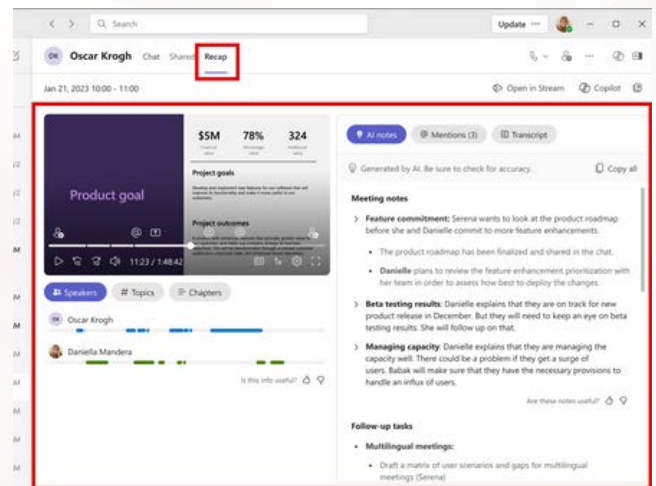
## AI administrator role added for M365 Copilot
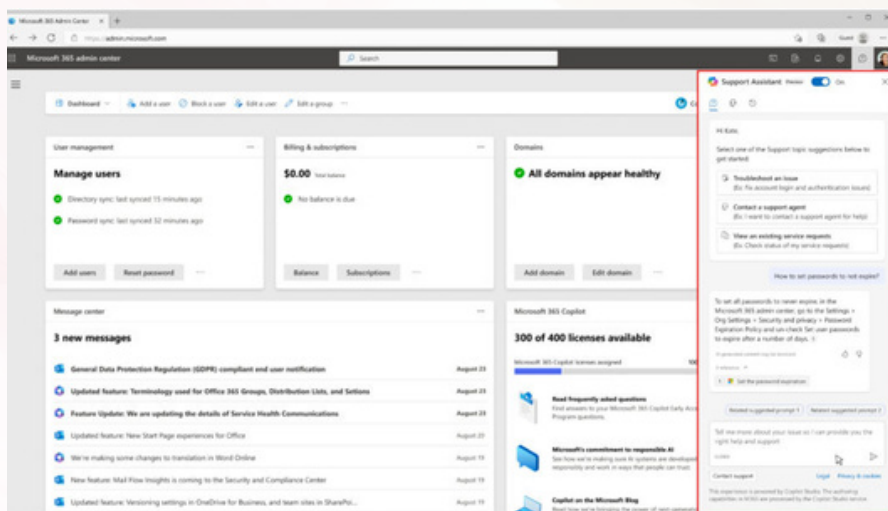
Microsoft have added an AI administrator role to help manage Microsoft Copilot for 365 including reporting, insights and permissions. This means that admins no longer need to be a global administrator, which helps your organisation practice least privilege access and continue to stay secure.

# MICROSOFT SECURITY

## Brand impersonation protection for Teams Chat

Teams users will now get an extra prompt before authorising chats with external organisations.
If your organisation enables Teams external access, you will see a high-risk warning in the Accept/Block flow if Microsoft thinks there is a potential impersonation risk, and users must preview the message before they can choose to Accept or block. If you choose to accept, a second prompt highlighting the potential risk will appear, before proceeding with Accept.
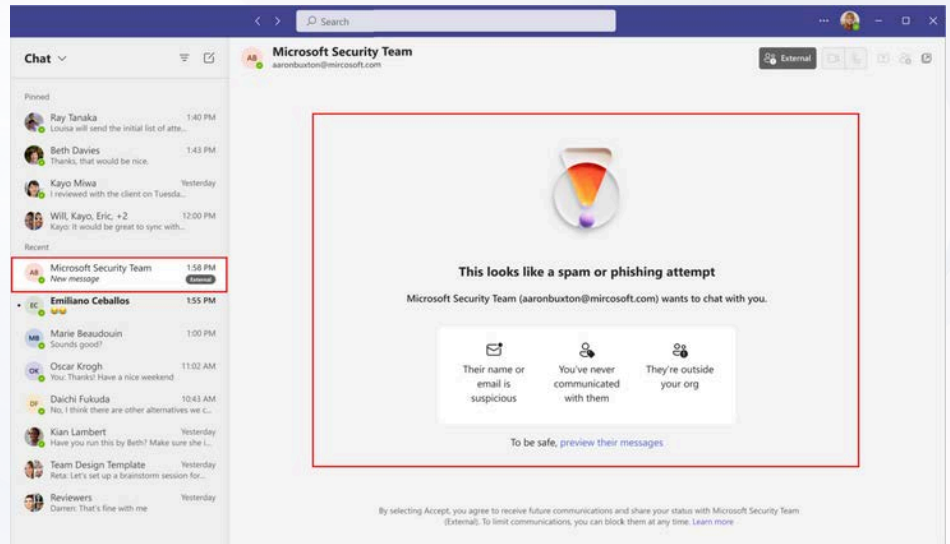


# MICROSOFT 365

## Branding your company's Teams meetings and calls with frosted glass effects



This feature allows you to brand your company's Teams meetings and calls in a professional and visually appealing way. Every Teams user can manually upload individual frosted glass backgrounds. Teams Premium administrators can also upload frosted glass backgrounds for their organization and assign those backgrounds to different teams based on customization policies.

## Microsoft Places will be generally available in Q4 CY24

As an existing customer, you will see an additional service plan as part of your Office 365 subscription: Places core. This service plan includes all core features such as setting up and updating location plans, viewing collaborators' location plans, accessing peek card experiences, scheduling in person meetings, managing hybrid RSVP, and workplace presence related capabilities.

If you have Teams Premium, you will have Places enhanced premium features like Places Finder, intelligent booking, Places Explorer, Places Space Analytics, and auto-release policies. We will be backfilling these service plans into the following SKUs below.

List of SKUs for Places core:
- Microsoft 365 Business Basic
- Microsoft 365 Business Standard
- Microsoft 365 Business Premium
- Microsoft 365 or Office 365 E1, E3, E5
- Microsoft 365 or Office 365 F3

List of SKUs for additional Teams-specific features in Places core:
- Microsoft Teams Essentials
- Microsoft Teams Enterprise
- Microsoft Teams EEA

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# MICROSOFT 365

## Add approvals to any document library

Version control, publishing and authorisation has been made easier with the release of SharePoint's Configure Approvals feature.

By the end of January 2025, you will be able to configure approvals by going to the Automate dropdown menu from the command bar in SharePoint Online document libraries and then selecting the Configure Approvals option to enable and disable approvals on the library.

By creating an approval request and specifying the approver, the request will appear in the Approvals app in Microsoft Teams or can be approved directly in the library in SharePoint. Once approved, the file metadata is updated.
Note: When editing files, any in-flight approvals will be cancelled if changes are saved. To discourage edits of in-progress approvals, files will open in view-only mode in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for the web, and the same Windows desktop applications will show that the document is Marked as final.



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