

Office 365 migration – how it changed our business



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The Background

F1 needed to identify a communications solution that met the mobile nature of its business. Our consultants spend a significant amount of time working away from the office but still need to be able to communicate and collaborate with co-workers and clients in a secure and reliable manner. The main reasons for the decision to migrate from an On-Premise Microsoft Exchange solution were based around manageability, scalability and reliability. We also needed to lessen the administrative overhead of maintaining “local” servers and associated infrastructure. Using Microsoft Office 365 hands this “burden” to Microsoft with our applications running on their servers within their own highly secure and reliable datacentres.

The Solution

The biggest motivation to move away from our On-Premise Exchange system to a Cloud based system was reliability. With the growth of the US office and the fact that most of our staff are travelling for extended periods of time, we required a system that gave us high availability at all times with access from anywhere. Office 365 is fully backed up, spanned across multiple servers and across multiple fully managed datacentres, which gives us piece of mind that was not there with our previous system.

Moving to Office 365 allowed us to manage our Exchange environment on a much broader scale. We can easily create multiple administrator levels in order to have more than one or two people who can manage the whole system. We have the ability for a team to perform various functions and have limited administrative rights, for example the ability to have team members in the US office create, delete and amend user accounts, mailboxes as well as administer our SharePoint site.



With Office 365 we are able to scale quickly and easily to add new licenses on the fly when we need to add mailboxes for our growing staff requirements. This flexibility of licensing model is ideal for a dynamic business like ours.

The process of migrating to Office 365 was easier than we had expected or anticipated. The online tools to integrate into a current system and automatically migrate the user mailbox data were easy to use and migrated most of the data for us. The tools set up all of the usernames, distribution groups, aliases and mailboxes. The mailbox data was migrated over a period of a few days and once completed, we were able to quickly and easily get our DNS entries redirected to the correct IP addresses and users were up and running on the new system within a matter of hours.

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In essence, Microsoft Office 365 provides us with a familiar interface and set of tools, eliminating the need for re-education, and does so securely on any platform with an internet browser.

The Future

Since moving to Office 365, we have been able to utilise many of the new features such as MailTips, the new and improved Outlook Web App and SharePoint Online. All of the combined features we are able to utilise enable our divergent teams to collaborate in a way we've not been able to in the past and the future looks to only get better. As a company these improvements will help our people to be more efficient and to work closer together no matter how far apart they are.

Having experienced the migration first hand and seen the difference it has made to our business, we can help you to do the same.

Here are the top 10 benefits of migrating your business to Office 365:

Security – Most importantly your data is protected. Antispam and antivirus safeguard your email while updates and patches are applied automatically.

Cloud service – The easy way to move your business to the Cloud and work together efficiently and securely, with the experts in Cloud services helping you every step of the way.

Cost – Save time and money by putting your office in the Cloud, no maintenance or infrastructure costs, just a predictable monthly fee.

Support – As with all our Cloud services, you will be fully supported by our technical team who will assist you with set up and any ongoing support you may need.

Business Continuity - An important part of any business today is ensuring that your data remains available at all times. Office 365 allows you to access email and documents, anywhere, anytime.



Reliable - Delivered from multiple datacentres, F1 Consultancy offer the Microsoft 99.9% scheduled uptime guarantee and our dedicated team of consultants ensures efficient set up and help.

Familiar – We use the most popular of the Microsoft services, Outlook and SharePoint, while Office Web Apps and Professional Plus enable you to use favourites like Word and Excel when on the move. Office Professional Plus can easily be installed on multiple devices.

Scalability – As your business grows you can add additional accounts, quickly and easily, without the need for buying additional hardware.

Connect & Communicate – Share your documents with your colleagues, seamlessly communicate through instant messaging and conduct video conferences easily.

Mobility – Work from anywhere with an internet connection. Emails will automatically sync with most mobile devices and you can view and edit documents with Office Web Apps and SharePoint.

