Cloud 9 SECURITY

Your Clear Path Through Microsoft 365 Licensing Complexity

Struggling to understand which Microsoft 365 licence is right for your organisation? You're not alone. This comprehensive guide breaks down the options with crystal-clear pricing and features, helping you make informed decisions that balance security, functionality and budget.

All prices shown are per user per month with annual commitment, excluding VAT. UK pricing as of April 2025.

Microsoft 365 Business Plans (SMB – up to 300 users)

Plan	Price (GBP)	Key Features	Security Highlights
M365 Business Basic	£4.60	• Web & mobile Office apps (no desktop apps) • Business email (50 GB mailbox) • Teams meetings & chat • 1 TB OneDrive cloud storage per user	• Standard email protection (anti-spam/anti-malware) • No advanced security or device management (entry-level plan)
M365 Business Standard	£9.60	• Includes all Basic features, plus full desktop Office apps (Office installed on PC/Mac) • Teams webinars and meeting recordings • Business services like SharePoint, OneDrive, Exchange email	• Standard security (as in Basic – Exchange Online Protection etc.) • No advanced security beyond core features (can be augmented with add-ons if needed)
M365 Business Premium	£16.90	• Includes all Standard features, plus Windows 11 Pro upgrade rights • Microsoft Intune for device & app management • Microsoft Entra ID P1 (enhanced identity management)	• Advanced threat protection for email & files (Defender for Office 365 P1) • Endpoint protection with Defender for Business (EDR/ antivirus) • Conditional Access & MFA features (via Entra ID P1), and information protection (classification & labeling)

Office 365 Enterprise Plans[1] (Unlimited users)

Plan	Price (GBP)	Key Features	Security Highlights
Office 365 E1[1]	£6.00	• Office Online (web & mobile apps only, no desktop apps) • Email (50 GB mailbox) & archive, Teams (meetings/chat)[1] • SharePoint & OneDrive (1 TB per user) for collaboration	• Exchange Online Protection for email (anti-spam/malware) • Basic compliance: data loss prevention (DLP) for email/ SharePoint, Office Message Encryption
Office 365 E3[1]	£18.60	• Includes all E1 features, plus full Office desktop apps • 100 GB email mailbox & unlimited archive storage • Office desktop apps for 5 PCs/ Macs per user	• DLP and Office 365 Message Encryption included • Basic device management (MDM for Office 365) and compliance tools; no advanced threat protection by default
Office 365 E5[1]	£32.10	• Includes all E3 features, plus Teams Phone system & audio conferencing • Power BI Pro analytics license included • Advanced compliance features (eDiscovery, Customer Lockbox, etc.)	• Advanced Threat Protection for Office 365 (Defender for Office 365 P2) Safe Attachments & Safe Links) • Enhanced compliance: advanced eDiscovery, Customer Key encryption, and audit controls

Microsoft 365 Enterprise Plans[1] (Office + Windows + EMS)

Plan	Price (GBP)	Key Features	Security Highlights
Microsoft 365 E3[1]	£29.00	• Office 365 E3 + Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS E3) + Windows 11 Enterprise • Windows Enterprise OS license for each user (advanced OS features) • Azure AD Premium P1 & Intune for identity and device management (EMS E3 suite)	• Conditional Access, Single Sign-On, and MFA via Azure AD Premium P1 • Device management and compliance through Intune; basic threat protection across Office apps (via Defender for Office 365 P1)
Microsoft 365 E5[1]	£47.10	• Includes all M365 E3 features, plus EMS E5 and advanced analytics • Power BI Pro, Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps (MCAS), Azure AD P2, and Windows 11 E5 features • Full suite of Microsoft 365 services with highest compliance & analytics	• Azure AD Premium P2 for identity protection (Privileged Identity Management, risk-based access) • Microsoft Defender for Endpoint P2 (advanced endpoint detection & response) and Defender for Office 365 P2 for holistic threat protection • Insider Risk Management, Advanced Audit, and other Microsoft Purview compliance solutions

[1]For enterprise plans (E1/E3/E5 and Microsoft 365 E3/E5), Microsoft Teams is licensed separately in UK/EU: add £4.00 per user/month for Teams if required.

Maximising Value and Security – Cloud9 Security Insights

- **Built-in Security = Instant Value**: Many Microsoft 365 plans come with powerful built-in security features (MFA, threat protection, encryption, compliance tools) that you might otherwise buy separately. *Maximise your M365 investment by fully utilising security features you already own*. This means you can often eliminate third-party security subscriptions – saving cost while simplifying management.
- **Cost-Eff ective Bundles**: Upgrading to a higher-tier license can be more economical than piecemeal add-ons. For example, Microsoft 365 E5 bundles identity, device management, threat protection, analytics and voice features into one package. It's like getting "the whole meal" instead of paying for individual ingredients. Companies needing advanced capabilities (e.g. cloud PBX, eDiscovery, or advanced MFA) often **save money by bundling** them in E5 rather than using multiple vendors.
- **Productivity with Protection**: Modern Microsoft licenses are designed so security enhancements don't hinder workflow. **You can enhance collaboration while maintaining a strong security posture** – no more "productivity-killing" security measures. For instance, Conditional Access and Defender can silently protect users in the background, allowing your team to work confidently from anywhere without jumping through hoops.
- **Scalability and Flexibility**: Microsoft's licensing covers you from 50 to 5000+ users seamlessly. Grow from a Business Premium plan for a smaller team to Enterprise plans as you scale, or mix-and-match licenses to fit different user needs. Azure's pay-as-you-go model similarly ensures you only pay for the cloud resources you use , so your IT costs align with business growth.
- **Cloud9 Security Expertise**: Navigating Microsoft licensing can be complex – but you're not alone. **Cloud9 Security**, as a Microsoft Cloud Security specialist, will help you choose and tailor the optimal licensing mix for your organisation. We ensure you **unleash the full potential of your licenses** by configuring their security features correctly and integrating them into your environment. With our guidance, you get **enterprise-grade protection** without overspending, and a clear roadmap to stay compliant and secure as your business evolves.

By understanding these licensing options and leveraging their strengths, you can empower your workforce with the best tools and protect your data with world-class security – a win-win for productivity and peace of mind. **Cloud9 Security** is here to help you find that perfect balance, so you can "*get cloud confidence*" and focus on growing your business securely.

Not sure which plan is right for your organisation?

Contact Cloud9 Security for a free licensing assessment. Our Microsoft Cloud security specialists can help you identify opportunities to optimise your licensing, enhance security, and reduce costs – often delivering savings of up to 30% while improving your security posture.

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Cloud Confidence