

ICS Solutions have invested heavily in Microsoft Online Services and Cloud technology and have launched a new series of Office 365 seminars, aimed to help organisations and individuals prepare for the release of Office 365 next year. ICS Solutions have also developed Prepare365 a service offering to help with the understanding and preparation for Office365. To see more about ICS Solutions and Office 365 then please visit [www.office365advantage.co.uk](http://www.office365advantage.co.uk).

For any help with Office 365 please contact us on: [info@office365advantage.co.uk](mailto:info@office365advantage.co.uk) or 01256 403800

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# Microsoft

# Online Services

## Microsoft Office 365 for education

### Top 10 Benefits

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For the latest information, please see <http://www.microsoft.com/online>.

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# Top 10 Benefits of Microsoft Office 365 for education

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Microsoft® Office 365 delivers the power of cloud productivity to educational institutions of all sizes, helping to save time, money and free up valued resources. Office 365 combines the familiar Office desktop suite with online versions of Microsoft's next-generation communications and collaboration services: Exchange Online, SharePoint Online and Lync Online as well as Office Professional Pro Plus and Office Web Apps (available with certain plans). Office 365 is simple to use and easy to administer – all backed by the robust security and guaranteed reliability you expect from a world-class service provider.

## Learning from Virtually Anywhere

Office 365 provides users with the ability to work online or offline via Office desktop applications on PCs and Macs. When you're not at the educational institution, you can access your inbox with Outlook Web App, view and edit assignments with Office Web Apps (available with certain plans), or join an online classroom with the Lync Web App. In transit, you're never out of touch with other students or educators as you can access mail, contacts, calendar, and SharePoint sites from many devices including Windows Phones, Nokia, Android, iPhone and Blackberry (dependent on carrier network availability). No need to manage both a voice mailbox and an Inbox as Office 365 provides unified messaging directing voicemail to your inbox.

## Enterprise Class Security

Your data is highly safe and secure as Office 365 employs enterprise class security throughout the service data centers. Premium anti-spam and antivirus protection is provided by multiple virus scanning engines for mail and SharePoint Online documents. A risk based, multi-dimensional set of practices help to safeguard services and privacy of your data. Office 365 data centers are SAS 70 and ISO 27001 certified.

## Same 99.9% Scheduled Uptime SLA as Office 365 for enterprises

Your mail, documents and services are available when you need them. Microsoft Online services are delivered from a global network of state of the art data centers protected by multiple layers of security and a strict privacy policy. High availability is built into the data center with protections such as redundant and fail over systems for networking, power supplies, and servers. In addition, the data from each primary data center is replicated to a redundant datacenter to protect against datacenter wide failures. Strict operational best practices are in force related to monitoring, upgrading and administering the services so that your content is available when you need it. In fact, Office 365 for education comes with the same 99.9% uptime commitment, backed by a SLA, as Union for enterprises.

## Reduce Cost & Provide Flexibility

With Microsoft Office 365 for education, education institutions have predictable annual costs of using the communications, collaboration, and productivity tools. In addition, Microsoft Office 365 helps education institutions significantly reduce costs and free time associated with deployment and management of servers on-premises. The tools offered can be configured to meet an organization's unique needs and give its users access to only those services that they need. Microsoft Office 365 for education can work with existing on-premises server deployments. This co-existence offers more choices in the way tools can

be delivered to users i.e. on-premises deployment, web-based, or both. Therefore users get a consistent experience through seamless interoperability across the on-premises and web-based applications.

## Simplify IT Management

Service administrators that manage on-premise SharePoint 2010 or Exchange 2010 servers will find they already know how to manage SharePoint Online and Exchange Online as the administration consoles for the online services are the same for the tenant administration capabilities of the on premise systems. Administrators familiar with earlier versions of SharePoint and Exchange will benefit from the ribbon experience fashioned after Office as well as the easy to use, redesigned management interface. In addition, routine tasks such as applying server updates, updating virus signatures, disk and server maintenance are all performed by Microsoft providing more time for IT to focus on value added workloads rather than maintenance workloads.

## Keeps IT in Control

IT stays in control through the use of the Office 365 management site. Role based access controls allow IT to delegate authority for specific administrative tasks to others. The Office 365 service health portal and RSS feeds provide up to date service availability information. Service administrators can specify which users have access to mail using mobile devices or by Outlook Web App. For advanced IT administrators, Remote PowerShell gives you granular control over Exchange Online configuration and settings.

## Minimal Learning Curve

Educators and students can be productive right away as they keep using the familiar Office tools they already know. Features of Office that integrate with Office 365 “just work” without complicated setup or configuration. Hybrid deployment scenarios allow on-premises and online users to work seamlessly.

## Best-in-Class Email, Collaboration, and Online Meeting Solutions

Office 365 provides best in class email, collaboration and online meeting solutions. Simultaneously edit the same document with your colleagues and easily escalate into an online meeting. Conduct scheduled or impromptu online meetings with students, parents or educators, including audio, video and screen sharing. Create sites to store your important coursework or research and work together. Share your calendar with other students and educators. Connect with others through contact photos, activity feeds and interactive contact cards.

## Hybrid Deployment Scenarios Allow On-premises and Online Users to Work Seamlessly

Exchange Online rich coexistence makes your on-premises organization and cloud organization work together like a single, seamless organization. Features such as Free/Busy, MailTips, mailbox search, message tracking, archiving work across the cloud boundary to function as a single integrated

architecture. You can even move mailboxes between the cloud and Exchange Online transparently to the user. In addition, Exchange Online integrates with supported PBXs and Lync Server 2010 to provide Voice Mail features.

## Single Sign On

Office 365 supports the use of a Federated Identity to provide a true single sign on experience across all services. With single sign on, users don't need to remember another user name and password providing a unified cloud and on premise experience and a lighter load for your help desk. Password policy compliance, including two factor authentication, is assured since passwords are managed by your existing on-premise Active Directory deployment.

## 24/7 Support

Microsoft is proud to provide 24/7 global support for Office 365 subscribers. Service administrators can create support tickets anytime or call any one of the support centers around the globe. In many countries, local phone numbers are provided. In addition, phone support is offered in many languages either by native speakers or interpreter. Should diagnostics be needed, the support staff can direct you to specialized diagnostic tools designed to quickly gather information needed to quickly solve your problem.