Groups in Microsoft 365 for IT Architects

What IT architects need to know about groups in Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 includes five types of groups that are used to manage access to resources and for administration. Group membership is based on Azure Active Directory accounts. As an admin, your team creates some groups to manage conditional access, devices, and other resources.

Groups in Microsoft 365 for IT Architects

Many groups are created by members of your organization for collaboration using Teams, SharePoint, and other collaboration tools. While membership in these groups can be highly dynamic, you still manage the underlying Azure AD accounts, including enforcing conditional access, using Azure AD Identity Protection, and other controls to protect your organization.

Microsoft 365 includes five types of groups that are used to manage conditional access, devices, and other resources.

Microsoft 365 groups

Secured groups

Mail-enabled security groups

Distribution groups

Shared mailboxes

Microsoft 365 includes five types of groups that are used to manage conditional access, devices, and other resources.

Types of groups and where they are created

Security group

Microsoft 365 groups

Mail-enabled security group

Distribution group

Shared mailbox

Groups can be created in several of the admin centers and by users from within apps.

Microsoft 365 admin center

Azure AD

Outlook

SharePoint

Power BI (classic)

Roadmap

Inbox and calendar

Exchange admin center

Teams

Yammer

Project for the web

Exchange admin center

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Managing groups

Groups can be managed across admin centers. Controls vary depending on the scope of the admin center. For example, Azure AD provides control over dynamic group membership and licensing.

Microsoft 365 groups access to Microsoft 365 resources

Use Azure AD to manage access to Microsoft 365 services and other SaaS applications.

Group-based licensing

Create secure groups in Azure AD to assign licenses based on groups.

Collaboration spaces for Microsoft 365 groups

Collaboration spaces for Microsoft 365 groups differ based on the level of collaboration the Microsoft 365 group is created. Note that Teams and Yammer cannot be connected to the same group.

Microsoft 365 administrators and Exchange admin centers provide the most controls for managing mail associated with groups.

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