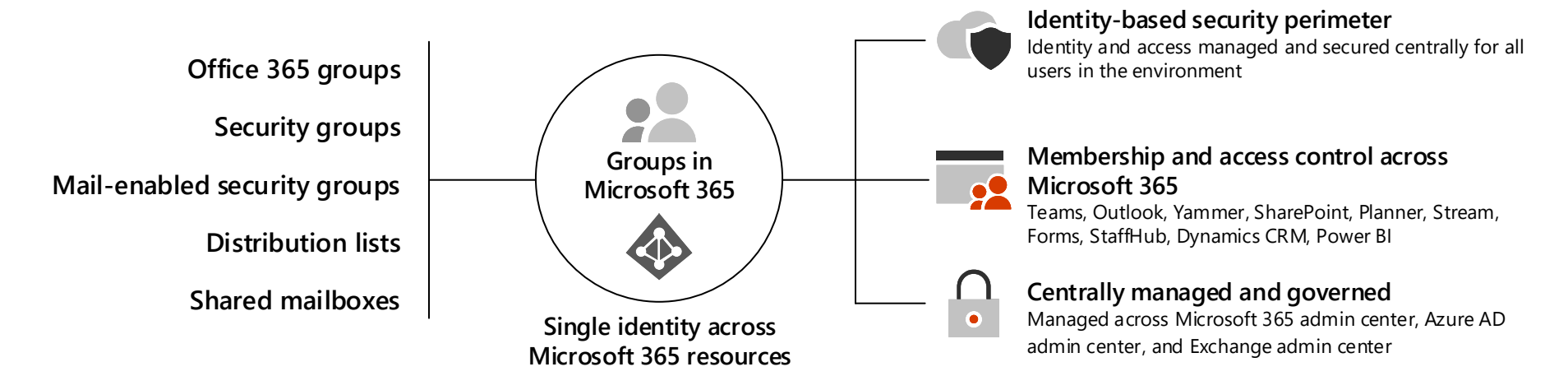


Groups in Microsoft 365 for IT Architects

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 communication. 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.

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.



Types of groups and where they are created

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

Type of group	Security group	Office 365 group	Mail-enabled security group	Distribution list	Shared mailbox
	Used for granting access to resources and for managing devices.	Used for collaboration. Includes a group email and shared workspaces.	Includes the ability to send mail to a group. Cannot be dynamically managed. Cannot contain devices.	Used for sending notifications to a list of people.	Used when multiple people need to access the same mailbox, such as a support email address.
Where groups can be created	Azure AD				
	Microsoft 365 admin center				
		Exchange Admin			
		Outlook			
		Teams			
		SharePoint			
		Planner			
		Yammer			

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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.

The Exchange admin center provides the most controls for managing mail associated with groups.

Manage all group types	Manage most groups types	
Microsoft 365 admin center	Azure AD admin center	Exchange admin center
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sort on group typeManage group members and ownersCreate a friendly email address when creating mail-enabled groupsEdit the email address for distribution lists and mail-enabled security groupsEdit name and descriptionEdit privacy and subscription settingsAllow or prevent outside sendersDelete groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage all group types, except shared mailbox groupsManage group members and ownersManage dynamic group membershipAssign licenses and applicationsAssign Azure resourcesReview activity (access reviews, audit logs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage all group types, except security groupsManage group members and ownersManage where messages are accepted and rejected fromAllow delegates to send mail from the groupEdit privacy and subscription settingsChange the language for group notificationsManage additional mail settings for distribution lists, mail-enabled security groups, and shared mailboxes

Governance for admin-created groups

Use naming conventions for groups created by admins so you can find and manage these.

Additional governance practices

Conditional access	Create Office 365 groups in Azure AD to manage access to Microsoft 365 services and other SaaS applications.	Device management	Create security groups in Azure AD to manage devices.
Group-based licensing	Create security groups in Azure AD to assign licenses based on groups.	Azure resources	Create security groups in Azure AD for managing access to Azure resources.

Collaboration spaces for Office 365 groups

Collaboration spaces for Office 365 groups differ based on where the Office 365 group is created.

While users can create Office 365 groups in Outlook, other apps create Office 365 groups behind the scenes when users create Teams, SharePoint team sites, Planner plans, and Yammer groups.

Note that Teams and Yammer cannot be connected to the same group.

Where the group is created	Who/what creates it	Shared Outlook inbox	Shared calendar	SharePoint team site and document library	Shared OneNote notebook	Planner
Azure AD	Admin	●	●	●	●	●
Microsoft 365 admin	Admin	●	●	●	●	●
Outlook	User	●	●	●	●	●
Teams	Teams	Hidden	Hidden	●	●	●
SharePoint	SharePoint	●	●	●	●	●
Planner	Planner	●	●	●	●	●
Yammer Office 365 connected	Yammer	Hidden	Hidden	●	●	●
Yammer	Yammer	Hidden	Hidden	●		