

Microsoft 365 Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For small to medium businesses up to 300 staff • Office 365 Business Premium • Windows 10 Pro upgrade • Enterprise Mobility + Security SMB
Microsoft 365 Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Enterprise customers • Office 365 Enterprise • Windows 10 Enterprise • Enterprise Mobility + Security
Microsoft 365 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 Education • Windows 10 Education • Enterprise Mobility + Security Education • Minecraft: Education Edition

Microsoft 365 plan types

Unpacking Microsoft 365

- Published on July 26, 2017
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/unpacking-microsoft-365-aaron-dinnage/>

Back in July 2017, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella announced a new suite of modern workplace services that combines Office 365, Windows 10, and advanced security capabilities. It's called *Microsoft 365* ...

If you're not looking at Microsoft 365 licensing, you could be paying Microsoft too much and missing out on important security features that every cloud user should have.

The announcement was accompanied with a blog by Kirk Koenigsbauer, corporate vice president for the Office team, here: <https://blogs.office.com/2017/07/10/introducing-microsoft-365/>

If you haven't read Kirk's post, I'd recommend checking it out for a high-level overview prior to us delving into the detail here. Kirk outlines in his post the rationale and the intent for Microsoft 365.

Further details and additional suites have since been announced. In this post I'll be focusing on the detail, I'll unpack the various Microsoft 365 options, and try to highlight some of the areas of particular value.

Before I continue, let me just say that I work for Microsoft, but this is not an 'official' post. This is my view as a Modern Workplace specialist and as someone that has worked closely with our enterprise customers in a combination of technical and pre-sales roles since joining Microsoft in 2013. I wanted to help explain Microsoft 365 in a way I'm not seeing it explained elsewhere. I hope you find it useful ...

Renamed Features

There have been a number of features renamed since the launch that you'll see listed in the licensing graphics below, so I wanted to take a quick moment to call them out so you'll know what they are when you see them ...

From	To
Advanced Security Management	Office 365 Cloud App Security
Cloud PBX	Phone System
PSTN Calling	Calling Plan
PSTN Conferencing	Audio Conferencing
PSTN Consumption	Communications Credits

Microsoft 365 Overview

The first thing to note about Microsoft 365 is the name. A name is not a feature of discernible value, but it is significant. This product is actually called '*Microsoft*'. Not Office, Windows, or 'Modern Workplace', but Microsoft. Microsoft 365. It deliberately makes a statement with that name. This is intended to be the *best of Microsoft*.

It's also a rebranding and expansion of what used to be called *Secure Productive Enterprise* (SPE), which had been available for about a year, but only to enterprise customers. With Microsoft 365 the scope is dramatically extended to now address not only enterprise customers, but also education, small and medium sized businesses, and firstline workers as well.

Finally, there is the part you can't see from the outside, and that is a restructuring of teams within Microsoft to align the various product groups around this offering. It means you'll see much more cross-product integration and enhancement.

There are three flavours of Microsoft 365, they are Microsoft 365 *Business*, Microsoft 365 *Enterprise*, and Microsoft 365 *Education*.

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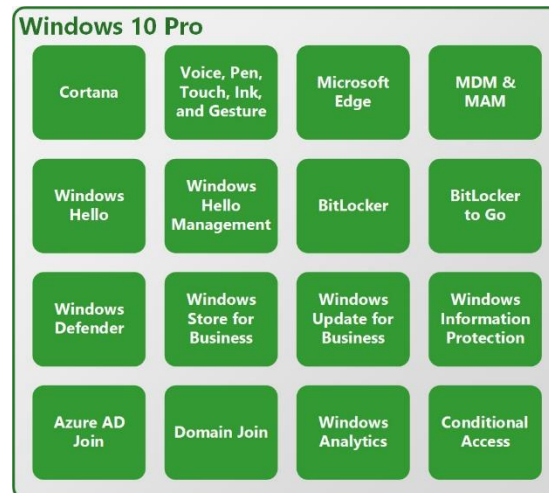
Feel free to scroll down to the section below that aligns with your organization, you won't miss anything by skipping ahead...

Microsoft 365 Business

The Business suite builds on [Office 365 Business Premium](#) by adding Windows 10 Pro upgrade and a new selection of the Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS) features.

Microsoft 365 Business is intended for small to medium sized businesses with little or no in-house IT staff. The sort of customer that doesn't run enterprise IT like Active Directory, in fact, it's specifically designed to avoid the need for traditional Active Directory and is only available to organizations of up to 300 staff.

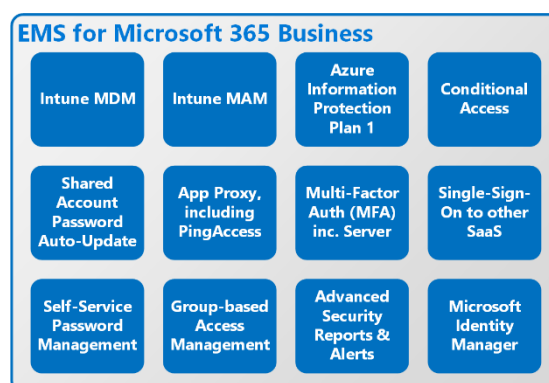
Windows 10 Pro



With Microsoft 365 Business organizations running Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 Professional can upgrade to Windows 10 Pro. On top of that Windows 10 Pro base some additional capability is then layered (you may see this referred to as Windows 10 Business), so it's important for Microsoft 365 Business customers to undertake that upgrade to get the full value out of the suite.

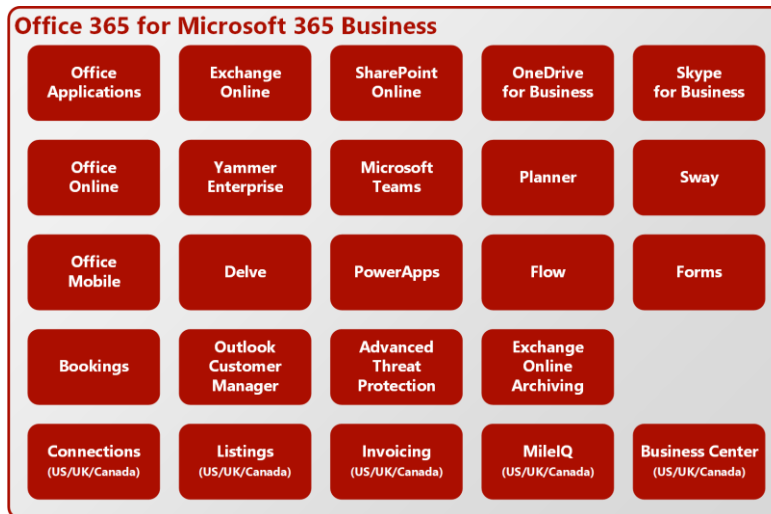
It also adds in the new [Windows 10 AutoPilot](#) feature for simplified, automatic, and remote computer provisioning and enrolment of new devices.

Enterprise Mobility + Security SMB



This EMS plan is only available to Microsoft 365 Business customers and includes Intune MDM, excluding full device wipe, and Intune MAM for Office Apps. It includes a range of Azure AD Premium features, but does not include self-service group management, Cloud App Discovery, or Azure AD Connect Health.

Office 365 Business Premium



Office 365 Business Premium includes a number of capabilities designed specifically for small to medium business that are not available to Enterprise customers, including:

- [Bookings](#) gives businesses an integrated way to accept and manage appointment requests.
- [Outlook Customer Manager](#) is a lightweight Customer Relationship Manager plugin for Outlook.

Office 365 Business Premium has also received some new capabilities that roll up directly into Microsoft 365 Business:

- [Microsoft Connections](#) for running email marketing campaigns.
- [Microsoft Listings](#) for publishing business information to top internet sites like Facebook, Google, Bing, and Yelp.
- [Microsoft Invoicing](#) for creating business quotes and invoices and accepting payments through PayPal.
- [MileIQ](#) for intelligent mobile app-based vehicle mileage tracking.
- [Business Center](#) brings all these business apps into one admin and reporting experience.

These features are in select markets ahead of a wider roll-out.

You'll also see [Office 365 Advanced Threat Protection](#) has moved in from the Enterprise E3 plan to ensure that small-to-medium business customers are equally protected with the most advanced email and file anti-malware available.

Microsoft 365 Enterprise

Within Microsoft 365 Enterprise there are three plan levels, **F1**, **E3**, and **E5**. If you've dealt with Office 365, EMS, or Windows 10 enterprise licensing recently you'll recognize that those labels already hold meaning for each of the constituent technologies within Microsoft 365. This is deliberate, consistent labelling that simplifies the suite levels, but like all simplification it does obscure some detail. It's that detail I want to explore now...

Microsoft 365 Enterprise became generally available at the start of September 2017.

Microsoft 365 Enterprise E3



In the diagram above you can see that Microsoft 365 Enterprise E3 includes the three major products, Windows, EMS, and Office 365, but it also includes some additional usage rights:

Productivity Server Rights

This provides coverage for 'productivity' server products, specifically SharePoint, Exchange, and Skype for Business Server.

Customers get unlimited installs of the productivity server software on their own dedicated hardware (that is, not into multi-tenant cloud services like Azure or AWS). The server products are licensed exclusively for use by the organisation's Microsoft 365 licensed users.

This means that a Microsoft 365 customer can eliminate those server licenses at an Enterprise Agreement (EA) renewal or at anniversary in an EA Subscription (EAS), thereby simplifying their overall licensing position and reducing their costs as they transition some or all of these services into hybrid and cloud-only future implementations. It also means that customers that need to build out hybrid infrastructure as they move onto Microsoft 365 technologies aren't penalised with additional on-premises server licensing costs.

This can have a real cost saving, by avoiding separate server software licenses.

Fundamentally, this stops licensing from getting in the way of the IT transformation.

Office Device Licenses

We all understand that it takes time to upgrade from previous versions of Office to [Office 365 ProPlus](#). For example, many customers not only need to uplift their Office version (with all that entails), but also move from Device-based licensing to User-based licensing and different servicing models at the same time. To make this transition easier Microsoft 365 Enterprise customers get the right to one traditional Office Professional Plus device install, of current or earlier versions, for each existing user that is covered by Software Assurance (SA), and for new Microsoft 365 users up to the number of from SA users.

That was a bit wordy, you may want to read it again ... I'll wait ...

Microsoft 365 Enterprise massively simplifies Office licensing for any organisation with complex shared and disconnected device scenarios.

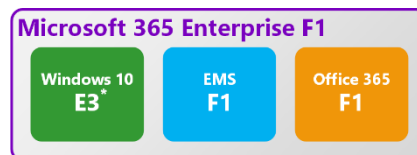
Microsoft 365 Enterprise E5

Microsoft 365 Enterprise E5 includes all of the above usage rights and the E5 levels of Windows 10 Enterprise, Enterprise Mobility + Security, and Office 365.



Microsoft 365 Enterprise F1

F1 plans are for Firstline workers. Firstline is a catch-all term for employees that variously get labelled deskless, front office, field, frontline, etc ... These include workers with traditionally lower-touch IT requirements, like some mining, healthcare, retail, field services, and storeroom workers to name a few.

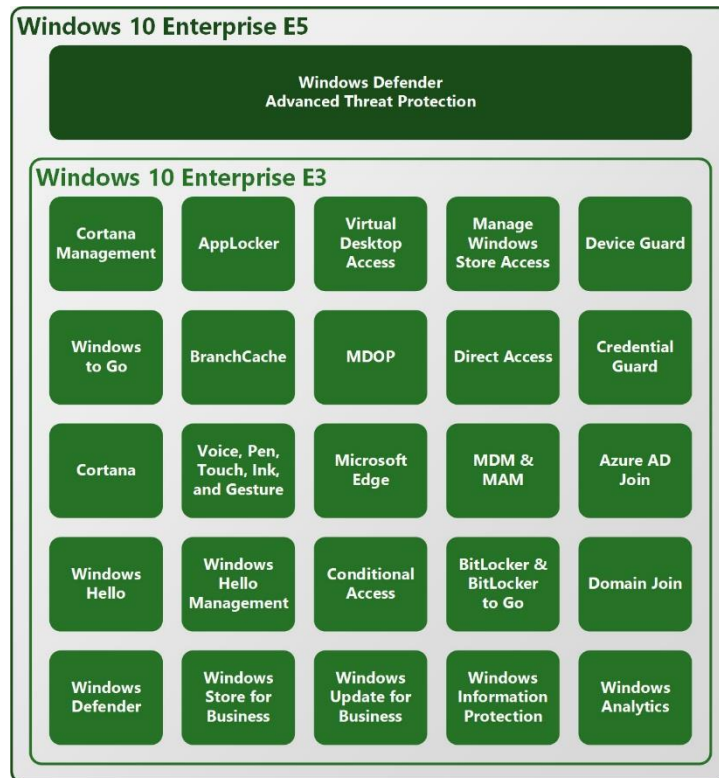


F1 plans have been specifically tailored from the feedback Microsoft has received from customers all around the world to deliver the features firstline workers need at a price point that acknowledges their reduced IT footprint. There are some restrictions on usage rights that come about with F1 plans in line with that, which are explored below...

Microsoft 365 Enterprise product plan level differences

So next, let's quickly highlight the differences between those license levels of the individual product areas. I'll be following this article with a post that drills down on the feature level differences across the suite, but I didn't want to fill this post with that level of detail today. So below I've just provided overview graphics to highlight the main elements ...

Windows 10 Enterprise



As you can see above, there is a lot of capability in the Windows 10 Enterprise E3 level, with much of it inherited from [Windows 10 Pro](#) but with some important additions for Enterprise customers, particularly in security and management.

Microsoft 365 Enterprise F1 users get a local install of Windows 10 Enterprise E3 with Azure Active Directory activation, however the F1 plan does not include reimaging, downgrade, enterprise long term servicing branch (LTSB), or virtualization rights.

In the Enterprise E5 level there is at present only one additional feature. However, that the one additional feature is a pretty big one ...

[Windows Defender Advanced Threat Protection](#) (ATP) is a highly sophisticated modern anti-malware solution. It has the ability to displace existing desktop anti-malware software and brings the added benefits of not only direct operating system integration, but integration into the broader Microsoft security ecosystem.

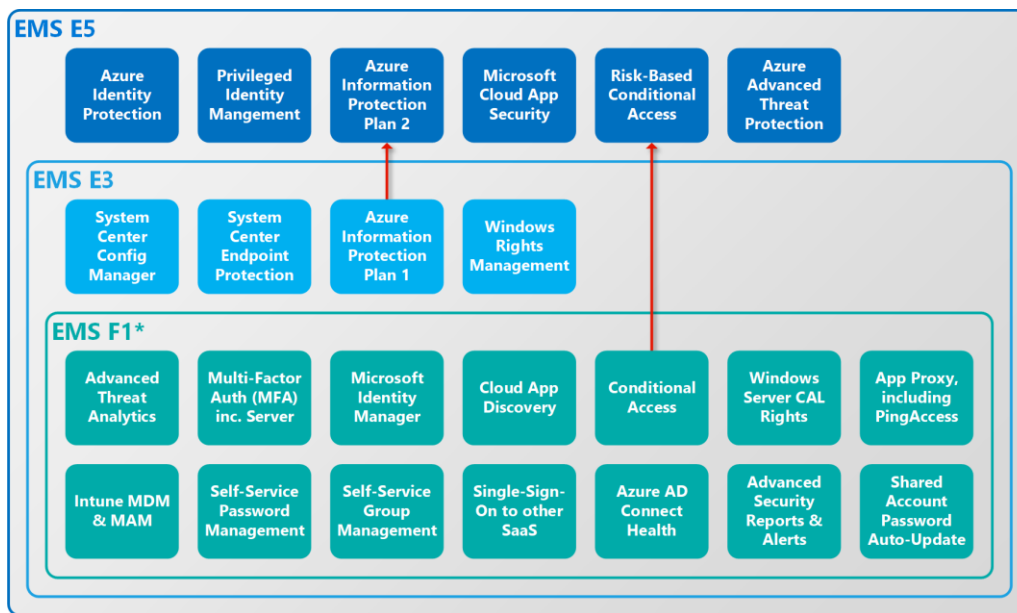
Since launching Microsoft have announced the acquisition and integration of Hexadite technology to provide automated discovery and remediation of malware intrusions. This unique capability puts Windows Defender ATP a cut above.

By integrating with the broader Microsoft security ecosystem Microsoft 365 Enterprise E5 provides arguably the most sophisticated single security solution in the market today.

In November, 2017, Microsoft announced partner support to [extend Defender ATP to Mac, Linux, iOS, and Android](#). And then in February, 2018, further announced that [Windows Defender ATP is coming to Windows 7 and Windows 8.1](#) to provide coverage over older endpoints. This now provides a single end-to-end solution across an organizations entire endpoint fleet.

You can learn more about Windows 10 licensing on the [Windows 10 Plan Comparison](#) page and the [Licensing FAQ](#).

Enterprise Mobility + Security



In the above diagram I've left out the overlapping license structures of [Azure Active Directory Premium Plan 1](#) and [Plan 2](#) for simplicity.

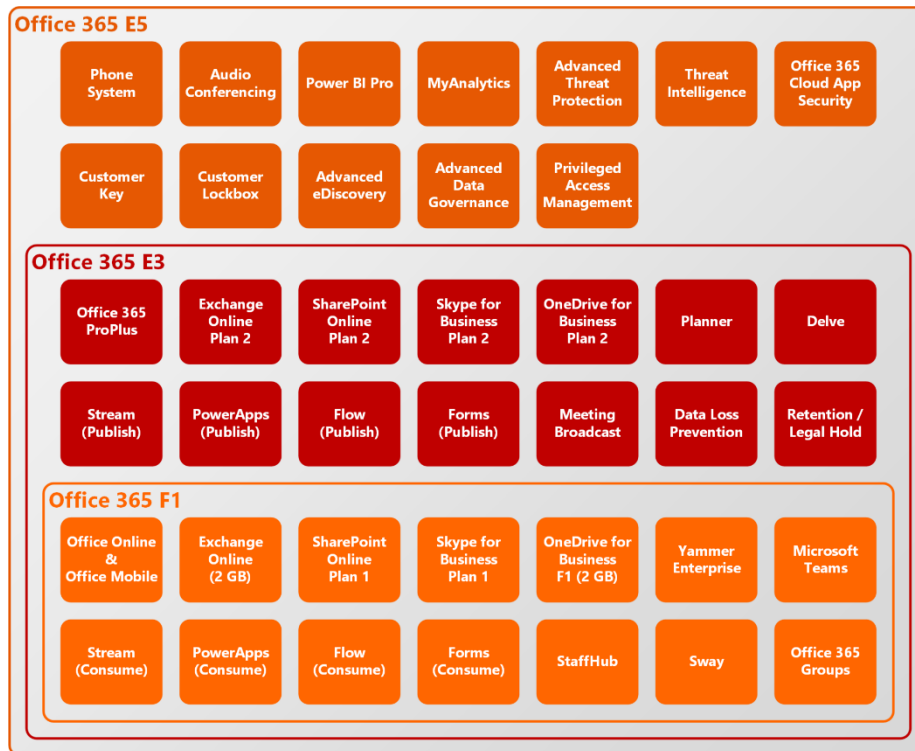
Where you see arrows in the diagram above there is a replacement or uplift, namely:

- [Azure Information Protection](#) Plan 1 is replaced with Plan 2, which adds classification automation.
- [Conditional Access](#) gets enhanced with [Risk-Based intelligence](#).

Enterprise Mobility + Security F1 is only available as part of Microsoft 365 Enterprise F1 and cannot be purchased standalone.

I'll post a more detailed exploration of EMS in a future post, but for now you can see a plan comparison with some links to more detail on the [Enterprise Mobility + Security pricing page](#).

Office 365 Enterprise



In the above diagram, I've tried to highlight all of the major features of Office 365. I've deliberately left out lower level Office 365 license types (i.e. E1 and standalone plans) as F1, E3, and E5 are the only levels of licensing covered by the Microsoft 365 Enterprise suite.

Office 365 F1 can be purchased as a standalone product offering outside of Microsoft 365 Enterprise.

Considering the intent of the Firstline plans, Office 365 F1 is focused on content consumption and employee engagement, but less so on content creation and publishing scenarios. Therefore, F1 users can't be administrators, and they don't contribute to the SharePoint Online storage allocation. Additionally, F1 users don't get Outlook desktop app integration, OneDrive for Business sync, or voicemail. They are limited to join, but not create Teams, nor can they schedule Skype for Business meetings. And finally, within Skype for Business they don't get desktop or app sharing. If correctly targeted at Firstline workers this shouldn't pose any real issues.

As with the other products in the suite, I'll provide a more detailed breakdown of capabilities in a future post. But for now, an exhaustive description of all of the features of Office 365 can be found in the [Service Descriptions on TechNet](#).

Microsoft 365 Education

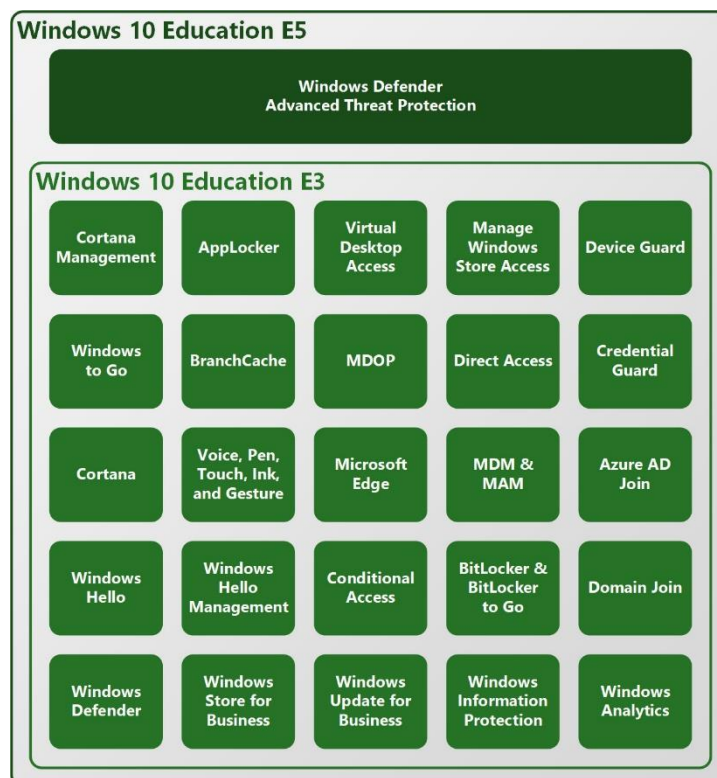


The last of the three Microsoft 365 plan types is Microsoft 365 Education, which combines Windows 10, Enterprise Mobility + Security, and Office 365 with additional Productivity Server Rights and Minecraft: Education Edition. This is a really powerful combination for education customers.

Microsoft 365 Education has two plan levels, A3 and A5. These plans broadly align with the Enterprise E3 and E5 plans, but with a couple of differences called out below.

Productivity Server Rights are discussed earlier in this article in the Microsoft 365 Enterprise section.

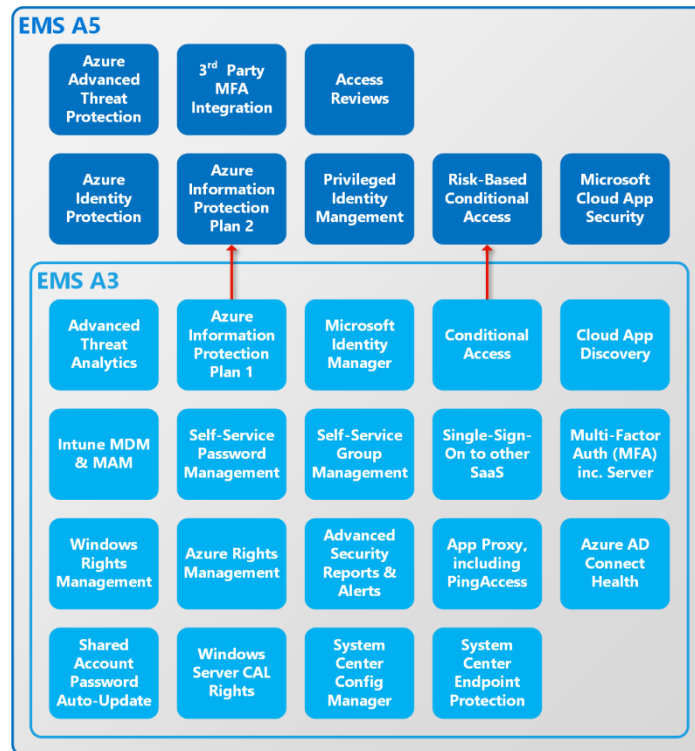
Windows 10 Education



Windows 10 Education A3 and A5 plans broadly align with the Enterprise E3 and E5 plans, which you can read more about in the earlier Microsoft 365 Enterprise section. Additionally, Windows 10 Education includes an upgrade from Windows 10 Home to Windows 10 Education for BYOD scenarios and Student Use Benefit. Windows 10 Education also comes with education specific default settings (see: [SetEduPolicies](#))

Windows 10 AutoPilot is included for streamlined device provisioning, and Windows 10 S devices can switch to Windows 10 Pro Education through the Microsoft Store for Education, for free.

Enterprise Mobility + Security: Education



EMS A3 and A5 plans align with the Enterprise E3 and E5 plans which are described further in the Microsoft 365 Enterprise section earlier in this article.

Office 365 Education



Office 365 A3 recently received some additional value in the form of:

- [Bookings](#) lets a member of the community schedule appointments with staff directly from the schools website or Facebook page.
- [Office 365 Cloud App Security](#) provides insights into any suspicious activity occurring within Office 365 and provides the means to then directly address it. This was previously an Office 365 A5/E5 feature.
- [Meeting Broadcast](#) allows staff to deliver meetings and events to online audiences up to 10,000 attendees.

Office 365 A1 remains free for Education and is not part of a Microsoft 365 plan.

Minecraft: Education Edition



Minecraft has evolved from one of the most popular games in the world, to become a versatile platform for educators to encourage 21st-century skills through:

- *Immersive Learning*
- *Coding for Creativity*
- *Classroom Collaboration*
- and more...

Learn more at education.minecraft.net

Conclusion

My strong advice to customers is this: If you are already using, or plan to deploy, any two out of the three technologies of Microsoft 365 then you should definitely be asking your Microsoft account team for more information and to set up a *Value Discovery Workshop*. You could be missing out on the built-in cost savings and the additional value that Microsoft 365 offers.

Similarly, if you're looking at Office 365 and haven't considered EMS as part of your overall solution I'd equally encourage you to investigate how those two components of Microsoft 365 can work together to bolster the security of not only your Office 365 deployment, but also your other SaaS applications you may be using now and into the future.

I'll follow this post with some more detailed breakdown of the Office 365, EMS, and Windows 10 features soon. In the meantime, you can learn more about Microsoft 365 here: <https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-365>

This article was significantly updated on 2017-10-03 to reflect the additional plan levels and suites introduced at the Microsoft Ignite Conference 2017 in Orlando, Florida. Further updates were made on 2017-10-08 to reflect changes in product feature names. Again on 2018-02-13 to contextualize dates quoted to 2017, and to include additional announcements around Windows Defender ATP. Further updates were made on 2018-08-10 to update license maps with additional components, and to align EMS name with Microsoft branding.