Microsoft

Microsoft 365 Groups: Overview and Architecture

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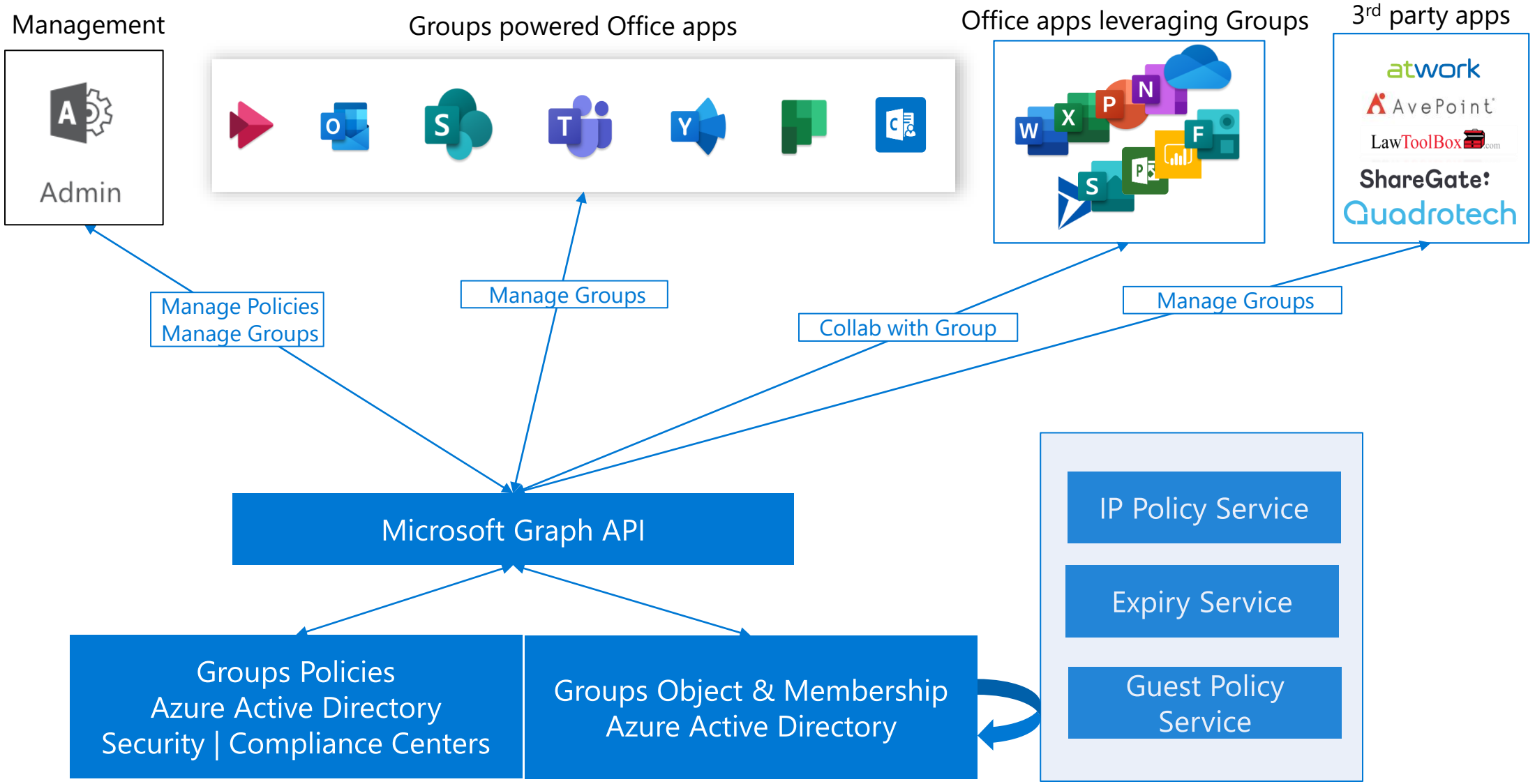
Agenda

- Introduction to Microsoft 365 Groups
- Groups Architecture deep-dive
  - Group Creation/Provisioning
  - Group Lifecycle/Deletion
  - Member/Roster management
  - Administration/Policies
- Closing

Microsoft 365 Groups Overview

Powering collaboration across Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 Groups - Architecture



Microsoft 365 Groups Architecture
Group Creation/Provisioning

Groups Visibility

Create

Outlook

Groups created in Outlook are not visible in Teams

Default visibility for Group via SharePoint, Planner, and Stream

Can be Team-ified

Teams

Groups created in Teams are not visible in Outlook

Can be exposed in Outlook using PowerShell

Yammer

Groups created in Yammer are not visible in Outlook

Cannot be Team-ified as they are Yammer-ified ;-)

View

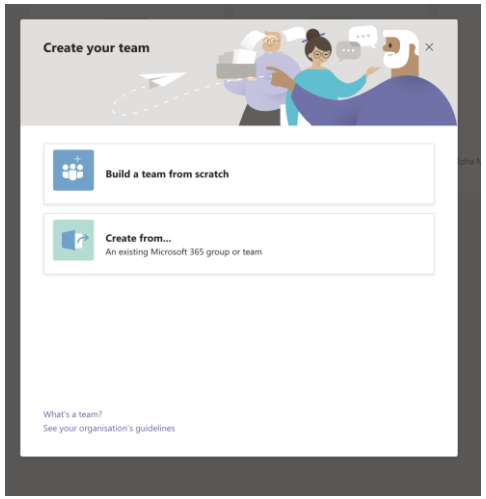
SharePoint Stream Planner

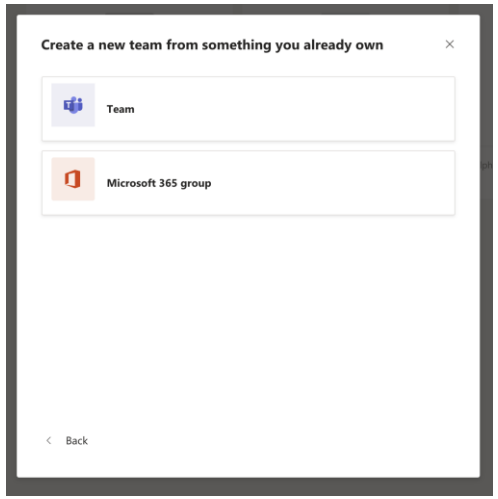
SharePoint Stream Planner

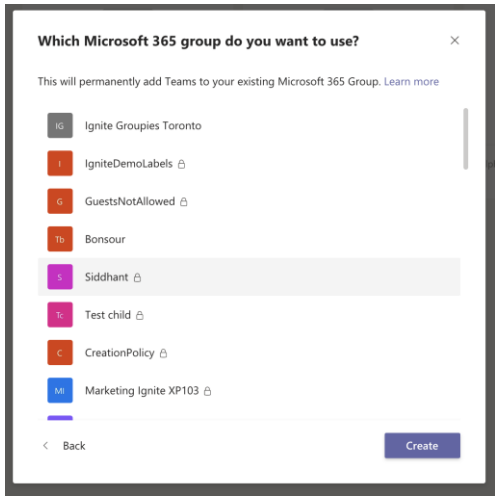
SharePoint Stream Planner

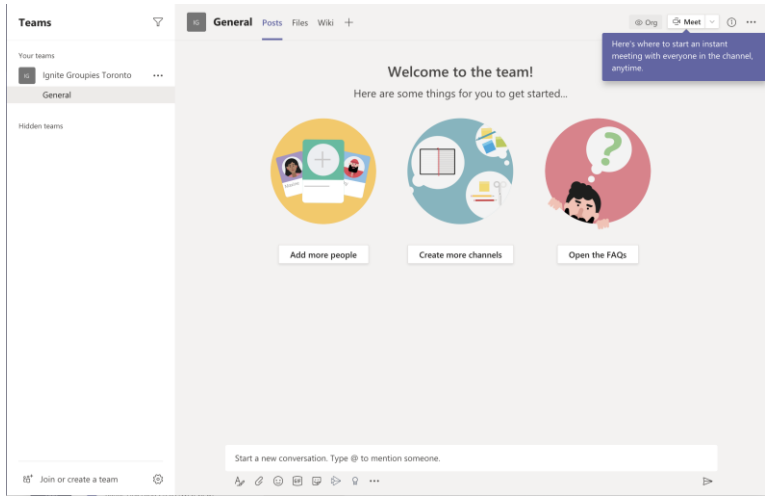
*SharePoint site collections – can be group-ified and are visible in Outlook by default

Enable Outlook Groups in Teams









Enable Teams in Outlook clients

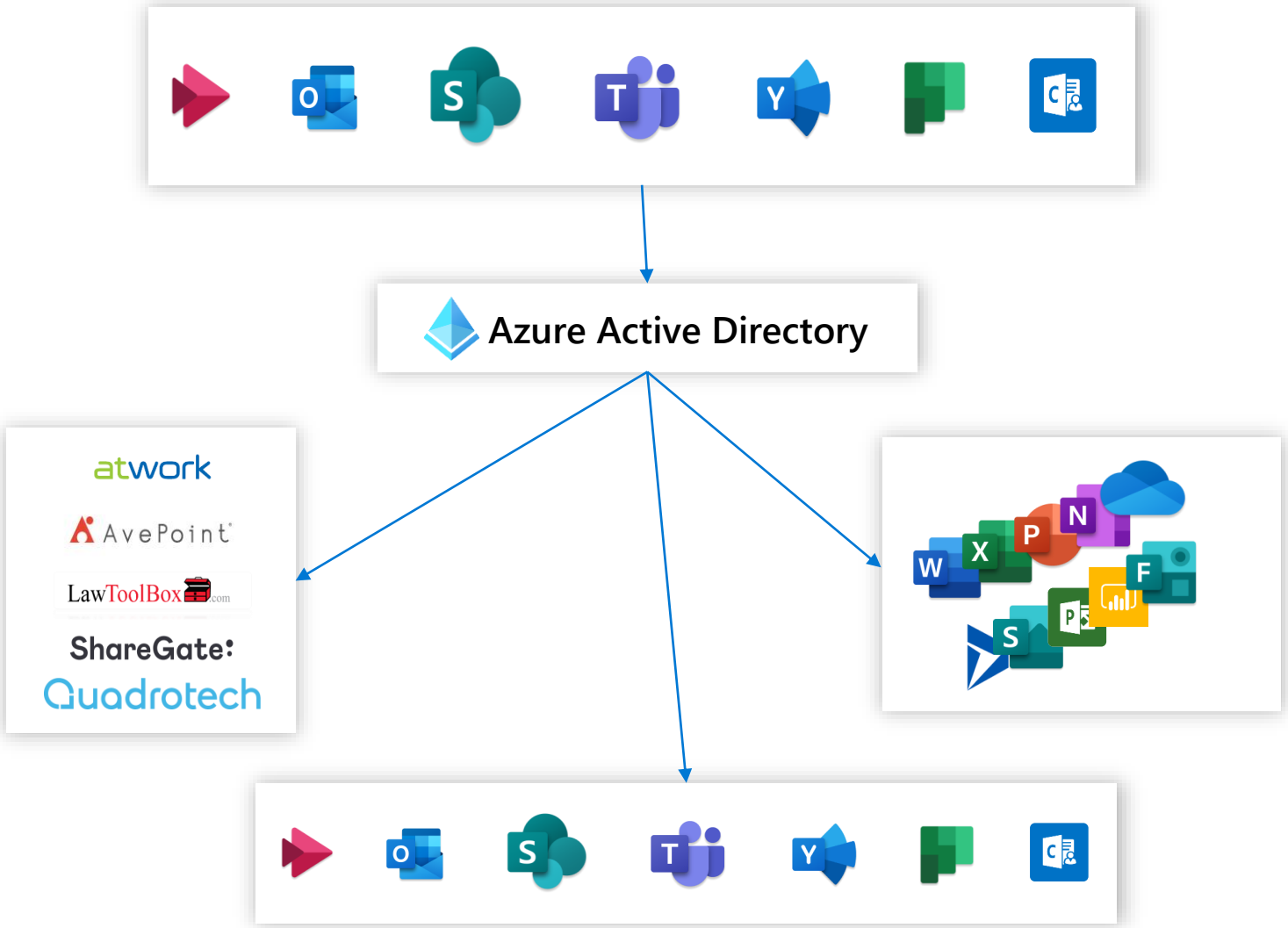
Set-UnifiedGroup -Identity “New Team” -HiddenFromAddressListsEnabled $false

The HiddenFromAddressListsEnabled parameter specifies whether the Microsoft 365 Group appears in the global address list (GAL) and other address lists in your organization.

Set-UnifiedGroup -Identity “New Team” -HiddenFromExchangeClientsEnabled:$false

The HiddenFromExchangeClientsEnabled switch specifies whether the Microsoft 365 Group is hidden from Outlook clients connected to Microsoft 365.

Group flow



Components

Primary datastore is Azure Active Directory

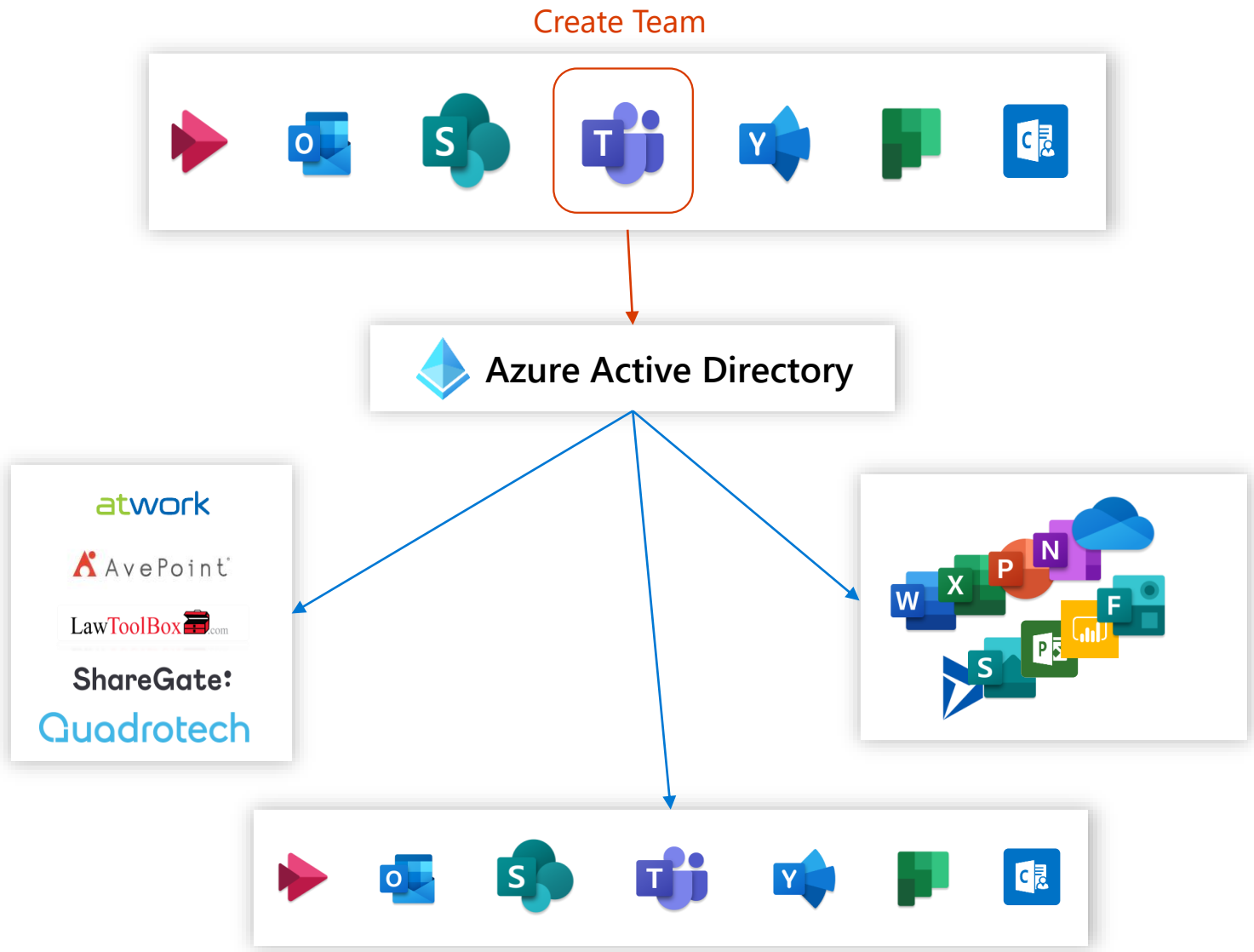
Cross-app Notification

- All apps are notified of changes to Group config or membership

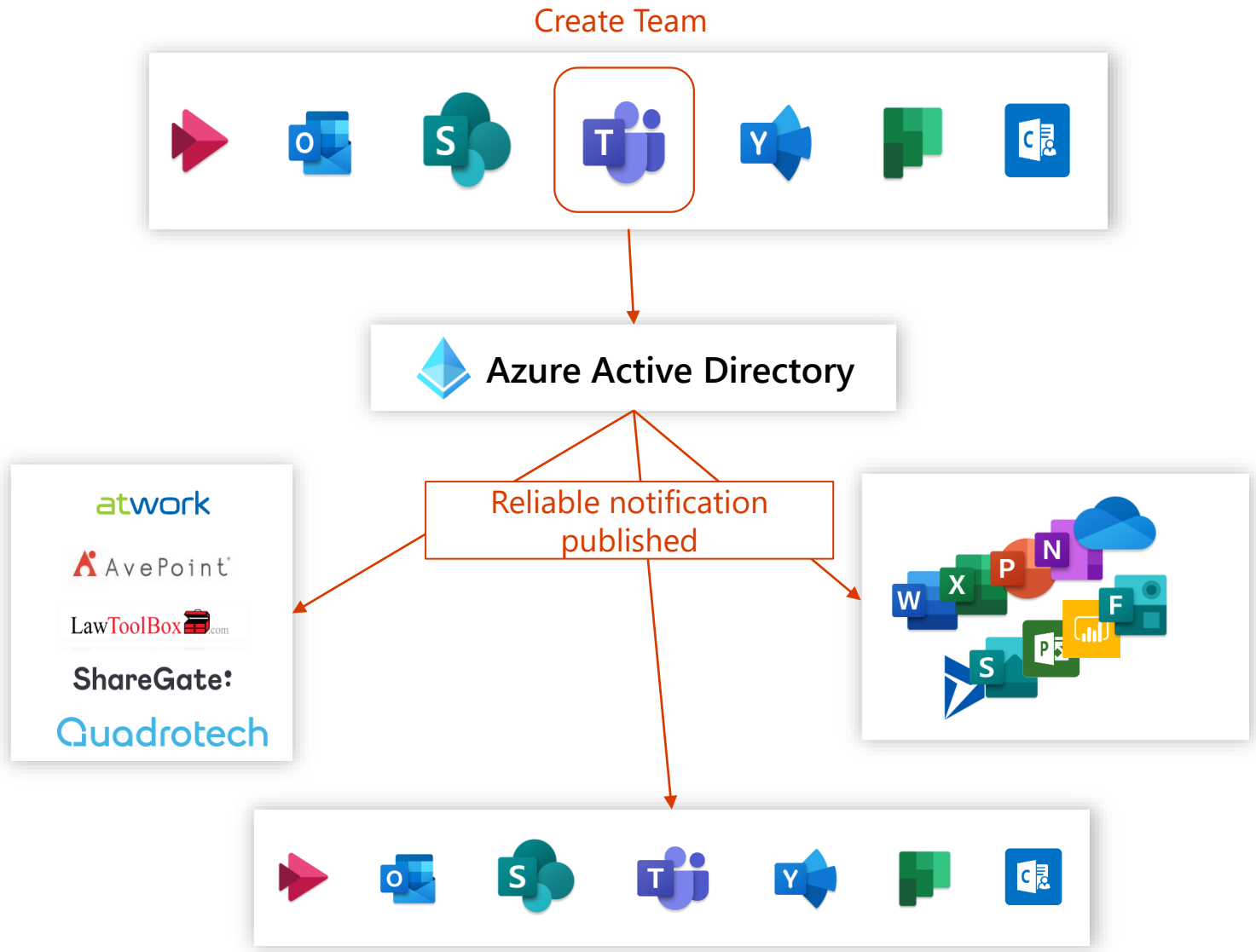
Resources

- Resource provisioning and behavior options on Group object

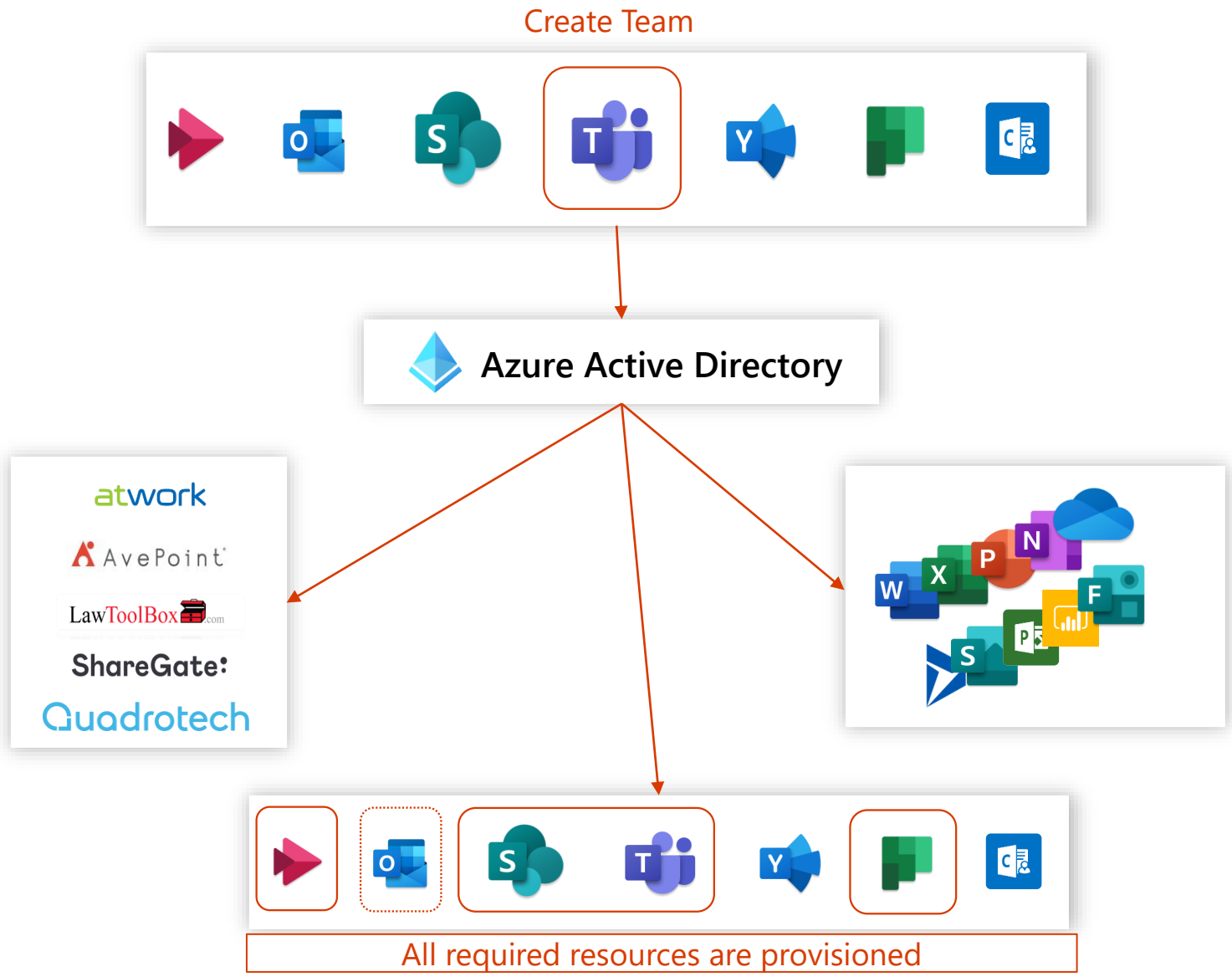
Group flow


Create Team
Azure Active Directory
atwork
AvePoint
LawToolBox
ShareGate:
Quadrotech

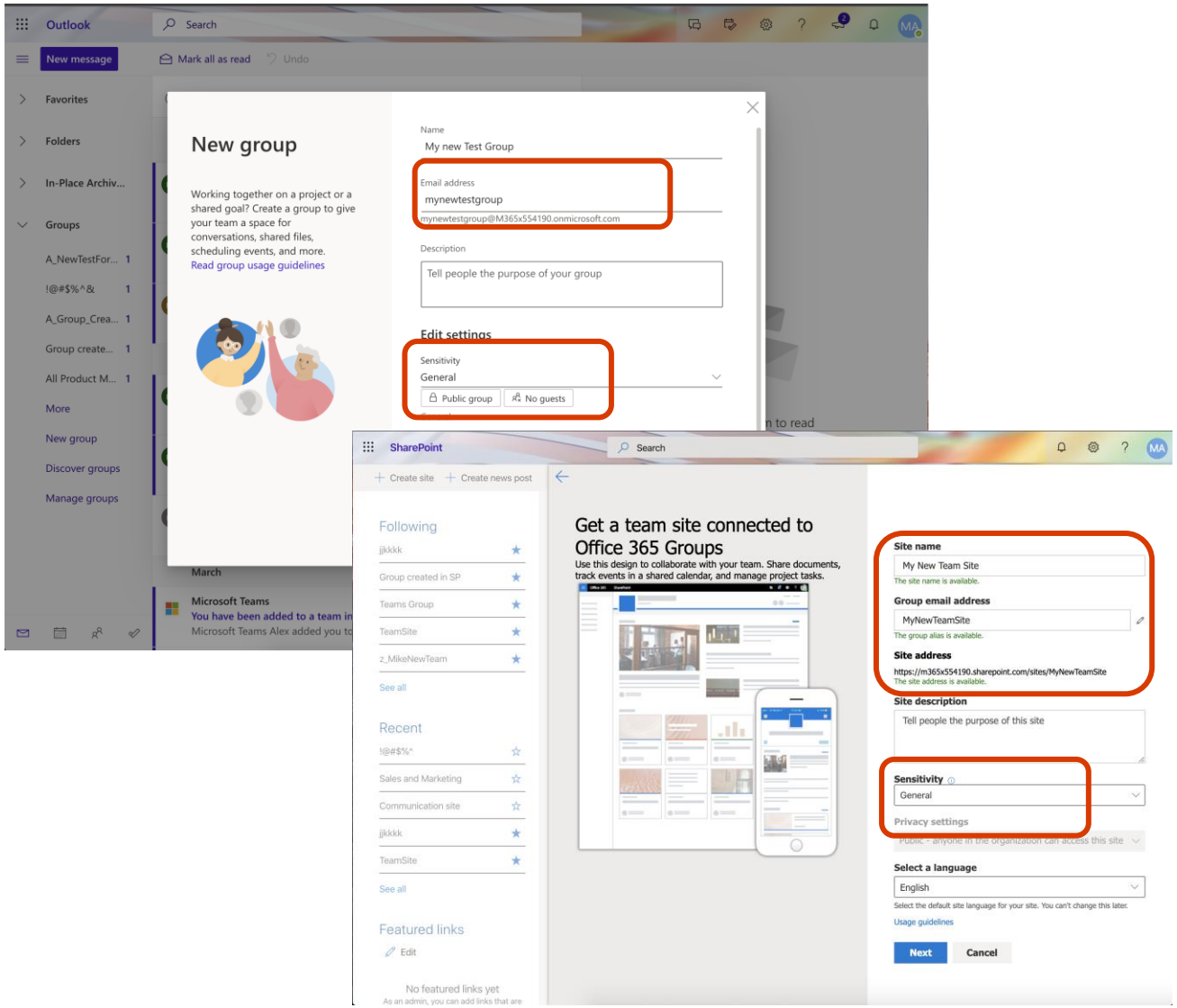
Group flow


Create Team
Azure Active Directory
Reliable notification published
atwork
AvePoint
LawToolBox
ShareGate
Quadrotech

Group flow


Create Team
Azure Active Directory
atwork
AvePoint
LawToolBox
ShareGate
Quadrotech
All required resources are provisioned

Group – Create Policies



Components

Check creation policy

- Can this user create a Group

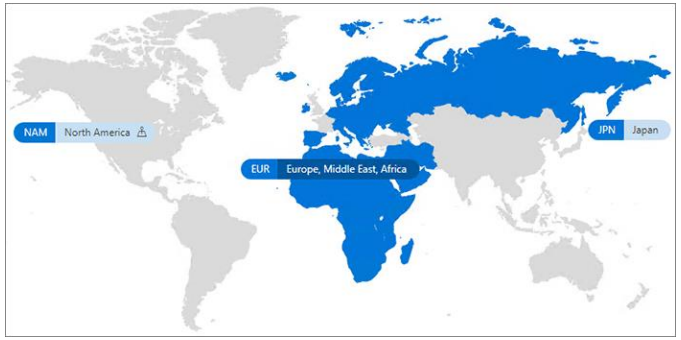
Naming policy

- Prefix, suffix and blocked words
- Unique email and Site URL

IP Labels

- List of allowed ‘sensitivity labels’ for this user and their privacy/external configs from SCC policy store

Group – Create – Data Residency



Components

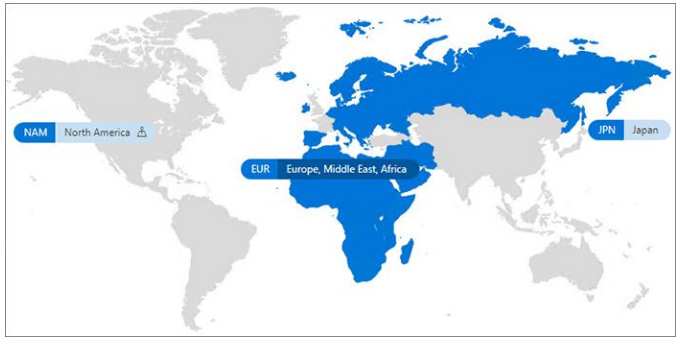
Preferred Data Location (PDL)

- Defined at the Group level
- Inherits from creator's PDL

```
PS C:\> New-UnifiedGroup -DisplayName MultiGeoEUR -Alias "MultiGeoEUR" -AccessType Public -MailboxRegion EUR

Name                                          DisplayName GroupType PrimarySmtpAddress
----                                          ----------- --------- ------------------
MultiGeoEUR_675508cb-5c1b-4523-bc26-2ddb740b04d3 MultiGeoEUR Universal MultiGeoEUR@ContosoEnterprise.onmicrosoft.com
```

```
PS C:\> Set-MsolUser -UserPrincipalName amelia.sparks@contoso.com -PreferredDatalocation CAN
PS C:\> (Get-MsolUser -UserPrincipalName amelia.sparks@contoso.onmicrosoft.com).PreferredDatalocation
CAN
PS C:\>
```

Group – Create – Data Residency



Components

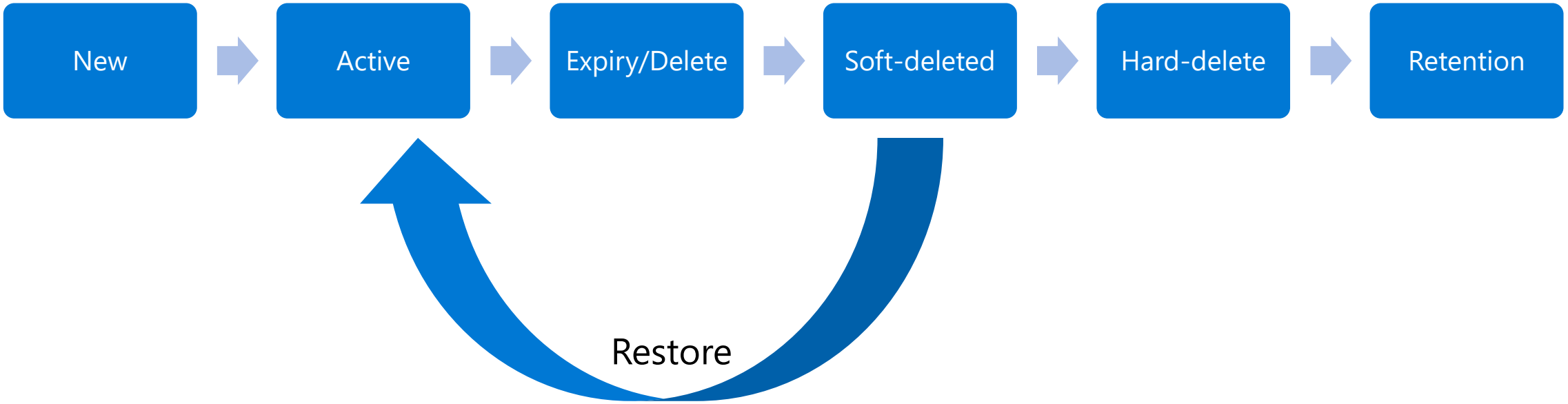
Cross-geo move

- Exchange mailbox is moved automatically
- SPO and OneDrive are moved manually by admins using cmdlets
- Not supported yet for other apps

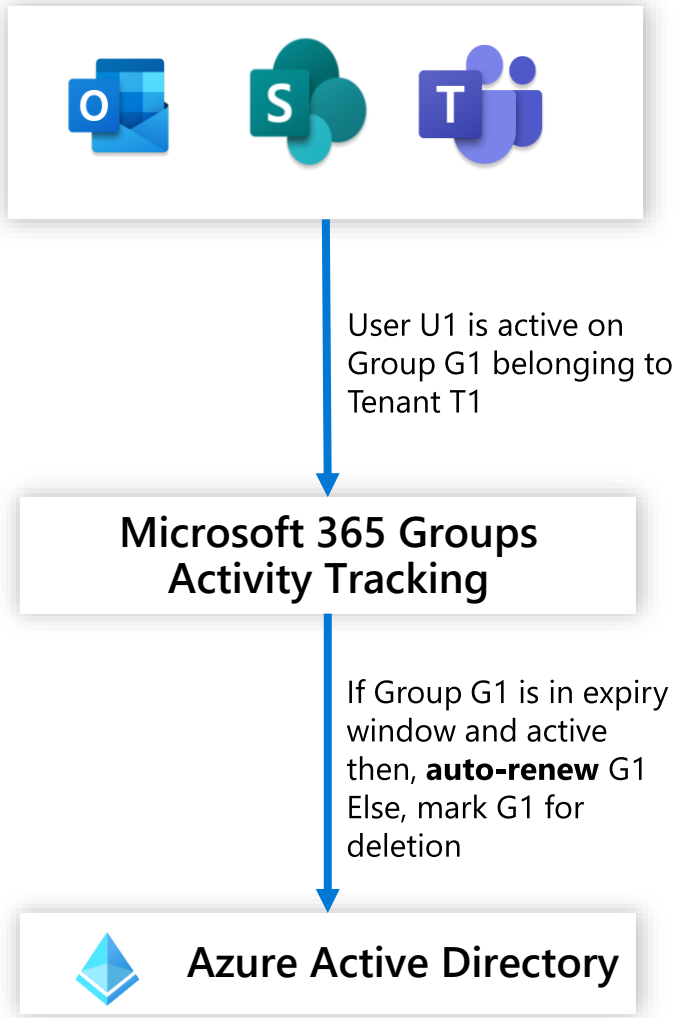
```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Start-SPOSiteContentMove -DestinationDataLocation EUR
-SourceSiteUrl https://contosohealthcare.sharepoint.com/sites/Turbines


SourceSiteUrl           : https://contosohealthcare.sharepoint.com/sites/Turbines
TargetSiteUrl           : https://contosohealthcareeur.sharepoint.com/sites/Turbines
MoveJobId               : 1f85979e-84d7-707d-2c37-f455d5b6cc94
SourceDataLocation      : NAM
DestinationDataLocation : EUR
TimeStamp               : 1/1/0001 00:00:00
MoveState               : InProgress(1/4)
```

Microsoft 365 Groups Architecture
Group Lifecycle/Deletion

Group Lifecycle and Deletion flow



Group Activity tracking and Auto-Renewal



Components

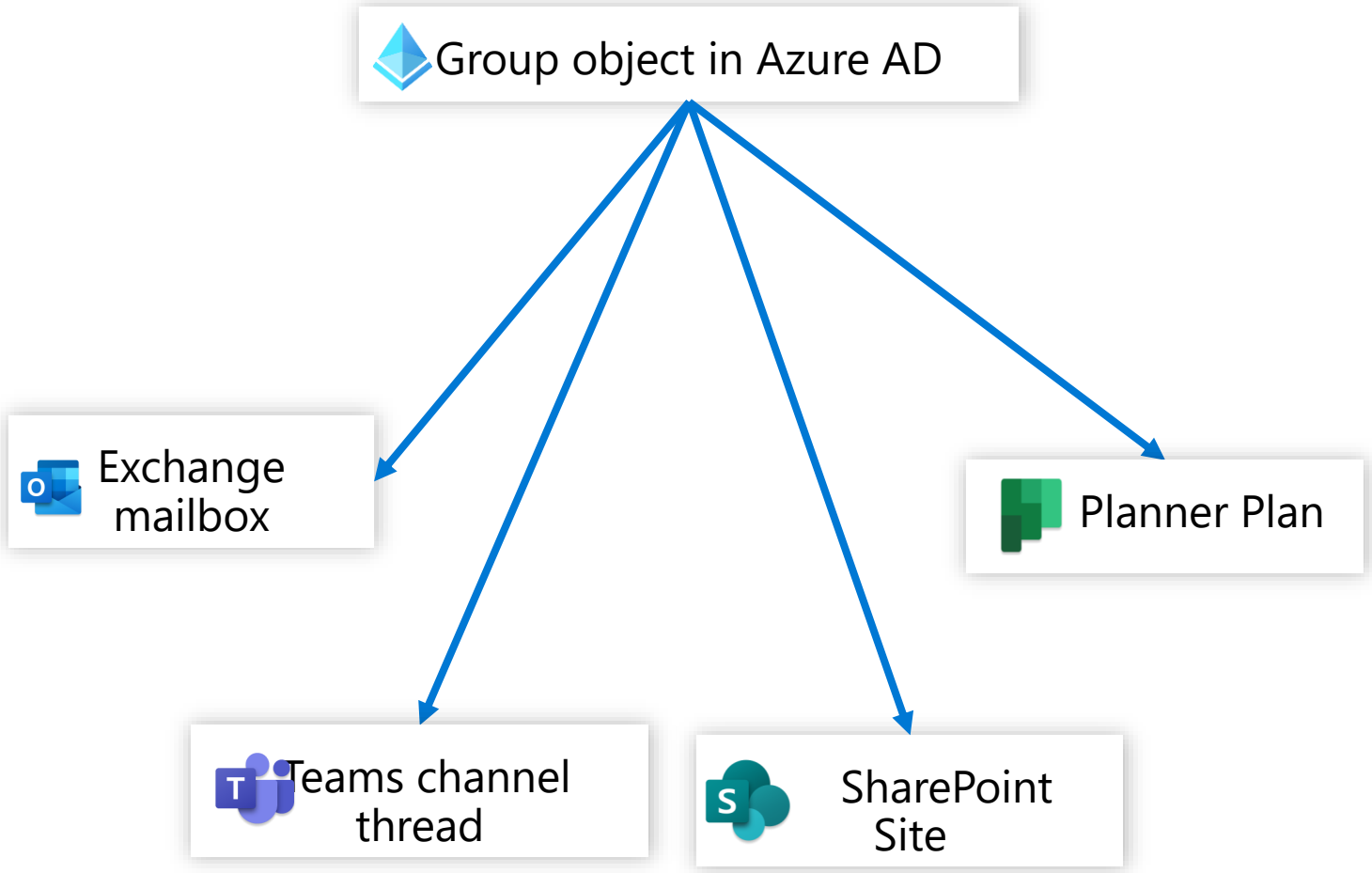
Activity Tracking service

- Tenant wide activity tracking at the Groups level
  - Send, reply, like mail
  - View/Edit files
  - Read, write chats
- Only active on Teams, SharePoint or Outlook tracked for auto-renewal
- Only intention activities are covered by with a bias for retaining group vs deleting it

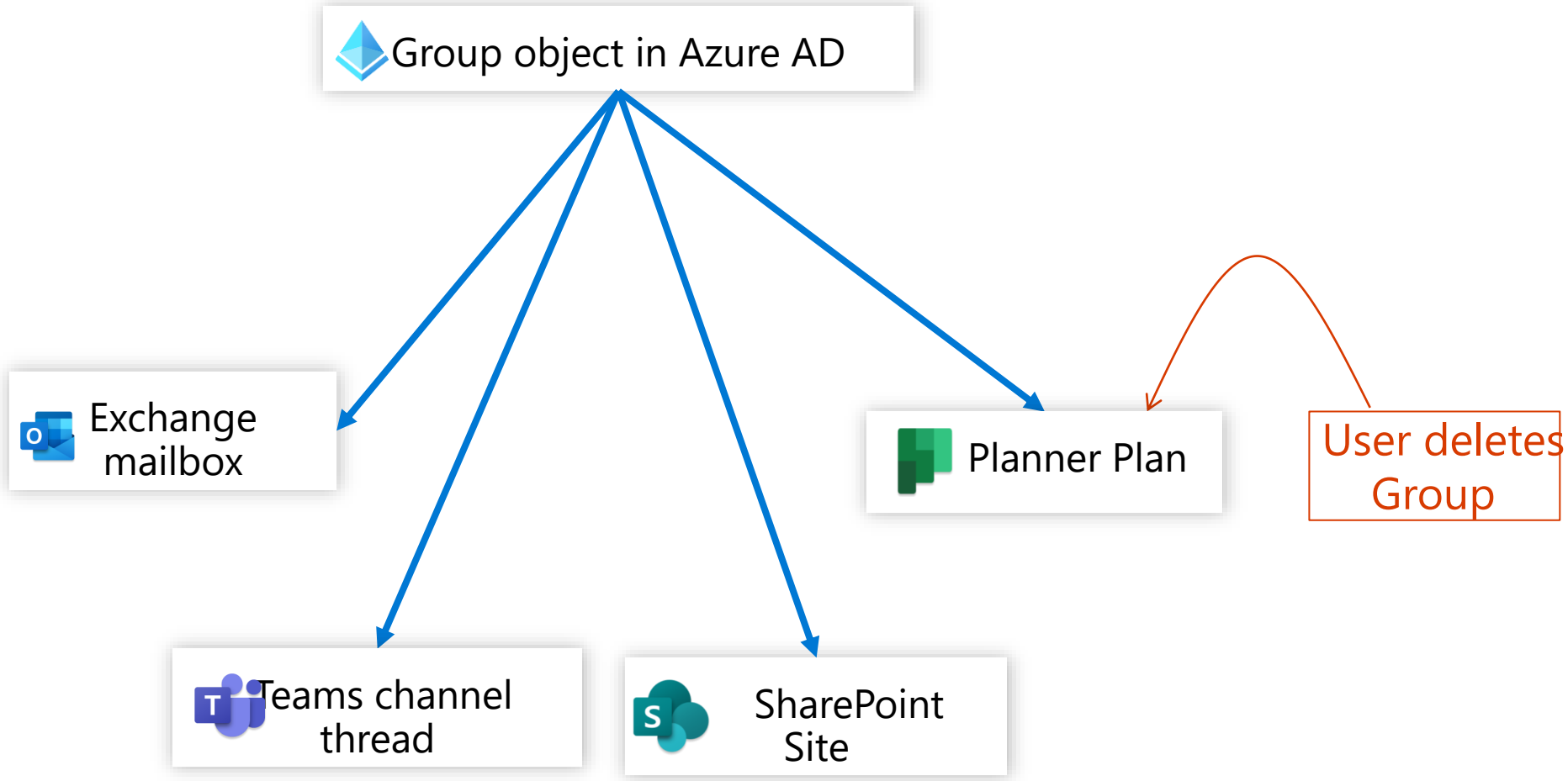
Expiry service

- Policy based expiry flow with reminder emails for inactive Groups
- Portal for owners to manually renew

Group Deletion flow



Group Deletion flow



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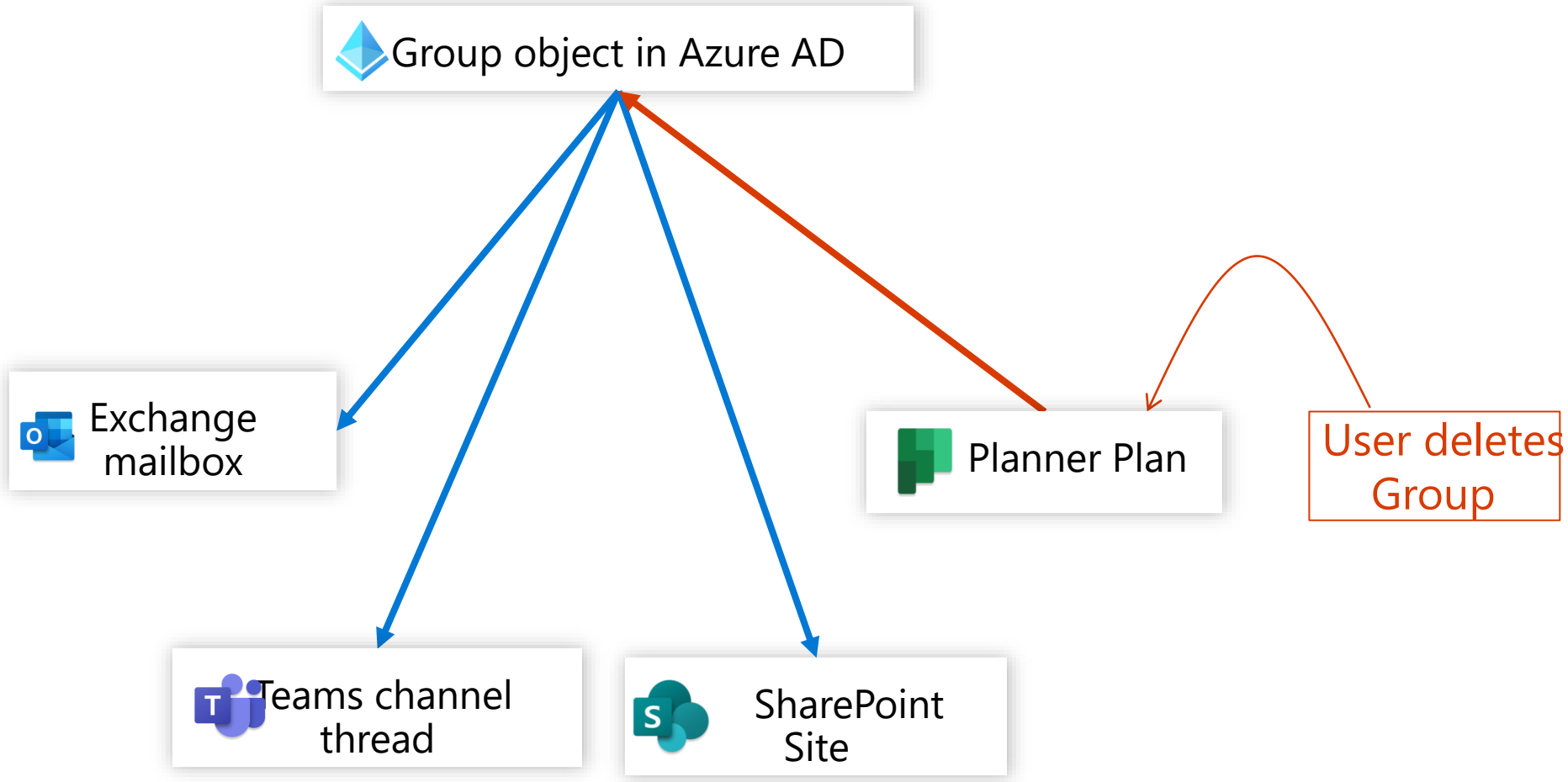
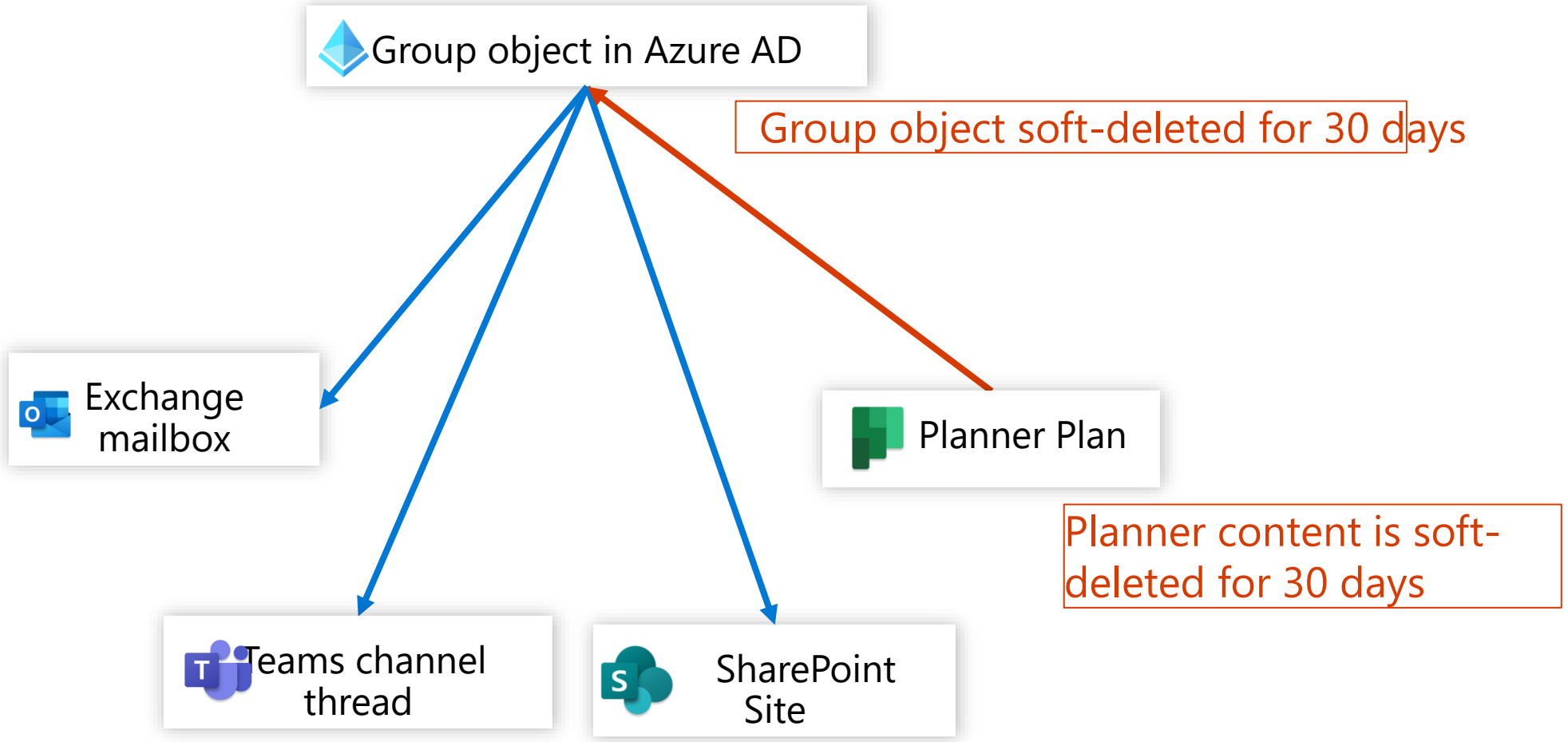


Group Deletion flow



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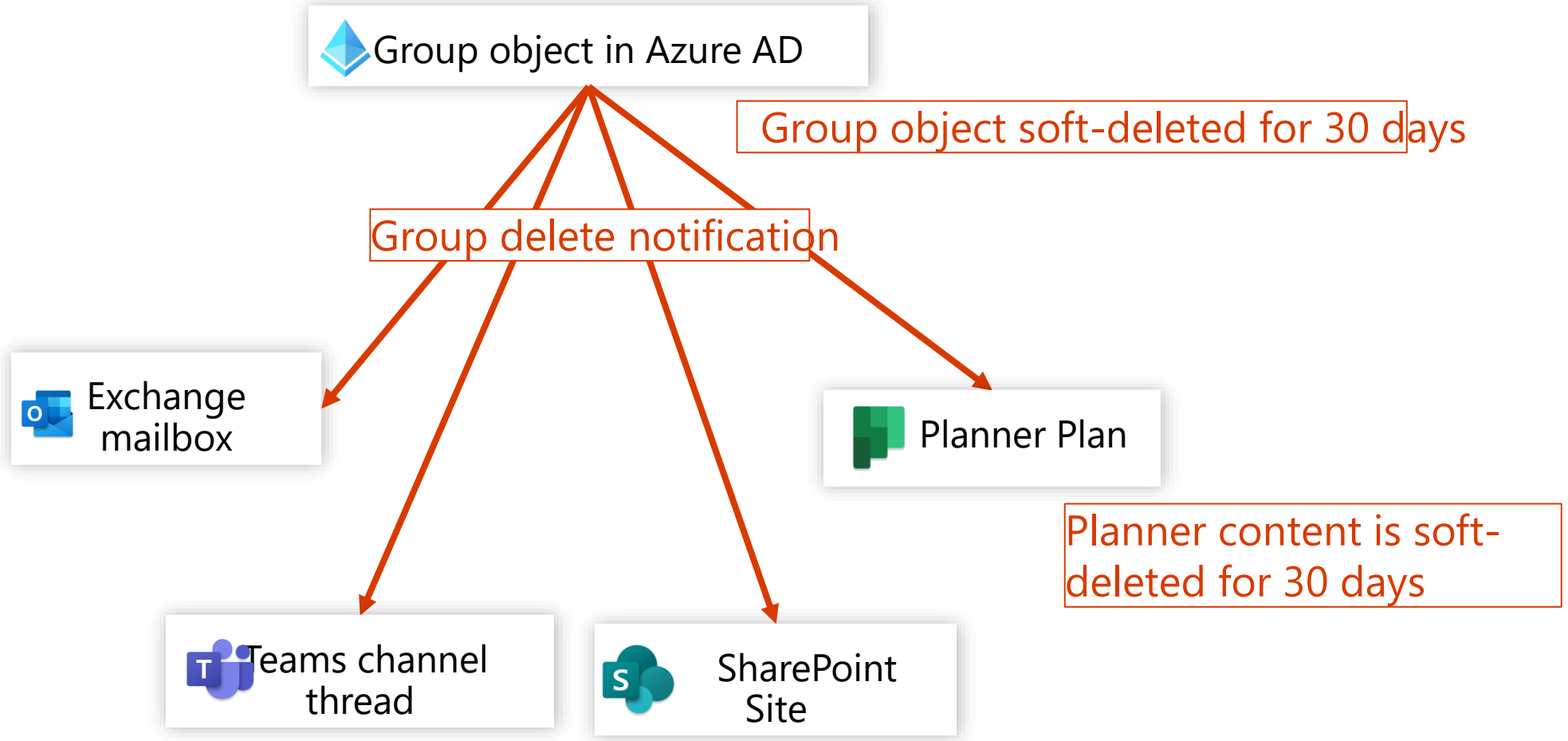

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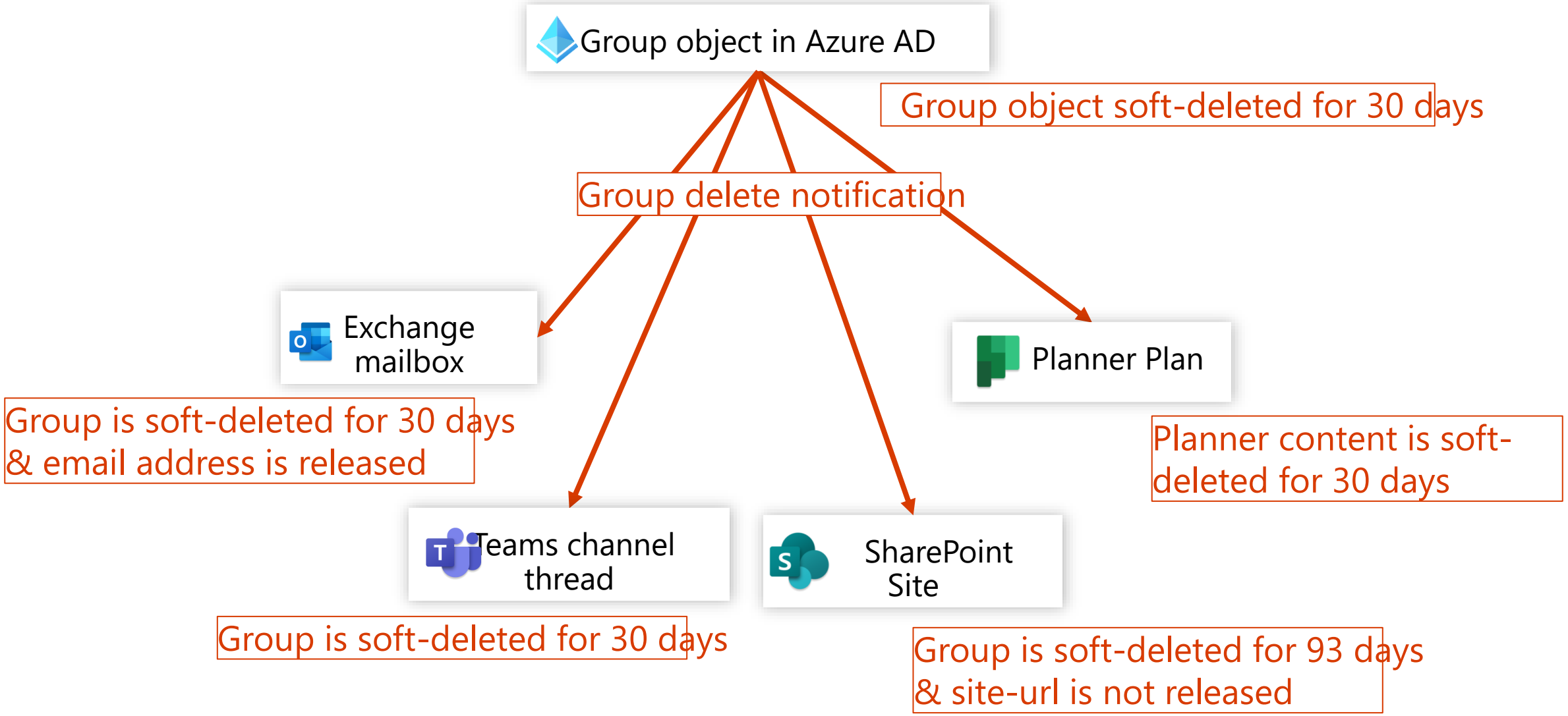
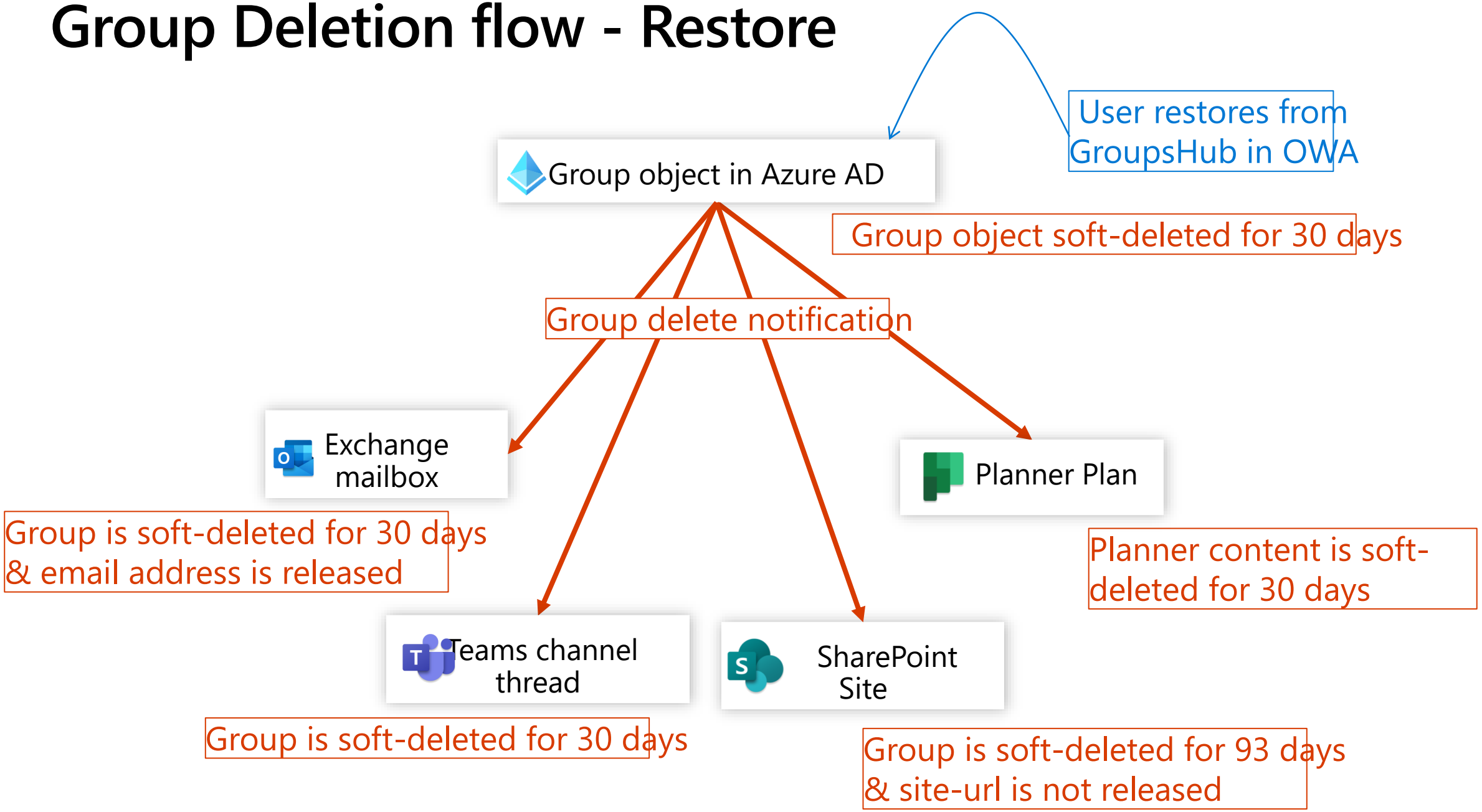


Group Deletion flow - Restore



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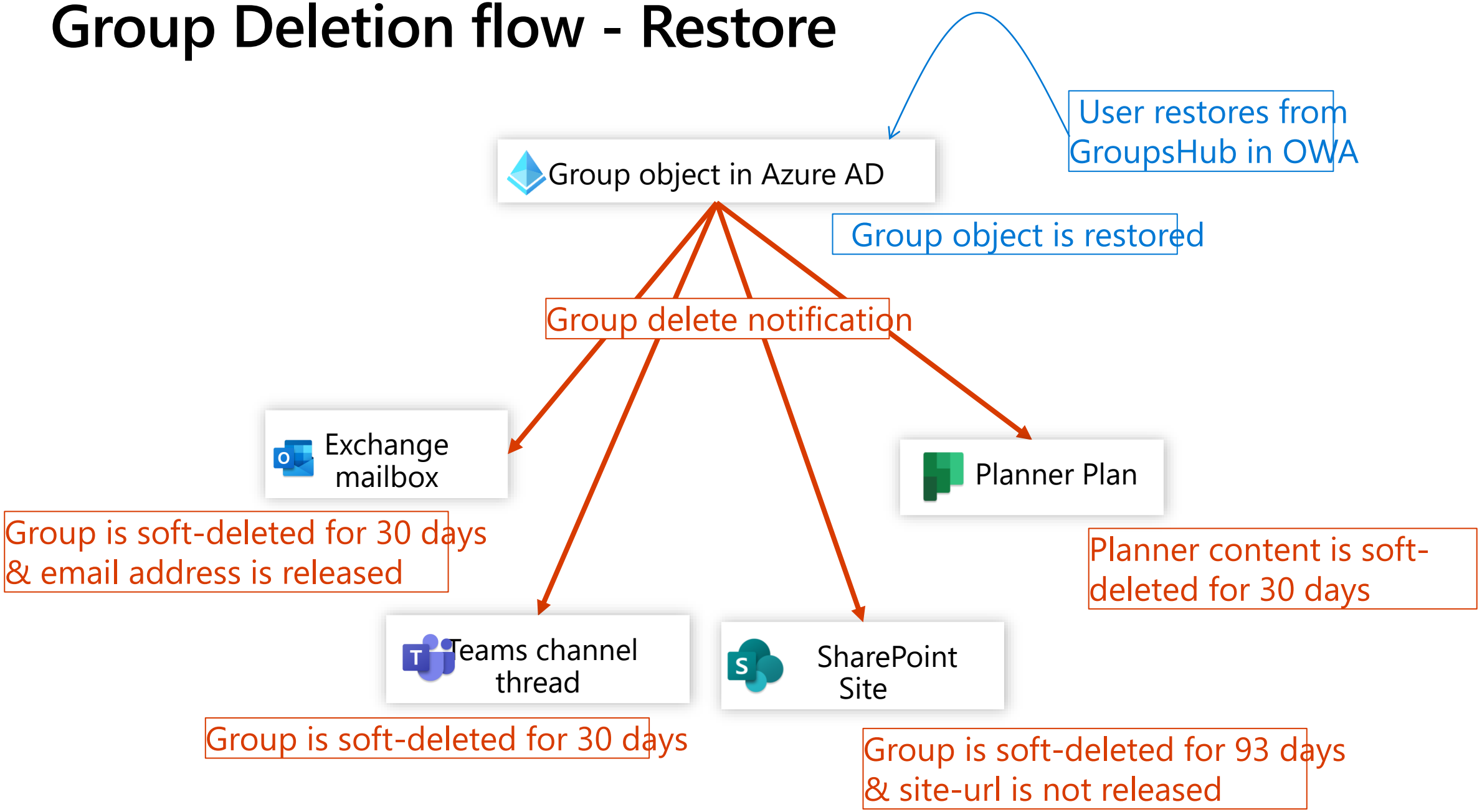

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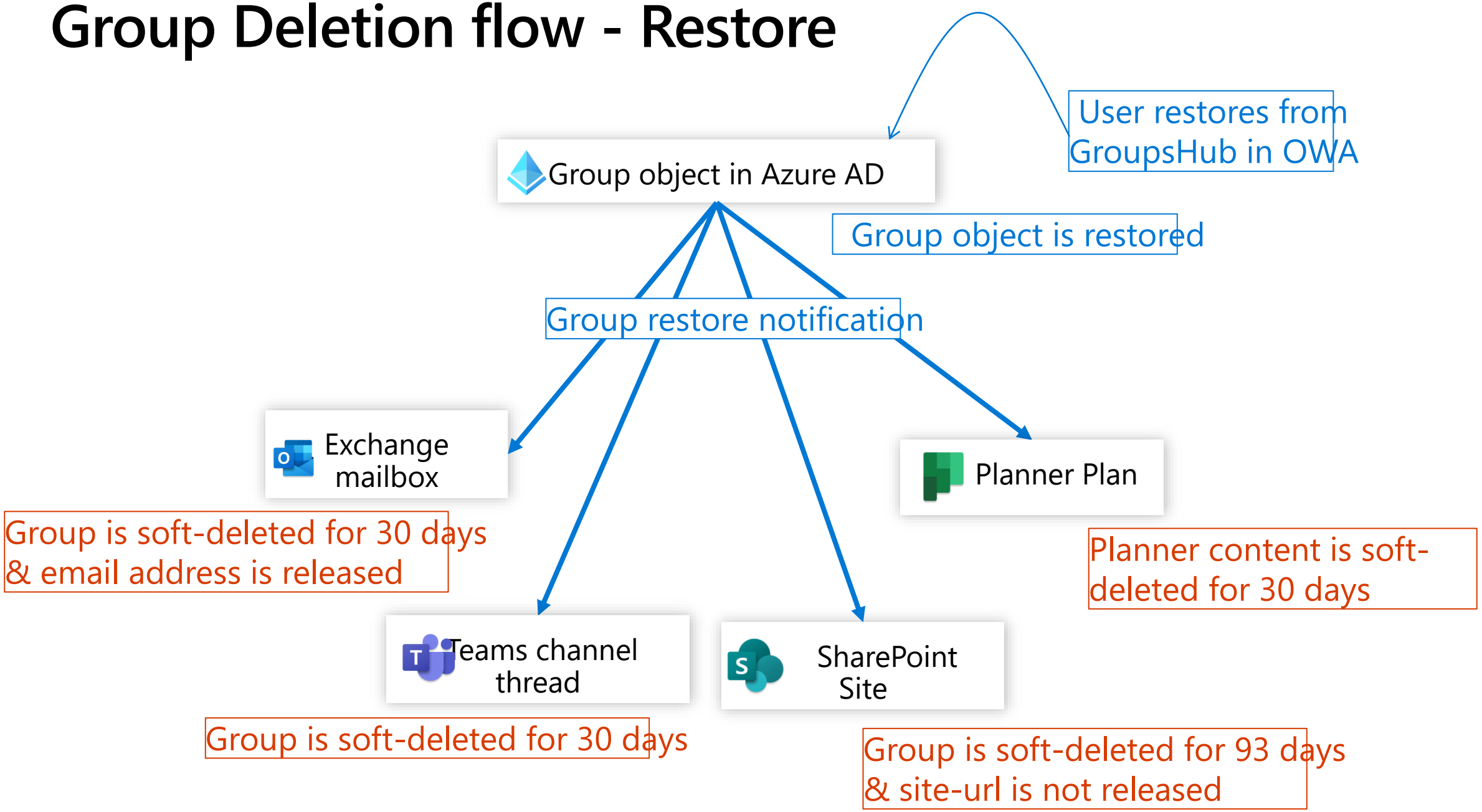
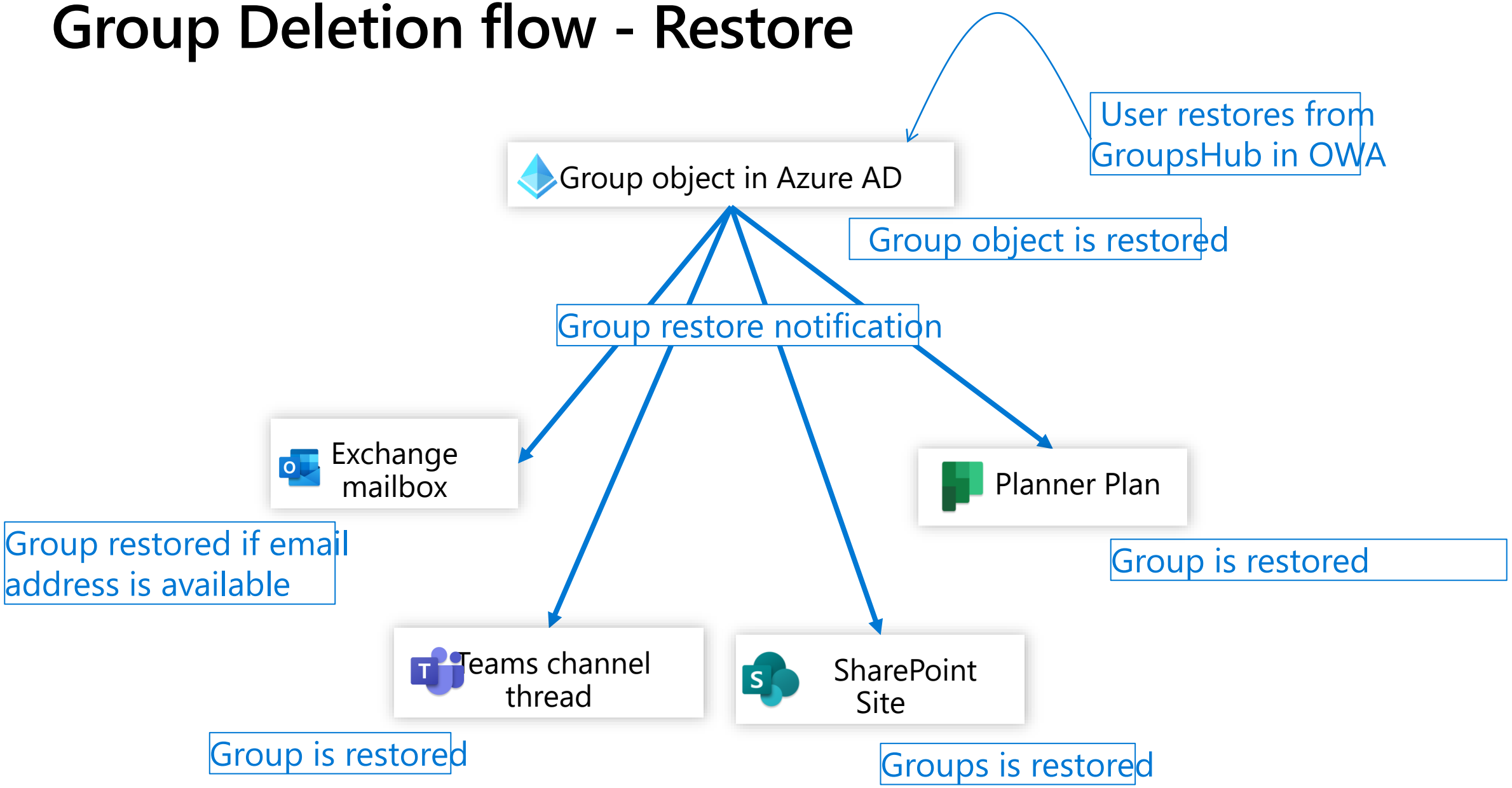
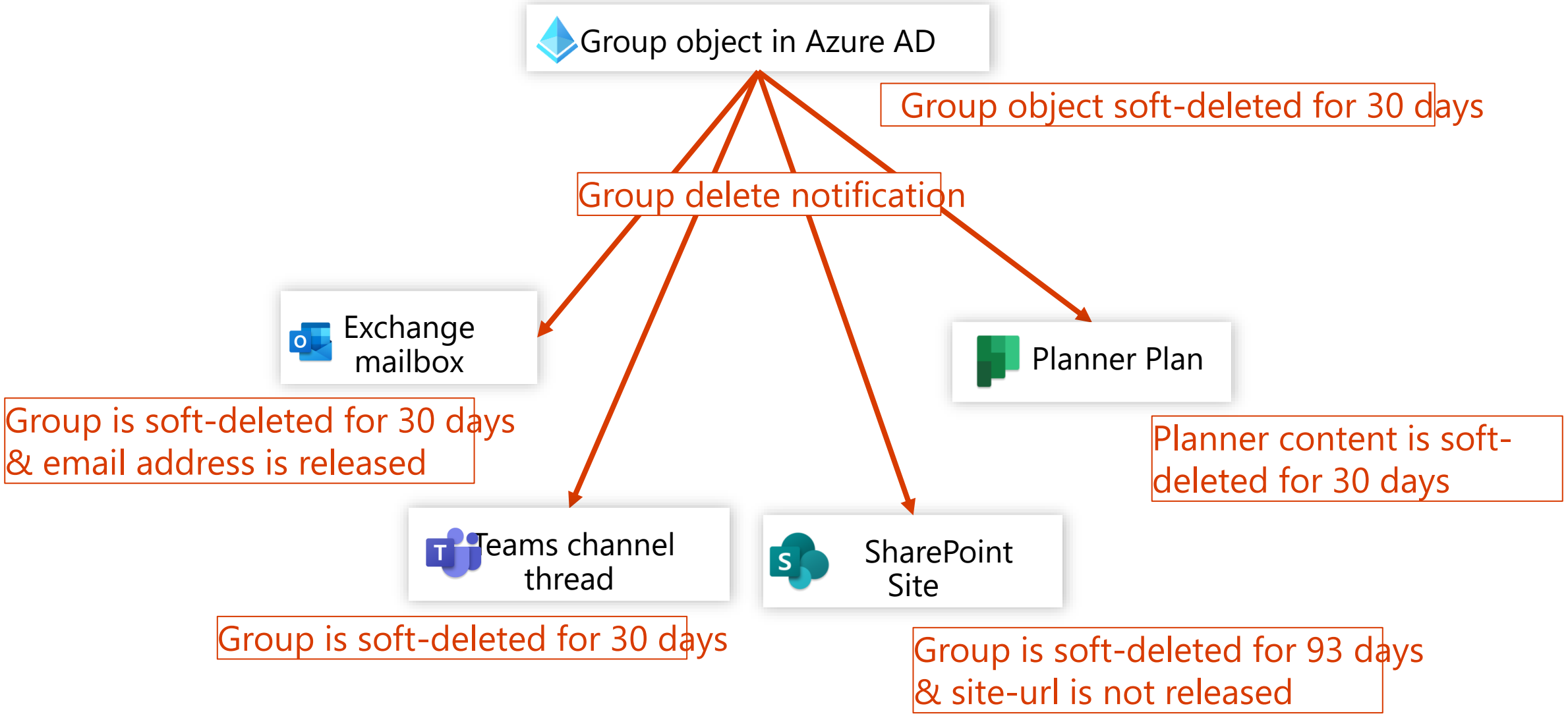


Group Deletion flow - Restore



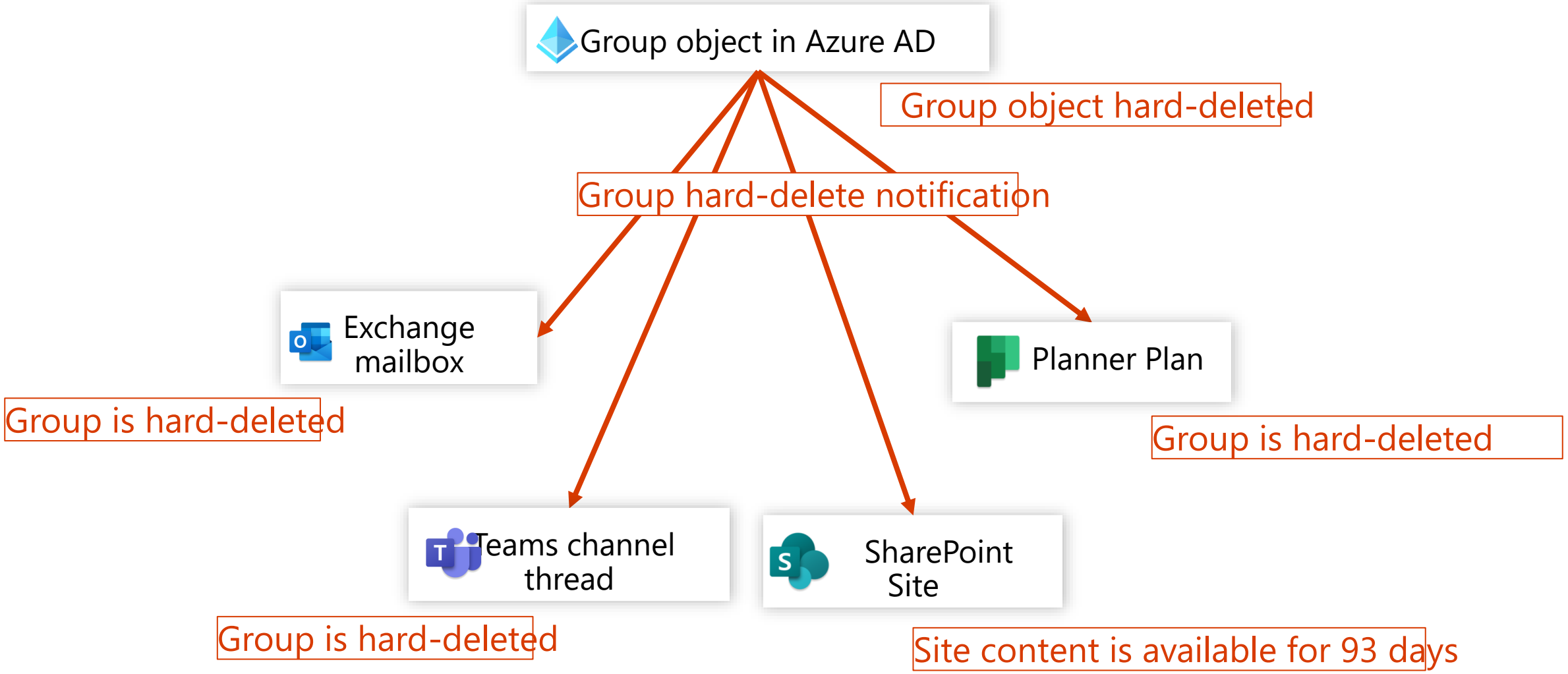
Group Deletion flow

Group still in deleted state



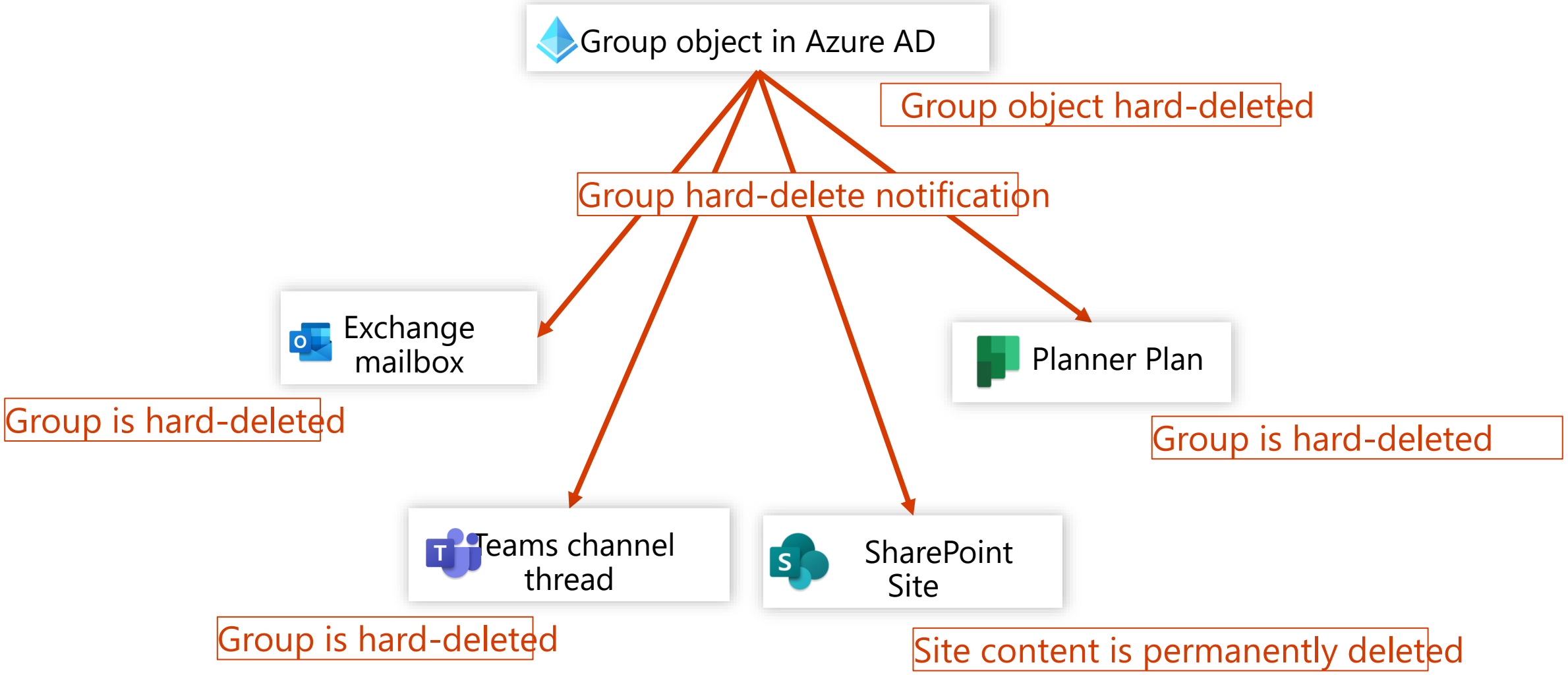
Group Deletion flow – Hard-delete

On 31st day

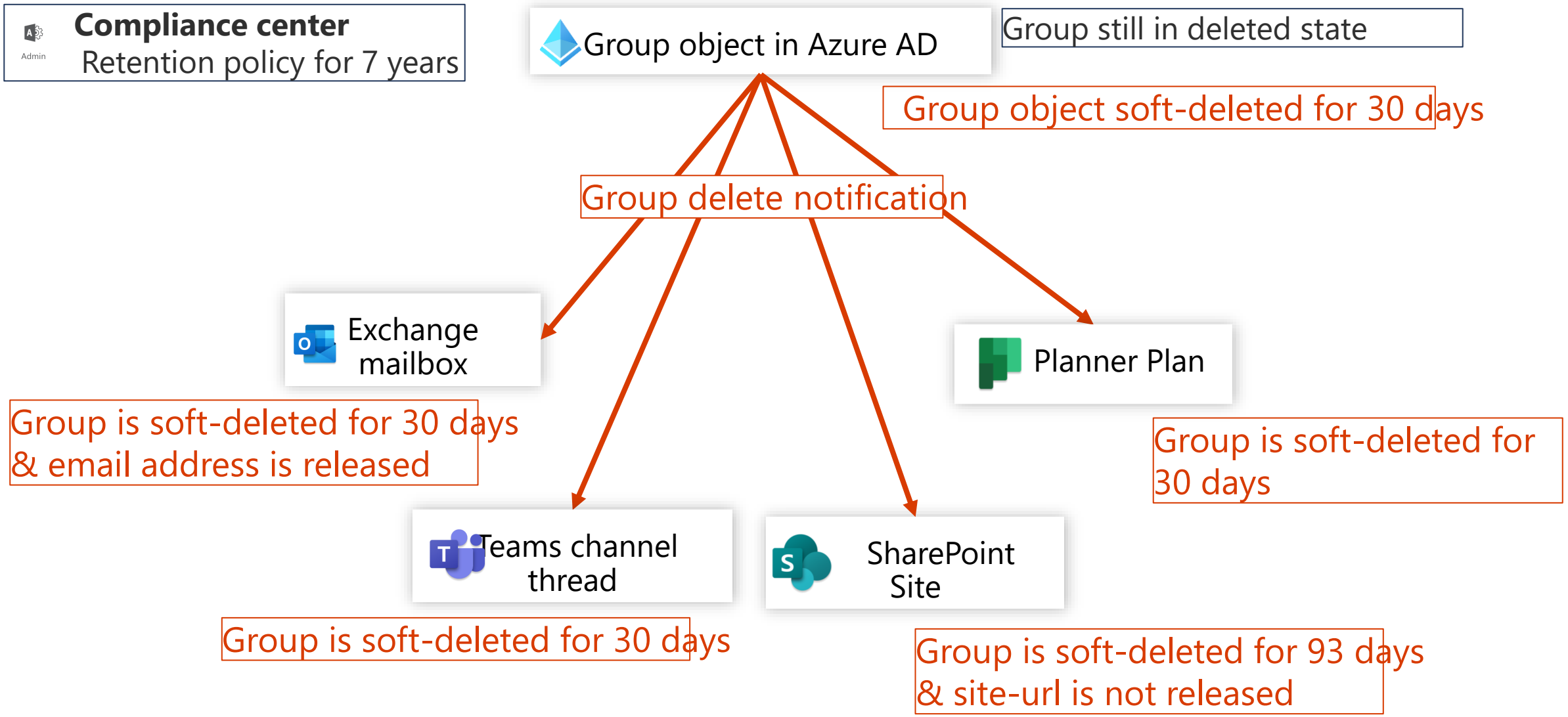


Group Deletion flow – Hard-delete

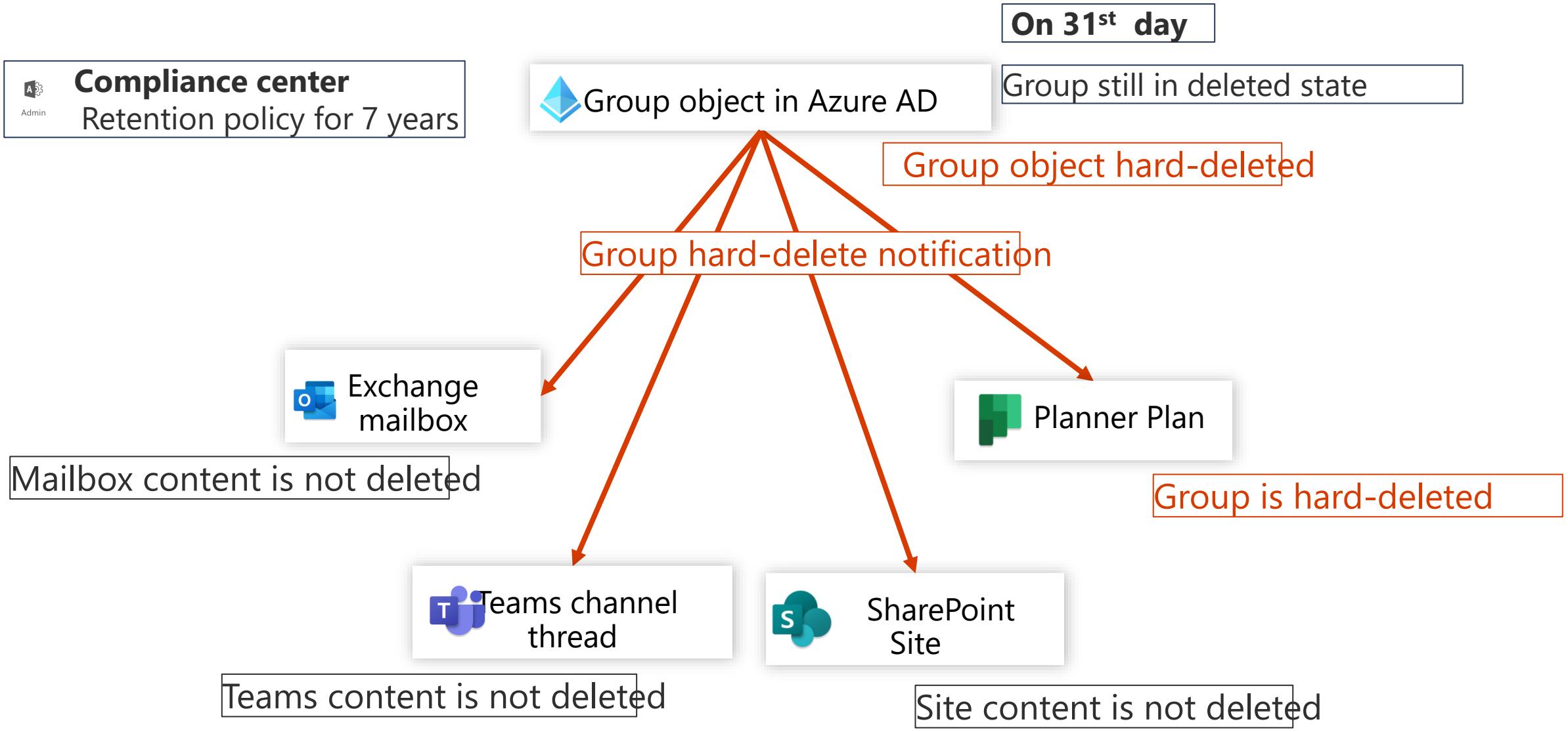
On 94th day



Group Deletion flow - Retention

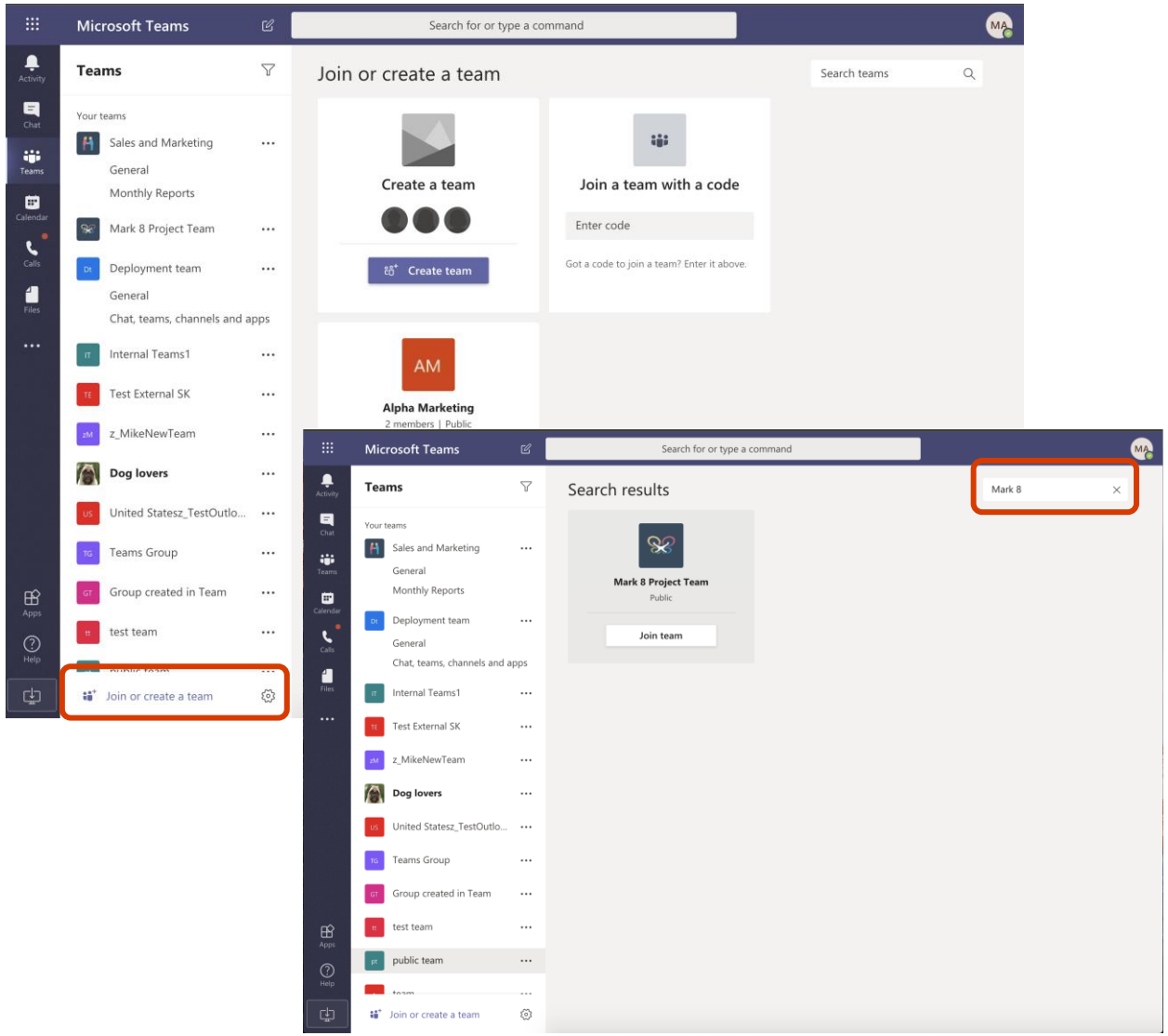


Group Deletion flow –Retention



Microsoft 365 Groups Architecture
Member/Roster management

Group - Join



Components

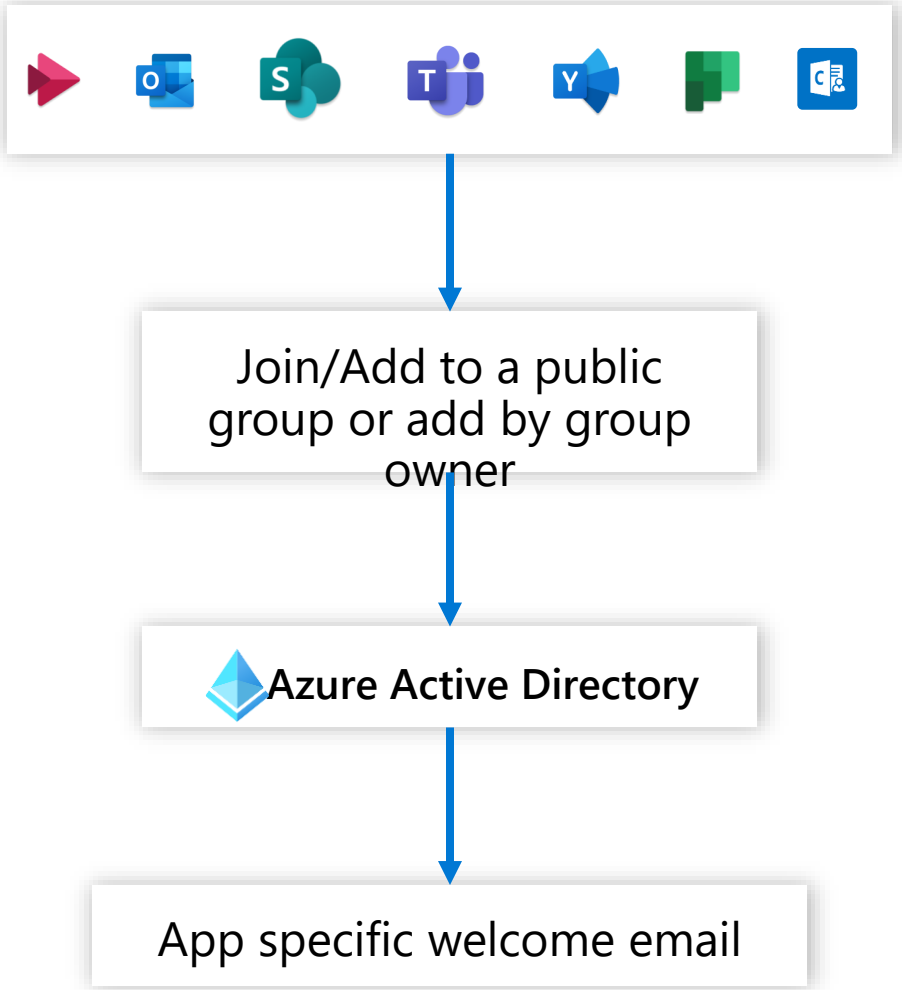
Check creation policy

- Can this user create a Group

Search/Discovery service

- Recommended list of all groups that the user is not a member of.

Member Addition



Components

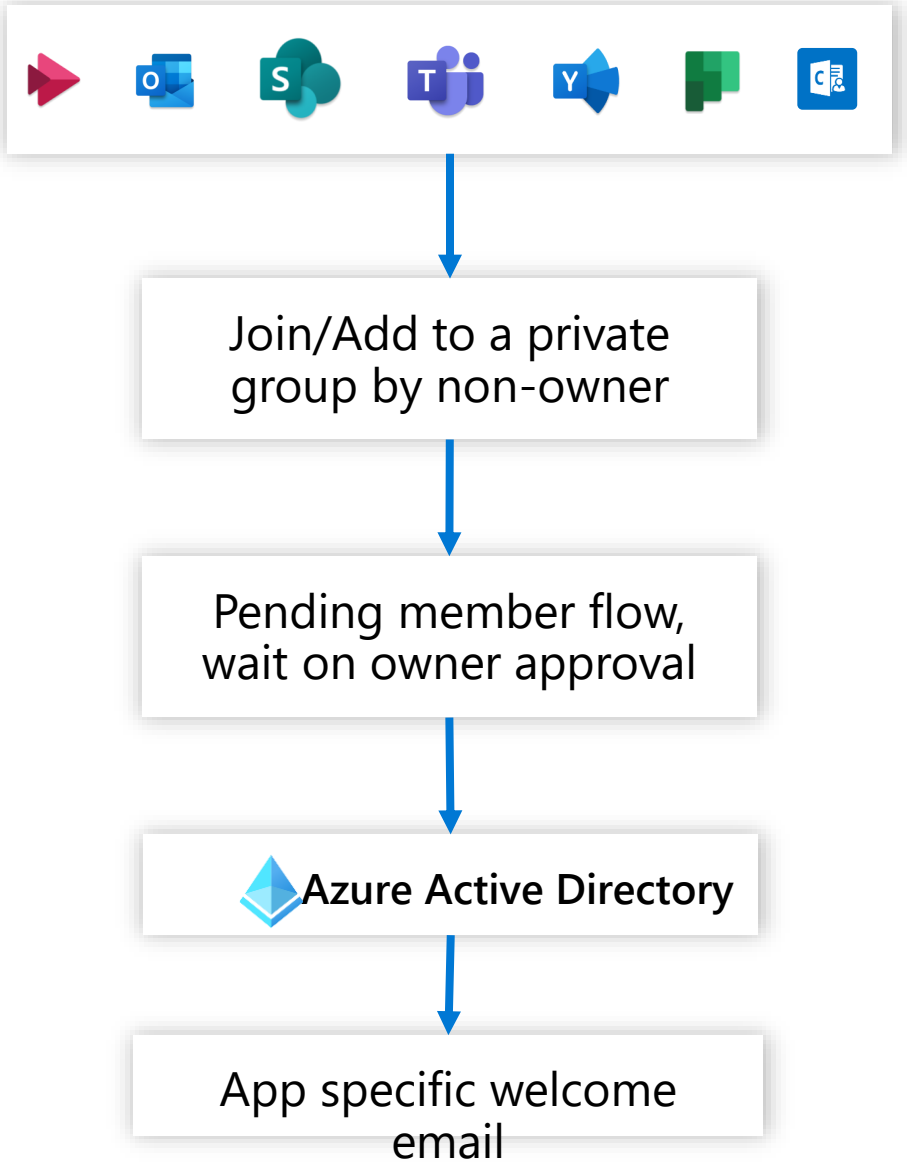
Welcome mail

- Specific to app
- Can be disabled by admins

Pending member flow

- Maintain pending member roster across Microsoft 365 apps until owner approval with actionable email support

Member Addition



Components

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Pending member flow

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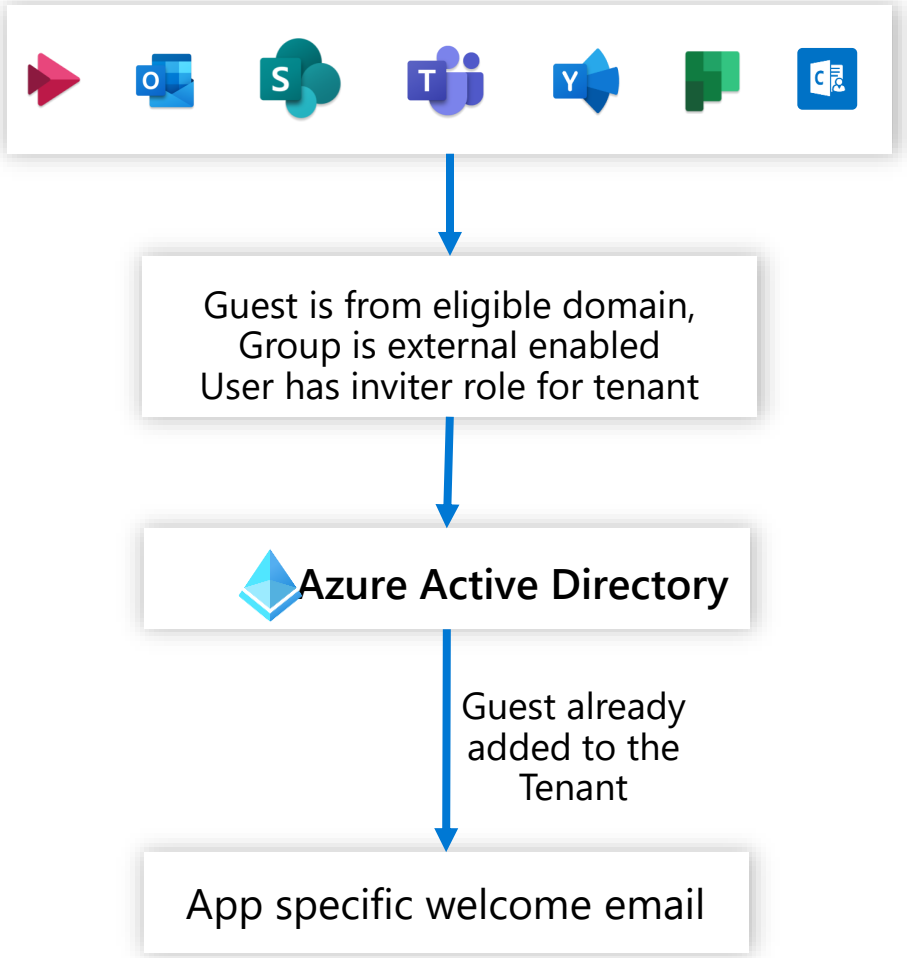
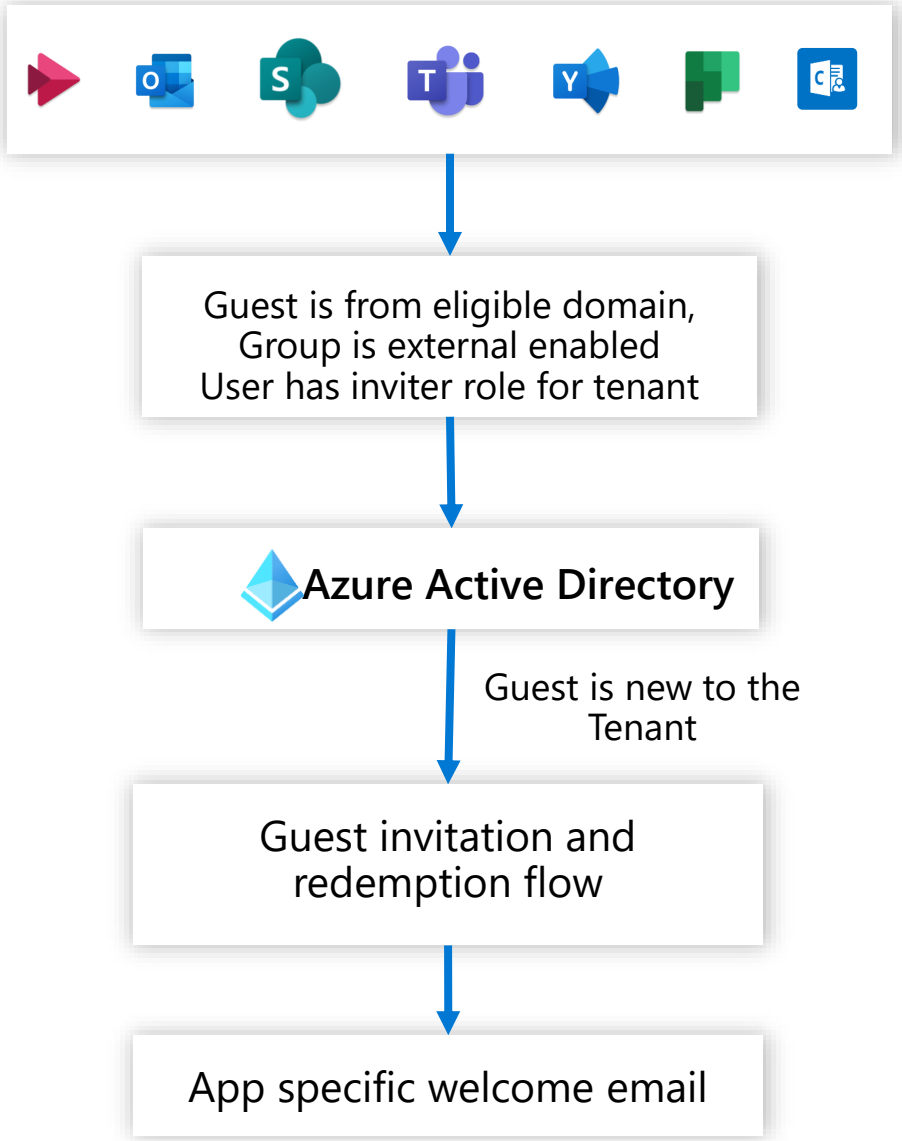
Guest/External Member Addition



Additional Components

- Tenant level Policies

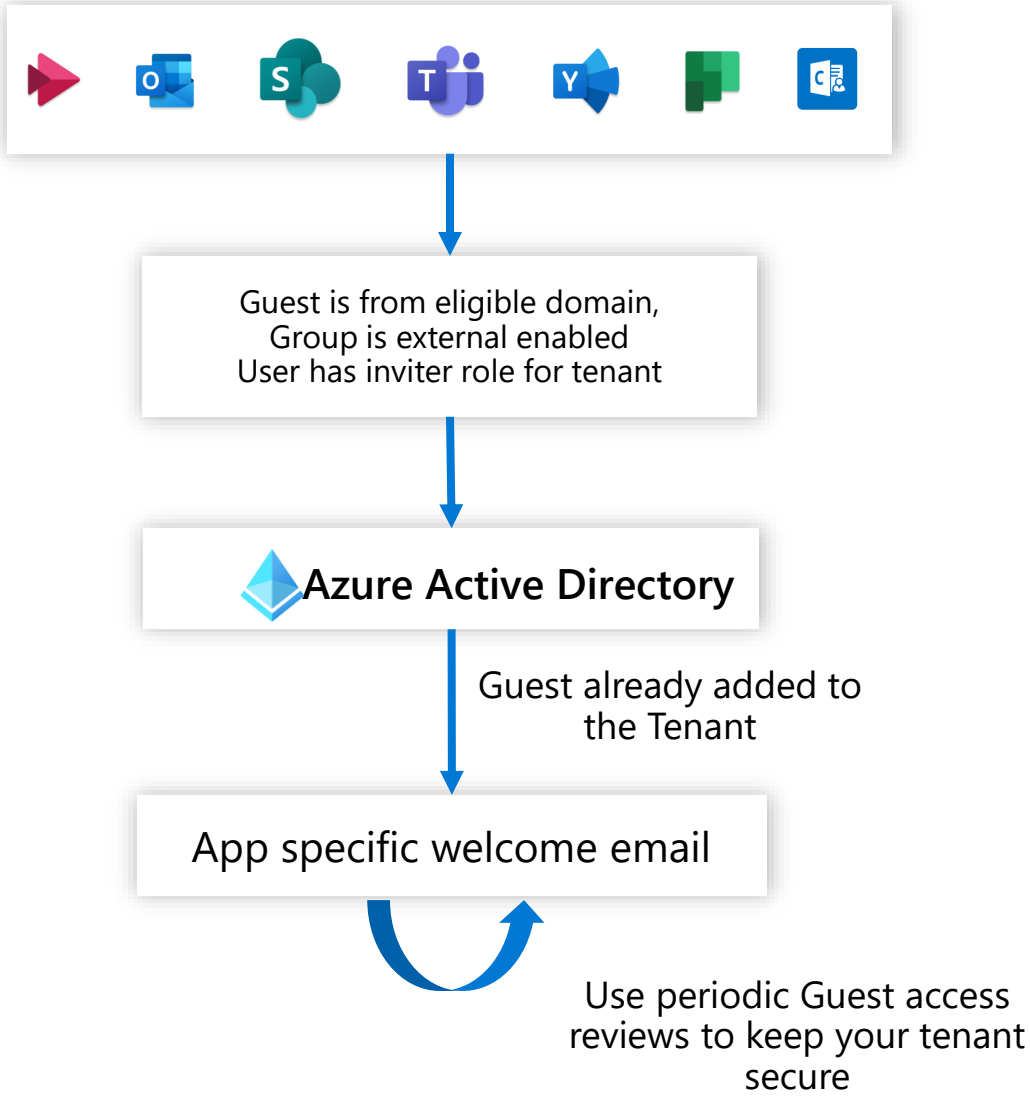
Guest/External Member Addition



Additional Components

- Tenant level Policies
- Invitation and redemption flow

Guest/External Member Reviews



Additional Components

- Tenant level Policies
- Membership review service

Microsoft 365 Groups Architecture Administration/Policies

Groups Governance – Admin Roles & Endpoints

App-specific examples

Exchange and Email related policies

Exchange Admin Center, EXO Cmdlts

Exchange Admin

Teams policies

Teams Admin Center & Cmdlets

Teams Admin

SharePoint site settings and policies

SharePoint Admin Center, SPO Cmdlts

SharePoint Admin

Suite-wide examples

Group management and restoration

Microsoft 365 Admin Center

Groups Admin

Naming, Creation, Expiry, Guest and audit logs

Azure AD Portal and Cmdlets

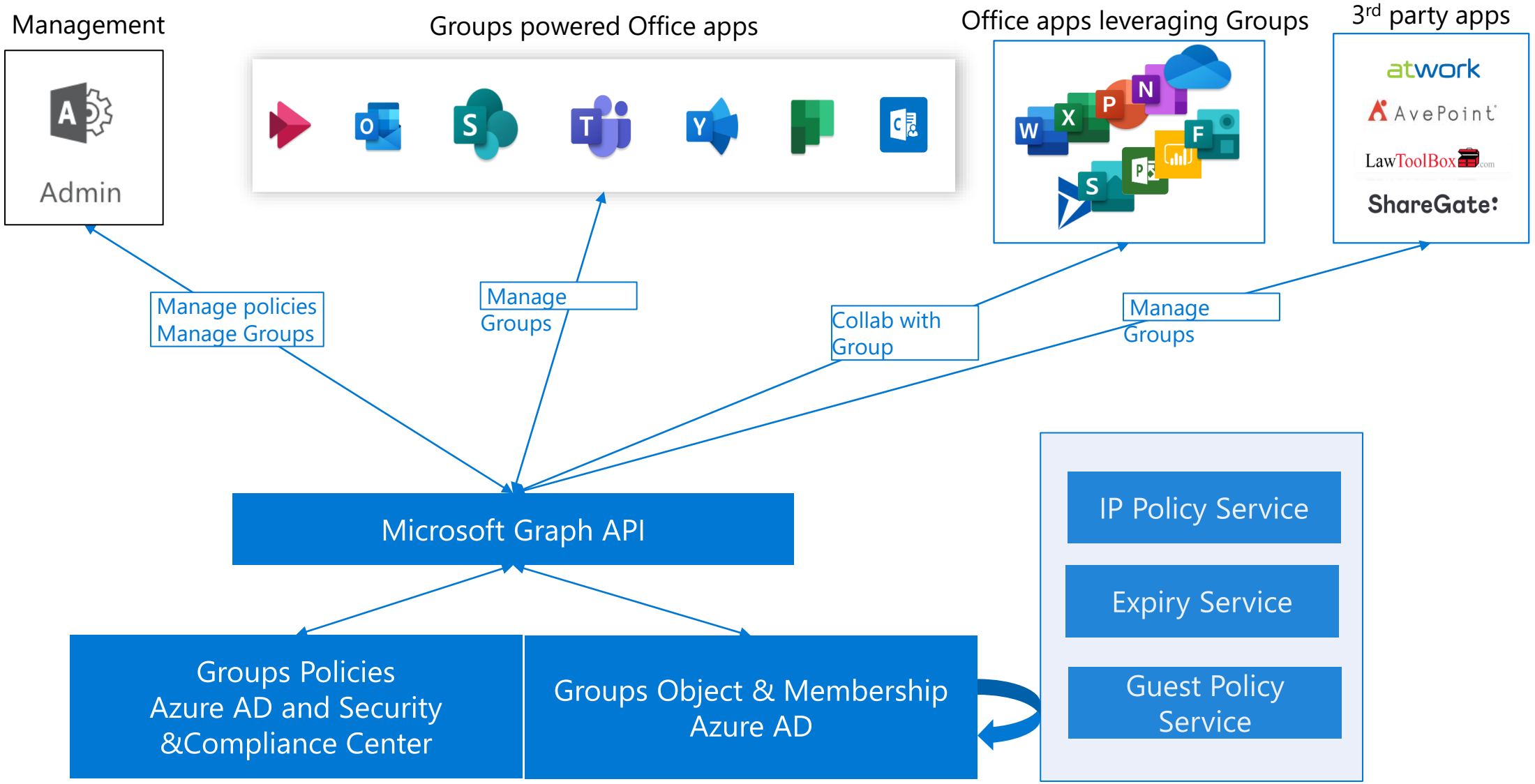
Groups Admin

Security and compliance policies

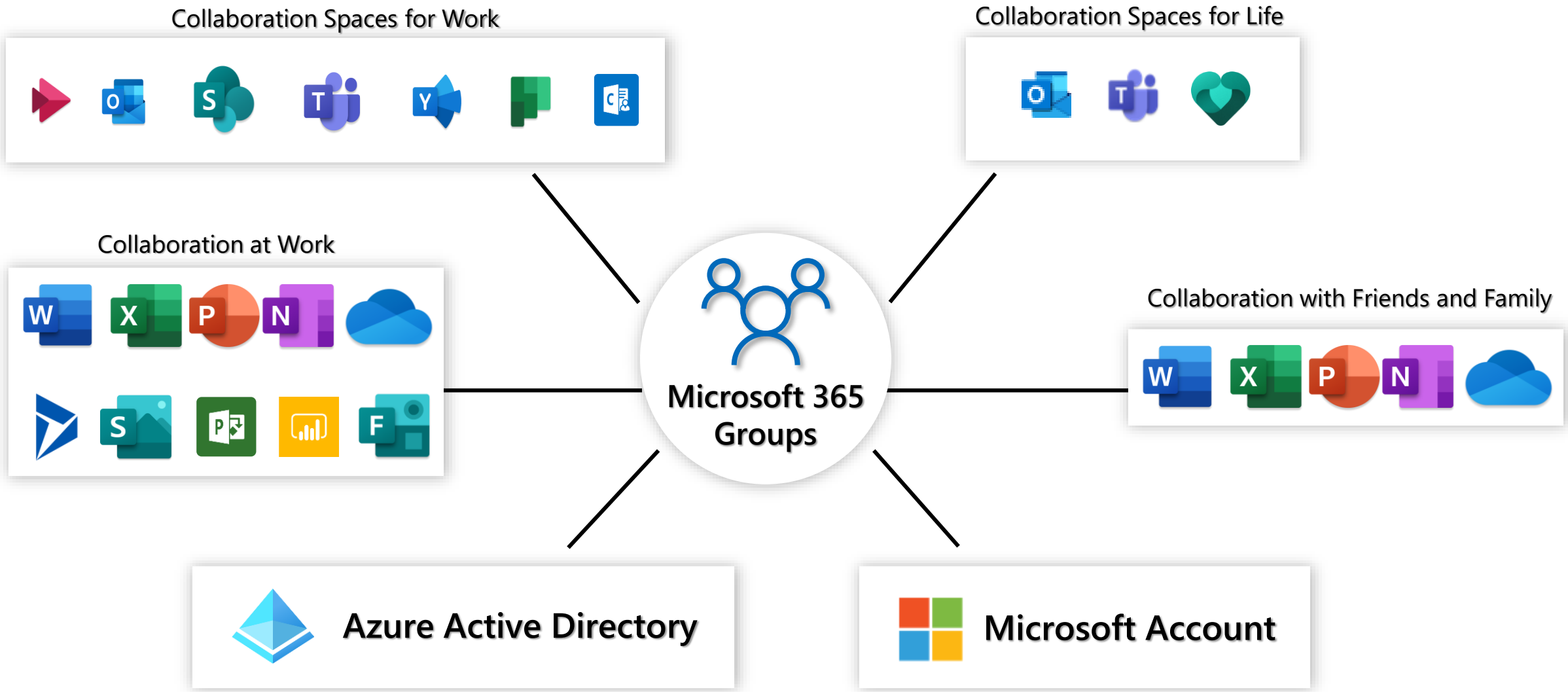
Security and compliance center & Cmdlets

Security Admin

Microsoft 365 Groups - Architecture



Powering collaboration across work and life



Other useful Groups videos

Related Content for Microsoft 365 Admins

★ Microsoft 365 Groups videos

Improved IT Efficiency and Agility	
Role-based Access Control in Microsoft 365	https://aka.ms/Admin1008
Microsoft 365 admin mobile app: administration on-the-go with productivity with flexibility	https://aka.ms/Admin1009
Improve IT efficiency and agility and stay informed as you enable self-service tasks	https://aka.ms/Admin1010
★ **Making IT more efficient with improvements to Microsoft 365 Groups**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1011**
Leveraging user feedback about Microsoft 365 in your organization	https://aka.ms/Admin1015
★ **Drive external collaboration for your organization using Microsoft 365 Groups**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1007**
Modern Cloud Management	
How to manage Microsoft 365 in a remote work world	https://aka.ms/Admin3010
Transform change management by syncing Message Center posts to Planner	https://aka.ms/Admin1019
Managing updates of Microsoft 365 Apps using servicing automation	https://aka.ms/Admin1016
★ **Microsoft 365 Groups roadmap updates**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1013**
★ **Microsoft 365 Groups architecture overview and deep dive**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1017**
★ **Governance and management best practices for Microsoft 365 Groups**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1018**
Effective controls for Microsoft 365 Apps in the Microsoft 365 admin center	https://aka.ms/Admin1120
★ **Managing work and life with Microsoft 365 Groups**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1022**
Complex Org Investments	
Multi-tenant management in the Microsoft 365 admin center	https://aka.ms/Admin1004
Supporting Mergers, Acquisitions, and Divestitures in Microsoft 365	https://aka.ms/Admin1002
Aggregated views of Service Health and Message Center for admins that manage multiple tenants	https://aka.ms/Admin1006
★ **How Microsoft manages Microsoft 365 Groups for its employees**	**https://aka.ms/Admin1003**

Thank you!

Key Resources

Tech Community	aka.ms/M365GroupsTC
User voice	aka.ms/M365GroupsUV
Microsoft Graph	aka.ms/M365GroupsGraph
Roadmap	office.com/roadmap
FastTrack	microsoft.com/fasttrack

Arun Varadharajan

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Thank You