Changes to storage offerings across Microsoft 365 Education

Access the set of new tools to help you visualize and manage your school's storage, available in the Microsoft 365 Admin Center now.

What is changing?

Beginning at a school's next contract renewal, but no sooner than August 1, 2024, all school tenants will receive 100TB of free pooled storage across OneDrive, SharePoint, and Exchange, with additional pooled storage per paid user, depending on your subscription *(see the FAQ for details).

Today, most schools (99.96%) are well below their storage allotment. With new tools, all schools can better manage their information and set thoughtful policies for data governance. Some of the benefits we expect to see include helping schools reduce some of the security risks associated with legacy storage and data sprawl, a top concern for most chief risk officers, while also benefiting our shared environmental footprint.

Storage limits

The total pooled storage limit is the maximum amount of storage that can be used across your combined users. For A3 or A5 licenses, use this calculation: 100TB + (number of A3 paid users x 50GB) + (number of A5 paid users x 100 GB) + (additional storage purchased) = capacity/limit.

Office 365 A1 customers

Effective February 2024, users of Office 365 A1 (free subscription) will be limited to a maximum of 100GB for OneDrive storage, within the 100TB of pooled storage for the school tenant. IT Admins have the flexibility to set a lower limit for A1 users.

Free tools

Microsoft is providing free tools in the M365 Admin Center to visualize current storage allocation and usage across OneDrive, SharePoint and Exchange, and tools to more easily manage stored data and end-of-life stored files that are no longer needed.

Why are we making this change?

Reduce security risk

With the move to the cloud, stored files, data and unused accounts have increased significantly over time, as more and more stored files and data have proliferated without a plan for end-of-life. This is not sustainable from a cost perspective, and it puts education institutions and their students at risk for a data breach. Today, education is the industry most impacted by cybercrime, with **K12 receiving over 80% of workplace malware attacks alone.**

Why are we making this change?

Minimize environmental impact

Stored files that are no longer in use, have an impact on our carbon footprint with over half of all data stored by organizations not serving a useful purpose. Storage of this "dark" data takes up space on servers and results in increased electricity consumption, generating 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 alone.[1] Microsoft is committed to both the security and privacy of school and student data as well as reducing our collective carbon footprint. Already, our datacenters are built with the highest environmental standards in mind. With this change, education customers can help do their part.

[1]World Economic Forum, What is 'dark data' and how is it raising carbon footprints? | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)

Why are we making this change?

Empower education through innovation

Microsoft's mission in education is to empower students, faculty and schools to achieve more. To achieve this, Microsoft continues to innovate on new technology, tools, and services. Today, Microsoft provides Microsoft 365 Education suites through free software grants or at significant discounts off commercial pricing. With these new updates we can continue to invest in meaningful innovation while offering those services to more institutions around the world.