

WHITEPAPER

An Evaluation of the Protection Offered by Microsoft 365 Business Licenses

This white paper provides an analysis and findings on the various types of Microsoft 365 Business licenses, and their commensurate cybersecurity protection levels.

Understanding Cyber Threats & How Microsoft 365 Protects Your Business

Cyber threats are a growing concern for businesses of all sizes. Whether it is phishing scams, ransomware attacks, or unauthorized access to sensitive data, organizations must take proactive measures to safeguard their operations. Microsoft 365 offers different business plans with varying levels of security. The entry-level plans for small and medium businesses (SMBs) are “business” plans, but larger organizations can subscribe to more sophisticated “enterprise”-grade plans. Below is a clear comparison of the Microsoft 365 plans available to SMBs and the major cyber threats they can protect you against.

Common Threats & Explanations

This is a non-exhaustive list of cyber threats, and what they actually mean.

The table on the next page will highlight whether, and how, your Microsoft 365 licenses safeguard you against these threats.

Threat	How it Happens
Phishing Attacks	Fraudulent emails designed to steal credentials.
Business Email Compromise (BEC)	Hackers impersonating executives to mislead employees.
Ransomware	Malware that locks files until a ransom is paid.
Malware & Viruses	Malicious software that can damage or steal data.
Identity Theft & Account Takeover	Compromised credentials leading to unauthorized access.
Zero-Day Exploits	Accidental or intentional data exposure.
Data Leaks & Unauthorized Sharing	Employees or partners misusing access.
Insider Threats	Cybercriminals accessing company cloud accounts.
Cloud Account Takeover	Flooding systems with traffic to disrupt operations.
Denial of Service (DoS/DDoS)	Employees using unauthorized software.
Unapproved Apps & Shadow IT	Employees using unauthorized software.

Protection per License Type

Threat	Business Basic	Business Standard	Business Premium
Phishing Attacks	 Basic Email Protection (Exchange Online Protection)	 Enhanced Email Security	 Defender for Office 365 (Advanced Threat Protection)
BEC	 Basic Email Protection	 Enhanced Email Security	 Defender for Office 365 (AI-based threat detection)
Ransomware	 Limited (OneDrive File Recovery)	 Limited (OneDrive File Recovery)	 Defender for Business (Endpoint Protection)
Malware & Viruses	 With no Defender for Business, Windows must rely on Defender Antivirus	 With no Defender for Business, Windows must rely on Defender Antivirus	 Defender for Business (Advanced Antivirus & Threat Response)
Identity Theft	 Basic Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) & Password Protection (Security Defaults, Risk-Based Sign-In Detection)	 Basic MFA, Security Defaults, Conditional Access (limited)	 Azure AD Premium P1 (Multi-Factor Authentication, Conditional Access)
Zero-Day Exploits	 No Advanced Protection	 No Advanced Protection	 Defender for Business (Proactive Threat Intelligence)
Data Leaks	 No Advanced Protection	 No Advanced Protection	 Microsoft Purview Compliance Tools
Insider Threats	 No Advanced Protection	 No Advanced Protection	 Microsoft Purview Insider Risk Management
Cloud Account Takeover	 No Cloud Security	 No Cloud Security	 Microsoft Entra ID P1 (Identity Protection & Access Management)
Denial of Service	 No Advanced Protection	 No Advanced Protection	 Defender for Cloud (Advanced Threat Protection, Requires Azure)
Unapproved Apps	 No Advanced Protection	 Limited App Governance in OneDrive & SharePoint	 Defender for Cloud Apps (Monitoring & Security Controls)

The Enhanced Security Features in Microsoft 365 Business Premium

Microsoft 365 Business Premium is designed with broad-based security and compliance in mind, offering:

1

Advanced Threat Protection

Defender for Office 365 helps protect against advanced email threats and ransomware.

2

Endpoint Security

Defender for Business provides next-generation antivirus and protection for your company devices with Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR).

3

Identity and Access Management

Azure AD Premium P1 enables conditional access, comprehensive Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) enforcement, and identity protection.

4

Information Protection

Sensitivity labels and Data Loss Prevention (DLP) help secure emails and files.

5

Device Management

Intune allows for remote management of company devices, including Windows, macOS, and mobile devices.

Which Microsoft 365 Business Plan is Right for Your Business?

Your cybersecurity is only as good as your weakest point of security. So, if you are using any Microsoft 365 plan that is not, at a minimum, **Microsoft 365 Business Premium** you are particularly vulnerable to a wide range of cyber threats.

Cyber threat actors will, therefore, have more options to compromise your systems and you will be far less prepared to deal with those attacks if you are not using **Microsoft 365 Business Premium** or better. Essentially, you would be an attractive target for threat actors as compromising your systems would be easier and their ability to get away with an attack is greatly improved.

We recommend that every SMB adopt **Microsoft 365 Business Premium** at a minimum. In doing so, your overall cybersecurity posture is improved by the advanced protection that the license offers which constitutes additional safeguards against common tactics used by cyber threat actors today. But we should also highlight that, whilst merely purchasing the license and activating it for your SMB offers greater protection, there is still a need for expert configuration and expert cybersecurity support.

About Us

Who We Are

Insodus Technologies turns digital challenges into strategic advantages by eliminating inefficiencies, revealing opportunities, and treating risks. More than just managing computing technology, we convert it into a catalyst for growth, enabling seamless operations that empower our customers to move faster, innovate boldly, and lead with certainty. Our purpose is clear: to empower your competitive edge through computing excellence.

What We Do

Insodus Technologies ensures your cyber peace of mind with proactive, AI-powered security. We also unlock hidden value in your data through intelligent systems and streamline your IT infrastructure for optimal performance. Furthermore, we transform your business operations into a competitive advantage through process optimization, ultimately empowering your growth through comprehensive technological excellence.

Our Mission

We enables businesses to stop reacting and start anticipating — turning digital potential into a clear path to successful outcomes that help you adapt and thrive, and be secure in a world that rewards speed and intelligence.

Our Vision

We envision a world where information technology empowers rather than constraints—where businesses, regardless of size, reclaim control of their most valuable assets: their human capital and core mission.



Your Cyber Security Advantage

Cyber threats are becoming more sophisticated, and businesses must proactively protect their data, employees, and customers. Choosing the right Microsoft 365 plan can help safeguard your organization from phishing attacks, malware, identity theft, and data breaches. If you are using Microsoft 365, the minimum investment you should make to have decent technical protection, is in the Microsoft 365 Business Premium license for your SMB, and ensure that the plan is expertly configured and supported.

Ready to take the next step in
your cyber security journey?

Contact us for a free consultation
to discuss your specific needs
and how our solutions can help.



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