



Move up and unlock:

why you should upgrade your
Microsoft licensing from E3 to E5



Microsoft 365 (M365) keeps your team connected and equipped with the tools they need, but are you getting the most out of it?



When it comes to security and scalability, E3 only takes you so far. Upgrading to E5 unlocks advanced protection, smarter insights, and greater efficiency.

Microsoft E3 is the standard M365 enterprise plan, offering all the M365 apps, Windows, and cloud storage.

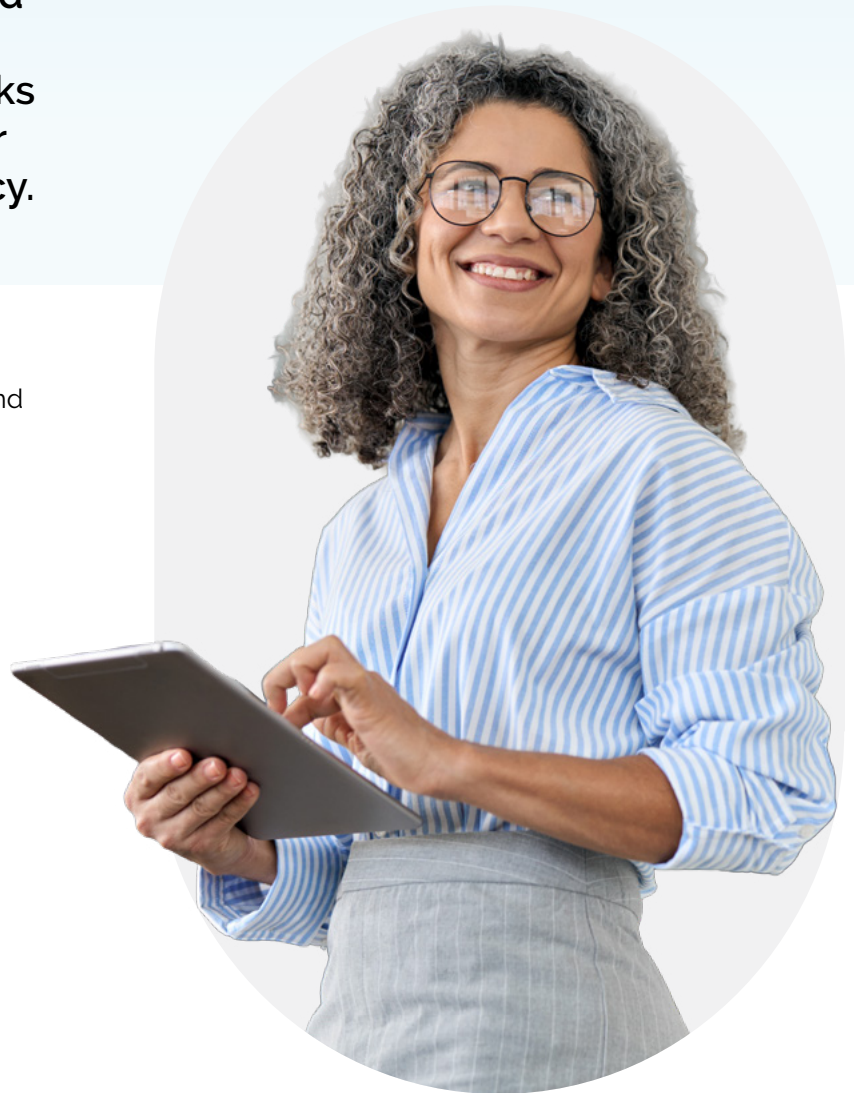
E5 is a step up. Providing all the features in E3 plus enhanced security, more intuitive analytics, and compliance protection, E5 is a game-changer.

While the initial cost of an E5 licence is slightly more, the ROI you gain from upgrading means that many organisations save money from upgrading.

So, what are the key differences, why should you upgrade, and how do you do it?

Read about:

- Key differences between E3 and E5
- Move up and unlock several benefits
- How to upgrade
- Get support from our specialists



Key differences between E3 and E5

Microsoft 365 E3 and E5 are both enterprise-level **Microsoft licensing** options that include Office 365 (O365), Windows 10 and 11, and Enterprise Mobility and Security (EM&S) services. All of the core capabilities are the same, but E5 has advanced **security** and compliance features.

The core capabilities include:

- O365 E3 - Including M365 Apps, One Drive, SharePoint etc
- EM&S E3 - Including Intune P1 and Entra ID P1
- Windows 11
- Defender for Endpoint P1

Additional features included in E5

Now let us look at the additional features included in E5, which cover enhanced security, improved compliance tools, superior analytics and insights, and additional communication and collaboration tools.



Security:

- Defender for Endpoint P2
- Defender for O365 P1 & P2
- Entra ID P2
- Defender for Identity
- Defender for Cloud Apps



Compliance:

- Information Protect and Governance
- Insider Risk Management
- eDiscovery and Audit



Communication:

- Audio Conferencing
- Teams Phone



Reporting:

- Power BI Pro



Providing highly advanced security and analytics capabilities, covering more than 27 areas of specialisation, E5 not only replaces but is an improvement on many external solutions.

For organisations that need proactive security, intelligent threat detection, and advanced compliance tools, moving to E5 is a smart investment that not only protects you from cyber threats but also optimises IT spending by consolidating everything into one platform.

This integrated approach means fewer compatibility issues, simplified management, and a more resilient environment. Upgrading isn't just about getting more features but about strengthening your organisation from the ground up.



Move up and unlock several benefits



Stronger security and threat protection

Your organisation is a prime target for cyber threats because of the data you hold. Upgrading to E5 provides in-built, strong security features to prevent cyber attacks, unauthorised access, and data breaches.



Better compliance and data governance

With strict regulations and governance requirements, public sector organisations must ensure compliance with data protection laws. E5 provides more advanced compliance tools to help manage and safeguard sensitive information, reducing legal and financial risks.



More secure and efficient communication

Collaboration across different agencies, departments, and external stakeholders is essential. E5 enhances communication capabilities while ensuring that conversations, files, and data remain protected, supporting a secure and compliant work environment.



Analytics

Enables creation and sharing of interactive data visualisations and reports through Power BI Pro.



Scalability and growth

Public sector organisations need to keep up with evolving threats, compliance regulations, and digital transformation. E5 provides a more scalable and resilient IT environment.



Streamlined licensing costs

By consolidating multiple tools and services into a single comprehensive suite, M365 E5 can potentially reduce overall costs and simplify licensing management.



Sentinel offer

Microsoft 365 E5 customers receive a data grant of up to 5 MB per user per day for data ingestion into Microsoft Sentinel.

This grant covers various data sources, including Microsoft Entra ID (formerly Azure AD) sign-in and audit logs, Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps logs, Microsoft Purview Information Protection logs and Microsoft 365 advanced hunting.



Ramp offer benefits

Great way to get to E5 but with a phased approach, with a comprehensive discount to get you onto E5 strategically.

- Applicable to new and renewing enrolments and first anniversaries prior to October 2027
- Customer commits to licence 50% of Qualified Users
- Ramp discounting only applies for M365 E5
- No true down through agreement

SPA24 Framework

Strategic Partnership Arrangement 2024, is the partnership between Microsoft and Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and in conjunction with CCDO, supports the digital transformation of the UK public sector.

- Five year MOU, enrolments will continue to be three years
- Microsoft will offer the use of 6 months prior price list for all orders
- 3% discount reduction will be applied in the event of a late renewal.

To find out more about this framework and its benefits, please contact us.

Contact us



FastTrack

The **Microsoft 365 FastTrack** Programme is a no-cost service designed to help organisations transition to Microsoft 365, focusing on rapid deployment and adoption.

For those upgrading from E3 to E5, FastTrack ensures effective use of advanced features. As the leading FastTrack Ready Partner in the UK, Phoenix offers expert guidance and was recognised as a finalist for the 2023 Global Microsoft FastTrack Ready Partner Award.

What you gain from FastTrack...

- Expert guidance: remote support from our FastTrack Specialists for E5 workloads
- Tailored deployment: customised Deployment Roadmap for E5 features like Defender, Purview, and Entra
- Immersion experiences: Phoenix offers sessions (e.g., Compliance, Security) to explore E5 capabilities
- Phoenix services days: subject to eligibility, Phoenix may provide Services Days for in-scope workloads to support on the deployment and configuration

Find out more about FastTrack



How to upgrade

Moving from Microsoft 365 E3 to E5 strengthens security, streamlines operations, and helps you do more with less. Best of all? The transition is straightforward and tailored to your needs.

1

Assess your needs

Take a step back and ask:

- Are you fully protected against modern cyber threats?
- Are you juggling multiple security and compliance tools?
- Could smarter insights and automation improve efficiency?

If you answered yes to any of these, it's time to move up to E5.

2

Plan your upgrade

Every organisation is different. Whether you need a full rollout or a phased approach, E5 gives you the flexibility to upgrade at your own pace.

Work with your IT and security teams to decide who benefits most from enhanced security, compliance, and analytics.

3

Make the move

Upgrading is quick and hassle-free:

- Purchase licences
- Assign E5 licences to users via the Microsoft 365 admin centre
- Configure security and compliance settings to unlock full protection from day one

4

Optimise and scale

The move to E5 is just the beginning. Fine-tune your policies, automate security measures, and monitor performance to get the most from your investment.

Regular updates ensure you stay ahead of threats and compliance changes.

5

Get expert support

As an initial point of entry into your E5 security plane, Phoenix offer a Microsoft Cloud Security Strategic planning session.

This session aims to provide a shared understanding behind your current security strategy and identify where assessments, design sessions and ultimately the implementation of E5 security solutions are required in order to meet the security objectives of your organisation and maximise E5 investment.

As part of this session, all aspects of the Microsoft cloud security landscape will be investigated at a high level alongside business and technical requirements in order to define exactly where efforts should be prioritised and focussed.

Following the session, Phoenix will provide an initial roadmap and technical plan on a page detailing a logical order where the implementation of E5 security solutions are concerned.

A Statement of Work will also be generated referencing the proposed project for the implementation of E5 security solutions and the efforts necessary to ensure its success.

Need help? Our specialists provide guidance, best practices, and ongoing support to ensure your organisation maximises the investment in Microsoft 365 E5.

Ready to unlock the full potential of Microsoft 365? The future starts with E5.

Contact us



Why Phoenix for your Microsoft licensing?

Phoenix is a highly skilled, accredited, and respected world-leading Microsoft partner that helps organisations in the UK to transform.

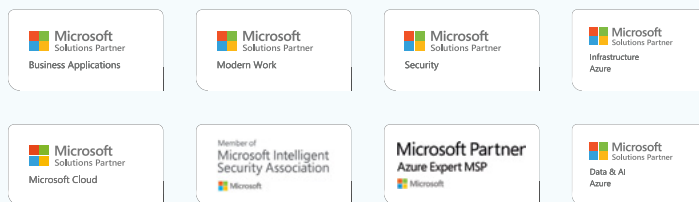
Our Microsoft Licensing Team is one of the biggest in channel, made up of sector specific licensing specialists and industry experts that provide our customers with a tailored experience. We hold the most Microsoft Enterprise Agreements in the UK, making us the most accredited partner to support your organisation.

Watch our case study now and see how we're supporting organisations across the UK to simplify Microsoft licensing to improve productivity, lower costs, and drive transformation.

Watch now



We hold 11 Microsoft Specialisations, are a **Microsoft Azure Expert MSP**, the number one **Microsoft FastTrack** partner in the UK, the number one **Microsoft Copilot** Partner in the UK and hold numerous UK and global Microsoft Partner of the Year awards – meaning we're in the best position to help you plan and deliver your next modernisation project.



Our expert Microsoft licensing guidance and tailored solutions will help you navigate the complexities, optimise costs, and drive innovation with confidence.

Get in touch



“

We don't need to be the specialist in Microsoft licensing. We've tried, but it changes so often and it's very complex.

For us, we need to ensure that we're using our time wisely and ensuring that we use a specialist that's going to provide the service for us and can just guide us and give us the best deal.”

Jayne Chapple
Head of IT Services
Salvation Army





Talk to us.

Our specialists are here and ready to help your organisation with everything E5. Get in touch with us today.

[Contact us](#)

Alternatively, use the contact details below and one of our specialists will be in touch to discuss your requirements.

Contact us

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