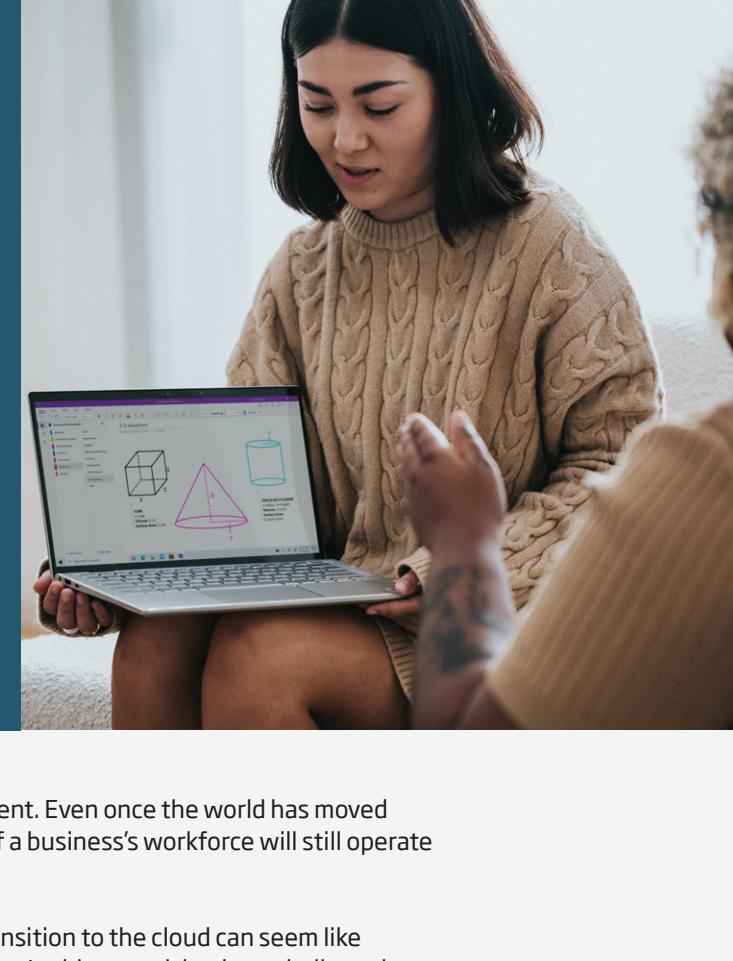


POWERING PRODUCTIVITY IN YOUR BUSINESS

The workforce around the globe has been reshaped by the effects of COVID-19.



The cloud is not just the future, but the necessary present. Even once the world has moved beyond the pandemic, *Gartner* predicts that almost half a business's workforce will still operate remotely.

For large businesses with hundreds of employees, a transition to the cloud can seem like additional admin on an already over-burdened task force. In this regard, having a dedicated business partner when procuring business software like Microsoft 365 not only allows a business to have an "in-house" cloud expert, but also assists in maximising the cost saving benefits of Microsoft 365, and ultimately helping a company stay competitive and profitable in trying times.

Leveraging Microsoft 365 through the cloud

Microsoft 365 is no doubt the most ubiquitous productivity software in the world, with *80% of Fortune 500 companies* using it in their daily operations. Indeed, the improvement to productivity offered through the Microsoft 365 suite is one of its primary time- and money-saving features, especially in large organisations where daily output of staff is hard to track.

According to a commissioned *Forrester report*, streamlining business processes using Microsoft 365 saved 12 500 hours per year (over three years and across 5000 workers) in distribution activity. Including a partner in this mix can assist the business in maximising the benefits of Microsoft 365's various parts, ensuring teams are appropriately using the right tools for their divisions.

Tools that make business tick

Besides Word, Excel, Teams and SharePoint, Microsoft's PowerApps are becoming essential tools for any large business. PowerApps provide a pre-built, templated platform for creating drag-and-drop business apps; these apps, which require no knowledge of coding whatsoever, can empower teams to quickly and creatively build functional business applications that enhance the business's value proposition.

Similarly, a dedicated business partner can assist with the implementation and use of Microsoft's Power BI layer, which adds a powerful reporting and analytics tool to your cloud capabilities. When used correctly, this tool can generate impressive overviews, visual representations of and insights into business data, both for your company and your clients. Power BI's customised dashboards allow for swift decision-making and real-time visibility, ensuring your business is on the right trajectory, all the time.

Of course, when it comes to data, security is essential. Microsoft 365 offers businesses peace of mind with their world-class threat detection and mitigation technologies. Thanks to Microsoft Defender for Microsoft 365 and Advanced Threat Protection, a business is

constantly on the front foot against ransomware, malware and other cyberthreats.

The cloud also provides a secure space for the backup and storage of sensitive company data. Along with this, Exchange Online offers unlimited email archiving in the cloud, as well as generous 50GB inboxes and a 150MB message size limit.

Any business also needs telephony structure. But in the age of mobile phones and remote working, what does this look like? Microsoft Teams, beyond being a powerful collaboration tool, offers Teams Voice, which is essentially a cloud-based calling system that is accessible from anywhere, along with a unique number for each staff member, and the capacity to receive calls through a traditional desktop phone.

Finally - and critically during this time of remote working - is that if an employee's device is stolen or misplaced, your partner can use Microsoft Intune to wipe sensitive company information from that device. Intune is Microsoft's mobile device and mobile application management system that helps organisations protect the corporate data that resides on their employees' devices.

Managing the IT Crowd

The role of a partner goes beyond the rollout and implementation of Microsoft 365 tools. For a large company, a partner can assist in shouldering the burden of IT management, at no additional cost to the company.

As they are experts when it comes to cloud, your partner can help manage your users and licences to reduce the likelihood of having wasted shelfware within the business, while simultaneously fielding support calls which

reduces the load on overworked internal IT teams.

A partner provides this value-added technical support along with billing and subscription support as part of a holistic approach to managing your Microsoft 365 licences. Having easy access to a partner can significantly reduce a business's total cost of ownership when it comes to managing IT services.

Partnering together to stay on top

In today's shifting business landscape, even established businesses need a good partner to help navigate the cloud and assist in managing their IT solutions and software.

Giving your business the best opportunities to maximise growth and profit might mean

considering a move to purchasing Microsoft 365 through a dedicated partner, especially when considering the myriad benefits that having such a partner on hand can offer your business.

Make the switch today

If you'd like to find out more about how to get the perfect partner for your business, get in touch with Tarsus On Demand today.