

SOLUTION BRIEF

Microsoft and Proofpoint— protecting the modern workspace

Two cybersecurity leaders. One human and
AI-centric solution.



Key highlights

- Reduce the likelihood of a data breach
- Defend users with multilayered security
- Unify data protection across Microsoft and third-party apps
- Improve compliance and policy control

This solution set is part of Proofpoint's integrated human-centric security platform, mitigating the four key areas of people-based risks.

Introduction

Cyberattacks are multiplying exponentially. Advances in AI now enable threat actors to carry out a far greater volume of campaigns without additional resources. What's more, these attacks can be launched almost effortlessly on a global scale.

As the default productivity platform for businesses of all sizes, Microsoft 365 has become a prime target for these attacks. While Microsoft offers strong defenses, even the most powerful cybersecurity would strain under the pressure of this overwhelming onslaught. So, it's important to weigh the risks of a single point of failure across critical channels like email.

When you combine Microsoft 365 defenses with Proofpoint's Nexus™ AI-driven platform, you can achieve resilient protection against threats that traditional solutions often miss. Together, these solutions secure your environment against phishing, social engineering, data loss, and more. They also empower your people and free your teams to focus on growth.

"Buyers must consider complementary or supplemental email security solutions to align with best practices for combating modern email threats."

GARTNER | MAGIC QUADRANT FOR
EMAIL SECURITY, Q4 2025

Security challenges of the modern workspace

Email remains the primary initial threat vector for today's cyberattacks. In recent years, however, the attack surface has expanded. Today people work across Microsoft Teams, Slack, cloud-based applications, social media platforms, file-sharing services, and more. Not surprisingly, cybercriminals are developing new tactics to exploit these digital channels.

Increasingly, collaboration tools are being used by attackers to bypass legacy email security controls. This enables them to deliver malicious links, steal credentials, and gain unauthorized access. At the same time, bad actors are using email for exploits like phishing and business email compromise (BEC). These tactics continue to drive most breaches.

As multichannel, multistage threats grow, even the most advanced security tools can struggle to keep up. And it's more difficult than ever for teams to get visibility into attacks and gain control.

1. FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center. *Internet Crime Report (IC3)*. 2024.

Human-targeted threats dominate the threat landscape. More than 90% of successful breaches start with email.¹

How Microsoft secures the workspace

Microsoft 365 provides a strong AI-driven security foundation through Defender and Purview. These two solutions are the core of its security architecture.

Defender

Defender uses advanced AI-driven detection to stop email threats. It analyzes the trillions of signals Microsoft collects daily—including email content, sender behavior, and contextual indicators—to identify malicious intent. For BEC threats, Defender applies intent analysis and behavioral anomaly detection. Image-based threats, such as hidden text and QR codes, are detected using advanced image analysis capabilities.

Purview

Purview provides enterprise-grade data loss prevention (DLP). It helps reduce the risk of a data breach and ensure compliance with regulations. Classification and labeling enable organization to apply data security policies consistently across email, endpoints, and cloud apps.

Proofpoint's human-centric advantage

Proofpoint provides a comprehensive, human-centric platform that's powered by our Nexus AI engines. You get resilient defenses that deploy in minutes using a simple integration with Microsoft's Graph API.

Proofpoint's AI models are trained on one of the largest and most diverse datasets in all of cybersecurity.

Collaboration Security Prime

Proofpoint Collaboration Security Prime delivers multichannel, multistage threat protection that stops human and AI agent-centric attacks across email, messaging, collaboration tools, cloud applications, and file-sharing services. It extends industry-leading security beyond email to secure trusted interactions and integrate human resilience directly into the platform.

With automated workflows and comprehensive protection, Prime streamlines operations and strengthens defenses across collaboration environments.

Data Loss Prevention

Proofpoint Data Loss Prevention (DLP) solutions deliver human-centric, omnichannel protection to identify and mitigate data loss risks across email, cloud, and endpoints. Enterprise DLP unifies content, behavior, and threat telemetry to address the full spectrum of people-centric data loss scenarios and prevent unauthorized transmission of sensitive information. Built on modern, scalable architecture, it provides visibility and control over data exfiltration without disrupting user workflows.

2M+ leading organizations around the world are empowered by Proofpoint.

More secure together: Proofpoint and Microsoft

Microsoft's integrated security stack combined with Proofpoint Collaboration Security Prime and Proofpoint DLP gives you multichannel, multistage threat protection and human-centric, omnichannel data protection.

Together, these solutions unify content, behavior, and threat telemetry across email, collaboration tools, cloud applications, and endpoints. So, security teams get visibility and control across the modern workspace without disrupting user workflows.

Proofpoint Collaboration Security Prime adds complementary protection to Microsoft Defender's detection of BEC, phishing, malware, and supplier compromise. Our threat intelligence helps detect attacks that might otherwise be missed. What's more, Proofpoint provides visibility into Very Attacked People™ (VAPs). This ensures that the most targeted users can get enhanced security—a capability that's not natively available in Microsoft 365.

Proofpoint DLP works alongside Microsoft Purview to strengthen data protection across the modern workspace. While Purview delivers strong classification and policy controls within Microsoft 365, Proofpoint extends unified visibility across email, collaboration tools, cloud applications, and endpoints. By combining content awareness with user context, organizations gain consistent governance across channels and enhanced protection for sensitive information.

When you use Proofpoint's collaboration security and data security solutions, you get two extra powerful layers of world-class protection.

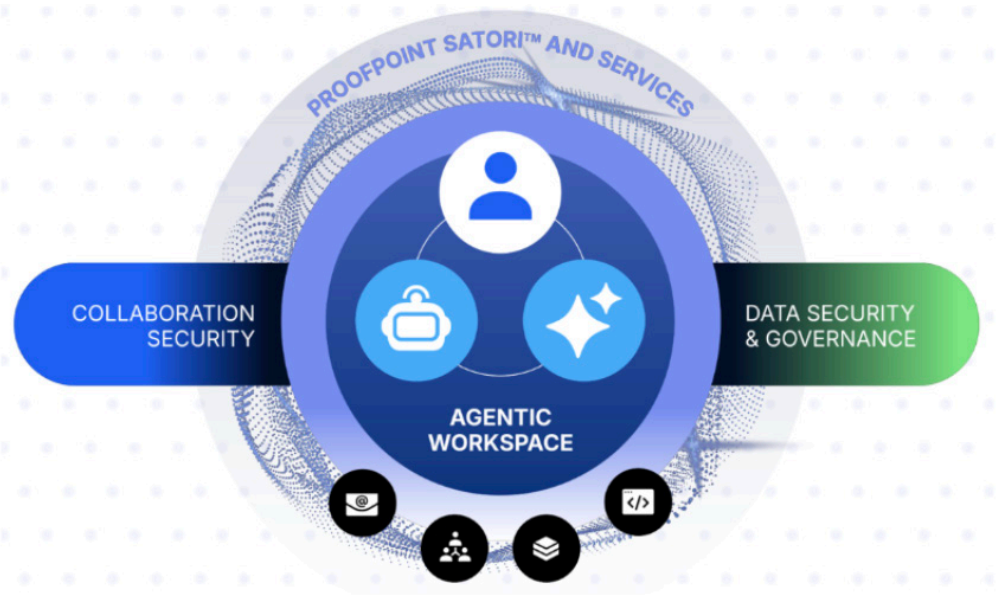


Figure 1. Proofpoint’s human-centric security layers to enhance Microsoft 365.

Customer outcomes and value realization

It’s common for organizations to use Microsoft’s protections at the gateway and then use Proofpoint’s protections at the mailbox.

Organizations that use Proofpoint to enhance their Microsoft 365 see measurable improvements in their security.

- They stop 27% more threats.
- Their likelihood of a major data breach is reduced by 75%.

These outcomes have a major financial impact. They translate into millions in cost savings because their teams spend less time on incident response, their employees stay productive, and their business avoids costly regulatory penalties.

Unlock the full potential of Microsoft 365 security. Learn how Proofpoint extends and enhances your protection.

www.proofpoint.com/us/compare/proofpoint-and-microsoft



About Proofpoint, Inc. Proofpoint, Inc. is a global leader in human- and agent-centric cybersecurity, securing how people, data and AI agents connect across email, cloud and collaboration tools. Proofpoint is a trusted partner to over 80 of the Fortune 100, over 10,000 large enterprises, and millions of smaller organizations in stopping threats, preventing data loss, and building resilience across people and AI workflows. Proofpoint’s collaboration and data security platform helps organizations of all sizes protect and empower their people while embracing AI securely and confidently. Learn more at www.proofpoint.com.

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