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Why choose Proofpoint Essentials as your Microsoft security partner

Advanced human-centric security for small and medium-sized businesses

Solutions

- Proofpoint Essentials— Email Security
- Proofpoint Essentials— Security Awareness

Features and benefits

- Protect against ransomware, email fraud and phishing
- Train employees to be more resilient to threats targeting them
- Reduce risk of data breaches and data loss
- Get stronger, more cost-effective protection
- Simplify administrative overhead with easy setup and a single user interface

Microsoft 365 has become the go-to collaboration platform for businesses, which is why it's now a prime target for cybercriminals with email as the most common initial access point. Threat actors focus on Microsoft because breaching a single account can open the door to millions of users. Their tactics evolve quickly, often faster than Microsoft's native security tools can adapt. Small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are especially vulnerable to these threats, so enhancing email security must be a top priority.

Defending Against Attacks That Target Microsoft

Smaller companies typically don't have the budget or manpower to deploy the sophisticated, layered security that larger organizations can afford. This makes them particularly vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks. What's more, Proofpoint research has shown that cybercriminals specifically target some businesses because they rely primarily on native Microsoft security.

Cybercriminals attack organizations through their employees for one simple reason: People are the weakest link in the security chain. That's because they're not only vulnerable to manipulation, but they can make simple mistakes.

The easiest way for attackers to reach employees is through email. Social engineering tactics enable them to bypass technical defenses and gain direct access to sensitive systems, steal data and scam funds. SMBs that rely on Microsoft native security remain at risk for:

- Advanced phishing threats
- Business email compromise (BEC)
- Malware like ransomware
- Threats delivered through QR codes
- Malicious URLs
- Telephone-oriented attacks (TOADs)

Enhancing Microsoft Security

Microsoft relies on traditional filtering techniques like IP reputation, volume and signature-based antivirus scans, which provide only basic protection. But as threat actors continue to innovate, these tools may not be able to keep up. High volume spam, threats hidden in complex link chains and fraud attempts are likely to get through. This not only increases your risk but also affects user productivity and adds to administrative overhead.

1/3

small businesses suffered cyberattack in 2024.

$250K+

average cost of cyberattack for small businesses.

3.5B+

emails scanned daily.

Proofpoint Essentials can help. It complements security features that are offered natively in Microsoft 365, effectively stopping the widest variety of advanced attacks. This includes business email compromise (BEC), email fraud and ransomware attacks. Not only does it stop more threats, but it also automatically removes email threats that might slip past your defenses. As a result, your team can focus on more important tasks.

Proofpoint Essentials makes powerful, enterprise-grade cybersecurity effortless. It doesn't matter how big or small your organization is you can still take full advantage of the benefits of Microsoft 365 while meeting your key security requirements.

Powerful AI-Driven Protection

Microsoft customers who want to strengthen their email security overwhelmingly choose Proofpoint. More than 85% of Fortune 100 companies, and more than 2 million customers worldwide, trust Proofpoint as their security partner. This is because Proofpoint stops 99.99% of email threats, spam and graymail.

The same advanced AI platform that protects these large enterprises also secures our SMB customers: Proofpoint Nexus®. It combines behavioral AI, relationship graphs, machine learning, computer vision and semantic analysis. It delivers better accuracy by learning from the threat data in the 3.5+ billion emails that we scan daily. As a result, it can stop attacks across the entire email lifecycle—before, during and after they're delivered to inboxes.

Easy Onboarding, Plug and Play

Proofpoint Essentials makes it easy for any organization to add extra protection with flexible deployment options. This lets you choose the architecture that works best for your unique security environment.

Integrated (API) Deployment. Tailored for Microsoft 365 environments, this is a simplified way to get powerful protection. Setup takes just a few clicks. And MX records don't need to be changed, which means you can protect your people faster.

Secure Email Gateway (SEG). A powerful MX-based setup, this option works well with most email providers. Plus, it offers you more ways to customize and configure your protection to meet your organization's needs.

Freedom of choice combined with out-of-the-box configurations make Proofpoint Essentials a truly "set it and forget it" experience.

Comprehensive and Cost-Effective

Proofpoint Essentials offers more than email security. It includes an entire platform of security tools that are specifically designed to meet the needs of smaller teams. As a result, SMBs can consolidate vendors, which leads to significant cost savings. Proofpoint Essentials' platform lets you:

- Secure your sensitive outbound information and prevent data loss

- Help change user behavior through security trainings

- Ensure compliance with email archiving

- Keep your business going during an outage with continuity tools

But the benefits of Proofpoint Essentials don't stop at consolidation. Fewer incidents mean less disruption, lower labor costs, and more time for teams to focus on high priority work. And with 1 in 3 small businesses hit by a cyberattack in 2024—costing over $250,000 on average—preventing just one incident can cover the cost of protection many times over. With Proofpoint, SMBs gain both peace of mind and meaningful bottom-line impact.

What's Included with Proofpoint Essentials

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Email Protection	Secure users' email inboxes with multilayered anti-spam and antivirus protection that stops a variety of known and unknown security threats.
Advanced Threat Detection	Defend against targeted attacks like complex malware, business email compromise, advanced phishing and more with AI-driven detection and continuous URL/attachment sandboxing.
Automated Remediation	Automatically remove malicious messages that use time-delay techniques or that may have been missed by the first security layers, saving significant admin time.
Security Awareness Training	Help users protect themselves, identify risk and improve cybersecurity behaviors with 900+ interactive training modules and thousands of real-world phishing simulations.
Data Loss Prevention and Encryption	Catch sensitive data like PII as well as health and financial information before it leaves the organization with automated blocking, outbound email encryption and filtering.
Email Continuity	Keep business running during unexpected email outages for up to 30 days with built-in continuity features.
Email Archiving	Ensure compliance with safe keeping of historical emails dating back 10 years with easy recovery and minimal data storage.

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