

FIVE THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN A CLOUD SOLUTION FOR YOUR PRACTICE



Adopting the cloud in health is not so much a question of “if” anymore as it is a question of “when.” With all the hype and confusion over the many cloud productivity solutions in the market, how do you align your decision around what matters most to your healthcare organization?

Microsoft Office 365 brings together integrated online versions of Exchange for email and calendaring, SharePoint for content management and collaboration, and Lync for unified communications along with our familiar Office Professional Plus suite. It is designed to help meet healthcare organizations needs for patient centered collaboration, robust security and adherence to privacy regulations, including full support for a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement. Microsoft Office 365 provides the user experience, productivity, and IT Management capabilities that healthcare enterprises have come to know and trust for mission critical applications while affording decision-makers the flexibility in meeting challenging business scenarios through implementation and licensing options.

Checklist	Questions to Ask	Office 365
1. Security, Compliance and HIPAA/HITECH Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will the cloud productivity solution provider sign a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement (BAA) to ensure a covered entity’s electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) is managed as required by Federal law? - Does the cloud productivity solution provider’s BAA meet the healthcare industry’s requirements? - Are encryption services offered? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microsoft wants to be your Trusted Data Steward—to help you achieve and maintain HIPAA compliance, security, and privacy of your data—while realizing the maximum benefits of cloud computing. - Microsoft implements HIPAA physical, technical, and administrative safeguards and complies with Breach Notification as required by HITECH. - Microsoft’s Business Associate Agreement was created through a collaborative effort with academic medical centers, government agencies, providers, and health plans to ensure broad acceptance in the healthcare industry. - Microsoft offers the ability to add automated, policy-based email encryption to Office 365 through Microsoft ForeFront Protection for Exchange and Microsoft Exchange Hosted Encryption.

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2. Privacy - control over your own data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How easy is it to control permissions to ensure only those who need to view ePHI can do so?- How easy is it to terminate the service and delete my data from the cloud?- Will the cloud productivity solution provider use my data for advertising or other commercial purposes without my consent?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- With Office 365, you own your data—you have continuous access, you control who has access, and you are always able to remove your data from the cloud without needing to give Microsoft prior notice.- Microsoft respects your privacy; use of your data is limited to providing the service you requested:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We do not analyze your data to serve up advertising or treat your data as a product to sell to others.- We do not data mine your documents to improve our analytics.
3. Cloud on your terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does the cloud productivity solution provider offer choice and flexibility in cloud productivity and collaboration options?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Microsoft productivity platform has variety of services and plans that can be deployed through on-premise, web-based, or hybrid options. This flexibility adds tremendous value as you change and grow your business.- Office 365 has low cost offerings with the right features at the right price for healthcare users who till now had little or no access to content and messaging capabilities, such as clinical staff, part time or agency workers.- Specifically designed to enable organizations to realize cost savings and minimize risk without sacrificing capabilities.- Whether assimilating a merged organization with outdated productivity tools or integrating private physician practices using non-compliant consumer cloud services, you can optimize a move to the cloud with the flexibility of staged deployments or hybrid scenarios.- Healthcare organizations often work within tight budgets so Microsoft gives you the option to select cloud offerings you need now and pay through subscription-based access.

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4. Business class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does the cloud productivity solution provider have a history of enterprise experience in healthcare?- Do they offer solutions for business customers that are distinct from their consumer offerings?- Can I leverage my existing investments in software and training?- Will mission-critical data and services be available and supported 24/7?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For more than 20 years, Microsoft has been providing healthcare organizations with enterprise-ready productivity solutions that simplify the way people communicate, gain insights, and find information.- Office 365 is the cloud equivalent of the familiar, powerful, and enterprise-tested Microsoft Exchange, SharePoint, Lync and Office Professional Plus.- Microsoft enterprise cloud offerings are kept logically separate from its consumer online services.- With Office 365, you can leverage familiarity with existing Microsoft products to make the transition to the cloud without enduring a steep learning curve for your users.- Microsoft Office and Office 365 enable you to maintain original document formatting, watermarks, and signatures across devices and locations, the loss of which can cause staff frustration when using consumer cloud productivity options.- Office 365 comes with a financially backed Service Level Agreement with 99.9% uptime guarantee and 24/7, IT-level phone support
5. Patient-centered care strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How does the cloud productivity solution support patient-centered care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- From physician consults to publishing quality and performance data, rich-feature offerings meet a user's need for collaboration tools to better connect with people, collect and share clinical insights to improve decisions and enhance patient care processes.- Microsoft Lync is a unified communication platform that is integrated with Office 365 and allows federation of identity between organizations. This allows for presence, messaging, video and audio conferencing and online collaboration in a secure environment across the patient care value chain, fully integrated within the Office experience that your employees are familiar with.

Call to
action 

Microsoft Office 365 meets healthcare organizations' needs for patient-centered collaboration, user productivity, business class capabilities, robust security, and support for protected health information security and privacy regulations, memorialized through signature of HIPAA Business Associate Agreements.

Find out more at www.MicrosoftBusinessHub.com/healthcare.

Call 701-433-4471 or email health@microsoft.com.