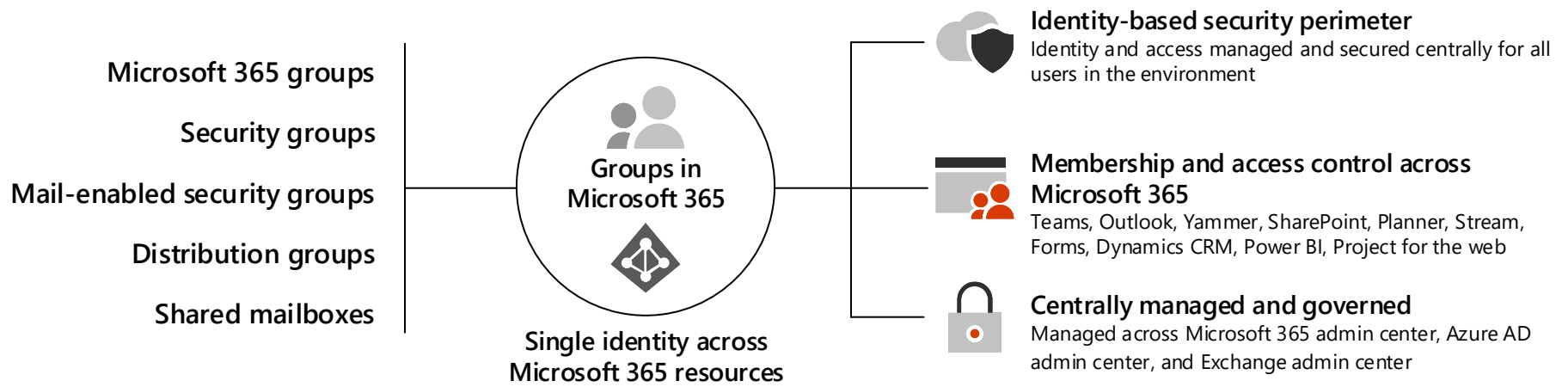**Microsoft**

Groups in Microsoft 365 for IT Architects

What IT architects need to know about groups in Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 includes five types of groups that are used to manage access to resources and for communication. Group membership is based on Azure Active Directory accounts. As an admin, your team creates some groups to manage conditional access, devices, and other resources.

Many groups are created by members of your organization for collaboration using Teams, SharePoint, and other collaboration tools. While membership in these groups can be highly dynamic, you still manage the underlying Azure AD accounts, including enforcing conditional access, using Azure AD Identity Protection, and other controls to protect your organization.

- Microsoft 365 groups
- Security groups
- Mail-enabled security groups
- Distribution groups
- Shared mailboxes

Groups in Microsoft 365

Single identity across Microsoft 365 resources

Identity-based security perimeter
Identity and access managed and secured centrally for all users in the environment

Membership and access control across Microsoft 365
Teams, Outlook, Yammer, SharePoint, Planner, Stream, Forms, Dynamics CRM, Power BI, Project for the web

Centrally managed and governed
Managed across Microsoft 365 admin center, Azure AD admin center, and Exchange admin center

Types of groups and where they are created

Groups can be created in several of the admin centers and by users from within apps.

Type of group	Security group	Microsoft 365 group	Mail-enabled security group	Distribution group	Shared mailbox
	Used for granting access to resources and for managing devices.	Used for collaboration. Includes a group email and shared workspaces.	Includes the ability to send mail to a dynamic group. Cannot be dynamically managed. Cannot contain devices.	Used for sending notifications to a group of people.	Used when multiple people need to access the same mailbox, such as a support email address.

Where groups can be created

- Azure AD
- Microsoft 365 admin center
- Exchange admin center
- Outlook
- Teams
- SharePoint
- Planner
- Yammer
- Stream
- Power BI (classic)
- Roadmap
- Project for the web

Managing groups

Groups can be managed across admin centers. Controls vary depending on the scope of the admin center. For example, Azure AD provides control over dynamic group membership and licensing.

The Exchange admin center provides the most controls for managing mail associated with groups.

Manage all group types	Manage most groups types	
Microsoft 365 admin center	**Azure AD admin center**	**Exchange admin center**
• Sort on group type • Manage group members and owners • Create a friendly email address when creating mail-enabled groups • Edit the email address for distribution groups and mail-enabled security groups • Edit name and description • Edit privacy and subscription settings • Allow or prevent outside senders • Delete groups	• Manage all group types, except shared mailbox groups • Manage group members and owners • Manage dynamic group membership • Assign licenses and applications • Assign Azure resources • Review activity (access reviews, audit logs)	• Manage all group types, except security groups • Manage group members and owners • Manage where messages are accepted and rejected from • Allow delegates to send mail from the group • Change the language for group notifications • Manage additional mail settings for mail-enabled groups.

Governance for admin-created groups

Conditional access	Use Azure AD to manage access to Microsoft 365 groups access to Microsoft 365 services and other SaaS applications.
Group-based licensing	Create security groups in Azure AD to assign licenses based on groups.

Device management	Create security groups in Azure AD to manage devices.
Azure resources	Create security groups in Azure AD for managing access to Azure resources.

Collaboration spaces for Microsoft 365 groups

Collaboration spaces for Microsoft 365 groups differ based on where the Microsoft 365 group is created. Note that Teams and Yammer cannot be connected to the same group.

While users can create Microsoft 365 groups in Outlook, other apps create them behind the scenes when users create Teams, SharePoint team sites, Planner plans, and Yammer groups.

Where the group is created	Services provisioned						
	Inbox and calendar	Power BI workspace	SharePoint site and OneNote notebook	Stream	Planner	Teams	Yammer
Azure AD Admin created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Microsoft 365 admin Admin created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Outlook User created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Teams App created	◖	●	●	●	●	●	○
SharePoint App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Planner App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Yammer App created	◖	●	●	●	●	○	●
Stream App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Power BI (classic) App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Project for the web App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○
Roadmap App created	●	●	●	●	●	⬤	○

● Auto-provisioned   ◖ Auto-provisioned, but hidden   ⬤ Not auto-provisioned, but can be added   ○ Not available