

BPOS versus Office 365

Microsoft have just released version 2 of their Cloud bundle package. It's called Office 365 and it supersedes Microsoft BPOS (Business productivity online suite). There are a few more bells and whistles contained in the bundle package and the whole back-end infrastructure runs on their 2010 server software, which is an upgrade from their 2007 server software.

1. [Office 365](#)

You can purchase the software as a bundle package or buy it as separates, which is typically the same stance Microsoft has always taken selling it software(s).

The key change is that being cloud based software, it is hosted on Microsoft Infrastructure, which is located in Dublin or Amsterdam for EMEA. They house it on 3 football pitches worth of servers in massive datacentres.

The other fundamental change for Microsoft rather than buying licenses outright you simply subscribe and pay monthly for what you use. Many software companies are developing their own products into multi-tenanted applications (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Capsule CRM, Salesforce) and serving them up for customers to securely login in with an email and password to their own portal, whilst only paying a small monthly subscription, rather than buying the software outright. This clearly helps clients cash flows and they never have to buy a server again as Microsoft will upgrade their infrastructure free of charge as the new versions get released.

2. [Office 365 out of the box](#)

- [Exchange](#) (email and standard user gets 25Gb or email mailbox storage)
- [SharePoint](#) (collaboration intranet and extranet web sites)
- [Lync](#) (instant messenger tool with live meetings and web demos)
- [Office web apps](#) (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and One note. These are a cut down version of the full Office desktop product with less functionality but available to access on a web browser from anywhere in the world, therefore not requiring you to be on your own desktop)
- [Office pro 2010](#) (or 2011 for Macs). This is the desktop product but links in to the Office 365 backend so you have a client tool that synchronizes with the Cloud applications and you get the same usual desktop feature rich functionality.

4. What are the pricing plans?

You can purchase the bundle packages in various plans and prices are contained in the [Office 365 overview document](#).

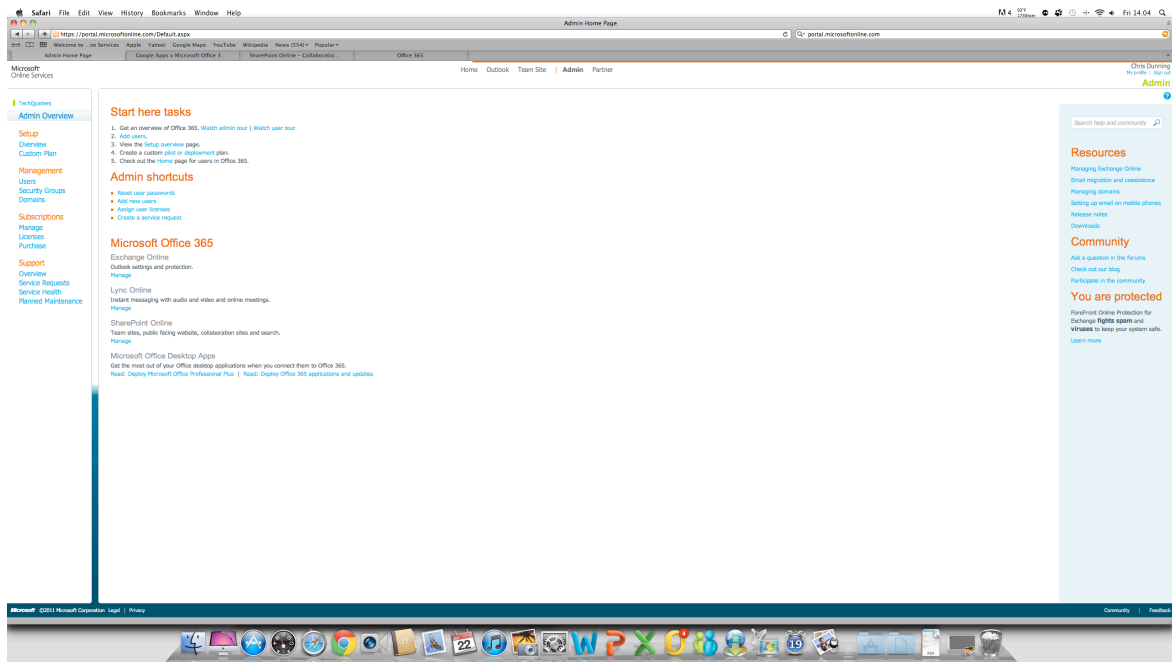
5. What are the differences to BPOS?

- Coherence
 - o Much more unified portal
 - o Links embedded in Office 2010 desktop product to the online portal
- [Office 2010](#) (2011 for Mac)
 - o You can purchase this license either in the bundle or singularly for £8/month
 - o It has folders in Outlook connecting to SharePoint
 - o Word and Excel

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- [Single sign-on](#) through 1 portal, then you access everything from there
- Much better [SharePoint services](#) with templates and web libraries you can configure for intranet or extranet usage
- User access through Federated services
 - o This allows coexisting of onsite Exchange servers to link with their user active directory to the Office 365 servers. If you can stand it, this is a great video explaining this. [Federated services](#)
- [Office web apps](#) are a cut down version of the Office product. They contain Word, Excel, PowerPoint and One note.
- [One note](#) is a real-time collaboration tool for meetings
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The single sign on takes you into this portal screen. Note the Mac connection in the window happily connecting with Office 365 and no beach ball in sight!



6. [Requirements](#) for software and hardware to run 365

You cannot connect to Office 365 unless you have upgraded your desktop to the required [standards](#).

7. [Microsoft Office 365 versus Google Apps](#)

A quick note about this is to say that some people may consider these two to be competitors and whilst they provide similar email and documents services, they have distinctly different strategies. Microsoft has opted for the marketing of their crown jewels desktop office products which link to the Cloud backend whereas Google are fully cloud based. Microsoft is banking on most companies using Office already and having it installed on their existing desktops, so making the transition to 365 more seamless.

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I'm sure in time Microsoft will migrate the whole of their office products onto the web and with full functionality but they are certainly pushing the Hybrid model to date.

8. Should you upgrade from BPOS to Office 365?

You have to upgrade within 12 months of the release of Office 365, so basically by July 2012. There is no hard push from Microsoft to do so and TechQuarters will help you migrate seamlessly from the old 2007 infrastructure to the new 2010.

There are a number of tools we use to migrate customers and [planning the migration](#) is key. It is not a simply switch over and there you go as your present data resides on a completely different set of servers and infrastructure with BPOS.

9. Some of the [frequently asked questions](#) can be seen here.

Also here's a [short video on Office 365](#).

10. Next Step

If you are interested in what Office 365 can do for you, please don't hesitate to call us on 0800 148 8001 or email tellmemore@techquarters.com

Have a great day!

Yours sincerely

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