



Ease the Move to Office 365

with Ivanti® File Director and Microsoft OneDrive for Business

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Executive Summary

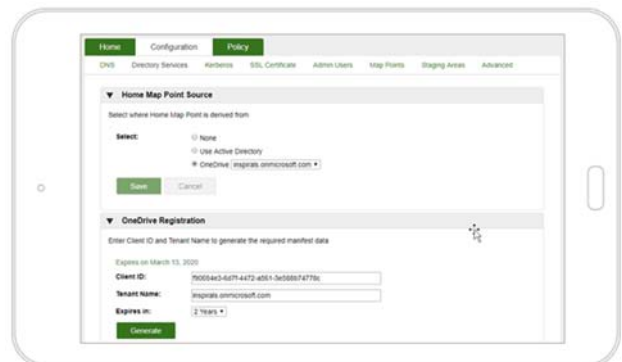
Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) promises reduced data center costs, predictable and flexible license models, and a reduction in IT infrastructure and maintenance expenses. It is obvious why organizations of all shapes and sizes are adopting it at increasing speed.

In practice, however, migration to cloud-delivered storage and applications has challenges that reduce user acceptance, risk the loss of corporate data, and cause security, performance and compliance issues.

With many organizations having moved, or looking to move to Office 365, how do they reduce the business risk associated with jumping into the unknown?

Ivanti® File Director allows organizations to gain maximum value from Office 365's 1TB per user of free OneDrive for Business storage, delivering on the promise of lower data center storage costs. It places IT back in control of user files and provides secure user access to files from any device, in any location.

Costly data-sprawl issues and maintenance of complex virtual private networks can be eliminated, reducing IT costs and complexity while simplifying the end-user experience.



Clattering Towards the Cloud

The world of Enterprise IT evolves constantly. New innovations and state-of-the-art technologies mean organizations struggle to keep up with IT trends. Huge waves of organizations are becoming attracted to the Cloud. Many vendors entice straggling businesses, like moths, towards the bright lights of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) solutions.

These cloud-hosted options appear to offer the nectar that many organizations are searching for in terms of cost savings and ease of use. However, could rushing to the cloud with unwavering, self-destructive attraction cause businesses to become disoriented and end up flapping about in the dark?

On the flip-side, staying with outdated technology because "it's good enough" may suffice for the short-term. Inevitably however, it will cause future issues with potential

incompatibility, security, and productivity that could affect consumers of these old-fashioned on-premises services.

A staggered move to the cloud via a hybrid of on-premises and cloud-based solutions can help cut maintenance costs of locally hosted servers, while offering a more gentle, fluent, and tranquil journey towards a full-cloud environment.

Many organizations looking to implement this approach have started by adopting Office 365, predominantly to migrate their mail services to the cloud first. This can bring many benefits, especially in terms of associated cloud storage for files. But even when adopting a more staggered, cautious method to cloud migration, organizations must still be aware of the business-disruption risks to IT systems and services and ensure user productivity isn't affected.

Why is Office 365 So Popular?

Office 365 has more than 120 million active users already, with more joining every day. What is it that makes Office 365 so attractive?

Flexible licensing

By moving to Office 365, organizations can instantly scale their license usage either up or down according to their user headcount, providing predictable and flexible up-front costs. This is especially attractive for seasonal businesses or educational facilities where user demand grows or diminishes regularly. Plus, if numbers increase, there's no expensive new hardware required to accommodate the growth in headcount. You literally pay for what you need.

And since each Office 365 user is entitled to 1TB of free OneDrive for Business cloud storage, ensuring that your on-premises data center has enough storage space for all your user files is a distant concern.

Work from anywhere, on any device

Office 365 offers true cross-platform support; users can access emails, files, and company data from any device, in any location that has Internet access. Users gain choice, flexibility, and the ability to increase productivity.

Reduce data-center storage costs

Besides the obvious savings of moving Exchange and SharePoint servers out of the data center, Office 365's 1TB per user of OneDrive for Business cloud storage means that organizations can eliminate costly on-premises data center file storage.

The average per-GB cost difference between on-premises and cloud-based storage is \$1.95¹. Scale that up to hundreds or even thousands of users, each with many GBs of data, and

you can see why moving files to cloud storage would typically pay dividends.

¹ *Microsoft Azure Calculator*: <https://www.tco.microsoft.com/Home/Calculator>

And the fact that Microsoft gives each Office 365 user 1TB of free storage means those costs savings become incredible.

Instant updates and bug fixes

New fixes, features, or upgrades to Office services are delivered automatically, reducing the downtime traditionally associated with patching on-premises servers. Office 365 endpoint applications are also updated continually through Microsoft's Click-to-Run delivery, reducing the management overhead for IT departments.

Enterprise-grade security and backup

Office 365 applications are accessed via 128-bit SSL/TSL encryption, ensuring secure communications and data protection in transit. Exchange Online uses Forefront Online Protection for Exchange to protect mail messages from malware and includes robust anti-spam filtering and antivirus checking.

What's more, OneDrive for Business cloud storage ensures users' files are stored in the Microsoft Cloud where they are backed up and protected automatically. Organizations gain peace of mind and business continuity in the event of a device loss or site outage.

Sharing and collaboration

Office 365 provides each user with a 100GB mailbox and supports much larger attachments than standard, on-premises Exchange email servers—up to 25MB. Smaller businesses can also take advantage of advanced features such as online meetings, instant messaging, and document collaboration through SharePoint Online at low cost to the organization.

No VPN required

When connecting to an Office 365 tenant, users are routed to the most appropriate or closest Microsoft Cloud site. Users are not required to connect to corporate networks via a VPN, which reduces complexity for users and maintenance and support for IT departments.

It All Sounds Too Good to be True!

Clearly this is a compelling set of benefits, but is it all as simple as it appears to be?

The promise of free cloud storage with OneDrive for Business is an extremely compelling reason to make the jump to Office 365. However, migrating user files away from storage in data centers and on local devices often proves more difficult.

Lack of IT control

As soon as OneDrive for Business is rolled out to the masses, an IT department that implements the solution effectively hands over control of the keys to its users. Indeed, it's the user that decides which files get synced and backed up from each endpoint they work from. This means files can get missed and user data can be inaccessible between devices, which can lead to user dissatisfaction and an increase in help desk calls.

In addition, there's no way for IT to control network utilization when users are syncing their files with OneDrive for Business. A heavily loaded network could not only have a detrimental effect on the Office 365 service, but also on other cloud hosted services, affecting user productivity.

Furthermore, with OneDrive for Business, there's no integral method to monitor file access or generate audit reports based on user-file storage. This makes it very difficult for IT to plan for file sync and migration to the cloud or to scale up when required.

Not using the OneDrive Folder? No files!

Any files saved locally to the user's device, outside of the OneDrive client folder, don't get synced or migrated to the cloud. This is especially bad if the user has more than one device because it could lead to unmanaged file data sprawl and even loss if users and their applications don't save their critical files to the OneDrive client folder.

Oh, you want to sync existing file shares? Sorry.

OneDrive for Business doesn't provide migration of user files from network shares in your data center. This means data located in your existing on-premises storage can't be migrated easily without copying or moving it manually to local OneDrive client folders on users' devices. This makes complete

migration of all file data to the cloud difficult, prone to error, and will likely introduce file loss.

Users need to change their behavior

Users that are familiar with saving work files in a particular location must now ensure they save their files into the OneDrive client folder for them to be synced to OneDrive for Business storage in the cloud. Changes in user behavior reduce productivity, increase help desk calls, and can result in lost files and user frustration.

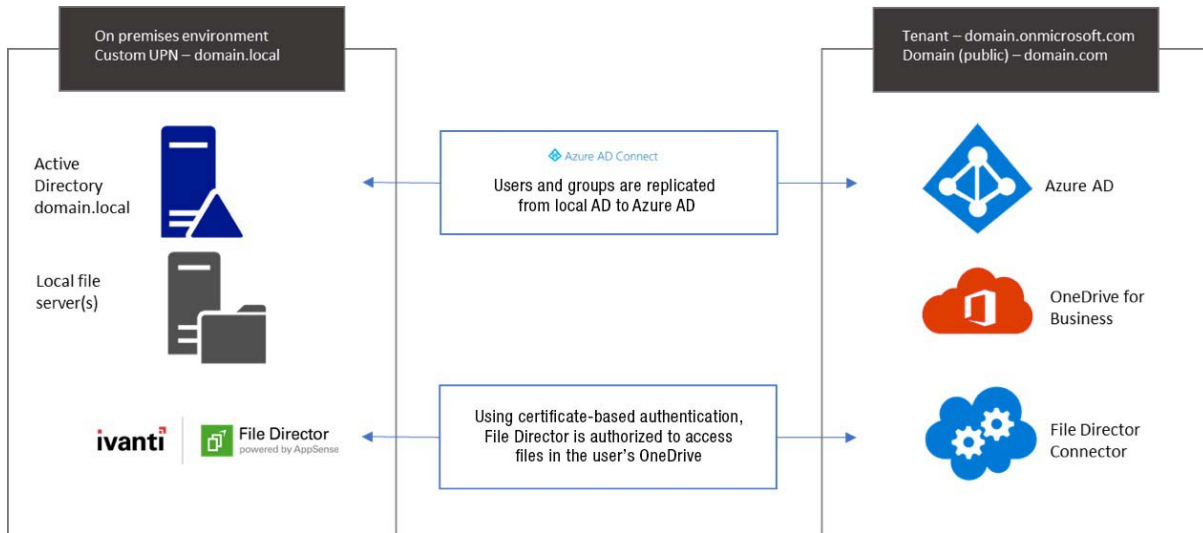
To alleviate this, folder redirection or symbolic links could be configured by the IT department on common folders such as Documents, Desktop, Downloads, or Pictures to redirect saved content to the OneDrive Client folder. However, this adds additional complexity, doesn't work with some Windows services and applications, and requires additional configuration on every endpoint.

Ease the Move to Office 365 and OneDrive for Business

The Ivanti File Director OneDrive Connector solution enables IT to capture, control, and audit each Office 365 user's 1TB of OneDrive storage. The Connector uses File Director's granular sync engine and In-Location Sync capabilities to migrate user files smoothly to OneDrive cloud storage, irrespective of where the files are located, be it on end-user devices or from on-premises file shares.

The user's everyday Windows experience when accessing files and folders is totally unaffected.

How Ivanti File Director Works



Ivanti File Director acts as a secure broker between user endpoints, on-premises file shares, and OneDrive for Business storage, enabling effortless migration and back-up of user files to the cloud.

With File Director, IT departments can now unlock the 1TB of free storage offered to each user of Office 365, retain control of that storage, and deliver a great user experience. The following unique capabilities within File Director enable organizations to adopt OneDrive for Business cloud storage seamlessly:

Total sync control

File Director's granular sync mechanism allows users' files to be synced to OneDrive for Business storage and to every endpoint—either in the background, on-demand, or in real time. IT can control which files sync by type, age, size, and path to ensure only relevant content is uploaded to the cloud.

These elective-sync methods allow users access to files as needed, without incurring costly storage or bandwidth penalties associated with limited local disk resources or slow network links.

File Director's efficient delta sync mechanism ensures large files, including in-use Outlook PST files, can be synced from endpoints, sending only relevant changes. This reduces network traffic and sync time significantly and provides complete endpoint coverage of users' data requirements.

In-location sync

In-location sync ensures users' files are synced to OneDrive for Business storage without moving the original files. Files within a user's existing profile are synced automatically from their current location, for example, from the Desktop, Documents, Pictures, or Downloads folders, to the cloud, therefore eliminating data sprawl and enabling centralized back-up of user data.

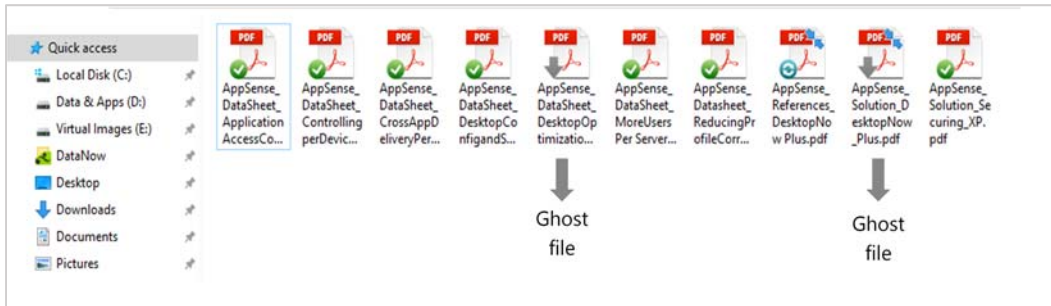
Users continue to save their files locally on their endpoint, in the usual folders, without having to move or copy them to a specific folder for them to be synced. This eliminates the need for user re-training, as all file-sync and migration actions are imperceptible to the user, and it ensures a native user experience.

Mapped drive emulation

With typical mapped drives, when users go offline, their files become inaccessible unless a VPN network is used. This can lead to user dissatisfaction, loss of productivity, or additional complexity associated with VPN connections and support.

File Director's Mapped Drive Emulation enables users to view and access files on mapped drives, even when offline. All content is searchable and files that have been accessed prior to going offline remain accessible for viewing and editing. Any files that are edited offline are then synced automatically to OneDrive for Business storage as soon as a network connection becomes available.

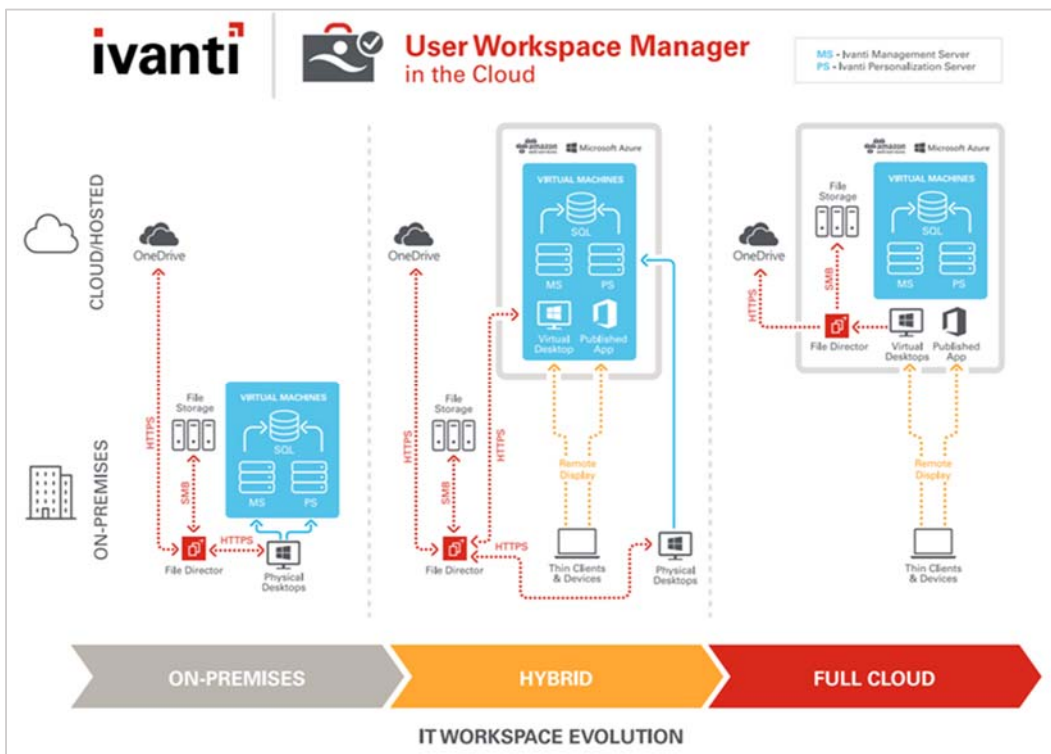
Ghost and placeholder files



The sync mechanism included with File Director enables users to view files held centrally in your OneDrive for Business cloud storage without having to download the files locally first. This offers huge savings on network usage, particularly for devices being used over limited bandwidth connections, and allows users to search files while offline.

Resumable uploads and downloads for all file types also ensure against data loss in the event of network outages or poor connectivity.

Hardened data center virtual appliance



File Director is a hardened virtual appliance that can be used on-premises or within a hybrid or full-cloud environment.

By using File Director's virtual appliance, IT gains total control of user files, eliminates network traffic, reduces risk, and improves compliance to strict privacy and network control requirements.

Cross-platform access

File Director provides advanced clients for many endpoint platforms: Windows, Mac, iPhone, iPad, even Android. A web client is also available for devices that don't have a supported client. This enables users to access their files from their preferred device, heightening the user experience and providing fast, secure access to files on OneDrive for Business storage.

The Benefits of Ivanti File Director

Ivanti File Director helps organizations reap the benefits of Office 365's free 1TB per user of OneDrive for Business storage. This simplifies the move to the cloud and helps user adoption of Office 365.

- **Reduce data center storage costs:** By syncing files via File Director to cloud-hosted OneDrive for Business storage, organizations can reduce the cost of on-premises storage requirements and potentially eliminate the need for on-premises storage completely. Organizations can save thousands of dollars in infrastructure and maintenance costs.
- **Put IT back in control:** With File Director acting as an on-premises or cloud-hosted broker to OneDrive for Business, IT has complete visibility of how OneDrive storage is being used. And by providing a native user experience without the need for special folders or awkward redirection, users no longer need to turn to alternative shadow IT solutions, such as Dropbox, which are inherently insecure and could lead to data leakage and compliance issues.
- **Anytime, anywhere access to corporate files:** With native File Director clients for Windows, MacOS, iOS, and Android devices, users can now access their corporate files securely from their preferred device in any location, and sync data back to OneDrive for Business as required. This offers users flexibility and choice and improves productivity.
- **Eliminate Virtual Private Networks (VPNs):** By acting as a secure broker between corporate endpoints and OneDrive for Business Storage, File Director frees organizations from having to implement complex VPNs that can cause connection headaches for users and support issues for IT. File Director also helps to eliminate the costs associated with implementing and maintaining VPNs.
- **Eliminate data sprawl:** By using File Director's In-Location Sync functionality, organizations can now ensure that corporate data saved locally to user endpoints is

synced automatically, in-situ, to centralized OneDrive for Business storage, eliminating the issue of data sprawl and ensuring all user data can be backed up successfully. This can save organizations huge amounts of time and money in downtime, lost data, and compliance issues.

- **Simplify the migration to Windows 10:** Through its unique data-sync options, File Director not only enables the backup of user files to OneDrive for Business storage, but also empowers organizations to migrate user data effortlessly from legacy operating systems to Windows 10 endpoints, be they physical or virtual desktops.

Conclusion

Ivanti File Director empowers organizations to realize the benefits of Office 365 and OneDrive for Business by reducing, or eliminating, the IT infrastructure and maintenance costs associated with storing users' corporate files on-premises.

Acting as a secure broker between endpoints and OneDrive for Business cloud storage, locally saved user files are synced seamlessly to the cloud, eliminating the problem of data sprawl and allowing corporate data to be backed up centrally.

User files can be synced down to any endpoint either in the background, in real time, or on-demand, providing secure file access to users irrespective of their device or location. This enables organizations to adopt Office 365 for mail services, collaboration, and file storage, vastly reducing the costs associated with perpetual software licensing and support for on-premises IT infrastructure.



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