Extending M365 Value With Egnyte

Microsoft 365 has long been the standard in business productivity and collaboration. With recent shifts in how companies work (the growth in remote and dispersed employees), M365 has become even more ubiquitous and the usage of Microsoft Teams has exploded.

However, no one tool meets all of the requirements of digital businesses. And many IT leaders are finding that what's included as part of Microsoft's cloud suite is not enough to support the governance and more sophisticated collaboration needs of their organization. The usage trajectory of M365 - and the exponentially growing content sprawl across various cloud repositories - has led to new challenges that are costing companies money, slowing down productivity and putting data at risk.

Egnyte has helped more than 12,000 companies running M365 govern and simplify the administration of their file services, and create a cohesive, best-of-breed user experience with the least amount of admin overhead. We've found - and have heard from customers - that using Egnyte with M365 has saved days, if not weeks, in lost time, untold amounts of frustration and eliminated many security concerns.

Pairing Egnyte with Microsoft 365 has three key advantages for you and your business:

Lower Cost

Simplification of Operations and User Experience

Improved Governance and Data Security

Lower Cost

Companies adopt M365 hoping, in part, to reduce costs associated with the creation, storage and management of their business content. Unfortunately for many, their Microsoft estate, including SharePoint, OneDrive and Teams, has quite the opposite effect.

This is caused by:

- The need for specialized resources and employees to manage unstructured content stored in M365 SharePoint/OneDrive/Teams sites.
- IT admins having to spend more time triaging and fielding support requests due to a complex and fractured user experience.
- The need to write and maintain custom scripts to fill gaps in native reporting and management tools.
- The inability to retire current physical infrastructure, as SharePoint and OneDrive are not hybrid (cloud and on-premises) solutions and cannot replace file servers for local caching.

- The SharePoint file architecture causes content fragmentation, as data is housed in different repositories for OneDrive, SharePoint and Teams and has restrictive limits on the storage of documents (25 TB max per site collection) and in permissions management after you store 100K files.
- Additional storage costs are often incurred for larger data sets as Microsoft only includes 1TB + 10GB per user in M365 plans.

Egnyte extends the value of M365 to address these issues by:

- Replacing many existing file solutions with a single content repository.
- Requiring no specialized resources or employees to administer.
- Dedicated support at no additional cost.
- Providing unmatched training and assistance with set up for end users and IT administrators.

- Automating the transfer of files and folders from all repositories to a low-cost Egnyte or Azure repository without impacting governance, usability or visibility.
- Enabling greater scalability and storage limits both for companies and users.

Simplification of Operations and User Experience

Unfortunately, the administration of M365 environments can be overly complex and burdensome on IT staff. Often, this hampers the ability to focus on the core technology needs of the business by creating the need for additional configuration, training and time spent administering M365.

This is caused by the fact that:

- The core architecture of SharePoint and how Microsoft presents content in M365 is cumbersome to use and prone to performance issues (folders/libraries with over 100,000 files often experience sync performance issues).
- Technical professionals must understand how Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive integrate with and depend on each other.
- Users spin up new Teams environments leading to content sprawl across Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive, creating a burden on IT admins who need visibility into their data.
- Content proliferation and disparate repositories mean users will inevitably use the wrong or outdated content or create duplicate content when they can't find what they need.

- Little control or ability to customize your file sharing solution in any compelling way.
- SharePoint and OneDrive do not handle large files well.
- SharePoint and OneDrive do not cater to users who are used to working from a mapped drive.
- File locking is not compatible with local SharePoint sync; if check-in/out is enabled all locally-synced files are read-only.
- No hybrid appliance means no access to company data when the network is down.

Egnyte extends the value of M365 to address these issues by:

- Providing easy to administer, turn-key services right out of the box.
- Creating end-user training (Egnyte University), a UI and ease of use that are unmatched.
- Enabling global file locking.
- Creating a single, centralized repository that eliminates file-versioning concerns.
- Providing integrations with commonly used and industry-specific software.

- Syncing to a centralized cloud repository continuously, so users can always access the latest version, eliminating the time lost searching for the most current version of a file.
- Employing a hybrid architecture that gives users the ability to access files even with limited or no internet connectivity.
- Using mapped drive and folder structure resembles what staff are used to, accelerating deployment and adoption.

Improved Governance and Data Security

Governance and security are the barriers to entry for any file-storage solution, be it cloud-based, on-premises or hybrid. There is always a need to protect critical data against threats like ransomware, while monitoring for unusual activity and enforcing compliance and identifying where sensitive data lives in your repository. When data is sprawled across multiple M365 repositories, it's near impossible to do this manually leaving your content vulnerable to ransomware, attacks, and internal threats.

This is because:

- Depending on Microsoft license level (E3 v E5), customers may have limited ability to scan repositories outside of M365. With advanced licensing, requires additional tools (MCAS) and added complexity.
- Data sprawl across repositories and complexity of security prevent quick response to risks or attacks.

- M365 reporting and dashboards are limited and typically require custom Powershell scripting or configuration to identify and take action on key threat activity.
- The inability to ensure the right audiences have access to sensitive information as new Teams are constantly being created.

Egnyte extends the value of M365 to address these issues by:

- Scanning data across linked repositories for sensitive content automatically.
- Providing pre-configured and compliance-friendly or custom classification parameters.

- Monitoring of all content sources continuously to automatically identify sharing and permissions issues, eliminate non-secure links, audit and streamline permissions and spot unusual activity.
- Enabling real-time visibility into what is being shared by whom, while users retain the freedom to work how they want, in the application they need.