

# Managing compliance in the cloud

Meeting compliance obligations in a dynamic regulatory environment is complex. We are here to help you navigate this ever-changing landscape.

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# When it comes to your data, it all starts with trust

If you ask security, compliance, and IT professionals what keeps them up at night, the most common response is simple: data. It's just one word, but it carries so much weight for organizations these days.

PROTECT

DETECT

RESPOND

An aerial view of a city at dusk, with a blue network overlay of glowing nodes and lines connecting various points across the cityscape. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and the city lights are visible in the foreground and background.

# 175

**zettabytes of data  
will be created by 2025<sup>1</sup>**

1 zettabyte = 1 billion terabytes

The amount of data being created, shared, and stored today has grown exponentially. Adding to that, the requirements to keep it all secure, private, and compliant are more complex than ever before.

From managing hybrid environments to keeping up with regulations, it's vitally important you trust the partner that handles your data.



**“Trust isn’t something  
you count on, it’s  
something you earn.”**

*Brad Smith*

*President and Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft*

The fact is, there’s no single solution to mitigate all the data threats that organizations face. This is why we offer the Microsoft Trust Center, a central location for the latest information, news, and best practices in security, privacy, and compliance.

Microsoft 365 admins can also find information about how to run security, privacy, and compliance assessments for their organization within the admin center dashboard.

# Before you entrust your most valuable information to Microsoft, get your questions and concerns answered

Here are four common questions regarding products and services offered by Microsoft.

- 01 How does Microsoft protect and govern data?
- 02 What is a shared responsibility model?
- 03 How do you assess if your organization is compliant?
- 04 Are Microsoft products certified compliant by current standards?

# 01

## How does Microsoft protect and govern data?

At Microsoft, we believe privacy is a fundamental human right for everyone, from individuals to enterprise-level organizations.

What does this mean? First and foremost, you own your data. Microsoft will use your customer data only to provide the services agreed upon, and for purposes that are compatible with those services.

As for data governance, it's a shared effort. Our customers control how data is classified and labeled, and use Microsoft 365 tools to help them manage and monitor data while meeting regulatory requirements.

### We follow six key privacy principles:



**Control** – We will put you in control of your privacy with easy-to-use tools and clear choices.



**Transparency** – We will be transparent about data collection and use, so you can make informed decisions.



**Security** – We will protect the data you entrust to us through strong security and encryption.



**Strong legal protection** – We will respect your local privacy laws and fight for legal protection of your privacy as a fundamental human right.



**No content-based targeting** – We will not use your email, chat, files, or other personal content to target ads to you.



**Benefits to you** – When we do collect data, we will use it to benefit you and to make your experiences better.

# 02

## What is a shared responsibility model?

Shared responsibility refers to which party is accountable for data management, performance, and control in various scenarios.

For example, organizations running a fully on-premises software and hardware environment are 100 percent responsible for operating and securing it. But, as organizations move into cloud-based services, such as Microsoft 365, that responsibility becomes shared.

SaaS providers, like Microsoft, manage controls such as physical infrastructure, security, and networking. This means organizations no longer need to build out datacenters or be wholly responsible for setting up network controls.



### Data protection is everyone's business

Responsibility	On-prem	IaaS	PaaS	SaaS
Data classification and accountability	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Cloud customer
Client and endpoint protection	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Shared
Identity and access management	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Shared	Shared
Application level controls	Cloud customer	Cloud customer	Shared	Cloud provider
Network controls	Cloud customer	Shared	Cloud provider	Cloud provider
Host infrastructure	Cloud customer	Shared	Cloud provider	Cloud provider
Physical security	Cloud customer	Cloud provider	Cloud provider	Cloud provider

On-prem = On-premises  
IaaS = Infrastructure as a service  
PaaS = Platform as a service  
SaaS = Software as a service

Cloud customer    Cloud provider

## 03

# How do you assess if your organization is compliant?

From personal and financial information to data protection and cybersecurity, compliance officers have more to manage each year. For example, multinational organizations can be accountable for meeting dozens of regulations to be compliant. Failure to do so can result in hefty fines and a damaged reputation.

Microsoft Compliance Score helps you assess your data protection controls on an ongoing basis and gives you recommended actions and solutions to help you progress toward compliance.

Compliance Score supports more than 10 global, regional, and industrial assessments, including GDPR, CCPA, ISO 27701, ISO 27001, HIPAA, FFIEC, and more.

# 47%

of executives aren't sure which data compliance standards they need to meet.<sup>1</sup>

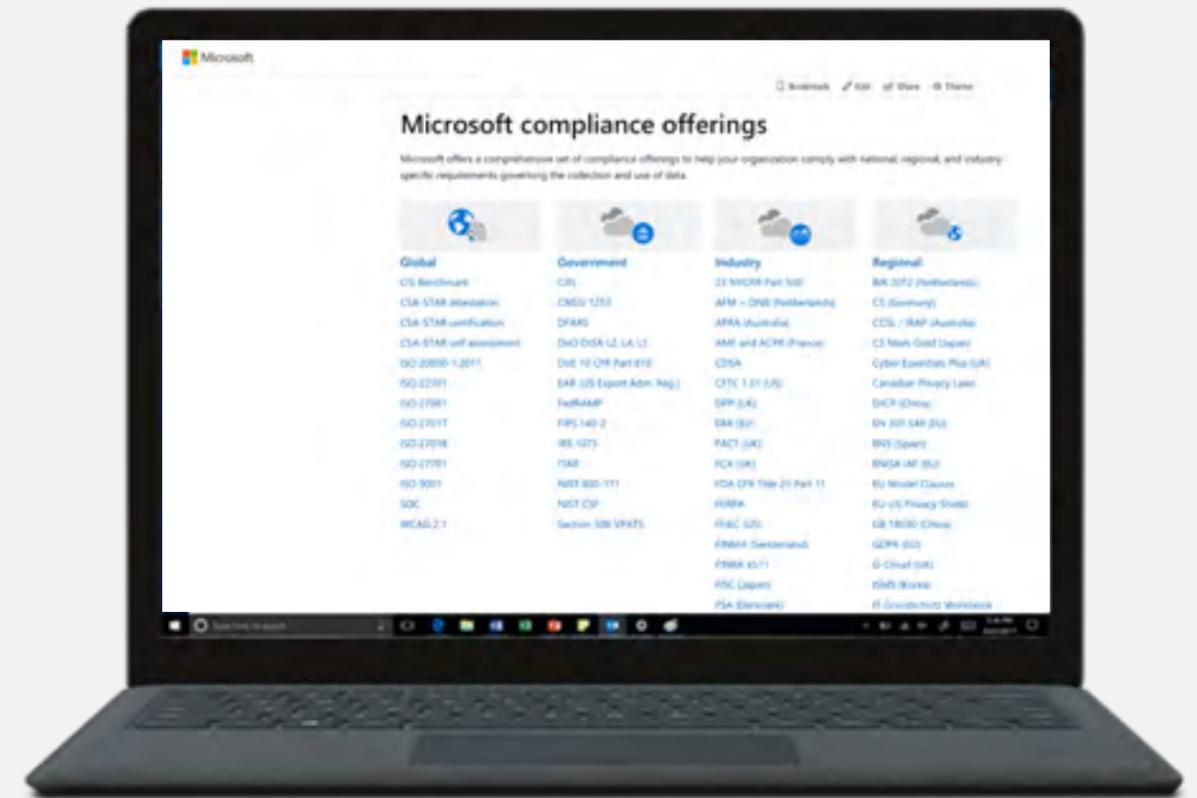
# 65%

of firms rank "design and implementation of internal processes" as the main GDPR hurdle.<sup>2</sup>

# 04 Are Microsoft products certified compliant by current standards?

As you move more data to the cloud, it's important to feel confident that you're not opening yourself up to security or compliance risks. You need a partner that can meet you where you are today and provide what's needed as both your environment and business change.

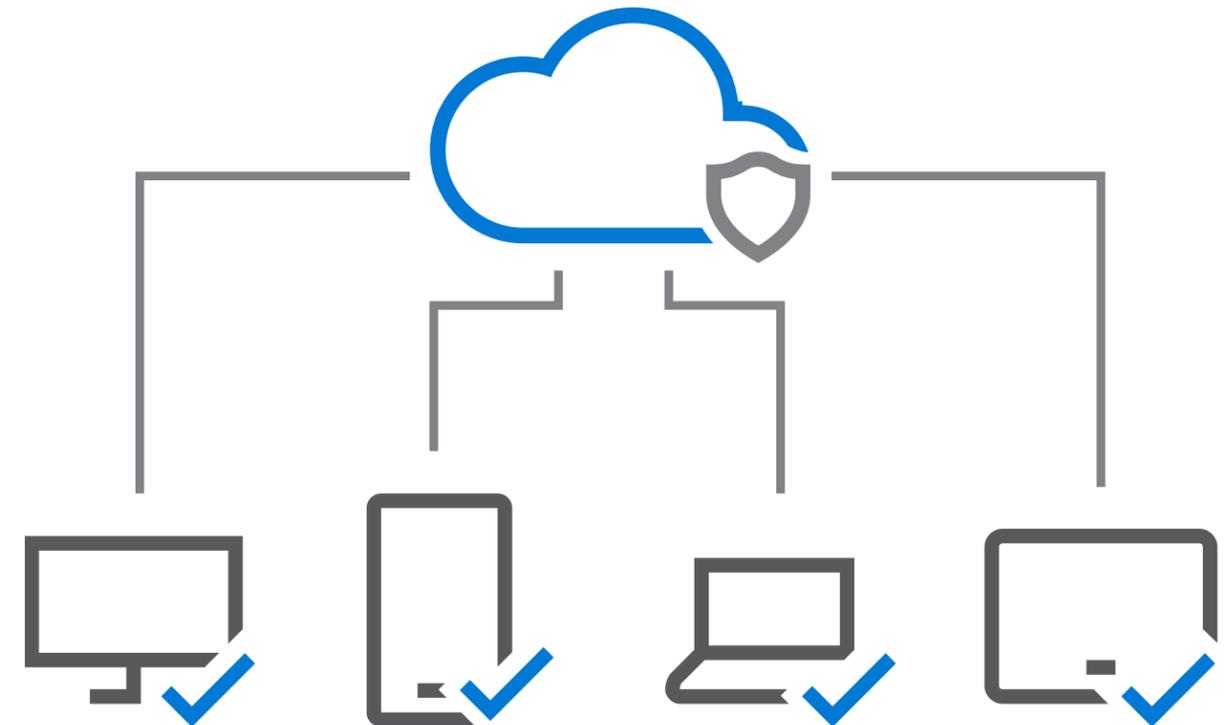
To help ensure we're meeting all security and compliance advancements and requirements, Microsoft is regularly audited and submits self-assessments to third-party auditors which can be viewed [here](#).



Microsoft supports 90+ global regulations  
Learn more about our [compliance offerings](#)

# Future-proof your digital estate

Microsoft proactively collaborates with industry leaders and government bodies around the world to anticipate future compliance requirements. As a result, we are often the first global cloud service provider to adopt new frameworks and standards.





**“If we can’t protect people,  
then we don’t deserve their trust.”**

*Brad Smith  
President and Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft*

**Wherever you are in your digital transformation journey,  
Microsoft can empower your organization to serve your customers.**

Visit the [Trust Center](#) to learn more.

