

Increasingly, governments, third-party regulators, and corporate compliance requirements are enacting data residency guidelines to address privacy issues. These guidelines often require that organizations' data is stored within defined geographical boundaries.

With more such requirements cropping up, multinational organizations are challenged with balancing between digitally transforming their organizations with the cloud and addressing their global data residency needs. This often means that they are stuck managing on-premises datacenters or can offer the promise of the cloud only to a fraction of their employees. Neither is an elegant solution, as they create employee and data silos, which stifles teamwork and innovation. Furthermore, managing multiple platforms is not easy and is a strain on IT resources and infrastructure costs.

Multi-Geo Capabilities in Microsoft 365 addresses these concerns and makes it easy for organizations with global data residency requirements to adopt Microsoft 365. Multi-Geo enables a single Microsoft 365 tenant to span across multiple Microsoft 365 datacenter geographies and gives you the ability to store Microsoft 365 data at-rest, on a per-user basis, in your chosen geography.

Multi-Geo is available for Exchange Online, OneDrive for Business, and Sharepoint sites. With Multi-Geo, customers can choose in which Geo each user's mailbox contents (including email body, calendar entries, contacts, and the content of e-mail attachments) and OneDrive uploaded files are stored at rest. Administrators may also provision SharePoint sites within the Geo of their choice or move a site from one Geo to another to fit their needs. Office Groups in a Multi-Geo environment can also be moved across Geo boundaries.

Why get Multi-Geo?

Granular data storage controls

Support your global data residency needs by storing each user's Exchange, OneDrive, and Sharepoint data in desired Microsoft 365 datacenter geographies. Microsoft commits to provide in-Geo data residency, business continuity and disaster recovery for your core customer data.

Collaboration across your global organization

Migrate from on-premises data silos into a single Microsoft 365 tenant and enable a unified communication and collaboration experience across your global organization. Your users are now connected to the people and content that matter most regardless of where they work.

Simplified IT management controls

Use powerful Microsoft 365 admin tools to easily move user data between Geos to suit your business needs. Get reports on where each user's data is stored, tailor sharing, security and compliance policies separately for each Geo – all from a familiar admin experience.

Available Geos



Available Geos: Australia, Asia Pacific, Brazil, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, and Switzerland. Learn more at aka.ms/datamaps

Get started with Multi-Geo



 Enable your Microsoft 365 tenant with Multi-Geo Capabilities*



 Pick Satellite Geos for users and move their Mailboxes, OneDrive files, and Sharepoint sites



3. Choose and add Satellite Geos to your Microsoft 365 tenant



4. Report user data location and address global data residency needs

*Multi-Geo is currently available to Enterprise Agreement customers with a minimum of 250 Microsoft 365 Services subscriptions. Please talk to your Microsoft representative for details.

See how organizations use Multi-Geo to manage their global data location needs



"In addition to meeting the data residency requirements for some our large corporate clients here in Australia, Multi-Geo allows our business to take advantage of the same productivity features as our global colleagues. Being part of one global Microsoft 365 tenant also streamlines intra-region staff transfers, reducing operational overhead, and providing a much better experience for staff relocation."

Mark Miller, Chief Information Officer, Dimension Data Australia



"We now have as many people outside the US as in it, and although the GDPR doesn't mandate a particular Geo for data residency, our clients are hypersensitive about data privacy issues, so we prefer to get in front of it," Ackermann says. "Our lifeblood includes data which is personal information about people and with Multi-Geo, we're able to proactively address client concerns about data residency."

Bryan Ackermann, Chief Information Officer, Korn Ferry



"We mapped out the global geographies of employee groups and reporting hierarchies and considered the legislation around privacy in different countries—something that Microsoft is addressing today with the Multi-Geo Capabilities in Microsoft 365."

George Katsouris, Global IT VP, Operations & Services at Coty

Resources

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Using Azure AD Connect with Multi-Geo

