7 reasons why you need a separate backup strategy for Microsoft 365

How secure is your data?

To what extent do Microsoft's native tools support backup and recovery?

There is a common misconception held by some IT professionals that cloud services, such as Microsoft 365, do not need to have a backup.

While Microsoft have a robust SLA around service availability, they explicitly do not take responsibility for protecting your user data.

Section 2 of Microsoft's own Services Agreement states: "We strongly advise you to make regular **back-up copies of Your Content.** Microsoft can't be held responsible for Your Content or the material others upload, store or share using our Services."

Section 6B adds: "All online services suffer occasional disruptions and outages. In the event of an outage or disruption to the Service, you may temporarily not be able to retrieve Your Content. We recommend that you regularly **back up Your Content and Data** that you store on the Services or store **using Third-Party Apps** and Services."

Here are seven reasons why it's important to have a diverse backup strategy:

Retain control with a tailor-made solution

1) Avoid dependency
2) Set your own retention policies
3) Address compliance issues

1) Avoid dependency

It is a big mistake for an organization to be wholly dependent on a single cloud vendor. If organizations do not have control of their data, they will struggle to act immediately once an issue becomes apparent.

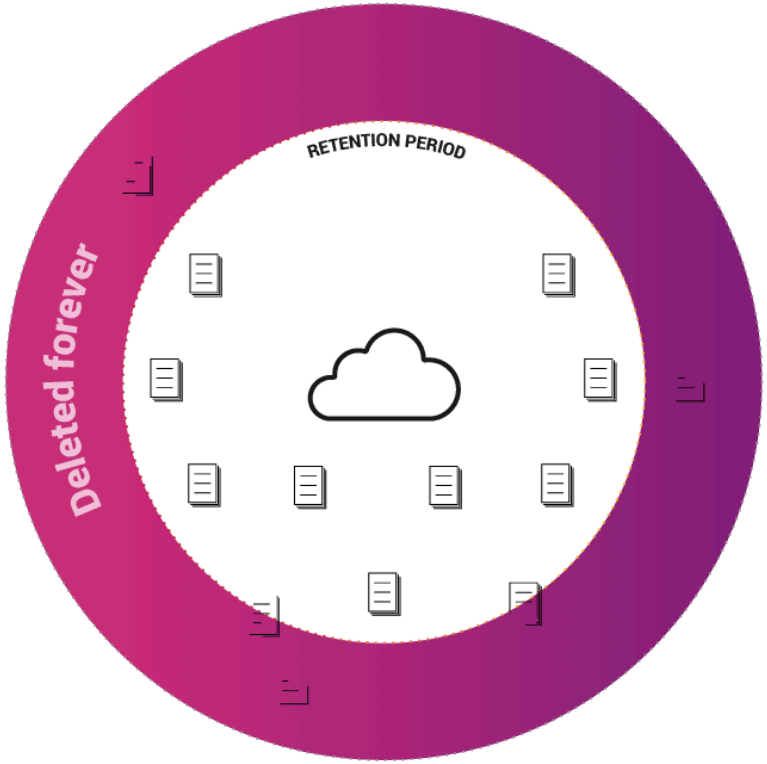
Even when data is retrievable, the process could end up being long and complicated, and there is the added problem of all-or-nothing destructive restores.

2) Set your own retention policies

Microsoft 365 is not intended to include an all-encompassing backup solution.

A simple recovery can be a massive problem if data has fallen out of the retention period and Microsoft 365 has deleted it forever.

You can avoid this with a data management and protection service that allows you to set your own retention policies very easily and whose sole purpose is to ensure that your data can be recovered directly back to Microsoft 365, regardless of the state of your live data.



3) Address compliance issues

If employees leave a company, can you prevent their files leaving with them?

When someone deletes a user or users from Active Directory - intentionally or otherwise - once they are outside of retention their SharePoint sites and OneDrive data are also deleted.

What if you need those files during legal action in months or years to come?

If you are to retain access to data after a user has been removed from Microsoft's Active Directory, it's imperative to have a backup to a third-party backup provider, not least for compliance purposes.

Avoid adverse impact on business

4) Recover everything in the event of deletion
5) Prevent delays due to data loss

4) Recover everything in the event of deletion

What happens when users accidentally or intentionally delete or overwrite files? Recycle bins and version histories in Microsoft 365 provide only limited protection.

If you delete a user, whether you meant to or not, that deletion is replicated across the network. Once an item is purged from the mailbox database, it is unrecoverable. This could have far-reaching effects if a rogue employee decided to delete incriminating emails or files.

Microsoft's backup and retention policies can only protect you from data loss up to a certain point, and can't take the place of third-party data management solutions.

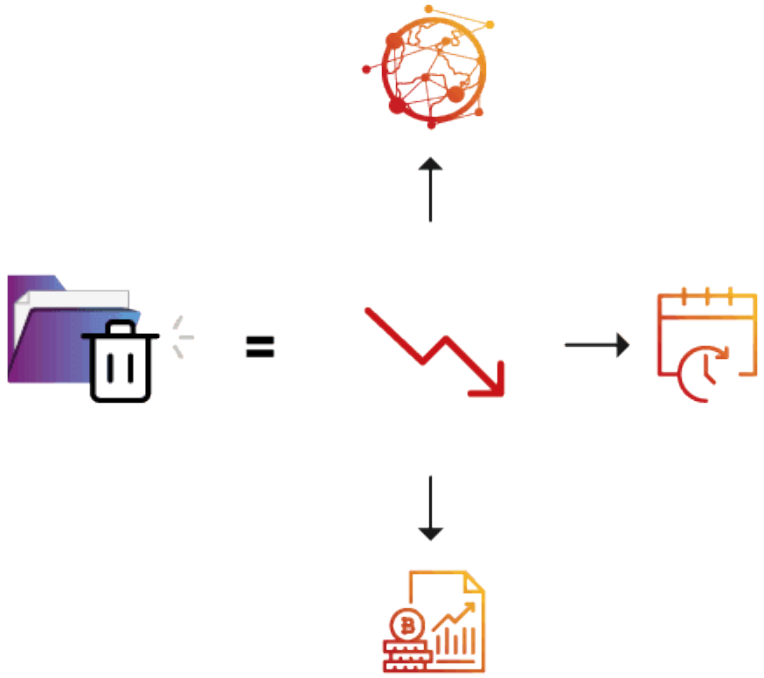
5) Prevent delays due to data loss

When data is deleted or corrupted, businesses face three major problems - loss of data, loss of time and loss of money.

Microsoft provides exceptional availability and cannot be expected to focus elsewhere on extended retention or old user data.

Being solely reliant on Microsoft Support for help recovering lost data can be very time consuming.

The best way to avoid an issue impacting severely on business continuity is to find a third party that offers streamed, on-demand access to data at a moment's notice.



Enhance security

6) Protect against ransomware attacks
7) Separate roles as security standard

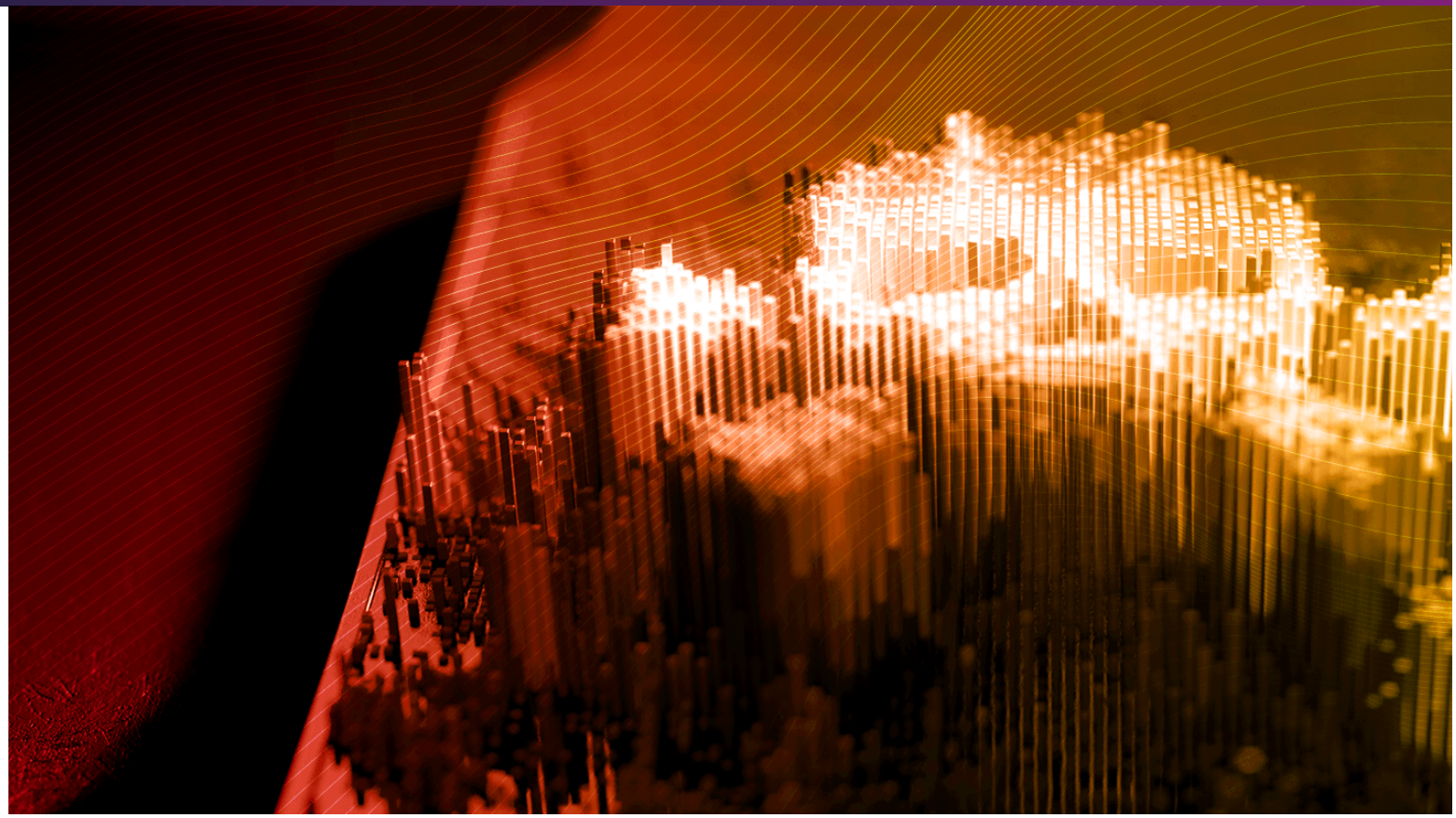
6) Protect against ransomware attacks

How can organizations be protected from app outages, misconfigured workflows or ransomware attacks?

Microsoft explicitly states that point-in-time restores of data are not in the scope of the Exchange service.

Regular backups will help ensure a separate copy of your data is uninfected and that you can recover mailboxes quickly to an instance before the attack.

The best data management providers offer streamed, on-demand access to all data instantly.



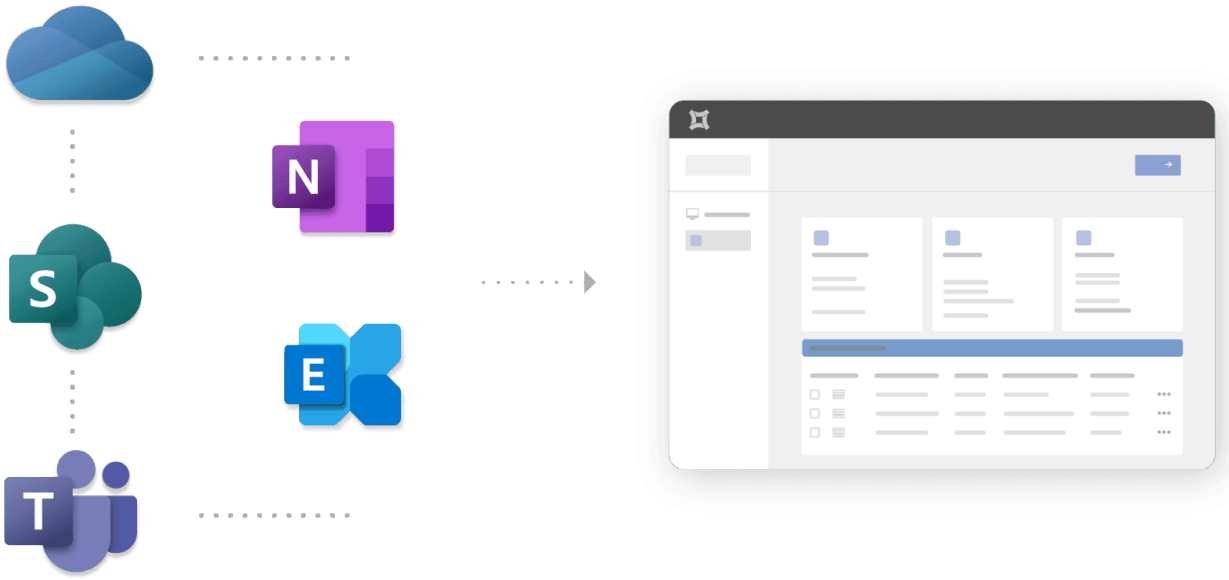
7) Separate roles as security standard

Companies nowadays require a separation of roles as a security standard.

Having your backup in the production platform allows for a single point of failure.

Microsoft 365 administrators could also potentially assign themselves full access to search and export from Exchange mailboxes, SharePoint folders, and OneDrive locations.

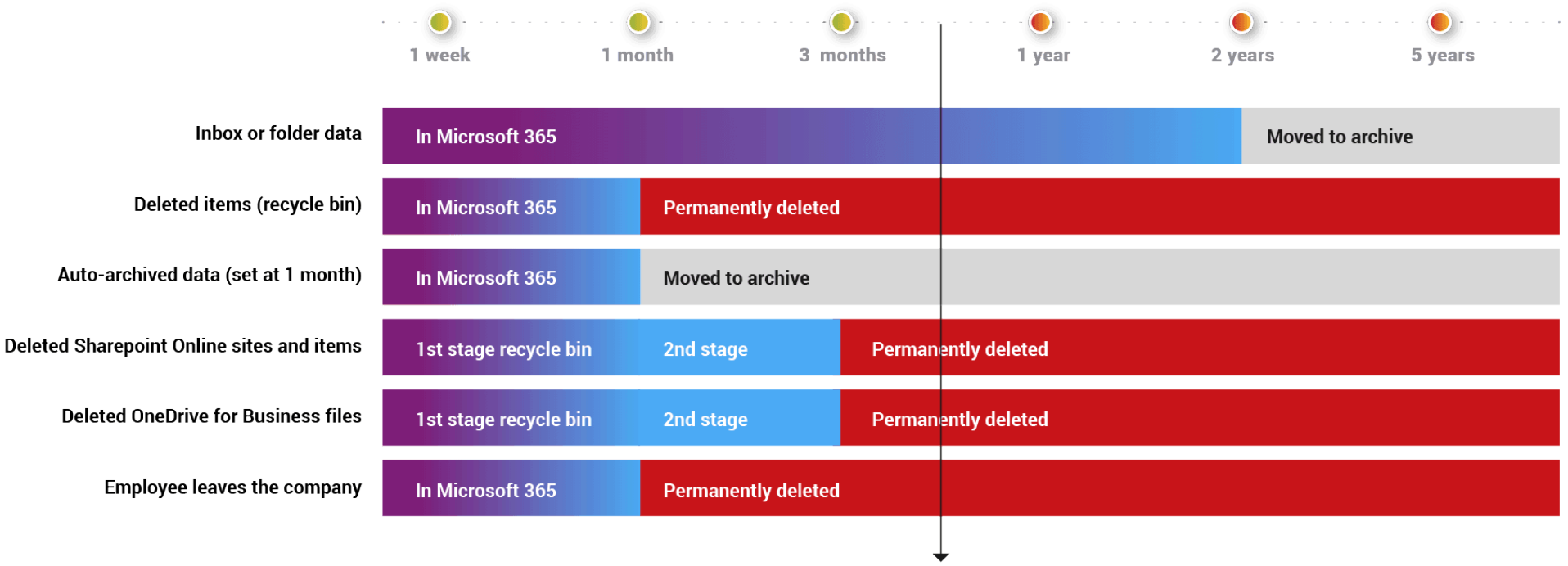
This would enable them to delete a file. Without third-party backup, that file, depending on the retention policy, may be irretrievable.



An isolated backup strategy is vital for compliance purposes

Extend retention and cater for deleted users

Microsoft 365: What is backed up?



The average length of time from **data compromise to discovery is over 140 days,** yet default settings only protect 30 - 90 days.

Microsoft 365® data recovery restrictions:

Outlook:
Deleted emails can be recovered within 14 days, but are permanently deleted and cannot be recovered after 30 days.

OneDrive / SharePoint:
Items are retained for 93 days from the time of deletion from their original location. Administrators can contact Microsoft Support to request or restore within 14 days, but items are permanently deleted and cannot be recovered after 14 days.

Outlook Calendar:
The calendar and all events recorded in it are permanently deleted and cannot be recovered after deletion.

Outlook Contact (People):
Deleted contacts can be recovered within 14 days, but are permanently deleted and cannot be recovered after 30 days.

Protect all the Microsoft 365 data within your organization - OneDrive, Exchange, SharePoint, Teams and OneNote - directly from Microsoft's cloud, and manage it all through a single application.

Extend retention periods - ensure they are aligned to business requirements and also cater for all deleted users.

Easily evidence compliance - role-based access control and auditing helps companies comply with data protection laws, while also allowing a different department or administrator hold the rights for restores.

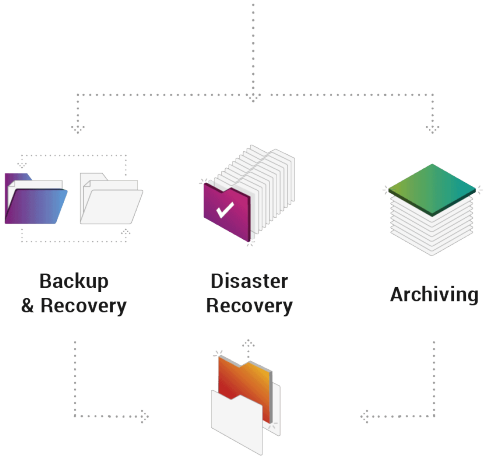
Manage broadest range of environments - Redstor spans modern and legacy infrastructure, whether on prem or in the cloud, including cloud-native, containerized workloads and an ever-widening array of SaaS applications - all through a single app.

Centralize data management – reduce overheads by managing all company sites and remote user devices through a single, intuitive, cloud-native app that scales effortlessly. No hardware requirement.

End downtime – prioritize recoveries and allow users to access data in seconds while full recovery continues in background, using InstantData™.

Automatically highlight risks - protect data against malware with Redstor's smart data management platform, which continuously learns and improves, based on community insights.

Single control centre



See how the Brandon Trust improved business continuity and made cost savings by choosing Redstor to complement Microsoft Azure.

Thank you for reading

Microsoft 365 backup strategy

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