

Is Microsoft Copilot a Help – or a Threat – to SLED Organizations?

Despite being a powerful AI productivity tool, some organizations are banning Microsoft 365 Copilot due to major security concerns. Microsoft consulting partner Presidio shows how State, Local and Education (SLED) organizations can benefit from Copilot without compromising security.

Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365 is an AI-powered productivity tool that seamlessly integrates with Microsoft 365 apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Teams. Some of the most compelling reasons SLED customers add Copilot to their devices include:

Unleash Creativity – With Copilot, you can jumpstart the creative process, so you never start with a blank slate again. Copilot gives you a first draft to edit and iterate on – saving hours in writing, sourcing, creating and editing time.

Unlock Productivity – From summarizing long email threads to quickly drafting suggested replies, Copilot in Outlook helps you clear your inbox in minutes, not hours. And every meeting is productive with Copilot in Teams. It can summarize key discussion points – including who said what, where people are aligned, and where they disagree – and suggest action items in real time during a meeting. With Copilot in Power Platform, anyone can automate repetitive tasks, create chatbots and go from idea to working app in minutes.

Uplevel Skills – Copilot makes you better at what you're good at and lets you quickly master what you've yet to learn. The average person uses only a handful of commands – such as “animate a slide” or “insert a table” – from the thousands available across Microsoft 365. Now, all that rich functionality is unlocked using just natural language. And this is only the beginning.



THE U.S. HOUSE BANNED COPILOT. SHOULD YOU?

The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) lists artificial intelligence, including chatbots and virtual assistants as [one of its top priority technologies, applications and tools for 2024](#). Yet, more recently, the federal government made headlines regarding AI security concerns.

In March 2024, Axios reported that the U.S. House set a strict ban on [congressional staffers' use of Microsoft Copilot](#), citing it posed a risk to users due to the threat of leaking House data to non-House approved cloud services. Presidio's Microsoft sales director Robert Phillips adds, “We've seen firsthand how AI can pose a security threat – if it's not implemented properly. For example, after implementing Copilot, a public sector agency discovered that employees could see executives' salaries. Fortunately, these scenarios, and other security concerns, can be avoided with the proper security guardrails.”



Is Microsoft Copilot a Help – or a Threat – to SLED Organizations?

MICROSOFT 365 COPILOT READINESS ASSESSMENT FOR SLED

For any IT deployments, including Copilot, Presidio conducts a readiness assessment across four categories:

1. Data Protection Review

- a. Access to sites, documents and emails
- b. Permission settings for assets
- c. Search functionality for authorized users
- d. Restrictions potentially impeding user abilities
- e. Zero Trust security model compliance
- f. Configuration settings for the following security tools:
 - i. Microsoft Purview Information Protection
 - ii. Microsoft Purview Sensitivity Labels
 - iii. Microsoft Entra Conditional Access
 - iv. Microsoft Entra Privileged Identity Management

2. Data Preparation Review

- a. Trivial or outdated content
- b. Logical folders and site organization
- c. Keyword tagging
- d. File name standardization
- e. Version consolidation
- f. Data hygiene

3. Data Governance Review

- a. Data policies and practices
- b. Data repository
- c. User and permission changes
- d. Regulation and compliance requirements
- e. Ongoing maintenance

4. Microsoft 365 Copilot Requirements

- a. Licenses
- b. M365 apps (Outlook/OneDrive/Teams)
- c. Entra ID

“The Microsoft 365 Copilot Readiness Assessment helps SLED organizations organize and secure their data so they can use this powerful AI tool without fear of exposing sensitive information to unauthorized users or violating compliance requirements,” says Phillips. “Additionally, by removing outdated and irrelevant content, we can reduce security risks while improving Copilot’s performance.”

WHY SLED ORGANIZATIONS CHOOSE PRESIDIO

As a Microsoft consulting partner within the Microsoft Partner Network (MPN), Presidio holds 13 Gold Competencies and Advanced Specializations and is a Fast Track Ready partner. We have over 400 Microsoft-certified engineers helping organizations of all sizes keep Microsoft solutions current and secure while delivering business value at every stage of the technology lifecycle.

We have a proven history of digital transformation leveraging Microsoft Azure Cloud, SaaS, and premise technologies. Since we realize the significant impact of Microsoft solutions on business value, Presidio prioritizes comprehensive assessments before every implementation and ongoing education of decision-makers and end-users.

Microsoft 365 Copilot Jumpstart Partner – With early access to enablement, licensing and advisory, Presidio has solid expertise to assist our clients.

Microsoft 365 Copilot FastTrack Ready Partner Offerings – Presidio's FastTrack engineers offer expert Microsoft 365 Copilot adoption assistance.

Azure Innovation Funding Partner – Presidio can access or nominate our SLED customers for funding to assist with proof of concepts or pilots of Azure OpenAI and Microsoft 365 Copilot.

Microsoft Cloud Solution Provider – Presidio can provide Microsoft 365 Copilot licensing layered with support for a full spectrum of services.

Visit presidio.com/partners/microsoft or contact your local sales representative to put the power of Microsoft Copilot to work for your organization.
