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STREAMLINE 365 GUIDE

Make more of Microsoft 365

A practical guide to licensing, Azure cost control, security and Copilot readiness



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MAKE MORE OF MICROSOFT 365

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INTRODUCTION

Your Microsoft environment supports some of the most important parts of your organisation. From collaboration and productivity to security, cloud infrastructure and AI, it plays a central role in how people work every day.

As Microsoft estates grow, so does the challenge of understanding how effectively that investment is being used. Licences are added, cloud services evolve, security requirements change and new technologies such as Microsoft Copilot introduce fresh opportunities and decisions.

Microsoft is important to your business, which is why it's also important to have the visibility to make confident decisions about what's next.



32%

Industry data suggests achieving this visibility is a widespread challenge. According to cloud adoption research cited by SQ Magazine, UK enterprises waste an average of 32% of their cloud spend on unused or over-provisioned resources. These figures aren't specific to Microsoft environments, but they highlight how difficult it can be to align technology investment with actual usage and business value.

This guide explores how better visibility can help you:

- Assess whether licences align with current usage
- Understand Azure consumption and cloud costs
- Prioritise security improvements
- Evaluate readiness for Microsoft Copilot
- Support technology decisions with reliable evidence

It also explains how our Streamline 365 assessment provides a clearer view of your Microsoft environment through secure, read-only analysis and practical recommendations.

What is Streamline 365?

Turning Microsoft data into practical insight

Microsoft 365 and Azure generate a huge amount of information about licensing, usage, security, identity management and cloud consumption.

Most IT teams have access to multiple reports and administration tools. Each provides part of the picture. Bringing those insights together into a single view can be difficult, particularly when you're balancing operational priorities, budgets, security initiatives and future projects.

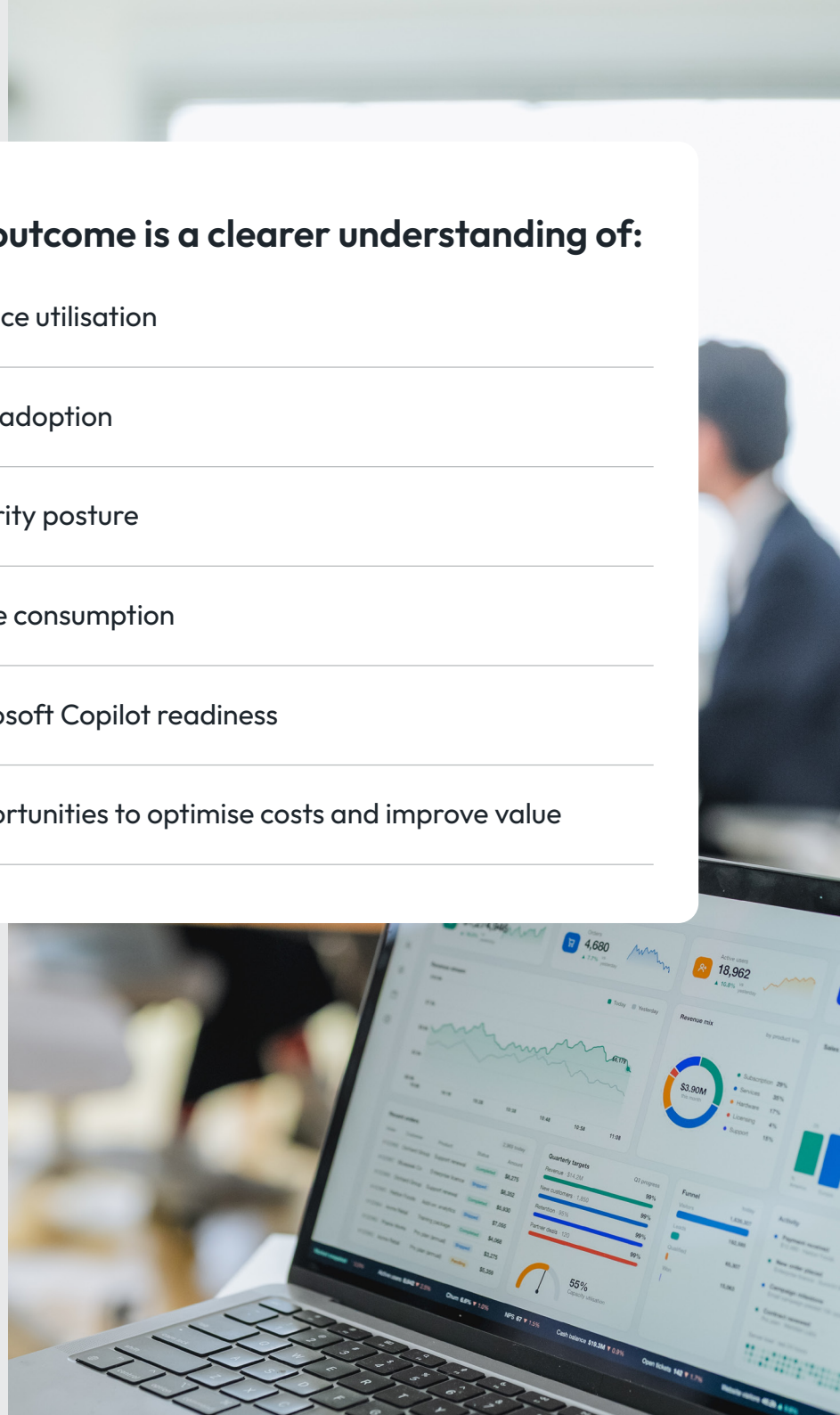
Streamline 365 has been designed to solve that problem.

Using secure, read-only access, Streamline 365 analyses your Microsoft 365 and Azure environments and presents the findings through executive-ready dashboards, health reports and prioritised recommendations.

Rather than creating another report for the sake of reporting, the goal is to provide information that supports better decision-making.

The outcome is a clearer understanding of:

- Licence utilisation
- User adoption
- Security posture
- Azure consumption
- Microsoft Copilot readiness
- Opportunities to optimise costs and improve value



How Streamline 365 works

A simple assessment with no changes to your environment

Streamline 365 uses read-only access to analyse your Microsoft environment. It doesn't make configuration changes or modify live services.

01

Step 1: Connect

A secure read-only connection is established to your Microsoft 365 and Azure environment.

02

Step 2: Analyse

Streamline 365 reviews licensing, usage, identity, security and cloud consumption data.

03

Step 3: Report

The findings are presented through dashboards and executive-ready reporting.

04

Step 4: Review

One of our licencing specialists reviews the results with you and discusses practical next steps.

What your Microsoft reports may not show you

Licence assignments, cloud resources and security settings change constantly.

A project creates new Azure workloads, a new starter receives a licence, a department adopts a new way of working.

Each decision may make sense at the time. Over months and years, however, those individual changes can make the wider environment harder to assess.

Where standard Microsoft data may not show you these trend and potential implications, our structured health check connects those individual data points and answer questions that standard reports often struggle to address.

What Streamline 365 assesses



Licensing and optimisation

Understand how licences are assigned and used, helping identify opportunities to improve alignment between licensing and user requirements.



Security posture

Review security-related findings across identity, access, devices and data protection to support future improvement planning.



Azure consumption

Gain visibility into resource usage, expenditure and opportunities for optimisation.



Copilot readiness

Assess the foundations required for successful AI initiatives and Microsoft Copilot adoption.



Adoption and productivity

Understand how Microsoft applications are being used and where further value may be available.

The objective isn't simply to collect more data, but to enable better decisions using the data you already have.



Understanding licensing and cloud spend

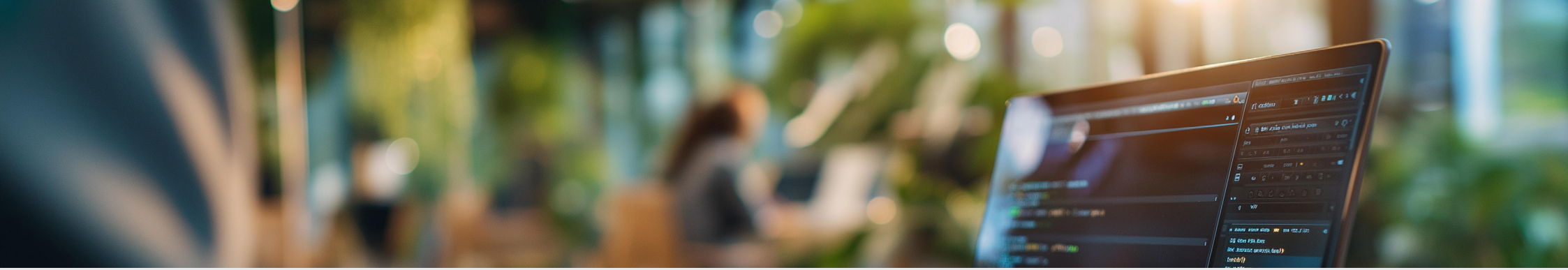
Technology leaders are increasingly expected to explain not only what they're spending, but what value that spend is delivering.

30%

Gartner estimates that 30% of SaaS licences go unused, highlighting the importance of regularly reviewing Microsoft 365 usage, licensing and adoption to identify wasted spend and optimisation opportunities.

For Microsoft environments, visibility can help answer questions such as:

- Are licences aligned with user needs?
- Are we paying for services that are rarely used?
- Which Azure resources deserve closer review?
- Are current costs supporting meaningful business outcomes?



Finding value in existing investments

70%+

Cost optimisation is only part of the story. A UK government trial involving 20,000 employees found that more than 70% of Microsoft 365 Copilot users reported a reduction in the time spent searching for information and carrying out routine tasks.

Usage data can help identify:

- Opportunities to improve adoption
- Areas where additional training may help
- Licences that no longer reflect how users work
- Applications that deliver strong value today

This creates a more complete picture of where returns are already being achieved and where further opportunities may exist.

Strengthening security through visibility

Security remains a key priority for business and technology leaders. Microsoft's Digital Defence Report highlights the scale of today's threat landscape, with Microsoft processing more than 100 trillion security signals each day. Microsoft also reports that phishing-resistant multifactor authentication can block more than 99% of identity-based attacks.

Understanding your current security posture gives you a clearer starting point. You can see where protections are working, where attention is needed and what to prioritise next.

100 trillion

security signals processed by Microsoft each day.

99%+

of identity-based attacks can be blocked by phishing-resistant multifactor authentication.

Decisions backed by evidence

Technology investments are easiest to justify when decisions are supported by reliable information.

As Microsoft environments grow, it becomes harder to maintain a complete view across licensing, cloud services, security and user adoption and assumptions begin to appear. Streamline 365 helps validate or disprove those assumptions with actionable evidence.



Myth vs reality

MYTH	REALITY
"We review licences at renewal, so we already understand our environment."	Renewals provide an important checkpoint, but licensing is only one part of the picture. Usage, security posture, Azure consumption and Copilot readiness also contribute to the value your Microsoft environment delivers.
"We'd notice if something needed attention."	Some opportunities remain hidden because they don't create immediate problems. Unused licences, dormant identities and idle cloud resources can continue without disrupting day-to-day operations.
"Optimisation is all about reducing costs."	Effective optimisation can also improve security, governance, adoption, planning and future investment decisions.

Good technology decisions start with reliable evidence.

Five reasons to review your Microsoft environment

Data helps turn assumptions into priorities.



01 **A licence renewal is approaching**

A renewal provides an opportunity to review whether licensing still aligns with current requirements. Usage data can help inform future licensing decisions rather than relying solely on previous allocations.

02 **Microsoft or Azure costs have changed**

Technology costs naturally evolve as environments grow. A review can help identify where expenditure is occurring and whether it aligns with business priorities.

03 **You're planning for Microsoft Copilot**

Interest in AI continues to grow, but successful adoption requires more than purchasing licences.

04 **Security has become a business priority**

Security discussions are most productive when supported by clear evidence. Understanding identity risks, device posture and key security observations helps prioritise future actions.

05 **You want to quantify potential improvements**

You may already suspect opportunities exist within your Microsoft estate. The challenge is identifying where they are and understanding which actions deliver the greatest value.

What questions should your Microsoft environment answer?

Licensing

- Which licences are underused?
- Are licence allocations still appropriate?
- What should be reviewed before renewal?

Security

- Where should improvement efforts be prioritised?
- Are there identity, device or data risks that require attention?
- How does current security posture compare with best practice?

Azure

- Which resources deserve closer review?
- Are cloud services appropriately sized?
- Is expenditure aligned with usage?

Copilot readiness

- Where could Microsoft Copilot deliver the greatest value?
- What should happen before licences are assigned?

Adoption

- Which Microsoft applications are being used?
- Where would additional adoption support add value?
- How effectively is the organisation using existing investments?

What better visibility can help you achieve

A clearer understanding of your Microsoft environment can support:

- More informed investment decisions
- Stronger renewal planning
- Better visibility of technology usage
- Improved cloud governance
- More effective AI planning
- Better alignment between technology investment and business priorities



A practical path from insight to action

01 **Establish your baseline**
Bring licensing, usage, security and Azure consumption data into a single view.

02 **Identify opportunities**
Review findings and separate immediate actions from longer-term initiatives.

03 **Prioritise by impact**
Focus on actions that offer the greatest business value or risk reduction.

04 **Build an action plan**
Create a roadmap aligned with budgets, renewals and strategic priorities.

05 **Measure progress**
Review outcomes and refresh assessments as your environment evolves.

Turn Microsoft data into a practical plan

Your Microsoft environment already contains valuable information.

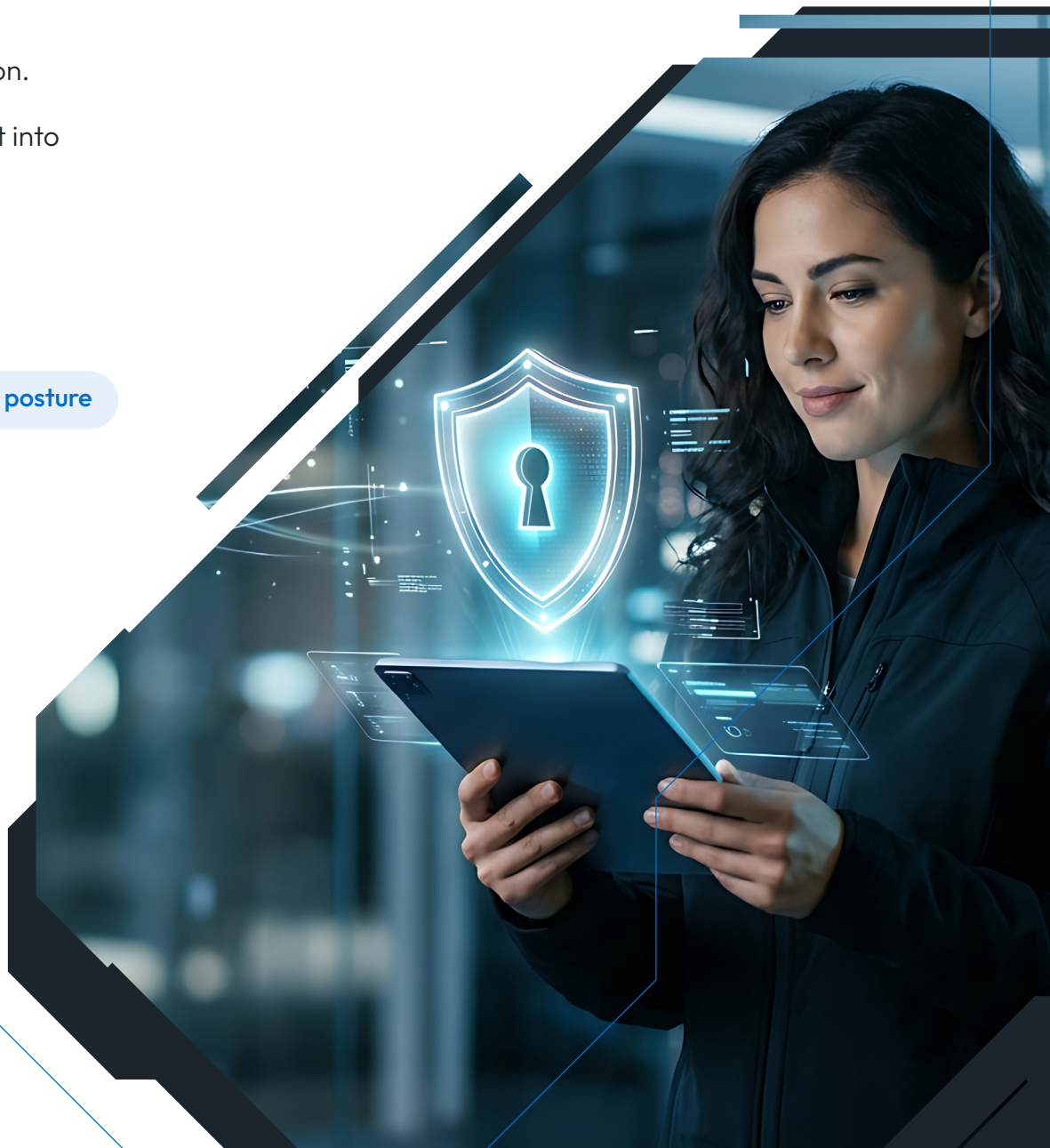
The challenge is bringing that information together and turning it into meaningful action.

Streamline 365 helps you do exactly that.

The assessment provides visibility across:

- Microsoft 365 licensing
- User adoption and usage
- Security posture
- Azure consumption
- Copilot readiness

You'll receive an executive-ready report and a review session with one of our specialists, helping you understand what the data is showing and what to prioritise next.



Book your free Streamline 365 health check

Gain a clearer understanding of your Microsoft environment, uncover optimisation opportunities and make future decisions with greater confidence.

Book here >

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Find out more about Streamline 365

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