Zoondia
Innovating the Future

Exchange Migration & Microsoft 365 Security Deployment

Modernizing enterprise messaging with cloud-first security and Zero Trust protection.

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Exchange Migration & Microsoft 365 Security Deployment

Category : **Microsoft 365 Transformation**

Location : **United Arab Emirates**

Business Background

WAM, the UAE's national news agency, delivers real-time information across government entities, media partners, and the public. Its on-premises Exchange 2019 environment, while reliable, demanded high operational effort and lacked advanced, modern security controls. To enhance resilience and protection, WAM transitioned to Microsoft 365 E3, migrating to Exchange Online and adopting a Zero Trust security model to safeguard identities, devices, and data in a cloud-first ecosystem.
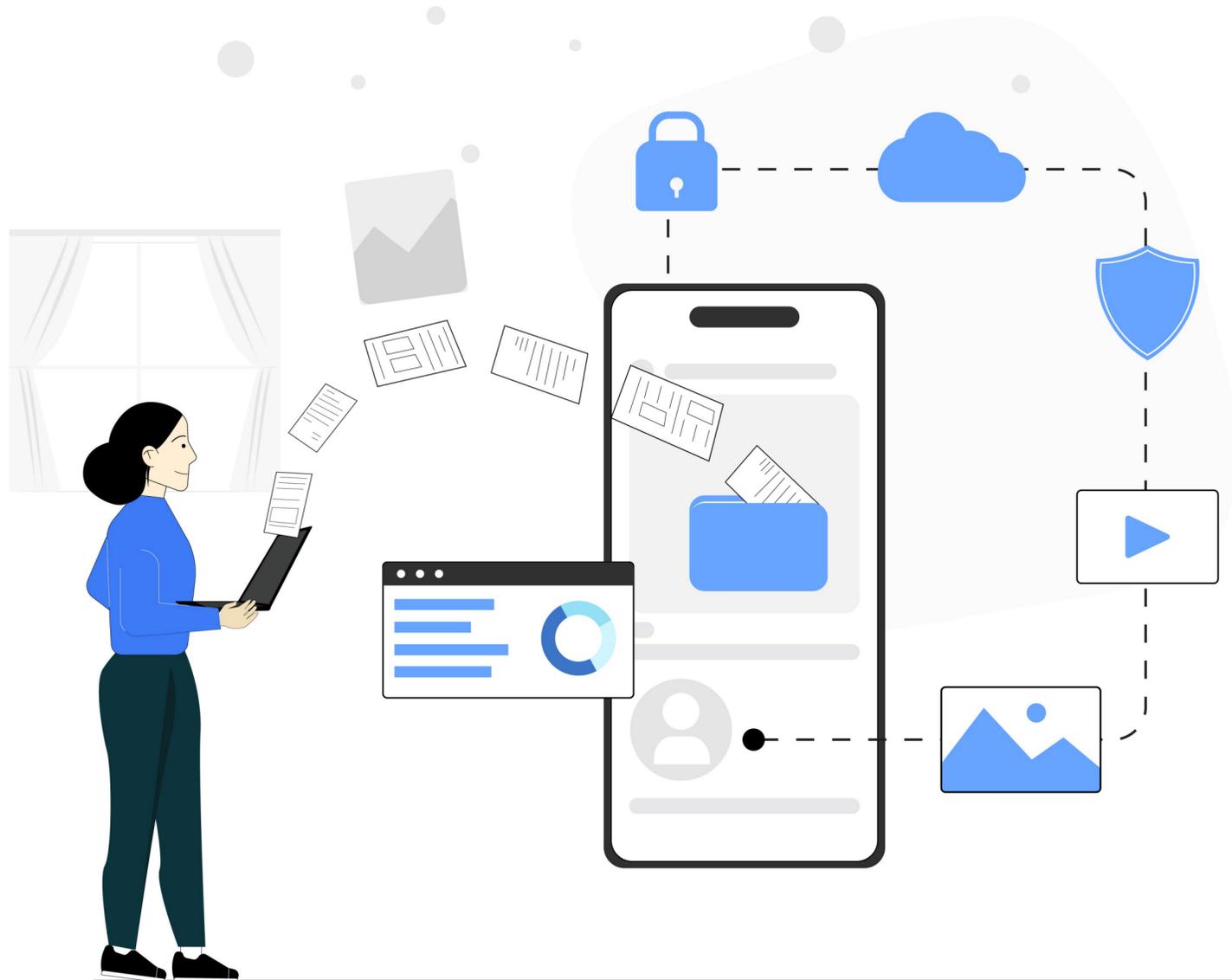
Challenges

- **Legacy Messaging Environment**

  High dependency on on-premises Exchange DAG servers, increased operational overhead.

- **Security Limitations**

  Lack of MFA, device compliance controls, and centralized identity governance.

- **Hybrid Complexity**

  Ensuring seamless coexistence between on-premises and cloud mail systems.

- **Compliance & Governance**

  Need for structured retention and security controls in Microsoft 365.

- **Business Continuity**

  Migration had to occur with minimal downtime and zero data loss.

Approach

⊙ **Planning & Assessment**

▶ Health checks of Active Directory, DNS, and Exchange DAG environment

▶ Mailbox and SMTP relay inventory

▶ Network readiness validation

▶ Entra ID sync verification

⊙ **Hybrid Exchange Deployment**

▶ Configured Exchange Hybrid connectors

▶ Enabled mail flow and calendar coexistence

▶ Established mailbox replication

⊙ **Phased Mailbox Migration**

▶ Batch migration of user and shared mailboxes

▶ MX record transition support

▶ SMTP relay realignment

▶ Email branding using CodeTwo

▶ Archive data import testing

⊙ **Zero Trust Security Rollout**

▶ Conditional Access with MFA

▶ Intune-based MDM and compliance policies

▶ BitLocker device encryption

▶ Windows Hello authentication

▶ AutoPilot provisioning

▶ Retention policy configuration
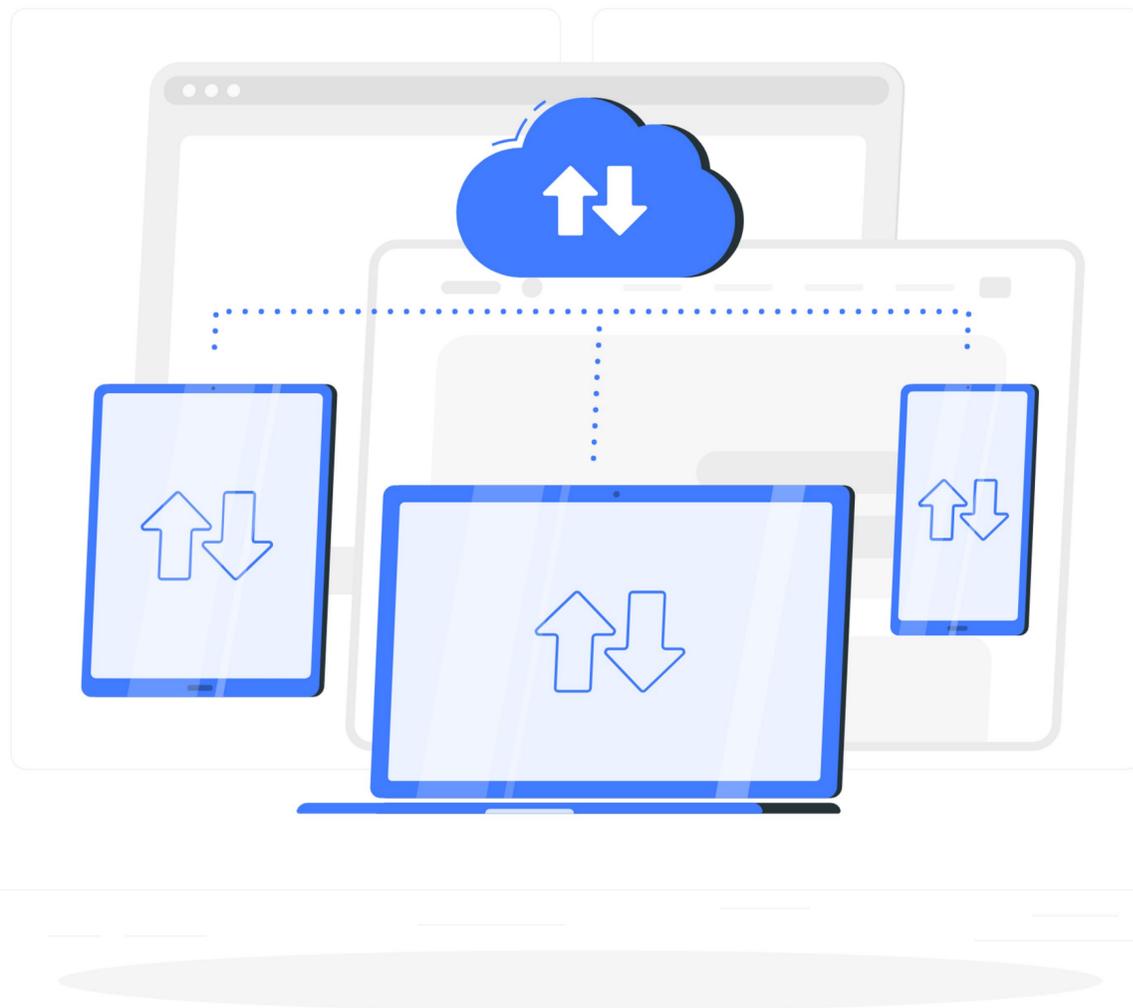
Results

- ⦿ **Cloud-First Messaging Platform**

  WAM successfully transitioned to Exchange Online with hybrid stability and achieved zero data loss during phased migration.

- ⦿ **Enhanced Cybersecurity**

  Improved security posture aligned with Microsoft Zero Trust best practices.

- ⦿ **Centralized Device Governance**

  Unified control across corporate devices.

- ⦿ **Improved Reliability & Scalability**

  Reduced dependency on legacy infrastructure.

- ⦿ **Compliance-Ready Environment**

  Structured data retention and governance.
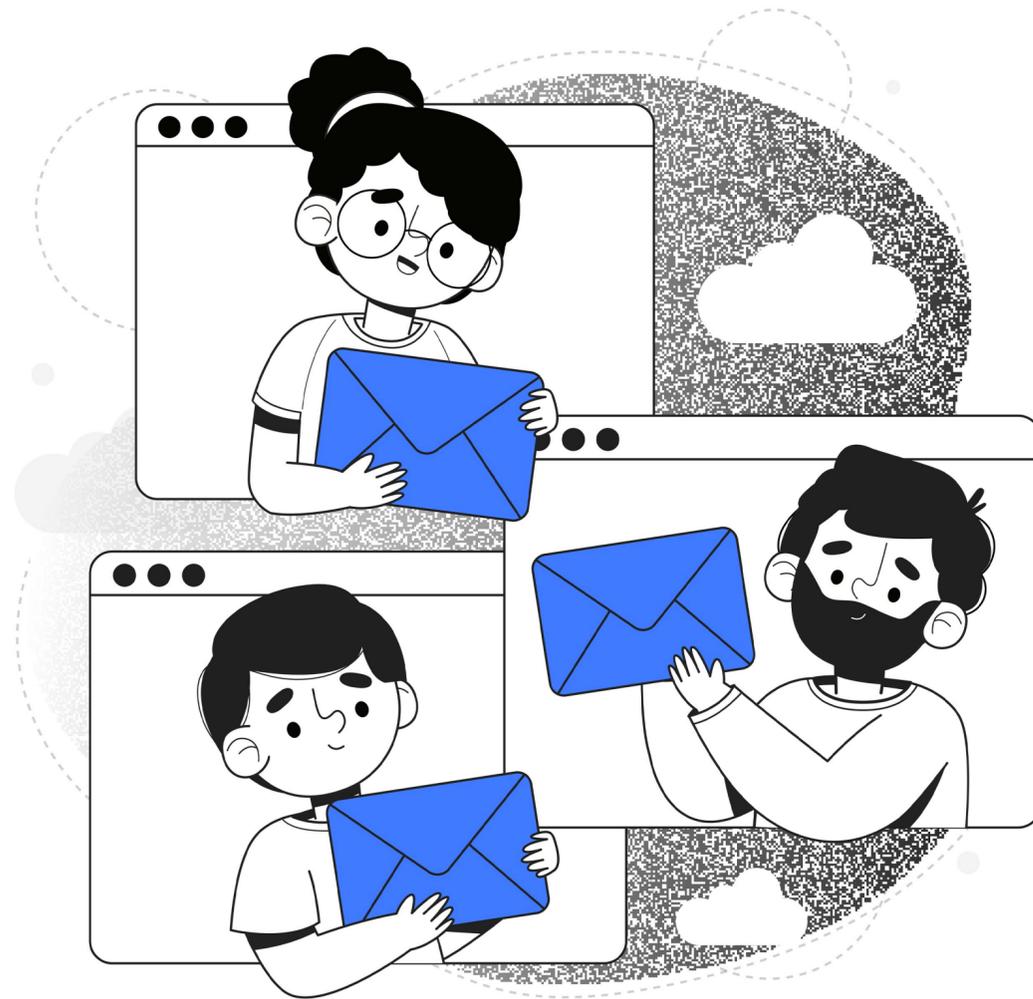
KEY TAKEAWAYS

WAM's digital transformation demonstrates how modern messaging migration combined with Zero Trust security architecture can deliver:

- ▶ Stronger cybersecurity posture
- ▶ Modern collaboration capabilities
- ▶ Simplified IT operations
- ▶ Enterprise-grade compliance

Zoondia continues to support enterprises and government entities in secure Microsoft 365 adoption, cloud migration, and Zero Trust security transformation.

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