Highlights from a recent webcast on preserving data in the cloud app era

THE RISE OF OFFICE 365 AND CLOUD APPS: EXPANDING PROTECTION TO ALL END-USER DATA

This Digital Dialogue is based on a discussion of Office 365, and the need to protect and preserve all the data from endpoints including mobile devices in the cloud era.

The rise of cloud computing in general and Microsoft Office 365 in particular is due to two things enterprise leaders love: greater efficiency and higher productivity.

"The cloud, as we all know, is no longer a niche thing that some companies are using," explained Jim Martin. "By the middle of this year, 80 percent of IT budgets will be dedicated to cloud computing."

He said his research indicates that many businesses now offer users anywhere from 11 to 16 cloud apps, which is 33 percent year over year.

The growth of cloud apps has followed the same upward curve as the accelerated adoption of mobile devices by the global workforce, Martin told his listeners. He offered a prediction that 72 percent of the US workforce will be using mobile devices by 2021, up from 65 percent in 2016. He also offered a prediction that 42 percent of the global workforce will be mobile by 2020.

"That may not sound like a lot, 42 percent, but this is a global figure and that includes developing as well as developed countries, and again,

cloud software is a big driver behind the mobile workforce," Martin said.

He noted that Office 365 has emerged as a real key to cloud adoption.

"It's a big factor in why a lot of people are moving more into the cloud," Martin said. "Office 365 is the most used cloud business application today. There are 85 million active monthly users. This is as of Q1 2017. Office 365 commercial seats grew 51 percent year over year. And 78 percent of IT decision makers are either already using or planning to use Office 365."
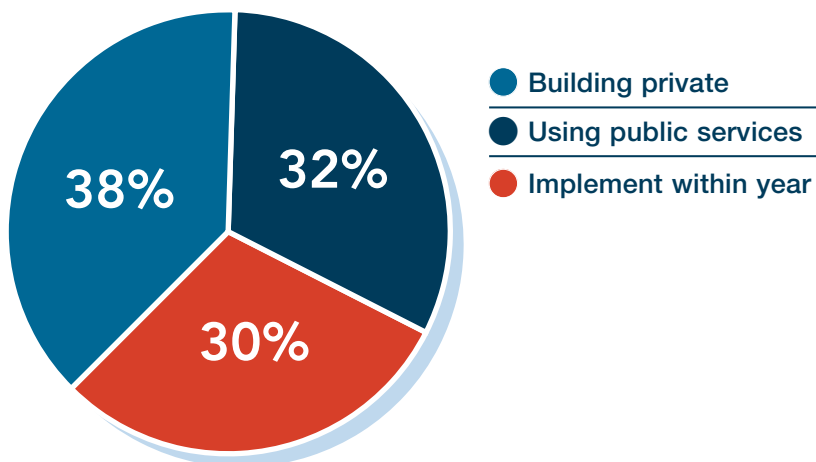
Microsoft's Reinventing Productivity

The productivity story was picked up next by Dan Canning, senior product marketing manager at Microsoft Corp., who told the audience: "Our catchphrase ad for Office 365 is Reinventing Productivity."

Collaboration is one of the ways Office 365 makes that goal possible, he said. Office 365 provides an umbrella of collaborative tools including OneDrive, Skype for Business, and Teams, which Microsoft will be releasing this spring to SharePoint.

Cloud Adoption

- 38%
- 32%
- 30%

● Building private
● Using public services
● Implement within year

With team members working in an office or a coffee shop or an airport terminal or thousands of other places where it is possible to connect via Office 365 via a mobile device, something as simple as knowing if a team member is online helps support collaboration.

"Even things as small as presence end up being a big factor in collaboration," Canning said. "Being able to know if a team member is online, being able to reach out to them directly and interact with them even if they are standing in a check-out line."

There are a host of other tools that Office 365 provides including intelligence apps that help users be sure they are sending the latest version of a document in an email attachment, as well as security features to protect actions like file transfers.

Data Protection in the Cloud

The productivity gains of having a mobile and easily connected workforce does raise issues about all the data outside the traditional firewall. Legal and governmental requirements surrounding data, even if it is residing on a cell phone, have not gone away in the cloud era. There is also the constant threat of ransomware or human error that may require an organization to restore data not only to in-house workstations but also to all those endpoints the mobile workforce is using.

"Over 50 percent of the information that used to reside behind the firewall will now be distributed among endpoints like smartphones and tablets and cloud applications like Office 365," explained Seyi Verma,

> "Druva inSynch unifies information across all the repositories that may exist within an organization." — Seyi Verma

senior product marketing manager at Druva Inc. "With that, the ability to view and manage all the distributed data becomes completely critical for organizations."

Where once data was generated and stored on premises, it is now in a dizzying array of places.

"Information management, knowing where what information resides, managing it, and having control of any information at any given point is extremely important and becomes critical for organizations," Verma explained.

Druva offers solutions that make it possible for organizations to get a handle on all that data.

"Druva inSync unifies information across all the repositories that may exist within an organization," Verma told his audience. "It provides intelligence around the information. It collects information from a variety of sources including tablets, cell phones, or laptops. It also collects data from cloud applications like Office 365 and Salesforce. It then backs up all the data to Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure. Organizations can select the repository of their choice or mix and match. Then we provide services for all the data collected and stored in these repositories. We provide granular ways of backing up and restoring data as well as archival services to save

data for legal requirements or government compliance. You can immediately search for data across all the data that has been collected."

Druva inSync provides:

■ Endpoint Data Protection: High performance backup, remote wipe and geo-location of laptops and smart devices

■ Cloud application backup and archival

■ Protection and governance for Microsoft Office 365, G Suite, Box and Salesforce

■ Data Compliance Monitoring: Identification and remediation of at-rest sensitive data risks (PHI, PII, PCI)

■ Federated Search: Quick location of files across endpoints and cloud applications

■ Legal Hold Management & eDiscovery Enablement: Instantly preserve custodian data for investigative and litigation needs

■ Secure File Sharing: Immediate access to data, from anywhere, with easy to manage file collaboration

■ OS Migration and Device Refresh: Centralized management for large-scale migrations and self-service refreshes