



**Microsoft Exchange SE
is coming and Support
for Exchange 2016 and
2019 will end in 2025.**

Here's what you need to know.



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Compulsory changes are coming to your email systems.

Microsoft is bringing in major updates to Exchange Server and email authentication protocols, and no matter what sector you're in, your business will be affected. Whether your team uses an on-premises Exchange Server or Exchange Online, you need to start preparing because these updates will fundamentally change how your systems operate.

Key Dates:

Mid-2025:

Microsoft will release Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE).

September 2025:

Support for Basic Authentication with Client Submission (also known as SMTP Auth) will be permanently removed.

14th October 2025:

Microsoft will end support for Exchange 2016 and Exchange 2019. There will be no more security updates or technical assistance for these versions.





What do these changes mean for you?

You might be wondering what this means for you and your team. If your business relies on Exchange 2016 or 2019, you'll need to **be prepared for Microsoft to end its support.**

If you don't act, **your email services could be disrupted, slowing down communication or even bringing work to a halt.** And with no Microsoft help for temporary fixes, you'll be left to manage any fallout on your own.



Here's what you need to know:

- 1** Microsoft may disrupt email delivery with new Transport Enforcement measures. You could find yourself unable to send or receive messages.
- 2** Microsoft will stop providing security updates, making legacy servers vulnerable to attacks. Your inbox could become an easy target for hackers, putting sensitive company data - and even your personal information - at risk.
- 3** Exchange Server SE won't support Exchange 2016 or 2019, so legacy systems will stop working properly. You'll lose critical security updates and could face performance issues, like slower email delivery or system downtime.
- 4** Microsoft will block outdated, insecure systems from sending emails to Exchange Online. You could lose communications between clients or colleagues, and critical information could slip through the cracks.

Stay ahead of the changes

The good news is these changes will lead to more secure, more effective systems, and you have plenty of time to plan and act if you start now.

Follow the steps in this guide to prepare, and we'll help you make sure your systems have a seamless, secure transition.



Exchange Server SE: What you need to know

Key Features

What is Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE)?

Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE) is the new version of Exchange Server, set to launch in mid-2025. Unlike previous versions, it runs on a subscription model, which means you'll receive continuous updates, so there will be no more waiting around for major version releases.

- **Subscription model:**
SE issues rolling updates with new features, bug fixes, and security patches.
- **Enhanced security:**
SE includes the latest security protocols, making it more resilient against threats.
- **Cloud-based solution:**
SE modernises your email and calendar system with ongoing updates.

Can I keep my on-premises Exchange Server?

You can but with some critical changes.

Many businesses prefer on-premises Exchange Servers for reasons like:

- **Managing recipients in hybrid setups.**
- **Security or compliance requirements.**
- **On-site mailbox hosting.**
- **Using Exchange Server as an SMTP relay.**

However, Exchange Server SE won't support coexistence with Exchange 2016 or 2019 after the first Cumulative Update (CU) is released in late 2025. This means Microsoft will stop providing security updates and support, leaving your systems vulnerable.

So, while you can continue using on-premises systems, you'll still need to upgrade to Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE) in mid-2025 to keep your systems secure and supported.

Essential actions to prevent disruption

To stay ahead of the 2025 updates, take these steps before the October deadline:

1

Plan your migration to Exchange Server SE

If your business needs an on-premises Exchange Server, make a plan now to upgrade to Exchange Server Subscription Edition (SE) when it launches in mid-2025. If you're using Exchange 2019 CU14/CU15, Microsoft is expected to offer an in-place upgrade.

2

Transition to Exchange Online

If you don't need an on-premises server, think about moving to Exchange Online or another platform. You can also move services like mailboxes and SMTP relay, to streamline your setup.

3

Review your SMTP relay setup

If you use an on-premises Exchange Server for SMTP relay, you'll need to review and reconfigure these setups to align with new security protocols. This will prevent disruptions to your email after the upgrade.

Stay informed

Keep track of Microsoft's announcements and updates so you'll have a smooth transition when the time comes.

Plan ahead

Start preparing early to secure your systems and avoid last-minute issues.

Get support

We offer workshops to assess your current systems and help plan the best migration or transition path for you. We'll guide you through the process to make sure everything is ready well before the deadline. See page 8 for further information.



Changes to SMTP AUTH and Basic Authentication

Microsoft is also making major updates to how emails are sent through Exchange Online. By September 2025, Basic Authentication for SMTP Auth will be permanently disabled and replaced by Modern Authentication (OAuth 2.0). So, if you use Exchange Online for email routing, you'll probably have concerns about its impact.

Here's how to tell if this affects you:

- ✓ You have legacy business applications that send emails through Exchange Online (e.g. old backup software that sends job confirmations).
- ✓ You use fax systems that convert faxes to email and send them via Exchange Online.
- ✓ You have some devices that send email notifications, like printers or copiers.
- ✓ You're unsure whether all your applications or devices support Modern Authentication.





Why is Microsoft retiring Basic Authentication?

Basic Authentication has been the go-to login method for years. However as cyber threats have become more sophisticated, its security gaps have become more problematic. Modern Authentication, using OAuth 2.0, offers a much more secure, token-based system to keep your data and communications safe.

What happens if you don't upgrade?

If you continue to rely on Basic Authentication past the September 2025 deadline, **you'll face:**

Security vulnerabilities:

Outdated authentication methods will expose you to data breaches, financial loss, and reputational damage.

Disrupted email services:

Devices and applications that still use Basic Authentication won't be able to send emails via Exchange Online.

Important actions to take:



Audit your applications:

Identify any systems, applications, or devices using Basic Authentication to send emails via Exchange Online.



Upgrade to Modern Authentication:

Switch to OAuth 2.0 wherever possible, to prevent email failures once Basic Authentication is disabled.

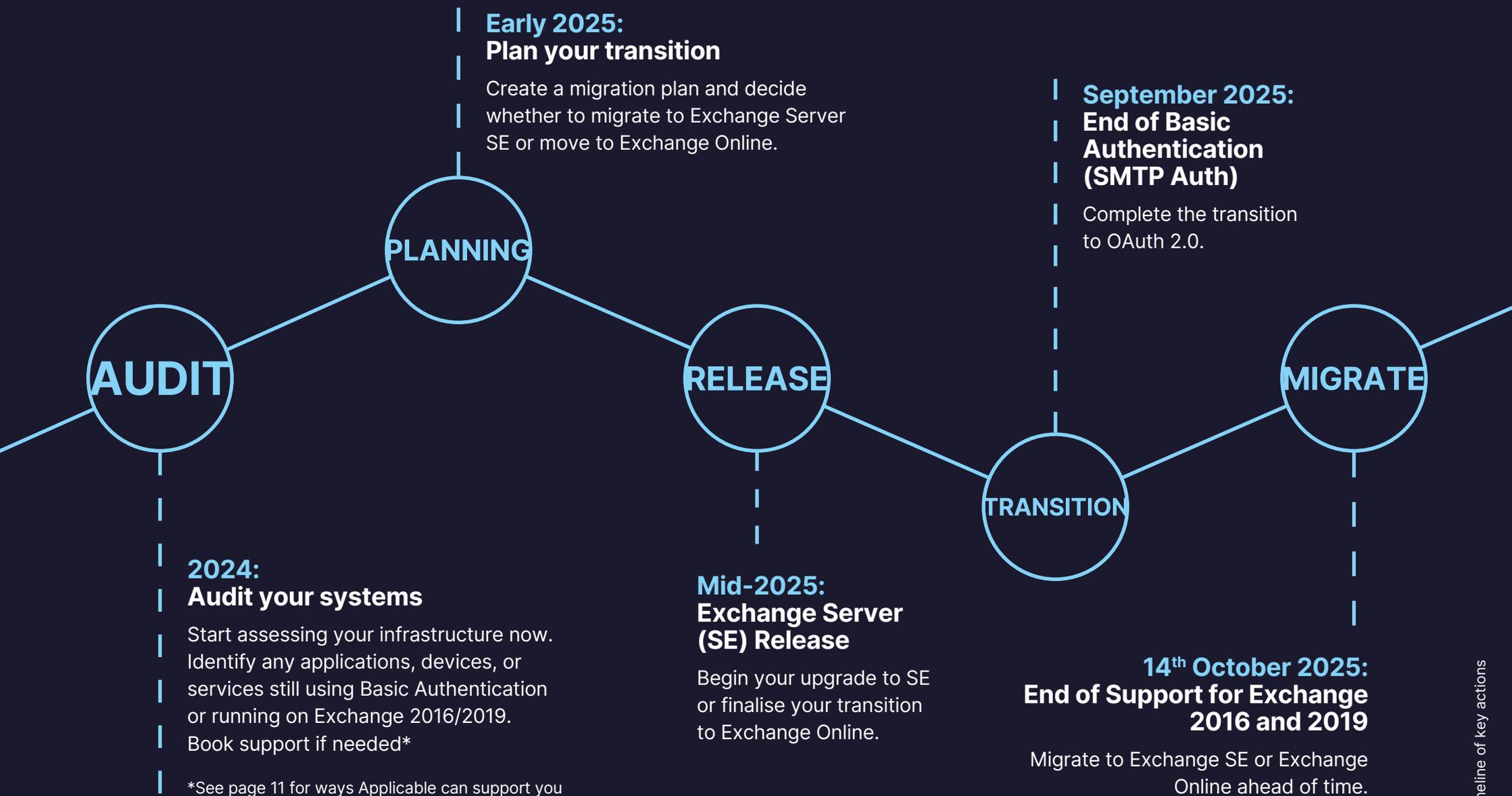


Replace unsupported legacy systems:

If your existing software doesn't support Modern Authentication, either upgrade or replace it with a more secure alternative.



Timeline of key actions



Exchange changes at a glance

Risks of not upgrading

Lack of support: older versions (Exchange 2013, 2016, 2019) will no longer receive support, leaving your organisation exposed.

Blocked installations: installing Exchange SE CU1 will be blocked if older versions are still in your environment.

Email disruption: legacy systems relying on older Exchange versions will no longer work with SE after CU1 is released.

Key actions

Upgrade now: update to Exchange 2019 CU14/CU15 or migrate to Exchange Online.

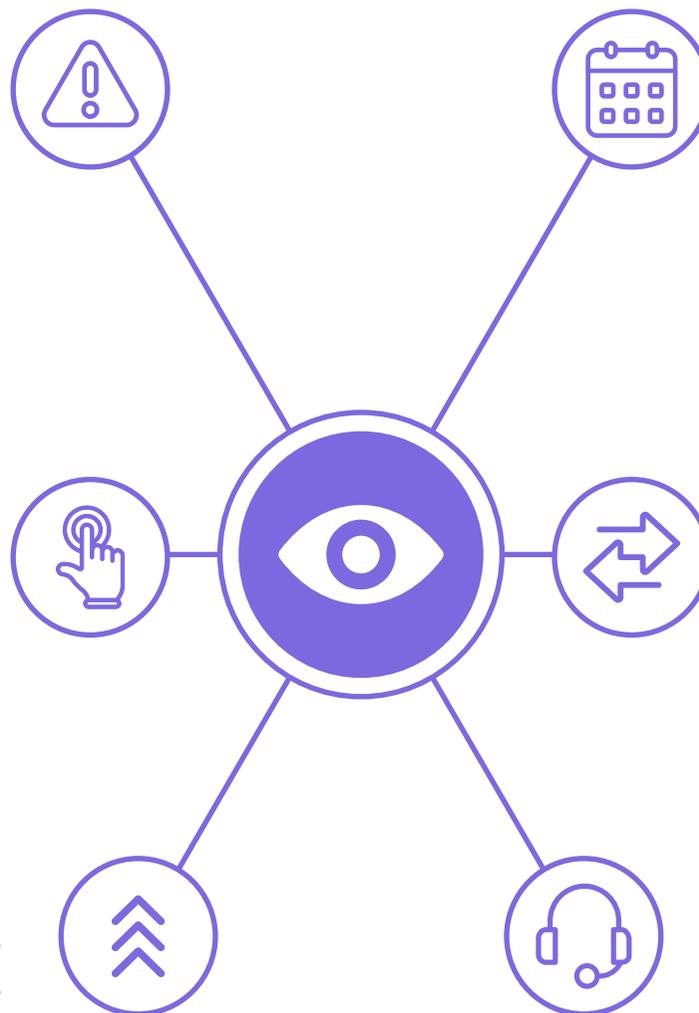
Decommission older versions: remove Exchange 2013 and any other unsupported versions to ensure a smooth transition.

Prepare for Exchange SE: plan for the release of SE and CU1 to avoid disruption.

Upgrade paths

Legacy upgrade: required for Exchange 2016 → Exchange SE, or for any version requiring hardware or OS changes.

In-place upgrade: available for Exchange 2019 CU14/CU15 → Exchange SE, similar to applying a cumulative update.



Key release dates

H2 2024: final cumulative update (CU15) for Exchange Server 2019

Early H2 2025: release of Exchange Server SE RTM (supports in-place upgrade from Exchange 2019 CU14/CU15)

Late H2 2025: release of Exchange Server SE CU1 (introduces new features, blocks coexistence with older Exchange versions)

Important changes

No coexistence: Exchange SE CU1 will block coexistence with Exchange 2013, 2016, and 2019.

End of support: Exchange 2016 and 2019 will no longer be supported after October 14, 2025.

Coexistence and support status

Exchange 2013: out of support since April 11, 2023; coexistence blocked with CU15 and SE releases.

Exchange 2016: supported until October 14, 2025; coexistence blocked from SE CU1.

Exchange 2019: supported until October 14, 2025; coexistence blocked from SE CU1.



Why you need to act now

In the long run, Microsoft's changes will benefit everyone, making systems much more effective and secure. However, the transition could cause you short-term problems if you don't start early. Microsoft has been clear - there won't be any temporary fixes or extensions.

So, you need to act now to prevent:



Email disruption:

Any applications or devices still using Basic Authentication will stop sending emails through Exchange Online.



Security risks:

Unsupported Exchange Servers won't get security updates, leaving your systems open to cyberattacks.



Higher costs:

Waiting until the last minute could cost you more in expensive, emergency fixes.





How Applicable can help with your transition

We've been working with Exchange for over 20 years, since its inception, so our team is uniquely qualified to help. You might feel daunted by these changes, but we're here to make the process smooth and stress-free.

Here's how we can support you:



Workshops:

We'll work with you to assess your Exchange environment and email systems. Together, we'll create a clear plan to handle the upcoming changes.



Assessments:

We'll dive deep into your infrastructure, spot vulnerabilities, and help you prepare for a seamless upgrade to Exchange Server SE or Exchange Online.



Supportive action:

After reviewing your setup, we'll guide you step-by-step to make sure your systems are ready and head off potential disruptions.

Start planning today

The sooner you start preparing, the smoother your transition will be.

We're here to help you get ahead of these changes:



System audits & assessments:

We'll help you work out what needs updating and make sure you're ready well ahead of time.



Tailored migration planning:

We'll create a strategy to fit your specific needs and timeline.



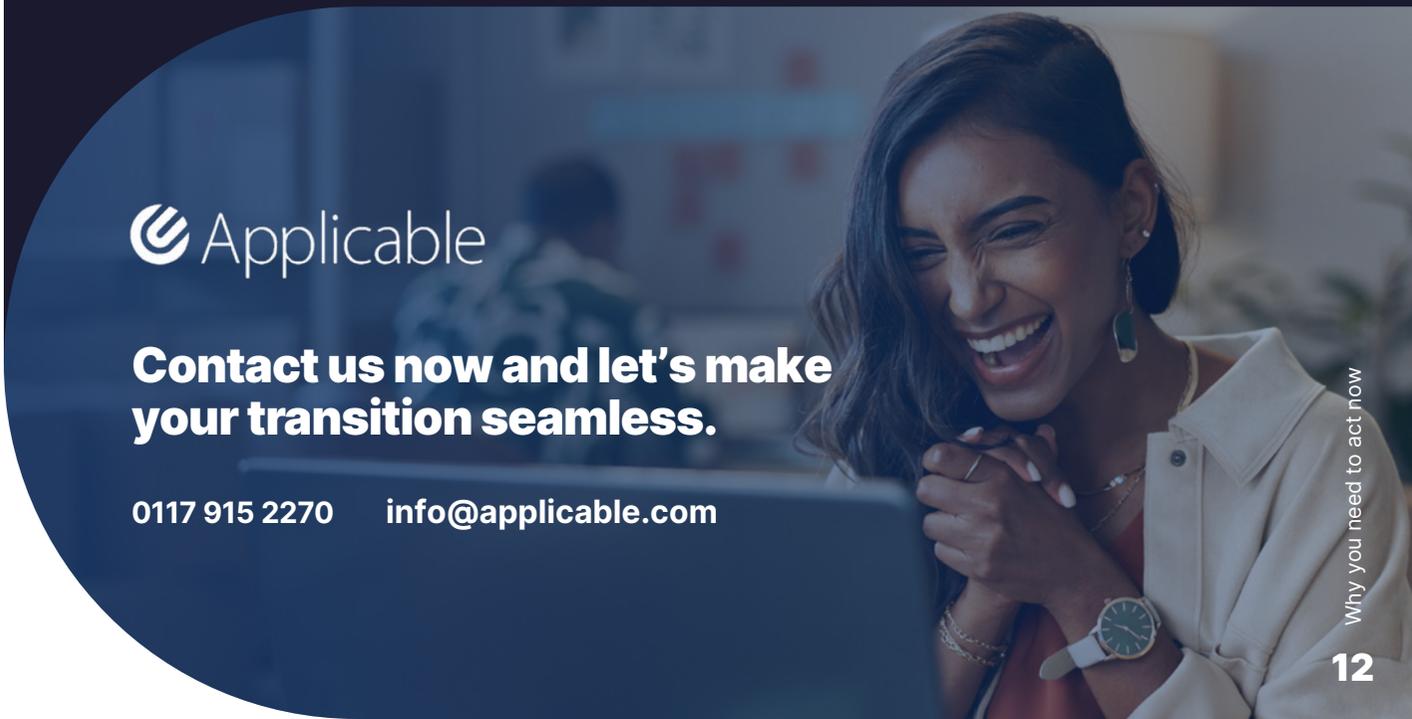
Transition support:

Our team will guide you through the entire process, to make sure all changes are implemented smoothly and securely.



Contact us now and let's make your transition seamless.

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Why you need to act now