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Microsoft Online Services

What is Next for Microsoft Online Services: Intune, Microsoft SharePoint 2010, and Microsoft Office 2010

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Learn more on how you can engage with Microsoft and take advantage of the full online services product portfolio.

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A Special Update brought to you by Everything Channel

Recently, food giant Kraft Foods, the world's largest mining company Codelco, and pharmaceutical heavyweight Novartis International, all announced they would move to cloud computing using Microsoft Online Services.

"We chose Microsoft Online Services for our collaboration applications in the cloud for our 100,000 employees around the world," says Leon V. Schumacher, Group CIO of Novartis. "It will enable our large research and development population to better collaborate, to innovate."

Now, improvements to and expansion of Microsoft Online Services enable Microsoft partners to aggressively pursue a wider swath of the cloud computing market – a market Everything Channel research shows is the strongest IT market growth area today.

Here's what's in store for Microsoft Online Services:

Windows Intune cloud service

Windows Intune simplifies how businesses manage and secure PCs using Windows cloud services. It includes a Windows 7 Enterprise license and delivers cloud-based management and security capabilities administered through a single Web-based console. With an Internet connection, end users and IT staff can work from virtually anywhere.

With Windows Intune, businesses can centrally:

- Manage Windows updates
- Protect PCs from malware
- Proactively Monitors PCs
- Provide remote assistance
- Track hardware and software inventory
- Set security policies

Windows Intune is designed for businesses that have basic IT needs and are looking for a cost-effective, simple way to manage and secure their PCs. Those with a highly mobile and distributed workforce will use Windows Intune cloud service to manage and secure PCs in the office and on the road.

BPOS rollout

Microsoft bundles several cloud applications, including Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, Office Communications Online and Live Meeting, into its Business Productivity Online Suite (BPOS). Just announced are several enhancements, including:

- Phasing in capabilities to BPOS already introduced in Microsoft's on-premises Exchange 2010, SharePoint 2010 and Communicator 2010
- Adding support for single sign-on with identity federation
- Redesign of console user interface
- More robust BPOS administrator and access controls
- Integrating Office 2010 support, including SignIn application support for Outlook 2010
- Office client/Web Apps Integration with SharePoint
- Blackberry portal capability for those running OS 4.5 and higher

To learn more about BPOS, connect with us at WPC.

Identity capabilities of BPOS will be expanded to include the ability to sign into the cloud using corporate IDs, and single sign-on options for both end users and administrators. Also available will be two-factor authentication options.

BPOS's back end will see a new optional connector that installs required updates and configures client apps. Manual updates will continue to be made available for those who do not want automatic ones.

What is important for partners to realize is, an important shift is now underway at Microsoft. Currently, Microsoft's Online services generally offer a subset of the functions available in their on-premises equivalent. That will be reversed going forward: Cloud capabilities will become a superset of what is available on-premises. There is no better time than now for partners to position themselves to take advantage of the opportunities this shift creates.

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