



SIEMENS

CASE STUDY

From best of breed to best of suite:
Siemens AG elevates the workplace
experience with leading-edge cybersecurity

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Once Siemens AG completed its modern workplace transformation, its focus turned to strengthening cloud security for its new workplace platform. By switching from a “best of breed” to a “best of suite” approach using Microsoft technology, Siemens AG gained the control it needed to ensure security, usability and compliance.

Situation: Complex and outdated security controls

Siemens AG is a global technology powerhouse focused on intelligent infrastructure for buildings and decentralized energy systems, on automation and digitalization in the process and manufacturing industries, and on smart mobility solutions for rail and road transport.

The company's recent adoption of [Microsoft 365](#) gave employees remote access to company data and applications from virtually anywhere in the world. But its existing security controls were not ready for the newly added applications. Siemens AG relied on multiple vendors and software because its previous security approach focused on implementing the best tools on the market for specific tasks. As a result, it had to sacrifice compatibility and control over the maintenance and security of its IT environment.

Now that employees were more digitally connected than ever before, Siemens AG wanted absolute assurance that every user was authenticated, every document protected and every device equipped with the most up-to-date security features. The scale and complexity involved at the company required a partner with the right global capabilities and technical expertise on the Microsoft ecosystem.

Solution: Cloud security with Microsoft 365 Enterprise Mobility Suite

Siemens AG turned to its long-time, trusted partner, Avanade, to help it define a modern security strategy that would mitigate new security risks that come with the adoption of cloud services. Using the complete Microsoft 365 Enterprise Mobility Suite (EMS), which includes Azure Information Protection, Microsoft Cloud App Security, Microsoft Defender Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) and Azure ATP, we implemented controls to automatically classify and encrypt files, documents and messages. These secure cloud services enable Siemens AG to react to cybersecurity threats in a new environment and still preserve employees' ability to collaborate on the Microsoft workplace platform.

The EMS solution also gives Siemens AG the control and flexibility it needs to manage the new Microsoft applications. For example, more streamlined processes reduced the number of parties needed to address simple security tasks, such as password changes. Single sign-on ensures employee productivity is not hindered when accessing multiple company applications.

As a result, the company's IT ecosystem is at the cutting-edge of cybersecurity.

“For Siemens, we can say that our mindset shifted. From a non-cloud policy to a cloud-first approach, security is the enabler for usability.”

Thomas Müller-Lynch

Global Lead Architect for Microsoft-based Digital Identities, Siemens AG

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Results: Paving the way to Zero Trust

It took Siemens AG just 31 days to classify over 7.4 million emails and 1.5 million documents. More than 86% of identified users successfully installed Microsoft Information Protection (MIP) to help them discover, classify and protect sensitive information.

With this EMS solution, Siemens AG reduced complexity, eased the burden on its IT teams and achieved cost savings. Additional benefits include:

- **Secure identities** with real time threat analysis to protect user accounts against modern security threats, including malicious attacks, compromised user credentials and unauthorized account access
- **Secure data** classification and protection for all documents on Microsoft SharePoint and OneDrive using native integrations across Windows and Microsoft 365, including automatic encryption of sensitive data
- **Secure remote** work for 645,333 installed mobile apps, mitigating risks from unauthorized access and untrusted sources while helping users comply with guidelines for access to company resources to remain productive

These are the first benefits for Siemens AG coming out of the EMS for a secure modern workplace. "We already see further potential of the Microsoft Security Platform in Siemens AG's journey to further implement Zero Trust on a full enterprise global scale," said Timm Fuchs, global delivery lead at Avanade. Next steps will include extending the security measures beyond the workplace to other applications, services and operational technology.

About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. With 39,000 professionals in 25 countries, we are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at: www.avanade.com

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About Siemens

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable transportation as well as advanced healthcare, the company creates technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining the real and the digital worlds, Siemens empowers its customers to transform their industries and markets, helping them to transform the everyday for billions of people. Siemens also owns a majority stake in the publicly listed company Siemens Healthineers, a globally leading medical technology provider shaping the future of healthcare. In addition, Siemens holds a minority stake in Siemens Energy, a global leader in the transmission and generation of electrical power. In fiscal 2021, which ended on September 30, 2021, the Siemens Group generated revenue of €62.3 billion and net income of €6.7 billion. As of September 30, 2021, the company had around 303,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.

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