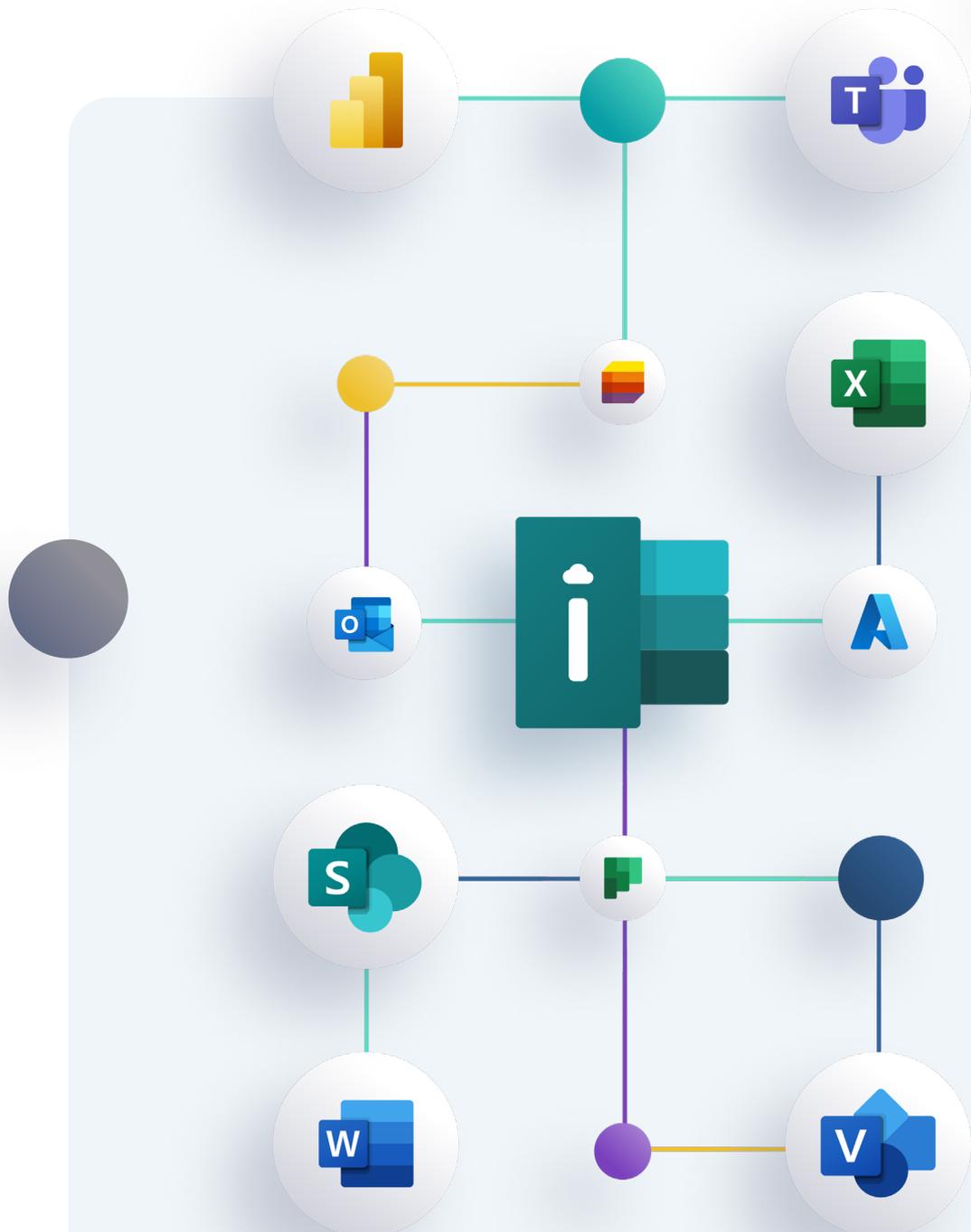
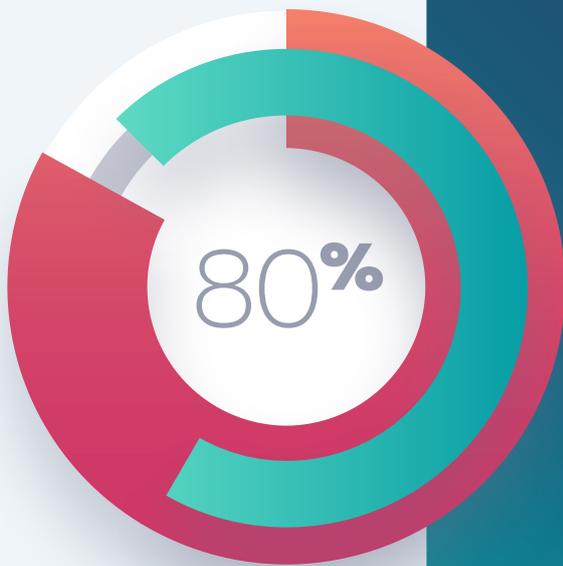


# Native Integration and Collaboration with **Microsoft 365**



# Introduction



With over **80%** of large enterprises now adopting the entire Microsoft 365 suite, our iServer365 platform is the solution of choice for organizations looking to EA to guide their digital transformation journeys.

By adapting and integrating with Microsoft's technology stack, we're supporting the growing demand for business-centric transformation.

We empower Enterprise Architecture (EA) teams to engage the business with familiar tools they use on a daily basis. More and more, outputs from EA depend on co-creation of multiple teams and making it as easy as possible for them to collaborate is crucial.



# Why our Microsoft relationship is different

## Over 20 years experience in leveraging Microsoft applications to increase the reach and reduce time to value for EA Teams

Orbus has been a Microsoft Gold Partner for many years and has continually enhanced iServer365's interoperability as the Microsoft 365 collaboration suite has evolved. Our Gold Level competencies include DevOps, Application Development, Cloud Platform and Windows and Devices.

## Microsoft experts selected iServer365 as a Preferred Solution on the Azure Marketplace and Appstore

Offers with the Microsoft preferred solution badge have been validated by a team of Microsoft experts, have a focus on specific solution areas, and have proven to generate business impact, technology transformation, or cross-organizational improvements for customers.

## Orbus/Microsoft Partner Pledge, committing to work with Microsoft towards 5 social and sustainability goals

Signing the Partner Pledge commits Orbus Software to focusing on five critical goals: digital skills, apprenticeships, diversity, responsible and ethical AI, and sustainability.

This pledge emphasizes not only our special relationship with Microsoft but our commitment to sustainability and its goals for greener digital transformation.

# What does native really mean?

Native integration suggests functionality that works seamlessly with and within the Microsoft 365 suite. However many so-called 'native' integrations simply enable users to embed links or export to Excel or Word for reporting.



In our case, we started from our customers needs – developing a collaborative orchestration platform for multiple teams and stakeholders within the business - a native experience rather than a simple integration.

Integrations can be difficult if you are basically trying to link two different technologies that have been designed for different purposes. Far too many Microsoft integrations can end up as tick-box exercises where end-users inevitably miss out on either functionality or usability.

For example, you may want to report your models to Word, Excel or PowerPoint. What you don't want to be faced with is activating the use of Office within your EA platform, and then having to sign-in to Office 365. Especially if the activation of Microsoft Office only remains for the duration of a session. You really don't want to be signing into Office 365 every time you want access. You definitely don't want to be verifying with your internal IT team, or Microsoft directly, whether your license allows for this.

Also, it is worth noting that embedded views are not a native integration. You don't want to be trying to work out permissions or consulting admins just to share information.

# Why it matters

Integrating your EA solution natively with your customers means transforming backend and frontend. This means moving from IT practitioner-focused to user-focused and delivering integrations natively that appear seamless to your end-users.

iServer captures architecture at all levels, which in turn supports decision making, helping identify potential gaps, enabling better risk management, and supports future developments by enabling you to understand the present state. Here are some of the areas that a native integration to Microsoft 365 helps deliver that value.



## NATIVE EXPERIENCE

The experience from start to finish should be natural: single sign on to login, reporting, auditing and performance tools – all working together in the way the user would expect. That is the difference between integration and native experience.

Integrating natively improves user satisfaction, and experience as well, enabling you to cope with new users and leavers. The business enjoys automated business processes, improved efficiency and enhanced capabilities.



## SCALABILITY

Building native integrations adds value. It does so by allowing your organization to exploit the investment and training already committed to Microsoft 365.

Users have new ways of using and enhancing the use of iServer365, enabling you to scale significantly without a steep learning curve and associated training costs. Basically your iServer365 is there to serve the widest possible community of users. Stakeholders can see the business landscape and associated technology at a level that suits them via customisable views.



## COST SAVINGS AND PRODUCTIVITY

You can be more efficient in saving money and time by increasing self-serve options via Microsoft 365. If you have a small architecture team, providing 'views' of information not only shares knowledge but also inspires increased collaboration and positive change.



## USABILITY

By being familiar with Office 365, users can enjoy access without any friction. Create, access, and share a blueprint of your organization using easy-to-use tools. Automate repetitive tasks and alerts. You can even collect data seamlessly and transparently by users responding to questionnaires or surveys. Information can be created and aggregated once, in one standardized repository, but used many times in various diagrams, making updates easy and quick to manage.



## CONTROL AND COLLABORATION

You maintain the coherence of your content governance from within iServer365. Users don't even need to interact with iServer365. Content is exposed to them within Teams or SharePoint. The essential feature of iServer365 is its direct connection with Microsoft. Architects' knowledge and effort are not locked up in the tool.

Having access to architecture data provides options for enterprise business users. Information and ownership are transparent. For example, business users can view the iServer365 application catalog from within Teams or SharePoint and discuss suitability and capabilities with owners before contacting suppliers or requesting a new system.



## DELIVER FASTER

You can add new functionality in hours, not days. You can reuse existing documents or policies that already exist within your SharePoint implementation. These can then be referenced and tracked in the iServer365 repository without repurposing or starting from scratch. Reuse of the tools we already have. Isn't that what architecture is all about?



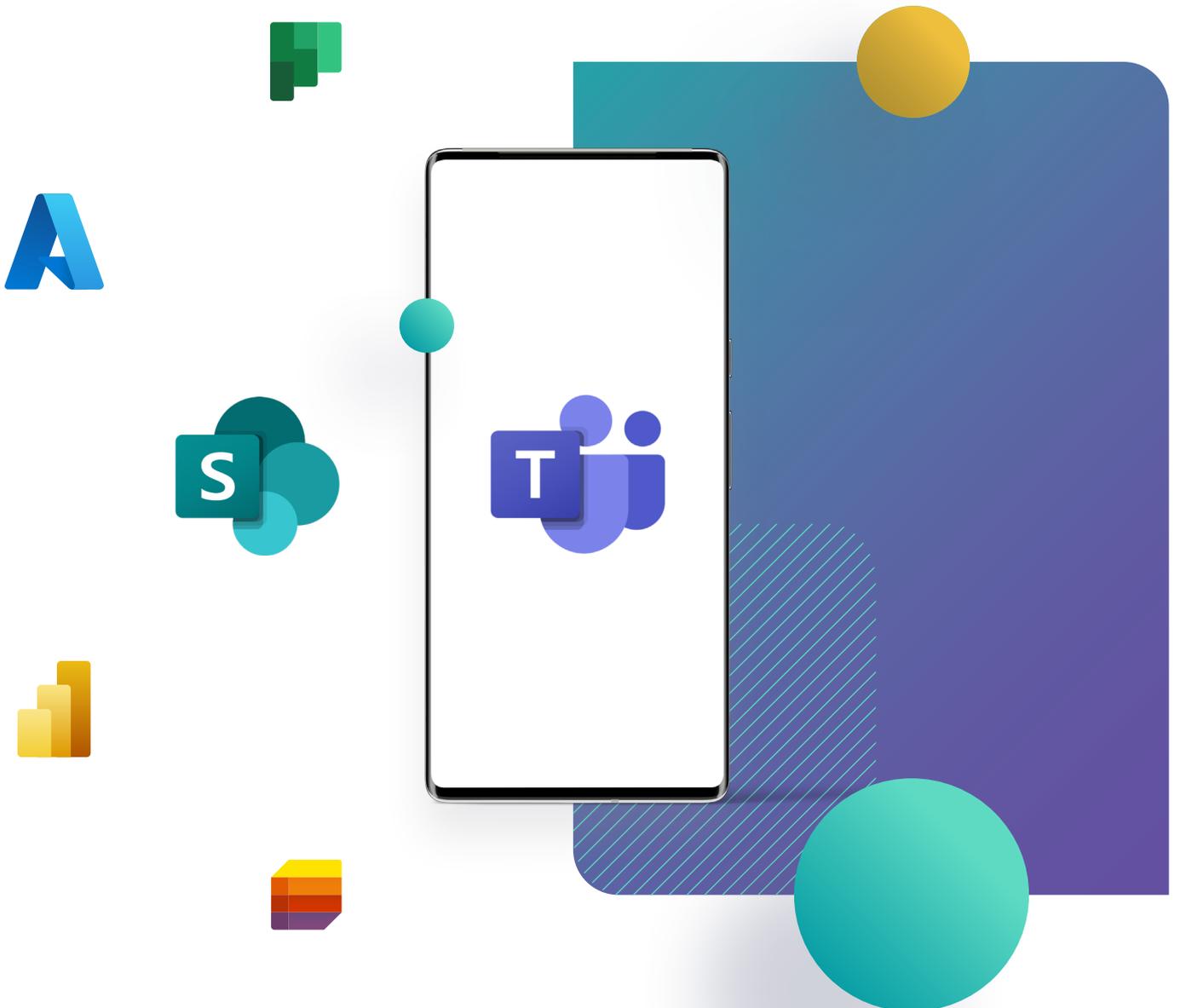
If your organization has traditionally used Visio to maintain technical and architecture diagrams, iServer allows you to maintain a central repository of objects, meaning any changes can be quickly updated across multiple diagrams without the need to manually update each one.



# Beyond SharePoint and Teams

Our Microsoft journey hasn't ended - native integrations are dynamic and fast changing. The latest enhancements to the iServer365 platform include new integrations supporting the import of cloud resources and cost information from Azure APIs, the ability to send lifecycle reviews to a Microsoft Teams channel, and support for completing Data Intake forms using Microsoft Lists.

Additional integrations include the creation of Microsoft Planner Tasks to review Enterprise Architecture repository items and actions, Technology Radar Visualizations in Power BI, and the import of Agile artifacts from Azure DevOps.



# Towards the future

We agree with Gartner:



Increasingly, EA tools are serving a wide range of stakeholders from the boardroom and the C-suite, across all business strategic and operational roles, and into the IT estate. They are also leveraged by a broad array of architectural and IT disciplines – information, solution, security, applications and infrastructure.

With such a broad array of stakeholders, EA is evolving: leveraging collaboration and productivity suites, automation and data driven visualizations. EA tools to be really effective have to make the consumption of, and contribution to, the information contained within its repository both easy and dynamic. By integrating with the largest collaborative productivity, infrastructure and business information platforms, we feel iServer365 is well placed to meet those demands.





# Leverage your investment in Microsoft 365

Book a Demo with iServer365 to see how you can leverage your investment in Microsoft 365.

[Book a Demo](#)

## About Orbus Software

Orbus Software is a leading provider of cloud solutions for digital transformation. Our mission is to enable organizations to build operational resiliency. Our customers are predominantly global blue-chip enterprises and government organizations, and we focus on delivering technology innovation that accelerates our customers' success. To learn more, follow Orbus Software on Twitter and LinkedIn.



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