

EXCHANGE ONLINE · DEADLINE GUIDE

EWS retirement: what changed on 1 October and what to do now

Exchange Online started enforcing the retirement of Exchange Web Services (EWS) on 1 October 2026. Apps that still use EWS can stop working unless you allow-list them, and even then only until 1 April 2027. Microsoft Graph is the replacement.

At a glance

1 Oct 2026	Retirement enforcement begins in Exchange Online
1 Apr 2027	Full retirement begins. No re-enablement after that (MC1227454)
EWS on, no allow list	All EWS traffic blocked, except cross-tenant org relationships
EWS off	All EWS traffic blocked
Not set (Null)	Subject to Microsoft's phased disablement
EWS on + allow list	Setting not modified by Microsoft before April 2027
Not affected	Exchange Server on-premises

Do this now

1

Find out what still uses EWS

Run the EWS usage report and export it to CSV. It shows Application ID, SOAP action, call volume and last activity, for 7, 30 or 90 days.

WHERE M365 admin centre > Reports > Usage > Exchange > EWS usage

2

Put a name and an owner on every Application ID

Check Microsoft's list of first-party service app IDs, then Microsoft Entra ID > Enterprise applications. Microsoft first-party apps that appear in your report must be allow-listed too.

WHERE Microsoft Entra admin centre > Enterprise applications

3

Check your current allow list

The list is only returned when you ask for it explicitly.

WHERE `Get-OrganizationConfig -RetrieveEwsOperationAccessPolicy | Format-List EwsAllowedAppIDs`



4

Allow-list the apps that must keep working until April 2027

Turn EWS on and set the allow list with every App ID you need. Check the exact value format on the Set-OrganizationConfig page on Microsoft Learn before you run it.

WHERE Set-OrganizationConfig -EwsEnabled \$true, then -EwsAllowedAppIDs

5

Wait 24 hours before you test

Microsoft says changes to EWSAllowedAppIDs can take up to 24 hours to take effect.

6

Get every vendor on record

Ask each vendor for a Microsoft Graph version and a delivery date before 1 April 2027. Track it like any other migration.

7

Brief the help desk

Sudden failures in mail-connected third-party apps from October are likely to be EWS. Give the team the report path and the owner list.

Watch out for

- Setting EWSAllowedAppIDs **replaces** the existing list. Always include every App ID when you update it.
- The usage report aggregates weekly and can lag by up to 10 days. An empty report today doesn't prove nothing uses EWS.
- Leaving EWSEnabled unset (Null) puts you in Microsoft's phased disablement.
- The allow list buys time to 1 April 2027. It is not an exemption.

Sources

1. MC1447678, EWS allow list and October enforcement - mc.merill.net/message/MC1447678
2. MC1227454, EWS retirement timeline - mc.merill.net/message/MC1227454
3. EWS usage report, Microsoft Learn - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/admin/activity-reports/ews-usage
4. Set-OrganizationConfig, Microsoft Learn - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/module/exchange/powershell/set-organizationconfig

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