

EXCHANGE ONLINE · DEADLINE GUIDE

SMTP AUTH Basic authentication: sort the scanners before December

At the end of December 2026, Exchange Online disables SMTP AUTH Basic authentication by default for existing tenants. Admins can switch it back on, but Microsoft will announce the final removal date in the second half of 2027. Use this quarter to move everything that can to OAuth.

The timeline (MC786329, updated 27 Jan 2026)

Now to December 2026	No change
End of December 2026	Disabled by default for existing tenants. Admins can re-enable it
After December 2026	Not available by default for new tenants
Second half of 2027	Microsoft announces the final removal date

Who's affected

Anything that sends email through smtp.office365.com with a username and password: multifunction printers and scan-to-email, alarm and building systems, and line-of-business apps. These are often the devices nobody owns.

Do this quarter**1****Run the report**

It shows Basic vs OAuth submissions, with up to 90 days of data.

WHERE Exchange admin centre > SMTP AUTH Clients Submission Report

2**List every sender and give it an owner**

Every scanner, printer and app that sends via smtp.office365.com.

3**Move OAuth-capable devices and apps to OAuth**

Check firmware and app updates first. Many newer devices support it.

4**Choose a route for the rest**

For internal-only senders that can't do OAuth, Microsoft lists High Volume Email. Hybrid organisations can use an on-premises Exchange receive connector for anonymous relay. Third-party sending services are another option.

5**Decide your re-enable policy now**

If you plan to switch Basic back on in January as a stop-gap, write down which devices it's for and when they'll be fixed.



6

Brief the help desk for January

Failed scan-to-email and app alerts are the likely first symptoms.

Watch out for

- Re-enabling is a stop-gap, not a plan. Removal is coming once Microsoft sets the date.
- Don't confuse this with EWS, which has hard dates (enforcement from 1 October 2026, full retirement from 1 April 2027).
- Check the exact cmdlet on Microsoft Learn before you script any change. It's deliberately not printed here.

Checklist

- | | |
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| ☐ Report reviewed | ☐ Every sender listed |
| ☐ Owners assigned | ☐ OAuth devices moved |
| ☐ Route chosen for the rest | ☐ Help desk briefed |

Sources

1. MC786329, SMTP AUTH Basic authentication - mc.merill.net/message/MC786329
2. MC1447678, EWS enforcement (for comparison) - mc.merill.net/message/MC1447678

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