MICROSOFT TEAMS · EXTERNAL CHAT GUIDE

Teams external chats: the late-October defaults

Four changes land in Teams chats with people outside your organisation from October 2026. Most are sensible, but two need a decision, and one has a hard date: Teams user reporting switches on by default on 25 October unless you opt out.

What changes, and when

Early Oct to early Nov	Defender checks the links in QR codes after delivery (MC1490905)
Mid to late October	QR-code images from external senders are blurred by default (MC1470410)
25 October 2026	Teams user reporting on by default, unless you opt out (MC1478463)
Late Oct to late Nov	File attach and drag-and-drop on in external chats, for tenants that never set the policy (MC1479514)

Decide on attachments

1

Check your current setting

An explicit setting is respected, so decide now.

```
WHERE Connect-MicrosoftTeams · Get-CsTeamsFilesPolicy | Select Identity,
FileSharingInChatsWithExternalUsers
```

2

Opt out, or limit auto-sharing

To turn attachments off, set the files policy to Disabled. To allow them but stop Teams granting access automatically, change the messaging policy.

```
WHERE Set-CsTeamsFilesPolicy -Identity Global -FileSharingInChatsWithExternalUsers
Disabled · Set-CsTeamsMessagingPolicy -Identity Global -AutoShareFilesInExternalChats
Disabled
```

Reporting and users

3

Check what outsiders can open

Uploaded files go to the sender's OneDrive, and your sharing settings still decide who can open them.

```
WHERE SharePoint admin center > Policies > Sharing
```

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4 Choose where user reports go

Microsoft, your mailbox, or both, or opt out before 25 October. Needs Defender for Office 365 Plan 1, Plan 2 or E5.

`WHERE Defender portal > Settings > Email & collaboration > Teams user reported settings`

5 Match the Teams setting

Make "Report a security concern" match your Defender choice.

`WHERE Teams admin center > Settings & policies > Messaging policy`

6 Brief users and the security team

A blurred QR code isn't a verdict: check the sender first. Hunt QR detections in Advanced Hunting (MessageUrlInfo table, UrlLocation = QRCode).

Watch out for

- Microsoft's Learn page still says external file sharing is off by default. MC1479514 (updated 6 Oct) is current.
- Pasted links keep their permissions. Automatic access applies only to paperclip and drag-and-drop uploads.
- Reports sent to Microsoft are stored in the USA with up to 15 messages either side. Check this against GDPR in the UK and EU and similar laws elsewhere.

Checklist

- [ ] Attachment policy decided
- [ ] Teams toggle matches Defender
- [ ] Report destination chosen by 25 Oct
- [ ] Users briefed on blurred QR codes

Sources

1. Message center posts, via mc.merill.net: MC1479514 attachments · MC1478463 user reporting · MC1470410 blurred QR codes · MC1490905 QR link checks
2. User reported settings in Teams - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/defender-office-365/submissions-teams

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