

Microsoft 365 and the reality of shared responsibility

Microsoft 365 is the most widely used email platform in healthcare, adopted by approximately 79% of healthcare orgs. That prevalence makes it the primary attack surface for bad actors.

Roughly half of breached organizations relied on Microsoft 365 as their core email platform. What the data shows is a consistent gap between platform capability and configuration discipline.



53% of breached organizations used Microsoft 365 (up from 43% in 2024)

In breached Microsoft 365 environments, the same foundational weaknesses were common. Authentication controls were left incomplete, sender validation remained permissive, and transport security relied on opportunistic encryption.

Microsoft 365 was not the only platform with exposure. 5 of 6 breached Google Workspace organizations were classified as High Risk.

31% of breached Microsoft 365 orgs were classified as High Risk

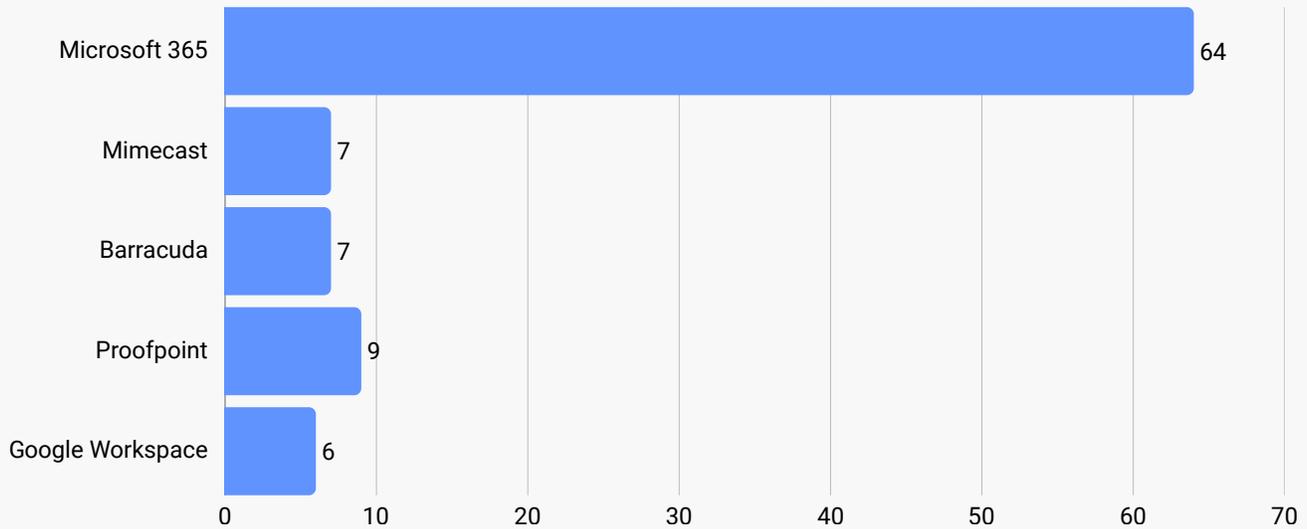
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The advertisement features a dark teal background with a faint, large-scale graphic of an envelope and a shield. The text is white and yellow, providing a high-contrast call to action.

Email breaches by provider (Jan - Dec 2025)



Organizations running custom or self-managed mail infrastructure fared similarly, with 65% falling into the high-risk category. Smaller organizations managing their own email environments often face the greatest configuration challenges due to a lack of IT resources. Proofpoint appeared in 9 breached organizations, and Mimecast and Barracuda each appeared in 7.

The presence of security tools alone does not substitute for foundational configuration discipline. Email

security is a set of controls that require deliberate configuration, ongoing review, and clear ownership across IT and compliance teams.

Proofpoint, Barracuda and Mimecast accounted for 19% of breaches in 2025

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