

# Bridgewater State University invests in Microsoft 365 A5 licensing to better protect sensitive data with Partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions



## OVERVIEW

Bridgewater State University (BSU) has valued the importance of education since first opening its doors with the primary purpose of training teachers in 1840. BSU continues to remain committed to the ongoing improvements of its 10,000+ students and 1,000+ faculty and staff.

This year, BSU looked to Microsoft Gold Partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions (Forsyte), to find a better solution for protecting sensitive data. Forsyte worked with BSU to leverage its Microsoft 365 A5 licensing subscriptions to take advantage of the included information protection and data loss prevention tools.

As a result, Forsyte deployed Microsoft Purview Information Protection (MIP) to improve BSU's security posture and better protect the sensitive information in the University's data sources.

## PROJECT GOALS

- 1 Leverage the information protection and data loss prevention tools included in BSU's Microsoft 365 A5 licenses.
- 2 Consolidate and streamline technology for ease of use and management.
- 3 Improve the protection and classification of sensitive data across BSU's on-premises and Microsoft 365 environments.

## ORGANIZATION

### Bridgewater State University

**Website:**

<https://www.bridgew.edu/>

**Location:**

Bridgewater, MA

**Industry:**

Higher Education

**Implementation:**

Microsoft Purview Information Protection (MIP)

**Size:**

- 10,000+ Students
- 1,000+ Faculty and Staff

**"BSU enjoyed working with Forsyte and learning from their subject matter experts in Microsoft Purview Information Protection. Through this engagement, the university was able to save money and time while updating infrastructure to integrate more closely with Microsoft 365 while improving security posture."**

- Bryan Macedo

*Information Security Analyst, Bridgewater State University*

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## **CHALLENGE**

Bridgewater State University (BSU) was seeking guidance and support from a Microsoft technology consulting and system integration partner for a better solution to protect the sensitive data of its 10,000+ students and 1,000+ faculty and staff. BSU made significant resource investments in Microsoft 365, however its technology systems were unable to integrate with the Microsoft 365 solutions it purchased. The University wanted to leverage its Microsoft 365 A5 licenses to take advantage of the included information protection and data loss prevention tools. BSU leaders are always looking for ways to improve the University's overall security posture while reducing risk exposure.

After prioritizing the deployment and usage of Microsoft's MIP solutions, BSU began looking for a Microsoft partner to provide planning and guidance services to its team. As a FastTrack Ready Partner, Forsyte I.T. Solutions was able to offer BSU the resources and support at no cost, due to the funding provided by Microsoft.

## **SOLUTION**

Forsyte worked closely with BSU to maximize the features available through its Microsoft 365 A5 license and deploy the Microsoft on-premises unified labeling scanner to classify, label, and protect data. Forsyte's team of Microsoft experts offered the guidance and support BSU needed to deploy and use Microsoft Purview Information Protection (MIP). MIP labeling and classification allows BSU users to classify and protect organizational data without hindering collaboration or productivity.

During the project, the implementation team discovered configuration changes that were not entirely documented by Microsoft at the time of implementation. However, Forsyte's team was able to work through all technical issues with Microsoft support. BSU has been successful in rolling out MIP to departments in production, with positive feedback on the seamless integration with Windows and Office products.



**Protect data at all times, across sources.**



**Collaborate more securely with others.**



**Consolidate and streamline technology.**

## **BENEFITS**

After the deployment and implementation of MIP, BSU has made significant strides toward optimizing the protection and classification of sensitive data across all its on-premises and Microsoft 365 environments.

BSU reaffirms its longstanding focus on ongoing improvements as the University moves forward with streamlined technology solutions for protecting sensitive data. Implementing components of MIP was the next logical step for BSU to secure data in Office 365 and to leverage tools available in the M365 platform. The criticality of managing confidential data required the University to partner with the experts at Forsyte to ensure that the University was meeting its obligations to keep secure the data of faculty, staff, and students.