



PORTFOLIO : IZO™ PLATFORM: SDWAN, HYBRID WAN, INTERNET WAN, PRIVATE CONNECT

# UNLEASH THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OFFICE 365 WITH IZO™ PLATFORM

Microsoft defines Office 365 as the most complete suite of apps and services for workplace productivity. And with more and more organisations adopting the package, the enterprise world is increasingly in agreement. But shifting from an on-premises solution to the cloud is no simple task.

This solution brief looks at the challenges reported by enterprises in using Office 365, and explores how Tata Communications' IZO™ cloud enablement suite can help organisations meet them. By getting the balance right, enterprises can take the next step in their digital transformation journey, harnessing the cloud for both collaboration and growth.

## LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

Office 365 promises much for any enterprise that's looking to take the next step on the journey to a full cloud solution with core productivity apps like Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Exchange Online available in the cloud, for everyone to access whenever they need. Add the power of Skype for Business and SharePoint Online and Office 365 begins to look even more compelling.

Yet deployment doesn't come without its drawbacks. If the connectivity that brings users to the cloud is not right, its performance would be highly impacted. It's vital that enterprises make the move to cloud in a way that can eliminate the drawbacks and optimise performance.

In its recent report, Gartner mentioned the following<sup>1</sup>:

- For each enterprise, Office 365 is implemented in a single geographic region – which can increase network latency and potentially lead to suboptimal application performance
- Existing internet connectivity to Office 365 will not be 'good enough' for most usage scenarios

At Tata Communications, we see enterprises facing the following challenges:

### • Unpredictable performance

Office 365 is a suite comprising a number of different workloads and applications. Each places its own demands on the network, which can lead to conflicts and disruption. Not only that, many enterprises don't have internet connectivity that's up to the job of meeting all the different requirements.

### • Lack of security

Many enterprises deal with sensitive information such as client details and financial reports. Moving to the cloud could make this data vulnerable to attack, and may risk regulatory compliance.

### • More complexity

For enterprises spread across multiple sites, connecting a variety of cloud platforms can be complex. In addition, enterprises have global presences would find it hard to manage consistent policy and ensure user experience in different locations.

### • Lack of visibility

Monitoring network performance is essential for managing capacity and troubleshooting when things go wrong. That means finding a way of deploying deep instrumentation and visibility across the network. Right now, enterprises simply aren't getting that.

## IT'S A QUESTION OF CHOICE

Several options have emerged for enterprises keen to eliminate the network issues of connecting to Office 365. In fact, in its recent report, Gartner<sup>2</sup> highlighted several alternative connectivity options for Office 365, namely:

- **Default** – Centralised Internet Access
- **Distributed Internet Access**
- **Distributed Internet Access with Enhanced Backbone**
- **Extending the WAN to the Microsoft Network Edge**
- **Direct Connectivity Using ExpressRoute**

At Tata Communications, we see this list of options allow enterprises to consider the actual requirements of each of their branches and determine the best methods in connecting their users to the clouds. However, not all networks are created equal. Some of the implementations on these options might not be able to give the optimal performance.

For example, if enterprises simply breaking out from local branches to the cloud, but the Internet access does not give predictable performance in terms of how traffic is routed from the branch to the clouds, then the users still not able to get the best experience. In other cases, Internet traffic from certain countries might be restrained by their international gateways, hence the congestion and delay from the gateways limit the ability to achieve consistent performance.

Other than the underlying connectivity, the intelligent routing on the overlay also play a part in the cloud performance. SDWAN capabilities can look at network performance and business policy to ensure the best resources be used for the mission critical applications. We will have a detailed look at how IZO™ SDWAN and its cloud gateways can address to the network challenges in connecting users to Office 365 and Microsoft Cloud.

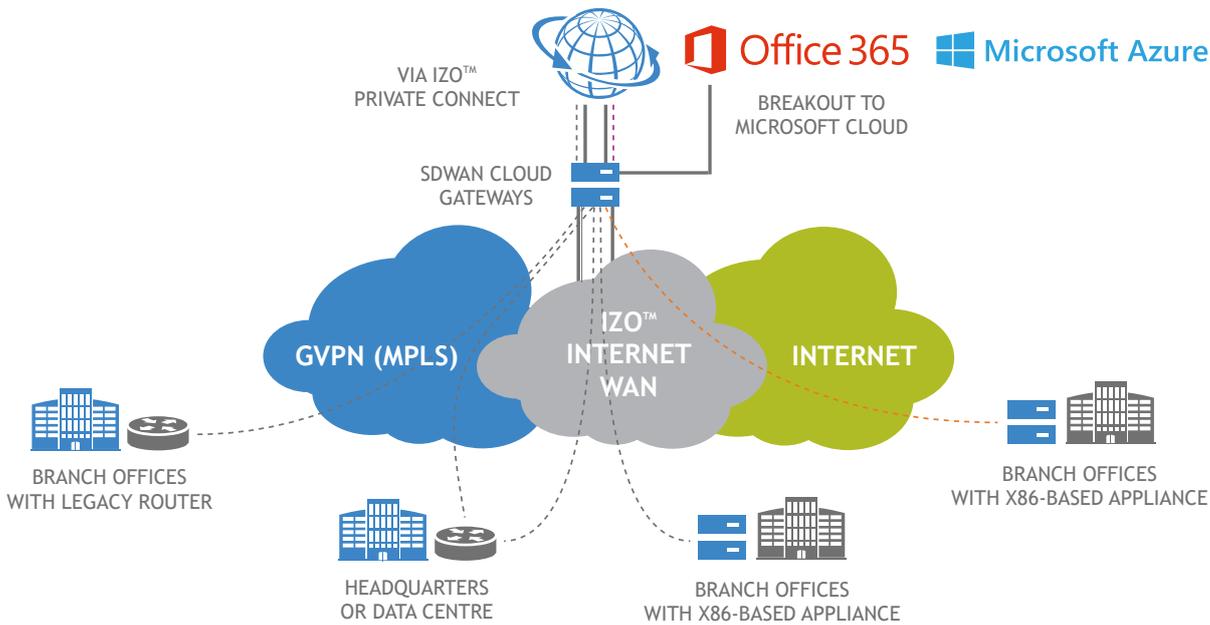
## THE TATA COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTION: IZO™ PLATFORM

IZO™ SDWAN from Tata Communications combines the underlay IZO™ Hybrid WAN with regionalised cloud gateway access to Office 365, opening the path of best performance for enterprises to reach applications.

Explore the unique ways that our IZO™ solutions give you optimal access to Office 365.

### Access via global IZO™ SDWAN cloud gateways

IZO™ SDWAN multi-tenant service gateways are built next to our IZO™ Private Connect data centres and route traffic to major cloud service providers through private, dedicated connections. IZO™ SDWAN offers more than 20 cloud gateways globally - all close to Office 365 access edges to deliver outstanding break out performance from cloud gateways to Microsoft Cloud.



IZO™ SDWAN intelligent routing picks the best path to reach cloud gateways, where it can route through either private, dedicated access or break out to Microsoft Cloud.

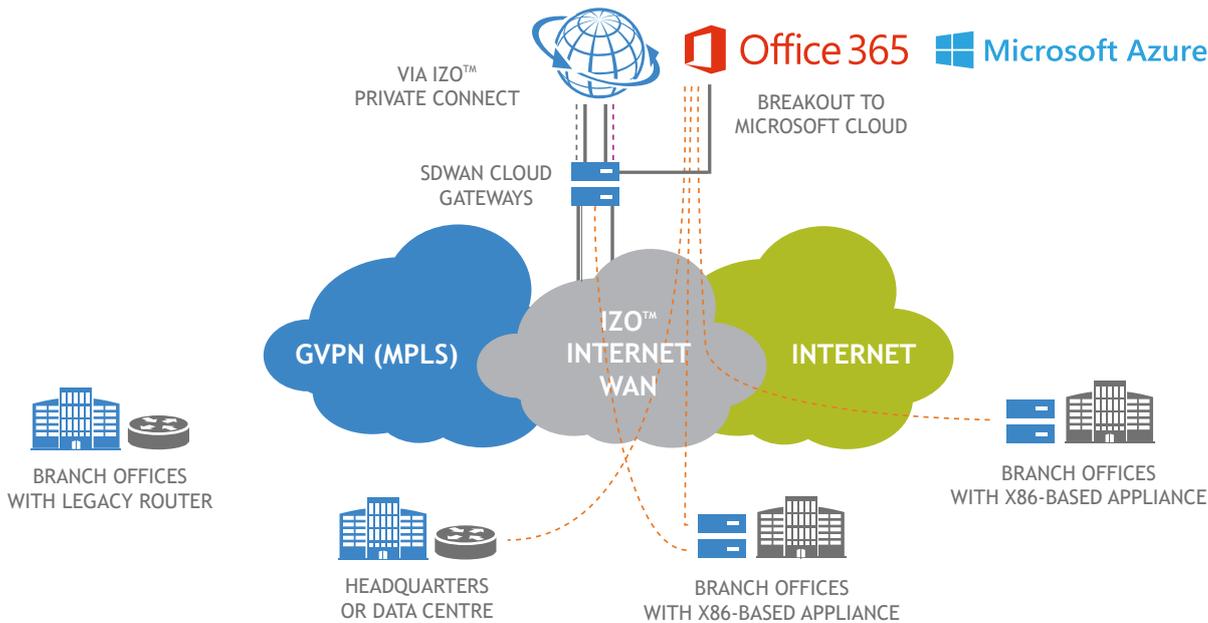
20% of enterprises deploying Office 365 report service performance issues

—GARTNER<sup>3</sup>

## THE TATA COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTION: IZO™ PLATFORM

### Access via IZO™ Internet WAN predictable routing

The use of cloud gateways can couple with deterministic routing to deliver predictable performance. IZO™ Internet WAN – one of the components of the IZO™ SDWAN underlay – allows organisations to run split tunnel with direct to cloud. Thanks to partnerships with ISPs all over the world, IZO™ Internet WAN ensures direct routing from internet providers to our IZO™ Platform, which connects directly to Microsoft Cloud. This is particularly effective for certain geographies like Australia, China, South East Asia and South America, where one hop to the IZO™ Platform would improve routing performance.



IZO™ Internet WAN brings predictability to the Internet via ISP partners and ensures performance both to cloud gateways and direct to cloud from branches.

“Office 365 is a popular suite of Microsoft applications that more than 78% of organizations are using or plan to use.”

—GARTNER<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Gartner research notes. “Network Design Best Practices for Office 365 by Neil Rickard, Andrew Lerner, Bjarne Munch dated 3 August 2016, ID:G00311574

If you would like to learn more about Tata Communications’ IZO™ SDWAN portfolio, please email us at [business@tatacommunications.com](mailto:business@tatacommunications.com) or visit [www.tatacommunications.com](http://www.tatacommunications.com)

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