



LOOKING AHEAD

Revealed: What's Next for Microsoft Teams?

Looking ahead to 2025, Microsoft Teams will continue to revolutionize the digital workspace with a series of anticipated updates designed to enhance user experience and bolster organizational efficiency. As businesses and educational institutions increasingly rely on virtual collaboration, these upcoming updates aim to streamline processes, improve communication, and provide greater flexibility and control for IT administrators and end-users alike. Here's an overview of the updates that will be introduced in Microsoft Teams over 2025:

Microsoft Purview Support for Webinars

Microsoft Teams plans to integrate Microsoft Purview support for webinars, enabling IT administrators to leverage advanced tools for eDiscovery and legal hold requirements. This integration will ensure that all webinars comply with organizational and legal standards, providing a seamless way to maintain records and manage compliance. IT admins will be able to efficiently retrieve, review, and hold webinar data, significantly simplifying compliance-related tasks and reducing the risk of non-compliance.

Default Voice and Face Enrollment

To enhance the interactivity and security of virtual meetings, Microsoft Teams will introduce a new policy that defaults voice and face enrollment to "On." This update will offer IT admins the flexibility to manage voice and face recognition settings independently, tailoring them to their organization's needs. Enabled by default, these capabilities will provide superior voice isolation and speaker recognition, enriching meeting experiences through intelligent recaps and the integration of Copilot functionalities. This shift will not only improve audio clarity but also aid in producing concise and intelligent summaries of meetings.

Shorter Meeting URLs

Sharing meeting details will become easier with the introduction of shorter meeting URLs. By eliminating unnecessary symbols and information, this update will simplify the process of sharing meeting links, making it more user-friendly and efficient. Attendees will be able to effortlessly share and access meetings, thereby minimizing potential confusion and streamlining the invitation process.

Enhanced Teams Q&A with Voting and Archiving

The Teams Q&A feature will soon include the ability for participants to vote on questions, allowing moderators to identify and prioritize the most pressing topics. This interactive element will encourage participant engagement and help presenters focus on the issues that matter most to their audience. Furthermore, moderators will be able to archive outdated or irrelevant questions, ensuring that the discussion remains focused and productive. This capability will empower moderators to derive insightful analytics about audience preferences and align their presentations accordingly.

Real-Time Notifications with iOS Live Activities

For iOS users, Teams meetings will become even more accessible with Live Activities integration. This update will provide real-time notifications directly on an iPhone's lock screen, allowing users to monitor the progress of a meeting at a glance. With automatic updates on meeting status, recording status, and participant admission, users will be able to stay informed without needing to unlock their devices. This enhancement will be especially beneficial for on-the-go professionals who need to keep track of meetings seamlessly while multitasking.



Custom Backgrounds for VDI Users

Teams will expand its customization options for users utilizing the new Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) solution by allowing them to upload custom background images. Users will be able to choose to blur their background, select from Teams' virtual backgrounds, or upload a personal image through the "Video effects and Settings" option. This update will not only enhance privacy but also allow users to personalize their workspace, adding a touch of individuality to their virtual meetings.

Private Chat for Webinars

Webinars hosted on Teams will come with an exclusive chat feature for organizers, co-organizers, and presenters. This private chat will be available before, during, and after the event, facilitating seamless communication and coordination among the event leaders. By keeping the conversation separate from attendees, this update will allow organizers to manage the flow of the event more effectively, ensuring that the presentation remains smooth and engaging.

Conclusion

In summary, Microsoft Teams' 2025 updates will focus on enhancing user control, improving meeting management, and ensuring compliance with organizational policies. Whether through advanced compliance tools, intuitive user interfaces, or personalized meeting experiences, Microsoft Teams will continue to set the standard for virtual collaboration platforms. As organizations navigate the evolving digital landscape, these innovations will provide the necessary tools to foster connectivity, productivity, and efficiency in the workplace.

