



Unio vs. Microsoft Teams



Unio is neither an alternative nor a direct competitor to Microsoft Teams. While at first glance the apps have similarities with one another, the truth is that they're built with entirely different use cases in mind. The two can easily coexist, with Teams for meetings and Unio for on-the-go communication.

Purpose and Objectives

In-office meetings, efficiency, and effective workflows are at the core of Microsoft Teams. It offers powerful in-app collaboration and has the capacity to support meetings that range from small audio conferences to keynotes and investor calls. Teams also integrates seamlessly with Microsoft's other products while also providing scheduling, note-taking, transcripts, and unique, meeting-focused features like Together Mode.

Unio is about bringing people together and creating a connected, digital culture. Its interactive newsfeed is designed for active engagement, giving employees a voice by allowing them to discuss updates and announcements within the app. Via Unio, users also have access to intuitive and streamlined voice, video, text, and file-sharing functionality, all in the interest of fostering a sense of community and solidarity.

Users

Microsoft Teams is more geared towards larger organizations that rely heavily on traditional infrastructure and a 9-to-5 schedule, especially those that extensively use Microsoft's other software. It's primarily a reactive solution with a focus on productivity. Its design very much reflects this, with a relatively large resource footprint, email integration, and lack of in-app custom branding.

Teams also tends to be more difficult to implement/manage and can be frustrating to use due to its learning curve.

Unio, meanwhile, is better suited for agile, security-conscious businesses that aren't tied to computers. It allows an organization to be proactive with internal messaging, forging close connections amongst colleagues and keeping everyone in the know. Workplace culture is also a core focus of Unio — as such, the app allows custom branding to be layered over its interface.

Unio requires no specialized setup, training, or infrastructure, and its layout is designed to be as streamlined as possible, making it easy to identify and connect with both teammates and leadership.

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Approach to Security & Privacy

Although Microsoft uses 256-bit AES encryption and web encryption alongside Bitlocker, it only started offering customers the option of controlling their own encryption keys earlier this year. For most businesses, it still retains the ability to access encrypted information and also collects some data from its users (though it is transparent about this data collection). Additionally, Microsoft Teams does not natively support end-to-end encryption.

Unio, on the other hand, offers powerful end-to-end encryption via BlackBerry Spark, works with integrated identity providers such as Azure Active Directory, and applies bcrypt, HTTPS, and TLS encryption to its web app. It neither stores any data on its servers nor has access to encryption keys. Data can only be accessed, downloaded, or deleted by senders/recipients and Unio's messages have a 60-day lifespan by default.

Benefits of Unio

- Focused on knowledge, culture, and community
- Proactive
- Designed to bring people together and give employees a voice
- Ideal for “on-the-go” businesses with a mobile/distributed workforce
- Unified newsfeed for easy announcements/discussion
- Social media integration (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Custom branding
- End-to-End encryption via BlackBerry Spark
- Simple to use/manage
- Integration with Blackberry Spark API

Benefits of Teams

- Focused on productivity
- Reactive
- Designed to optimize workplace communication and collaboration
- Ideal for businesses with traditional architecture and heavy Microsoft investment
- Good for meetings, provides hosting, scheduling, and recording functionality
- Document/file storage and live collaboration
- Wide variety of available integrations
- Guest access for meetings
- Versatile, but can be difficult to implement/manage; learning curve can be frustrating for users.
- Multi-language support

**Keep your people safe and connected
wherever they're working.**

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