



in the HOOP

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF
TECH TIPS & HOOP5 NEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE?

01 A NOTE FROM MANDY

03 DIGITAL SPRING CLEANING

05 MICROSOFT PRICE CHANGES

02 MEET JOY MAIORCA

04 SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

A note from Mandy....

March is usually regarded as the start of spring cleaning. But cleaning in and of itself doesn't rid one of clutter. A more ideal solution after cleaning is finding ways to make sure that we don't accumulate more clutter.

Most offices use obscene amounts of paper for their day-to-day operations. And sadly most of that ends up becoming clutter and going to waste.

But waste isn't the only concern. Proper data security doesn't only affect your digital information, it also affects your physical data.

Moving toward a paperless office you can create a more secure document handling process while significantly reducing waste.

Maybe not all processes can be translated into a paperless one, but for the most part you can implement better (and faster) controls and processes by ditching printed documents.

Section 03 of this months newsletter includes ideas for "Spring Cleaning Your Digital World". Call or email us to see how we can help reduce your paper clutter.



Until then, stay safe,

Mandy Irvine, CEO



meet the HOOP5 team

02

MEET JOY MAIORCA

Hello friends!

My name is Joy Maiorca and I am the newest member of the Hoop5 crew where I will be overseeing all Accounting services. I am so excited to be here!

A little about my background: I started my career out of college working in Hospitality at beautiful Resorts in San Diego, which then led me to discovering a passion for event planning for Weddings, Social and Corporate events. I decided to make a career move in 2019 and try something new where I discovered an opportunity in Accounting.

My husband Matt and I have been married for 3 years and we have 1 year old boy/girl twins, Maxon & Mila. They are the light of our life! They keep us quite busy, as you can imagine, and so do our 2 dogs Bear & Kingston. We always make time to do something fun as a family on the weekends. Our go-to outing the last couple of months has been to the Safari Park near our home in Escondido. We also love to visit both of our families, which fortunately both reside in San Diego.

I am really looking forward to growing with the Hoop5 team and working with all our wonderful customers! I can already tell that I am joining one big happy family.



Joy Maiorca
Accounting Manager
- San Diego Office -



03 Spring Cleaning Your Digital World

Now is a great time to take care of that long, overdue digital maintenance. With some smart, simple practices, you can help protect yourself, your business and your family from losing valuable digital information and being a victim of identity theft... all while making your online life more manageable and enjoying the Internet with greater confidence.

The bulk of digital cleaning falls into four buckets: keeping a clean machine, staying secure, cleaning up your online reputation, and purging files.

Keeping a Clean Machine

Keeping all online devices including Servers, PCs, mobile phones, smartphones, and tablets clean inside and out will improve performance, reduce failures and increase security. In addition to the “inside” cleaning tips below, be sure to tidy up the outside of your computing devices as well. Dust clogs the computer’s cooling system causing it to heat up, damaging sensitive electronic equipment. Dust can also cause fan noise and slow performance. And did you know that there are more germs on your computer keyboard than the average public toilet? Eww!!

- Keep all critical software current: Having all software current is one of the best security measures you can take. This includes security software, web browsers, document readers, operating systems, and any other software you use regularly.
- Clean up your mobile life: Most of us have apps we no longer use as well as ones that need updating. Delete unused apps and keep others current, including the operating system on your mobile device. An added benefit of deleting unused apps is more storage space and longer battery life.
- Use Disk Cleanup to delete temporary files, unused programs and any other files taking up space and slowing things down.
- Defrag your hard drive to speed up access to your data.

Staying Secure

Business networks and personal computing security requires a combination of data and identity protection efforts. For example, firewalls are an important part of your Internet security but they do not have the ability to protect you against every threat. They do not stop an employee from clicking on an infected attachment or protect you from someone who gains physical access to your computer. Firewalls work best when they are joined by anti-virus software, strong passwords, and safe Internet practices.

- Firewalls can protect a single computer or an entire office. Have one in place and keep it updated with the latest definitions.
- Update your antivirus software with the newest definitions. The internet changes fast. Having outdated

security can slow you down and leave you vulnerable to millions of cyber threats and attacks.

- Make sure you have the latest security patches and updates installed and configured properly.
- Check your backups and conduct an emergency “restore” of the data. Remember, the best time to check your backups is when you DO NOT desperately need to recover your data!
- Create strong passwords and use MFA: If your passwords are too short or easy to guess, it’s like leaving your car unlocked in a parking lot. Multi-factor authentication can help fortify your accounts by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics, security keys or a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device.
- Secure your phone: Use a passcode or a finger swipe to unlock your phone.

Cleaning Up Your Online Reputation

Take an active role in shaping your digital footprint. While you may not be a website expert, you need to have ownership over all areas of your brand (personal and professional) including your website, social media networks and personal online reputation. In addition to making sure all of your site information is up-to-date, consider the top 3 questions a customer or potential employer may ask. Are those 3 questions easily answered by a quick visit to your site? If not, you may want to make some changes.

- Own your online presence: Review the privacy and security settings on websites you use to be sure that they remain set to your comfort level for sharing. It’s OK to limit with whom you share information.
- Clean up your social media presence: Delete old photos and comments that are embarrassing or no longer represent who you are.
- Search for yourself online: Update information that is no longer current.
- We are always amazed at how many companies still have old logos or contact information associated with their Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn or Twitter profiles. Now is the time!

File Purging and Protection

A good rule of thumb is to tend to your digital records just as you do your paper files. Many organizations create record retention policies that can save their rear-ends in the event of a lawsuit, and each industry has it’s unique laws and standards. While we work to keep the data safe and secure, we are not attorneys. Nonetheless, there is still some basic spring cleaning that is important to attend to:

- Clean up your email: Save only those emails you really need. Your inbox is likely stuffed with offers, junk mail, logistical arrangements, and other outdated materials. Delete what you don’t need and be sure to empty your deleted mail folders. If you must keep old messages, move them to an archive.
- Manage subscriptions: Unsubscribe to newsletters, email alerts, and updates you no longer read.
- Delete apps you are no longer using on your smartphone and uninstall software that is no longer relevant to you or your business.
- Empty your recycle bin.
- Update your contacts on phones and PCs and make sure everyone on those lists still belongs.
- File upkeep: Delete or archive older files such as numerous drafts of the same document.
- Back it up: Copy important data to a secure cloud site or to another drive where it can be safely stored.
- Dispose of electronics securely: Wiping data isn’t enough. When you dispose of old electronics, look for facilities that shred hard drives, disks, and memory cards.

While this is not everything, it sure is a good start. As always, your Hoop5 team is here to help. **Happy Spring!**

If you’d like to schedule an appointment, call us at 619-259-5549 or info@hoop5.net

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year on Pi Day (March 14th) Microsoft offers a \$314 discount on select computers





04

SECURITY SPOTLIGHT -CMMC UPDATE-

As a Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP) that specializes in helping our customers navigate the complexities of cybersecurity and compliance, I have been closely monitoring the evolution of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) since its inception in 2020 and going back even further to when DFARS 7012 was just getting off the ground.

On November 4th, 2021, the DoD released CMMC 2.0 which includes several updates and changes to the original framework. If you bid on government contracts, please take a few minutes to read this short update written to help break down the latest information and what these changes mean for your organization:

Summary of Key Updates: CMMC 1.0 vs. CMMC 2.0

CMMC Levels 2 and 4 from the original CMMC framework have been eliminated, leaving only 3 current CMMC Levels. These Levels are detailed below.

Level 1:

Now only requires an annual self-assessment and affirmation by company leadership. No changes to the 17 basic cyber hygiene practices required.

Level 2:

The “old” CMMC Level 3 now becomes Level 2. 20 controls have been eliminated from the original framework’s Level 3 requirements, leaving contractors only having to implement the 110 controls from NIST 800-171. The DoD will identify “prioritized acquisitions” that must undergo an independent third-party assessment against the new Level 2 requirements. All other organizations will only need to perform a self-assessment and affirmation by company leadership.

Level 3:

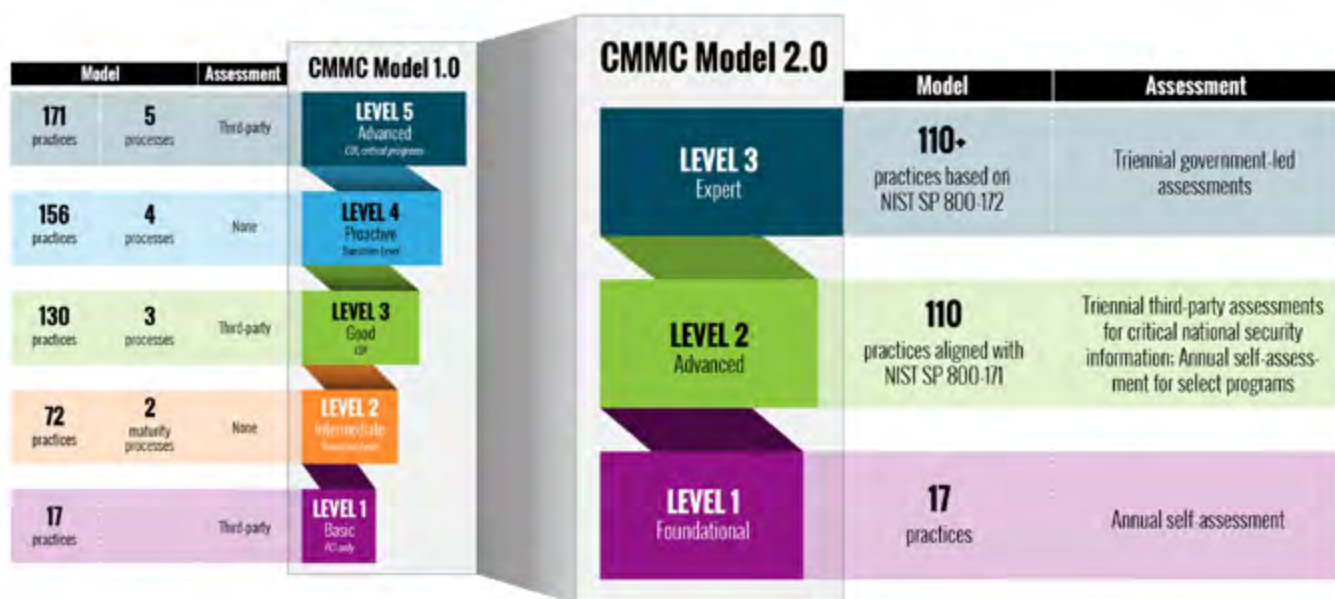
This level will replace CMMC Levels 4 and 5 from the original framework. While details are still being worked out, it is expected that this level will include controls from NIST SP 800-172 and assessments will be government-led.

CMMC Model Structure



Source: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/cmmc/model.html>

Visualizing the New CMMC 2.0 Levels:



Source: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/cmmc/about-us.html>

CMMC 2.0 FAQ

IS CMMC is “on hold”?

The DoD has stated their intent to move quickly now that their internal review has been completed. What you need to know is that the CMMC Accreditation Body (AB) and the DoD are both moving forward. Given that CMMC 2.0 now aligns exactly with current Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) requirements, in effect since 2017, they are not likely to allow a significant grace period for companies to come into compliance.

So is this coming sooner than we all thought?

Yes, it seems that way. CMMC version 1.0 was on a five-year rollout timeline, and one big rate-limiting factor on the rollout was the capacity of third-party assessment organizations (C3PAOs) to perform third-party assessments. CMMC 2.0 greatly reduces the number of companies that need a C3PAO assessment, and this will enable a faster rollout and implementation cycle. The DoD said the rulemaking process is expected to take 9 to 24 months. Once completed, we could see a very fast implementation of CMMC requirements in new contracts.

Will this be easier to implement?

Each level has rules that you need to adhere to - these are called controls. Level 1 is essentially unchanged (17 controls); Level 2 (now 110 controls) has become marginally easier and Level 3 is still to be determined (110 controls + Additional requirements of NIST 800-172), but likely a bit easier due to the elimination of the maturity processes. However, CMMC 2.0 can evolve and change faster than CMMC 1.0. We should expect the bar to rise as the threats we face adapt to our new security posture. We build better defenses, the bad guys get smarter.

Are there changes to inspections and assessments for Certification?

Yes! Level 1 will now be self reported. Level 2 will require third-party assessments 3 times per year for any system containing critical national security information. Annual self-assessments will be stipulated for select level 2 programs. Level 3 will now require government led assessments 3 times per year. This will likely include onsite federal inspection and will apply to systems holding extremely sensitive data.

If my business is now self-reporting and not being inspected, what changed to enforce compliance?

These changes are being made while the DoD is ramping up its cyber-fraud initiatives. DoD has acknowledged this increases the “risk” of self-attestation elements under the False Claims Act. If this is a carrot and stick- that means the stick will be government fines of ~\$11,800 to \$24,000 per violation - and any person who knowingly submitted false claims to the government can be liable for double or treble damages plus a penalty fine that scales with inflation.

We have to make changes to comply, but you said this is happening in a year or two, can this wait till later?

NO. That is like waiting to buy a door lock until AFTER you have had a burglary. Getting ahead of this is important. The basic steps can help protect your business from other risks (fraud, crypto-malware). Also consider- when this is implemented, bids will still require compliance (some bids will require level 1, 2, or 3 specifically). Your business will be able to bid on this work, while the procrastinators will be left scrambling to catch up - unable to even submit a bid.

Note for my in-house security folks, CISO's and CIO's -

The DoD has stated that under CMMC 2.0 they will allow SOME acquisitions to satisfy CMMC requirements via filed POAMs under limited circumstances, and the potential for waivers in isolated exigent circumstances. Contact me for details- but these will have some serious catches, such as: minimum starting scores, 180 days after contract award to complete POAMs or else contracting officer may terminate the contract, etc., etc.

If you have questions, please reach out to me. I can help you understand these requirements and help your business meet or exceed them.



Russell Emig, Director of Security
Hoop5 Networks



Download Our
Free Cybersecurity
Essentials Booklet!





05

Microsoft 365 price changes: What you need to know

In August of 2021, Microsoft announced they will be increasing prices for the first time in over a decade. These price increases will go into effect on March 1st, 2022 and below is an overview of what you need to know:

- New pricing increase of around 15% goes into effect on March 1st
- Annual agreements will be enforced, with monthly terms getting a 20% increase over annual agreements
- The cancellation window for licenses will be reduced to 72 hours, where previously you could suspend licenses to avoid being charged.

Microsoft's justification for the increase

In Microsoft's August 2021 announcement they explained that Office 365 has not had a substantive price increase since its launch in June 2011. During that time, they have added 24 apps to the Microsoft 365 suite, including Teams, Power BI, Visio and OneDrive. In addition, Microsoft has also released over 1,400 new features and capabilities in three key areas: Communication and collaboration, Security and compliance, and AI and automation. Microsoft has also announced that they will add unlimited dial-in capabilities for Microsoft Teams meetings to meet the needs of remote workers.

Timeline for Changes

- **January 1st, 2022** – General Availability for New Commerce Experience
- **March 1st, 2022** – Office 365 and Microsoft 365 price increases go into effect
- **March 10th, 2022** – All new-to-the-customer licensing must be placed through NCE (New Commerce Experience)
- **March 31st, 2022** – Discount pricing for annual agreements ends
- **June 30th, 2022** – End of ability to renew subscriptions on existing platform
- **June 30th, 2022** – Discount for monthly terms ends
- **July 1st, 2022** – Can no longer renew legacy subscriptions

Annual Terms For Microsoft 365

Microsoft will begin enforcing annual agreements for all direct purchase, CSP, and Open Value customers with the shift to the New Commerce Experience. The ability to purchase licenses on a monthly basis will still be available (for some licenses) with a 20% premium price. License purchases made under the annual agreement will qualify for the standard price model, and customers may reduce license counts during their annual renewal window. Licenses may be added at any time. Microsoft is referring to annual term pricing as P1Y (Pay 1 Year) and monthly term pricing as P1M (Pay 1 Month). Organizations that move to P1Y terms prior to March 31st, 2022 get a 5% discount for the first year. Substantial savings are possible for early movers that lock in pricing ahead of the March 1st price increases as this discount will also apply to the old pricing.

New Pricing

The below pricing increases will apply globally. There are no changes to pricing for education and consumer products at this time.

- **Microsoft 365 Business Basic:** from \$5 to \$6 per user
- **Microsoft 365 Business Premium:** from \$20 to \$22
- **Office 365 E1:** from \$8 to \$10
- **Office 365 E3:** from \$20 to \$23
- **Office 365 E5:** from \$35 to \$38
- **Microsoft 365 E3:** from \$32 to \$36

License Type	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Price with Discount	Savings
Microsoft 365 Business Basic	\$6.00	\$72.00	\$68.40	\$3.60
Microsoft 365 Business Premium	\$22.00	\$264.00	\$250.80	\$13.20
Office 365 E1	\$10.00	\$120.00	\$114.00	\$6.00
Office 365 E3	\$23.00	\$276.00	\$262.20	\$13.80
Office 365 E5	\$38.00	\$456.00	\$433.20	\$22.80
Microsoft 365 E3	\$36.00	\$432.00	\$410.40	\$21.60

Worth Noting:

- The cancelation window for licenses will be reduced to 72 hours, where previously you could suspend licenses to avoid being charged.
- Microsoft 365 E5 pricing is not increasing
- Windows 365 is not eligible for discount pricing
- Some licensing will have not have the P1M (monthly) option
- All offers will be seat based (as opposed to seller based)
- Customers can have both annual AND month-to-month agreements

While these price changes are unavoidable, as a Microsoft Silver Partner, we can give you the clarity you need to make the best decisions regarding your licensing. Contact us for any questions or licensing adjustments at 619-259-5549 or info@hoop5.net

WE LOVE REFERRALS!



The greatest compliment we can receive is a referral.

Send a referral our way and we promise we'll look after them with the high level of attention and care that we provide all our clients.

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