

Microsoft Relaxes Nonprofit Rules for its Charity Program Office 365

Many churches and religious nonprofits have been uncomfortable participating in the Microsoft charity program for Office 365 in recent years because the program requires participants to certify that they don't discriminate in their employment practices with regards to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

In October of 2015 however, Microsoft addressed this concern by posting changes to its policy. The company added a statement to its website that says: "the only exception to this policy is for religious organizations that are exempt from laws that prohibit such discrimination." This allows churches to act in accordance with their legally protected religious convictions and not feel required to certify something that may not be true for them.

The value of Operation 365 for charities can be significant, so this is an important update. For churches, two commonly useful benefits of participation are the ability to reduce the cost of user fees from \$8 per user per month to \$0, or from more than \$20 per month per user to \$4.50 per month per user.

For more information this change and to learn more about Office 365 charity licensing you can google "Office 365."

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