

Cost optimization: From hidden waste to controlled spend

 543 inactive sites consuming
\$180K annually



 Inactive sites detected



BEFORE

Costs grow where governance is unclear

Microsoft 365 costs rarely spike all at once. They accumulate quietly.

As collaboration expands, many organizations struggle to see where cost is being created and why:

- Inactive Teams and Sites continue consuming storage
- Ownerless workspaces persist with no accountability for ongoing cost
- External users retain access long after projects end
- Broad sharing increases duplication and unnecessary usage
- Storage grows without clear signals for review or cleanup

Admin centers show usage and configuration. They do not consistently connect cost growth to access behavior, ownership drift, or workspace lifecycle conditions.

As a result, cost conversations often happen late, after spend has already increased.

Why cost optimization requires governance visibility

Microsoft 365 cost is tightly linked to access and lifecycle hygiene. Inactive workspaces and unclear ownership are among the most common drivers of silent storage growth. When governance drifts:

Low-value workspaces remain active

Storage continues to grow without review

External and guest access persists longer than needed

IT professionals spend time investigating instead of preventing waste

Leadership sees rising cost without clear levers to act

True cost optimization starts with understanding how collaboration is actually being used, not just how it is configured.

What changes with Protect

ShareGate Protect helps teams reduce avoidable cost by making governance conditions visible and actionable.

Protect is an operational layer that helps teams understand access, reduce exposure, and maintain practical day-to-day governance across Microsoft 365.

It does not manage licensing, automate archiving, or restructure content.

It supports informed review and safe action by identifying governance conditions that contribute to unnecessary storage, sprawl, and operational overhead.



AFTER

Cost optimization driven by governance hygiene

Protect reveals governance signals that often correlate with avoidable cost:



Inactive or low-value workspaces still consuming storage



Ownerless Teams and Sites with no accountability for ongoing cost



External access lingering after projects complete

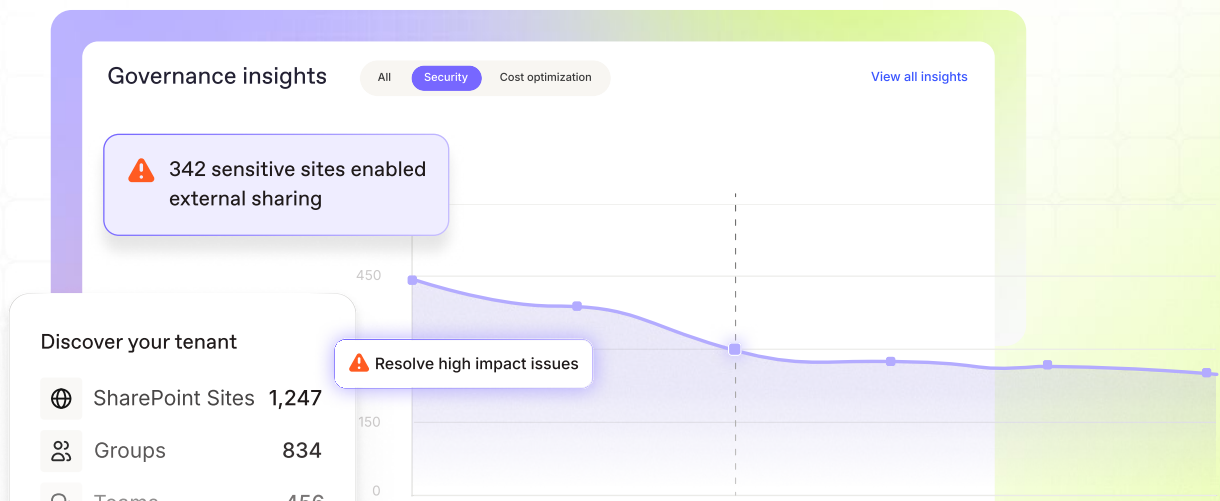


Repeated workspace creation without lifecycle follow-through



Oversharing patterns that increase duplication and usage

These signals are consolidated into one operational view so teams can clearly see where governance drift may be driving cost. Teams often discover dozens of inactive or ownerless workspaces that were never reviewed.



How teams reduce waste safely

Protect supports cost optimization through practical, operator-led governance cleanup. Teams can:

Identify inactive or low-value workspaces for review

Confirm ownership so cost has clear accountability

Reduce unnecessary external access that drives usage

Address access drift that contributes to sprawl

Track remediation work with a clear action history

All actions are intentional and reviewed. Protect does not automatically archive, delete, or enforce cost controls, and it does not modify tenant-wide settings.

THE RESULT

Predictable, defensible cost control

Organizations using Protect for governance-driven cost optimization typically experience:



Greater trust in Copilot results and recommendations



Fewer surprises after AI rollout



Clear explanations of who can see what and why



Less last-minute cleanup before enablement



Faster, more confident adoption of AI tools

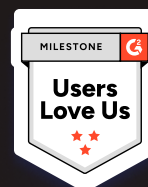
AI readiness becomes an ongoing governance outcome, not a one-time pre-launch exercise.

The bottom line

AI tools surface access reality. Protect helps teams make that reality intentional. By improving access hygiene before and after AI rollout, teams enable Copilot with confidence instead of risk.

See how Protect helps teams prepare Microsoft 365 for Copilot by improving access hygiene before AI expands visibility.

[Explore our plans](#)



4.8★
on G2 Crowd



4.8★
on Gartner