

ZF migrates 10,000 users to Microsoft 365 in record time with Insight

ZF is a global tech company providing next-generation mobility systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and industrial technology. They have more than 150,000 employees and 270 locations in 42 countries. Recently, ZF acquired WABCO, a supplier of global braking control systems and other advanced technologies.

The Challenge

WABCO Holdings Inc. was officially acquired by ZF on May 29, 2020. At that moment, WABCO employees were still using Google Workspace – formerly known as Google G Suite – while Microsoft 365 was standard at ZF. Part of the very challenging project included the migration of mailboxes and data of around 10,000 WABCO users.

With a timeframe of just ten weeks, ZF's management aimed to finish the migration of all users and data by the end of 2020. Initially this was very optimistic, considering the amount of users at WABCO and the volume of data: no less than 83 TB of data had to be transferred to Microsoft 365. The migration included all Gmail accounts to Microsoft Exchange, and all data on Google Drive to SharePoint and OneDrive. The combined experience of ZF, Microsoft and Insight was utilized in this project. Insight was responsible for performing the Gmail migration.



Quick Stats

- **Client:** Global Manufacturing client paving the way for next-gen mobility
- **Size:** +150,000 employees worldwide

Quick Overview

- Following the acquisition of WABCO, ZF had to migrate around 10,000 users and 83TB of data to their Microsoft 365 environment.
- The company wanted to complete this transition by the end of 2020, leaving a window of just 10 weeks.
- Thanks to a great team effort, which also involved Microsoft, the migration itself was completed over the course of just five weekends – ahead of schedule

"Insight proved to be a dedicated resource in setting up all the migration requirements in a fast pace. Their quick support and ability to work independently also reduced the operational workload on our own migration team."

Viktor Pfeifer – Solution Expert Digital Workplace Services at ZF

The Solution

ZF compiled a well-oiled team with the right partners to complete this challenging mission. Microsoft was also involved in the project, and Insight was one of several vendors contacted by ZF after a thorough market research.

Prior to the merger, both ZF and WABCO were already working with Insight on separate projects. For workplace services, however, Insight was a new partner for the company. To decide who would be best to conduct the migration, all vendors had to deliver a proposal based on ZF requirements, including tool and migration support. ZF selected Insight as the preferred partner for the G-Mail migration.

ZF first drew up a migration plan that was then validated by Insight from a technical point of view. The workload was spread over the course of multiple weekends. To limit the impact on users, it was necessary to organize the migration in groups with a minimum number of touch points.

Due to the intense work schedule, all partners held daily calls to prepare each step of the migration. During these meetings, all technical dependencies were resolved ahead of the weekend. This also helped to deal with unexpected problems. For example, when Insight noticed that some of the mailboxes contained a huge number of emails, the team immediately started working on innovative solutions.

The Benefits

- Despite the challenging timeframe, the project was ahead of schedule. Insight started syncing data a few weeks in advance, but the actual migration of all users and data to their new Microsoft environment took just five weekends.
- Insight helped ensure efficient communication by involving the entire ZF migration team. This reduced the operational workload and allowed the team to focus on more demanding parts of the project.
- The impact on users was kept to a minimum. The selected tool and approach guaranteed the quality of the migration and data.

“Key to the project success was the right constellation of expertise including our ZF and WABCO project team as well as our partners Insight and Microsoft.”

Viktor Pfeifer – Solution Expert Digital Workplace Services at ZF

The Results Highlights



10,000 users and 83TB of data were successfully migrated to Microsoft over the course of just five weekends.



The impact on employees of ZF was reduced to a minimum thanks to the quality of the selected tool and a well thought-out communication strategy.



Insight’s expertise and availability allowed the project team of ZF to focus on challenging tasks that required their attention and decisions.



The project is the result of a great team effort where partners communicated on a daily basis to come up with innovative solutions.