



Case Study

uvex group goes digital with international workforce and migrates over 2,000 employees to Office 365

Years of growth and consolidation had made collaboration a new strategic priority for uvex – a worldwide leader in developing, manufacturing and distributing products and services for the safety and protection of people at work, in sport and for leisure pursuits.

Leadership knew that a fragmented ecosystem of productivity applications, email services and address books was holding it back from its ongoing desire to top the industry. So they set out on a path to build a workplace of the future leveraging the Office 365 suite.

The Goal

Starting in 1926 with safety goggles, uvex is an international leader and innovator in two main areas - sporting and workplace safety equipment, well known for its eye protection gear and sporting helmets.

It's the company's dedication to innovation that pushed it toward a digital transformation.

"We want to improve the digital communication and collaboration of all people in the uvex world

and get ready for the future," said Alexander Voggenauer, responsible for Online Solutions in uvex group. "That's why we are building a worldwide, seamless platform to communicate and unlock new ways of working."

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With multiple subsidiaries and branches spread out geographically, from South Africa, to Europe, to North America, uvex group found itself with a number of disparate productivity and identity access solutions in place, from Lotus Notes, to GroupWise, to ageing on premise versions of Microsoft Office. As such, it set out to unify the workplace on a single Office 365 platform, in order to:

- **Collaborate easier:** Make collaboration simpler and more powerful for over 2,000 employees worldwide under its “one world, one platform” project.
- **Happy employees:** Improve worker satisfaction, giving end users the greatest and latest technology (Online, Desktop, Mobile) to provide a “workplace of the future”.
- **Be bold:** Be innovative, by adoption of new ways of working by using Skype and new offerings such as Sway.

The Solution

With just a few months until their fiscal year end in 2016, uvex group knew it needed to move fast in order to achieve its goals in a timely way – if it waited too long, it would take months until the project could start up again.

After a competitive process, Avanade was finally selected as strategic partner. Not only did we propose an in-depth plan to deliver on time, leveraging several of our Connected Methods principles, but our experts also displayed an enormous wealth of experience that let the leadership know they would move forward swiftly and effectively.

“We were impressed by Avanade’s experience and approach. The plan you proposed to us struck all the right notes so we moved forward,” said Alexander Voggenauer. “It’s clear you knew your stuff.”

Once work began, Avanade focused on delivering a modern Office 365 based workplace to give uvex users a compelling new collaboration platform, a unified Active Directory solution and more control for administrators. The solution covered everything from upgrading older systems to the newest Office, a coordinated staged roll-out, an Identity Management migration as well as intensive training, change management and technical support through and after delivery.



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Impact

While it is still relatively early in their transformation, the new digital workplace is already making an impact on uvex end-users, administrators and the bottom line. The new Office 365 and Active Directory solution from Avanade provides:

- **Workplace of the Future:** Unlocking greater efficiency and productivity with end users across the entire global uvex family, on every platform, and as easily accessible as possible.

- **Modern IT:** Reduced pains and costs for the IT team, as well as simplified account management and support, enabling ever greater self-service.
- **Ready to Scale:** The new solution sets the stage for future improvements and scale, including a migration to Skype telephony when available in Europe.

In the world of uvex, innovation is key. Being a leader in that space isn't just important, it's party of the company's driving mission.

"It can't be done is not even in our vocabulary," said Alexander Voggenauer. "Thanks to the work done with Avanade, our people are better set to innovate than ever before."



About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals combine technology, business and industry expertise to build and deploy solutions to realize results for our clients and their customers. Avanade has 29,000 digitally connected people across 23 countries, bringing clients the best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture LLP, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Additional information can be found at www.avanade.com

North America

Seattle
Phone +1 206 239 5600
America@avanade.com

South America

Sao Paulo
AvanadeBrasil@avanade.com

Africa

Pretoria
Phone +27 12 622 4400
SouthAfrica@avanade.com

Asia-Pacific

Australia
Phone +61 2 9005 5900
AsiaPac@avanade.com

Europe

London
Phone +44 0 20 7025 1000
Europe@avanade.com

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