VOLUME 2
JANUARY 2026

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Cybercrime in 2026:

What business leaders need to know

You are invited to an educational session with a U.S. Secret Service investigator

The cyber-threat landscape is evolving. Unfortunately, many organizations are still preparing for yesterday's attacks.

On February 19, EXP Technical is hosting a free, educational webinar for business leaders featuring Neil Uhrig, a cybersecurity forensic analyst with the U.S. Secret Service. Neil investigates real incidents affecting organizations like yours. He will share what he's seeing as we head into 2026.

In this session, you will learn:

- How modern cyberattacks actually unfold, based on real cases
- Where organizations tend to get caught off guard
- What business leaders can do now to reduce risk without overreacting

There is no product pitch. Just real-world perspective and actionable insight from someone who works the cases.

Thursday, February 19

Noon–1:00 PM (PT)

Click here or scan the QR code to reserve your spot.

A note from Tony:

A new year brings opportunity and change, whether it's a Super Bowl win for the Seahawks, the World Cup coming to Seattle or the steady advance of technology.

What isn't changing are our values, which include: be responsive, share knowledge, share success, and contribute to the community. That mindset guides how we support our neighbors and why we keep showing up with conscientious support and practical insight.

Thanks for being part of the EXP community in 2026. We're glad to be on this path together.

— Tony Lesirge - CEO, Managing Principal, EXP Technical

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Microsoft 365: What is changing and why it matters.

Pricing and feature updates rolling out through 2026.

What changed?

About a year ago, Microsoft introduced a 5% price increase for customers who make an annual commitment to M365 but pay monthly. Many EXP clients renewed their licenses in February or March before that change took effect in April, so the increase has not shown up in their billing.

When your licenses renew this year, that price increase will appear.

What is happening later this year?

Looking ahead, Microsoft has also announced pricing and feature changes that will roll out in 2026. These updates include new capabilities, including enhanced security features and larger mailbox sizes, at an increased cost.

Key Takeaway

Now is the right time to review your Microsoft licensing. Make sure you are not over or under licensed, and that your commitment term and billing approach align with your expectations and budget.

A short review today can prevent surprises later.

Need help? Contact your primary consultant at EXP. We are happy to review your current M365 licensing and walk through the options available with you.

WHAT TO REVIEW BEFORE YOUR NEXT RENEWAL

- ☑ **License count**
- ☑ **Commitment term**
- ☑ **Monthly vs annual billing**
- ☑ **Features in use**
  - *Mailbox size*
  - *Security features*

What product is right for your organization?

Microsoft 365 Business Premium includes built-in protections for identity, devices, and access, which is why we often recommend it over plans focused only on productivity.

A licensing review is a good time to confirm not only that you have the right number of licenses, but that the security features you're paying for are actually enabled and aligned with your workflow and tolerance for risk.

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A website built for our local community

We've recently refreshed exptechnical.com with a clearer focus on the Pacific Northwest and the organizations we support here.

The updated site makes it easier to find EXP Academy, our free training library built to help local teams stay informed about cybersecurity, AI, and everyday technology risks. You will also notice a new client login page designed to simplify access for current clients.

We have added a few photos of our team as well because relationships matter and we believe it is important to show the people behind the work. This site reflects how we operate: local, practical, and invested in the community we serve.

Take a look when you have a moment. We built it to be useful. Let us know what you think!

Stay informed during outages

Earlier this month, a widespread Microsoft outage disrupted email for many organizations across the United States, including ours. In situations like that, it isn't always obvious how to reach support or where to find reliable updates.

Going forward, when we're aware of a significant, widespread outage, we'll post orange alerts at the top of our website with clear status updates and next steps. We'll also share updates on our LinkedIn page, which is often easier to access when email is unavailable.

If you don't already, we recommend you bookmark exptechnical.com and follow EXP Technical on LinkedIn so you can stay informed when it matters most.

A note on 2026 rates

As a reminder, EXP Technical's 2026 rates will go into effect on March 1, 2026. Clients should have already received our 2026 schedule of rates directly.

We share this here simply to avoid surprises. If you have questions or would like to review how this affects upcoming work, your EXP consultant is always happy to talk it through.

FIELD NOTE:

We're seeing an increase in phishing emails that look like long, reply chains designed to look like internal conversations.

If you were not part of the original conversation, pause and verify through another channel before replying, clicking, or acting on urgent demands.

If your team needs help spotting phishing attacks, enroll in Security Awareness Training at EXP Academy. It's free!

NEXT STEPS

💡 Want to Learn More?

EXP builds stronger, more secure technology foundations for small businesses across the Pacific Northwest.

✉️ Reach us at info@exptechnical.com or visit exptechnical.com.

🤝 Share Knowledge. Share Success.

Know someone who might benefit from this newsletter or our support?

Forward this issue or introduce us. We'd love to connect.