



SecWise

Case story: GO!

GO! gains the equivalent of half an FTE with new Microsoft security app

A couple of years ago, the Department of Education for the Flemish Community (GO!) fell victim to **several digital hacking attempts**, with software targeting virtual desktops in particular. For ICT Manager Jan Buytaert, these attacks weren't just the final straw to accelerate the **migration to Microsoft Azure and Office 365**. It was also an added incentive to get a stronger grip on their cybersecurity.

So, our specialist advised GO! to add the **Microsoft 365 E5 Security Suite** to its migration plans.

About GO!

GO! is the Flemish **public institution for community education** and one of the three educational networks in Flanders. GO! has 1.000 pre-primary, primary, secondary and adult education institutions and more than 38,000 staff.

More than 330,000 students have full-time education at GO!. That's about 15 to 20% of the Flemish school population.

About SecWise

We are a team of cloud security experts, dedicated to assist our customers during their digital transformation, with the **security and compliance aspect** of their cloud environment.

Our mission is to ensure that **security does not stand in the way of productivity and digital growth**. On the contrary, we help facilitate this transition in a secure way.



What are the key take-aways?

- Implementation of **Microsoft 365 E5 Security** to boost their security.
- Deployment of **Zero Trust** Cybersecurity to meet compliance needs.
- Partially automated **Microsoft Sentinel** monitoring.



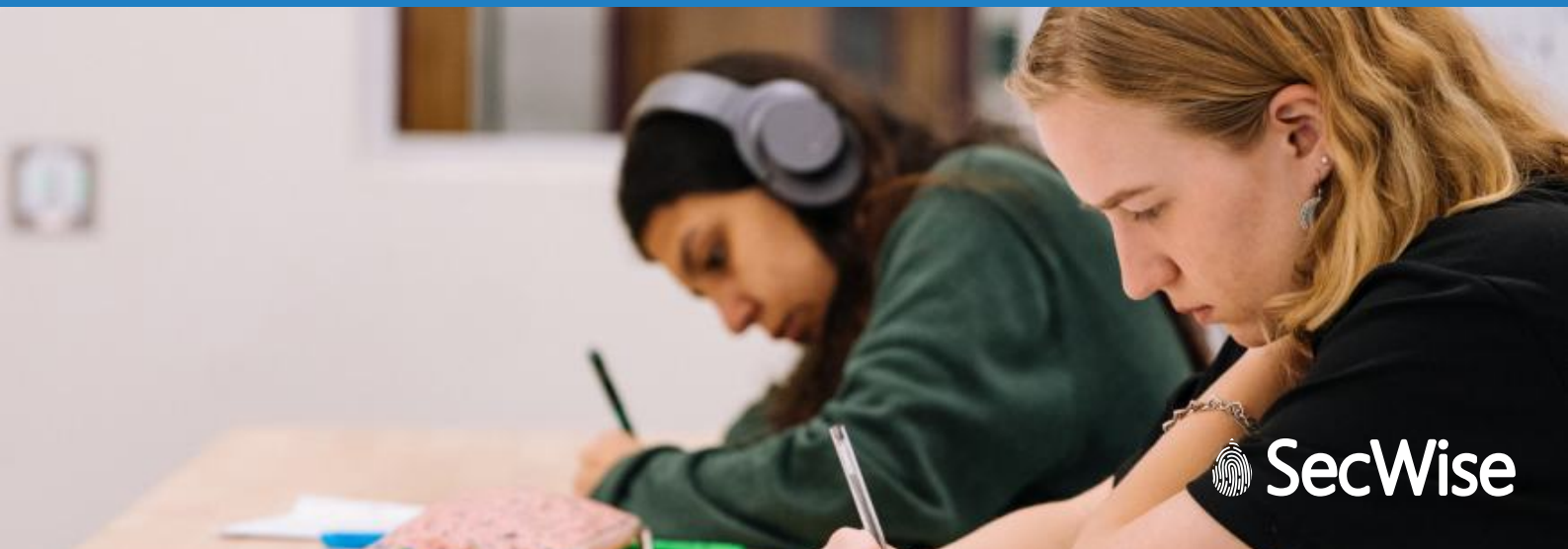
Remarkable numbers

- **400+ mailboxes scanned** for malware and spam in the central departments.
- Automatic **phishing control** on laptops saves the equivalent of half an FTE.



Tight security is an absolute must. We had a number of cyber incidents at the start of 2020, which had an impact on our operations. It convinced our directors to **identify and then secure our vulnerabilities**. That's why we appointed SecWise to carry out a security audit for us in the context of our existing framework contract.

Jan Buytaert, ICT Manager at GO!



Microsoft 365 Defender XDR



SecWise translated the 20-step audit into a roadmap with a whole series of recommendations. **“In the past, it was sufficient to just have a firewall and antivirus software, but you simply can’t rely solely on those products anymore,”** says Koen from SecWise.

“GO! wanted to scale back its own data center in favor of the cloud – and switch over to Microsoft technology in particular – so we recommended extending their license to A5, which also includes the **Microsoft 365 Defender XDR Security Suite.**”

A conscious decision in favor of Microsoft

GO! now uses it to secure its endpoints, users, protect its email application from spam, and keep its new cloud environment free of malware. **“People often think that the cloud is already secure, but you’re still always responsible for what happens on their platform. It’s up to you to ensure that the applications which run on it are secure,”** says Jan from GO!.

“As an IT department, we’re already a good customer of Microsoft – we use their software for our development processes. We also work with Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Azure already, and **now we can plug Microsoft 365 Defender completely into existing applications,** such as Teams and Outlook,. That way, we can warn others about potentially harmful emails or spam with just a single click. It’s mainly from a user perspective that we decided to switch over to Microsoft,” Jan explains.



Before April, it could take us almost a full day to analyse phishing attempts. Now Defender ATP stops them automatically, which saves us the equivalent of half an FTE.

Jan Buytaert, ICT Manager at GO!



XDR on endpoints combats phishing, among other things

The first step in the new security strategy was to add **Microsoft Defender XDR** to the Windows 10 devices at GO! This project started just before the coronavirus lockdown. GO! already scans all employees' mailboxes in the central departments for spam and malware.

“Before April, it could take almost a full day to determine if certain emails were phishing attempts or not. But now, Defender stops them automatically, which **saves the team the equivalent of half an FTE**,” Jan explains.

And over the years, additional features and components have been added to the Zero Trust security set-up.

You can create grand strategies to shape your security, but SecWise takes decisive action very quickly, which makes them more cost-efficient than others



Jan Buytaert, ICT Manager at GO!

Smarter with Microsoft Sentinel

In order to increase the visibility in their network security and gain a better insight into cybersecurity overall, SecWise also activated Microsoft Sentinel – **security incident & event management software (SIEM)**, that the team uses to inspect and tackle every cyber incident.



We want to be able to **monitor the whole IT environment better** and send all “security logs and events” from each application to Microsoft Sentinel, automatically filtering them and **taking action if required.**

Koen Jacobs, Managing Partner at SecWise

Jan adds: “We’re a small team but need to deliver the same services as a large IT department. **You can automate lots of tasks with smart software like Sentinel**, so we don’t need to provide specialist technical training for our people. **Currently, SecWise is helping us in that area with Watch, its managed SOC service.**”



GO! now manages devices remotely

Together with identity and device management, there are other security projects also implemented already. The ICT Manager wanted to start managing the GO! devices more efficiently.

“Our former device management software didn’t work remotely. The coronavirus epidemic highlighted this as a problem. Now, with **Microsoft Intune**, we can tackle this better.”

The ICT Manager looks to SecWise, once again



“They’re definitely not the first security partner we’ve had, but my colleagues are very happy with their **transparency, pragmatism and specific information.**”



“You can write entire books and make theoretical models about security, but **SecWise takes decisive action very quickly.**”



“They keep a **good overview of the situation** and translate it immediately into products and tools, which makes them **more cost-efficient than others.**”



“We work together very well, from devising **strategies** to specific **implementation.**”