About MindLink

MindLink enables organizations and their partners to harness their collective intelligence efforts by delivering collaboration tools into some of the most secure and demanding environments. Our customers rely on our technical expertise and close cooperation to address their current and emerging needs of the mission.

Driven by an ever-evolving mission landscape, MindLink are dedicated to advancing mission execution through secure collaboration technology for a safer tomorrow.

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MINDLINK XMPP FEDERATION GATEWAY

Enabling communications between XMPP-based systems and Microsoft Teams or Skype for Business

BRIDGE PLATFORMS AND EXTEND CONNECTIVITY

For users on the tactical edge, the federation gateway acts as the secure point of communication between isolated or forward-deployed mission components and central command.

Acting as a communication backbone for National Security and Defence, this delivers faster decision-making and improved C4ISR capabilities across the mission.

The first release of the MindLink XMPP Federation Gateway will federate presence and instant messaging between XMPP and Microsoft Teams for a single XMPP domain against a single M365 tenancy.

Following our roadmap, subsequent releases will see new features added to improve deployment, scalability, and multi-domain/ multi-tenancy support.

MINDLINK SOLUTION MAP

Interoperability with mission partners from command to the tactical edge

- Skype for Business interoperability
- Microsoft Teams interoperability
- XMPP Federation Gateway

Secure, real time sharing of mission-critical information across partners

- Data-centric end-to-end encryption
- Mission-focused UX
- Attribute-based access control
- Communities of interest
- Multi-tenancy ethical walling
- Data classification
- Data-loss prevention

MindLink persistent chat backbone

Bridge Skype for Business and Microsoft Teams with XMPP

Microsoft Skype for Business (SfB) has historically offered an in-built XMPP gateway server component, such that users on XMPP-based chat systems can interact with SfB users as externally federated contacts. This functionality was phased out in SfB Server 2019, severing XMPP federation when upgrading SfB infrastructure from older versions. With Microsoft Teams there is currently no native interoperability with XMPP. This leaves the MindLink XMPP Federation Gateway as the only solution to bridge systems with XMPP.

Requirements

To install and run the MindLink XMPP Federation Gateway we have outlined the following hardware, system and database requirements.

Hardware

- Quad core, 64-bit CPU (recommended 3.2 GHz)
- Gigabit Ethernet connection
- 16 GB RAM
- 1 GB disk space (minimum for installation)

System

- Windows Server 2019 / 2022

Database

- Microsoft SQL Server 2022+

Federated instant messaging

The MindLink XMPP Federation Gateway allows users from an XMPP domain to share presence and exchange instant messages (IM) with users homed on Skype for Business or in a Microsoft Teams tenancy, as well as vice versa. It enables users homed on different platforms to communicate one-to-one and share presence information. This means organisations aren't required to invest in new or other platforms by extending interoperability between existing platforms.

Observability

The XMPP gateway offers metrics, logging and tracing capabilities for improved observability at the system level. It allows administrators to assess the state of the system in real-time. This expedites the debugging process for optimal system health and performance.

Domain and user whitelisting

The MindLink XMPP Gateway has built-in security features to ensure only specific users can communicate with whitelisted remote XMPP domains. This is achieved through the implementation of XMPP domain whitelisting and internal user whitelisting.

High availability

The XMPP gateway can be deployed in a highly available server cluster and load-balanced configurations. It optimizes the reliability of the system by leveraging redundant components when other components fail. This ensures maximum overall system uptime and offers continued service.

Contact cards

Users connected through the XMPP Federation Gateway are able to exchange contact card information between platforms.

Container deployment model

The MindLink XMPP Federation Gateway leverages a container deployment model for flexible deployment options and scalability. It supports on-premise, cloud and hybrid deployment options with multiple containers running on a single host. This allows organisations to scale capabilities for additional users or federated domains/ tenancies, quickly and efficiently.

Throttling

The XMPP gateway can control the data through-put on the system. It allows administrators to configure the maximum rate of data flowing through the system over time on a per-user basis. This prevents the system from becoming overloaded and causing a disruption in service.

Server node licensing

The XMPP gateway leverages server node licensing where a license is required, per node, to operate. It allows the cost to scale proportionately to the number of active nodes in the system. This means the organisation incurs cost based on utilization.