Release Notes

Version 5.6: March 2024

Feature Updates

Trial Usage

- **Automated trial eligibility determination:** Users requesting a free trial are notified immediately upon request submission if they are eligible for a free trial. [GCCH]
- **License management for trial users:** Trial users can now view their trial status and expiration date on the Licenses tab and convert to a paid subscription. [GCCH]

Administration

- **Sponsor management:** We've added metadata for tracking subscription status to support automated offboarding processes and reporting. *For Exostar internal administrator use only.* [GCCH]

Resolved Issues

- An issue with notifications being sent to Team Managers when a reply is received from a recipient of a file that was sent externally has been resolved. [GCCH]

Version 5.5.1: March 2024

Resolved Issues

- An issue when removing team members or changing team member role on teams with large membership has been resolved. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 5.5: February 2024

Feature Updates

Compliant File Drop

- **New message notifications:** Team Managers are notified via email when new messages are received in the File Drop Inbox. [GCCH]

Reports

- **Sponsor Utilization Report:** A new Sponsor Utilization Report provides metrics such as license and storage usage and availability, feature enablement and application activity for all sponsors. *For Exostar internal administrator use only.* [GCCH]

Compliance

- **Disable user notification subscription from Team mailbox:** By default, guest users are automatically subscribed to team mailbox notifications when invited to a team. We override this default behavior for security purposes. [GCCH]

Trial Usage

- **Trial Subscriptions:** Added metadata to sponsor to support trial usage including status and expiration date. *For Exostar internal administrator use only.* [GCCH]

Version 5.4: December 2023

Feature Updates

Send Files Externally

- **Compliant file egress:** Sponsor Administrators and Team Managers can enable the Send Files Externally feature per team and when enabled, send files stored in the team to external email addresses without having to download the file. [GCCH]

Version 5.3.2: October 2023

Resolved Issues

- An issue preventing Exostar-authenticated users from accessing Teams has been resolved. The issue was introduced with version 5.2 and was isolated to users who were invited using the pending MAG account creation flow. Access for existing user accounts that were affected has also been restored. [GCCH]

Version 5.3.1: October 2023

Feature Updates

Reports

- **User Trend Report:** A new User Trend report allows sponsor administrators in enterprise deployments to view user trends including user type, status and authentication source. [GCCH, Commercial]

Other improvements

- **Displaying user first and last names:** User information for Azure B2B users that is not available at the time of invitation such as first name and last name is now synchronized regularly from Active Directory to the custom database, so the actual names are displayed in the Exostar application rather than "Not available". [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 5.3: September 2023

Feature Updates

Administration

- **Sponsor features:** We've introduced features that can be enabled or disabled for a sponsor based on subscriptions purchased and configuration requirements. [GCCH]

Compliant File Drop

- **Compliant file ingress:** Sponsor Administrators and Team Managers can enable the Team File Drop feature which allows external users to send files to the team email address. The file drop inbox tab displays messages and attachments sent to the team mailbox and includes export capability to extract messages and attachments to the team's files. [GCCH]

Reports

- **User Trend Report:** A new User Trend report allows sponsor administrators in enterprise deployments to view user trends including user type, status and authentication source. [GCCH, Commercial]

Deleted Team Management

- **Restore deleted teams:** Sponsor Administrators can now restore a team that has been deleted using the Exostar app. Restoring a team restores contents only. User access is not automatically restored and must be granted via invitation. [GCCH, Commercial]

Private Channels Management

- **Private channel visibility and access:** The Manage Teams tab includes a Private Channels section where Sponsor Administrators and Team Managers can see all private channels in Team, view a channel's membership details and add themselves as owner of the channel if desired. [GCCH, Commercial]

Other improvements

- **Displaying user first and last names:** User information for Azure B2B users that is not available at the time of invitation such as first name and last name is now synchronized regularly from Active Directory to the custom database, so the actual names are displayed in the Exostar application rather than "Not available". [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 5.2.1: July 2023

Resolved Issues

- An issue updating the number of licenses purchased for new sponsors has been resolved. [GCCH]

Version 5.2: July 2023

Feature Updates

License Management

- **License usage:** The calculation of the number of licenses used has been updated to include users who have been invited by a sponsor but are not part of any teams. These users can be identified using the Licensed Users Report. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Purchasing additional licenses**: A warning will be displayed when the number of licenses used is nearing or exceeds the number of licenses purchased. When the number of licenses purchased is exceeded, new users cannot be invited. The option to purchase additional licenses is provided on the licenses tab. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Licensed Users Report:** Sponsor Administrators can use the Licensed Users Report to view all users who are consuming a license, including user status (Provisioned or Pending), the number of teams the user has been invited to, and optionally drill down to the see more details. [GCCH, Commercial]

Notifications

- **Email notifications:** Email notifications are sent to affected users and the associated sponsor administrators or team managers when a user is added to or removed from a team, a user's role is changed, or a team is deleted. [GCCH, Commercial]

Administration
- **Feature Flags:** We've introduced the use of feature flags allowing Exostar administrators to enable or disable functionality to support our move to CI/CD (Continuous Integration/ Continuous Deployment) practices. [GCCH, Commercial]

Resolved Issues

Auditing
- An issue resulting in some team management activities not being audited for actions taken by team managers has been resolved. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 5.1: May 2023

Feature Updates

Auditing
- **Auditing user actions:** We've begun keeping an audit log of all activity that takes place within the Exostar application. Any action taken using the Exostar application, such as team creation and management, user management, and administration, is recorded. [GCCH, Commercial]

Reports
- **Users Report**: A new Users Report allows sponsor administrators to view all users who were invited by someone in their organization and the team(s) and/or role(s) they have access to. The report includes filtering, sorting and download options. When viewed online, the report includes links to User Management to view user details and remove user access as needed. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Audit Report:** Sponsor administrators can use the new Audit Report to view actions taken using the Exostar application. The downloaded report includes actor, effected entity, date/time and relevant details for each action taken. Report filters are available for more targeted results. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Pending Users Report:** Sponsor administrators can view users who have been invited but whose access is pending account creation in Exostar's Managed Access Gateway (MAG). The Pending User Report includes links to User Management to view user details and revoke invitations as needed. [GCCH]

Version 5.0: March 2023

Feature Updates

Invitation
- **Invitation prior to Exostar account creation**: If the user you are inviting requires an Exostar account (the user's domain is configured for authentication using an Exostar rather than Azure B2B authentication), you can now invite the user to your team prior to them creating an Exostar account. Invited users receive an email invitation to create an Exostar account. The user stays in pending status until an Exostar account is created. Once the account is created the user is removed from a pending status and automatically added to your team. [GCCH]

- **Inviting users with multiple Exostar accounts:** You can now invite a user whose email address is associated with more than one Exostar account by selecting an account from a list of the user's accounts provided during user lookup. [GCCH]
- **Improved user lookup:** Team selection is now the first step when inviting users to your teams so that lookup results will show when a user has already been invited to the team. [GCCH, Commercial]

Team Management

- **Pending team members:** Team managers can view and manage invitations of users whose access to the team is pending the user's Exostar account creation. Team managers can resend or delete the user invitation. [GCCH]

User Management

- **User management feature availability**: The User Management feature is no longer restricted to enterprise customers. Sponsor administrators in all deployment models can perform user search and deletion. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Pending users:** User management now includes search results for pending users who have been invited to teams and/or as sponsor administrators prior to Exostar account creation. Sponsor administrators can delete pending users which deletes all outstanding invitations for the user. [GCCH]

Sponsor Administration

- **Invitation prior to Exostar account creation**: In addition to being able to invite a user to a team when an Exostar account is required, users can be invited as sponsor administrators prior to creating an Exostar account. Invited users receive an email invitation to create an Exostar account and will remain in pending status until their Exostar account is created. Once the account is created the user is removed from a pending status and automatically given access to Teams as a sponsor administrator. [GCCH]
- **Pending sponsor administrators:** Existing sponsor administrators can view, resend and remove invitations to pending users invited as sponsor administrators on the Sponsor Administrators tab. [GCCH]

Reports

- **Accessing reports:** A new Reports tab gives authorized users easy access to reports including the Teams report. New reports will be accessible via the Reports tab as they are available. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Teams report updates:** The Teams report now includes user statistics (total number of users, total partner users, and total sponsor users) as well as a list of team managers for each team. Sorting and export capabilities are also now available. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Support for sponsor-level auditing**: All invited users are now mapped to the inviting sponsor(s) to enable audit reporting of user activities at the sponsor level. [GCCH, Commercial]

Other Improvements

- Context caching has been added to improve performance and ensure real-time reflection of role changes. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 4.2: January 2023

Feature Updates

Domain Management

- **Default setting for authentication source:** When a partner domain is added the authentication source is now set to Exostar (instead of Pending) by default. This automated setting is configurable for enterprise customers. Exostar customer support can change the authentication source for a partner domain upon request. [GCCH]

User Management

- **Support for users with multiple email addresses:** User search now displays results when any of the user's email addresses entered. My Information now displays all email addresses associated with the user's profile. [GCCH, Commercial]

Accessing Teams

- **Invitation acceptance required for Exostar users:** If you authenticate using Exostar's Secure Access Manager (SAM), you must accept the invitation to Teams prior to access. [Commercial]

Version 4.1: December 2022

Feature Updates

Sponsor Administration

- **User search:** Sponsor administrators (enterprise customers) can now search for users by email address and view team memberships and assigned roles for the user [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Remove user:** Sponsor administrators (enterprise customers) are now able to fully delete a user, removing the user from all teams and assigned roles [GCCH, Commercial]

Invitation

- **User lookup:** Email address entry now accepts a semi-colon delimiter. Improved cut and paste experience [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Select all:** A select all option is available to expedite invitation of eligible users returned during lookup [GCCH, Commercial]

Manage Team Members

- **Authentication source:** You can now see whether your team members are authenticating using an Exostar account or via Azure B2B [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Download team members:** An export option now allows you to download team members [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Resend email invitation:** You can now resend an invitation email to a team member who may have missed it [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 4.0.3: October 2022

Resolved Issues

Email Notifications

- An issue preventing guest users with Exostar accounts from receiving Microsoft-generated email notifications has been resolved. (Email forwarding enabled for Exostar guests) [GCCH]

Version 4.0.2: September 2022

Resolved Issues

Invitation

- An issue preventing users from being added to a team during invitation has been resolved. (Azure and Teams AD sync/Invitation in Progress flow) [GCCH]
- An issue preventing the invitation of Exostar users with Azure verified domains has been resolved. (Exostar ID added to user profile) [GCCH]
- An issue preventing users from being invited due to case sensitive logic has been resolved. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 4.0: August 2022

Feature Updates

Sponsor Administration

- **Sponsor Administrator notification:** New sponsor administrators will receive an email notification when the role is granted informing them of their elevated privileges. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Sponsor Administrator invitation:** Prior invitation to a team is no longer required to grant the sponsor administrator role. For new users, an invitation will be sent when the role is granted. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Multiple sponsor domains:** Enterprise customers are now able to designate multiple domains for internal users who will be given member privileges and can serve as team managers and sponsor administrators. [GCCH, Commercial]

Invitation

- **Invite multiple users:** You can now invite up to 10 users at a time to a given team. [GCCH, Commercial]

Help Resources

- **Resources:** My Information includes links to self-help resources and a list of sponsor administrators to contact for help with team creation and invitation. [GCCH, Commercial]

Sensitivity Protection

- **Sensitivity labels:** Selecting a sensitivity classification during team creation now applies a sensitivity label to the team. Configured policies associated with the label are applied to documents stored within the team such as watermarking. [Commercial]

- Policies are configured in discussion with enterprise customers based on their requirements.
- Microsoft Information Protection and Microsoft Defender for Cloud App capabilities become available to fulfill the requirements.

(May require additional licenses and / or professional services depending on the requirement)

Accessing Teams
- **Simplified access for Exostar-managed users:** We've simplified authentication and access for users with Exostar managed accounts. Exostar users must click on the application in their Exostar portal dashboard to access their teams. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 3.1: May 2022

Feature Updates

Sponsor Administration
- **Sponsor Administrator role management:** Sponsor Administrators are designated business users responsible for oversight and management of the sponsor's teams and users. Sponsor Administrators are now able to grant the Sponsor Administrator role to other internal users. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Partner management:** This feature allows Sponsor Administrators to maintain a list of domains authorized for collaboration within teams. User invitation is restricted to users from designated partner domains. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Support for social identities:** You are now able to invite users with social domain email addresses (e.g., gmail.com, facebook.com, etc.) by adding the domain as an authorized partner. Users with social identities must have Exostar credentials to access Teams.
- **License usage metrics**: Sponsor Administrators can now view their Secure Access for M365 license usage and availability. [GCCH, Commercial]

Tenant Administration
- **Configurable domain authentication source:** Any domain authorized for access to the tenant (i.e., a sponsor or designated partner domain) can now be configured to use Exostar as the authentication source for Teams, regardless of the domain's registration status in Azure. [GCCH, Commercial]

Invitation
- **Simplified user lookup:** We've simplified the search results when inviting users so it's clear when and why a user cannot be invited. [GCCH, Commercial]

Version 2.0: January 2022

Feature Updates

Manage Teams

- **Team Manager Role**: The Team Manager role enables designated team members to perform team-level management functions including inviting users, which was previously available only to Sponsor Administrators. [GCCH, Commercial]
- **Manage Teams**: Sponsor Administrators and Team Managers have expanded team management capabilities and can edit team details, manage team membership and delete a team using the new Manage Teams tab. [GCCH, Commercial]

Affected Deployment Designation

- [GCCH] indicates GCCH deployments are affected
- [Commercial] indicates Commercial deployments are affected