BLOG:
Top 5 considerations when choosing an Enterprise Content Management system

Microsoft 365 is becoming the 'obvious choice' for many businesses that need to improve information management capability at scale. But is this always the best solution? Founded on independent analysis and our extensive experience in deploying both Microsoft 365 and specialist CSP / ECM platforms, Astral has identified the following key points to help information leaders when considering a platform to manage enterprise information and records.

A comparison of Specialist ECM platforms and Microsoft 365

Specialist ECM platforms vs. **Microsoft 365**

#	Specialist ECM platforms	Microsoft 365
1	Advanced Records Management is standard out of the box functionality with little to no customisation required, including records lifecycle and controlled document management, advanced classification and search, change and version management.	Advanced Records Management functionality is available on an MS365 Enterprise E5 license, using the Azure DevOps environment to configure and customise the solution.
2	A specialised ECM license is an additional cost to an organisation.	Many organisations already have MS365 Enterprise licenses with an upgrade from E3 to E5 usually less costly than licenses to a dedicated ECM platform.
3	Organisations with intensive information management needs, especially with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) process and data integration or stringent records security, control and governance, are likely to require a dedicated ECM platform.	Organisations with general corporate records management requirements are likely to find the range of functionality provided through MS365 adequate for their needs.
4	Even though most ECM platforms are SaaS-based, deployment can be complex and require specialised system integration and change management resources from the outset to ensure successful outcomes.	Deployment of MS365 PaaS/SaaS is not complex; however, the ongoing development of MS365 in the DevOps space requires significant internal (or contractor) development capability on an ongoing basis.
5	ECM is an added functional layer to standard corporate tools, which means records capture is not entirely seamless, and user interfaces are less familiar to users.	MS365 has the advantage of capturing content seamlessly from creation and having a familiar user interface. MS365 also offers inherent collaboration capability.