

## What's New in SharePoint 2019

How to evaluate the business benefits of the new release to inform your migration strategy

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### INTRODUCTION

With SharePoint Server 2019, Microsoft now delivers to its on-premises customers many of the enhancements provided over the past few years in SharePoint Online. Built on the same core platform as SharePoint Online, SharePoint 2019 is designed to deliver a new, modern experience for users.

In this whitepaper, I'll explore the key new features available in SharePoint 2019 and why moving to the new release can benefit your organization. Then, I'll explain how you can ensure a quick, secure migration with ZeroIMPACT to your users and business with best-in-class tools from Quest and Metalogix.

### NEW AND ENHANCED FEATURES

#### Communication sites

My favorite feature in SharePoint 2019 by far is the communication sites. SharePoint has always been a great collaboration platform, enabling people to easily work together on files, lists and libraries. However, over the years I've heard

many customers say that, although SharePoint is great for document storage and management, it wasn't a good option for their intranet because they weren't able to easily build the sites they wanted or an engaging landing site for the company.

That assessment of previous SharePoint versions was perfectly fair. Sites had to be designed and built as either team sites with publishing enabled or fully structured publishing sites. Customizing a site's functionality and navigation required a team of experienced designers and developers to create master pages, cascading style sheets (CSS), JavaScript code, web parts and so on. Moreover, sites designed for a browser on a PC often did not work well or look good on mobile devices — so even more time and resources were needed to build, test and deploy classic publishing sites that would work well in today's mobile world.

The communication sites in SharePoint 2019 remove all of those barriers, giving you a great way to share news, showcase stories and broadcast messages in a visually compelling format — without spending thousands of dollars on developers or design

With the new communication sites in SharePoint 2019, you no longer have to spend a lot of money to create sites that are both beautiful and engaging.

agencies. Communication sites don't rely on the publishing site infrastructure, so users can create the sites they want in seconds, without ever needing to contact IT. They can simply click Create site on SharePoint Home and then use the intuitive interface to adjust page layouts, add web parts, and even pull in content from other services, like conversations from Yammer and videos from Microsoft Stream.

Moreover, the sites are optimized to look — and work — great both on the desktop and on mobile devices. Whether you want to build a compelling, interactive experience for thousands or tens of thousands of external people or a site that facilitates more intimate dialogues and sharing, the communication sites feature makes it a snap.

My second favorite new feature in SharePoint 2019 is Fast Site Creation. In the early days of SharePoint, users had to ask their SharePoint administrator to create sites for them — and then sit and wait until their request bubbled to the top of the priority list. That's no longer the case. The Fast Site Creation feature in SharePoint 2019 enables users and administrators alike to create new sites in seconds, including OneDrive personal sites, Team sites (modern only) and communication sites. There are three ways to access this functionality:

- OneDrive personal site auto-provisioning
- The Create Site button in SharePoint Home
- The New-SPSite PowerShell cmdlet

By taking advantage of Fast Site Creation, organizations can be far more agile in responding to emerging business needs. Plus, by shifting much of the burden of site creation from IT staff to end users, this new feature can free up IT resources to focus on more strategic projects.

#### **Modern user experience**

SharePoint 2019 delivers a consistent user experience across Windows, OneDrive and SharePoint. Having a consistent look and feel across the Microsoft platform enhances user productivity and satisfaction because everyone can easily find the buttons, features and options they need. Moreover, as noted earlier, sites look and work

great on mobile devices as well as desktops, which is essential in today's BYOD world.

#### **Modern lists and libraries**

The new release also includes the modern lists and libraries that have been available in Office 365 for some time, bringing the experience up to date with that found in SharePoint Online. The default list and library experience is optimized for the most common tasks — in particular, users can easily copy and move files, pin documents, add files as links, filter and sort, and apply formatting to columns.

Beyond that, the new lists simplify the way individuals and teams access, share and interact with structured data by providing a rich set of capabilities that work across devices and browsers. The modern libraries are faster and more responsive, and more intuitive as well, with a UI similar to OneDrive. Users can easily create new folders and upload files in their browser, and the ribbon has been replaced with a command bar that provides intelligent commands relevant to the tasks at hand.

Now, it's easier than ever to build workflows around lists and libraries because they are integrated with Microsoft Flow and PowerApps, the top process management tools in the Microsoft ecosystem.

#### **Modern search experience**

SharePoint 2019 still supports the classic search experience, but it introduces a modern search experience that users will love. As they start typing in the search box, results appear right away and are updated as they enter more details in the search. Moreover, it's a federated search, so if you have a hybrid SharePoint deployment, users don't need to know or even care whether the documents they want are on-premises or in the cloud. The modern search is available on the SharePoint home page, communication sites and modern team sites.

#### **OneDrive and personal site OneDrive sync**

In earlier versions of SharePoint, OneDrive was not as robust as organizations would have liked, and it had significant

synchronization issues. For example, there were problems if a file name was too long or included special characters.

SharePoint 2019 resolves all those issues. OneDrive is robust, works reliably, and can be used on both desktops and mobile devices. The hash sign (#) and percent sign (%) are supported in file and folder names in both SharePoint 2019 and OneDrive for Business, and the URL path length restriction has been increased from 260 Unicode code units to 400. The OneDrive sync client is marvelously easy to use, yet it supports advanced features such as Files On-Demand, push notifications and IRM protection. In fact, the sync feature works so well that organizations will be able to retire Box, Dropbox and other enterprise file sync and share (EFSS) solutions and consolidate on their Microsoft portfolio. By simplifying their IT ecosystem, the organization can reduce IT overhead, reduce costs, and enhance user productivity and satisfaction.

#### **SharePoint home page**

In the past, users had to use bookmarks to keep track of their favorite SharePoint sites. Now, they can easily create a beautiful SharePoint home page that gives them unified access to all their sites, both on-premises and in the cloud. From a single pane view, they can quickly catch up with what's been going on within their teams and projects, navigate seamlessly through their intranet, and get a personalized view of news from the sites they're following, as well as recommendations for additional sites that are likely to be of interest. As noted earlier, the SharePoint home page also features a Create site button that enables users to create sites in seconds without any help from IT.

#### **SharePoint mobile app**

Finally, there's the new SharePoint mobile app, which enables users to stay connected and informed — even when they're on the go. They can stay engaged with their team sites and get notified when someone posts a comment on a page they authored or responds to a comment they have made. In addition, they can quickly open and preview Office documents, “like” news posts or modern pages, and view their SharePoint calendar. In short, the SharePoint mobile app puts the intranet in the user's pocket.

## **SHOULD YOUR ORGANIZATION INVEST IN SHAREPOINT 2019?**

Clearly, SharePoint 2019 has a lot of new features and functionality to offer. But does it make much business sense to adopt it? After all, Microsoft has made it abundantly clear that its focus is the cloud — in this case, SharePoint Online. Why bother to upgrade your on-prem deployment at all?

The very existence of SharePoint 2019 is evidence that many organizations are not yet ready or able to fully embrace the cloud. For a variety of reasons, including both practical and security concerns, they are choosing to maintain either an exclusively on-premises SharePoint environment or a hybrid deployment. In either case, there are compelling reasons to upgrade to the new on-premises version of SharePoint: you'll see a sound return on investment (ROI), you will reduce risk significantly, and you'll position your organization for a move to SharePoint Online in the future.

#### **Migrating delivers a sound return on investment.**

As we explored the key new features and enhancements in SharePoint 2019, you might have noticed a common theme: streamlining the work of both business users and IT teams. SharePoint 2019 enables users to easily get the information they need when they need it and respond faster to the needs of customers and the business. Its support for all the various form factors ensures they can collaborate and be productive anywhere, anytime. Since IT is no longer a bottleneck in site creation, the business can be far more agile and seize more opportunities. The benefits of that increased productivity and agility are hard to quantify, but they can be substantial.

We also discussed some more concrete cost benefits. You'll no longer need to budget for expensive site designers and custom developers, since your business users will be able to easily create compelling sites on their own. And having a simpler, more intuitive solution will reduce IT workload, including helpdesk costs.

Migrating to SharePoint 2019 can improve user productivity and business agility while reducing costs and IT complexity — which adds up to a sound ROI.

By choosing proven migration solutions and an experienced partner, you can minimize disruption and ensure your new SharePoint 2019 delivers the most value.

SharePoint 2019 is a single collaboration suite that eliminates the need to purchase, install and manage multiple products from different vendors, or build and support your own custom solutions. You don't have to rely on a separate intranet solution, a separate file storage tool, a separate mobile application, a separate document management tool and so on — you get it all in one solution. By consolidating on SharePoint, you'll reduce licensing, maintenance and training costs.

#### **Migrating reduces risk.**

Beyond the question of ROI are very real concerns about business risk. You know full well that no software solution is supported forever, and staying on a deprecated version brings significant risk. It's not just about missing out on the latest and greatest functionality; if you're running an old version of a product, the vendor will no longer provide security patches, or even support with functionality issues. While that might be okay for a relatively minor tool that a particular team uses only occasionally, it's not a wise strategy for any key piece of your IT ecosystem — and as the system your business relies on for storing and sharing information, SharePoint certainly qualifies as mission-critical.

#### **Migrating enables you to become cloud-ready.**

We've seen that SharePoint 2019 offers a modern experience with features drawn directly from SharePoint Online. By delivering that modern experience, your organization will look much better, both internally and externally, helping you attract the best talent and bring the skill sets of your current staff up to date. If you have a hybrid SharePoint deployment, users can work seamlessly, as we saw with the federated search and the integrated home page.

Moreover, you'll be well-positioned for the future: When you decide to move to SharePoint Online, you'll be cloud-ready, and the transition will be much easier for IT and business users alike.

#### **There are ways to minimize disruption to business operations.**

Of course, migration by its very nature means changes to user workflows,

business processes and IT routines. SharePoint 2019 offers many valuable new features, but some existing features are deprecated. Organizations are right to be concerned about how the move will affect business operations.

Having the right tools and expertise makes all the difference. By investing in proven solutions that can deliver a seamless migration, you can minimize disruption across the organization, and by relying on experts who have performed thousands of migrations, you can ensure your new environment delivers the most value. And there's no better migration partner than Quest.

#### **CHOOSING THE RIGHT MIGRATION SOLUTION**

Quest is the hands-down expert in Microsoft platform migration and consolidation, and our acquisition of Metalogix solidifies that position with unmatched solutions purpose-built for SharePoint migration and management. Only with Quest can you get end-to-end solutions that not only help you plan and execute a ZeroIMPACT SharePoint migration but effectively manage the new environment and ensure proper governance and regulatory compliance — no matter what source platform you're starting from and which version of SharePoint you're migrating to. Whether you have an on-premises, cloud or hybrid environment, we offer SharePoint solutions that will simplify your:

- Pre-migration assessment
- Backup
- Multi geo-location synchronization
- Content migration
- Management and administration
- Governance, risk, compliance and GDPR activities

#### **Pre-migration assessment**

Pre-migration planning involves a careful inventory and assessment of your existing environment. With Quest, you can conduct a pre-migration analysis of your source environment to identify any migration concerns and develop a comprehensive migration plan to be able to avoid any risks when moving your content to SharePoint 2019.

- **Quest® Metalogix® Expert** — Analyze key areas in SharePoint security and identify potential risks to develop a comprehensive plan that will successfully move users to the new platform. The solution can automatically evaluate the content in your source system to eliminate the need to search for large files, checked-out documents and lists where limits have been exceeded.

### Content migration

SharePoint migrations can be complex, but they don't have to be painful. With Quest solutions, you can ensure a ZeroIMPACT SharePoint migration and consolidation; complete the project faster; and minimize costs, risks and disruption for users.

- **Metalogix Content Matrix** — Complete a one-hop migration without the need to stop at interim versions of SharePoint, or complete a large-scale or complex migration on schedule by distributing migration jobs across multiple different servers at the same time. You'll get recommendations mid-flight to help you make informed decisions and avoid roadblocks. You can even speed the migration by empowering business users to safely move content themselves.

### Management and administration

After the migration is complete, you need to maintain a productive, controlled and secure SharePoint 2019 environment. Quest solutions help you accelerate your recovery and optimize storage and performance.

- **Metalogix Backup for SharePoint** — Enable reliable and efficient backups of your complex collaboration environment, including content databases, service applications, search data and farm configurations. Advanced data retrieval capabilities enable you to easily restore old, lost, corrupted and overwritten SharePoint content directly from database backups, and granular restore capabilities enable you to quickly recover misplaced documents, corrupted objects and overwritten files. You can even empower users to safely browse through backup versions of their personal SharePoint content and restore content to a SharePoint server or file share without impacting IT bandwidth.
- **Metalogix StoragePoint** — Optimize your SharePoint storage infrastructure by moving files to less expensive storage

devices, without impacting performance, the user experience or native SharePoint functionality. This solution can automatically move content to the appropriate storage based on frequency of access, age, version and metadata rules, enabling you to create a highly scalable and flexible SharePoint storage architecture.

### Governance, risk and compliance

Finally, you need to secure and govern your SharePoint 2019 environment while minimizing risk and making sure you are in compliance. These Quest solutions will help:

- **Metalogix ControlPoint** — Reduce risk and maintain compliance with comprehensive policy enforcement. Audit, clean up and manage SharePoint permissions and users from a single console across all sites, site collections or farms, and respond to audit requests in minutes, not days. With the Metalogix Sensitive Content Manager modular add-on, you can also automatically detect and classify sensitive data and PII — in minutes, not days — to maintain security and compliance.

### CONCLUSION

With SharePoint Server 2019, Microsoft has delivered on its promise to bring much of the exciting, modern features in SharePoint Online to on-premises customers. In SharePoint 2019, it's easy for users to build beautiful and compelling sites. The modern user experience (including modern lists, libraries and search), robust OneDrive sync, powerful home page and mobile app will enhance user productivity and drive platform adoption.

While every migration involves effort, a move to SharePoint 2019 is unquestionably the right strategy for most organizations that are not ready to move fully to the cloud. Migration delivers a sound ROI while significantly reducing risk and ensuring your organization is cloud-ready. With the right solutions, you can plan and execute a migration that minimizes costs and business disruption, and be ready to manage and secure your new SharePoint 2019 environment for maximum value. With Quest, you can get everything you need from a single trusted vendor. To learn more, please visit [quest.com/solutions/sharepoint](http://quest.com/solutions/sharepoint).

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