

## What is SharePoint?

This question comes first when we start discussing about SharePoint. There is no particular definition but lots of people describe it in different way according to its feature and functionality.

- SharePoint is a browser-based collaboration and document management platform from Microsoft. Its content management feature allows organization or users to securely store, share and collaborate within each other.
- Some says SharePoint is an enterprise information portal from Microsoft that can be configured to run Intranet, Extranet and Internet sites.
- SharePoint is a web application from Microsoft that enables organizations to work more efficiently by letting users share documents, data and information. It provides document management, collaboration feature which increased productivity of organization.
- We say SharePoint Products and Technologies because SharePoint is a web based platform which contains various products and technologies to develop various corporate portals. By using SharePoint organizations can easily create and manage their own collaborative web sites.

## What is Portal Technology?

A portal is a place where users can get important information about corporate or organization. This is the first place for employees to get business information. Various organizations customize their portal based on their organizations requirement.

A portal may be consists of one or more web sites where informations are stored directly on the web sites or information are stored in file shares or other business applications. The portal to be the central location users can visit to find information regardless of its actual storage location. At the same time portal also be secure, up to date and easily accessible. User should able to search for required information.

A good portal should provide all the company reference and policy information that the employee needs to review, as well as links to all the information systems and websites that employee needs to do her job. Information should be stored in easy-to-browse locations, based on subject or topic.

Portal technologies enables users to handle day-to-day tasks from a single starting point.

SharePoint is one of the popular portal technologies, lots of small to large scale organizations are using SharePoint to develop their portal. It is scalable, extensible, and customizable portal solution for various organizations.

It help you better store, share, and manage digital information within your organization. In no time you can create team sites to collaborate with each other, by using SharePoint lists and libraries you can store information, documents etc.

Few Key Features of SharePoint are:

- Share
- Organize

- Discover
- Build
- Manage

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/What-s-new-in-Microsoft-SharePoint-Server-2013-2229681c-8a19-4efb-a59a-fc9ece9e9557?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US>

There are two ways Organizations can access SharePoint:

## 1- SharePoint On premise

In this case Organization will be full responsible for builds, configures, and manages its own SharePoint environment. You will be having full control of the environment and organizations can deploy custom solutions without any restrictions.

## 2- SharePoint Cloud (Office 365)

Office 365 is the cloud platform from Microsoft. In this case SharePoint will be hosted and maintained by Microsoft in its own data centres. Organization will never worried about configuring or maintaining the environment, Microsoft takes care all. Organization needs to subscribe based on their requirement. Organization pay for what they use.

So to choose from the two, you need to think about the current as well as future planned needs of your organization.

- What level of control and segregation is required for the data within my environment?
- What types of service-level agreements (SLAs) are in place for the data within my organization?
- Do we have the internal resources needed to support our environment?
- What types of customizations and custom code will need to be supported within our environment?

## Different Versions of SharePoint:

Version	Free Version	Paid Version	Year
1.0	STS (SharePoint Team Services)	SPS 2001(SharePoint Product Services)	2001
2.0	WSS 2.0	SPS 2003	2003

3.0	WSS 3.0	Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007	2006
2010	SharePoint Foundation Server	SharePoint Server 2010	2010
2013	SharePoint Foundation Server	SharePoint Server 2013	2013
2016	XXXXXX	SharePoint Server 2016	2016

## SharePoint 2010:

- Claim based authentication
- Only 64 Bit Support (Server, Database etc.)
- Ribbon Introduced (Huge change in UI)
- Sandboxed Solution
- Access Services
- Managed Metadata
- Service Applications
- BCS
- Improvement in SharePoint Designer and InfoPath
- Developer Dashboard
- Client Object Model
- Search Improvement (FAST Search)
- Social Computing etc.

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/What-s-New-in-Microsoft-SharePoint-Server-2010-e34398ea-3607-47be-9506-36985607109c>

## SharePoint 2013:

### SharePoint Add-ins (Apps):

SharePoint 2013 introduces a Cloud Add-in Model that enables you to create add-ins. SharePoint Add-ins are self-contained pieces of functionality that extend the capabilities of a SharePoint website. An add-in may include SharePoint components such as lists, workflows, and site pages, but it can also surface a remote web application and remote data in SharePoint.

Microsoft released a new web based development tool known as Napa Office 365 Development Tools for developing add-ins. It lets you develop SharePoint Add-ins, Office Add-ins, SharePoint Add-ins that include Office Add-ins, or Office Add-ins that are hosted by SharePoint.

Visual Studio 2012 now includes a new add-in project template in the Add-ins folder named Add-ins for SharePoint 2013.

SharePoint 2013 has been improved and enhanced to support the new cloud-based architecture and app-driven development framework. It also now enhanced support for Rest API, New client and server side APIs as well as Remote event receivers etc.

### Social Features Enhancements (following):

SharePoint 2013 provides new and improved social collaboration features. Like community site which lets users easily find and share information and find people who have similar interests. Also by using Follow people and Follow Sites feature you can get update on what is going around.

### Mobile Enhancement

SharePoint 2013 is optimized for viewing in various mobile devices. The ability to render a single SharePoint published site in multiple formats for different devices.

### Design manager & Device Channel

Design manager is a very good new feature which helps in designing master pages, page layouts, composed looks etc.

The Design Manager can also provide the team with a way to specify different master pages for different devices such as iPhone, Windows Phone, Surface and iPad.

### New Workflow Engine

A new workflow engine is introduced for workflows in SharePoint 2013.

### New Continuous Crawl

By introducing continuous crawl, SharePoint made available to recent documents in search results. Users will always get fresh contents.

### Content Search web part

By using content search web part user can change the look and feel of the search results in combination with display templates.

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/What-s-new-in-Microsoft-SharePoint-Server-2013-2229681c-8a19-4efb-a59a-fc9ece9e9557>

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/office/jj163091.aspx>

## SharePoint 2016:

### - MinRole:

MinRole is a new feature in SharePoint Server 2016 that allows a SharePoint farm administrator to define each server's role in a farm topology. It shows roles like: Front-end, Application, Distributed Cache, Search, Custom, Single-Server Farm etc.

### - Document Deletion Compliance Features:

The document deletion policy allows you to delete documents in users' OneDrive for Business sites after specific periods of time.

<https://www.enjoysharepoint.com/office-365-document-deletion-policies/>

#### - New Document library accessibility feature:

There are few enhancements in SharePoint 2016 document libraries like:

- Various keyboard shortcuts like:

Alt + N - New

Alt + E - Edit

Alt + U - Upload

Alt + M - Manage

Alt + S - Share

Alt + Y - Synchronization

- Announcements for upload progress.

- Announcements for file name and file types when browsing folder and file lists etc.

#### - Durable Links:

Durable links are helpful in retaining the links even if documents are renamed or moved in SharePoint.

#### - Fast Site Collection Creation:

This feature made the site collection creation process faster. It work at the same level as sql server which reduces the round trips required between the SharePoint and SQL servers.

<https://www.enjoysharepoint.com/sharepoint-2016-fast-site-collection-creation-using-powershell/>

#### - Hybrid feature in SharePoint:

Hybrid in SharePoint Server 2016 enables you to integrate your on-premises farm with Office 365 productivity experiences.

- Users can follow SharePoint Server and SharePoint Online sites, and see them consolidated in a single list.

- Users have a single profile in Office 365, where all of their profile information is stored.

You index all of your crawled content, including on-premises content, to your search index in Office 365. You can set up the crawler in SharePoint Server 2016 to crawl the same content sources and use the same search connectors in Office SharePoint Server 2007, SharePoint Server 2010, and SharePoint Server 2013.

#### - Large File Support:

SharePoint Server 2016 now supports uploading and downloading files larger than 2GB which can be configurable up to 10 GB.

#### - No stsadm.exe

stsadm.exe is finally deprecated in SharePoint 2016. So we have to use PowerShell instead of stsadm.exe.

#### - No new SharePoint Designer

There will be no new SharePoint designer to work with SharePoint 2016. But you can use SharePoint designer 2013 (64 bit) to open SharePoint 2016 sites.

#### - Now new InfoPath Development

There will be no new InfoPath for SharePoint 2016, InfoPath 2013 is fully supported in SharePoint 2016.

#### - No Tags and Notes

This feature is completely deprecated for SharePoint 2016. You will no longer be able to create new tags or notes, or even access existing ones. But Microsoft provides PowerShell command to take backup of your tags and notes like below:

```
Export-SPTagsAndNotesData -Site <http://site.contoso.com> -FilePath <tagsandnotes.zip>
```

Few References:

SharePoint 2016 new features for developers:

<https://www.sharepointsky.com/sharepoint-2016-new-features-for-developers/>

SharePoint server 2016 new and removed features:

<https://www.sharepointsky.com/sharepoint-server-2016-new-and-removed-features/>

SharePoint Server 2016 Installation FREE PDF guide:

<https://www.sharepointsky.com/sharepoint-server-2016-installation-free-pdf-guide/>

[https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/mt346121\(v=office.16\).aspx](https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/mt346121(v=office.16).aspx)

## SharePoint Online:

Office 365 is the "cloud" solution from Microsoft. The services are hosted outside your organization, and Microsoft cloud is fully maintained by Microsoft. Office 365 was available for public on June 2011. As the name suggest Office 365 provides services like Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Publisher, and Access) as well as other services like One drive for business, Exchange online, Skype for Business, SharePoint Online, and Yammer etc. Users can access all the services online without any headache of maintaining anything on-premise. So there will be no headache of on-premise server maintenance, patching or update activities etc.

The cloud service Office 365 is available on a subscription based from Microsoft. Users can opt for monthly or annually plans. It has plans for different types of use like Personal, Home, Business & Student. User can subscribe according to their requirement and then they can access the service from anywhere any device with an internet connection.

Office 365 provides SharePoint feature in terms of SharePoint online. SharePoint online is a perfect tool for collaboration, document management etc. for your organization. You can creates sites in less than a minute for your team to collaborate, to maintain documents, work with lists,

announcements, blogs etc. Take advantages of check-in, check out features, see various versions of documents etc. You can share your documents with external users also in SharePoint online. SharePoint online is tightly integrated with Office products, you can work with word document and then publish to SharePoint online directly from word. Apart from these, there are number of advantages of SharePoint online.

<https://www.sharepointsky.com/office-365-trial/>

## SharePoint On-Premise Vs SharePoint Online (Office 365)

SharePoint On-Premise	SharePoint Online
SharePoint server farm is within the corporate network	SharePoint reside in the Microsoft Data Centre
IT Support team maintains SharePoint farm, Microsoft patches and updates	Microsoft maintains, applied patches
On premise Active directory is used for authentication	Windows Azure
Full Access to SharePoint and can deploy server side code	Can run only client side code & App Model
	99.9% up time

Difference between SharePoint online and SharePoint on premise:

<https://www.sharepointsky.com/difference-between-sharepoint-online-and-sharepoint-on-premise/>