

SharePoint Online vs SharePoint On-Premise

This SharePoint tutorial we are going to discuss the difference between SharePoint online and SharePoint on premises.

As an organization if you want to implement SharePoint then you need to know whether you should go for SharePoint online Office 365 or you should go for SharePoint on premises versions like SharePoint 2019 or SharePoint 2016.

Well, there are a lot of things to consider based on the implementation scenario like if you are previously using any SharePoint version or you are going to implement SharePoint newly in your organization.

Microsoft is providing lot of benefits in SharePoint online Office 365 compared to the on premises versions but still there are a lot of organized and who are not ready to move to SharePoint Online.

Some companies do not want to move their SharePoint on premises data to the cloud because of security related restrictions in the organization. Also, some of the organization's do not want to move to cloud because of the existing solutions which are working fine. Because the server side code or the solutions, developed in the legacy SharePoint versions are not supported in SharePoint cloud or SharePoint online.

SharePoint Online vs SharePoint on-premise

Below are few of the factors we need to consider, or it depends:

Cost to maintain SharePoint farm:

In case of SharePoint on-premises, your organization will be fully responsible for builds, configures, and manages its own SharePoint environment. The whole SharePoint server is within your corporate network. So, there is cost associated with hardware, software, licensing etc.

In this case you need an IT team or a SharePoint team to maintain the SharePoint farm (servers) which includes regularly apply the patches and updates from Microsoft.

So, in this case if your SharePoint farm increases or if it is a large firm then you require more resources to maintain the SharePoint servers which ultimately increases the cost.

But in the other hand if you are using SharePoint Online which is a part of Office 365 the cloud solution from Microsoft, then you can reduce the cost.

The services available in Office 365 are hosted outside your organization, and Microsoft cloud is fully maintained by Microsoft. 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 annual plans. It has plans for different types of use like Personal, Home, Business & Student. A user can subscribe according to their requirement and then they can access the service from anywhere any device with an internet connection.

Office 365 was available for public on June 2011. 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.

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Data Storage

Where your data is storing? Lot of companies asked this question. There are companies who do not want to move their data to cloud because of legal or compliance issues. In those cases, Organization have the only option to go for SharePoint on premises because SharePoint Online data will be stored on the cloud.

With saying this, Microsoft has implemented lot of securities in the cloud as well as it has the highest number of certificates compared to the other cloud providers. Means Data in Microsoft cloud or in Microsoft data centers is secure. It has industry specific security standards.

SharePoint Migration

If any organization is already using SharePoint, then they got little afraid to migrate to SharePoint online. Because when you are using any SharePoint on-premises versions, then you might have been already using the SharePoint server side code or any 3rd party component which is working fine in your existing environment, but these things might not be supported in SharePoint Online directly. But most of the things will be supported if you are upgrading to a newer version of SharePoint on premises.

If you are using SharePoint custom solutions or the server-side object model code, then this will not be supported on SharePoint online, for this you have to redeveloped the component using any client side technologies like SharePoint Apps or SPFx development model.

It really required more planning and effort, if you want to migrate your on-premises content to SharePoint Online, compare to SharePoint on premises to on premises migration.

Because there is no direct approach of migrating from SharePoint online version to SharePoint online.

But one thing we have to remember that if you are using SharePoint online version then we do not needs to migrate, but if you are using SharePoint on premises versions then at some point of time you have to think to migrate or upgrade to the next SharePoint version. Because every SharePoint version also has a end of support time frame.

New Features Availability

In Office 365 SharePoint Online, you will get regular updates and new features but in case of SharePoint On-premises it will be available on later dates.

Availability

In case of Office 365 SharePoint online, it is SLA with 99.9% availability. Almost no downtime. But in case of SharePoint on-premises it depends on your internal team and capabilities.

Speed

In case of SharePoint on premises the speed of your SharePoint sites depends on your local infrastructure but in case of SharePoint online It depends on global network of data centers which provides lower latency and high bandwidth.

In case of SharePoint on premises, if your userbase increases then you need to put additional servers which will cost you for additional hardware, software or licensing required for SharePoint, but in SharePoint online you can just take licenses for those additional users.

One of the advantages that you will get in SharePoint on premises is that you can run SharePoint server side code which is totally restricted in SharePoint Online. Also, as an organization, you can use your own active directory for authentication.

The Next Go Hybrid Feature

With all these problems Microsoft comes with hybrid feature from SharePoint 2016. In those cases, some data will be on the SharePoint on premises and something will be on SharePoint online. In case of hybrid model, your data will be on SharePoint on-premises or within your organization but still you can take benefits of Office 365 features.

Cloud hybrid search offers users the ability to seamlessly discover relevant information across on-premises and Office 365 content. With the cloud hybrid search solution, you index all your crawled content, including on-premises content, in your search index in Office 365. When users query your search index in Office 365, they get unified search results from both on-premises and Office 365 cloud services with combined search relevancy ranking.

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?