SharePoint Server
2019 Handbook

Considerations for Upgrading to the
Next-Generation, Cloud-Accelerated Platform

AvePoint

SharePoint Server 2019 Handbook

Considerations for Upgrading to the Next-Generation, Cloud-Accelerated Platform

CHAPTER 1

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SharePoint Server 2019:
*The Hybrid Experience
You've Been Waiting For*

The moment we've been waiting for is finally here: Microsoft has officially announced the availability of SharePoint Server 2019.

As a certified Microsoft Gold Partner and an active participant in Microsoft's Technology Adoption Program (TAP), we here at AvePoint have been exploring SharePoint Server 2019 for a few months now and we're pleased to report that it delivers on its promise to improve the hybrid experience.

This is important because while Microsoft has been touting the amazing benefits offered by the cloud and SharePoint's robust, cloud-based version, SharePoint Online, not all customers are ready to go all-in.

For some organizations, regulations make it challenging for certain types of work-loads to move to the cloud. Other customers may have heavy customizations or a lot of app development and are hesitant to potentially disrupt the balance of their legacy SharePoint environment by upgrading or moving all-in to the cloud.

At the same time, while we know there are important reasons for deploying a hybrid environment, that hasn't made it any less of a painful experience. In addition to the administrative complexities, you miss out on productivity enhancements (like Delve or Teams) and the full benefits of Microsoft's security enhancements.

A Stepping Stone to the Cloud

SharePoint 2019 eases this pain by stepping in as a great middle ground for customers looking for an on-premises solution that captures many of the benefits of SharePoint Online while giving customers the control and compliance of staying on-premises.

It also unlocks access to some features previously reserved for cloud customers. This blurs the line between on-premises and cloud experiences, which facilitate a smoother transition to the cloud without jarring users.

This is a potential gamechanger for organizations requiring hybrid deployments as other major cloud players don't offer on-premises solutions.

In this eBook, we've compiled critical information based on our decades of migration experience to help inform your SharePoint 2019 strategy. We'll explore:

- *What's exciting about SharePoint 2019 and its new features*

- *Database, hardware and network requirements you'll need for SharePoint 2019*

- *How to determine which SharePoint version, adoption strategy and migration approach is right for your organization*

- *Best practices and a checklist for managing your move to SharePoint 2019*

- *And so much more!*

CHAPTER 2

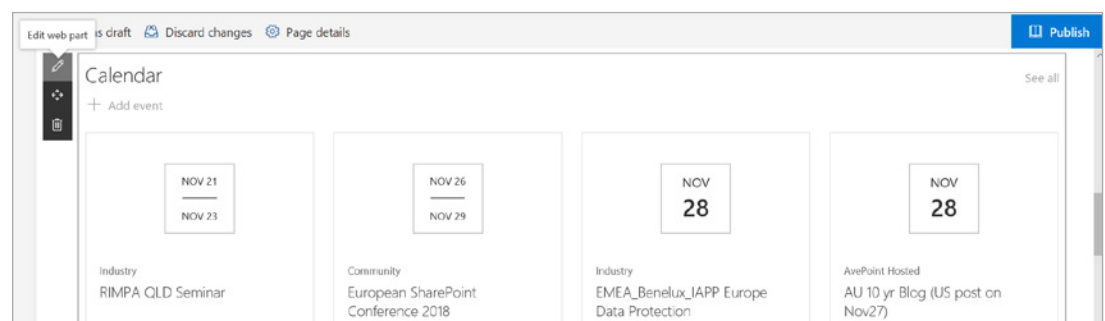Exciting Features:
Benefits of SharePoint Server 2019

Microsoft has framed SharePoint Server 2019 as a "whole new generation of Share-Point" (Baer 2018). The new version was built from the same core platform as SharePoint 2016, but boasts some distinct enhancements from previous versions.

From end-user collaboration on the front end, to streamlined management on the back end, there's something for everyone in SharePoint 2019.

Improved Collaboration Scenarios

In today's modern workplace, employees have high expectations and demand the latest collaboration features. SharePoint 2019 responds to this demand by featuring enhanced Team and Site Pages as well as making messaging and sharing information with teammates easier than ever.

Pages work with modern web parts, allowing users to easily customize their page by embedding videos, incorporating feeds from Yammer, adding documents and including images.

Lists and libraries have a modern look and feel with faster interaction, easy column management, better displays for mobile browsers and informative insights. Excitingly, they can also calculate and highlight what's most important for the user. For example, if you are putting together a list on the total addressable market of different regions, the list may highlight the outliers at the top and bottom in different colors.
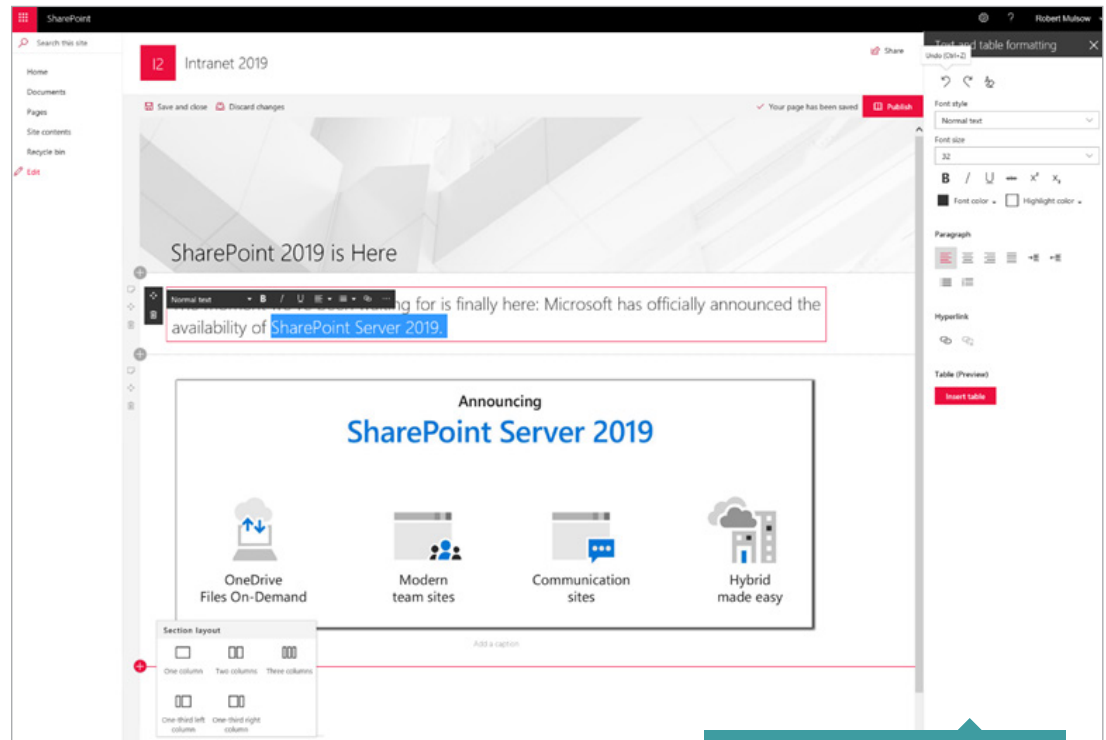
Modern Editing Experience

There are also some cool new communication tools, like the **Team News** and **Communication sites**. Communication sites are a place to share news, showcase a story, or broadcast a message to other people. Users can easily create communication sites for themselves from SharePoint Home without needing to contact IT.
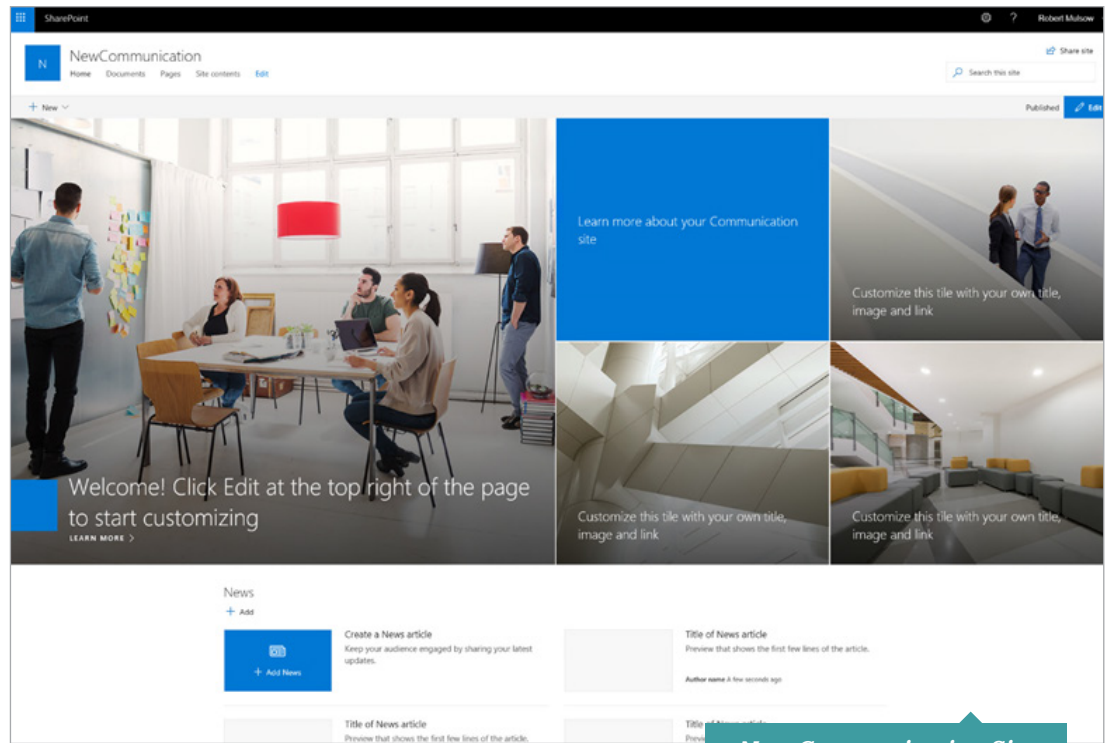
Of course, allowing all users to easily create sites in an ungoverned fashion can also create sprawl and information issues. Admins will want to carefully consider how to deploy this feature and examine third party tools such as AvePoint's Governance Automation that can help them retain control while also empowering their users.

New Communication Site

AvePoint, for example, uses this feature for its GTM Central site where we have consolidated all the collateral our sales teams need to effectively communicate and advise customers. It is a well-designed, one-stop-shop also containing features like an internal product release blog, event calendar, library of market research, and more. AvePoint can easily feature the latest blogs or updated content in the site news, so our sales team is always up to date.

Now sharing documents and links with teammates and contacts within your organization is easier than ever, especially in Collaboration Sites. And, with the upgraded experience, you are automatically notified if you are:

- *Sharing to a big group;*

- *Including lots of items or;*

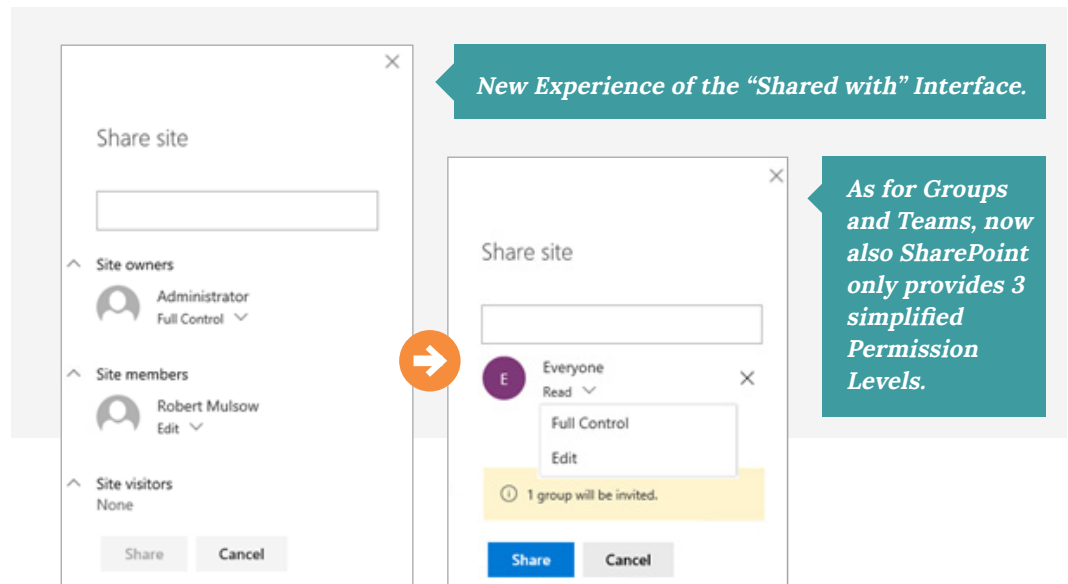- *If you may be sharing beyond your intended audience.*

With three straightforward permission levels to choose from, SharePoint 2019 is a great on-premises alternative to companies seeking the effortless sharing taking place in cloud office solutions.

New Experience of the "Shared with" Interface.

As for Groups and Teams, now also SharePoint only provides 3 simplified Permission Levels.

Streamlined Experience Across Mobile & Desktop

It might seem obvious to say that empowering mobile workers is becoming more important than ever, but this trend has only been increasing over the past few years (Pew Research 2018). With SharePoint Server 2019, users can more easily access and engage with the organization's intranet thanks to improvements to the SharePoint mobile app experience.

There are also improved sync clients for OneDrive for Business, ensuring users can access the documents they need from anywhere, on any device. This opens up solutions for organizations to sync files from Office 365 and SharePoint on-premises to a laptop, pushing collaboration to the next level for office and mobile workers.

Expanded Opportunities for Customization

One of the things we're most excited to see—and expect most customers will be excited to see, too—is the expanded customization available in SharePoint Server 2019.

The new platform can integrate with PowerApps and Flow, so creating custom workflows and adding new solutions to the environment is a cinch. (Note: Power-Apps licenses are required for this functionality).

Flow and PowerApps empower end users to discover and implement customizations as they need them, whereas previously they needed to submit a ticket and

wait for the customization to be coded. For example, with Flow and PowerApps you can build an Expense Approval using a point-and-click app design that leverages modern lists and libraries within SharePoint. From there you can easily publish to the web, iOS, Android and Windows 10.

SharePoint admins will be excited to hear this new integration is a great option for transforming existing InfoPath forms into a more modern environment. This allows you to better prepare for the inevitable InfoPath depreciation.

Framework for the on-premises data gateway
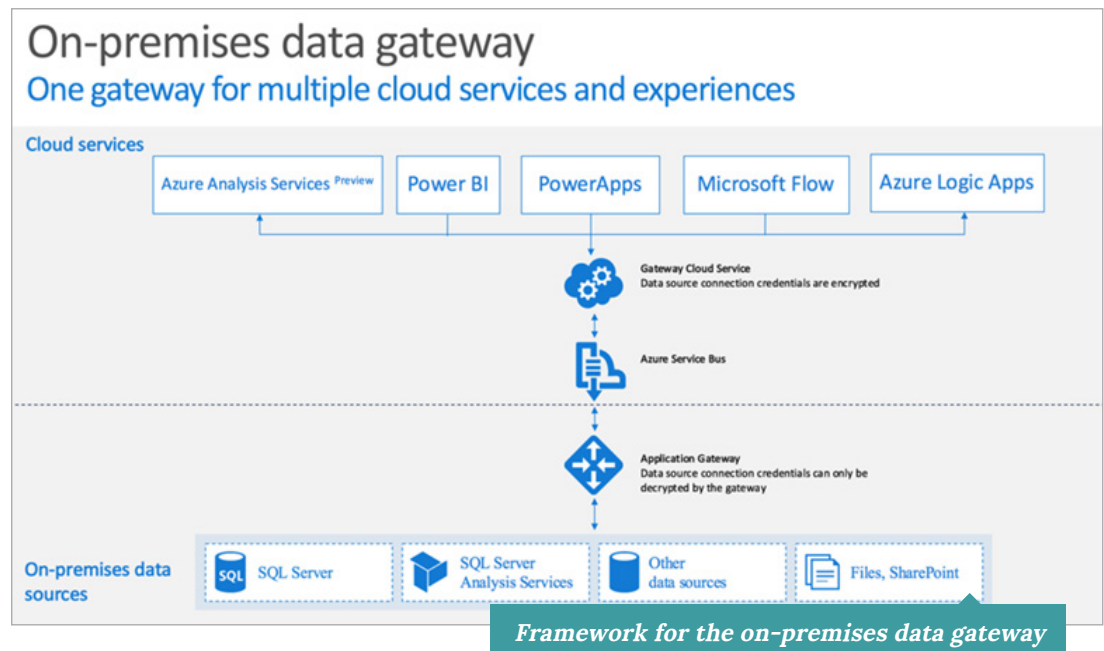
Just deploy the Microsoft On-Premises data gateway to use Flow and PowerApps for your SharePoint 2019 deployment. And if that's not exciting enough, you can also use this gateway to empower your FileShares, SQL and other data sources with modern capabilities delivered form the cloud. *Click here for additional information on how to deploy the on-premises data gateway*.

What's more, customers using legacy versions of SharePoint might find there are apps available to address whatever custom-coded solutions their organization may need.

Previously, an admin might build or deploy a code-based solution into SharePoint. Now, the admin can leverage SharePoint Add-Ins.

Ultimately, this means the SharePoint environment will be easier to customize, less cluttered with code and more stable when updates are installed. However, this requires the removal of Sandbox Solutions to align developers with any future-focused SharePoint Framework.

Enhanced Hybrid Solutions

When it comes to using a hybrid solution with SharePoint Online, SharePoint Server 2019 makes the integration between the two systems even more seamless. For example, the search function has an improved layout in SharePoint Server 2019, with intuitive filters and real-time search results as users type their query, and results are grouped for easier navigation.

SharePoint Search with improved filters in top bar

Waffle Icon and App Launcher

Hybrid Status Bar
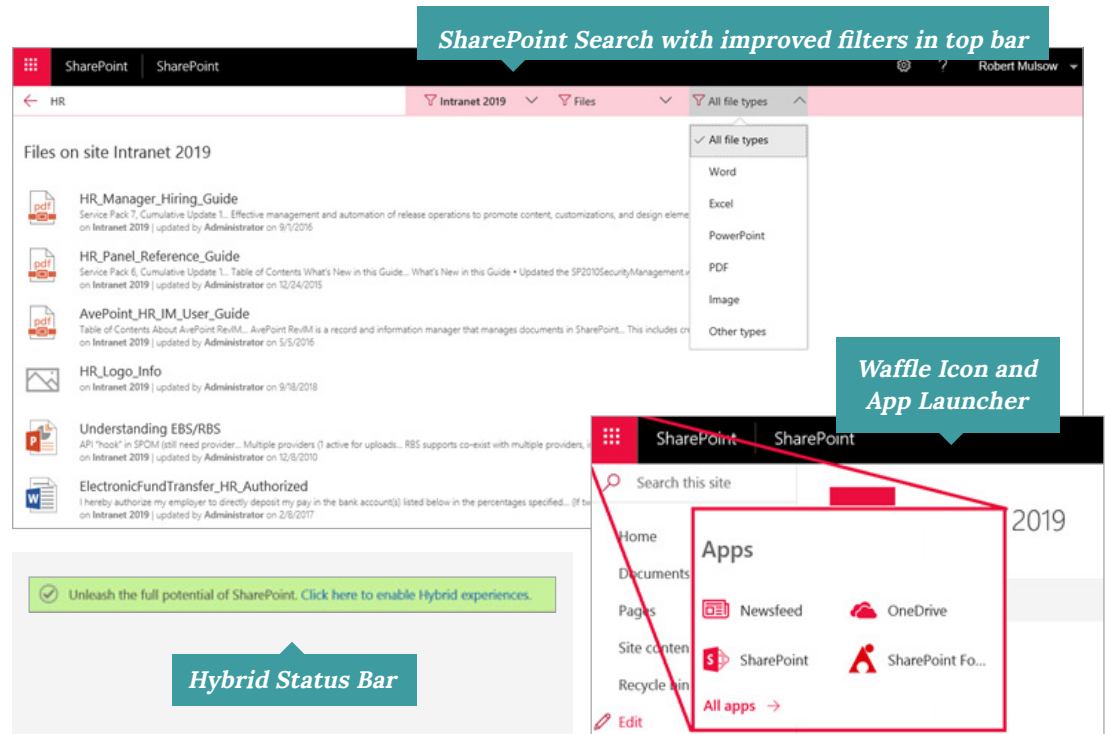
SharePoint Server 2019 also provides enhanced integration with Office 365 services. If productivity tools like Word or PowerPoint have already been moved to the cloud, users will be able to open these Office apps and edit content directly from their browsers.

Another example for a seamless hybrid integration is the user redirection to their OneDrive storage in Office 365—which was introduced in earlier versions—and the custom tiles under the so-called waffle icon in the upper left corner.

Administrators will also notice the new status bar in the central administration to guide them towards an improved hybrid configuration wizard.

Updated SharePoint Hybrid Configuration Wizard
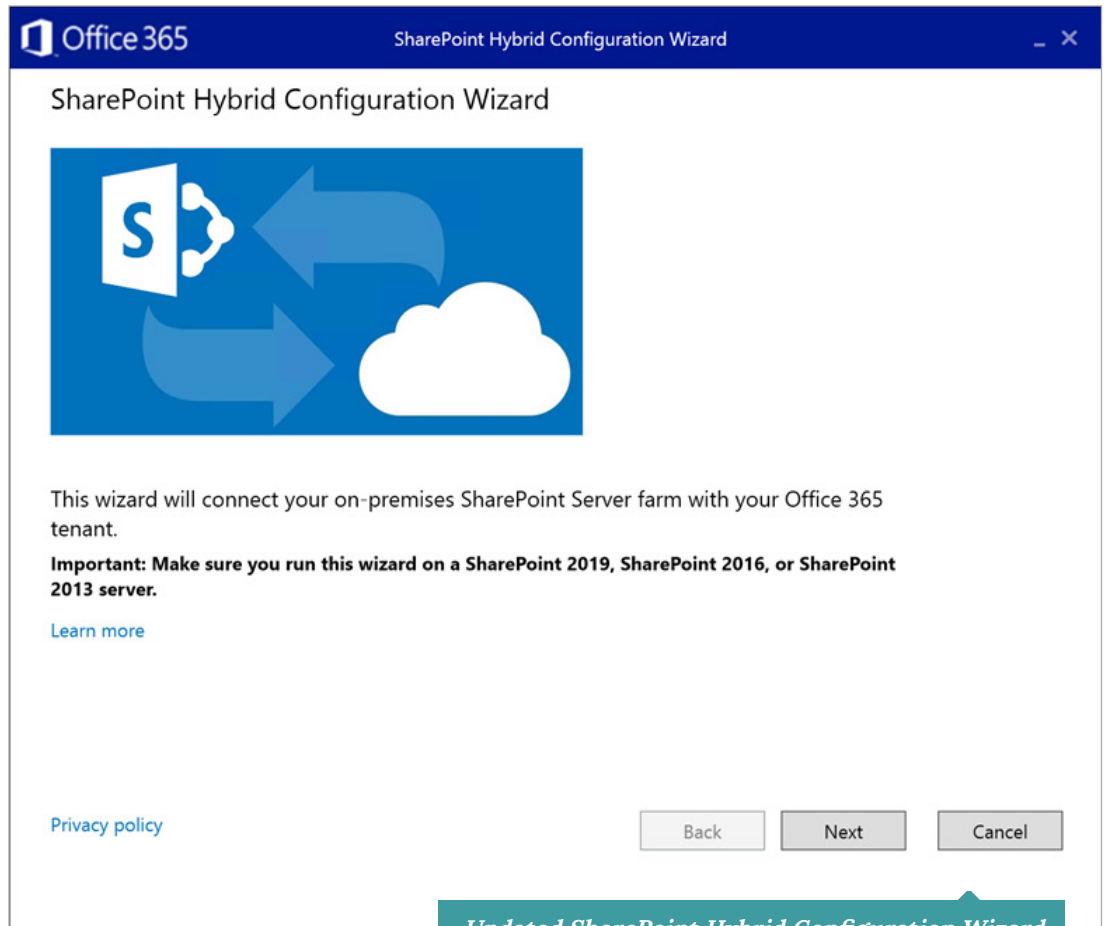
SharePoint 2019 will continue to provide the hybrid Taxonomy feature, which was introduced in SharePoint 2016 Feature Pack 1. This will help administrators maintain only one central Managed Metadata term store for use across cloud and on-premises deployments.

Extended Compliance Capabilities

If you used the SharePoint 2016 data loss prevention (DLP) and Compliance Center features, you were immediately confronted with a gap between what you saw in Office 365 and what you had in your environment.

Sensitive content types seemed to be small in comparison with what was found in Office 365, depending on the advanced keyword query language (KQL) in eDiscovery. This made it very difficult to apply policies to new sites or gain visibility over any detected sensitive content. With the hybrid capabilities in 2019, administrators can finally benefit from the automatic content detection, central reporting for incidents, and sensitive content types.

Administrators will now be able to search for sensitive information in real-time and apply policy templates to control and monitor their content and align with regulatory standards from different industry segments and geographies.
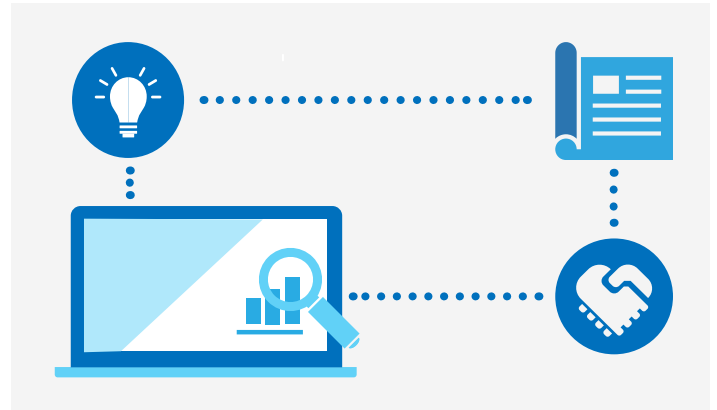
Virtual and Mixed Reality?!

SharePoint Spaces democratizes the ability for people to view documents and data leveraging virtual reality in virtual spaces. Connecting the visceral experience of virtual reality with SharePoint is a potential giant step in making virtual and mixed reality more accessible and mainstream.

SharePoint Spaces could make strides in how users intuitively interact with content and data. Imagine that a group of engineers start working for an airline and need to become familiar with the engines of a plane. Instead of spending the time and money to have everyone physically go and examine the engine, the engineers could simply take turns examining it in VR via SharePoint Spaces instead.

There are loads of possible applications. Retail workers could learn more about their entire product line. Employees could get to know each other's roles and specializations via a much richer experience than just pulling information up on LinkedIn.

Perhaps the most exciting application for SharePoint Spaces is data visualization. Just imagine if the scene from Iron Man actually played out in real life. Let's say you have a dashboard and you're interacting with financial data layered against industry reports around stocks, you can see trends and forecasts, and then make decisions around them.

SharePoint Spaces adoption may be limited in the near term as its practicality has yet to be proven. However, this level of innovation from Microsoft shows they are remaining visionary and committed to positioning SharePoint for the long-term.

The Tip of The Iceberg

The aforementioned updates are just the tip of the iceberg with SharePoint Server 2019. For example:

- *Files up to 15 GB in size can be uploaded*

- *Files names can now include the special characters "#" and "%" and their entire allowed URL character limit is increased to 400*

- *End users will love the new PDF viewer or the recycle bin improvements that enable them to restore personal files other colleagues have deleted.*

These are only a few examples decision-makers, admins and end users can be thrilled about and why they will love the next SharePoint on-premises version. For more information on the smaller enhancements check out the *Appendix*.

CHAPTER 3

What You Will Need:
SharePoint 2019
Hardware and Database
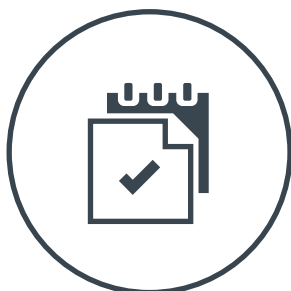
Requirements

Performing the move to SharePoint 2019 from previous versions of SharePoint may require several important upgrades of your hardware, operating systems, and databases in addition to the actual software upgrade of SharePoint. Let's review the key requirements to ensure your baseline environments are primed for the latest release.

Hardware Requirements

For SharePoint 2019, the absolute minimum requirements for web front-end and application servers are 12-16 GB RAM and four 64-bit cores to power small environments. In our experience, there are a few fundamental aspects of SharePoint that will not function without additional memory. Therefore, we advise you equip production servers with no less than 16-24 GB RAM. For larger environments, it's best to increase your CPU cores up to eight.

You must have sufficient hard disk space installation as well as production use. At least 80 GB for the system drive and 100 GB for the second drive.

Software Requirements

Pre-Requisites:

- *Web Server (IIS) Role*
- *Microsoft SQL Server 2012 SP4 Native Client*
- *Microsoft Sync Framework Runtime v1.0 SP1 (x64)*
- *Windows Server AppFabric 1.1*
- *Microsoft Identity Extensions*
- *Microsoft Information Protection and Control Client 2.1*
- *Microsoft WCF Data Services 5.6*
- *Microsoft .NET Framework 4.7.2*
- *Cumulative Update Package 7 for Microsoft AppFabric 1.1 for Windows Server (KB 3092423)+*
- *Visual C++ Redistributable Package for Visual Studio 2012*
- *Visual C++ Redistributable Package for Visual Studio 2017*

Required Software:

- *Windows Server 2016, or 2019*

Database Requirements

SharePoint 2019 requires its database server to be a 64-bit version running either Microsoft SQL Server 2016 or Microsoft SQL Server 2017.

CHAPTER 4

Which SharePoint Version, Adoption Strategy and Migration Approach is Right for You?

Now, that we've gotten you all excited about the new features of SharePoint 2019, let's take a step back and find out which SharePoint version and type of deployment is right for your organization.

Which SharePoint Deployment Is Right for Your Organization?

Your Current SharePoint Environment

When to Select:

- You recently had a bumpy migration and you want to avoid further disruption.
- There is no possibility for the organization to dedicate the modest budget or resources to realize the ROI from IT modernization.
- You have no need to fully empower a mobile workforce.
- You are absolutely certain that shadow IT is not a problem.

When **NOT** to Select:

- Modernizing can deliver ROI based on increased workforce productivity.
- You have, or want to attract, a modern workforce that is accustomed to using the latest collaboration tools.

- Having the strongest available security features are important to your organization (and your job security).
- You are on SharePoint 2010 or earlier. This is obsolete technology and you need to upgrade.
- *What you'd need instead: Explore 2019 for recent enhancements or begin your transition to Office 365 to get access to the latest features automatically.*

SharePoint 2019 On-Premises Only

When to Select:

- You want to take advantage of the improved collaboration spaces, mobile experience and other upgraded functionality.
- Organizational policy or regulation doesn't permit certain workloads to be in the cloud.
- You have the budget, staff, data center, hardware, and software required to maintain an environment on premises.
- You have high-value customizations not able to run in the cloud.
- You are leveraging other cloud productivity tools and do not need the full functionality of Office 365 (and don't want to move to Office 365 for whatever reason).

When **NOT** to Select:

- Data center capacity not available or you are not equipped with a data center at all.
- You have no available budget for servers, network, storage, and staffing.
- *What you'd need instead: Office 365 so Microsoft takes care of your scale, and standard networking / DBA tasks.*

SharePoint 2019 Hybrid

When to Select:

- Regulation and internal policy permit the use of cloud services for certain workloads.
- You have high-value customizations not able to run in the cloud.
- You are currently in a hybrid SharePoint deployment, and need to remain there, but want a more integrated experience for your users with Office 365.
- You need to be in a hybrid environment but still want to provide access to cloud collaboration tools like Teams or Delve.

When **NOT** to Select:

- You are already all-in the cloud.
- You don't have the budget, staff, data center, hardware, and software required to maintain an environment on-premises.
- You don't have any customizations or other legacy data that will have issues moving to the cloud.
- *What you'd need instead: Stick it out in Office 365 if you're all-in or continue your full transition!*

Office 365/SharePoint Online

When to Select:

- You don't have available productivity tools or are using mixed toolsets and want to standardize.
- You don't want to manage software distribution and updates.
- You want the full benefits of the integration between Office 365 apps along with the latest security updates and features.

When **NOT** to Select:

- Your policy or regulations don't permit use of cloud services.
- You have heavy customizations or a lot of app development and are hesitant to potentially disrupt the balance of their legacy SharePoint environment.
- *What you'd need instead: Maintain a hybrid infrastructure for collaboration workloads (e.g. SharePoint), or explore third-party solutions (like those AvePoint offers) to enhance the security and compliance of your cloud services – so you can pass your security audits with ease.*

When Choosing SharePoint 2019: What Type of Adoption Strategy Is Right for My Organization?

Evergreen

What It Is:

Keep your legacy content where it is and incorporate/add a SharePoint 2019 environment.

When to Select:

- You have a small amount of legacy content and very few customizations in your current environment.
- You have the ability to manage two separate collaboration environments (or three if you are currently running hybrid).
- Your information architecture is relatively simple, and you are not worried about data silos.
- You don't have concerns over backing up and migrating data you don't need.

Best Practice:

- Providing clear direction and direction to users is critical.
- You will want to smooth the side-by-side transition so there isn't duplicate content in multiple locations.

SharePoint Upgrade/Migration

What It Is:

Traditional migration where you upgrade your content from one environment to the other and then decommission the old environment.

When to Select:

- You want to keep the context and metadata around your data intact.
- You want to manage a single environment and provide a cohesive experience for your users.

- You want to take the opportunity to clean and classify your data prior to moving into the new environment.
- You have sensitive data that needs to be protected and governed.

Best Practice:

- See the following chapter for SharePoint 2019 migration strategies, checklist, questions to answer, and phases of a migration.

When Doing a SharePoint Upgrade/ Migration: Should I use Scripted, Microsoft or Third-Party Tools?

Scripted

What It Is:

In this method for an in-place upgrade, a developer writes the scripts necessary to update current SharePoint content to the latest version in an automated way.

Since SharePoint runs as a platform with rich Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and PowerShell cmdlets, this is a very robust option. Depending on the legacy source system, the custom script may also integrate with that system to ensure a more complete migration while preserving configuration and content metadata.

When to Select:

While powerful, fully taking advantage of this option requires a developer who is highly skilled in SharePoint development (APIs and/or PowerShell scripting). Since the code is custom, a high degree of testing (whether automated or manual) is necessary to ensure migrated results meet user and organizational expectations.

Migrations of this type have been known to take several months of development and testing time, requiring several iterative migrations until the process is honed to a degree where it is fully trusted and runs consistently.

Best Practice:

If you want to go with the scripted approach, but also save time in the script development process, we highly recommend the AutoSPInstaller, which already

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is Right for You?*

supports SharePoint 2019. It still needs some time to analyze the script and test it in your environment.

However, it is made to just provide your environment specific variables, like SQL Alias, database prefixes or SharePoint Service Applications, which need to be installed and then the script will run the installation accordingly. For further information, please check the AutoSPInstaller homepage or download it directly from github.

Microsoft Tool

What It Is:

At Ignite 2018, Microsoft announced that its migration tool would be widely available for customers looking to migrate to SharePoint and Office 365.

Microsoft has been migrating its larger customers for years through its FastTrack program, but now customers of all sizes have an easy and free option available to them.

When to Select:

Your organization has a small amount of data and no sensitive data (or you are absolutely certain all the sensitive data you have is appropriately classified).

Best Practice:

Keep in mind this is a basic migration tool that is designed to lift and shift all of your data to the new environment without any scanning, analysis or classification. See why there are hidden costs to this lift and shift approach.

Third Party Tool

What It Is:

In this method, a SharePoint farm administrator will install the new version of SharePoint 2019 on separate hardware or a separate farm.

Instead of requiring users to manually migrate content or relying on developers to automate the migration using scripts, a third-party solution is used instead.

Many third-party migration tools are simple and geared to just "lift and shift" your data to the new environment without conducting any data discovery or classification. While, we don't advise this approach, it may be more appropriate for smaller

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organizations that don't have sensitive data. In this case, you will likely want to select the free Microsoft migration tool instead.

When to Select:

AvePoint Migration Platforms (DocAve, and our recently announced Migrator) for SharePoint, enables organizations to conduct full fidelity content migration at the item, subsite, or site level, as well as the opportunity to map legacy content meta-data into SharePoint 2019 Managed Metadata. Our robust pre-migration discovery ensures you can identify migration risks before they become project issues.

AvePoint Migration Platforms (AMP) also offer a direct migration from SharePoint 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016 environments to SharePoint 2019. Cross-version up-grades are not available using Microsoft's native upgrade methods.

Best Practice:

The steps necessary for migrating from legacy content repositories onto Share-Point 2019 with a third-party migration solution is similar to the ones necessary for upgrading from prior SharePoint releases. These steps include:
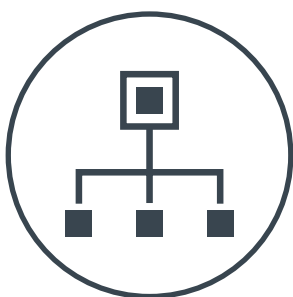
1. Building a generic SharePoint 2019 farm.

2. Installing the third-party migration software. Depending on the vendor and product, this may need to be on both source and destination environments.

3. As needed, mapping all permissions, configurations, and other customizations from legacy repositories.

4. Performing a trial migration.

5. Validating the migration to ensure the proper transfer of content, configura-tions, and permissions.

6. Adjusting migration settings as needed and re-test.

7. Iteratively performing the migration on live content per a pre-determined migration schedule.

> Every organization faces unique circumstances in their migration. Contact AvePoint if you want to explore which SharePoint Service might be right for your organization.

CHAPTER 5

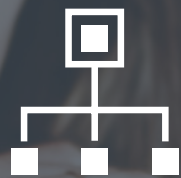*Migrating to and Managing*
SharePoint Server 2019

SharePoint Server 2019 is an impressive new platform that makes great strides in modernizing the collaboration and content management experience. But as with any platform upgrade, there are important things to consider.

Spring Cleaning

As with any migration project, upgrading to SharePoint Server 2019 requires taking a critical look at how SharePoint is being used in your organization, as well as the opportunity to do some "spring cleaning" with your content. Over the years, the amount of content organizations create has grown exponentially. That means that there could be lots of dead weight in your current SharePoint environment.
Much like moving into a new home, upgrading to SharePoint Server 2019 is an opportunity to review the content within your SharePoint environment to identify what information should move over to the new system, which files could be archived, and what data can be removed. By performing a content audit, you can ensure the organization's new SharePoint environment will be clean and uncluttered.

Customizations and Development

As part of your content audit, you should also consider how SharePoint is being used across the organization and evaluate what customizations are integral to your business. This will be particularly important when upgrading to SharePoint

Server 2019 from legacy solutions because of the integration with Flow and PowerApps and new potential applications based on SPFx Code Framework.

Flow and PowerApps address many of the customizations businesses have added to their SharePoint environments over the years, and there's likely an app that can replace some custom coding that addresses a specific need within your business. Plus, new apps are added often, so there are always new ways to enhance the experience within your implementation.

Aside from ripping and replacing custom coding with apps, there are some customizations that simply won't translate to the new platform. As Microsoft downplays SharePoint Designer and Silverlight, some of your organization's customizations may not work at all in SharePoint Server 2019. Again, there are probably solutions for many of these cases in Flow and PowerApps. But in instances where there isn't a ready-made app available, some new development might be necessary to ensure users have access to the solutions they need.

Sustainable Migration Strategies

Moving to the SharePoint Server 2019 platform isn't a small feat. It requires a lot of planning and building a comprehensive strategy to ensure a smooth transition and manageable implementation. In many cases, it is helpful to work with a certified Microsoft Partner, like AvePoint, to ensure your organization has the support it needs every step of the way.

Microsoft partners have seen it all, and therefore can help ensure your migration strategy is robust and effective. Every customer is different, but in general, any migration strategy should include:

Data auditing: Identify which information should move to the new platform and which information can be removed from the system.

User journey analysis: Consider how users are working in SharePoint, which customizations are integral to the system, which training users might need to successfully navigate the new system, and which provisioning and governance rules should be in place.

Collaborative planning: Involve stakeholders from across the organization in the initial planning discussions to ensure all user scenarios are considered and priority features are agreed upon.
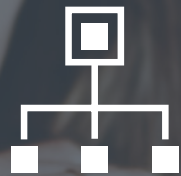
Initial testing: Start small by migrating some data and users to the new system to identify any missing functionality, anomalies with data and opportunities to improve the environment before a largescale roll out. Any users involved in testing can also serve as resources and advocates for the new system to minimize help desk requests.

Manageable migration: No matter how much planning and mitigation is completed prior to the migration, it's likely issues will arise. Be prepared to encounter some speedbumps along the way and have a plan to address these issues to avoid lengthy delays in your rollout.

Ongoing oversight: Once the migration is complete, maintain oversight of the system to ensure content is being managed effectively, governance rules are being applied correctly and updates are implemented easily.

SharePoint 2019 Migration Checklist

Again, every migration is different, but in general, a good migration checklist should include:

1. **Ensure a detailed and agreed upon vision has been established for your new platform.**

   *What is the purpose of SharePoint Online, Server, or Hybrid?*

    ☐ Intranet   ☐ External Collaboration   ☐ Other

    ☐ Client Portal   ☐ Records Management

    ☐ Social Platform   ☐ Project Sites

2. **Identify and take inventory of all legacy content, repositories and applications.**

    ☐ Readiness Assessment

    ☐ Map your (legacy) business application to modern solutions like Flow, PowerApps or additional Custom Apps from the SharePoint Store

3. **Identify which teams/business units are ready to migrate.**

    ☐ Identify applications complexity   ☐ Identify customized sites

    ☐ Identify existing workflows/in-progress
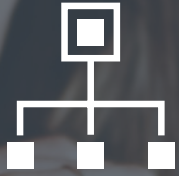
4. **Prioritize and classify all content and applications.**

Content must be properly tagged with metadata, including:

☐ Created by   ☐ Modified by

☐ Business unit   ☐ Other relevant metadata

Prioritize applications based on the following criteria:

☐ Business Critical   ☐ Important

☐ Nice to Have *(are they replaced by native functionality? Are they still necessary? What is the cost of maintenance?)*

5. **Archive and delete redundant and legacy data.**

☐ Classified as having no value or outdated

☐ Archived for compliance purposes

☐ Kept on premises due to regulatory requirements (not cloud ready)

6. **(Optional/Recommended) Build destination information architecture.**

☐ Security

☐ Structure *(Managed paths, quotas, etc., iPre-Provision ODFB and SharePoint Sites)*

☐ Configurations *(Features, settings, templates, look and feel)*
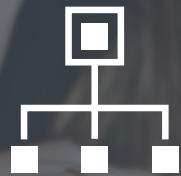
If considering a hybrid migration:

- What content is "cloud-ready" and what should stay on-premises?

- Is all of my content in appropriate format for the cloud? (think file characters and sizes.)

AvePoint's Discovery Tool, free by request, can provide you detailed information on your content and its suitability for migration.

AVEPOINT DISCOVERY TOOL

Critical Migration Activities

Regardless of which migration method you decide to use, we've created a table outlining the critical steps you'll need to take as you execute your migration.

Activity	Description
Transition of customizations	This activity involves either re-designing, re-coding, or re-building each customization that is required in the target environment.
Content mapping	This activity establishes the alignment between the format and layout of the content in the source environment, and the information architecture in the target environment. Column and content type mappings, templates, filters, and permissions are mapped as a part of this activity.
Migration planning	This activity breaks the migration down into a series of batches or phases to understand the business implications of the migration. It also coordinates the necessary resources, trains the migration team, and schedules all migration activities. It also considers whether data clean-up is required and if so, whether it will occur pre-migration, in-flight during the migration, or post-migration.
Pilot migration	This activity establishes a set of migration scenarios which are representative of the production data set. It then tests each scenario in a non-production environment using a representative sample of data. This confirms the technical feasibility of the migration, identifies any gaps that must be addressed, and provides the migration team to walk through an end-to-end content migration. In addition to the actual migration of content, the "end-to-end" migration tests permissions and access, verifies success, captures and addresses any errors, document results, and gathers migration statistics. It also provides an opportunity to optimize the migration activities and should include rollback testing.
Production migration	This activity migrates content to the target environment. It is repeated for each batch of the migration.
Testing and validation	This activity validates the success of the migration from the perspective of whether or not the target environment meets the requirements of the business it supports. The results obtained at this time should be consistent with the results obtained during the pilot migration, and any discrepancies can be addressed at this time. This activity is repeated for each batch of the migration
Synchronization of changes	This activity captures any changes to the source environment that occurs between the initial migration and completion of the user transition, and ensures they are reflected in the target environment. This activity is repeated for each batch of the migration
Transition of users	This activity involves 'freezing' the source environment, performing one final synchronization of changes, and transitioning users to the target environment so it becomes their primary environment going forward. This activity is repeated for each batch of the migration.

In Summary: It's Worth Evaluating Migrating to SharePoint 2019

> *The answer to the question, "should we migrate," will vary just as much as the answer to the next question, "what's the best way to get there?"*

SharePoint 2019 checks a lot of boxes and brings new features like SharePoint Spaces and the Power Apps and Flow integration that for many organizations will be worth taking the time and resources to migrate.

However, each organization has unique requirements, goals and legacies that will factor heavily into this decision. Hopefully, this eBook identified many of these key variables for you and provided some guidance on the direction that's right for your situation.

For more information on these strategies, check out our Digital Transformation Roadmap eBook. Good luck and happy migrating!

If there is one final thought to leave you with it would be this: Moving all your data from one place to another is easy. Knowing what data to move where, change management, user education, adoption and governance are significantly more challenging, but it's also where IT can add the most value. Look at your migration project as an opportunity to get your data and collaboration environment in order—your admins, users and business leaders will be glad you did.

APPENDIX: Other SharePoint 2019 Enhancements

DEPLOYMENT

- Improved Hybrid Configuration Wizard
- Pre-Requisite Installer will now also install IIS (→ IIS 7 only, no IIS 6 Components needed any more)

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION (BACKEND):

- Additional links for further documentation in Central Admin
- New SharePoint Health Analyzer Rules
- Access Service 2013 will be able to send email
- Fast site creation (OneDrive personal [site SPSPERS#10], Team site (modern only) [STS#3], Communication site [SITEPAGE-PUBLISHING#0])
- Increased storage size auf 15 GB
- **#** and **%** will be supported as special characters for files and folders
- Character limit increased from 260 to 400 for URLs
- New PowerShell cmdlets

- Distributed Cache background caching enabled by default
- Improved Telemetry for Privacy settings

USER EXPERIENCE:

- App Launcher (previously introduced in SharePoint 2016 Feature Pack 1)
- Modern Sharing experience
- Being able to create modern pages even on classic sites
- PDF Viewer
- SharePoint Homepage
  - → Self-service Site Creation for end users (AAM supported)
  - → Using fast site creation feature
- Recycle Bin Improvements (being able to recover your content deleted by others)
- Sharing email template
- Visio Services Keyboard Shortcuts
- SharePoint Places (access SharePoint in Virtual Reality)

DEPRECATED FEATURES:

- Access Services (2010 & 2013)
- Aggregated Newsfeed (read-only)
- Custom Help
- Groove Sync Client
- InfoPath Services (EOL 2026)
- List Web Service
- Machine Translation incl. Variations
- Performance Point Services
- SharePoint Designer 2013 (EOL 2026)
- Site Mailbox
- Site Manager

REMOVED FEATURES:

- Code-Based Sandboxed Solutions
- Digest Authentication
- Incoming email automatic mode
- Multi-Tenancy
- PowerPivot Gallery and Refresh
- Visio Services – Silverlight Based Rendering

![AvePoint]

GET YOUR MIGRATION PLAN OFF THE GROUND TODAY!

## THE INDUSTRY'S FASTEST & SIMPLEST MIGRATION

100TB/Day

AvePoint's FLY migration tool is one of the fastest tools in the market today that enables you to consolidate and migrate on-premises Exchange, SharePoint, and file shares, or cloud content in Teams, Groups, Box, Dropbox, Slack and Google Drive, into your Office 365 cloud.

If you're looking to clean out or clean up data, are on a tight timeline, or a tight budget, our FLY migration tool can help mitigate these concerns.

Fly enables you to automate your migration projects with pre-defined mapping, schedules, and a real-time monitor.

With our top-rated, super-light migration tool you'll be able to get your migration plan to takeoff in no time!
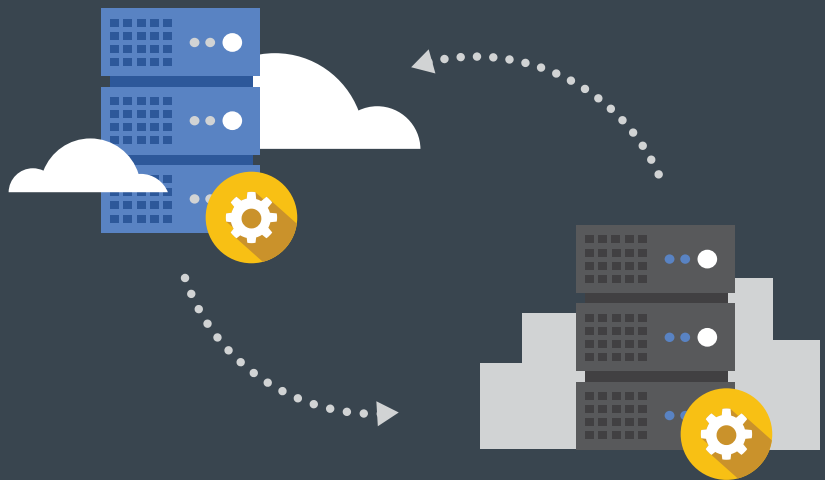
RESOLVE YOUR MIGRATION IN 3 EASY STEPS

STEP 1: Analyze
With FLY, you will know what's relevant or collecting dust before your move. Understand your existing information architecture to avoid potential risks to improve the migration plan.

STEP 2: Migrate
Take only what you need and move entire drives, mail instances, site collections, or individual lists and libraries to achieve your desired end goal with drag-and-drop ease.

STEP 3: Monitor
Track your progress, validate your migration, generate reports highlights, and stay up to date with automated updates sent directly to stakeholders.

Contact Us

Sales	www.avepoint.com/contact-sales/
Migration Solutions	www.avepoint.com/products/hybrid/migration/
Service & Discovery Tool	www.avepoint.com/migration-services

References & Additional Resources

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