Comparison of key features

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Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 has a new architecture and includes many new capabilities. These changes mean that some ways that you are used to working with your sites and pages may not work or may not be the most effective ways. The following tables help you understand some of the key changes to terminology and features that immediately affect the administration and site management process after upgrading. For more information about changes to Office SharePoint Server 2007, see [What's New for IT Professionals in Office SharePoint Server 2007](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/527763c3-90a5-4d3b-9781-fc9580314a2d1033.mspx) .

New concepts and terminology

The following concepts and terminology have been updated or added to reflect the new architecture and design of Office SharePoint Server 2007.

| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 concept or term | Office SharePoint Server 2007 concept or term | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Virtual server | Web application | Change in terminology. |
| Shared services | Shared Service Providers | The architecture behind shared services has changed quite a bit, to allow easier and more flexible sharing of resources. For more information, see [Plan Shared Services Providers](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/cce2f987-3949-44be-8057-663b38fc949d1033.mspx) . |
| Areas | Subsites | SharePoint Portal Server 2003 areas are upgraded to subsites in the new version. To manage your site, on the Site Actions menu, click Manage Content and Structure. |
| Portal Security | Windows SharePoint Services Security | Portal security is now managed using the new Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 security model. The groups and users are upgraded to this model. For more information about the new security model, see [Chapter overview: Plan site and content security](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/85a1866e-2743-4f98-a1ac-9ea61905c6d41033.mspx) . |
| Custom authentication | New authentication choices | You can now use ASP.NET authentication methods, such as Forms authentication, with Office SharePoint Server 2007 instead of having to create a completely custom authentication solution. For more information, see [Plan authentication methods](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/40117fda-70a0-4e3d-8cd3-0def768da16c1033.mspx) . |
|  | Rights management | Now available for documents stored in document libraries. |
| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 backwards-compatible document libraries | Office SharePoint Server 2007 document libraries | SharePoint Portal Server 2003 backwards-compatible document libraries are not supported for Office SharePoint Server 2007. You can move any content stored in these libraries into standard document libraries in Office SharePoint Server 2007. A tool for migrating this content is under development. For more information, see [Perform post-upgrade steps for a gradual upgrade (Office SharePoint Server)](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/63f1755d-6d6d-4554-adce-c259fe346acc1033.mspx) or [Perform post-upgrade steps for an in-place upgrade (Office SharePoint Server)](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/7d4d75f0-fe37-4ade-809e-d68c730a07451033.mspx) . |

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New or changed processes in the server administration experience

The server administration experience has been redesigned to make delegation and auditing easier, and to enhance the administration experience.

| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 process | Office SharePoint Server 2007 process |
| --- | --- |
| Create IIS Web sites using IIS tools | Create and configure IIS Web sites in Central Administration instead. |
| Difficult to know which tasks are high priority and must be performed first | New Task List in Central Administration directs you to high priority tasks that must be completed before you proceed to create or configure sites. |
| Server administrators have access to site content by default. | Server administrators must take ownership of a site collection to view site content. |

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New or changed features for searching

The search functionality has been updated and revised. The following table lists and explains many of these changes. For more information, see [How search features are affected by upgrade](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/e96a7f61-4287-40f9-b7c0-2763e1fd93841033.mspx) .

| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 feature | Office SharePoint Server 2007 feature | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- |
| "This Portal"/"Non-Portal" content sources | Default content source | Scope has changed from Portal Administration to Shared Service Provider. |
| Custom content sources | Content sources | Scope has changed from Portal Administration to Shared Service Provider. |
| Best bets | Best bets | Scope has changed from Portal Administration to Site. |
| Schedules | Content sources | Scope has changed from Portal Administration to Schedules. |
| Indexes | Indexes | In Office SharePoint Server 2007, there is only one index per farm, rather than multiple indexes with aggregated results as in SharePoint Portal Server 2003. |
| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 administrative object model |  | The SharePoint Portal Server 2003 administrative object model has been deprecated in Office SharePoint Server 2007. This means that any custom applications that rely on the Customers SharePoint Portal Server 2003 administrative object model will have to be rewritten to use the new object model in Office SharePoint Server 2007. |

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New or changed features in the authoring and site management experience

Much has changed in the authoring and site management experience. For example, the following changes are immediately apparent when you open and edit your site in Office SharePoint Server 2007.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| • | The Pages library. In Office SharePoint Server 2007, all landing pages, including default.aspx, are stored in the Pages library, and their URLs have changed to "http://site\_name/pages/default.aspx" instead of just "http://site\_name/default.aspx". This is expected, and is because of the addition of the publishing capabilities of Office SharePoint Server 2007. With this change, landing pages are simply documents that you can check out, edit, and then republish. |
| • | Page layouts and master pages. In Office SharePoint Server 2007, all ghosted (non-customized) pages are converted to use master pages and page layouts to control the page design. If you have unghosted pages in your site (pages that were customized using FrontPage 2003), you can update these pages to use master pages and page layouts for a consistent look throughout your site. For more information, see [Reapply customizations in the browser and Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer 2007](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/da3e6cbb-a478-4c7a-ae5a-4560c62206681033.mspx) . |
| • | Version control. Version control for pages in the pages library is on by default, so you must check them out before making changes.   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Note: | |  | Version control can help manage your changes, so you can recover if someone makes a mistake. However, if you want to turn it off, you can do so. Version control is highly recommended if you have multiple people making changes to your site. | |

For more information about the publishing capabilities in Office SharePoint Server 2007, see [Plan Web pages](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/a8a67b0e-2223-4493-b18d-1a72c529d5691033.mspx) and [Plan content approval and scheduling](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/b43e9421-66b8-4cfc-ba06-f772ae7420e81033.mspx) .

You may notice the following changes when authoring or managing the site.

| SharePoint Portal Server 2003 feature | Office SharePoint Server 2007 feature | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Default.aspx | Pages/default.aspx | Pages are a new construct in Office SharePoint Server 2007. Landing pages are stored in a list called Pages. You can schedule, approve, and publish pages. For more information about site content management, see the topics under Web Content Management in the Office SharePoint Server 2007 help system or the topics under Page layouts and publishing sites in the Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer 2007 help system. |
| Listings Web Part | Content by Query Web Part or Summary Links Web Part | By default, Listings are upgraded to the Content By Query Web Part. This Web Part uses a query to display items in a Links list. The query is configured through Web Part properties. For more authoring and presentation control, consider manually moving Listings links to the Summary Links Web Part after upgrade. |
| Listings Approval Status | Approval status values have changed | The status values for SharePoint Portal Server 2003 listings items will be upgraded as follows:  Expired - changes to Rejected  Yet-to-appear - changes to Pending  Approved - no change  Pending - no change  Reject/Archived - changes to Denied |
| Targeting Areas | Targeting Pages | To target a site after upgrade, you must enable targeting on the Welcome page of a site. For more information about targeting, see [Chapter overview: Plan for personalized content and sites](http://technet2.microsoft.com/Office/en-us/library/50832216-8140-457e-9c4c-8b31eaaef2641033.mspx) . |
| Site Directory | Site Directory | The site directory has new pages after upgrade in order to show organizational categories. |
| News Listings | Links list items and pages | News listings are upgraded to Links lists or pages. |
| The Site Designer site group did not include the Apply Themes and Borders permission | The Design permission level can now include this permission | If you want to enable upgraded users with the Design permission level to use this permission, you must edit the Design permission level to include the right. (This permission is included for new users, but not for upgraded users.) For more information, see Manage permission levels in the Office SharePoint Server 2007 Help system. |

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Changes to areas

Areas have been redesigned to be easier to edit and manage.

| Change | Comments |
| --- | --- |
| Areas are now subsites | During upgrade, areas are converted to subsites of the portal. The home area becomes the top-level site in the site collection, and the next-level areas become subsites of that site, and so on. This changes the physical hierarchy for the portal to match the logical area hierarchy of the SharePoint Portal Server 2003 portal site, and also affects the URLs, as discussed below. |
| Portal URLs may have changed | URLs for sites and subsites in Office SharePoint Server 2007 are updated to match the physical hierarchy structure of the portal site. So rather than seeing http://portal\_name/c2/area\_name, you'll see http://portal\_name/area\_name or http://portal\_name/sites/site\_name. |

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Other changes

In addition to the above, you may notice the following changes to your environment.

| Change | Comments |
| --- | --- |
| Client applications have trouble with the redirects | The Microsoft Office client applications do not work with the 302 redirects used to redirect users from an old URL to the new URL. For example, if a user attempts to open a document directly from their Word application using the original URL, they may get an error. However, the browser does work with the 302 redirects, so if a user is having trouble with the client applications, have them use the browser to retrieve the files they need instead. |
| MySites have new look, features | During upgrade, the MySites are upgraded to include the new look and new features available in Office SharePoint Server 2007. |
| Deprecated Web Parts: Office 2003 Web Components and MSNBC Web Parts | The Office Web Components will continue to work in the new version if you upgrade using in-place or gradual upgrade. However, the database migration approach does not work for these components, because they can only be installed in a Windows SharePoint Services 2.0 or SharePoint Portal Server 2003 environment. If you are upgrading to the Office SharePoint Server 2007 Enterprise Client Access License (CAL), consider using the Excel Services capabilities in your new environment instead of the Office Web Components.  The MSNBC Web Parts have been deprecated and will no longer be available to use. Consider using the RSS Viewer Web Part to connect to an RSS feed or use an XSLT in conjunction with the XMLS Web Part to render an RSS feed from MSNBC instead. |