

SharePoint Knowledge Agents: The 2026 Readiness Blueprint

A technical enablement guide for SharePoint
Administrators and Information Governance Leads.



Automating Content Hygiene in the Agentic AI Era

As of early 2026, the Knowledge Agent is a core capability within SharePoint's modern architecture.

Primary Function: Automating content hygiene and performing intelligent metadata classification at scale.



The Three Gates to Activation

Deploying Knowledge Agents requires clearing three distinct administrative hurdles.



Gate 1: Securing Required Licensing & Access

Users and administrators must have specific entitlements in place to interact with or create Knowledge Agents.



Knowledge Agent Entitlements



The Base License

- Microsoft 365 E3/E5 or Office 365 E3/E5
- SharePoint Online (Plan 1 or 2)



The Copilot Standard License

- Microsoft Copilot for Microsoft 365
- Copilot Studio (for custom agents)



The Alternative PAYG Option

- Azure Subscription (PAYG)
- Azure OpenAI Service access
- Usage-based billing model

Choosing Your Agent Entitlement Pathway



Microsoft 365 Copilot License

- The standard requirement for users to see and interact with agents.



Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Option

- Available via Azure for organizations without a full Copilot rollout.

Requires a Billing Administrator to set up a billing policy in the Microsoft 365 Admin Center.

The Base License Foundation

Knowledge Agents cannot operate in a vacuum. Users must maintain a qualifying underlying enterprise license.



Microsoft 365 E3



Microsoft 365 E5

Gate 2: Technical & Tenant Administration

Once licensing is secured, Global and SharePoint Administrators must configure the tenant environment to make the Agents icon visible on site interfaces.



Tenant-Level UI Enablement in Segoe UI Semibold in SharePoint Teal (#03787C)

The screenshot shows the SharePoint Admin Center interface. The left sidebar has a teal circle with the number 1 over the 'Settings' icon. The main content area shows the 'Settings' page with the 'Services & add-ins' section. A teal circle with the number 2 is over the 'Agents in SharePoint' section, which is currently turned off (blue switch). A teal circle with the number 3 is over the 'On' button for the same setting, indicating it is being enabled.

SharePoint Admin Center

Settings

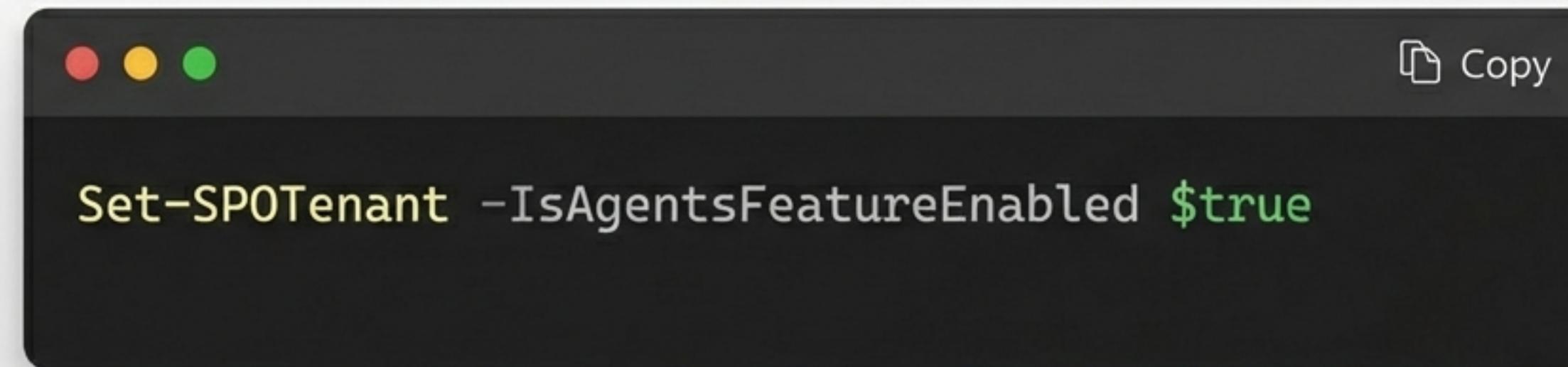
Services & add-ins

Agents in SharePoint **On**

NotebookLM

PowerShell Activation for Preview Features in Segoe UI Semibold in SharePoint Teal (#03787C)

In specific environments, Knowledge Agent preview features bypass the UI and mandate activation via the SharePoint Online Management Shell.

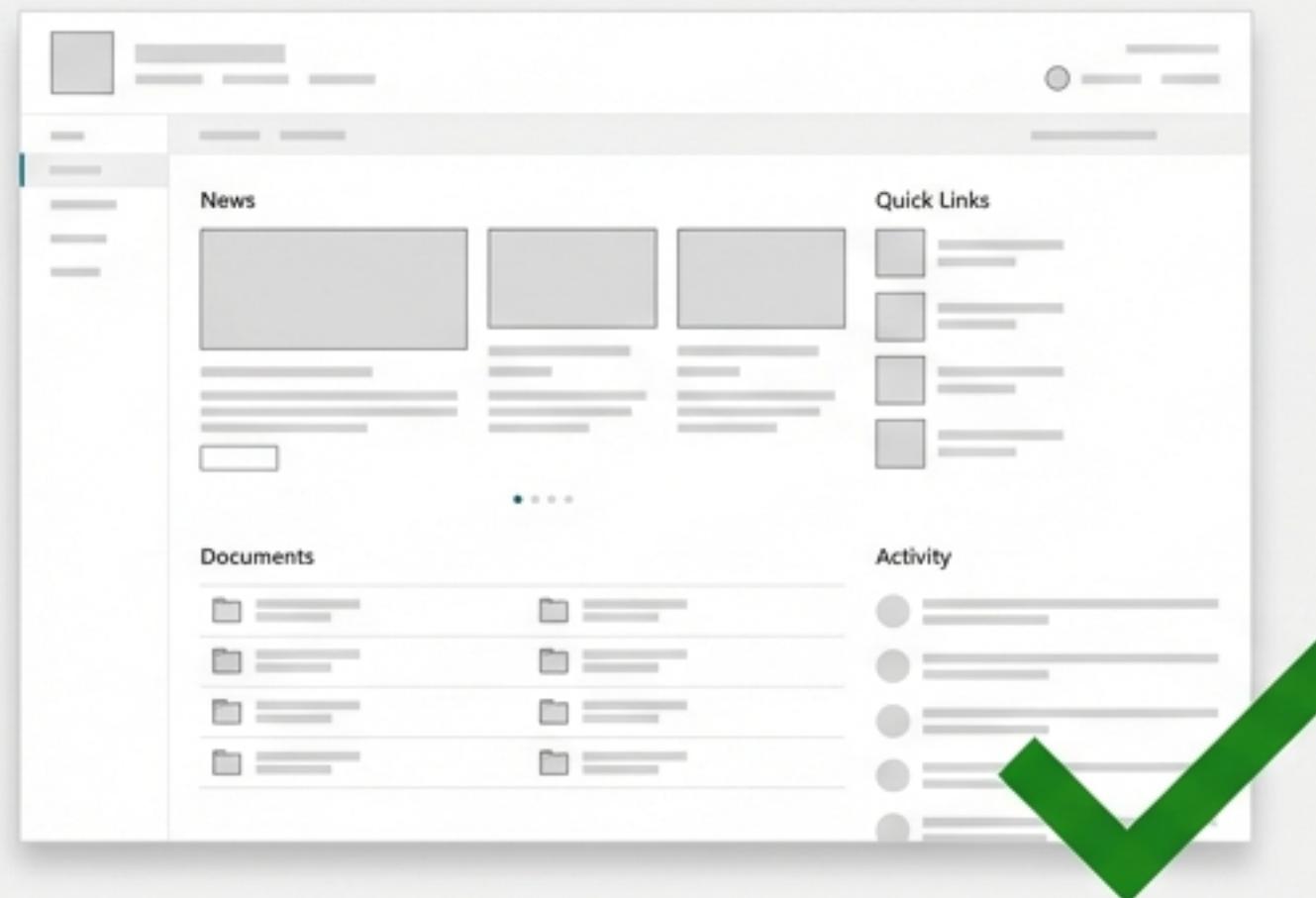
A screenshot of a dark-themed terminal window. In the top right corner, there are three small colored circles (red, yellow, green) and a 'Copy' button with a clipboard icon. The main area contains the following PowerShell command:

```
Set-SPOTenant -IsAgentsFeatureEnabled $true
```

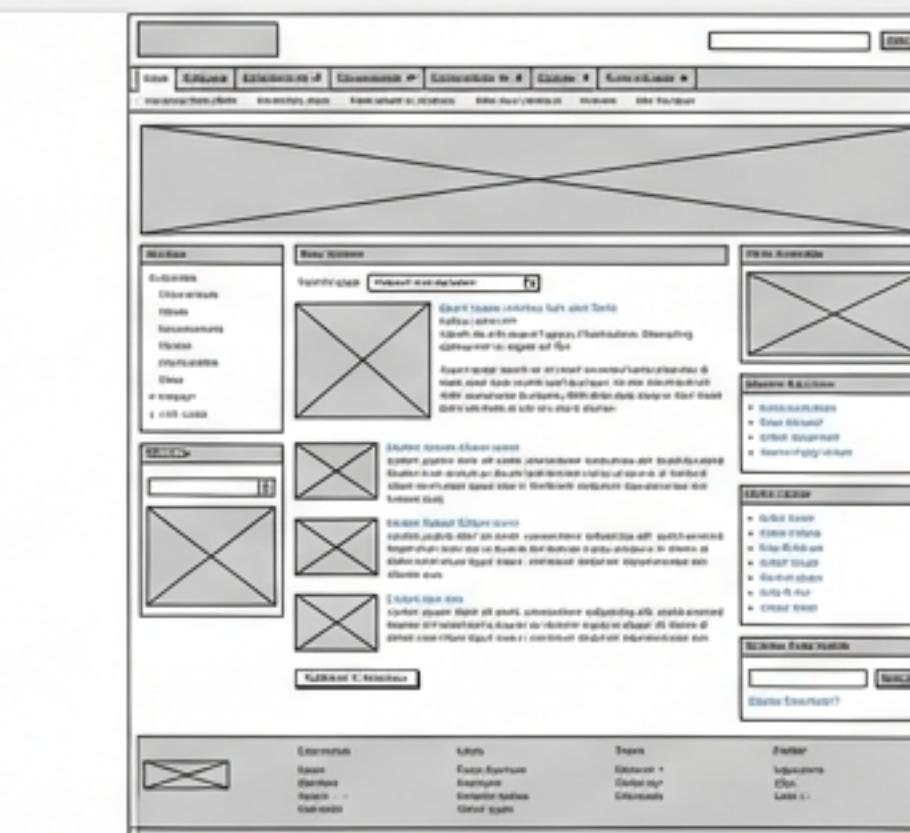
“Strict Modern Architecture Requirement”

Knowledge Agents do not support legacy infrastructure. Attempting deployment on deprecated site types will fail.

Modern SharePoint Sites



Classic Publishing Sites



Gate 3: Knowledge & Content Prerequisites

Infrastructure alone does not create a functional Knowledge Agent. Content must be formatted and mapped for AI ingestion.



Structuring Data for AI Ingestion

To automate content hygiene effectively, data frameworks must be mapped clearly so the Knowledge Agent understands your organizational taxonomy.

DocumentID, Category, RetentionPolicy

DOC001, HR, 7 Years

DOC002, Finance, 10 Years

DOC003, Legal, Permanent



DocumentID	Category	RetentionPolicy
DOC001	HR	7 Years
DOC002	Finance	10 Years
DOC003	Legal	Permanent



The 2026 Readiness Checklist

Gate 1: Licensing

- Base License Confirmed (M365 E3/E5)
- M365 Copilot License OR PAYG Azure Policy (via Billing Admin)

Gate 2: Administration

- SPO Admin Center Toggle On
- PowerShell Set-SPOTenant Executed (If Preview)
- Target Sites Confirmed as Modern

Gate 3: Content

- Taxonomy Mapping Prepared