

# Microsoft 365 Copilot and the content “discoverability” challenge

Maarten Eekels



search content and people...

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# OVEREXPOSURE OF CONTENT IN A MICROSOFT 365 TENANT



1

Give users in your  
organisation the  
possibility to report over-  
shared content

2

Exclude SharePoint sites  
or libraries from Copilot  
by blocking it from being  
indexed by search

# Site Settings ▸ Search and Offline Availability

[Home](#)[Conversations](#)[Documents](#)

## Indexing Site Content

Specify whether this site should be visible in search results. If a site is not visible to search, then content from that site and all of its subsites will not appear in search results.

Allow this site to appear in search results?

 Yes No

## Drawbacks:

- Content in the site no longer indexed
- Web parts that rely on the search index will no longer work

### Search

Specify whether this document library should be visible in search results. Users who do not have permission to see these items will not see them in search results, no matter what this setting is.

Allow items from this document library to appear in search results?

 Yes No

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# Restrict discovery of SharePoint sites and content with Restricted Content Discovery

# Restricted Content Discovery

Pros:

- Limit the ability of end users to search for files in certain SharePoint sites
- User can still discover files that they own or recently interacted with
- Searching originating from the site context still works

Cons:

- Cannot be applied to OneDrive
- Can lead to higher update latency times when applied to a large number of sites

My Copilot excluded site

Private team

Email Open in Teams View site Delete

General Activity Membership Settings

PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Set-SPOSite -Identity https://eekels.sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilotexcludedsite -RestrictContentOrgWideSearch \$true  
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPOSite -Identity https://eekels.sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilotexcludedsite | Select RestrictContentOrgWideSearch

RestrictContentOrgWideSearch

True

Email

Let people outside the organization email this team

Private

Send copies of team emails and events to team members' inboxes

Public

Don't show team email address in Outlook

External file sharing i

New and existing guests

Sensitivity label i

None

More sharing settings

Restrict content from Microsoft 365 Copilot i PRO

On

Off

Restricted site access i PRO

Not set

Edit

Custom scripts i

Blocked

Edit

Version history limit i

Same as Organization-level (Manual)

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-content-discovery?wt.mc\\_id=M365-MVP-5001887](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-content-discovery?wt.mc_id=M365-MVP-5001887)

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# Enable the Restricted SharePoint Search option

# Restricted SharePoint Search

Users will be able to discover content from:

- An allowed list of curated SharePoint sites set up by admins (with up to 100 SharePoint sites), honouring sites' existing permissions.
- Users' OneDrive files, chats, emails, calendars they have access to.
- Files from their frequently visited SharePoint sites.
- Files that were shared directly with the users.
- Files that the users viewed, edited, or created.

Notes:

- Total number of files included from the last three bullet points above is limited to the last 2000 entities.
- Associated sites of a Hub site are not counted towards the 100-site limit.

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Connect-SPOSERVICE -Url https://[REDACTED]-admin.sharepoint.com
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPOTenantRestrictedSearchMode
Restricted search mode is currently not set.
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Set-SPOTenantRestrictedSearchMode -Mode Enabled
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPOTenantRestrictedSearchMode
Enabled
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels>
```

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Copilot AI interface. At the top, there is a dark header bar with a search bar containing 'Search'. To the right of the search bar are icons for settings, help, and a user profile. A message bubble on the left side of the main area states: 'Your organization's admin has restricted Copilot from accessing certain SharePoint sites. This limits the content Copilot can search and reference when responding to your prompts. [Learn more](#)'.

The main content area features the Copilot logo and the text 'Your AI assistant for work'. Below this are buttons for 'Work' and 'Web', and a 'New chat' button. To the right, a sidebar titled 'Copilot' lists 'Agents': 'Visual Creator', 'Get Copilot agents', and 'Create an agent'. At the bottom of the sidebar is a section titled 'Recent chats'.

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-sharepoint-search-admin-scripts?wt.mc\\_id=M365-MVP-5001887](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-sharepoint-search-admin-scripts?wt.mc_id=M365-MVP-5001887)

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# Restrict SharePoint site access with Microsoft 365 groups and Entra security groups

# Site-level access restriction policy

- Particularly useful if you want to make sure that content in a certain site is not shared with users outside of a particular group.
- Even if a file is shared with someone through a shared link or even if someone previously had access, the policy would prevent that user from accessing that file.
- Users with direct permissions to the file can still view files in search results. However, they cannot access the files if they are not part of the specified group.
- You must apply this policy to shared and private channel sites separately.

## Site-level access restriction

This setting lets you and other Global or SharePoint Administrators restrict access to sites. For sites connected to a group or team, you can restrict access to only the group or team owners and members. For communication sites, you can restrict access to only the groups you specify.

[Learn more about Restricted Access Control for SharePoint sites](#)

 Your changes have been saved. It can take about a few minutes for the changes to take effect. X

Allow access restriction

**M My Copilot excluded site**  
Private team  
[Email](#) [Open in Teams](#) [View site](#) [Delete](#)

General Activity Membership **Settings**

**Email**

Let people outside the organization email this team

Send copies of team emails and events to team members' inboxes

Don't show team email address in Outlook

**Privacy**

Private  Public

**External file sharing** ⓘ  
New and existing guests ▼  
[More sharing settings](#)

**Sensitivity label** ⓘ  
None ▼

**Restricted site access** ⓘ PRO  
Huize Eekels, My Copilot excluded site [Edit](#)

**Custom scripts** ⓘ  
Blocked [Edit](#)

**Version history limit** ⓘ  
Same as Organization-level (Manual)

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-access-control?wt.mc\\_id=M365-MVP-5001887](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/restricted-access-control?wt.mc_id=M365-MVP-5001887)

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Start-SPORestrictedAccessForSitesInsights -RACProtectedSites
```

Generating the report will take some time. Are you sure you want to proceed?

Continue with this operation?

[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"): Y

Id	CreatedDateTimeInUtc	Status
--		
89835ed7-4512-452e-9310-a400b7108474	2025-06-02T11:35:40Z	NotStarted

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPORestrictedAccessForSitesInsights -RACProtectedSites -ReportId 89835ed7-4512-452e-9310-a400b7108474
```

Id	CreatedDateTimeInUtc	Status
--		
89835ed7-4512-452e-9310-a400b7108474	2025-06-02T11:35:40Z	InQueue

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPORestrictedAccessForSitesInsights -RACProtectedSites -ReportId 89835ed7-4512-452e-9310-a400b7108474
```

SiteName	: My Copilot excluded site
SiteType	: GroupSite
SiteUrl	: <a href="https://eekels.sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilotexcludedsite">https://eekels.sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilotexcludedsite</a>
SiteSensitivity	: None
PrimaryAdmin	: MyCopilotexcludedsite@eekels.onmicrosoft.com
BlockDownloadPolicy	: Off
ConditionalAccessPolicy	: Not Set
RestrictedAccessControlGroups	: {{Name: My Copilot excluded site, Type: M365Group}}

# SharePoint Advanced Management reports and access reviews

# Data access governance reports and site access reviews

Available data governance reports:

- Sharing link reports (Anyone, People in your organisation, Specific people shared externally)
- Sensitivity labels applied to files
- Content shared with “Everyone except external users” reports
- Oversharing baseline report using permissions (only available through PowerShell)

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/site-access-review?wt.mc\\_id=M365-MVP-5001887](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/site-access-review?wt.mc_id=M365-MVP-5001887)

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Start-SPODataAccessGovernanceInsight -ReportEntity PermissionedUsers -ReportType Snapshot -Workload OneDriveForBusiness -CountOfUsersMoreThan 0 -Name "ReportForODB"
```

ReportId	Status
-----	-----
636d5918-3382-4a9f-b3ac-263984f85c96	NotStarted

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Start-SPODataAccessGovernanceInsight -ReportEntity PermissionedUsers -ReportType Snapshot -Workload SharePoint -CountOfUsersMoreThan 0 -Name "ReportForSharePoint"
```

ReportId	Status
-----	-----
593178ef-3192-4c25-8e77-1c76e2e5ccdc	NotStarted

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Get-SPODataAccessGovernanceInsight -ReportID 593178ef-3192-4c25-8e77-1c76e2e5ccdc
```

ReportId	:	593178ef-3192-4c25-8e77-1c76e2e5ccdc
ReportName	:	ReportForSharePoint
ReportEntity	:	PermissionedUsers
Status	:	InQueue
Workload	:	SharePoint
TriggeredDateTime	:	06/02/2025 12:19:04
CreatedDateTime	:	06/02/2025 12:19:05
ReportType	:	Snapshot
CountOfUsersMoreThan	:	1
CountOfSitesInReport	:	0
CountOfSitesInTenant	:	0
Privacy	:	All
Sensitivity	:	{All}
Templates	:	{All}

December 3, 2024 - December 30, 2024 (28 days)

# EEEU added in the last 28 days

## Summary for the last 28 days

Number of sites scanned for this report  
**25**

Number of sites fulfilling this report criteria  
**1**

This page displays up to top 100 sites with the most number of SharePoint groups with 'Everyone except external users' group added in the last 28 days. To view up to 1M sites and see more information, download the detailed report.

[Learn more on how to use this report](#)

[Download detailed report](#)

+ Initiate site access review    View all reviews    Get AI insights

1 of 1 item

Search sites

Filters: Template: All Site sensitivity: All External sharing: All Privacy: All

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site name	URL	Site access review status	Groups with O...	Primary admin	Teams	Template
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My Copilot test site	<a href="#">.../sites/MyCopilottestsite</a>	-	1	My Copilot test site Own...		Team site

## Initiate site access review

An email will be sent to all site owners, with a request for them to review the sites for potential oversharing.

### Add a comment for site owners \*

Could you check if your site really needs everyone in our organisation to have access?

Sites added (1)

MS My Copilot test site  
...com/sites/MyCopilottestsite X

# Your SharePoint administrator requested that you review sites your entire organization can access

You have sites where 'Everyone except external users' has been added to the site membership. This means everyone in your organization has access to this site. Review site permissions for potential oversharing and manage access.

## SharePoint admin comments:

"Could you check if your site really needs everyone in our organisation to have access?"

Site name	Groups with org-wide access	Privacy	Site sensitivity	External sharing
 My Copilot test site Connected to Teams	1	Private	Empty	Off

[View SharePoint groups](#)

MC

# My Copilot test site

Site Reviews > **Everyone except external users as site member**

Everybody in your organization has access to this site, as the group 'Everyone except external users' was added to site membership between 3 Dec 2024 to 30 Dec 2024. Click on the SharePoint groups below and remove users which are not required.

[Learn more about managing SharePoint group membership](#)

Name	Group added on	Added by
<u>My Copilot test site Members</u>	30 Dec 2024	maarten@eekels.net

# Labelling your content with sensitivity labels

# Sensitivity labels and Copilot

- Sensitivity labels are shown in the returned results.
- If Copilot creates new content from labelled content, the sensitivity label from the source item is automatically applied to the newly created content.
- If content is labelled with a label that applies encryption, Copilot checks the usage rights for the user. For Copilot to return data from that item, the user must be granted permissions to copy from it.

What can you tell me about the Galactic Odyssey?

The **Galactic Odyssey of Maarten Eekels** is a fascinating story set in a galaxy far, far away. It begins on the desert planet of Tatooine, where Maarten Eekels, a renowned technologist and strategist, finds himself on a mission of utmost secrecy. His goal is to locate an ancient artifact known as the Crystal of the Ancients, which holds immense power and could alter the fate of the galaxy<sup>1</sup>.

During his journey, Maarten navigates the bustling marketplace of Mos Eisley and encounters Ben Kenobi, a former Jedi Knight. Together, they face various dangers, including sandstorms and encounters with Tusken Raiders, forging an unbreakable bond through their trials. Kenobi shares tales of the Jedi Order, the rise and fall of the Galactic Empire, and the enduring hope for a brighter future<sup>1</sup>.

The story is rich with adventure and intrigue, highlighting Maarten's quest to unlock a hidden force that could bring either peace or devastation to the galaxy<sup>1</sup>.

Is there anything specific you would like to know more about?



**The Galactic Odyssey of Maarten Eekels**

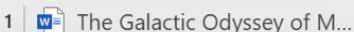
[https://\[REDACTED\]sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilottestsuite/Shared Documents/Copilot for the win!/The G...](https://[REDACTED]sharepoint.com/sites/MyCopilottestsuite/Shared Documents/Copilot for the win!/The G...)

Modified 1 hour ago



Ask

1



The Galactic Odyssey of M...

1



**The Galactic Odyssey of  
Maarten Eekels**

Confidential\Exclude from Copilot

Word | Maarten Eekels modified on 1/2/2025



1 of 30 responses

AI-generated content may be incorrect



Tell me more about the Crystal of the Ancients.

Who else does Maarten encounter on his journey?

# Prevent some connected experiences that analyse content

```
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> Set-Label -Identity 'Exclude from Copilot' -AdvancedSettings @{BlockContentAnalysisServices="True"}  
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> (Get-Label -Identity 'Exclude from Copilot').Settings  
[parentid, dd4397f6-a531-4616-80ce-b91c279d854e]  
[contenttype, File, Email, Teamwork]  
[tooltip, Confidential data that doesn't need to be encrypted, but is not allowed to be processed by AI tools like Copilot.]  
[isparent, False]  
[displayname, Exclude from Copilot]  
[blockcontentanalysisservices, True]  
PS C:\Users\MaartenEekels> |
```

[https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/purview/sensitivity-labels-office-apps#prevent-some-connected-experiences-that-analyze-content?wt.mc\\_id=M365-MVP-5001887](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/purview/sensitivity-labels-office-apps#prevent-some-connected-experiences-that-analyze-content?wt.mc_id=M365-MVP-5001887)





<https://www.eekels.net/microsoft-365-copilot-and-the-content-discoverability-challenge/>