

# What is a site

You might be used to using the term *site* to mean "a collection of connected computers," or perhaps as the short form of "website." In Tableau-speak, we use site to mean a collection of users, groups, and content (workbooks, data sources) that's walled off from any other groups and content on the same instance of [Tableau Server]. Another way to say this is that [Tableau Server] supports multi-tenancy by allowing server administrators to create sites on the server for multiple sets of users and content.

All server content is published, accessed, and managed on a per-site basis. Each site has its own URL and its own set of users (although each server user can be added to multiple sites). Each site's content (projects, workbooks, and data sources) is completely segregated from content on other sites.

If you are a server administrator on your [Tableau Server] deployment, you can learn more about sites, when to use them (vs. projects), and more in [Sites Overview](#)[\(Link opens in a new window\)](#), in the **Manage Server** section.

**Note:** This article pertains to configuring sites on [Tableau Server] deployments. For Tableau Online, see [Site Administrator Role and Tasks](#)[\(Link opens in a new window\)](#).

## Site administrator tasks

---

Where the Server Administrator site role gives a user unrestricted access to the entire [Tableau Server] deployment, the Site Administrator site roles give a user unrestricted or minimally restricted access at the site level. The differences between Site Administrator Creator and Site Administrator Explorer are in the level of data connection and publishing access. Both site roles allow administering the site itself and managing site users. For more information, see [Set Users' Site Roles](#).

Although a server administrator can work at both the server and site levels, we make a distinction between the two levels of task. The site administrator is typically in charge of creating and maintaining the framework that enables Tableau users in the organization to publish, share, manage, and connect to data sources and workbooks. In this vein, site administrator tasks include any of the following (and both site roles allow this level of access):

- Creating project hierarchies to organize the site's data sources and workbooks.

This can include delegating project-level management to project leaders.

- Creating groups and assigning permissions that allow users to access only the content they need.
- Adding and removing users, assigning their site roles.

This is allowed by default on a site; however, a server administrator can restrict this access to the server level only.

- Managing the site's extract and subscription schedules.
- Monitoring site activity.

For more information about the distinction between server administrator and site administrator, see [Administrator-level access to sites](#), in the **Manage Server** section.

## Steps for setting up your site

---

The table below shows a loose sequence of steps for setting up a site, along with links to topics where you can get more information. You can complete the steps in any order that makes sense for you.

However, before you perform the steps to configure the site, we recommend spending some time with the articles in this section, learning about site authentication, site roles, projects, and permissions. Ideally you would document a plan for your projects, groups, and overall permissions strategy. Then set up a few projects and add a preliminary set

of users, to test the plan and resolve issues before you add the remaining users. You can change many site settings after your users are working with the site, but try to go in with the intention of minimizing post-production changes.

+-----+-----+ | **Plan** | To supplement the recommendations above this || table, get an overview of how the site || components work together in [Planning a || Site] ([https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/site\\_admin\\_planning.htm](https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/site_admin_planning.htm)){MCXref || .xref}. | +-----+-----+  
-- +-----+ | **Configure access** | Work with the server administrator to || determine how users sign in to the site, and || configure the site appropriately. || || || For example, if the server is configured for || single sign-on using SAML, you might || configure SAML authentication at the site || level as well. | +-----+-----+ | **Create projects | Projects help you organize content, delegate | and the permissions | project-level content management, and manage | structure** | permissions effectively. To get started, see || [Use Projects to Manage Content || Access] (<https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/projects.htm>){MCXref || .xref}. | +-----+-----+  
-----+ | **Add users** | Determine the users who can sign in to the || site. See [Add Users to a || Site]([https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/sites\\_addusers.htm](https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/sites_addusers.htm)){MCXref || .xref}. | +-----+-----+  
-----+ | **Get your data to | After you create your projects and | [Tableau | permissions structure, designate approved | | Server]{Var | users for publishing and managing vetted data | | iablesProductName}** | sources to the appropriate projects on the || site. || || || In some organizations, people serve in || multiple Tableau roles. Site administrators || commonly also are data stewards. By that, we || mean they create, publish, and manage the || Tableau data connections. If this is you, || make sure you are assigned the Site || Administrator Creator site role. || || After content is published to the site, you || can maintain connection information || (credentials, access tokens) and refresh || schedules. For more information, see [Refresh || Data on a || Schedule]([https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/schedule\\_add.htm](https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/schedule_add.htm)){MCXref || .xref}. | +-----+-----+ | **Analyze site usage | Monitor usage, performance, and other | and performance** | metrics. See [Administrative || Views](<https://help.tableau.com/current/server/en-us/adminview.htm>){MCXref || .xref}. | +-----+-----+  
-----+