

Executive Summary: Why Move from SharePoint 2019 On-Premises to SharePoint Online (SPO)

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Why now: Our current SharePoint platform is costly to maintain, immobile, and under-utilized. Three in-house servers in Australia require monthly patching, manual upgrades, and ongoing support from our U.S. parent company. Meanwhile, employees use email newsletters as a workaround because SharePoint cannot be securely accessed from mobile—limiting adoption of our communications portal. This scenario reflects common challenges faced by large enterprises with legacy on-premises systems.

The change: Migrating to SharePoint Online is a strategic shift from infrastructure maintenance to cloud-enabled productivity. SharePoint Online integrates seamlessly with Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, Power BI, and Power Platform—tools our workforce already uses. This positions us for a modern, mobile-first workplace while aligning with U.S. global IT standards and leveraging the full power of the Microsoft 365 ecosystem.

The benefits:

- **Infrastructure & IT Benefits:**

- **Reduced Operational Overhead:** Eliminate the need for physical servers, manual patching, and version upgrades. Microsoft handles infrastructure management, security updates, and scalability, freeing IT resources for strategic initiatives.
- **Enhanced Security & Compliance:** Benefit from Microsoft's enterprise-grade security, global compliance certifications (e.g., ISO 27001, GDPR), and advanced threat protection, often exceeding what can be achieved cost-effectively on-premises.
- **Scalability & Reliability:** Gain elastic scalability to meet growing data and user demands without upfront hardware investments. Leverage Microsoft's global data center network for high availability and disaster recovery.
- **Simplified IT Management:** Centralized administration, automated provisioning, and streamlined governance tools reduce complexity and improve efficiency for IT teams.

- **End-User & Business Benefits:**

- **Modern Employee Experience & Mobility:** Provide secure, seamless access to information, documents, and collaboration spaces from any device, anywhere. This fosters a truly mobile workforce and enhances employee engagement.
- **Unified Collaboration Hub:** Deep integration with Microsoft Teams and OneDrive creates a cohesive digital workplace, enabling real-time co-authoring, structured communication, and efficient content management.
- **Improved Productivity & Efficiency:** Streamline business processes with Power Automate for workflow automation, reduce information silos, and empower users with self-service capabilities.

- **Data-Driven Insights:** Integrate Power BI dashboards directly into SharePoint and Teams, democratizing access to critical business intelligence and supporting faster, more informed decision-making.
- **Innovation & Future-Proofing:** Continuously receive new features, security enhancements, and AI-powered capabilities (e.g., Microsoft Viva) without manual upgrades, ensuring the platform remains cutting-edge.

This move exchanges IT maintenance costs for innovation capital—our staff engage better, our systems integrate tighter, and our decision-making sharpens, all while significantly reducing operational risk and aligning with global best practices for digital transformation.