Reasons why your SharePoint Portal users will love an upgrade

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You may be using SharePoint 2013 or 2016 and be quite content with how everything is working, but with SharePoint 2019 or SharePoint Online now available, it is the ideal time to think about what an upgrade can do for you.
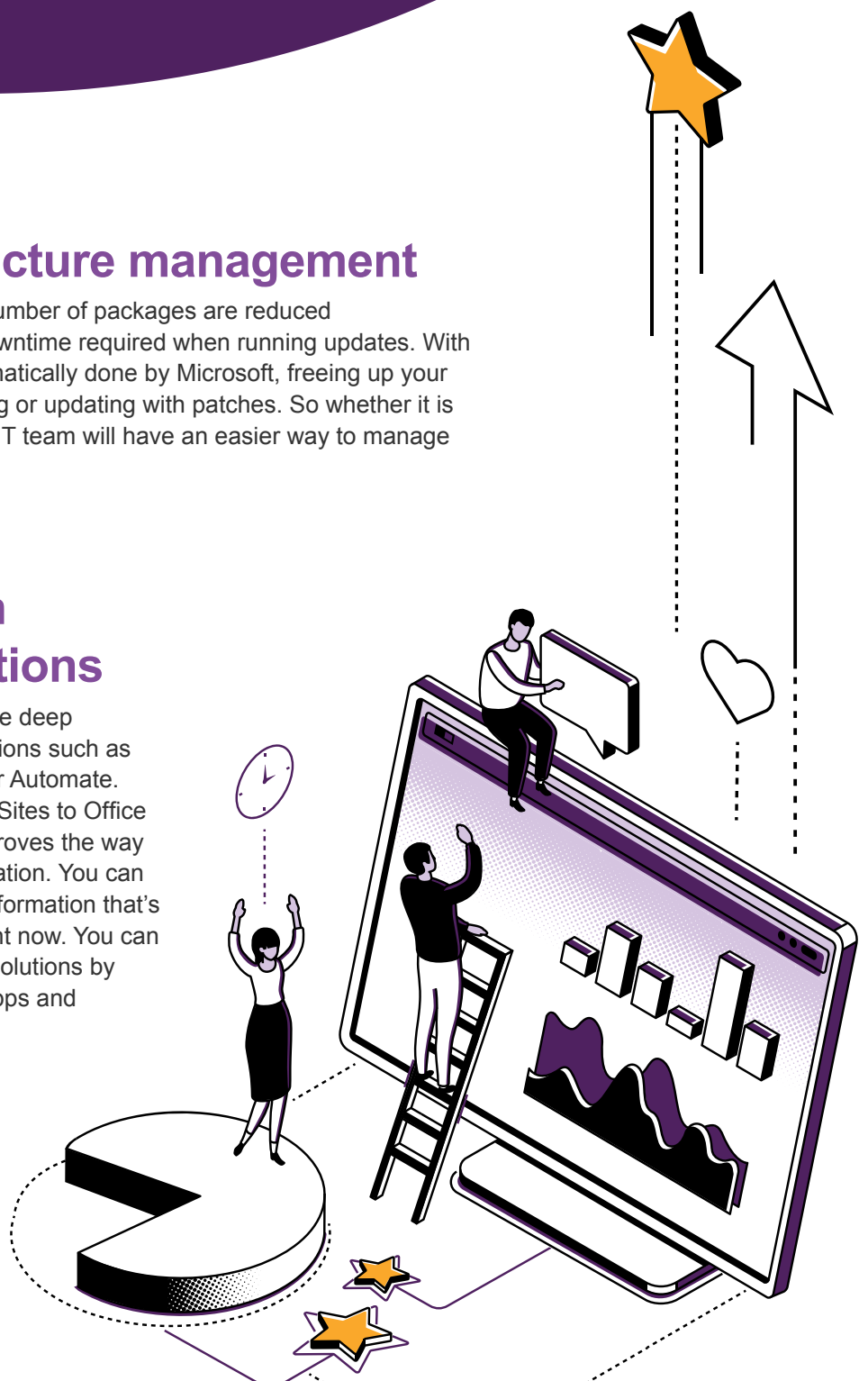
Whether you are using SharePoint as a collaboration tool for projects and teams, or as an enterprise platform for employee engagement or communication, we have focused on six reasons your SharePoint portal business and IT users will love an upgrade.

#1 Easier infrastructure management

With SharePoint 2019, the size and number of packages are reduced considerably, and there is no more downtime required when running updates. With SharePoint Online, updates are automatically done by Microsoft, freeing up your valuable IT resources from maintaining or updating with patches. So whether it is with SharePoint 2019 or Online, your IT team will have an easier way to manage your SharePoint infrastructure.

#2 Integration with Office 365 applications

Both SharePoint 2019 and Online have deep integration with Microsoft 365 applications such as Teams, Delve, Power Apps and Power Automate. The integration of SharePoint's Team Sites to Office Groups and Teams simplifies and improves the way staff communicate across the organisation. You can use Delve to discover and organise information that's likely to be most interesting to you right now. You can even turn your business expertise to solutions by building no-code apps using Power Apps and Power Automate.

#3 Modern sites, lists and libraries

SharePoint's dynamic team sites give your project, team or department a shared workspace to collaborate. You can customise SharePoint's site pages, lists and libraries to connect with all your resources across Microsoft 365 or key applications and services. Its modern document libraries allow you to create, co-author, share, organise and access files across devices using a browser or a SharePoint app.

#4 Intranet on the go

Collaborate effortlessly and stay connected and productive wherever you are with your Intranet accessible on any device. SharePoint connects you and your teams more fluidly than ever before. Its mobile app lets you connect to sites, files, people and news from across your teams – all from your favourite Android, iOS or Windows devices.
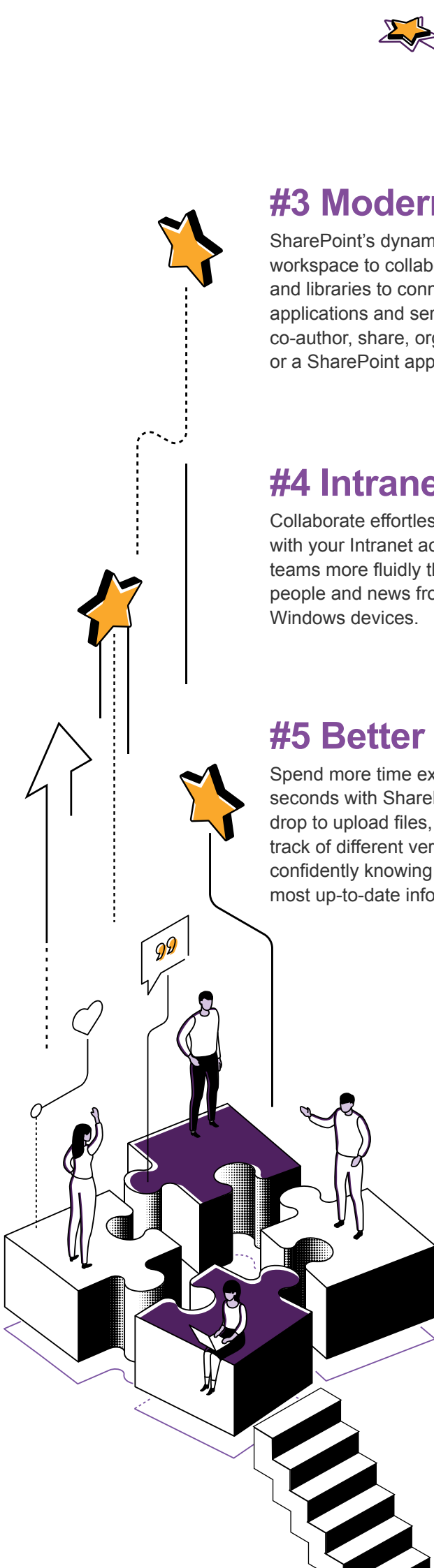
#5 Better user experience

Spend more time exchanging ideas and less time searching. Locate files in seconds with SharePoint's powerful and improved search functionality. Drag and drop to upload files, work on the same document with co-authoring and keep track of different versions of your documents through version control. Collaborate confidently knowing that everyone has secured file access and is working on the most up-to-date information at all times.
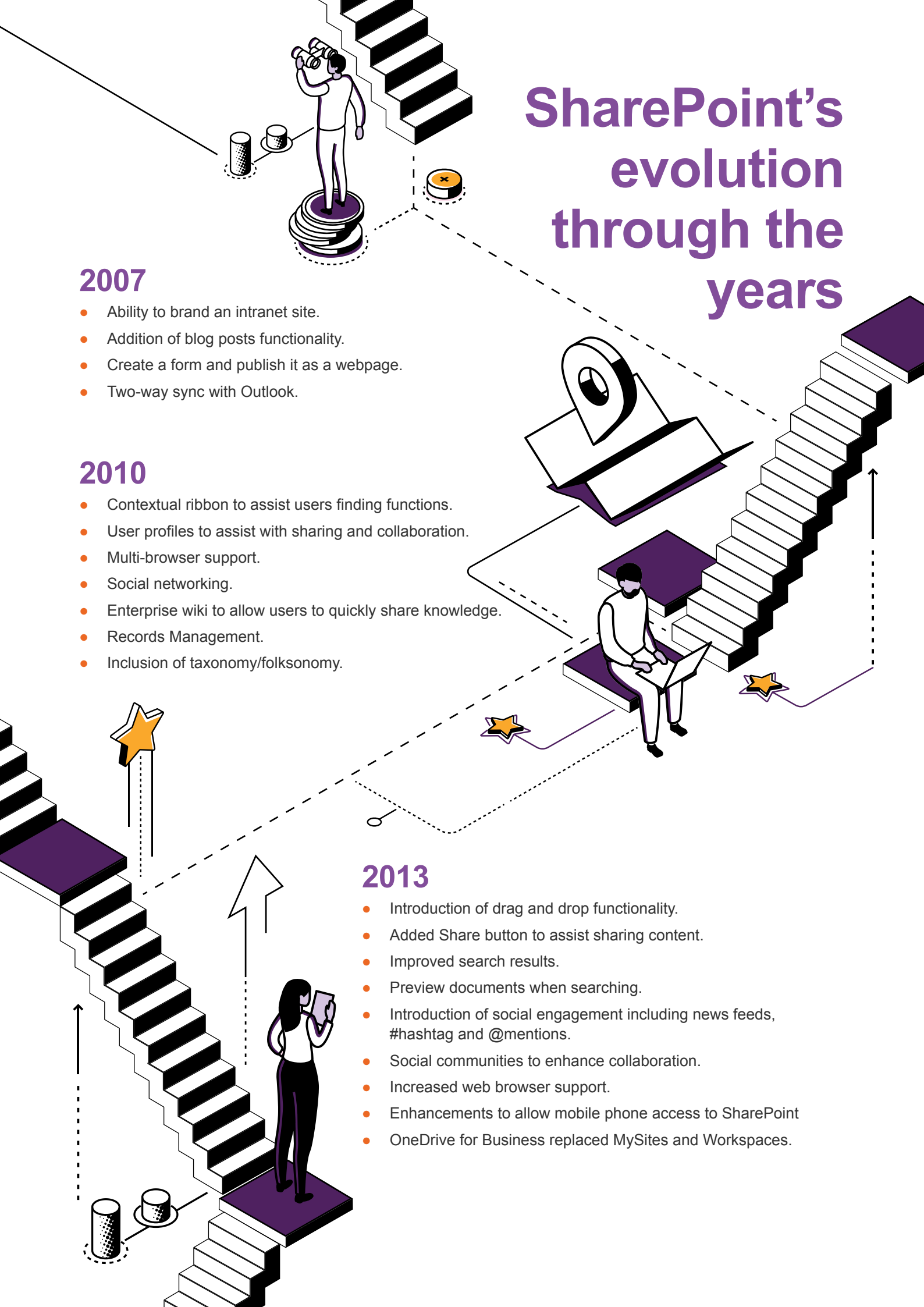
#6 Keep your data secure

If you are still on SharePoint 2010 or 2013, then your portal is extremely vulnerable to a cyber security attack. Microsoft is no longer supporting these SharePoint versions, so there are no more patches available. If you are using SharePoint 2016, its mainstream support will end soon in July 2021 unless you are on extended support.

SharePoint Online has enterprise-level security that protects your data and organisation across devices with Microsoft's thorough and effective security measures. Running on top of Microsoft Azure, one of the world's most secure and robust cloud platform, it is compliant with the strictest and most rigid international and regional data protection regulation. You can be confident that your data in your intranet is safe and secure.

SharePoint's evolution through the years

2007

- Ability to brand an intranet site.
- Addition of blog posts functionality.
- Create a form and publish it as a webpage.
- Two-way sync with Outlook.

2010

- Contextual ribbon to assist users finding functions.
- User profiles to assist with sharing and collaboration.
- Multi-browser support.
- Social networking.
- Enterprise wiki to allow users to quickly share knowledge.
- Records Management.
- Inclusion of taxonomy/folksonomy.

2013

- Introduction of drag and drop functionality.
- Added Share button to assist sharing content.
- Improved search results.
- Preview documents when searching.
- Introduction of social engagement including news feeds, #hashtag and @mentions.
- Social communities to enhance collaboration.
- Increased web browser support.
- Enhancements to allow mobile phone access to SharePoint
- OneDrive for Business replaced MySites and Workspaces.

2016

- Ability to connect SharePoint to Office365 to allow users to have an integrated experience.
- Modern team sites to assist easy build pages.
- Modern list and document library experience to enhance finding documents and collaboration.
- Ability to upgrade without downtime.
- SharePoint Mobile App.

2019

- Modern team and communication sites.
- Dynamic page layouts.
- Modern search experience. See search results as you type in keywords. Unify search across all sites – on-premise or in the cloud.
- Better user experience with user-friendly pages, web parts and authoring.
- Sync files with the new OneDrive sync client.
- Improved support for business process automation technologies such as Power Apps and Power Automate.
- Modern integration to IIS.
- SMTP authentication for sending emails.
- Improved PowerShell commandlets.
- Increased file size limit to 15 GB for an individual file upload to SharePoint.
- 400-character path limit.
- Site provisioning takes only a few minutes to create with existing templates.

SharePoint Online

- Modern sites, lists and libraries.
- No patching required.
- Automated upgrades.
- Limited infrastructure management.
- New features enabled here first.
- File size limit of 15 GB for an individual file upload to SharePoint.
- Modern search experience. See search results as you type in keywords.
- Integration with other Office365 applications: Exchange, Groups, Stream, Delve, Teams, Power Apps, Power Automate.

Conclusion

Microsoft has rolled out significant improvements to SharePoint 2019 and SharePoint Online. Upgrade your SharePoint portal so you can take advantage of its productivity, collaboration and security enhancements. And trust us, with all these benefits, your users will thank you for it!

On-premises or cloud: Which is right for you?

Speak to one of our SharePoint experts today to get a free assessment and consultation on the right SharePoint deployment for you.

Let's Talk.

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