

# Building a Better Office 365 Is Easier Than You Think

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IT departments struggling with enterprise-wide content management, collaboration and security should look to the cloud.



Nobody has to convince you the workplace is changing. There is a greater emphasis on collaboration, tech expertise and creative problem-solving, and today's work styles are dominated by a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) attitude. That's why allowing users to access and share information any where, at any time is more of a priority than ever; it's also why Microsoft Office 365 is the foundation for many global enterprises.



With the benefits it can bring, Office 365 is a smart investment for enterprises in every industry. Yet, some challenges remain. Compatibility and usability issues involving One Drive for Business, SharePoint Online and SharePoint Server often result in complications for IT and frustrated employees. Despite these challenges, IT teams are discovering a better way forward. Extending and enhancing your Office 365 investment for greater productivity, mobility and security means looking beyond Microsoft to a more complete content management solution. So you can make an information decision, we compare and contrast a few key features that can make the most of your end-user's experience and management of Office 365.



## On-premise, Cloud-based, or Both?

Content management and collaboration issues are increasingly solved with cloud-based solutions. But have you weighed the advantages and potential limitations of cloud-based content management over an on-premises option? Adopting a modern cloud-based content platform with custom apps can deliver the experience teams need to be more productive.

Traditionally, content solutions are separated between virtual, cloud-based servers and physical, on-premise centers. Many organizations deploy both cloud-based and on-premise systems. While effective, this hybrid approach needs continuous integration and configuration, requiring a greater investment in IT management.

A cloud-based option may meet your requirements with significantly lower costs and complexity. With a simpler and more agile approach, cloud-based platforms require little or no installation or configuration. Your business can start using many cloud-based solutions in a matter of hours. Designed with user experience and the flexibility to grow with a business in mind, cloud-based platforms are a solid content foundation for the future.

## Add-on or Upgrade?

SharePoint Online was developed for Office 365 to enable connected users to remotely access internal sites, documents and other content. However, the Office 365 add-on lacks key content management features that today's users expect. With limited file viewing and app integration options, the inability to edit files without a Microsoft account and limited search and social sharing capabilities, SharePoint Online can get in the way of collaboration.

Unlike SharePoint Online, cloud-based platforms do not inherit legacy architectural issues and their resulting complexities. With secure external sharing capabilities, it's also incredibly easy for IT to monitor user activity and centrally manage unstructured content or intellectual property. The best Office 365-enabled options promote collaboration, both within an organization and outside.

Perhaps best of all, cloud-based solutions are device and platform agnostic, allowing individuals to work on-the-go, any time they want. Add notification options, customizable user permissions and simple search functionality, and you've got an Office 365-enabled tool for enterprise-wide collaboration that's robust and adaptable.

## Content Sharing or Real Collaboration?

For modern businesses, staying collaborative is almost as important as staying profitable. Work content—folders and files in every format—needs to be easy to save, edit and share. Everyone on a project needs access to the most current, complete content—without provisioning, setting up extranets or FTP hassles.

While many content management solutions don't offer a great deal of flexibility, there are proven options that can help your business take collaboration to the next level. To protect content, these solutions allow users to easily configure access and editing rights. They also allow users to share sensitive information with password-protected links, set link expiration dates, lock files and revoke access all while knowing who, when and where files are accessed or downloaded. An always-on, cloud-based solution makes it easy for everyone to work and collaborate in real time.

## Many Silos or One Solution?

Disconnected content is a problem for a growing number of businesses. Too often, the systems meant to unify content actually leads to content silos. Ultimately, the technology that should streamline operations instead complicates it by separating content into unrelated, segregated pieces. Managing disconnected silos becomes a job in itself, as specific tasks are broken down even further to accommodate the piece-meal administration.

In the cloud, there's no place for silos. User-friendly, cloud-based platforms offer a single repository for all your content, so it's easy to organize, move and secure practically everything. You can manage all your files in one place and content sprawl becomes a thing of the past. Plus, with a centralized admin dashboard, common tasks can be automated and multiple rules can be unified for easier management.

## Building A Better Office 365

The informed conclusion? Neither your IT teams nor your end-users have to accept the content management limitations of Office 365. Collaborative, secure options open up a whole new world of opportunities for organizations powered by Office 365.

A cloud-based option like Box can enable your business to embrace today's modern work styles. Box offers secure access to files from anywhere, allows both internal and external collaboration and simple access permission management from a unified content platform.

So, before you go with what you know, it's worth considering the cloud for a better Office 365 enablement.

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