The background of the entire page is a blue-tinted image of a laptop. The screen displays a SharePoint interface for a site named "CHORUS". The interface includes a navigation bar with "SharePoint" and "THE BEES NEEDS" (with a sub-link "Demo Home"). Below the navigation bar, there's a "Demo HR" section with links for "Home", "Current vacancies", "Policies", "Benefits", "Personnel", and "People directory". A large photo of a diverse group of people celebrating is visible on the screen. Below the photo, there's a "News" section with a "1 AM" link. The laptop keyboard is visible at the bottom of the image.

# SharePoint: Modern sites versus classic sites

Choosing the **right approach** for a  
SharePoint Online  
deployment

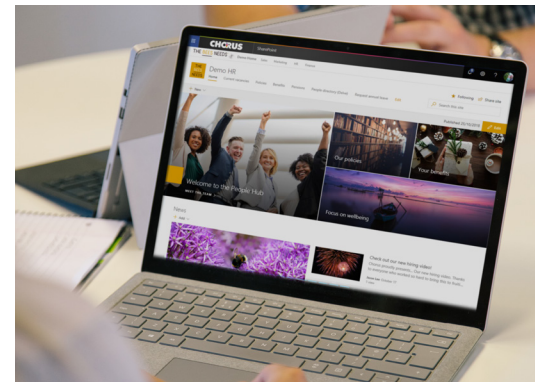
# Modern sites vs classic sites for SharePoint Online

SharePoint is currently going through the biggest period of change in its 18-year history, with the introduction – and continuing evolution – of a wide-ranging set of architectural updates, radical new templates, user experience overhauls, and modern development techniques.

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When you're planning to deploy or refresh a SharePoint Online environment, one of the first questions you'll need to consider is whether to build your deployment on modern sites or classic sites. In this paper, we'll guide you through the advantages and disadvantages of each approach and explain how to get the most value from a switch to the modern sites model.



## THE JOURNEY

SharePoint has been a mainstay of information management for over 15 years, first as an enterprise server platform and more recently as a core part of the Office 365 cloud offering. Over that time, the capabilities and complexity of the platform have grown exponentially, but the core building blocks have remained the same – at the most basic level, you organise, present, and collaborate on content through sites, libraries, lists, and pages. This formula continues to serve SharePoint and its users well.

Unfortunately, many aspects of the user experience also remained the same. Over time, SharePoint gained a bad reputation with a significant number of its users, as clumsy, frustrating, difficult or awkward to use. Some of this reputation was down to poor implementations, and some of it was down to IT teams failing to engage with users before imposing the system or failing to provide adequate training and support after rollout.

However, some of it was because the platform simply didn't keep pace with modern web development practices. People who spend time on slick, intuitive websites outside of office hours increasingly expect the same experience within the workplace. As a technical consultancy, we got used to clients asking us to “make SharePoint not look like SharePoint”. Organisations wanted the platform, but knew they faced an uphill battle to sell it to their users.

The introduction of SharePoint Online as part of Office 365 expanded the reach of SharePoint, as organisations could gain the benefits of the platform without the overhead of deploying and managing a complex server infrastructure. However, SharePoint Online also introduced fresh challenges for organisations looking to customise their deployments.

Many previously core approaches to SharePoint development, such as master page customisation, are considered bad practice in SharePoint Online (for good reason). CSS customisation – not straightforward on SharePoint in the first place – becomes especially fraught on a

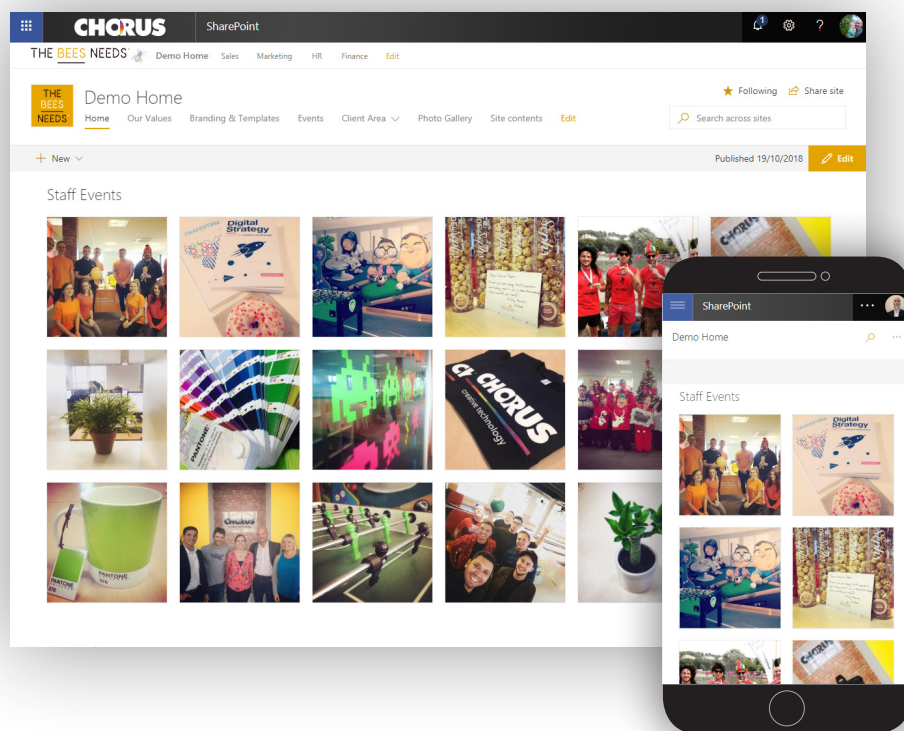
“ Can you make  
SharePoint not look  
like SharePoint”

Every client, ever

constantly-evolving platform whose user interface can change by the week.

Fortunately, many of these concerns are now being addressed. The last 12 months has seen a step change in the user experience you can offer your users in SharePoint Online.

This change is being driven by the release of new, responsive site templates, an entirely new page architecture, new list and library experiences, apps for Android and iOS, and a broad set of new development frameworks and customisation capabilities that align far more closely with modern web development practices. Collectively, these changes are known as “modern sites”.



The older site architectures – now known as “classic sites” – haven’t gone away. Many organisations have invested heavily in these sites and the ecosystems that surround them, and Microsoft isn’t about to abandon these customers. Instead, the two models sit side-by-side, and can happily co-exist within an Office 365 tenancy.

When you start planning a SharePoint Online deployment, you need to determine which model is right for you. Modern sites are the model we recommend in most cases, but there are trade-offs, and to get the most out of modern sites requires a fresh approach to planning, site topology and governance.

## WHAT ARE CLASSIC SITES?

‘Classic site’ is a catch-all term for any SharePoint site that doesn’t use the modern team site or communication site templates. You have a classic site if:

- Your site is more than two years old
- You created your site from the SharePoint admin centre in Office 365
- You’re using the publishing infrastructure features
- Your site has a heavily-customised user interface
- You’re using Project Web App integration
- You’re using any of the legacy site templates – Team site (classic experience), Blog, Developer Site, Project Site, Community Site, Document Centre, eDiscovery Center, Records Center, and so on
- Your site renders badly on a mobile device

## AT A GLANCE: MODERN VS CLASSIC

Let's start by looking at how modern sites and classic sites measure up in a few key areas.

	Classic sites	Modern sites
<b>WHAT ARE THEY?</b>	What most people think of when you say "SharePoint". Publishing sites, classic team sites, Project Web App-integrated sites, document and record centres, and so on.	A new set of templates and associated technologies. Communication sites, modern team sites, and hub sites.
<b>WHAT'S A TYPICAL ARCHITECTURE?</b>	Centrally-managed nested structure with a small number of top-level sites and many nested subsites.	Distributed structure where each site is independent. Support for consistent cross-site navigation and theming, together with support for more traditional intranet-style experiences through hub sites.
<b>WHAT'S THE USER EXPERIENCE OUT-OF-THE-BOX?</b>	Somewhat clumsy and can be slow. Relies heavily on server-side rendering and full-page post backs.	Faster and slicker. Uses client-side rendering techniques and leverages modern UI frameworks such as React.
<b>HOW I MAKE MY SITES RESPONSIVE (MOBILE-FRIENDLY)?</b>	Classic sites are not responsive by default, and master page customisation is not recommended. The usual approach is to engineer responsiveness through CSS and script-based manipulation of page elements.	Modern sites and the modern page architecture are responsive and mobile-ready by default.
<b>CAN I CUSTOMISE THE OVERALL LOOK-AND-FEEL?</b>	As much as you like. At a basic level, you can apply colour themes and font sets to your site. You can override CSS and use JavaScript-based DOM manipulation to change the overall "chrome" of the site. Using the publishing framework, you can develop page layouts to present structured content in any format you choose.	To a more limited extent. You can apply custom colour palettes and logos to reflect the visual language of your brand, and you can create custom components that provide bespoke experiences within a page. However, you cannot, for example, apply custom fonts across the site or change the navigation style of your site. Overriding CSS on modern sites is not supported.
<b>WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONAL DIFFERENCES?</b>	In information management terms, the core building blocks are the same – libraries, lists, content types, columns. Classic sites support a greater variety of built-in lists, such as announcements, discussions, and surveys. Project Web App integration requires classic sites. Some third-party add-ins only work on classic sites.	Modern sites offer better integration with other Office 365 applications, such as Office 365 Groups (team mailboxes and calendars), Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Forms (surveys and polls), Flow, PowerApps, and Power BI. Team sites can integrate with a wide range of modern web apps – MailChimp, Asana, Zendesk, Twitter, UserVoice, and hundreds more – through Office 365 Connectors.
<b>WHAT'S THE PAGE EDITING AND PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE?</b>	All classic sites support basic page construction through wiki-style text editing and built-in, server-rendered web parts. More sophisticated CMS-style functionality requires the use of the publishing framework, which uses field-based controls and page layouts to provide a structured, somewhat rigid, page editing and publishing process. Supports functionality such as publishing schedules and approval processes.	Modern sites provide a brand-new page architecture that makes it easy for any user to build a responsive page using simple building blocks and a drag-and-drop interface. The emphasis is on providing a more informal, flexible and engaging experience.

## MODERN SITES: QUICK TOUR

Modern sites come in two main flavours: communication sites and modern team sites. You can also promote either site type to be a hub site. Let's take a closer look at each of these.

### COMMUNICATION SITES

#### Who's it for?

Communication sites are a good choice when you want to share information with a broader audience – in other words, you have a small number of contributors and a larger number of consumers.

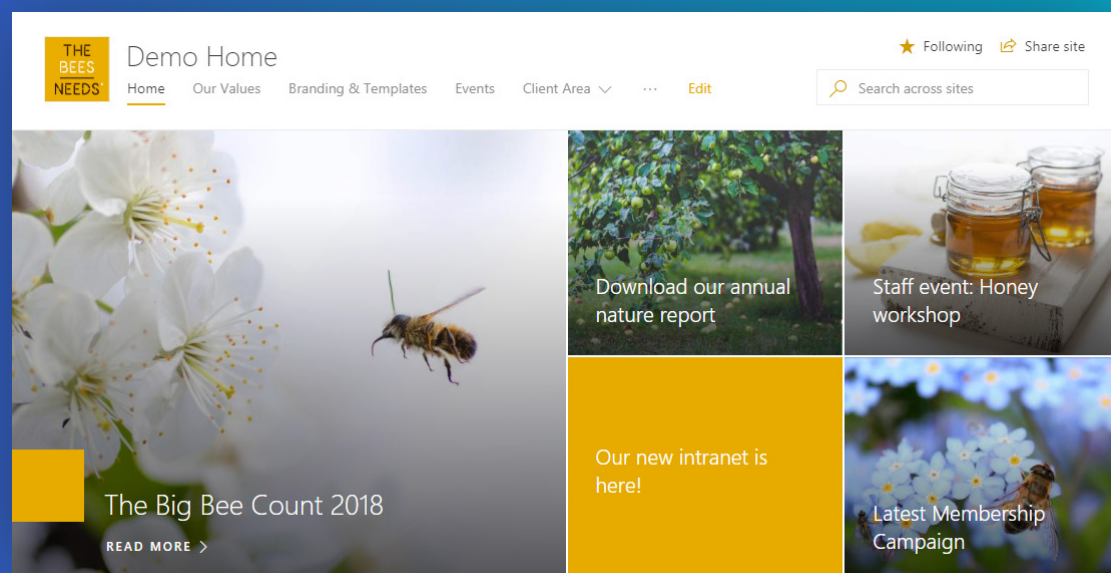
The emphasis is on information dissemination. For example, if a Human Resources team wants to share forms, policies and people news with the rest of the organisation, a communication site is an effective way to do it.

#### What do you get?

Communications sites give you get a responsive site template that makes it easy to create visually-compelling pages, with the help of engaging components such as the full-width, image tile-based Hero web part. Communication sites put an emphasis on information dissemination, with rich user experiences for news, events, and any other content.

The core information management building blocks – libraries, lists, content types, columns, and so on – are available in all classic and modern site templates, including communication sites

### COMMUNICATION SITES



Hero web part on a communication site home page

## MODERN TEAM SITES

### Who's it for?

Modern team sites are useful when you want to provide a collaboration platform for a small team. If most or all of the people who use the site will be active contributors, a modern team site is most likely a good choice. For example, if you're working on a project and you want to store project-related documentation and correspondence in a single, central location, a modern team site can help you to do that.

### What do you get?

Modern team sites include all the core information management building blocks in a responsive, engaging site template. They also include a range of capabilities that are designed to aid collaboration, such as a team mailbox, team calendar, a team planner, a OneNote notebook, and so on.

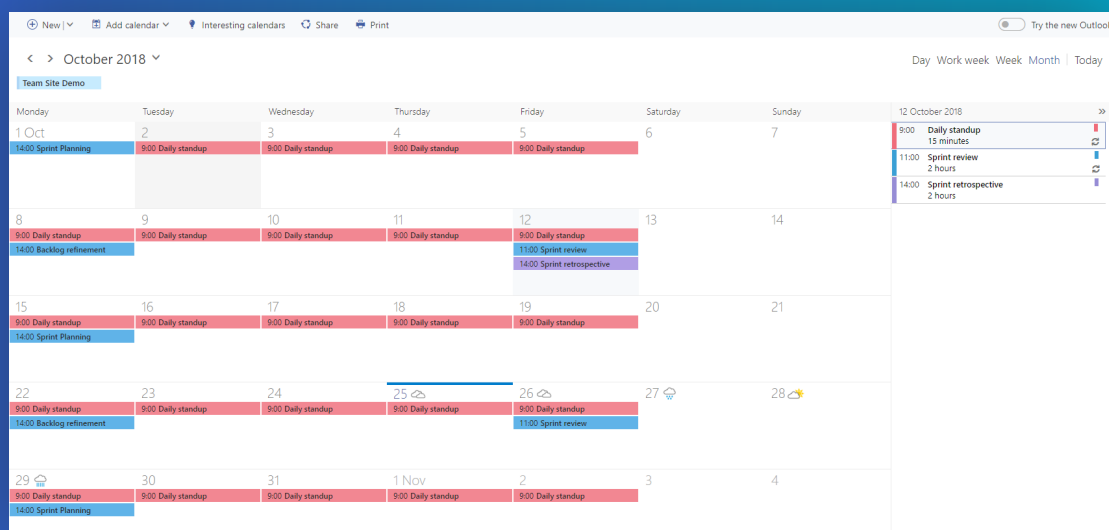
To provide these integrated capabilities, SharePoint creates an Office 365 Unified Group in your directory to tie all these different services together. Modern team sites also support integration with a wide range of third-party apps and services through Office 365 connectors.



### QUICK TIP

When you create a new team in Microsoft Teams, Office 365 creates a modern team site behind the scenes to store your team content

## MODERN TEAM SITES



Team calendar for a group-connected team site

## HUB SITES

### Who's it for?

Hub sites are useful when you want to provide a consistent navigation and look-and-feel across multiple sites. In large organisations that create sites for each business function or unit of work, hub sites provide a way of grouping these sites within a department – for example, a Human Resources hub could provide a common theme and navigation across a recruitment site, a manager portal, a policies site, and an employee benefits site.

In smaller organisations, hub sites can link several individual sites to provide a more joined-up and consistent intranet experience.

### What do you get?

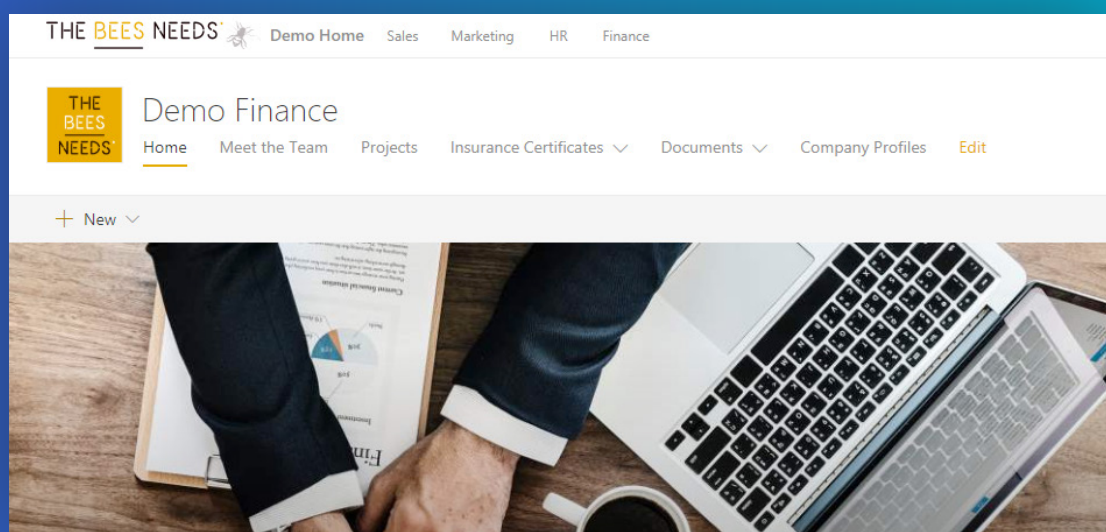
A hub site starts life as either a communication site or a modern team site (if you're not sure, use a communication site), and you retain these capabilities when you promote it to a hub site.

A hub site gives you an additional global navigation bar and a hub logo at the top of the page. Once you've created a hub site, you can join other modern sites to the hub. Any sites that join the hub inherit the global navigation bar and logo, together with (optionally) the colour palette of the hub site.

Permissions are managed on individual sites.

Joining a hub does not change who can access the site

## HUB SITES



Hub site navigation menu, at top of page



## PAGE EDITING EXPERIENCE

One of the most common complaints on classic sites is the user experience. Historically, most SharePoint customisation projects focus on user interface customisation: most front-end developers can make a classic SharePoint site look nice and render responsively with custom CSS and custom script.

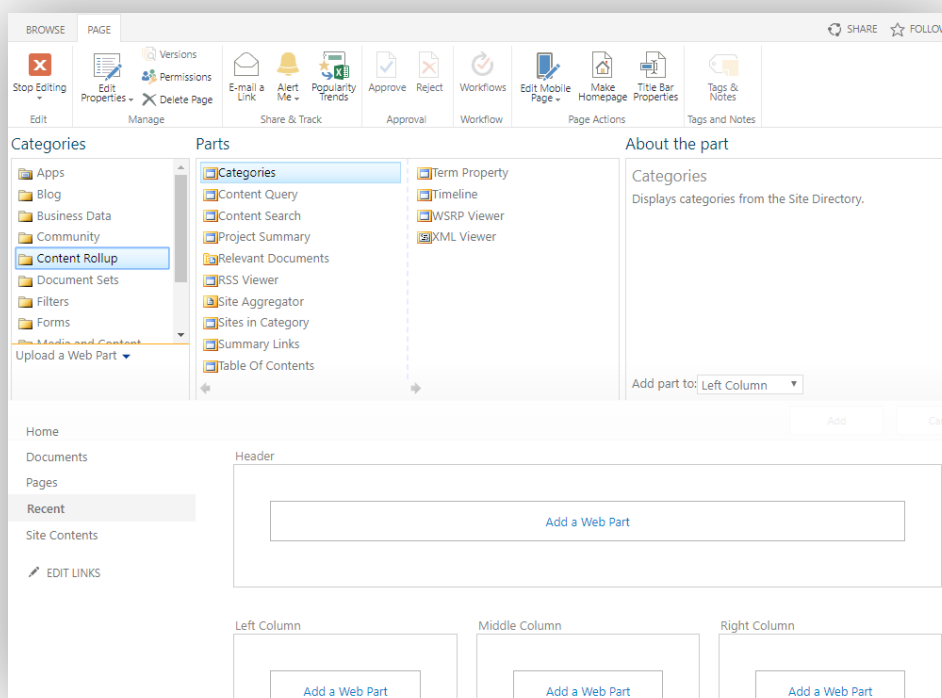
Improving the user experience – what it's like to actually use the platform – is a far bigger challenge. Modern sites provide that radically improved user experience, and one of the areas where the change is most evident is in the page editing and publishing process.

**On classic sites, there are three main types of page:**

### CLASSIC SITES: WEB PART PAGES

These enable you to build a page by adding web parts (reusable components or widgets) onto predefined zones on the page. As a concept this is fine, but the user experience hasn't changed much since web parts were introduced in SharePoint 2003 – it feels clumsy and frustrating. For example, adding a web part or editing the properties of a web part triggers a full page post-back.

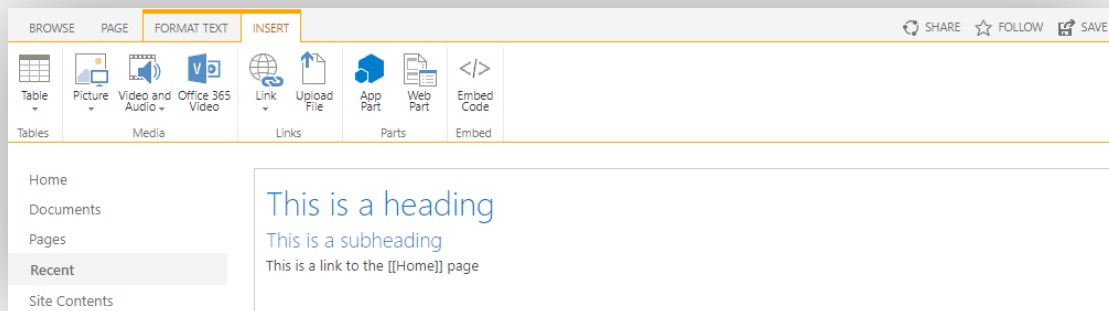
The built-in web parts for classic pages are largely not responsive. If you absolutely need to make a classic site responsive, you will probably need to develop alternatives to built-in web parts



Editing a web part page on a classic site

## CLASSIC SITES: WIKI PAGES

These are architecturally similar to web part pages, but allow you to add rich text and media using an Office 2010-style ribbon and some wiki editing conventions.



Editing a wiki page on a classic site

## CLASSIC SITES: PUBLISHING PAGES

These provide Content Management Service (CMS) functionality through page layouts, which effectively map content from structured list fields to an HTML layout. This provides a rich set of possibilities – because the source content is highly structured, it lends itself to customisations in areas such as content targeting or news aggregation.

The screenshot shows the SharePoint Publishing page editor form. It includes several fields: 'Article Page Image' with a 'Type the Web address' field containing 'https://www.sharepoint.com/sites/uat/PublishingImages/572897.jpg?height=600&width=800' and a 'Type the description' field containing 'Survey results'; 'Article Date' with a date picker set to '22/10/2018'; 'Title' with the text 'Staff engagement survey: your results'; 'News Item Summary' with the text 'The results are in! Thank you to everyone who took part.'; and 'Contact' with the text 'SharePoint Test1'.

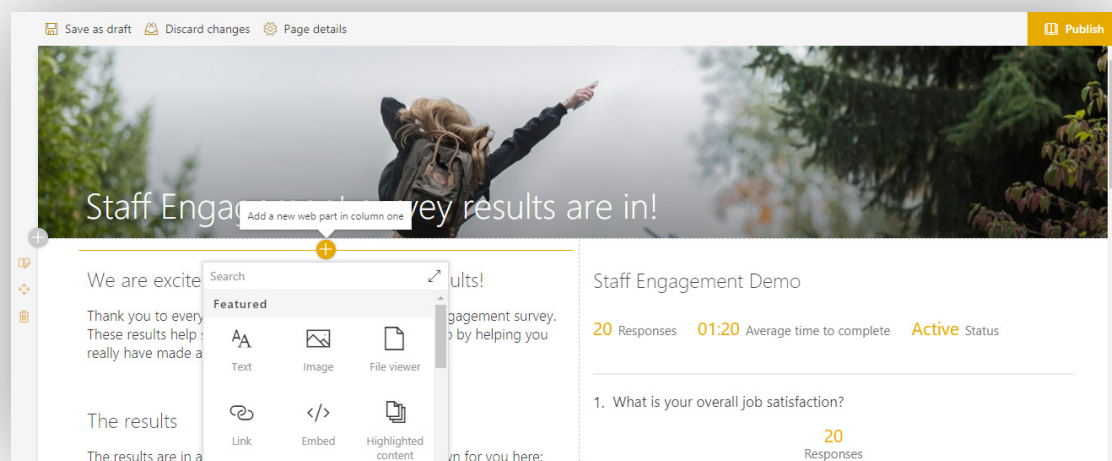
Editing a publishing page on a classic site

Unfortunately, the functionality is showing its age. It was introduced in Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007, which in turn inherited the functionality from Microsoft Content Management Server 2002.

The editing experience feels clumsy and inflexible, the user interface gives you virtually nothing without custom development, and every new page layout requires more developer time.

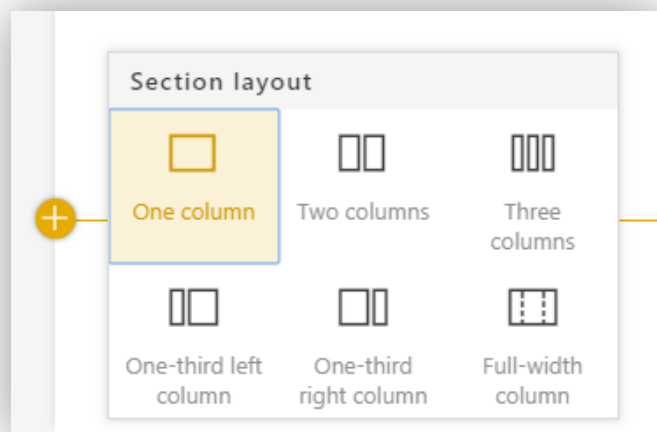
## MODERN SITES: SITE PAGES

In modern sites, we use the flexible new page architecture for all types of pages. The modern page architecture is designed to make it easy for end users to create and edit pages in an intuitive way. You define the layout of the page by adding sections with one, two or three columns, and you build up the content of the page by adding modern web parts within each column – all within a responsive, easy-to-use, drag-and-drop interface.



Editing a modern SharePoint page

You don't have the same degree of control as you would when building a custom page layout, but you do have substantially more flexibility together with a more engaging experience for both the creators and the consumers of your content.



Define your page layout easily

## MEETING REQUIREMENTS THE MODERN SITES WAY

SharePoint began life as a standalone platform. As architects and developers, we'd look to meet every technical challenge by leveraging functionality or extensibility points within SharePoint itself. However, there's a growing recognition that SharePoint Online in particular functions better as an ensemble product.

Office 365 is a rapidly-evolving productivity platform that includes an ever-broader set of applications, which are (in most cases) designed to interoperate seamlessly with each other. As such, rather than trying to do everything in SharePoint, the modern approach is to let each app do what it does best – leverage Exchange Online for calendars, Forms for surveys, PowerApps for forms, Flow for process automation, Power BI for reporting, and so on. This requires a different mindset when you're planning deployments but provides a better overall experience for your users.

The following table shows some common scenarios and compares typical solutions for classic sites and modern sites.



Scenario	Classic sites approach	Modern sites approach	Verdict
<b>COMPANY PORTALS</b>	Large site collections with nested subsites and inherited navigation	Granular, standalone sites with global navigation provided by hub site membership or SharePoint Framework extensions	The modern approach has several advantages. Organisations grow and evolve over time. Restructuring nested subsites is difficult, changing hub site affiliations is easy
<b>NEWS &amp; PUBLISHING</b>	Publishing site template, custom page layouts and custom CSS	Communication sites with custom themes, modern pages, native news capabilities	The modern approach provides a superior user experience and costs less to implement and maintain. Modern pages don't have all the functionality of classic pages but are rapidly catching up
<b>FORMS FOR BUSINESS PROCESSES</b>	InfoPath, customisation of native SharePoint list/library forms, third-party solutions	Form creation and customisation with Microsoft PowerApps	InfoPath is deprecated. Native SharePoint form customisation is error-prone and difficult to integrate with modern development practices. PowerApps provides a capable, web-based form-building solution

Scenario	Classic sites approach	Modern sites approach	Verdict
<b>BUSINESS PROCESS AUTOMATION</b>	SharePoint workflow (2010 or 2013 platform) through SharePoint Designer or Visual Studio	Microsoft Flow or Azure LogicApps, with connectors to SharePoint lists and libraries and other services as required	The SharePoint workflow platform has various issues, such as no support for error handling and no support for application lifecycle management. Flow and LogicApps provide a more robust alternative
<b>CALENDARS</b>	SharePoint calendar app (essentially a SharePoint list template)	Exchange calendars associated with modern team sites through Office 365 Unified Groups	Exchange is far better at calendars than SharePoint lists are
<b>SURVEYS</b>	SharePoint survey app (essentially a SharePoint list template)	Microsoft Forms. Both surveys and response summaries can be surfaced on modern SharePoint pages through web parts	Microsoft Forms provides an intuitive and easy-to-use survey builder. It's a superior experience to native SharePoint surveys
<b>DISCUSSIONS AND FORUMS</b>	SharePoint discussion board app (essentially a SharePoint list template), site newsfeeds	Microsoft Teams, Yammer, Office 365 Unified Groups	SharePoint discussion boards and site newsfeeds provide a very limited social experience. Microsoft Teams, Yammer, and Office 365 Groups provide a richer and more engaging feature set
<b>CUSTOM HEADERS AND FOOTERS</b>	Master page customisation (not recommended) or script injection	SharePoint Framework extensions	SharePoint Framework extensions are more transparent, more robust and more maintainable than the script injection approach



#### QUICK TIP

The same principal applies to information management policies and content classification. The Office 365 Security and Compliance Centre offers far better unified alternatives to the native "classic" SharePoint features in these areas

## CUSTOMISATION & DEVELOPMENT

### FOR MODERN SITES

You can customise almost every aspect of the look and feel of a classic SharePoint site. You are free to override CSS classes, inject global script-based customisations, build page layouts from the ground up, and (against the prevailing wisdom) deploy custom master pages. These customisations are complex and require a fairly specialised skillset, and there are a lot of bad SharePoint customisations out there.

You should also bear in mind that, like most software-as-a-service platforms, SharePoint Online is continually updated. There is no guarantee that these updates won't break your customisations.

Customisation options for modern SharePoint sites are more limited by design – it's much harder to create a bad modern site. Any changes to master pages are unsupported. Any CSS overrides, at the site level or at the page level, are unsupported.

Changing the font set used by the sites is unsupported. Script injection techniques that modify the structure of a page are unsupported. Page layouts are made redundant by the new flexible page architecture.

However, you can:

- Create themes that apply a bespoke colour palette to your modern sites

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- Create site scripts and site designs that apply a range of customisations when sites are created, such as applying a logo, applying a theme, creating lists and libraries, or triggering a Flow

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- Develop custom-coded solutions, using the SharePoint Framework (SPFx), that add a header or footer to every page in a site

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- Build custom client web parts (including full-page-width web parts), using SPFx, that editors can add to modern pages to provide any bespoke functionality within a SharePoint page. (You can also add custom client web parts to classic pages, but the experience is not as seamless.)

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- Customise the way list and library fields are rendered, using a declarative syntax for simple modifications or SPFx customisations for more complex changes

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- Deploy custom actions to the command bar on modern lists and libraries



### WHAT IS THE SHAREPOINT FRAMEWORK (SPFX)?

The SharePoint Framework (SPFx) is a framework that enables developers to create, build and package client-side customisations for SharePoint.

These customisations can include fully-configurable client web parts, custom headers and footers, custom field renderers and custom list commands. SPFx components work in a similar way to single page applications (SPAs), in that each component is compiled into JavaScript and runs entirely within the end user's web browser (no server-side code).

SPFx empowers developers to create modern custom experiences for SharePoint using any JavaScript framework – React, Angular and Vue are the “big three” at the time of writing.

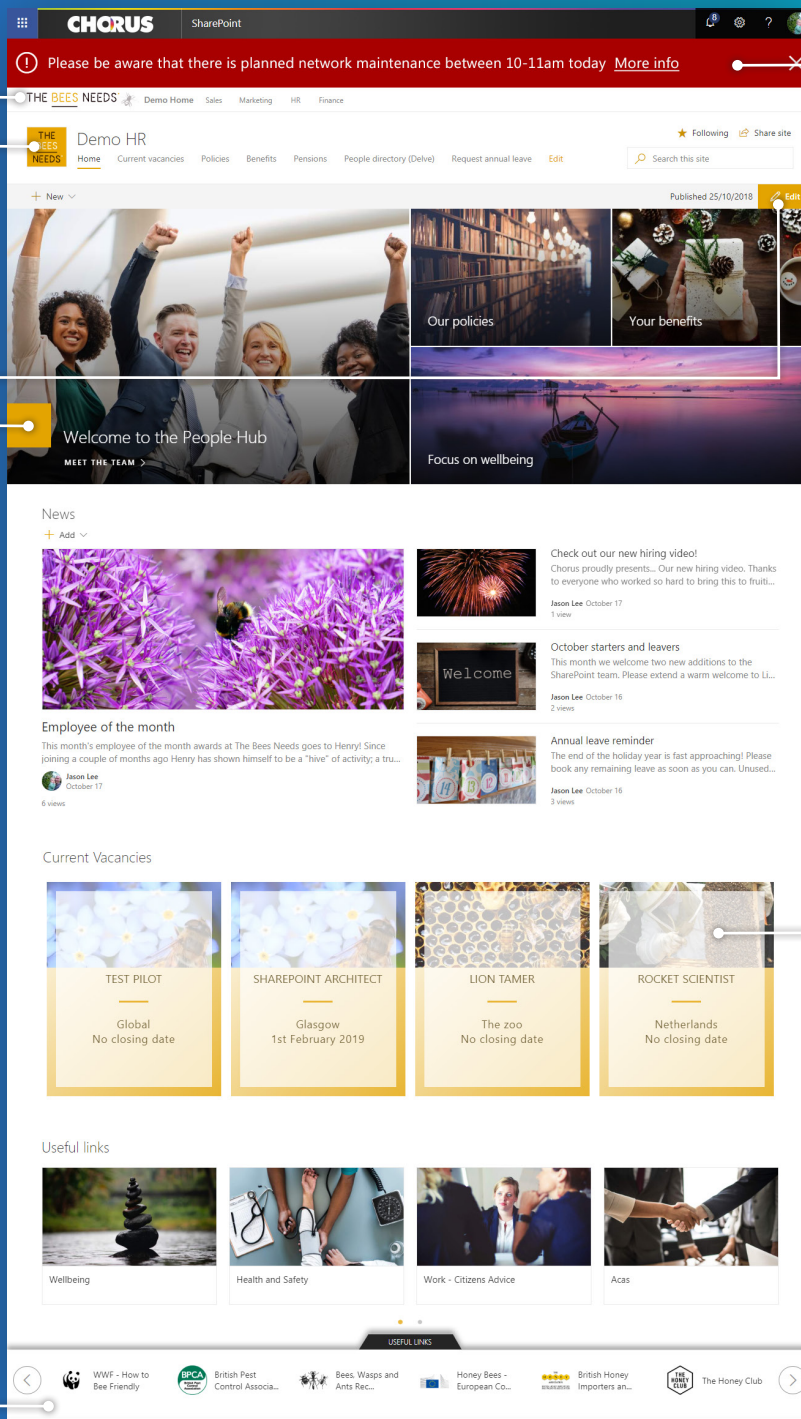
The following diagram shows a summary view of the page elements you can customise on a modern site:

PAGE CUSTOMISATION

Add hub and site-level logos

Apply custom colour palettes to reflect your brand

Inject custom components footer placeholders on every page



Inject custom components into header placeholders on every page

Create custom modern web parts and use them alongside built-in web parts

## ARCHITECTURE & GOVERNANCE

### FOR MODERN SITES

SharePoint architecture and governance are broad topics that deserves their own white papers, but there are a couple of key points to consider in the context of a classic sites versus modern sites discussion.

#### SELF-SERVICE SITE CREATION

First, if you've started to explore modern sites, you'll have noticed that by default any user can create a group-connected team site or a communication site from the SharePoint home page (you can disable it at the tenancy level if you want to). This sometimes causes consternation among IT managers who are used to managing top-level site creation centrally from the admin centre.

However, there is a broader trend in technology where users have easy access to a wide range of modern, web-based collaboration, productivity and cloud storage tools. As a result, many organisations have seen a rise in shadow IT, where employees use a range of external platforms to store, share and transfer files.

If you don't provide employees with easy access to modern collaboration and productivity tools within your organisation, you risk driving them towards external services over which you have no control. It's often better to relinquish some control over exactly how and when users create collaboration spaces in order to keep them within an environment that gives you access to a broad range of security and compliance controls.

You might also be concerned about site proliferation. The number of modern sites within an Office 365 tenancy can grow rapidly, but this doesn't in itself present a problem. Users only see sites that they have access to, and by default a new site is only accessible to the person who created it – so there's no sprawl of sites creating noise for users.

As administrators, you have a wide range of governance and compliance tools – you can apply site classifications, you can create policy labels for different types of information and apply them automatically based on various criteria, you can create data loss prevention (DLP) policies that help to prevent users from inadvertently sharing personally-identifiable or confidential information, you can use eDiscovery tools and place holds on content pertinent to investigations or disputes, and you can run reports on what sites are created and how they are used.



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**If you don't provide employees with easy access to modern collaboration and productivity tools within your organisation, you risk driving them towards external services over which you have no control**

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You can also take control of sites at any point, for example if the creator of a site leaves your organisation. Allowing users to drive site creation based on requirements, rather than imposing a top-down structure, actually helps to encourage good information management practices such as clear ownership and a reduction in the proliferation of stale or redundant content over time.

## SITE TOPOLOGY

The second point relates to site topology. Classic SharePoint sites are often created as nested structures, with few (sometimes just one) site collections and many subsites nested within them. The nested structure of the subsites is often designed to reflect the hierarchical structure of the organisation, for example by creating sites and subsites for divisions, departments and teams.

Some administrators like this model, as it allows administration of the sites to be managed centrally. However, it also causes problems:

- Subsites are tightly bound to their parent site and site collection, and making changes to that structure (for example moving a team to a different division) can cause difficulties
- Permissions and permissions inheritance are often customised in several places, leading to a proliferation of groups and role assignments within the site collection. This can make effective site management and security audits more challenging
- Many features are scoped to the site collection level, making targeting different functionality to different sites more difficult
- Site collection administrators have overriding access to all content within all the sites and subsites in the site collection, regardless of how permissions are configured. This is not always desirable



.....

You can still create  
subsites within modern  
sites if you want to – but  
just because you can  
doesn't mean you should

.....



By contrast, modern sites are designed to work as standalone sites – in technical terms, each site exists as a top-level site in its own site collection.

You determine how users browse between your sites through the navigation menus and links you provide – remember that navigation structure does not have to be tightly bound to physical structure. You can bring multiple sites together by creating hub sites and joining other sites to the hub. This enables hub members to share a common, global navigation and logo, and optionally a common theme, as well as supporting enhanced experiences such as aggregation of news articles across the hub.

From an administration perspective, this new architecture makes your life easier. Sites are typically smaller and more granular, and permission structures within each site are typically far more straightforward.


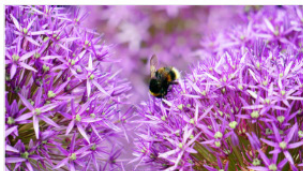




You also have far more flexibility in how you create relationships between sites. Adding or changing navigation links is far more straightforward than changing the physical structure of nested sites. You can also move a site between hubs with ease.



Navigation structure does not have to be tightly bound to physical site structure

News See all

+ Add

 <p><b>Demo Home</b> Christmas Party 2018</p> <p>Lisa Curry 7 days ago</p>	 <p><b>Demo HR</b> Employee of the month</p> <p>Jason Lee 17 October 10 views</p>	 <p><b>Demo Finance</b> Pension updates</p> <p>Henry Collet 17 October 7 views</p>	<p><b>Demo Home</b> Staff Engagement survey results are in!</p> <hr/> <p><b>Demo HR</b> October starters and leavers</p> <hr/> <p><b>Demo HR</b> Annual leave reminder</p> <hr/> <p><b>Demo Finance</b> Year End 2018</p> <hr/> <p><b>Demo Home</b> We've launched our Big Bee Count!</p> <hr/> <p><b>Demo Home</b> Employee of the month</p>
 <p><b>Demo HR</b> Check out our new hiring video!</p> <p>Jason Lee 17 October</p>	 <p><b>Demo Marketing</b> New company videos &amp; photos launch!</p> <p>Lisa Curry 16 October</p>	 <p><b>Demo Marketing</b> The Bees Needs turns five!</p> <p>Lisa Curry 16 October</p>	

## WHEN SHOULD I CREATE A CLASSIC SITE?

There are still some scenarios in which creating classic sites and using the classic SharePoint experience may be a valid option:

- If you have to customise every aspect of the site layout and page chrome to meet strict brand guidelines – for example, use of a specific set of fonts, precise rules about logo orientation, and so on, you may have to use classic sites and invest in custom UI development
- If you've invested heavily in bespoke development around various search-driven experiences, for example in creating custom display templates, you will be unable to migrate these components to modern sites. (Other components, such as client-side components that leverage script injection techniques, are easier to port to SPFx solutions.)
- If you have created customisations that build on the publishing framework, such as content targeting or publishing approval processes, you will be unable to migrate these customisations to modern sites. (However, note that equivalent functionality is due to reach modern pages over the coming months.)
- If you rely on third-party add-ins, these may not always be compatible with modern sites – check with the supplier
- Project Web Apps integration requires classic sites

In these cases, you may want to consider a hybrid approach – use a classic site template and use the classic experience where you have to, but use modern pages and the modern list and library experiences wherever possible within the site.



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**If your requirements necessitate a classic sites approach, you can still use elements of the modern SharePoint experience within your sites**

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## HYBRID APPROACHES

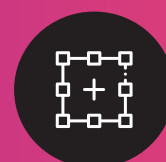
Within a classic site, you can:



Use the modern list and library experience



Add modern pages (except on publishing sites)



Add custom SPFx web parts to classic web part pages

## CONCLUSION

Modern sites have reinvented many aspects of the SharePoint user experience, and the changes are almost universally for the better. Modern sites are easier and less costly to implement, easier to manage, and nicer to work with. However, there are trade-offs. You have less freedom to change the overall look-and-feel of a modern site, and modern sites still provide less functionality than classic sites in some areas.

Despite these limitations, we believe that modern sites should be the default choice for new SharePoint deployments – the momentum is with modern sites and the feature set is growing constantly.

Microsoft also appear to be listening to the SharePoint community when they prioritise their plans for the platform, with frequently-requested functionality regularly making it onto the product backlog. For example, page approval flows are currently in first release, and content targeting is in the pipeline for 2019.

Unless there are compelling reasons why you need to stay within the classic site architecture, we recommend embracing the modern experience for your next SharePoint deployment.



**SOLUTION ARCHITECT**



Modern sites give you a responsive, attractive UI and a slick, engaging UX from the off. The price you pay for that is that you have less ability to customise the overall look-and-feel of the platform. That was most likely a deliberate decision by Microsoft – they need to be able to guarantee that your site will render well on any browser, on any device, with any content. Bad customisations and inconsistent implementations don't just create a poor experience for users, they are damaging to the SharePoint brand.



**TECHNICAL CONSULTANT**



Modern sites give organisations a way of creating attractive and engaging SharePoint sites without investing heavily in UI customisation. This enables you to focus your budget more effectively where it counts – on getting your information architecture right, on automating those business processes, and on targeted development of custom components to meet specific business needs. Classic sites are undoubtedly more configurable – however, the momentum is with modern sites. The feature set is growing all the time and the case for adopting modern sites grows more and more compelling.

## LEARN MORE

### What is Modern SharePoint and Why Should I care?

<https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-SharePoint-Blog/What-is-Modern-SharePoint-and-Why-Should-I-care/ba-p/161941>

### Planning your SharePoint hub sites

<https://aka.ms/PlanningSPhubsites>

### Branding SharePoint: The New Normal

<https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/Microsoft-SharePoint-Blog/Branding-SharePoint-The-New-Normal/ba-p/241855>

### SharePoint Customizations Capabilities Guide

<https://rencore.com/sharepoint-customizations-guide/>

### Overview of the SharePoint Framework

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sharepoint/dev/spfx/sharepoint-framework-overview>



## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions or would like a demo of the new modern SharePoint sites then please get in touch with our sales team today.



[hello@chorus.co](mailto:hello@chorus.co)



01275 398 900



[www.chorus.co](http://www.chorus.co)