

# SHAREPOINT 2016 IN A NUTSHELL



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**SharePoint 2016** is an ambitious release that boasts many new features and options, all of which are potentially highly beneficial to your organization. With serious time-and-money saving implications for business, a full understanding is important, so let's take a quick look at some of the key elements:

## Hybrid

- Creates a “best of both worlds” scenario with many cost-saving options
- Processes huge amounts of data quickly and efficiently
- Seamlessly incorporates data mobility capacity using OneDrive for Business in Office 365

## SQL Server 2016

- Includes multiple mission-critical capabilities
- Enables advanced analytics and rich visualizations on any device
- Comes with comprehensive security features like Always Encrypted technology

## SharePoint Search

- Supports indexing of up to 500 million items per Search Server Application

- Integrates search results from both Office 365 and SharePoint Server on-premises
- Allows one million index items from on-premises SharePoint® farm for every 1TB of pooled storage in SharePoint Online

## Minrole

- Empowers Administrators to define each server's role in a farm topology for performance optimization
- Enables SharePoint to automatically configure services on each server based on those definitions
- Streamlines administrative tasks and places less emphasis on IT intervention

## Zero Downtime

- Enables your organization to maintain up-to-date status on the latest software releases
- Eliminates risk of compromise on service level agreements
- Minimizes downtime or user disruption when fixes or updates are deployed

## Data Loss Prevention (DLP)

- Protects information in a way not previously possible in SharePoint
- Quickly identifies any data matching specifically defined criteria
- Enables the building of a DLP structure across both data and email for comprehensive data security



SharePoint 2016 includes a broad array of options, with implications for business that depend on organizational needs, budgets, and future plans for communication and collaboration development. With that in mind, let's take a deeper look at the highlighted features of the new release.

## Hybrid

The new release has been officially described as “hybrid at the core”, but what does that really mean? Well, the bottom line is that it means more options, with a multi-layered deployment flexibility. With SharePoint 2016 you can deploy on-premises, in the cloud, or using a hybrid approach. It’s simply a matter of choice – based on what you feel is in the best interests of your organization and how the many new options can enhance your ongoing strategies.

Hybrid has been promoted as a “best of both worlds” solution and it’s hard to argue with that. It enables your organization to integrate many services and move workloads to whichever environment suits your organizational strategy and/or basic requirements. The potential to process huge amounts of data quickly, efficiently and at lower cost is powerful, with data mobility capacity using OneDrive for Business in Office 365, and the confident promise of robust security. More on some of these elements below.

## SQL Server 2016

“The first database born in the cloud” promises a complete database platform for hybrid cloud, enabling your business to build, deploy and manage solutions across on-premises and cloud. Certain hybrid elements are made possible with the use of Stretch Database technology, enabling the possibility of “stretching” warm and cold transactional data to Microsoft Azure securely. Essentially this means Azure provides both compute capacity and virtually infinite storage, so that your data is always at hand by remaining completely transparent to your application, while security features such as Always Encrypted technology protect that data at all times.

A close-up photograph of a computer keyboard. The central focus is a large, teal-colored key with a white magnifying glass icon and the word "search" in white lowercase letters. Surrounding this key are several standard white keys, including the semicolon/underscore key, the equals/underscore key, the backspace key, and the arrow keys. The keyboard is set against a light gray background.

Integrate search results across  
Cloud and On-Premises...

# SharePoint Search

Search now supports indexing of up to 500 million items per Search Server Application. Hybrid search capacity uses a search index in Microsoft's cloud datacenters, which returns integrated search results from both Office 365 and SharePoint Server on-premises. It also coordinates with other Office 365 services such as Delve and Groups. An informative take on the potential savings and costs of this solution can be found [here](#).



## MinRole

This new feature is all about reducing the emphasis on IT dependency and streamlining administrative tasks in the face of real-world deadlines and teams with limited technical skills. In technical terms, it means enabling SharePoint farm administrators to define each server's role in a farm topology for performance optimization. The role of the server is decided with the creation of a new farm, or when a server is added to an existing farm. SharePoint automatically configures the services on each server based on its assigned role.

Key benefits are: Simplified deployment, improved performance and reliability, plus simpler farm scalability and capacity planning.

## Zero Downtime

That's what Microsoft calls their new patching process for SharePoint 2016. It's a bold title, but a few sharp observers did notice that the upgrade from the Beta 2 release to SharePoint 2016 Release Candidate was nothing more than a simple patch: a small download rather than a wipe and reinstall process. The zero downtime capability is enabled when the server is set up with a MinRole topology, or a topology with high availability. Software updates come without any compromise of service level agreements, and the promise of minimized downtime and user disruption. For more on this, Microsoft MVP Vlad Catrinescu has [in-depth details](#).







## Data Loss Prevention

Available on-premises or online, SharePoint DLP enables businesses to build a DLP structure across both data and email, making breaches of compliancy regulations quickly identifiable, and protecting information in a way that previously wasn't possible in SharePoint. However, DLP isn't designed to replace existing document lifecycle management processes, but rather to enhance an overall strategy. With exactly that in mind, this is a very carefully structured 'problem/solution' feature. The role of DLP is to enable the identification of any data matching specifically defined criteria.

Once in place, DLP policies can be applied to site collections in the SharePoint environment where they provide policy tips, email notifications, and block content that has been identified. Connecting your on-premises SharePoint deployment to Office 365 will enable Document Fingerprinting, Item-level Encryption, and e-Discovery across on-premises and cloud without migration. DLP is potentially a very important enhancement, with large cost savings for many organizations.

# Is SharePoint 2016 worth upgrading to?

Despite the ambition and potential of the new release, it's really the long term value, the time-and-money saving potential the various aspects of SharePoint 2016 offer your organization, based on your requirements and plans, that will help make your decision. If the effort and cost of the upgrade starts to look like an investment with a potentially large return, your choice is made for you.

The choices are many, more than ever before, but only you can make the right decisions for your organization. Bamboo Solutions is, of course, always here to help, so feel free to [contact us](#), with any questions you might have.

You can also find valuable technical information about what to expect from SharePoint 2016 [here](#).



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