



SharePoint 2013

A Ten-Point Review of
SharePoint 2013 vs. 2010



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Introduction

With its release three years ago, SharePoint 2010 delivered some major changes compared to its 2007 predecessor. With SharePoint 2013, Microsoft continues that trend—introducing new, cutting-edge features for web content management, workflow, search, and big data.

Outlining 10 key points of comparison between SharePoint 2010 and 2013, this article is ideal for any organization that is considering upgrading its intranet from a previous version of SharePoint or even migrating from another platform. This review may prove helpful in assessing whether or not the SharePoint 2013 feature set is sufficiently compelling to warrant action. More specifically, this article explores:

1. Development-Related Changes
2. Licensing
3. Site/Library Template Deprecations
4. Workflow Changes
5. Search (FAST Redesigned)
6. Business Connectivity Services Enhancements and Additions
7. Social Features
8. Mobile Features
9. Business Intelligence Features
10. Web Content Management Features

1. Development-Related Changes

With SharePoint 2010, Microsoft introduced sandbox solutions to help developers deploy code without affecting the whole farm. In SharePoint 2013, sandboxed solutions have been deprecated. While future versions of SharePoint will ultimately replace individual sandboxed solutions with a new app model (SharePoint apps), solution packages (that is, farm solutions) have not been deprecated and appear to be part of the long-term product roadmap.

SharePoint apps are self-contained pieces of functionality that extend the capabilities of a SharePoint website. Apps can communicate with SharePoint via HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and protocols, such as the Open Data protocol (OData) and OAuth Authorization Model.

SharePoint 2013 supports development of three types of apps: □

SharePoint-hosted apps

- Provider-hosted and auto-hosted apps via the cloud
- Apps that combine SharePoint-hosted and cloud-based components

Each time a SharePoint app is deployed, SharePoint 2013 creates an associated website called an “app web.” An app web stores typical SharePoint entities, such as pages, lists, and libraries. Because each app web is an isolated safe container, developers are able to use JavaScript to make client site calls. A great advantage of the app model is that custom code runs on a separate

server—guaranteeing that the farm will not be affected if a custom app creates any performance problems.

One important note: Using the apps model requires claims-based authentication. New for 2013, claims-based authentication is the default security model when installing SharePoint.

2. Licensing

With SharePoint 2013, Microsoft has introduced a few licensing changes. Among the high-level changes:

- A single Enterprise service license costs about \$7,600 per server, whereas Client Access Licenses (CALs) are about \$100 each. Cost per server declines with additional servers. (Refer to [Microsoft license advisor](#) for a more detailed explanation.)
- One of the biggest changes with 2013 is that extranet users no longer need CALs. On-premise farms have no limit for external users.
- For both internal and external users, Microsoft Office Web Apps are free (no Office client needed). One exception: To edit documents, internal users require an Office 2013 license (Standard or Professional).
- SharePoint Server comes in SharePoint Foundation or SharePoint Server; CALs can be Enterprise or Standard.
- No longer branded or licensed separately, FAST has been incorporated into SharePoint 2013. Tapping into the entire feature set, however, requires an Enterprise service license.
- While SharePoint Foundation still offers all of the basic, out-of-the-box features, Enterprise is required for more advanced items, such as access services, Visio services, Excel services, and PowerView, as well as more robust and customizable search features.
- SharePoint 2010 style workflows are available in all SKUs of SharePoint, but 2013 style workflows require Workflow Manager.

These licensing changes are in addition to the traditional hardware and other OS costs incurred for any SharePoint infrastructure.

3. Site/Library Template Deprecations

In addition to sandbox solutions, other notable deprecations in SharePoint 2013 involve some common (and not-so-common) site template types:

- Document Workspace
- Meeting Workspace
- Personalization Site
- Group Work Site Template and Group Work Solution
- Visio Process Repository

Despite being deprecated in SharePoint 2013, these templates will still work properly if migrated from SharePoint 2010. However, that will not be true beyond 2013. Post-2013, these templates will no longer be available or supported, and organizations will need to convert any affected sites before upgrading.

4. Workflow Changes

The Workflow framework for SharePoint 2013 has significantly changed from previous versions. As illustrated, all workflow activities associated with SharePoint 2010 were stored within the SharePoint database (see Figure 1). The SharePoint server also housed the 2010 engine.

With SharePoint 2013, the old SharePoint 2010 engine is maintained as is, but a new add-on called “Workflow Manager” can be downloaded and installed separately. Workflow Manager can run on its own server and has its own respective databases for the manager itself and the Service Bus.

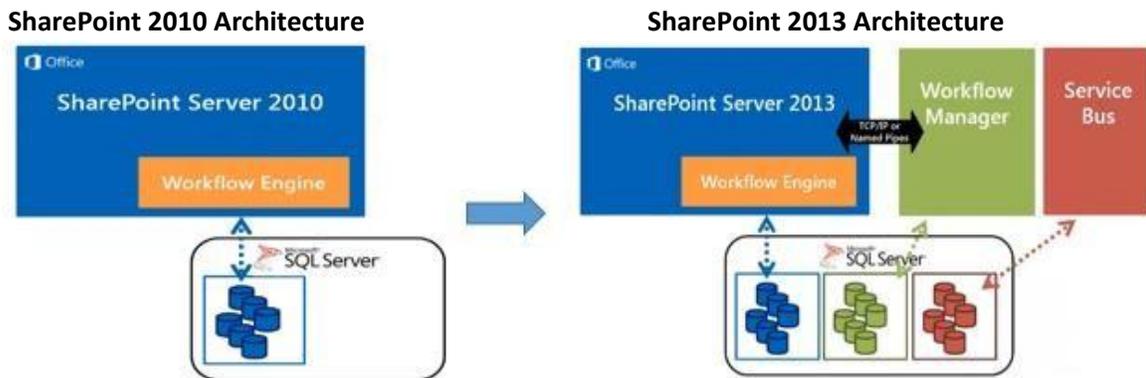


Figure 1: SharePoint 2010 Workflow vs. 2013 Architectural Changes

In SharePoint 2013, creating workflows is easier than ever thanks to the new Task Process Designer canvas (think Nintex). The canvas uses a Visio 2013 add-in within SharePoint Designer 2013.

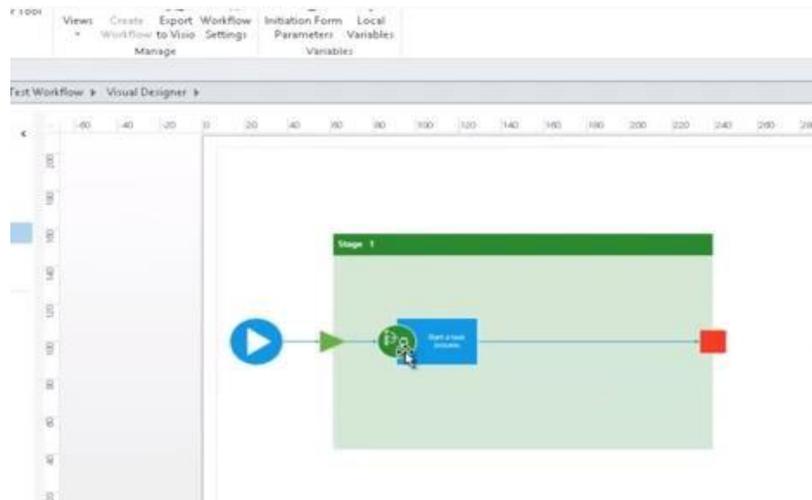


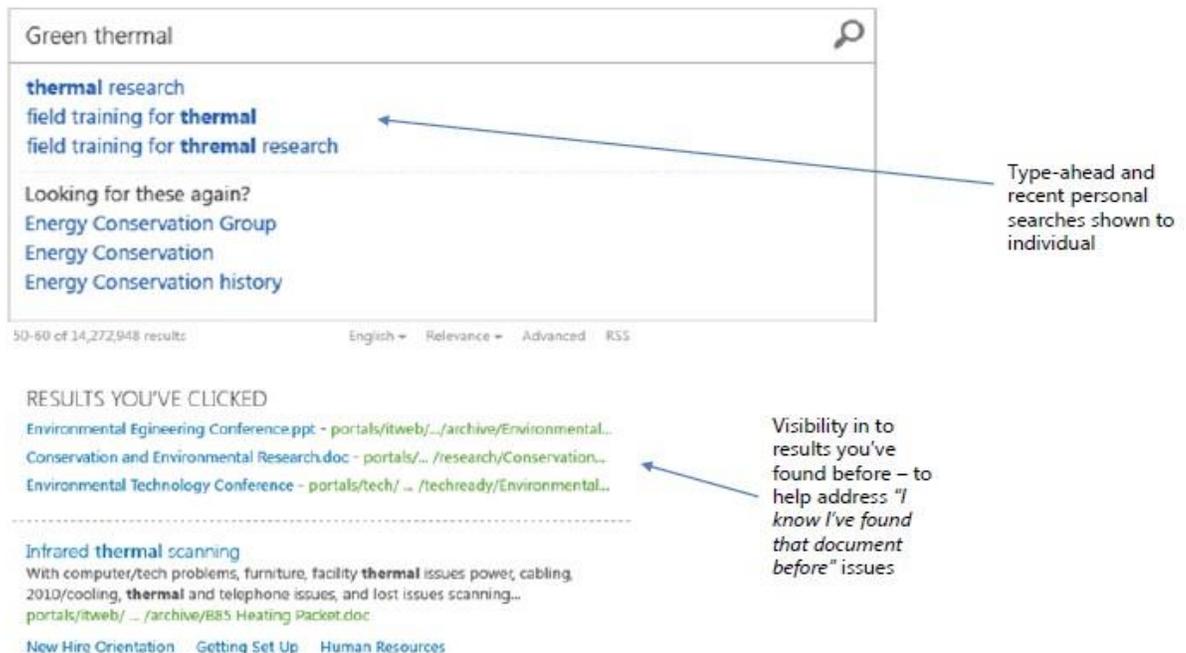
Figure 2: Task Process Designer canvas

5. Search (FAST Redesigned)

In SharePoint 2010, there was SharePoint Search and there was FAST. Organizations might have opted to use FAST for its refinement possibilities and document preview as well as more advanced ranking and sorting capabilities. Of course, as a separate product/license, FAST also had cost implications.

For 2013, Microsoft has created “SharePoint Search”—which incorporates some of the FAST features mentioned above into the cost of SharePoint Server. Even so, the most advanced search options are available only through the SharePoint 2013 Enterprise CAL. For its part, the Standard CAL integrates only a subset of the FAST Search tools into the new search functionality.

One welcome change to Search is the addition of type-ahead functionality and visibility to most recent personal searches.



6. Business Connectivity Services Enhancements and Additions

As in 2010, Business Connectivity Services (BCS) in SharePoint 2013 lets users connect and interface with data external to SharePoint. For 2013, Microsoft has implemented enhancements to BCS, such as:

- SharePoint has long been able to serve up list data. With 2013, SharePoint can now use oData to connect to external sources, as well.
- BDC (oData) model generation is now possible within Visual Studio. Visual Studio can connect to the oData source and automatically generate the BDC model.
- SharePoint apps will now work with BCS

- The new Remote Event Receiver (similar to an event receiver) can react to changes in data hosted in an external system. It can listen for and receive notifications when the external data source changes. That, in turn, can be used to initiate predefined actions based on the changes.

7. Social Features

Each release of SharePoint brings new social features and enhancements. Following its 2012 acquisition of Yammer (www.yammer.com), Microsoft recently released its Yammer integration roadmap¹:

- **Basic Integration (Summer 2013)** – Customers will be able to replace SharePoint newsfeeds link with a link to Yammer.com. Microsoft will make a Yammer app available.
- **Deeper Connections (Fall 2013)** – The Yammer experience will be partially integrated with SharePoint, offering single sign-on capabilities and seamless navigation. Customers will be able to choose between Yammer or SharePoint newsfeeds.
- **Connected Experiences (2014+)** --- In this timeframe, Microsoft will deepen the connections between Yammer and SharePoint—using social, collaboration, email, instant messaging, voice, video, and line-of-business applications in innovative ways.

SharePoint Server 2010 included a discussion list that could be added to sites to facilitate discussions among members. SharePoint Server 2013 expands on the concept by introducing a new Community Site template, which is completely focused on conversations (see Figure 3).

What makes the Community Site template unique is that users can access the site and observe conversations before “joining” a community when they are ready to post. Other noteworthy aspects of this new site template;

- Becoming a member means you are automatically “following” the community site.
- Member photos show up next to all posts.
- “Gamification” options—points, badges, and a “top contributors” leaderboard—are available to encourage participation.
- Designated users can be “gifted” badges to identify them as “Expert” or “Thought Leader.” That way, discussion participants can easily distinguish contributions.
- The template supports image-based categorization of conversations—creating a welcoming environment and encouraging interaction.

¹ This timeline assumes that Office365 will be updated during planned maintenance and on-premise installations will be provided guidance from Microsoft.

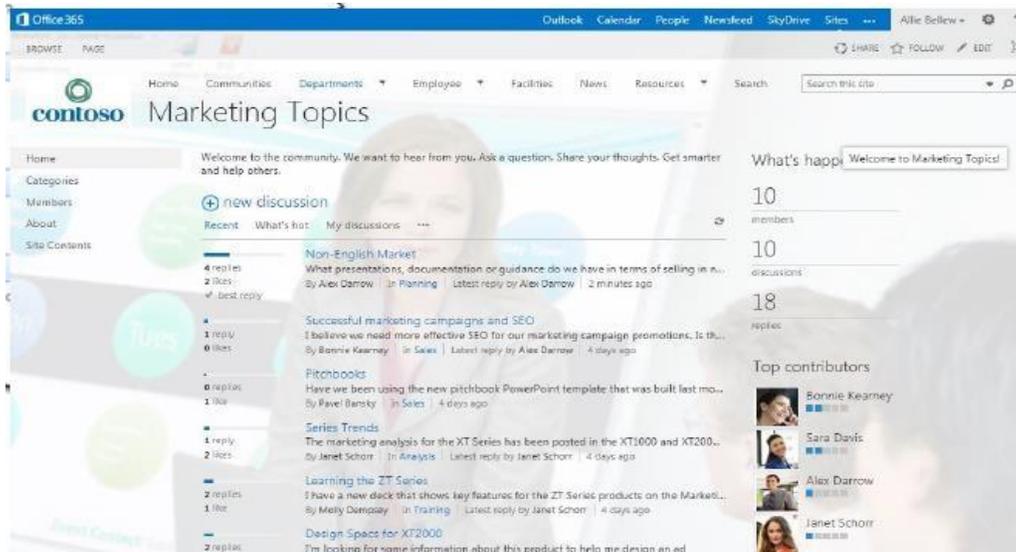


Figure 3 (Community Site Example)

In addition, the newsfeed page in My Site has been improved with new micro blogging functionality that enables users to:

- Participate in conversations by posting comments and replies
- Post pictures and links
- Employ hashtags (starting with the # symbol) to define keywords that users can follow and search for
- Tag users in posts and replies with user mentions (starting with the @ symbol)
- Indicate agreement with comments and replies by clicking “Like”
- Follow people, documents, sites, and tags to customize their feeds

Lastly, with SharePoint 2013, Microsoft has improved collaboration with others outside the workgroup on individual documents. A new “Share” button now appears next to documents. Although this “Share” button allows any user to invite someone to edit an individual document, all invitations must be approved by the site owner.

8. Mobile Features

SharePoint Server 2013 now offers new and optimized viewing experiences across different mobile platforms. Previous versions of SharePoint Server included a single default mobile view, which was auto-generated based on the existing site. That default mobile view was not easily customizable.

With mobile channels in SharePoint Server 2013, users can render a single publishing site in multiple ways—using responsive designs that target different devices. The site and content can be mapped to use different master pages, page layouts, and style sheets for a specific device or group of devices.

SharePoint Server 2013 also offers improvements to the mobile browser experience with the introduction of a few new views, including contemporary view, classic view, and full-screen user interface. Meanwhile, 2013 offers push notifications as a site service that can send device updates, such as a tile or toast notification, to a Windows Phone device.

Also of note is the change in Office Web Apps. Office Mobile Web Apps enables users to open documents in the Mobile Web App by using a mobile browser. With SharePoint Server 2013, Office Web Apps Server is no longer a companion product installed on a computer running SharePoint Server. Instead, Office Web Apps Server is now a standalone server product that still provides mobile browser-based viewers for these applications.

Lastly, 2013 offers new iPad support—enabling clients to view business intelligence content, such as PerformancePoint Web Parts, Excel Services reports, and SQL Reporting Services reports.

9. Business Intelligence Features

The arrival of SharePoint 2013 brings numerous enhancements to business intelligence (BI) capabilities. Most notably, Microsoft has added support for big data. In the past, Excel Services could handle small data sets and relatively complex calculations. The larger the dataset, the more it affected SharePoint performance.

Thanks to updated and integrated PowerPivot technology, SharePoint 2013 allows for much larger data sets. Built on the Vertipaq engine, large data sets can be compressed and filtered while in memory on the server, allowing operations on the data to occur very rapidly.

The Power View data modeling and visualization engine for Excel has also been updated. Users can leverage Power View with large data sets to create visualizations with charts, graphs, runtime data filtering, and slicers.

Additionally, users can now create PivotChart reports without having to include a PivotTable report on the same page.

Finally, Microsoft has added iPad support executives can now access performance point dashboards using intuitive touch controls.

10. Web Content Management Features

SharePoint Server 2013 offers new and improved features for web content management. These features simplify design of publishing sites and enhance authoring and publishing processes. Among the highlights:

- Site owners and designers can now customize global and current navigation menus by dragging and dropping menu items directly on the page.
- Content authors can insert an iframe element into an HTML field on a page. This capability allows content authors to embed dynamic content, such as videos or map directions, from other sites. By default, certain trusted external domains are already approved for use in iframes.

- An integrated translation service lets content authors select content for export for human translation or specify content for machine translation. Through cross-site publishing, translated content can be used across multiple site collections.
- Cross-site publishing facilitates content storage and maintenance in one or more authoring site collections. It also allows for display of this content in one or more publishing site collections. Content changes made in an authoring site collection automatically cascade to all site collections that are reusing this content.
- SharePoint sites can now be branded using external tools, such as Dreamweaver.
- As noted in the Mobile Features section, SharePoint Server 2013 supports targeting different devices, such as smartphones, tablets, and set-top boxes. Designers can create channels that allow a single publishing site to be rendered in multiple ways by using different designs that target different devices.
- It is much easier to create friendly URLs—no IT involvement required.

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