

# A Point of View on SharePoint – Future & Roadmap

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# 1. Introduction

SharePoint is a website-based collaboration system that uses workflow applications, “list” databases and other web parts and security features to empower business teams to work together. More than **200,000** organizations and **190 million** people have implemented SharePoint for intranets, team sites and content management.

## 1.1. SharePoint Journey so Far

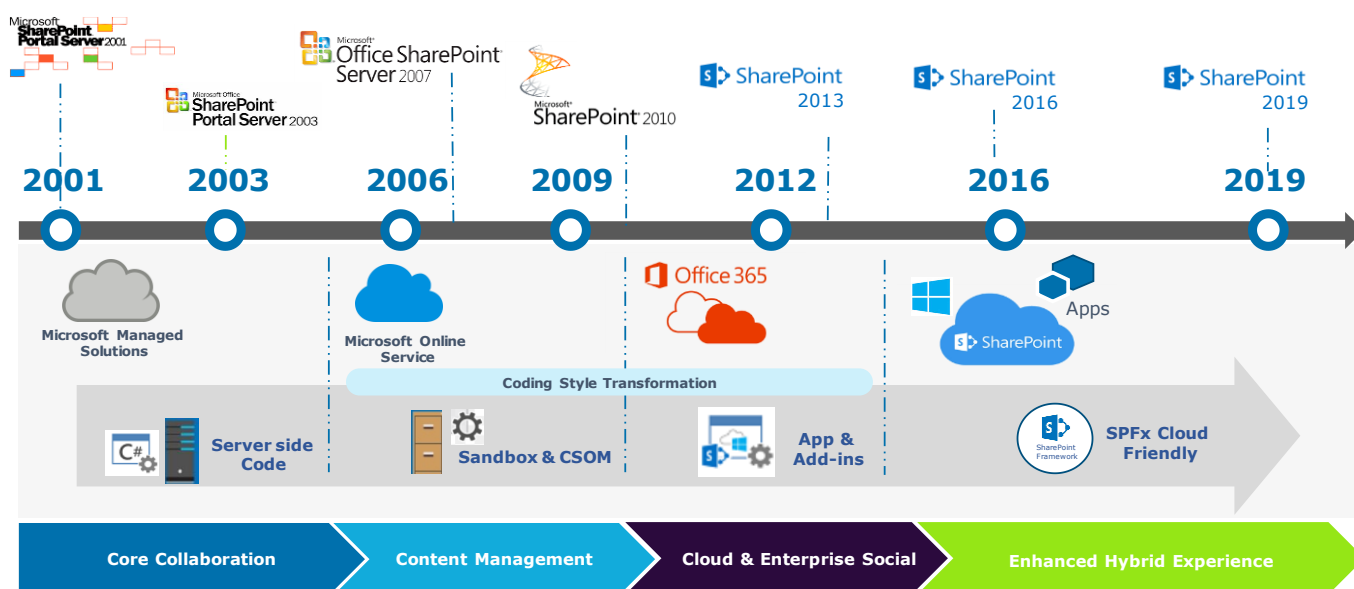


Figure 1

- SharePoint thrived in an entire generation, providing a host of features such as Content Management, Collaboration Suite and simple web site generator for Intranet.
- SharePoint became an in-house communication portal and evolved along each version in its journey from SharePoint 2001 to SharePoint Online
- SharePoint has been a leading platform for enterprises providing a wide array of services such as document storage and management, internal collaboration and communications, business intelligence, intranet portals and workflow management

## 1.2. SWOT Analysis of SharePoint

Strength	Weakness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Strong position and momentum</li><li>▪ Feature Rich offerings</li><li>▪ Strong product support</li><li>▪ Tight integration with other O365 products</li><li>▪ Wide availability of development and implementation skills</li><li>▪ Committed ecosystem of CSP and Resellers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Complexity</li><li>▪ Custom functionality to be redeveloped</li><li>▪ Light users need to purchase full suite of products</li></ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ "Easy Cloud adoption" on the rise</li><li>▪ Integration with other Microsoft products can be further exploited</li><li>▪ Using CSP channel to sell through SMB segment</li><li>▪ Cloudification of legacy collaboration systems to SharePoint online on Cloud.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cloud offerings provide new chance for competition</li><li>▪ Resistance to adopt to Cloud by business</li></ul>

CSP=Cloud Service Providers=Small and Medium Business

## 2. Future Roadmap

Microsoft has defined the future roadmap of SharePoint wherein various components of Office 365 will have seamless integration with SharePoint online.

The diagram below depicts Microsoft Product Roadmap (for SharePoint) for the next 2 years.

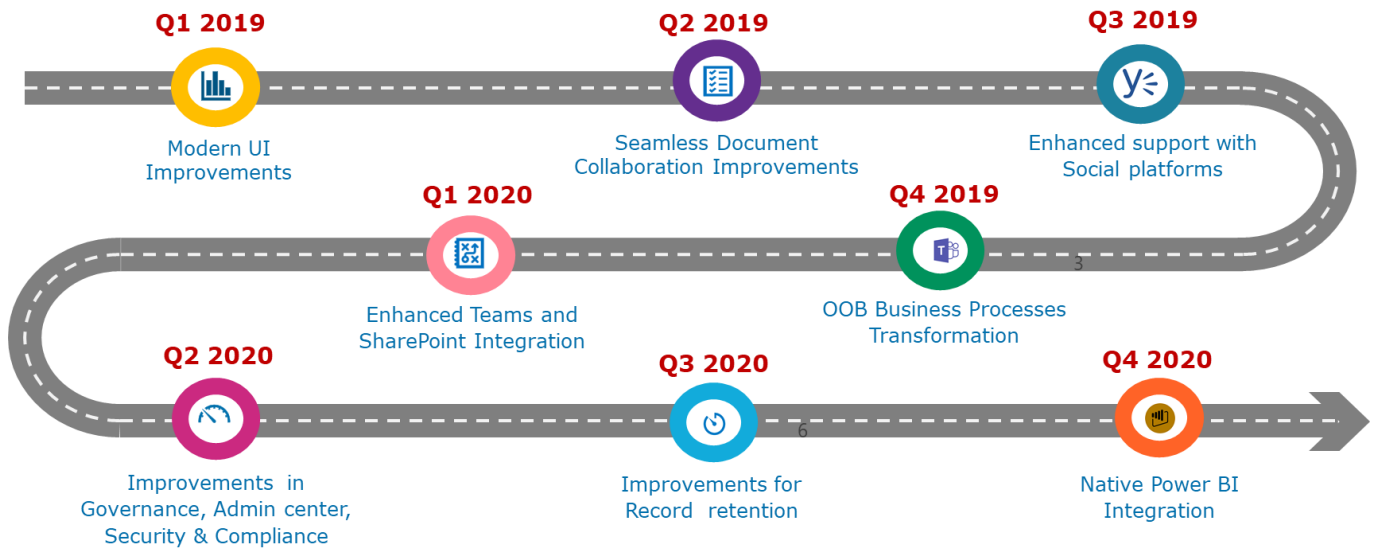
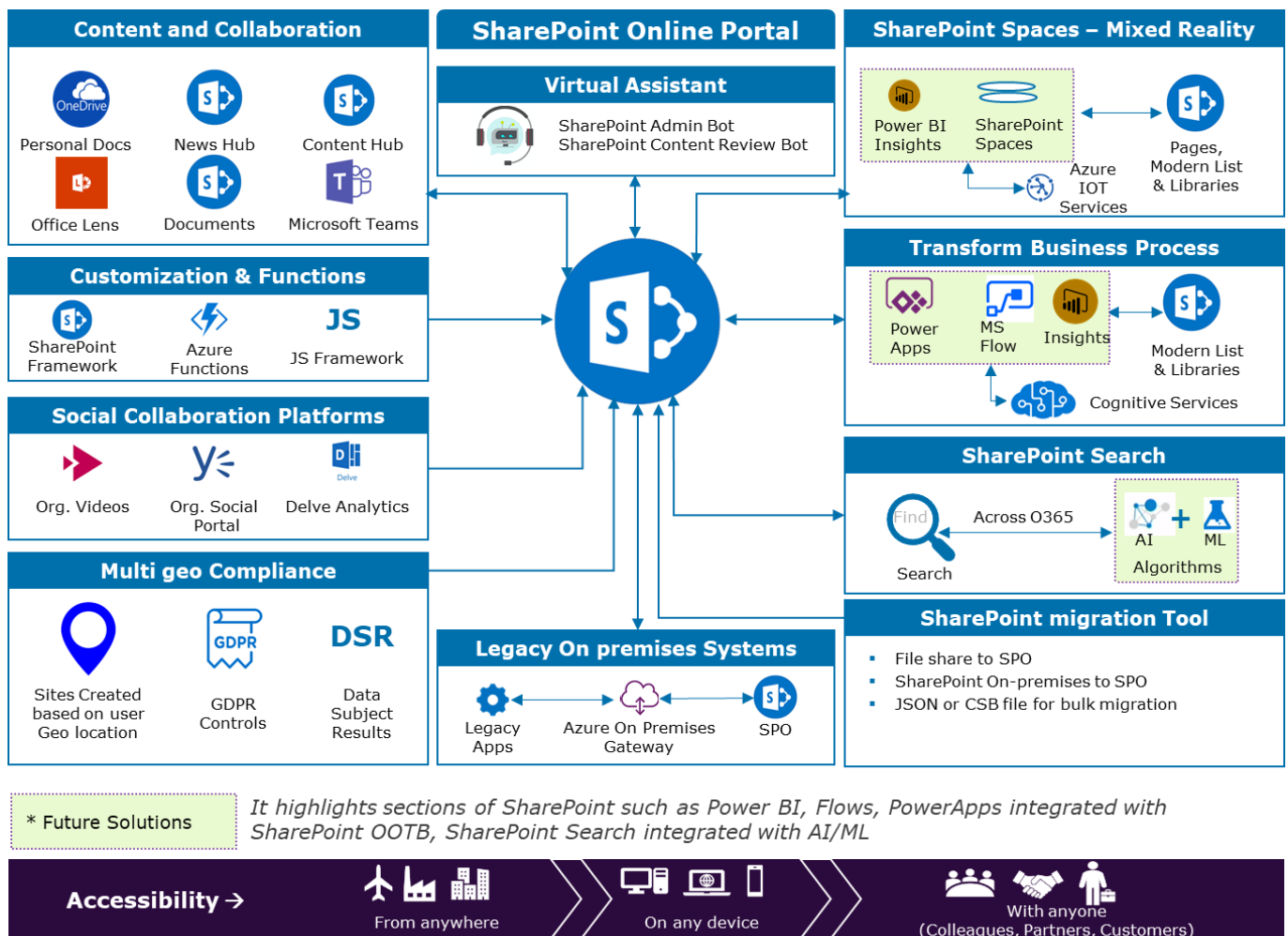


Figure 2

## 2.1. SharePoint as a Technology – The Future

As a technology, SharePoint will continue to exist in the future. However, it will co-exist with other collaboration platforms within the Office 365 suite such as Microsoft Teams and will recede as a content layer (for files, items, videos etc.)



\* All logos used are trademarks of respective owners.

Figure 3

### Key Points:

- In context to Microsoft's new collaboration model, SharePoint Online content services will continue to co-exist with Microsoft teams for a modern collaboration platform
- The future SharePoint applications will use SharePoint Online content services, in conjunction with Azure/Office365 Workloads (such as Azure Machine Learning, Cognitive Services, IOT)
- The security and regulatory aspects of content residing in SharePoint on-Premise will ensure that it will continue to exist, and Microsoft will release its future on-premise versions.

## 2.2. Next Generation Solutions

With SharePoint receding to the background as a content layer, the next generation solutions proposed to customers should be '**Modern Digital Workplace**' solutions. This is explained in the diagram below. While implementing digital workplace solutions, leaders should exploit a unified cloud collaboration strategy and integrate with new age technologies such as 'Machine Learning/AI' to provide an over-all intelligent experience.

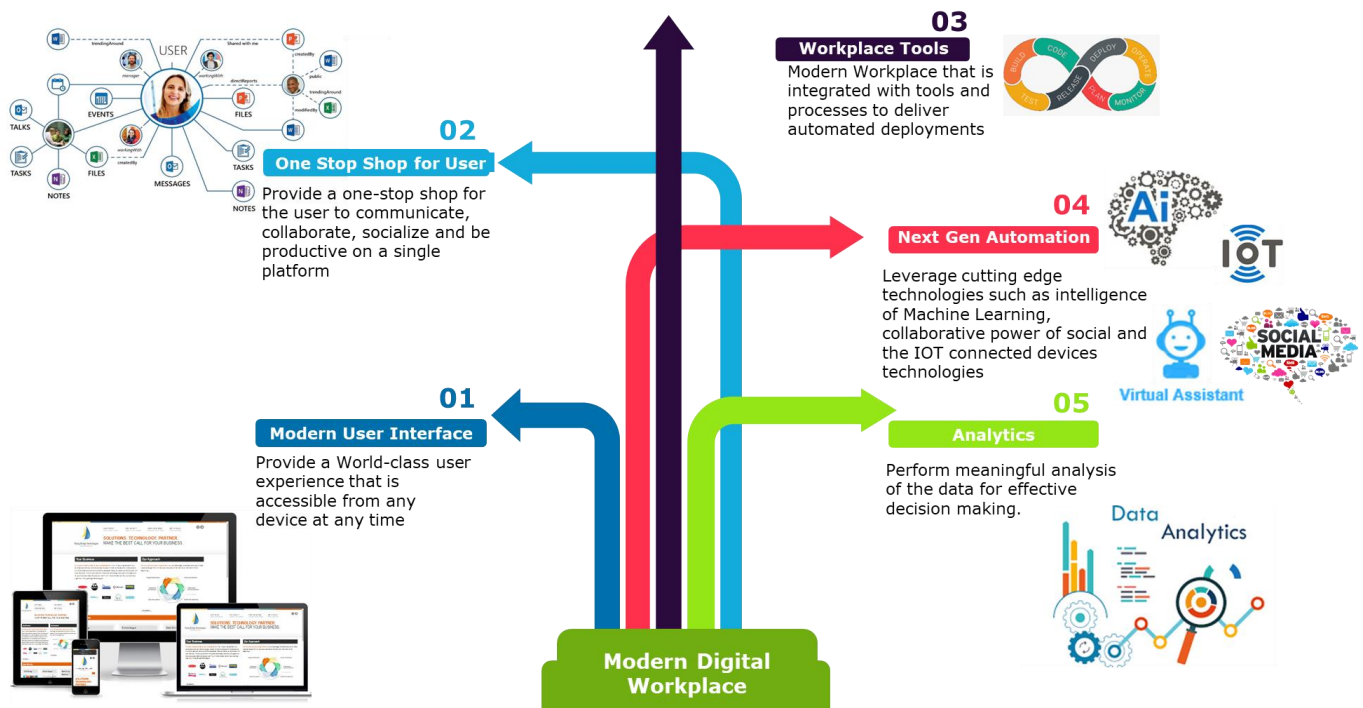


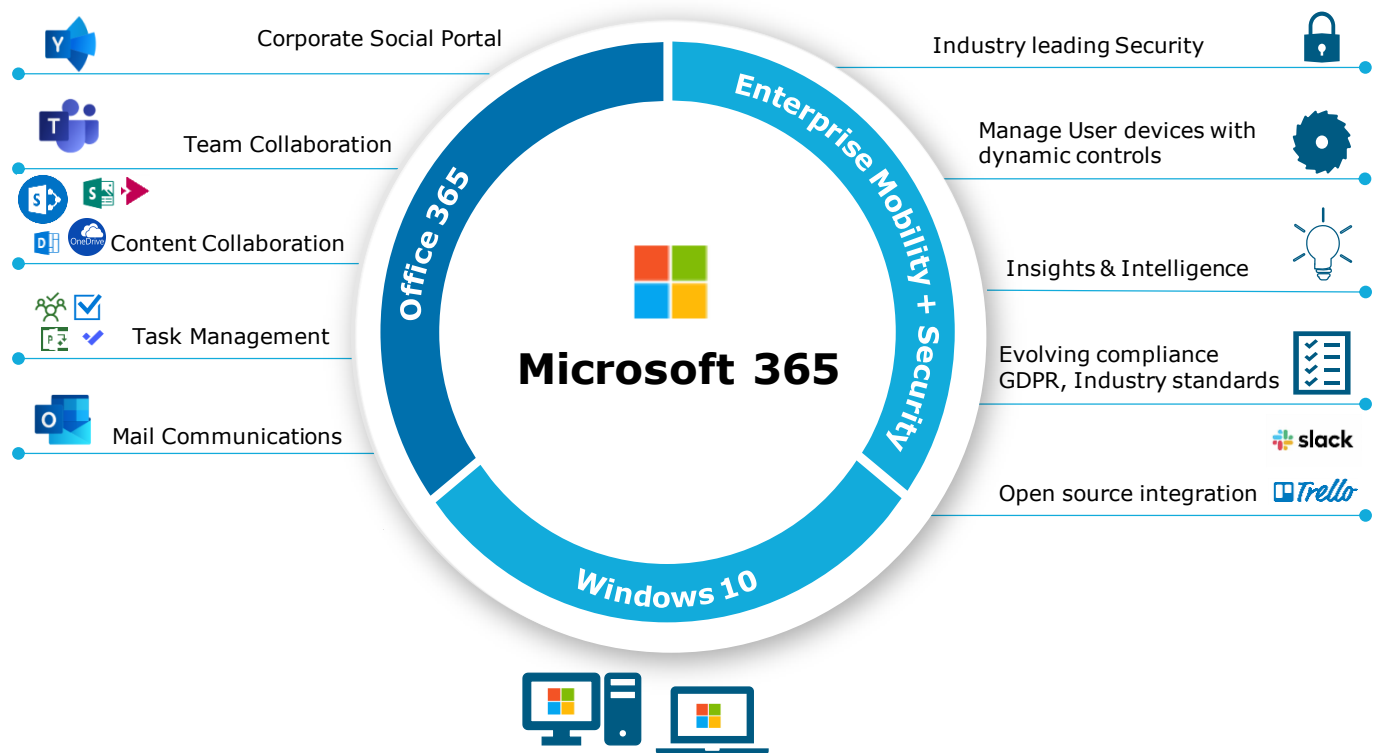
Figure 4

1. **Modern Experience** Interface that is accessed via Omni-channel enables usability, by using SharePoint Modern Sites, MS Teams.
2. **Employee Centric** solutions used for modern users collaboration integrated with Microsoft Teams, MS Graph, Skype etc. for all of their collaboration needs in one platform.
3. **Integrated Dev Process** with usage of system and process to automate deployments. Services such as Azure DevOps can be leveraged to plan software project with Agile methodology and automated code deployment.
4. **Integrate Artificial Intelligence**, IOT in modern workplace solutions. Cognitive Services and Azure Machine Learning models can be integrated with other products to provide intelligence.
5. **Data analytics** for strategy planning and making business competitive advantage. Data visualization and analytics tools such as Power BI can be leveraged.

## 2.2.1. Microsoft 365 – A Modern Digital Workplace Solution

**Microsoft 365** is a complete, intelligent solution, including Office 365, Windows 10, and Enterprise Mobility + Security.

While implementing modern workplace solutions, business can leverage various Microsoft 365 offerings (such as Security, Office 365 etc.) of which SharePoint would co-exist as content/collaboration layer. New age technologies such as 'Machine Learning/AI' will integrate with Microsoft 365 to provide an over-all intelligent experience



\* All logos used are trademarks of respective owners.

Figure 5

- Building a modern digital workplace on Microsoft 365 brings employee engagement, productivity and security benefits for enterprises.
- Microsoft 365 combines the unified PC/mobile device management capabilities of Microsoft Intune, the cloud-based identity and access management (IDAM) of Microsoft Azure Active Directory, the cloud-based productivity and collaboration of Office 365, and the robust security of Windows 10.
- Microsoft Search, available in Microsoft 365, provides an intelligent and relevant search, surfacing content from Windows, Office 365, Bing etc.
- Cutting edge offerings such as Microsoft Cognitive Services can be integrated providing an intelligent experience.



## 2.2.2. SharePoint's role in Modern Digital Workplace

SharePoint resides in the core of the content collaboration strategy in Modern Digital Workplace. All the remaining Office 365 suite of tools, AI, Security are tightly integrated as depicted below:

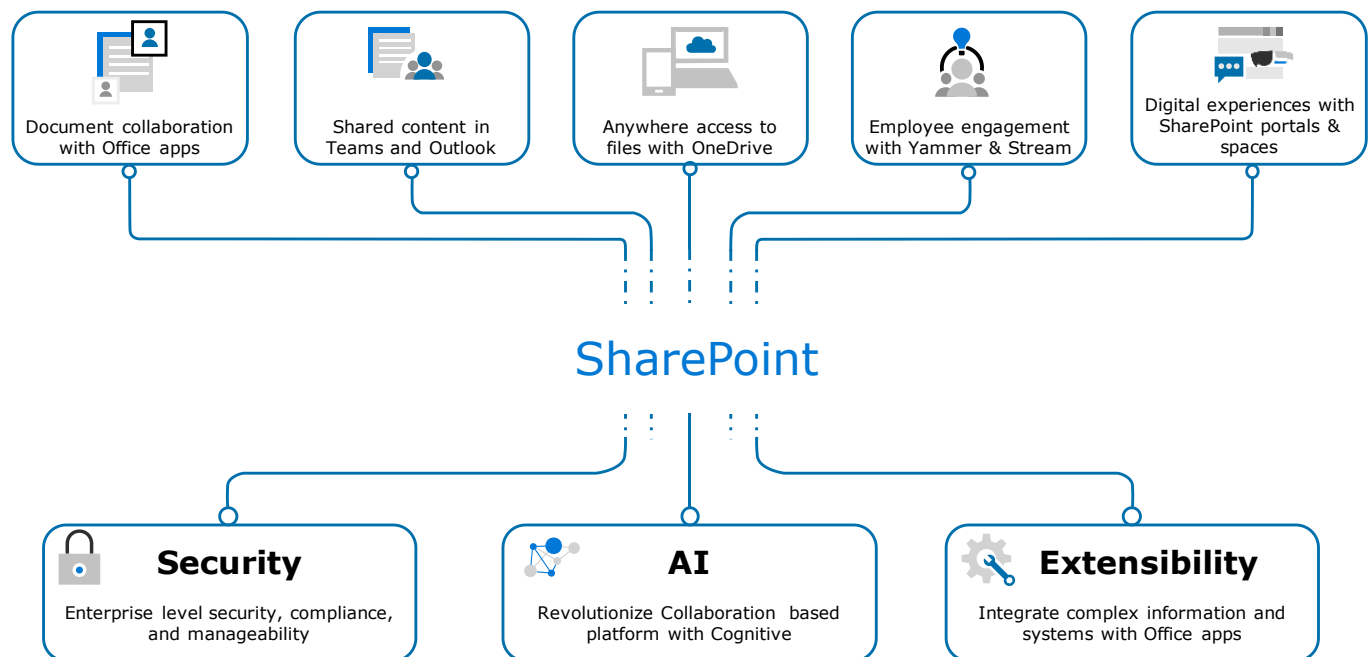





Figure 6

## 2.2.3. Use Cases

Some use-cases for the 'Digital Workplace Solutions' have been explained below:

S.No.	Title	Description	Technology Stack
1.	Cognitive Smart Search	An intelligent search solution that automates the metadata of content residing in SharePoint coupled with voice and auto-suggestion features available on the Search Center.  Example: An enhanced Search site with a voice capability, where in a user can talk and search for content. The Search results are accordingly retrieved based on the user request	 Cognitive Services  Office 365  SharePoint Online
2.	Smart Feedback Analyzer	This solution determines the sentiment of content residing in a SharePoint list. This will help in better and faster decision making.  Example: A travel portal can gain insights about feedback provided by their customers with the sentiment feedback analyzer and take corrective action	
3.	Cognitive Content Summary	This solution unlocks and extracts all the relevant content from various types of files (pdfs, OCR, documents) residing in SharePoint, leveraging Cognitive Search. It then surfaces the relevant summary of the content.	

S.No.	Title	Description	Technology Stack
		Example: An organization can gain summary and insights to huge document libraries comprising of various scanned images, documents pertaining to a topic.	
4.	Connected Experience	<p>A solution that leverages the power of various Office 365 tools (Planner, SharePoint, Flows) and provides a connected and automated solution across various workloads.</p> <p>Example: 'Smart Post' solution integrates LUIS Services, Yammer to create smart conversations. The intent of the post in yammer is identified and automated actions executed in SharePoint/Planner (viz. creating a calendar event, task)</p>	

## 2.2.4. Our Offering - Sogeti Smart Workspace



Figure 7

- At Sogeti we deliver SMART Workspace, giving our customers the latest, leading edge tools and practices to drive-up end user satisfaction resulting in greater collaboration, productivity, security, and payback.
- SMART Workspace is built on the Microsoft 365 productivity platform and provides a comprehensive Workplace solution that covers devices to end-user collaboration experience and everything in between.





## 2.3. Research on future of SharePoint

Based on Gartner reports, Microsoft Teams will be the new Collaboration Platform with SharePoint Online as a content layer. Gartner also placed Microsoft in the 'Magic Quadrant for Content Services Platform', which indicates that SharePoint will continue to exist amongst the various gamut of Office 365 offerings.

- Microsoft teams will be the new document-oriented content management system and is internally associated with SharePoint online site to store the content (Content Layer)
- SharePoint moves from front end UI design layer to backend layer.
- SharePoint On Premises will continue to exist along with O365 and can be implemented along with O365 using Hybrid model.
- Microsoft was one of the three vendors in Gartner 2017 report - "Magic Quadrant for Content Services Platforms." and scored higher than rival products in "personal and team productivity area". **These capabilities are integral with Microsoft's vision for connected workplace.**

Gartner suggests the following recommendations for business leaders for SharePoint appraisal

### Impact Appraisal for Application Leaders





















Impacts	Top Recommendations
SharePoint Online supplies content services to Office 365 and other cloud applications.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Evaluate SharePoint Online as a content services platform, based on your cloud collaboration requirements.</li></ul>
Microsoft Teams is the new collaboration catalyst for customers.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Create a unified workstream collaboration strategy to assess how well Teams plus SharePoint content services satisfy your collaboration requirements.</li></ul>
SharePoint Online's intranet roadmap may limit your options in a competitive market.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Re-evaluate the role of SharePoint as an intranet foundation by assessing its new capabilities in the light of your business expectations.</li></ul>
Microsoft's plan to modernize SharePoint Online while updating "classic" SharePoint Server complicates digital workplace decision making.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Discontinue reliance on SharePoint as a custom application development platform wherever possible.</li></ul>

### Industry / Microsoft Views

- **"Collaboration between our corporate office, district offices, and our rigs has always been an area we struggle to maintain ... Teams & SharePoint are tools that help us bridge the gap"** - A US based Oil and gas company
- **"Things change from second to second building up to a race, but the logistics team stays on track with SharePoint Online. We're saving time putting out fires, and our productions run more smoothly"** - A leading US based company in Hospitality and Travel
- **"With SharePoint Online, publishing content is fast and easy. Now that the latest news is at everyone's fingertips, we can provide more knowledgeable customer service"** - A US based Telecommunications company

### 3. Conclusion

- **SharePoint Presence:** In Office 365, SharePoint's "presence" — as a front-end user experience — recedes into the background, with Microsoft Teams emerging as the go-to solution for any collaboration.
- **Modern Digital workplace:** Over the next few years, Modern Digital workplace solutions will evolve with a cloud collaboration strategy by leveraging Microsoft 365 and Azure Workloads (such as Machine Learning, IOT)
- **Upskilled/Reskilled:** SharePoint experts need to be upskilled/reskilled in the following areas :

Application Development	    
Modern Apps & UI Development	   
Office 365 Intégrations	    
Azure	  
AI & ML	  

## 4. References

S.No.	Reference
1.	<a href="#">SharePoint home site</a>
2.	<a href="#">SharePoint Customer Stories</a>
3.	<a href="#">SharePoint pricing plans</a>
4.	<a href="#">SharePoint Rollout feature details</a>

## About Sogeti

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Sogeti is a leading provider of technology and engineering services. Sogeti delivers solutions that enable digital transformation and offers cutting-edge expertise in Cloud, Cybersecurity, Digital Manufacturing, Digital Assurance & Testing, and emerging technologies. Sogeti combines agility and speed of implementation with strong technology supplier partnerships, world class methodologies and its global delivery model, Rightshore®. Sogeti brings together more than 25,000 professionals in 15 countries, based in over 100 locations in Europe, USA and India. Sogeti is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Capgemini SE, listed on the Paris Stock Exchange.

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