White Paper

Getting Social
with SharePoint Online
Highlights & Insights

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Are you making the switch to SharePoint Online? Are you considering it as an upgrade to the On-Premise solution you already have? While SharePoint Online will reduce your maintenance, time and effort, it's important to clarify whether it will cover everything you're already accustomed to as well as meet your growing needs. We're happy to provide expert guidance to help you make an informed decision.

In this white paper, we will take a closer look at the social features in SharePoint Online. The good news is that Microsoft developers were smart enough to include all available social features in both SharePoint Online and its On-Premise versions. This makes it easy to transition these features from an On-Premise version to the Online version or to start with SharePoint Online from the beginning. The following are some of SharePoint's most useful social features and what they can offer your company.

Ask Me About:

Especially within large organizations, not every employee is an expert in every subject area, but each might be an expert in specific subject areas, and their respective knowledge can be very useful in different ways. For example, a given consultant may also be an expert in writing code while another consultant may be an expert architect on the same technology. The Ask Me About feature allows consultants to list their areas of expertise in order to present themselves as a go-to person for knowledge and advice to anyone visiting their profile page. It also helps narrow down search results by highlighting key people and providing relevant content specific to certain projects or job responsibilities. The Ask Me About feature helps companies make the best and most efficient use of in-house expertise and better facilitates collaboration and seamless search function companywide.

Communities, Badging, Reputation and Moderation:

A Community in SharePoint is a virtual place to share ideas through conversations and by promoting open discussion between users who want to learn about different topics and the

experts on those topics. The experts may also have a Badge on their profile that has been presented to them by an appropriate authority because of their knowledge and expertise in a certain topic. An expert can also earn a badge if other readers indicate in their responses that the information provided by that person was useful to them, much like the "Did you find this review helpful?" function found on online stores such as Amazon. This helps build that person's Reputation as an expert. Badging also helps employees collabrate efficiently and fosters better communication with the right experts. Along with this free-flowing information, a community owner or the designated moderator can monitor the content shared within their communities to ensure that the code of conduct is maintained and that inappropriate content doesn't slip through the cracks.
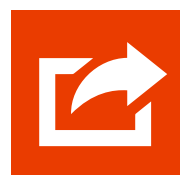
Newsfeed:

Just like a social media site, SharePoint online offers a newsfeed that provides an aggregated view of news and updates about people in your company and view relevant, work-related content. With SharePoint, you can post to the public newsfeed or to newsfeeds on team sites of which you're a member.

Shared with Me

The Shared with Me feature eliminates the worry of finding important documents by making them available as a single view from your SkyDrive account. This not only centralizes document storage, it also makes your documents readily accessible from anywhere. This makes sharing and accessing documents remotely a breeze, thus eliminating the need for USB drives or forwarding emails.

Photos and Presence:

SharePoint Online users can sync their Microsoft Office 365 profile pictures and locations with both Exchange Online (email solution) and Lync Online (instant messenger). This

gives a more consistent appearance because photos that appear in an employee's About Me page are managed by Exchange Online instead of the SharePoint admin center.

As you can see, SharePoint Online offers companies many useful features. If social is a top priority for your company and you think SharePoint Online may be the social collaboration tool your company needs, we hope this information and our SharePoint educational resources will give you the confidence to make the best choice for your company's social platform and more.

About the Authors

Aseem Pandit, Practice Manager and Solutions Architect at AgreeYa Solutions: Aseem has over 15 years of experience in the software world and is passionate about helping organizations design and build solutions to address their business needs. He has worked with numerous customers across the globe, and has experience with multiple technologies and frameworks around Open Source, J2EE, Oracle and Microsoft, most recently focusing on Microsoft technologies with SharePoint, BI and BPM. Aseem loves to talk about technology and is always eager to learn more and share his knowledge with others.

Prateek Bhargava, Senior Consultant at AgreeYa Solutions: Prateek brings more than nine years of experience in product development for clients spread across the globe. He has been part of the full product life cycle starting from conceptualization to release for multiple Microsoft based products, specifically SharePoint. At AgreeYa, he puts his hands-on technology development experience to work helping clients build better, more practical technology solutions for their companies.

About AgreeYa Solutions

AgreeYa Solutions is a global provider of software, solutions, and services focused on deploying business-driven, technology-enabled solutions that create next-generation competitive advantages for customers. Headquartered in Folsom, California, AgreeYa is a growing and dynamic organization with 15 offices in 8 countries employing more than 1,100 professionals. Over the last 15 years, AgreeYa has worked with 200+ companies ranging from Fortune 100 firms to small and large businesses, delivering solutions for variety of industries including telecommunications, BFSI, healthcare, high-tech, manufacturing, utility and government. AgreeYa's software portfolio includes SocialXtend (intranet and enterprise social collaboration), VDIXtend (Desktop-on-Cloud), and Onvelop (enterprise mobility productivity suite). As part of its solutions and services offerings, AgreeYa provides intranet and enterprise collaboration on SharePoint, cloud and infrastructure, enterprise mobility, product engineering, application development and management, independent software testing, and staffing (IT and risk/compliance) solutions.

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