WorkDynamics
Document Management Platform

How to significantly reduce SharePoint customization costs

Over the last two decades, and due to being a "free" part of Microsoft 365, SharePoint has become the go-to document management and collaboration platform for medium-sized and large enterprises. Currently, hundreds of thousands of organizations use the solution worldwide—including over 85% of Fortune 500 companies—to create and connect employees with the tools and resources they work with every day.

Yet despite its widespread use, SharePoint presents several challenges to businesses—particularly when it comes to an organization's ability to evolve and best leverage the tool according to changing user needs.

The challenge lies in the platform's many functionalities and uses, varying drastically from organization to organization. For example, while some businesses use SharePoint primarily to organize and store documents, others prefer to customize the platform into a more robust content management and dynamic workflow automation ecosystem. The platform's ability to do or become just about anything has become both a benefit and Achilles heel simultaneously. The inherent juxtaposition of SharePoint's capabilities creates ongoing complexities for many organizations, resulting in high and often-unexpected additional costs.

Organizations can expect to pay upwards of $1M in customization fees that inevitably incur while evolving SharePoint into a customized tool that will address their exact business requirements.

Thankfully, due to the evolving nature of business platforms, organizations have more alternatives to SharePoint customization than ever before—all while still being able to use the platform to its fullest potential. And not only that: these solutions often require a significantly lower investment of money, time and resources.

This guide highlights the difference between customization and configuration and how using an intelligent, configurable, no-code document management platform as the integrable control layer with SharePoint can result in dramatic savings of up to 80%—and result in many other benefits to your organization.

The high-stakes costs of SharePoint customization

While using SharePoint has its merits as both a document management repository and business workflow engine, doing so can come with a hefty price tag—particularly in terms of necessary upgrades and non-license-related costs. Here are three significant costs businesses often incur while using SharePoint:

Consulting fees and customization experts

The ability to customize SharePoint is a specialized skill, and there appears to be a shortage of professionals worldwide with expertise in the platform. As such, consultants and experts tend to charge exorbitant fees to complete any number of customization projects. More so, as your organization grows, you will likely need to evolve your current infrastructure—including SharePoint. But even if you were to forego implementing new applications, features and add-ons, your business would still need to account for ongoing customizations as new releases come out.

To ensure your platform does not become redundant, ongoing maintenance and management is a necessary long-term investment—whether that means hiring someone on an annual salary to oversee SharePoint or bringing in a SharePoint consultant at hundreds of dollars an hour.

User training and extra support

For SharePoint to work as an efficient collaboration tool, all users—including those without an IT background —must understand things like lists and libraries, metadata, keeping content and files organized on the platform, and restoring deleted documents. However, SharePoint can be a technically complex product due to its high number of features available. Meanwhile, most businesses do not have a dedicated SharePoint team to support the UX learning curve or provide ongoing assistance on an as-needed basis.

As such, organizations who use the platform must regularly invest in user training, which can be costly and time-consuming for management and employees alike.

Security, compliance and reporting

As mentioned above, SharePoint requires training to learn how to use it effectively. Unfortunately, often the harder it is to understand a tool, the less likely employees will use it properly—if at all. This can result in employees creating their own "shadow IT" workaround solutions, such as using unapproved apps. Unfortunately, doing so can increase security risks and non-compliance for specific industries, exposing your business to leaks of critical confidential information.

As for the resulting costs, your organization may unexpectedly need to spend money, time and resources to address the repercussions of regulatory non-compliance

Why configuration is Superior to customization

You may sometimes hear "high-code," "low-code," and "no-code " in the document management platform space." But what's the difference?

High and semi-low-code platforms such as SharePoint are generally geared toward costly developers with coding expertise, meaning varying customizations are always required. Conversely, a no-code platform that integrates with SharePoint is ideal for business users who wish to avoid costs while still achieving their desired business goals. In addition, this type of no-code configuration approach enables users to leverage an alternative platform's native tools and workflows while still enabling SharePoint's robust repository feature set.

By choosing a comprehensive platform that offers no-code configuration, intelligent digital asset management, workflow creation and tracking, and business process automation while seamlessly integrating with SharePoint, organizations can minimize the risk of and even eliminate the potential for all the above-listed costs.

But more than that, organizations can experience many other benefits too.

Ease of use, time savings, and other benefits

In addition to significant dollar savings, a fully configurable document management platform that integrates with SharePoint while boasting a no-code approach can help organizations:

➡ **Reduce time**—vastly expediting processes and workloads through timely delivery of services, all with secure data integrity within SharePoint.

➡ **Enhance capabilities**—expanding SharePoint's capabilities by enabling the seamless deployment of processes to help manage both structured and unstructured transactions.

➡ **Manage in real time**—improving SharePoint management and creating new insights for all team members through real-time access to documents, information and decisions.

➡ **Enhance collaboration**—enabling simple collaboration management across multiple offices, dispersed teams and hybrid environments through a single, ubiquitous platform connected directly into SharePoint.

➡ **Reverse engineer**—easily creating new robust and streamlined workflows through the platform's intuitive ability to reverse-engineer business processes.

➡ **Improve processes**—enabling the ability to modify and customize feature functionality, ensuring continuous process improvements at every turn.

Your road to SharePoint Customization cost reduction **starts here**

As modern digital businesses mature and evolve, so too are the business tools available. As a result, the need to make enormous investments in SharePoint is becoming a thing of the past.

Document management platforms like WorkDynamics enable users to connect seamlessly to SharePoint as their document repository of choice and configure seamless, highly robust workflows easily.

Moreover, WorkDynamics provides comprehensive workflow and tracking functionality, empowering organizations to do away with costly SharePoint customizations and simplifying collaboration while improving workforce efficiencies. In fact, with WorkDynamics, workflows, processes and integrations become highly interoperable and compatible outside of single departments—resulting in faster, better interactions across all internal and external users.

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