

Top 10 Compelling Reasons to Adopt Microsoft SharePoint 2013

Subin Babu
Trigent Software

Introduction

SharePoint 2013 will work its way into organizations faster than any of its predecessors. A Forrester Research poll of IT decision makers found 37 percent of them plan to deploy SharePoint 2013 within the next year.

Microsoft SharePoint 2013 has been revamped to deliver a more consumerised experience, complete with a 'modern' look and feel, cloud storage, social networking and an app development ecosystem. In this white paper we will see how the SharePoint 2013 make over benefits users. We take a look at the scenarios that form a compelling case for you to upgrade to SharePoint 2013.

Optimized content viewing experience across disparate mobile platforms

Today organizations are increasingly focusing on mobility by encouraging their workforce to either use corporate handheld devices or encourage BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy. While organizations provide flexibility at workspace, the challenges that lay ahead is in providing support for uniform content viewing experience across disparate platforms.

SharePoint 2013 offers new features to optimize readability and viewing experiences on smart phones and other mobile devices. Features like device channels enable you to render site content, according to the capabilities of the device. It enables, empowers and supports remote users with improved viewing of Business Intelligence content, location awareness, list data and notification of updates in SharePoint site through SMS service. Offline access to content is available for the workforce through features introduced in Office 2013 and SkyDrive Pro.

Improve productivity and manage daily work efficiently

If we were to count the number of clicks to complete our daily task it would be quite staggering. Imagine how much time it consumes and affects our productivity.

SharePoint 2013 reduces the number of "clicks" required to complete your day to day task thereby improving the overall productivity. Enriched integration between Microsoft product suites (Exchange, Lync, SharePoint and Office) provides users access to content within the application of choice. UI feature improvement allows user to drag and drop content to repositories, access content in Outlook, move emails to library without moving out of Outlook. Changes made to the content security management empowers end user through simplified content organization and access control.

Remove duplication and manage content with shredded storage

Earlier versions of SharePoint replicated content and metadata whenever a new version of a document

saved. This, though it sounds miniscule can cause your resource plan to go awry. Metalogix, a content infrastructure software provider, conducted a survey which showed that the average rate of content growth in a fully adapted SharePoint environment can be around 75% thereby severely impacting an inadequately planned environment.

SharePoint 2013 comes with shredded storage, which helps SharePoint parse data in the SQL database so that duplicate elements are avoided. Instead of storing the whole document and all the metadata, it only stores the deltas (or differences). This helps reduce duplications and increase storage efficiency of multiple document versions with incremental changes.

Prioritize and route incoming request based on nature, characteristics and urgency

The Request Management feature allows administrators to prioritize and route incoming requests through a rules engine that applies logic to determine the nature of the request and the appropriate response. Administrator can set rules to route requests based on its nature, priority and origination to different servers based on its health characteristics. Servers with spare computing capacity can be utilized to serve either few high load priority request or large quantum of low priority request based on organization specific requirement.

Integrate applications from diverse platforms with ease using built-in authorization standards and app model

Organizations use information from various sources for business purpose. Integration of multiple sources into a single system to manage information would make the job easy and fast.

Improved and new authorization policies available in SharePoint 2013 allow a variety of application types to be integrated together under SharePoint platform. Business users can leverage the new app model to seamlessly present content available from various sources.

Improved site performance and content maintenance with distributed cache service

The two main issues with an environment that hosts multiple rich content sites are performance and content maintenance. Performance in SharePoint is critical to providing an acceptable end-user experience.

SharePoint 2013 provides features to overcome both these limitations. Improvements made in the content translation services, image rendering methods along with the new distributed cache service and improvements made in basic disk I/O (SQL 2012) provides better site performance. SharePoint 2013 also allows cross site publishing, which allows the business process to realign and consolidate the content

management activities. Users can publish content to sites which are part of different site, site collection, web application and even a separate farm.

Discuss ideas and foster enterprise social activities

SharePoint 2013 brings some of the now common social features into your organization's intranet. Features available with top social network websites like microblogging component, feeds, discussion board and functions such as "likes", hash tags, "follow" etc. are now available out of the box. For groups with focused areas of interest, SharePoint 2013 introduces Community Sites, where employees can gather to discuss ideas and thoughts around a subject area. The new community site template provide out of the box functionalities to structure and game-ify collaboration.

Business Intelligence with instant data analysis and visualization across multiple devices

Analysis can be completed immediately as In-Memory BI Engine allows SharePoint to analyze millions of rows near instantly. SharePoint 2013 provides enhanced UI to allow users to easily view and manage filters including the ability to search for items within filters. PerformancePoint dashboards can now be viewed and interacted on iPad devices. Tight coupling between Excel and SharePoint has made some of the BI functionality available in the user friendly Excel interface through features like PowerView, PivotChart, calculated measures, time-line control etc.

Enhanced search and improved relevance using FAST Search Server

Two primary improvements made in SharePoint 2013 makes it a better candidate to meet your requirement. Firstly, FAST Search Server which was an "extra" component in the previous release, is now an integral part of the enterprise search which enhances the core search functionality and improve search relevance. Secondly, SharePoint 2013 comes with additional authorization protocol which allows the administrator to increase the number of external application in scope of search. Along with these, improvements such as quick document preview, better controls for customized search, continuous content crawl for up to date search results, result block to make most relevant results available first, improves the overall search experience.

Ensure adequate support by keeping up-to-date with successive version upgrades

As the version gap increases, the average cost of using an earlier version gradually increases. This is due to two factors- solutions on earlier version of SharePoint are still using functionalities which have been drastically improved in the recent releases and second, it's difficult to find adequate resources to maintain an outdated environment.

About Trigent Software Inc.

Trigent is a privately held, professional IT services company and a Microsoft Gold Partner with its U.S. headquarters in the greater Boston area and its Indian headquarters in Bangalore. We provide consulting services in various technologies including Microsoft Solutions. Our operating model is to conduct sales, customer relationships and front-end consulting (e.g., business case, requirements, architecture) onsite with our clients and perform the detail design, development, integration, testing and quality assurance offshore at our world class development and support center in Bangalore. We are a SEI CMM Level 4 company and is ISO 9001:2000 TickIT certified organization.

For sales contact sales@trigent.com or call 508-490-6000.



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