Sharegate recently partnered with HyperFish and Nintex to survey 449 IT professionals and discover how they are using SharePoint and Office 365 in 2017. We compiled the results and compared them with our 2016 survey. Then, we asked industry experts for their thoughts on the findings. We now share our findings with the community so it can be used to educate organizations on trends and best practices.
A growing number of businesses have moved their infrastructure to the cloud, but many of them have concerns over security and cost. Before they migrate, Microsoft needs to address their doubt.
In the past year, companies have added more customizations to their SharePoint deployments. Customizations in all areas – from workflows to site provisioning – have increased. This data shows that SharePoint remains a highly flexible platform that can deliver greater value if you customize it to meet your needs.

82% of respondents use workflows in 2017.

“Security is much more robust in the cloud – we can no longer argue against this. As our end users demand more from what we offer, the move is inevitable for most. Also, Microsoft’s Office 365 usage numbers seem to double each year, with SharePoint now leading in not one, but two Magic Quadrants.”

Benjamin Niaulin, Microsoft Regional Director & Product Advisor at Sharegate

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46% of organizations either use or plan to use a third-party tool for their daily administration tasks.

“This makes sense to me. Administrators don’t have the time to do everything by themselves. They are always looking for new IT solutions to manage user permissions. Third-party tools can help them ensure that everyone has the right access.”

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Usage has grown for almost all workloads in 2017, with Office 365 Apps, OneDrive for Business, and Delve showing the most adoption gains compared with 2016.

Delve, now rebranded to “Intelligent Search & Discovery,” shows the largest gain in interest. Businesses are starting to understand how a personalized search tool can improve their productivity in Office 365.

“Unfortunately, 50% of organizations still enforce their governance manually which is incredibly time consuming! I hope the new SharePoint Administration Center will help them better define and enforce their governance policies.”

Louis-Philippe Vallée, Product Manager at Sharegate
We surveyed 449 randomly-drawn IT professionals and SharePoint administrators from the Hyperfish, Nintex, and Sharegate client pool to gain insights into global SharePoint and Office 365 usage and deployments.

Methodology and Participant Profile

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Very few (12%) had integrations with other systems to keep Active Directory up-to-date. This is usually because the system of record for profile information such as Job Title, Department and Manager is not Active Directory. For this reason, the most common systems to integrate with Active Directory are Human Resource Management Systems.

Jeremy Thake, VP of Product Technology at Hyperfish
@jthake

Hybrid and Azure implementations of Active Directory are growing, while on-premises only deployments have dropped. This trend shows a confidence boost in cloud directory services.