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Too Many Channels? You're Not Alone.

It started simple, then came the tags, subgroups, and clutter. Now teams are simplifying: fewer channels, clearer flow, better focus.



What Happens with Too Many Channels?

More options can feel empowering... at first.
But over time, they can lead to:

- Missed messages and fragmented conversations
- Confusion about where to post
- Duplicate or outdated information
- Overhead in moderation and management
- A drop in meaningful engagement

It's not always about the number - it's about usability.



Why Communities and Teams Are Simplifying

Cutting back isn't about restricting participation.

It's about making space for:

- Easier onboarding for new members
- More visible and active discussions
- Clearer ownership and moderation
- Better alignment with core goals
- A smaller structure often leads to bigger impact.



A Garden Analogy

Picture a garden that hasn't been pruned. Everything's growing, but nothing's thriving.

- Overgrowth leads to overcrowding
- Sunlight and water are spread thin
- It's hard to tell what's working or what needs care
- Pruning isn't about removing for the sake of it.
- It's about creating space for growth with intention.



This Isn't Just a Community Trend

The same mindset applies across organizations:

- Slack and Teams being trimmed to 5–10 core channels
- Project management tools with clearer folder systems
- Internal wikis being consolidated for easier access
- Fewer dashboards, clearer data
- Teams want systems that work with them, not ones they have to work around.



Ask These Questions

If your digital workspace feels cluttered or your engagement is flatlining, ask:

- What are people actually using—and what's just there “in case”?
- Where is confusion slowing down communication?
- Which channels or spaces haven't had activity in weeks or months?
- Can the structure be simplified without losing functionality?

These questions often lead to low-effort, high-impact fixes.



Final Takeaway

Simplification isn't about doing less.

It's about removing friction so the right conversations, workflows, and outcomes can happen.

Sometimes, the best growth strategy starts by cutting back.

