

SharePoint Online: The Enterprise Application Platform Your Organization Already Owns

And why most IT leaders haven't fully noticed yet



The Perception Problem

Ask a CIO what SharePoint is for and the answer is almost always some version of: “document management and the intranet.” But modern SharePoint Online has evolved into a powerful enterprise application platform integrated deeply into Microsoft 365. Cloud transformation, Power Platform integration, Microsoft Graph connectivity, and AI capabilities have fundamentally changed what SharePoint can do. The document repository is still there. So is everything else.

What SharePoint Online Actually Is in 2026

Modern SharePoint Online combines structured data management, workflow automation, document-centric operational systems, AI capabilities, enterprise-grade governance, and custom development extensibility into a single platform already licensed by most enterprises.

Structured Data with Microsoft Lists

Microsoft Lists provides relational, metadata-rich data storage directly within SharePoint. Lists support calculated columns, validation rules, custom views, conditional formatting, and lightweight application scenarios that many organizations currently solve with separate SaaS tools.

Enterprise Content Management with Document Libraries

Document Libraries in SharePoint Online are far more than shared folders. They support version history, metadata classification, workflow routing, retention policies, sensitivity labels, AI-powered document processing, and operational approval processes integrated directly into Microsoft 365.

Workflow Automation via Power Automate

Power Automate enables approval routing, notifications, integrations, synchronization, and complex operational workflows without requiring extensive custom code. SharePoint integrates natively with Teams, Outlook, Dynamics 365, Salesforce, ServiceNow, SAP, and hundreds of other platforms.

SharePoint Framework (SPFx)

SPFx provides a professional React and TypeScript-based development framework for building sophisticated enterprise applications directly within SharePoint Online. Organizations can deploy governed, scalable business solutions without managing separate hosting infrastructure.

AI Embedded Throughout

Copilot, Content AI, autofill metadata extraction, AI-powered document processing, translation services, and conversational SharePoint Agents are transforming SharePoint from a collaboration platform into an intelligent operational platform.

Governance, Security, and Compliance

SharePoint Online inherits the full Microsoft 365 governance stack including Entra ID, Purview, Conditional Access, audit logging, sensitivity labels, and eDiscovery — capabilities many third-party platforms charge extra to replicate.

The Deployment Advantage

Organizations building on SharePoint Online do not manage servers, SSL certificates, disaster recovery, or infrastructure scaling. Microsoft operates the platform globally with enterprise-grade reliability already included within Microsoft 365 licensing.

Where to Start

Start by identifying operational processes currently dependent on spreadsheets, email approvals, paper forms, or disconnected SaaS tools. Many can be modernized rapidly using SharePoint Online, Power Automate, Power Apps, and SPFx. Candent Solutions helps organizations modernize internal business processes using SharePoint Online and Microsoft 365. As a Microsoft Partner, Candent Solutions designs scalable operational platforms that reduce software sprawl, improve governance, and maximize existing Microsoft investments.