

8 THINGS TO CONSIDER

ABOUT SHAREPOINT GOVERNANCE IN 2015

Whether you're looking to improve your existing SharePoint governance or you're starting fresh, keep these 8 things in mind:

SIMPLICITY  Is it simple enough for any business user?	ADOPTABILITY  Are processes clearly communicated and easy to follow?
AGILITY  Can it easily adapt to changing business needs?	EFFICIENCY  Can you implement control without creating bottlenecks in IT?
ACCURACY  Does it clearly reflect established business processes?	COMPREHENSIVENESS  Is it complete with both proactive and reactive controls?
TRANSPARENCY  Can you easily identify violations or weakness in processes?	SYNERGY  Does it align with your organization's core governance objectives?

Administrators looking to drive SharePoint adoption without allowing chaotic information architecture and unmanageable IT workloads need to think beyond IT. How do you align with the entire organization?

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"I DON'T CARE HOW IT WORKS, AS LONG AS I CAN GET MY JOB DONE." – YOUR END USER

Users know their business, not SharePoint or your governance plans. Provide frequently used SharePoint services as managed services that can be easily requested based on business purposes in place of high-risk, unstructured processes. With managed services, there's no need for end-users to learn about approved templates, content types, metadata, and workflows. Determine the requirements of each business unit, and pre-configure consumable services that comply with corporate and IT governance.

GREATER ADOPTION DRIVES GREATER PRODUCTIVITY

It's natural to think of governance as extensive control, but well-governed systems are effective because they're easy to use. You'll be more successful in selling your governance initiative if you design your processes with the end user in mind – they need to be easy to follow and clearly communicated.



ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

SharePoint is no longer just a single box of content. It houses an expanding variety of business processes and applications – each with their own governance needs. Shouldn't access to a project site require a simpler process than access to a site with highly sensitive content? As admins, we need to find ways of understanding the types of sites we have and securing them with the right amount of control, not just the maximum available.

AUTOMATION IS ESSENTIAL

Who actually has the time to make sure every site, list, and document has appropriate governance controls? SharePoint admins cannot manage this effort if they're busy doing repetitive, manual tasks. Whether you use PowerShell, custom applications, or third-party tools, automate as much as possible so governance controls are enforced the minute an object is provisioned. Not only do users get what they need faster, but it frees up IT resources to focus more on monitoring and remediation.



DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK "WHY?"

Sometimes existing governance processes are vague because the business processes behind them are vague. If you want to create well-governed, business process-driven services for SharePoint, you must first understand the business logic behind the control. Business users aren't always aware of the latest IT tools available, so understanding the goal will allow you to better weigh your options and identify the best tool for your needs.

PLAN FOR BOTH PROACTIVE & REACTIVE GOVERNANCE CONTROLS

Basic Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) concepts state that implementing a control is not enough – we also need to monitor if the control is working. Ensure you are designing a complete governance solution. SharePoint is ill-equipped at broadly scoped monitoring and alerting, so this is one area that you'll want to investigate when choosing third-party solutions.



MORE REPORTS DO NOT EQUAL MORE GOVERNANCE

The information from a report is only as good as what someone does with that information. The key is not more reports, but relevant reports, along with mitigation and remediation tactics. When asked for a report, stop and ask "Why?" Why is the report necessary? Who will consume it? What will they be expected to do with the information? If the goal is to detect and correct policy violations, there's a good chance you can use technology as the front-line control.

THINK BEYOND SHAREPOINT

Understand that SharePoint governance is simply an extension of the overall IT governance strategy, which in turn is fed into the overall corporate governance concepts of the organization. The better you can connect your SharePoint governance efforts to your organization's core governance objectives, the more supportable and sustainable they will be.

