

Develop It Yourself Sharepoint 2016 Out Of The Box Features

Develop It Yourself: Unleashing SharePoint 2016's Out-of-the-Box Features

SharePoint 2016 offers a wealth of powerful features right out of the box, allowing users to develop and customize solutions without needing extensive coding or third-party applications. This guide delves into leveraging these "out-of-the-box" functionalities, empowering you to build efficient and effective workflows, document management systems, and collaborative platforms. We'll explore key features like **list customization**, **workflow automation**, **content types**, and **app development**, highlighting their potential for self-service development. Learning to effectively use these inherent capabilities saves time, reduces costs, and ultimately boosts productivity.

Understanding SharePoint 2016's Out-of-the-Box Capabilities

SharePoint 2016's strength lies in its intuitive interface and pre-built functionalities. Instead of relying solely on complex development, you can utilize its inherent features to create robust solutions tailored to your specific needs. This approach significantly reduces the reliance on external developers and associated costs, allowing users with intermediate technical skills to build powerful applications. This self-service development model promotes agility and faster turnaround times for projects.

The Power of List Customization

One of the most impactful out-of-the-box features is list customization. SharePoint lists, the foundational element of many SharePoint applications, are highly adaptable. You can easily add, remove, and modify columns, changing data types as needed (text, number, choice, date, etc.). This allows for creating custom views to filter and sort data according to specific requirements. For example, you could create a custom list to track project tasks, adding columns for due date, assigned user, and status. Then, create different views to show only overdue tasks or tasks assigned to a specific team member. This level of customization drastically improves data organization and reporting.

Workflow Automation: Streamlining Processes

SharePoint 2016 offers built-in workflow capabilities allowing you to automate repetitive tasks and streamline business processes. Using the designer, you can create workflows to approve documents, route requests, or trigger notifications based on specific events. These workflows can be triggered manually or automatically, improving efficiency and reducing manual intervention. For example, you could create a workflow for expense report approval, automatically routing the report to the manager for review and approval, and then sending notifications to the employee once approved or rejected. This enhances transparency and accountability within your organization.

Leveraging Content Types for Effective Organization

Content types provide a powerful mechanism for consistent data management. You can define content types with specific columns and metadata, ensuring data uniformity across multiple lists and libraries. This is particularly beneficial when working with multiple departments or teams needing to manage similar data but with slight variations. Creating a reusable content type for "Project Proposal" with columns like "Project Title," "Lead," "Budget," and "Status" ensures data consistency across all project proposals. You can then associate this content type with multiple lists or libraries, maintaining data integrity and improving searchability.

Developing Custom Apps with SharePoint Designer

While focusing on out-of-the-box features, it's important to mention SharePoint Designer, a powerful tool included with SharePoint 2016. Although it involves some coding, it allows for a level of customization beyond simple configuration. SharePoint Designer enables the creation of custom workflows, web parts, and even entire site customizations. While this requires more technical expertise than simple list customization, it provides significant power for users with intermediate development skills. This expands the possibilities beyond simple configuration, allowing for more sophisticated integrations and functionality.

Benefits of Self-Service SharePoint Development

Embracing SharePoint 2016's out-of-the-box features offers numerous advantages:

- **Reduced Costs:** Minimize reliance on external developers and associated consulting fees.
- **Increased Agility:** Implement changes quickly and efficiently, responding rapidly to evolving business needs.
- **Improved Collaboration:** Empower employees to build tools that directly address their needs, fostering collaboration and ownership.
- **Enhanced Productivity:** Streamline processes, automate tasks, and improve data management, boosting overall efficiency.
- **Greater Control:** Maintain full control over your SharePoint environment, tailoring it precisely to your organization's requirements.

Conclusion: Unlocking the Potential of SharePoint 2016

Mastering SharePoint 2016's out-of-the-box features provides a powerful toolkit for self-service development. By leveraging list customization, workflow automation, content types, and the capabilities of SharePoint Designer, organizations can significantly enhance their workflows, improve data management, and boost overall productivity. Embracing this approach not only saves costs but empowers users to become active participants in shaping their digital workspace. This self-reliance fosters innovation and enables quicker adaptation to changing business demands.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: What are the limitations of using only out-of-the-box features?

A1: While out-of-the-box features are extremely versatile, complex integrations or highly specialized functionalities might necessitate custom code or third-party applications. Highly customized workflows or integrations with external systems beyond basic connections might require more advanced development techniques. For instance, integrating with a legacy system demanding a specific API interaction might not be possible solely with built-in features.

Q2: How can I learn more about SharePoint 2016's features?

A2: Microsoft offers comprehensive documentation and training resources on SharePoint 2016. Online communities and forums dedicated to SharePoint provide valuable support and troubleshooting guidance. Many online courses cater to various skill levels, offering practical tutorials and hands-on exercises. Microsoft Learn is an excellent resource for self-paced learning.

Q3: Is SharePoint Designer necessary for effective self-service development?

A3: No, SharePoint Designer is not mandatory. Many powerful solutions can be built using only the out-of-the-box features, such as list customization and workflow creation. SharePoint Designer offers advanced capabilities, but it's not a prerequisite for effective self-service development in SharePoint 2016.

Q4: Can I migrate customizations from SharePoint 2016 to newer versions?

A4: Migrating customizations depends heavily on the type of customization. Simple list customizations and some workflows often migrate relatively smoothly, but complex customizations using SharePoint Designer may require more effort and potentially some code adjustments during the migration process. Thorough testing is essential after any migration.

Q5: What are the security implications of self-service development?

A5: Proper security practices are critical. Users should adhere to established security policies and best practices when developing and deploying solutions. This includes controlling permissions, regularly reviewing access controls, and adhering to data governance policies. Ignoring security aspects can expose your organization to vulnerabilities.

Q6: How can I troubleshoot problems encountered during self-service development?

A6: Microsoft's online support, community forums, and SharePoint documentation provide extensive resources. Thoroughly checking event logs, SharePoint's ULS logs, and understanding error messages often reveals the cause of the problem. Step-by-step debugging, starting with simple tests, often helps pinpoint the source of issues.

Q7: Are there any pre-built templates or solutions available to speed up development?

A7: Yes, SharePoint 2016 includes various pre-built templates for lists, libraries, and sites. These templates provide a starting point for common scenarios, saving time and effort. Utilizing these templates reduces the need to build everything from scratch. They also demonstrate best practices for organization and structure.

Q8: What are the best practices for successful self-service SharePoint development?

A8: Plan carefully, starting with clearly defined requirements. Follow a structured approach to development, testing thoroughly at each stage. Maintain consistent naming conventions, document your work diligently, and regularly back up your customizations. Collaborate with others whenever appropriate, especially if multiple people will use the solution.

Unleashing the Power Within: Developing Your Own SharePoint 2016 Out-of-the-Box Features

SharePoint 2016, even without additional add-ons or intricate customizations, offers a wealth of built-in features. Learning to efficiently leverage these "out-of-the-box" capabilities is key to maximizing your organization's output. This article will examine several of these strong features and provide practical strategies for implementing them into your workflows. By knowing these tools, you can significantly better collaboration, streamline information handling, and decrease the requirement for expensive external applications.

Harnessing the Power of Lists and Libraries:

The base of SharePoint 2016 lies in its versatile lists and libraries. These aren't just simple databases; they're dynamic platforms for organizing and handling varied types of information. Think of them as customizable containers that can be modified to fit your specific demands.

- **Lists:** Perfect for tracking simple data like contact information, tasks, or issues. You can quickly create custom columns with different details types, utilize filters and views to organize information, and define authorization to control who can access the data. Imagine using a list to monitor project milestones, handle employee petitions, or catalog equipment inventory.
- **Libraries:** Ideal for managing documents and other data. They offer version control, metadata categorization, and powerful search capacity. You can establish workflows to streamline document validation processes, ensure proper retention policies are followed, and quickly locate specific documents through powerful keyword search. Consider using a library to control project documentation, archive marketing materials, or preserve employee training resources.

Leveraging SharePoint Workflows:

SharePoint 2016's workflow engine allows you to simplify repetitive tasks and boost business processes. These workflows can be designed to manage document approvals, track project progress, or notify relevant people of important events. They are highly configurable and can be merged with other SharePoint features.

For instance, imagine a workflow that automatically routes a contract for approval through a hierarchy of managers, alerting each person at each stage. Or consider a workflow that instantly assigns tasks to team members based on predefined criteria, tracking progress and raising issues as needed.

Utilizing SharePoint's Search Capabilities:

SharePoint 2016's search capability is far more than a simple keyword search. It can catalog content from various sources, containing documents, lists, and websites. The outputs are refined through strong filtering options, and you can modify the search experience to meet your specific needs.

This allows users to quickly locate data across the entire organization, regardless of where it's stored. This significantly improves data dissemination and minimizes the time spent searching for critical information.

Exploring Other Built-in Features:

Beyond lists, libraries, and workflows, SharePoint 2016 offers a range of other out-of-the-box features. These include:

- **Web Parts:** These component elements can be added to pages to enhance functionality and presentation.
- **Content Types:** These allow you to define the properties of documents and items, ensuring consistency across the organization.
- **Permissions:** Fine-grained control over access to details at both the site and item level, ensuring protection and privacy.
- **Versioning:** Track changes to documents and revert to previous versions if needed.

By masterfully integrating these features, you can develop powerful and effective solutions without the demand for costly bespoke development.

Conclusion:

SharePoint 2016 offers a remarkable array of out-of-the-box features that can transform the way your organization manages information and collaborates. By understanding and efficiently employing these features, you can considerably boost efficiency, improve communication, and reduce costs. Don't underestimate the power of these built-in tools; they are the bedrock for a effective SharePoint implementation.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q1: What if the out-of-the-box features aren't sufficient for my needs?

A1: While SharePoint 2016's out-of-the-box features are extensive, you can further customize them through custom development or outside applications when necessary.

Q2: How do I learn more about specific features?

A2: Microsoft provides extensive documentation and tutorials on the SharePoint website and by numerous online resources.

Q3: Is there a cost associated with using these out-of-the-box features?

A3: No, these are included as part of your SharePoint 2016 agreement.

Q4: Do I need specialized technical skills to use these features?

A4: While some features require more technical expertise, many can be easily used with minimal training.

Q5: How can I ensure my SharePoint implementation remains secure?

A5: Implementing robust permission structures, leveraging SharePoint's built-in security features, and regularly backing up your data are crucial for maintaining a secure SharePoint environment.

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