

THE STRATEGIC BRIDGE: MODERNIZING SHAREPOINT FOR CLOUD READINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A long-term partner reached a critical hardware and software crossroad. With **SQL Server 2016** reaching end of support in July 2026 and a SharePoint 2016 environment burdened by extensive legacy customizations, the organization needed a roadmap. While not yet ready for a full cloud transition due to board-level security concerns, they needed to modernize to maintain support and performance. **XTIVIA Virtual-DBA** designed a strategic migration to **SharePoint 2019**, focusing on "un-customizing" the environment to ensure a future-proof path to the cloud.

THE CHALLENGE: LEGACY CONSTRAINTS & LOOMING DEADLINES

The organization's current SharePoint instance was a "time capsule" of legacy design. Key hurdles included:

- **Impending End-of-Life:** The backend SQL Server 2016 was months away from losing support, posing a significant security and compliance risk for the customer.
- **Over-Customization:** Past migrations forced the new system to mirror the old one, resulting in broken UI controls, hidden OneDrive functionality, and brittle templates.
- **Cloud Hesitancy:** While the long-term goal is SharePoint Online, the executive board required a phased approach to validate security protocols.
- **Workflow Obsolescence:** Existing 2013 workflows were nearing retirement, requiring a transition to Power Apps and the Power Platform gateway.

THE XTIVIA VIRTUAL-DBA SOLUTION: A MODERNIZED HYBRID ROADMAP

XTIVIA's SharePoint team architected a solution that treated the move to **SharePoint 2019** not just as an upgrade, but as a "clean start" for cloud readiness.

Strategic Migration Pillars

Initiative	Implementation Detail
Selective Data Migration	Rather than a blind "lift and shift," XTIVIA utilized ShareGate to selectively migrate data touched within the last 2 years, leaving behind legacy "digital debt."
"De-Customization" Strategy	XTIVIA recommended moving to SharePoint Modern Sites . By reverting to standard templates, the client regains native UI controls and OneDrive functionality.

<p>Hybrid Identity Management</p>	<p>Upgrading the Active Directory sync and exploring Federated AD to allow for a seamless transition between on-prem and 365 environments.</p>
<p>Workflow Modernization</p>	<p>Replacing simplistic email workflows with Power Automate (via an on-prem gateway) to future-proof business processes.</p>
<p>SQL 2022 Foundation</p>	<p>Moving the backend to a SQL Server 2022 Always On Availability Group (AG) to maximize support windows and performance.</p>

KEY DECISIONS FOR CLOUD READINESS

- **The Modern UI:** By adopting SharePoint 2019’s modern site structure, the client’s internal sites will be identical to the cloud version. When they eventually migrate to the cloud, the user experience change will be **zero**.
- **Infrastructure Rightsizing:** XTIVIA re-evaluated the client's current server footprint (5 app/web servers), recommending a leaner, highly redundant architecture to reduce licensing costs and management overhead.
- **Hybrid Integration:** Utilizing the **Office Online Server** vs. **365 integration** to allow users to edit documents in a browser while keeping the data safely within the on-prem data center.

THE RESULT: A FUTURE-PROOF FOUNDATION

By partnering with XTIVIA Virtual-DBA, the client transformed a mandatory security upgrade into a strategic business evolution.

Key Outcomes:

- **Compliance Secured:** Successfully moved off the 2016 stack before the July support deadline.
- **Clean Data Environment:** Reduced storage costs and improved search relevancy by leaving behind years of obsolete documentation.

Strategic Cloud Path: The environment is now "Cloud-Neutral," meaning a move to SharePoint Online in 2027 or beyond will be a simple data transfer rather than a complex re-coding project. 2-3 Sentences of who the client is, their strategy, domain, and geography.

CUSTOMER QUOTE

"We don't want to just drag our old mistakes into a new version. XTIVIA showed us how to use the 2019 upgrade to fix our interface issues and prep us for the cloud, even if we aren't ready to pull that trigger today." – IT Director

ABOUT XTIVIA VIRTUAL-DBA

XTIVIA Virtual-DBA is a premier technology partner specializing in SharePoint architecture, SQL Server management, and Cloud Strategy. We help organizations modernize their legacy systems while building the bridges necessary for future innovation. www.virtual-dba.com