

How do I setup my SharePoint environment to make Records Management easy?

Best practices, configuration tips and governance!

Housekeeping

- 1. Use the Q&A panel to ask questions or share comments
- The video **recording** and **slides** will be shared after the webinar



What we're covering

In this session, learn tips and tricks for structuring SharePoint to play well for records management. We will share configuration best practices and tips for SharePoint so that you are setup for records management success.

Takeaways from the session:

- Best practices on configuring SharePoint to enable records management
- Configuration tips and design patterns for SharePoint content types
- Governance guidance for SharePoint content types





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President and CEO

- 15 years of enterprise technology experience
- Microsoft and Collabware certified
- Collabware MVP recipient
- Finalist, Information
 Governance Expert of the
 Year 2017
- Vancouver Office 365 user group board member
- SharePoint Saturdays guest speaker
- Over 100 SharePoint ECM projects completed

Aboutus



Who we are

A Canadian compliance-inspired services firm helping organizations in their digital transformation journey

Gold

Microsoft Partner



Gold Certified

Collabware Partner





We're certified as a Great Place to Work!





















Services

SharePoint Microsoft 365 Collabware Collabspace



Vision







Strategy



Design



Build



Evolve

Experience Overview

50+

Years of combined Collabware experience 10,000+

Users using our SharePoint and Office 365 solutions 40+

Microsoft certifications

25+

Collabware and Collabspace projects

250+

Years of SharePoint experience across our team

18

Collabware Certified Consultants

50+

Million documents migrated and managed in our solutions 100%

Project success rate



How do I setup my SharePoint environment to make Records Management easy?



1) Governance

Roles, Responsibilities, Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, Oh My!

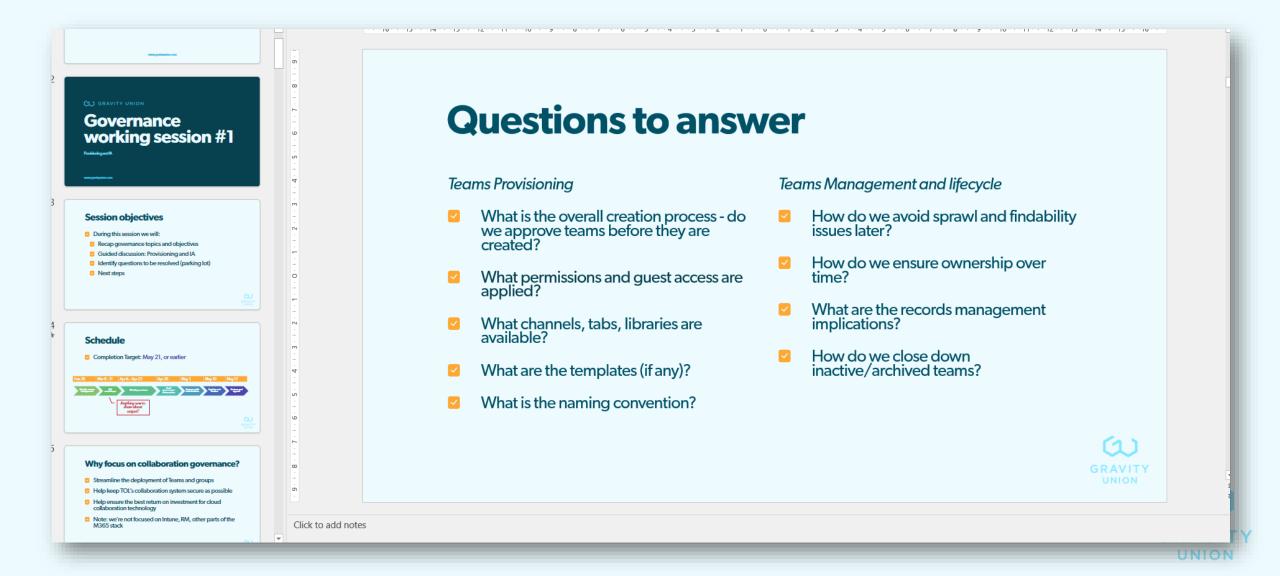


Governance

- Need to control the solution through policies, procedures, guidelines in addition too well-defined roles and responsibilities
- SharePoint is a skill that is mastered over time
- It is better if a designated team does the roll out for departments
- Can't let departments go off on their own without oversight and guidance



It takes planning and preparation



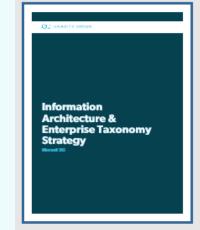
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Example guidelines

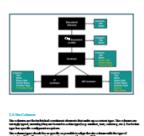
Document and agree on a governance model up-front in key areas...

- Information Architecture
- Security
- Privacy
- Applied Record Management
- Migration
- Change Management (training, communication and Support)
- Governance (roles, responsibilities, guidelines, procedures)

We've documented all our lessons learned and best practices to share with all our clients





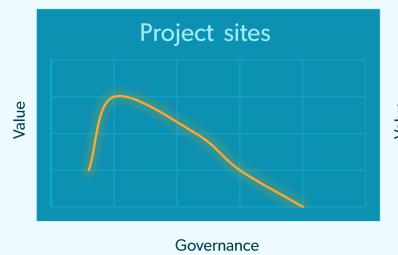


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It's not one-size-fits all











What does a lack of proper governance look like?

- Unhappy end users
- Departments designing their own sites without oversight
- Create a template to use for all departments
- Not centralizing and standardizing configuration



2) Focus on the end user experience

Navigation, sorting, searching, filtering



Focussing on the end user experience

- The more dialed-in the user experience, the happier end users are, the less requests we get to rework the solution, the easier records management is over the long run.
- i.e. don't just dump the content in (and fix it later), design the solution upfront following best practices
- Great end user experiences ALWAYS provide enough detail to auto classify content increasing our level of compliance
- Webinar: Craft a great SharePoint and Teams user experience YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1EKbaEgaMs)





3) Favour In-place records

Layer compliance on top of your collaboration solution



In place records

- Moving records just because they are records is a lot of effort
- Typically requires manual intervention
- May lose audit trail continuity (will persist the SharePoint unique ID but the SharePoint Unique ID is not store in the M365 audit trail)
- Makes records harder to find when they are not in their natural environment
- Exceptions for obsolete or superseded content



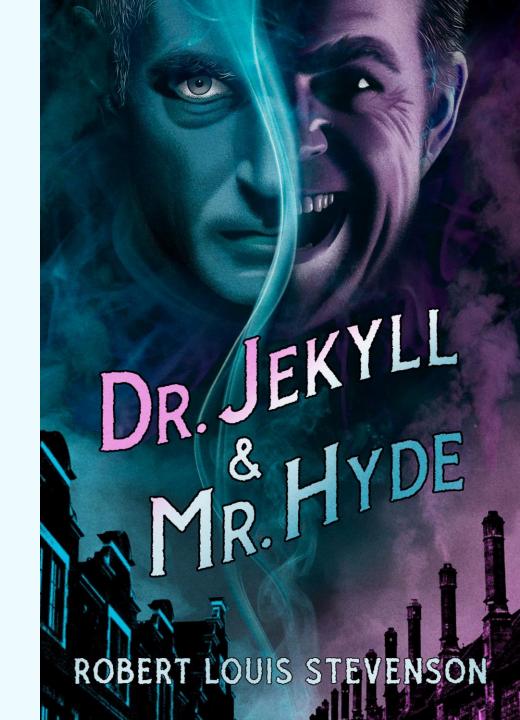
4) Centralized and Standardized Configuration

Use the Content Type Hub



The two personalities of SharePoint

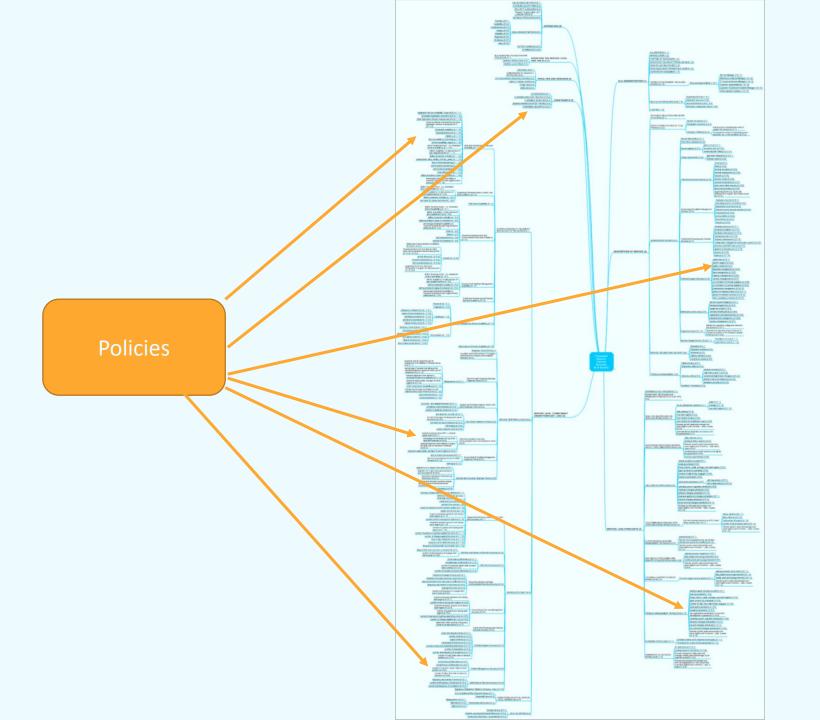
The DNA of SharePoint is both decentralized and centralized



What does this look like?

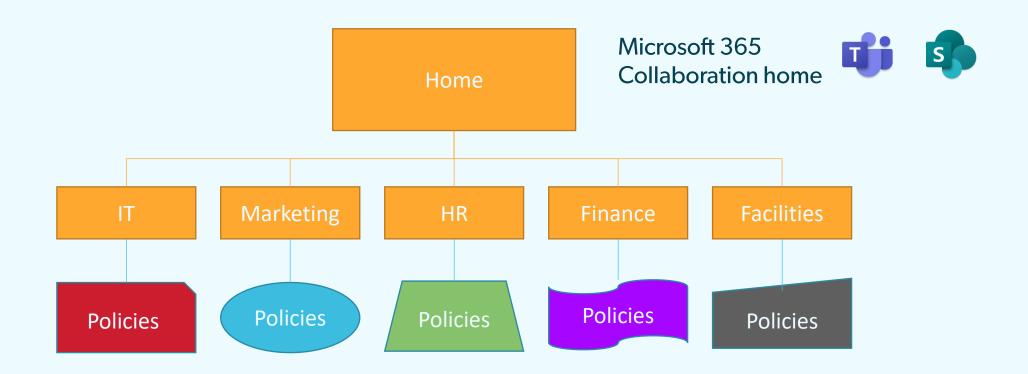
- Standardizing on the Content Type Hub (the central location to define content types) (or scripted, templated)
- Leverage managed metadata when appropriate
- Reuse our configuration (content types and metadata) across the enterprise when possible





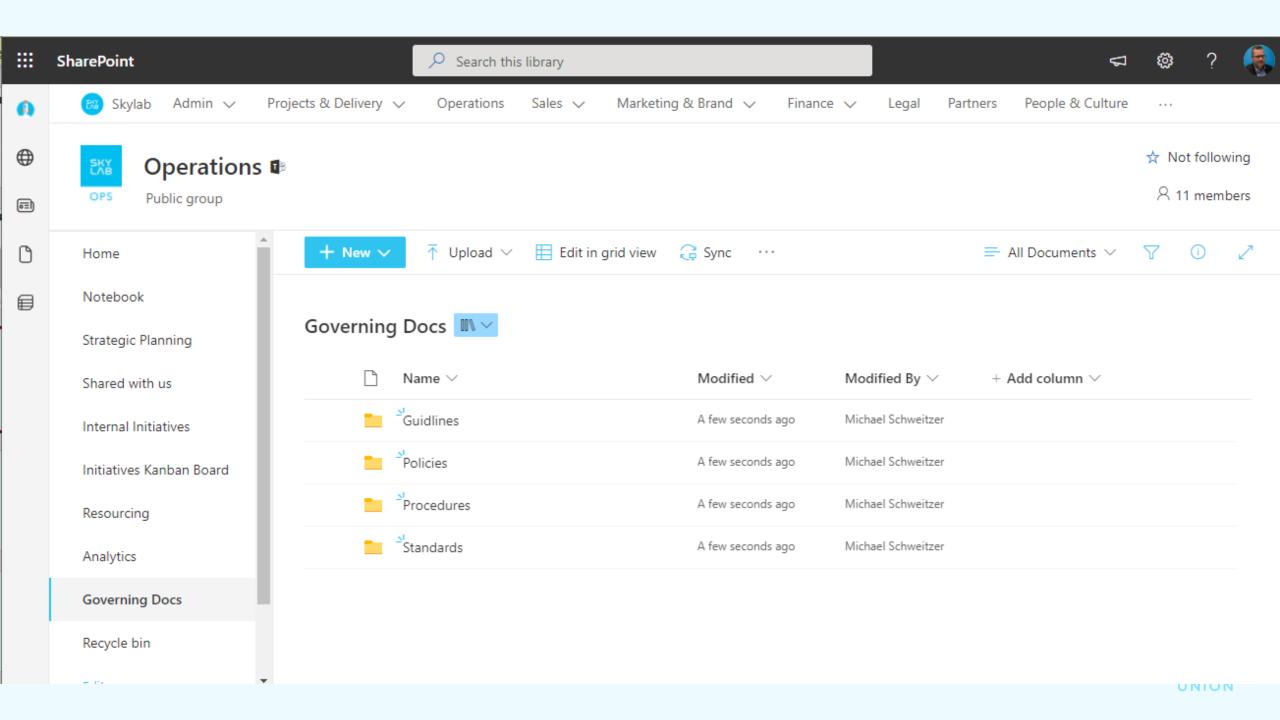


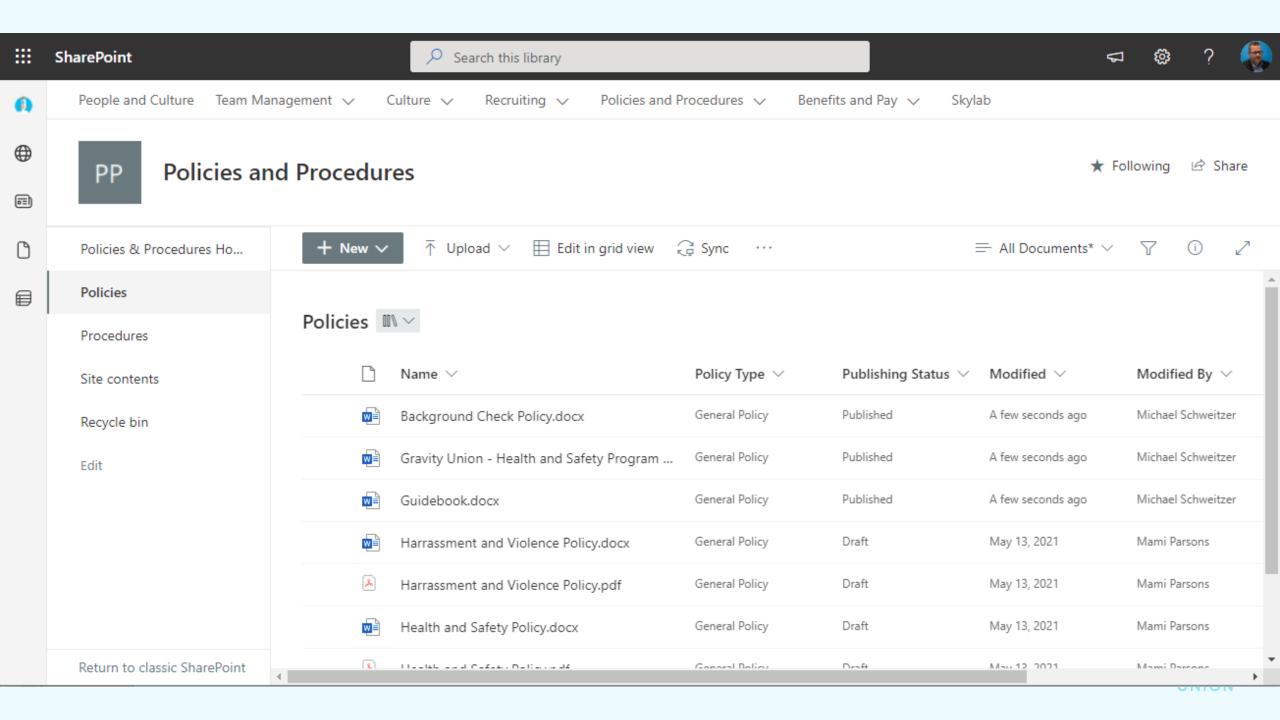
Decentralized configuration



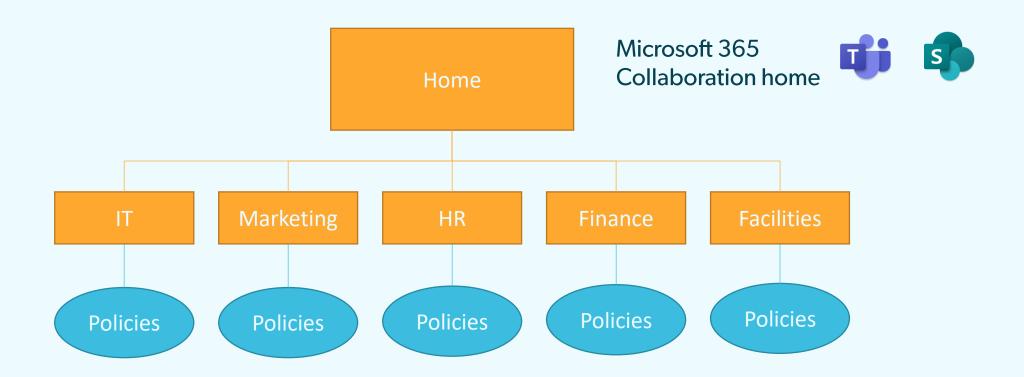
Different content types, metadata, structure





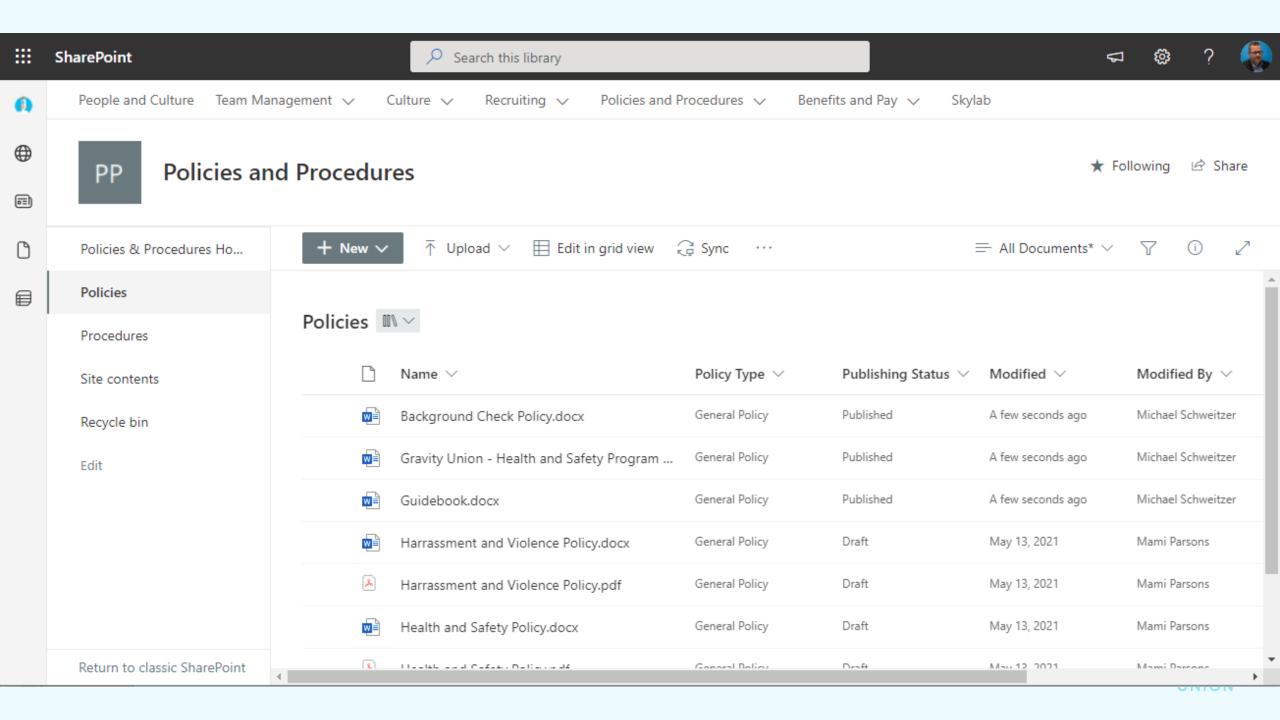


Centralized Configuration



same content types, metadata, structure

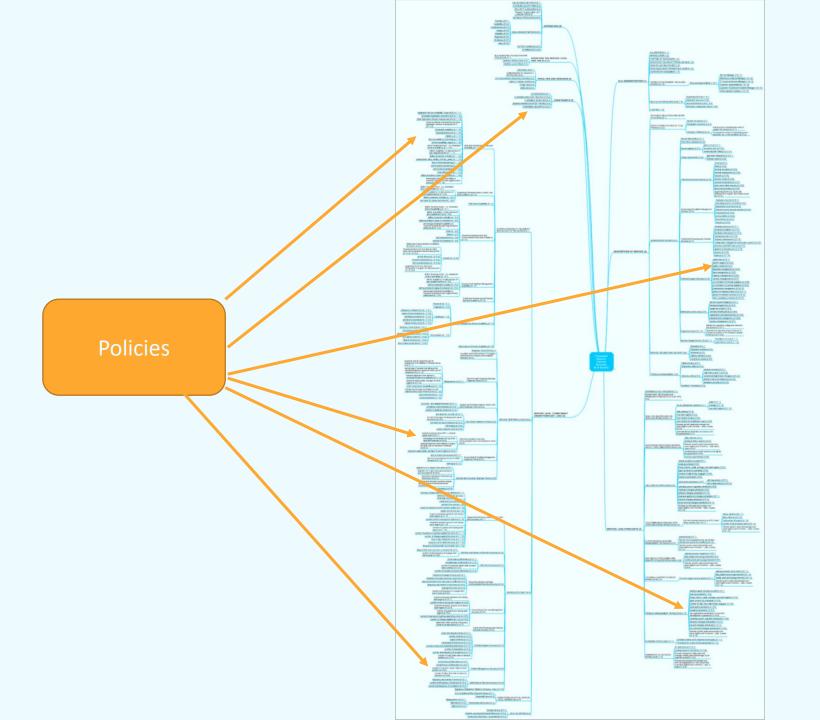




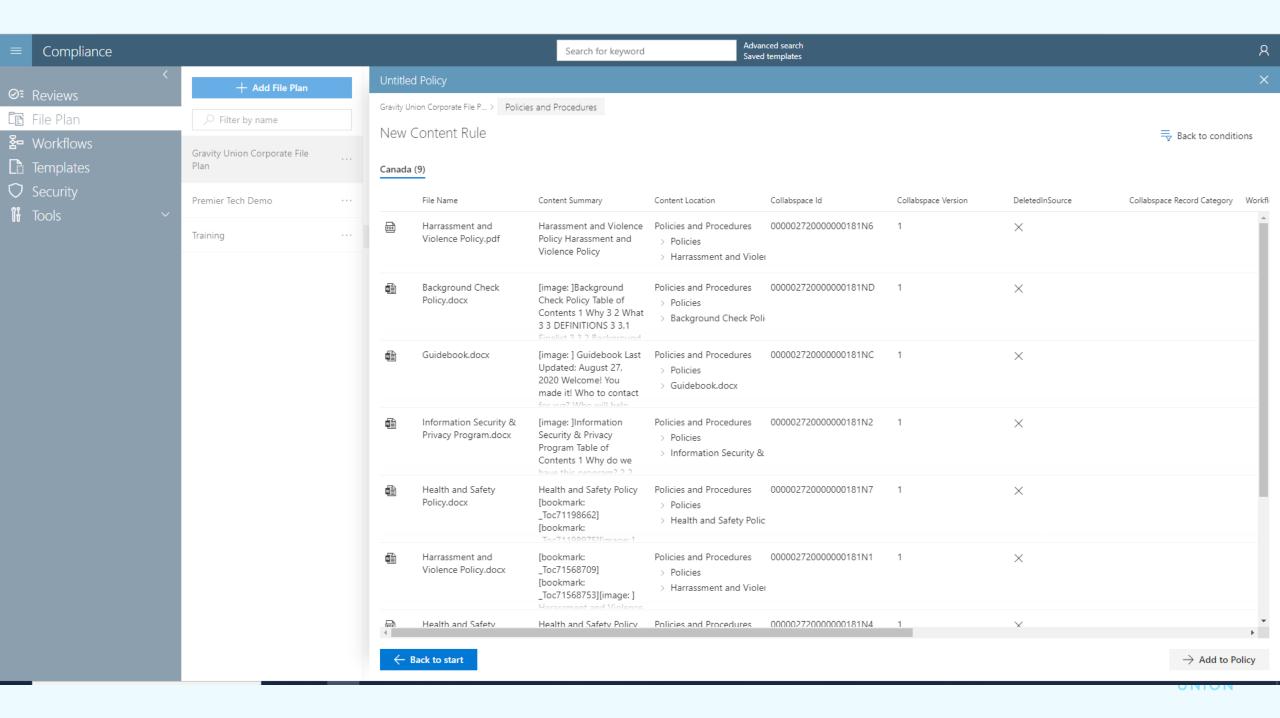
Centralized solution makes records management easier

Add File Plan	Untitled Policy
	Gravity Union Corporate File P > Policies and Procedures
name	New Content Rule
Corporate File	Match All of the following conditions
lemo ···	Content Type Contains the word or phrase Policy
	+ Condition + Group

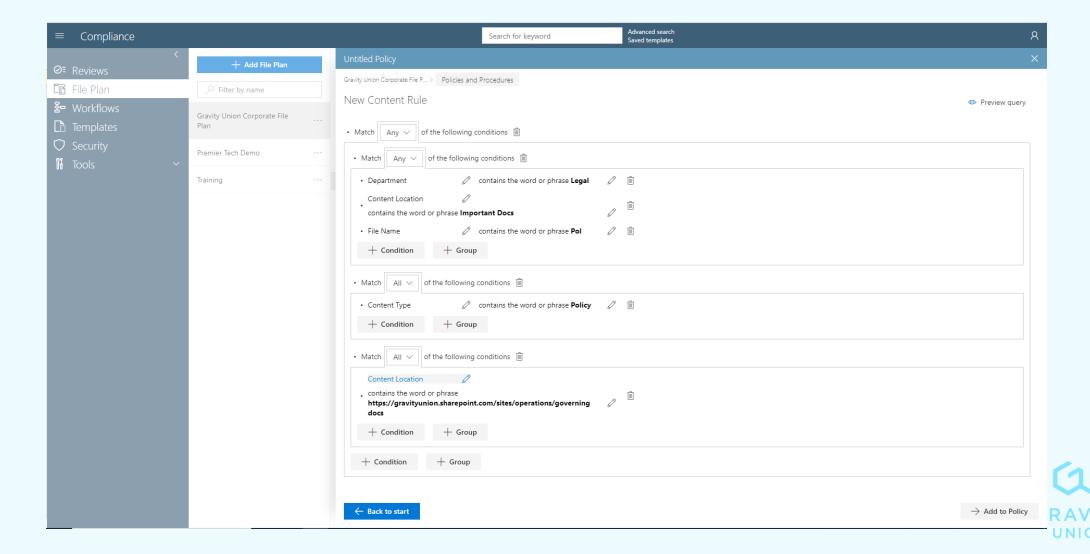




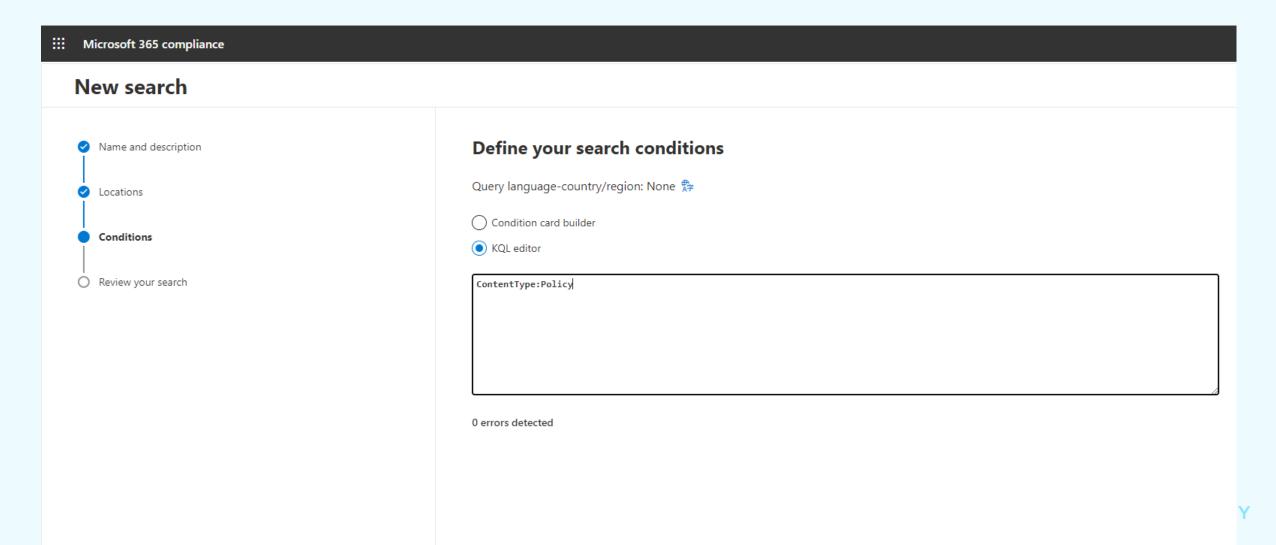


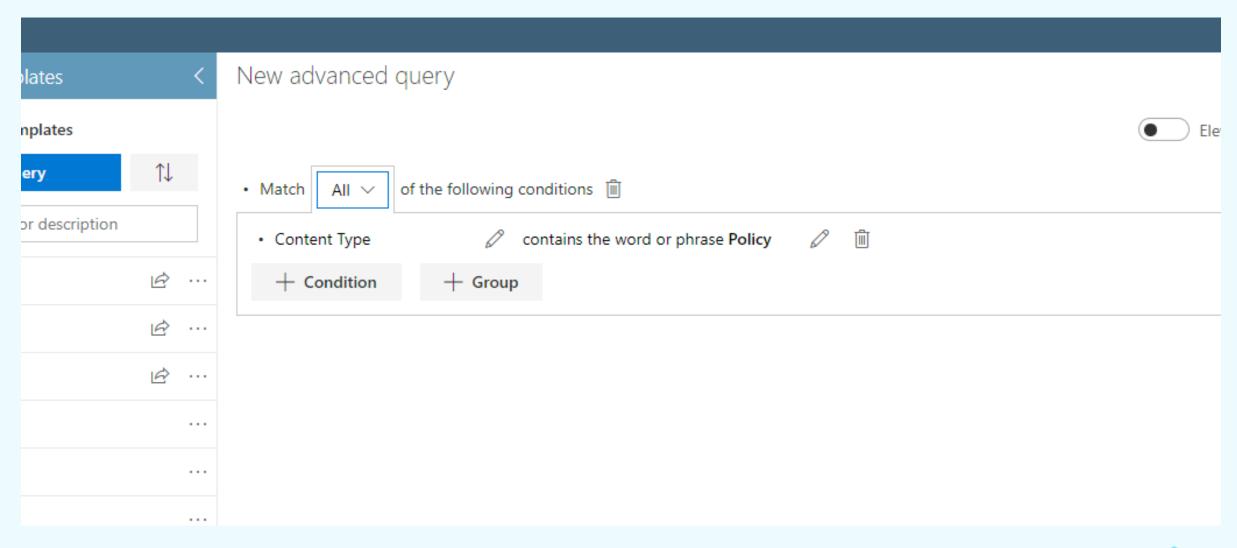


Decentralized solution.... ®



Centralized solutions: eDiscovery







Policies and Procedures > Policies > Gravity Union - Health and...

Policies and Procedures > Policies > Working Remotely.docx

Background check 3 3.3 Background check vendor 3 3.4

[image:]Gravity Union Health and Safety Program (2019)

[bookmark: _Toc442355361][image:] SharePoint | Office 365 | Collabware | Collabspace www.gravityunion.com

Working Remotely Policy Please note that working

Employment history check 3 3.5 Educational

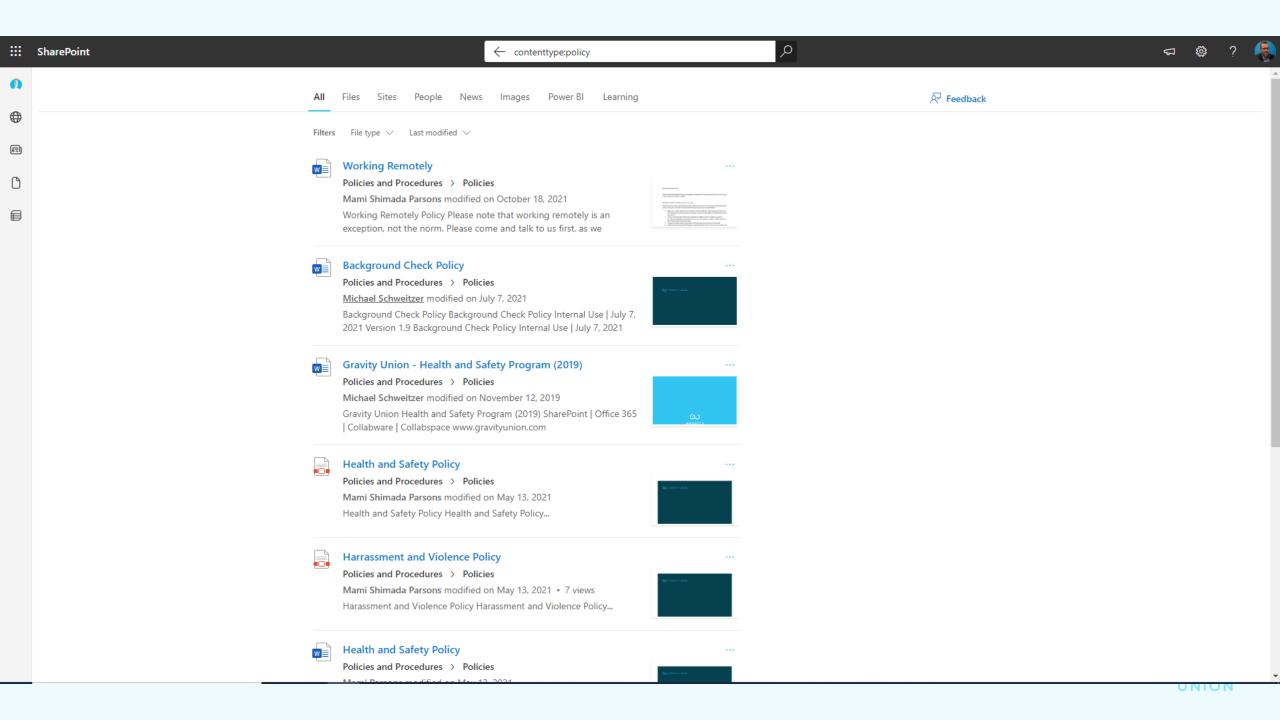
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Gravity Union - Health and Safety Program (2019).docx

Working Remotely.docx

Basic search Saved templates

Save template as



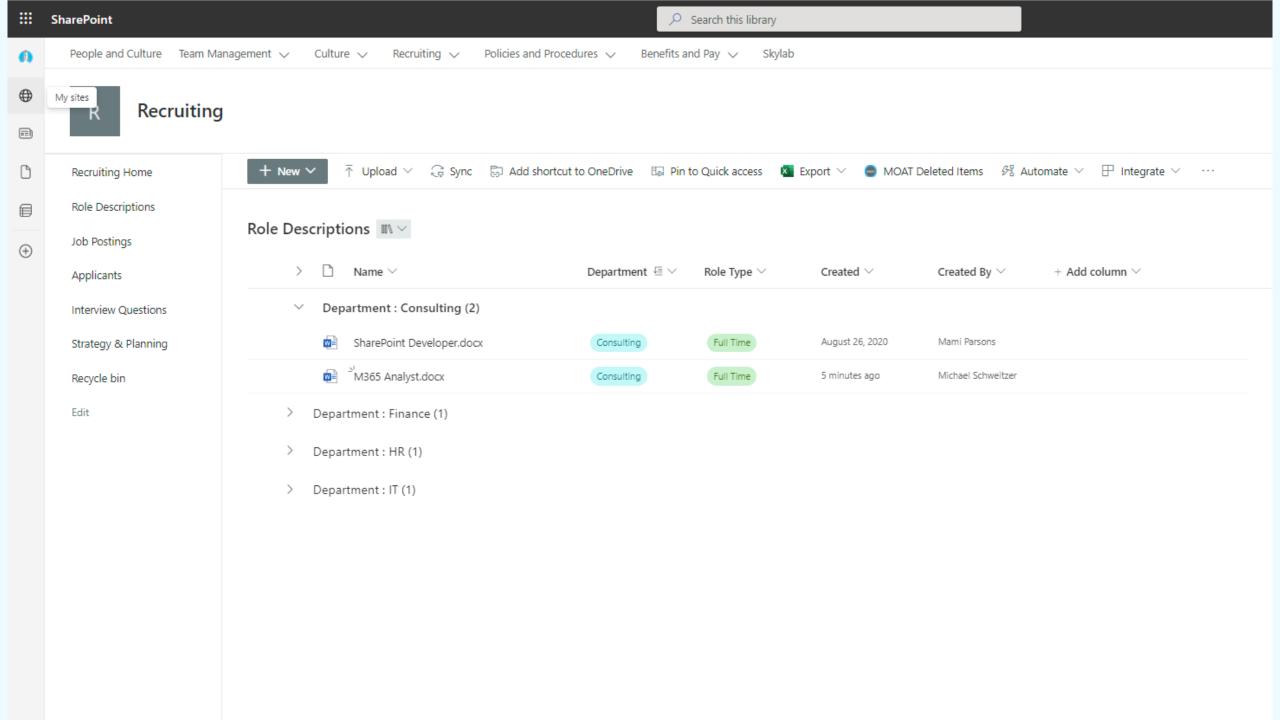
Benefits of centralized configuration

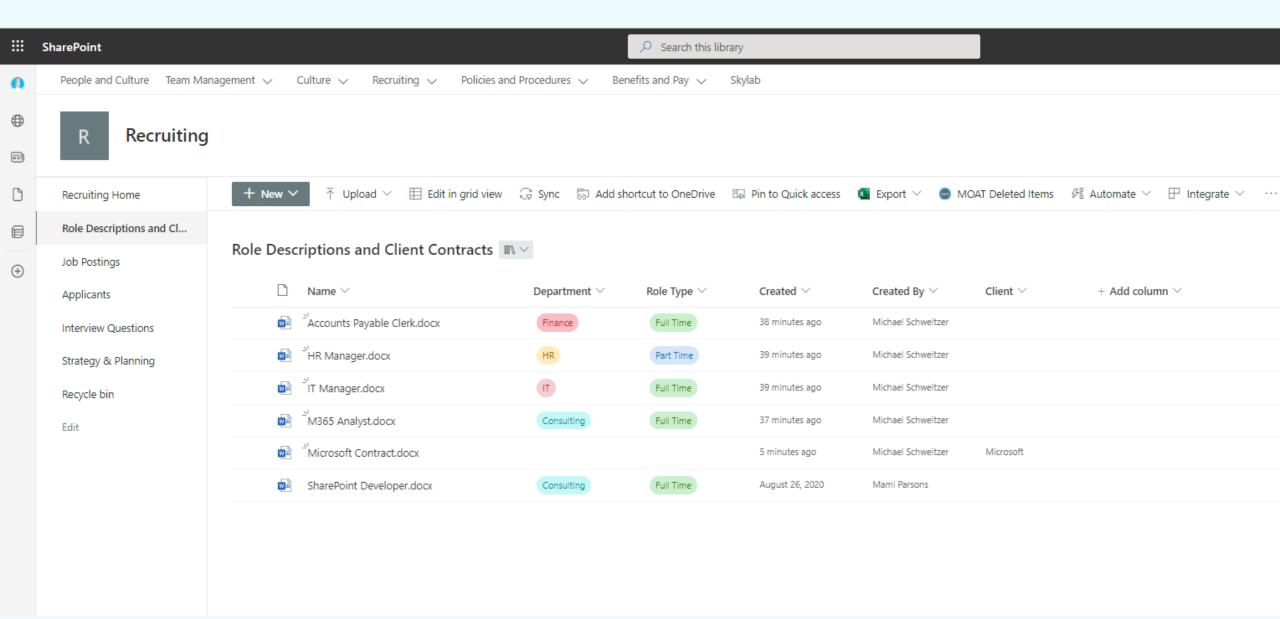
- More easily apply value-add solutions like Records Management and privacy, sensitivity, workflow, integration etc.
- Consistent user experience
- Cost savings (more solution reuse)
- Easier to search\find content regardless of location (eDiscovery)
- Create cross departmental solutions (eg policies portal)
- Easier to create reports (list of expired policies, unreviewed)
- Takes the guess work out of enterprise vs non-enterprise configuration (minimizes maintenance)

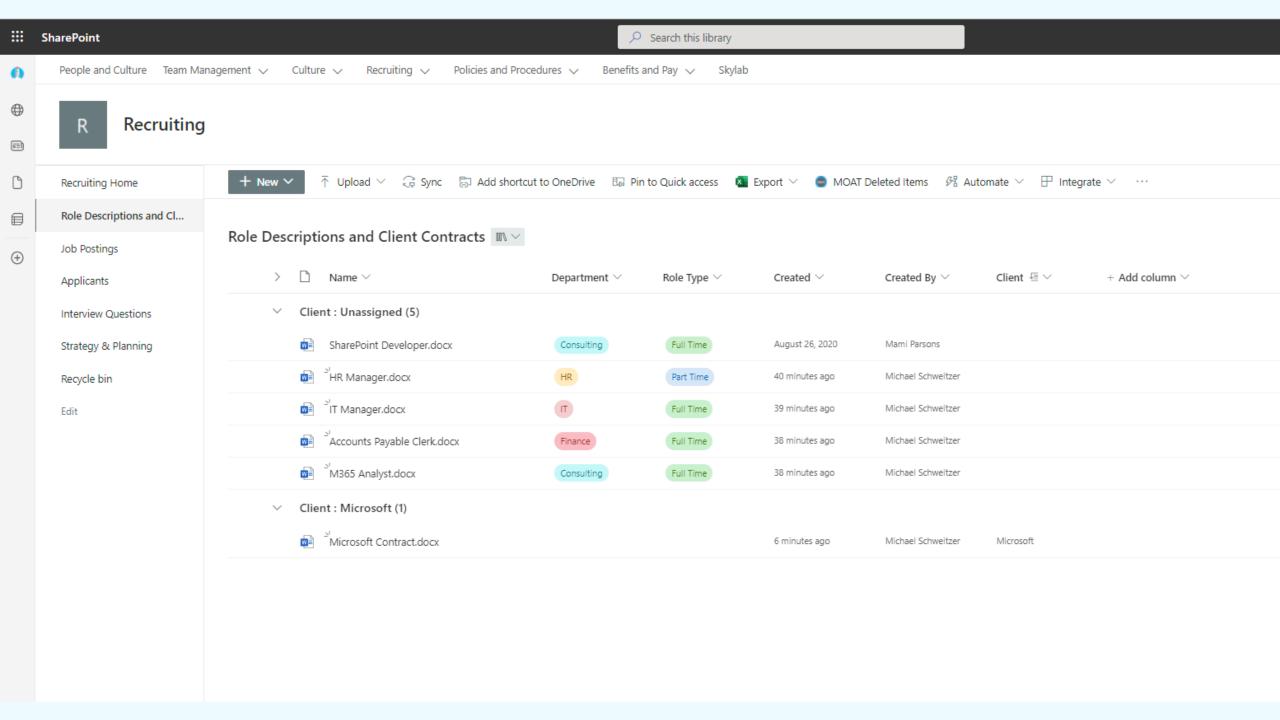


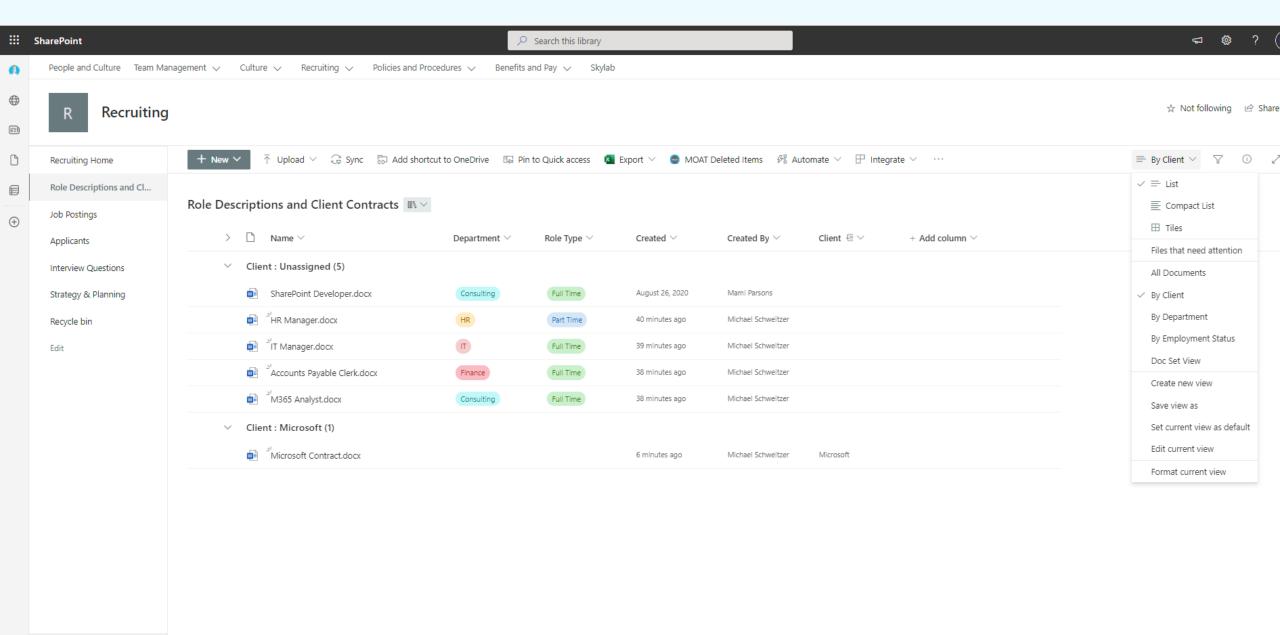
5) Document Libraries should serve a single purpose



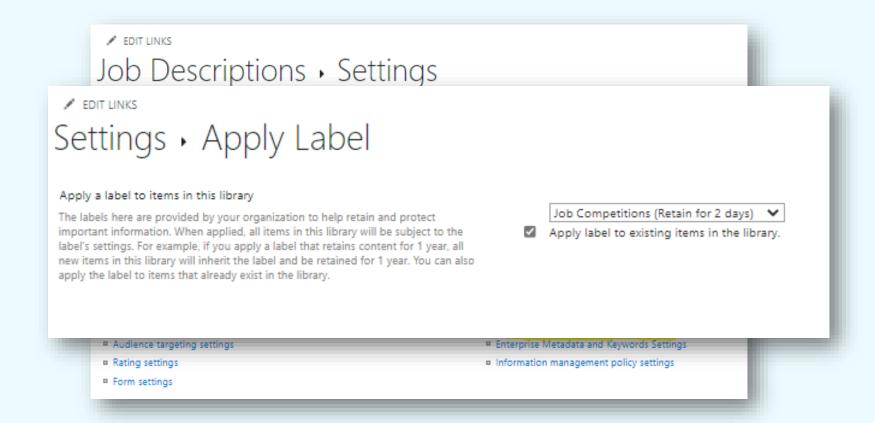








Single Purpose Libraries





Common Anti-Patterns

- Document Library per Client
 - Contracts
 - Invoices
 - Email Communication

Where we would likely have different metadata



It's an art form...

Sometimes its make sense...

E.g. Employee File (a couple of dozen files)



Questions to ask

- Start with the posture of a single purpose library but consider exceptions..
 - Large volume?
 - Different classifications?
 - Lots of views required?
 - Different metadata required per document type?
 - Do we need different workflows per document type?



Single Purpose Libraries

- Ensures you don't have to restructure content down the road
- Easy for end users to remember where content lives
- Minimizes the number of clicks\inputs (we don't need to choose a document type or content type)
- Minimizes the number of available views
- No confusion around what metadata to show or not show



6) Avoid Folders

As much as possible



Booo Folders

- Brittle (can change too easily, hard to govern)
- Opens the solution up to human error (spelling mistakes)
- Limits how we can view content (to the folder structure)
- End up with empty folders
- More clicking around



We still have intuitive buckets

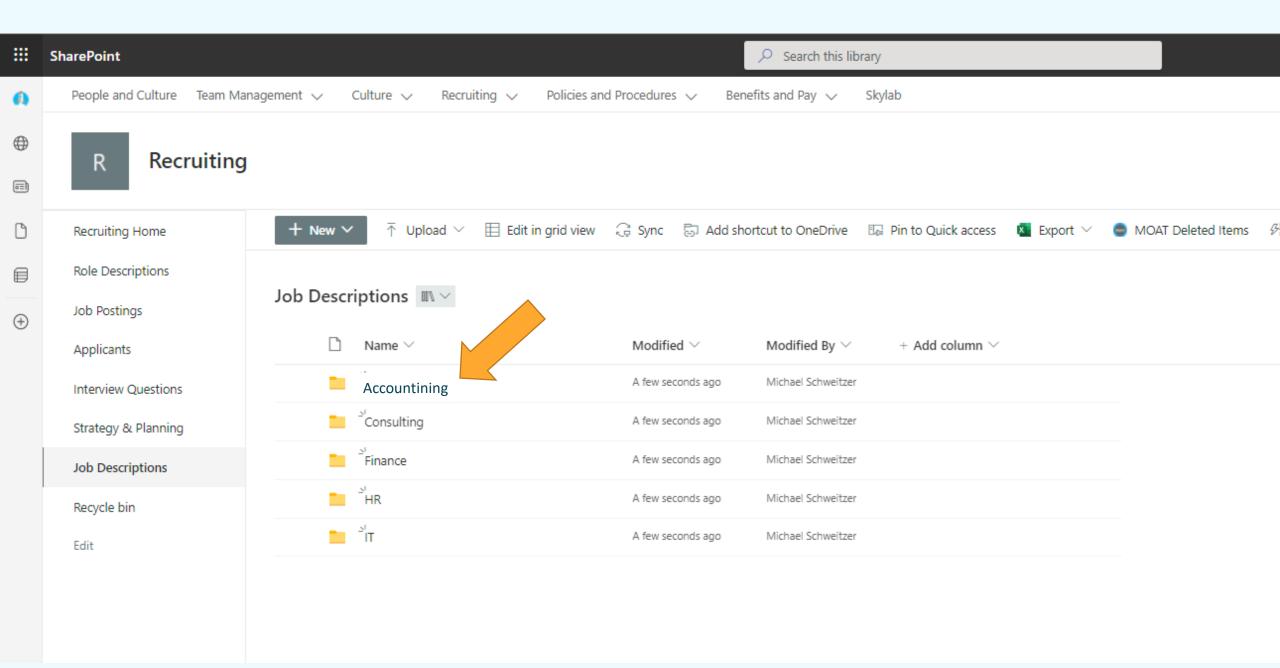
SharePoint (platform)

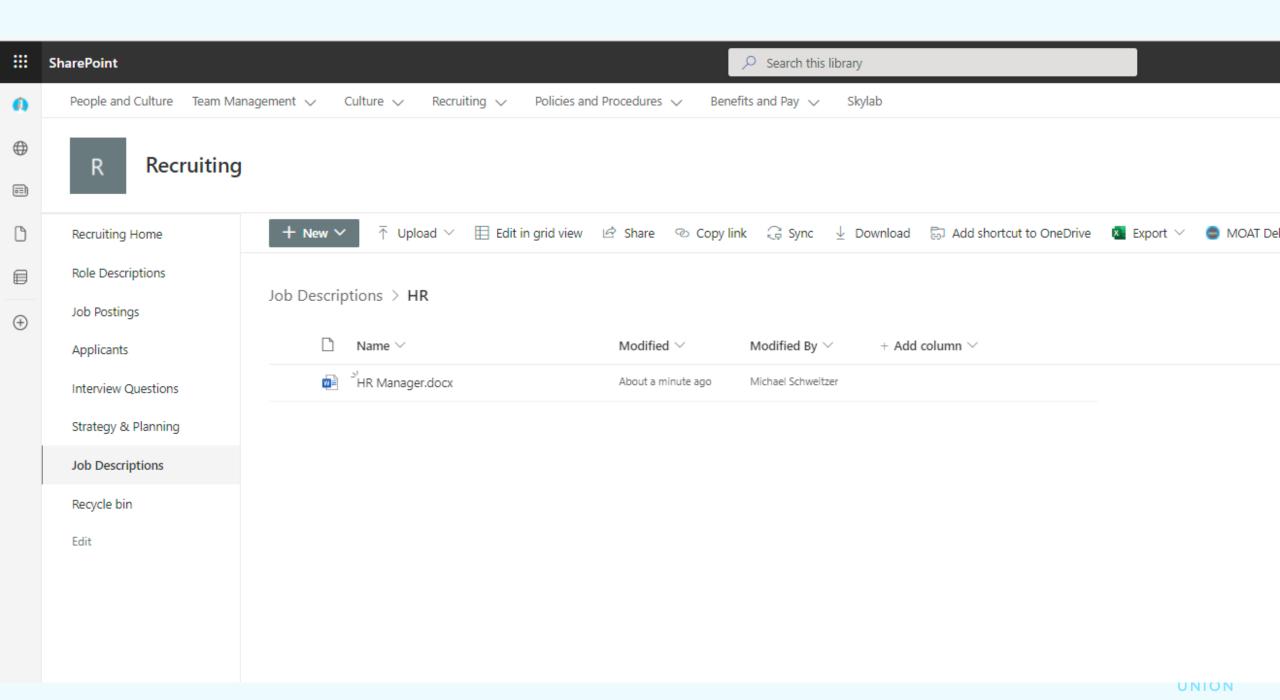
Human Resources (hub site)

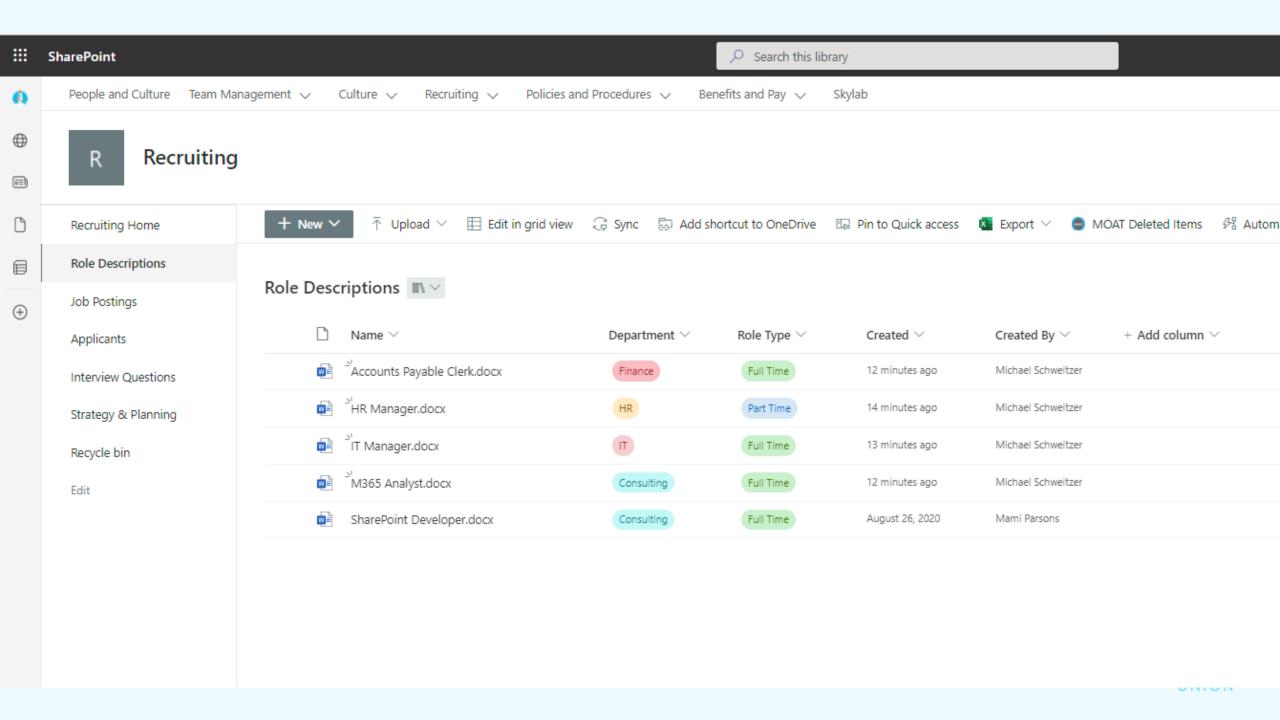
Recruiting (site)

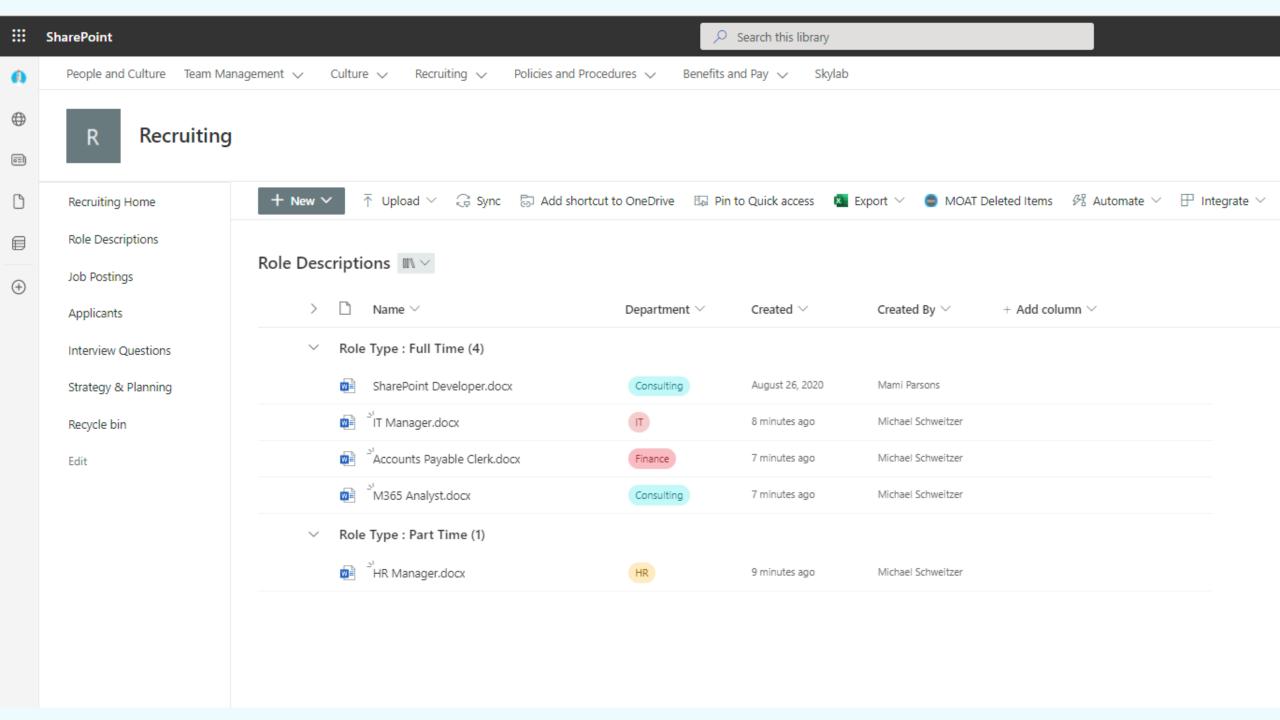
Role Descriptions (library)

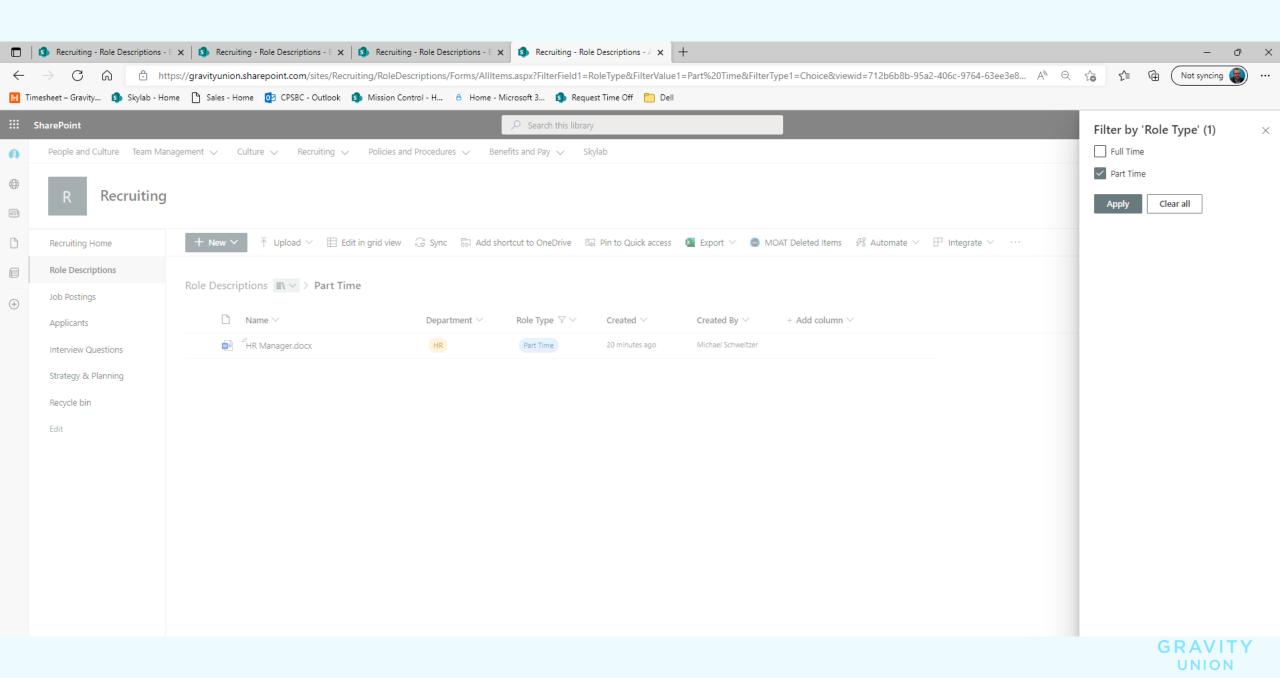












Benefits of not using folders

- Easier and more consistent classification of content for records and privacy
- Easier and more cost effective eDiscovery
- More consistency of solutions and metadata across the enterprise
- More business value (searching, sorting, filtering, workflows, integration)



7) Design to minimize maintenance

Changes to the solution require changes to your RM configuration



Minimizing maintenance

- The more our solution changes over time, the more RM configuration (and reconfiguration) is required and/or the more complicated our RM configuration needs to be
- Key Areas
 - Scalability
 - Security
 - and
 - User Experience
 - Avoiding folders
 - Centralizing configuration



Scalability

- SharePoint has thresholds and limitations for the amount of content for a given library or view
- The more content we place into a document library the more metadata we need (more complicated design, harder on the end-user)
- If we don't design for scalability then we'll hit the limits or create an less than optimal solution and need to restructure the solution at some point



Scalability

- Ensure we anticipate at the long term volume of content (what's it going to be 5 years out? 10 years out?)
- We target 5,000-10,000
- Favour auto-scaling solutions
 - like removing\moving content when no longer needed to limit the content (Active vs semi-active)
- If new buckets are required (lists, libraries, sites) ensure we automate the provisioning to ensure consistency of configuration (content types)
 - Eg Invoices 2010, Invoices 2011 etc...



Security

- Does the solution design support the required security (without constantly changing breaking security models)
- Solutions that have a high volatility of security changes are more likely to be redesigned\restructured
- We should be designing our solution so that it will require minimal changes to security



8) Include RM input in design



Include RM in design

- Have an RM representative at the table to ensure we'll be able to meet our needs around compliance.
- IT\The business should not be rolling out Teams, SharePoint etc. without looping in the RM team.

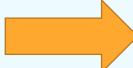


9) Don't lift and shift



Lift and shift







SharePoint Online!



Properly Designed...







SharePoint Online!



Lift and shift

- When organizations don't have the time to design a proper SharePoint solution and just dump the content in...
- Creates a frustrating end user experience, is typically hard to govern and apply records management
- Will need to circle back at some to fix it (its more effort to restructure content once it is in SharePoint)
- Increased end user frustration
- Increased maintenance (Costs more \$\$\$ than getting it right the first time)
- Decreased compliance



10) Auto Classify Everything

Manual classification



Auto classify everything

- End users typically don't care about records management (and they shouldn't have to)
- Manual classification decreases classification accuracy
- Solutions properly design NEVER NEED manual classification
- If the content cannot be auto classified then the solution has been designed incorrectly – a good check and balance on solution design



11) Very Big buckets are bad

Some organizations are considering very few generic buckets (7 year, 10 year, 20 year etc.)



Very Big Buckets are Bad

- Big bucket file plans were a desperate? attempt to make manual classification easy (making compromises)
- Auto classification negates the need to manually classify content
- Larger file plans have value (owner, approver, reviewer, disposition authorities, provision\citation, eDiscovery)
- Too large a bucket will make disposition review process slow and cumbersome
- Too large a bucket will make auto classification rules large, complex and hard to manage
- Too large a bucket will not allow you to align the retention workflow to end user needs
- Functional file plans are recommended (300-400) where record categories determine who the disposition authority should be



In Summary

- Set up a clear and effective governance structure
- Focus on the end user experience
- In place records
- Centralize and standardize configuration
- Shoot for single-purpose document libraries
- Avoid folders when possible
- Design to minimize maintenance
- ✓ Include RM in the design
- Don't lift and shift
- Auto Classify everything (no manual classification!)
- Very Big Buckets are bad



Questions?

contact@gravityunion.com



