



Envision IT Office 365 Productivity Series Experience, Branding and Navigation

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# Agenda

Overview of Envision IT **Experience and Branding Case Studies** Navigation **Case Studies** Questions / Next Steps



#### **Envision IT Overview**

- O365 Productivity Consultants
- Go-to partner for SharePoint Websites, Intranets, Extranets, and Collaboration portals
- 24 years of experience
- 10 years of SharePoint experience
- Microsoft Gold Partner
- Multiple award winner

Silver Cloud Platform

Microsoft Partner
Gold Collaboration and Content
Silver Application Development











#### Services

**Public Websites** 

Intranets

**Extranets** 

**Collaboration Portals** 

SP Farm Health Check

O365 & Azure Cloud Services

AODA Compliance

Upgrades & Migrations

Training

Mobile first adaptive design

Support Agreements

Solution Architecture

Workflows and Forms

#### Poll 1

What Office 365 products do you use today?

- Office Online (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote)
- Exchange/Email and Skype for Business
- SharePoint Online
- OneDrive
- Yammer



#### Poll 2

What do you feel you will be deploying first in SharePoint Online?

- OneDrive for Business
- Corporate Intranet
- Team or project sites
- Extranet



# **Experience and Branding**

## Microsoft Ignite Branding Session



https://channel9.msdn.com/Events/Ignite/2015/BRK3164

#### Recommendations









# "You do not brand Outlook or Word, why do you need to do branding on collaboration

# sites?" Good question...

Applying branding is absolutely supported and understandable for intranet portals, but what about collaboration sites? It is recommended to consider the cost versus gain.

#### How to minimize future maintenance?

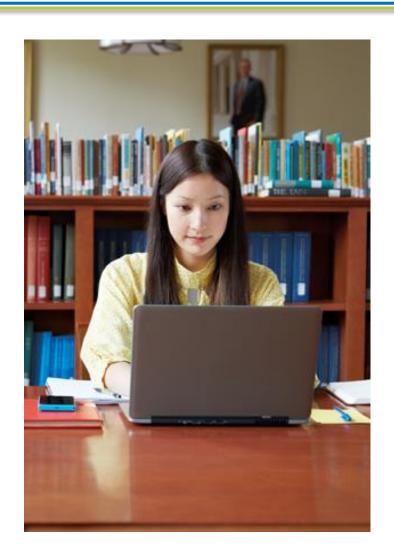
# Use alternate methods rather than master pages

All changes to OOB master pages are provided to your sites automatically without need to modify custom code

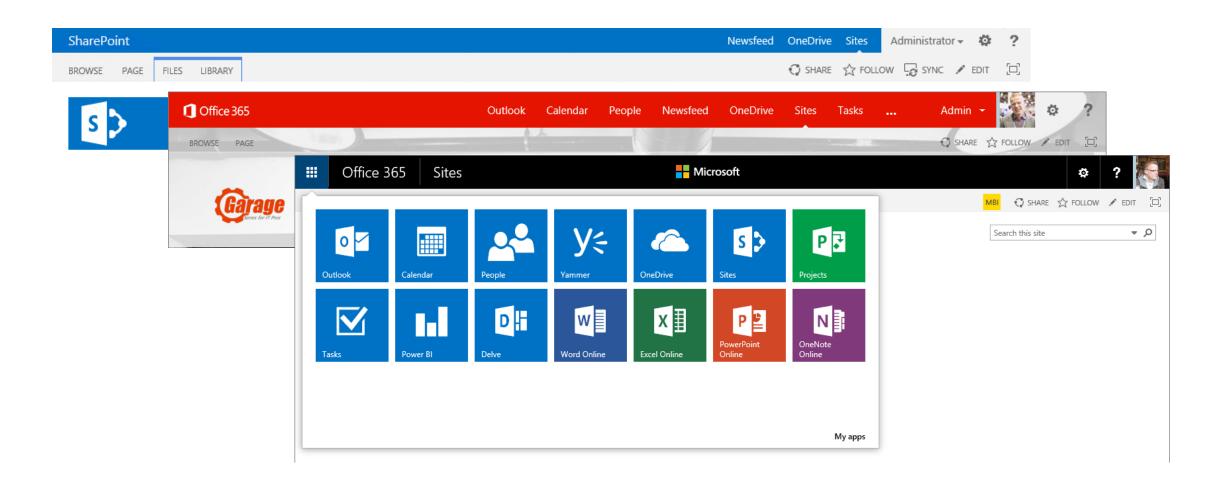
#### Avoid feature framework element usage

Many feature framework elements will create dependency to xml files on the disk, which then cannot be removed easily (think "Content Migration")

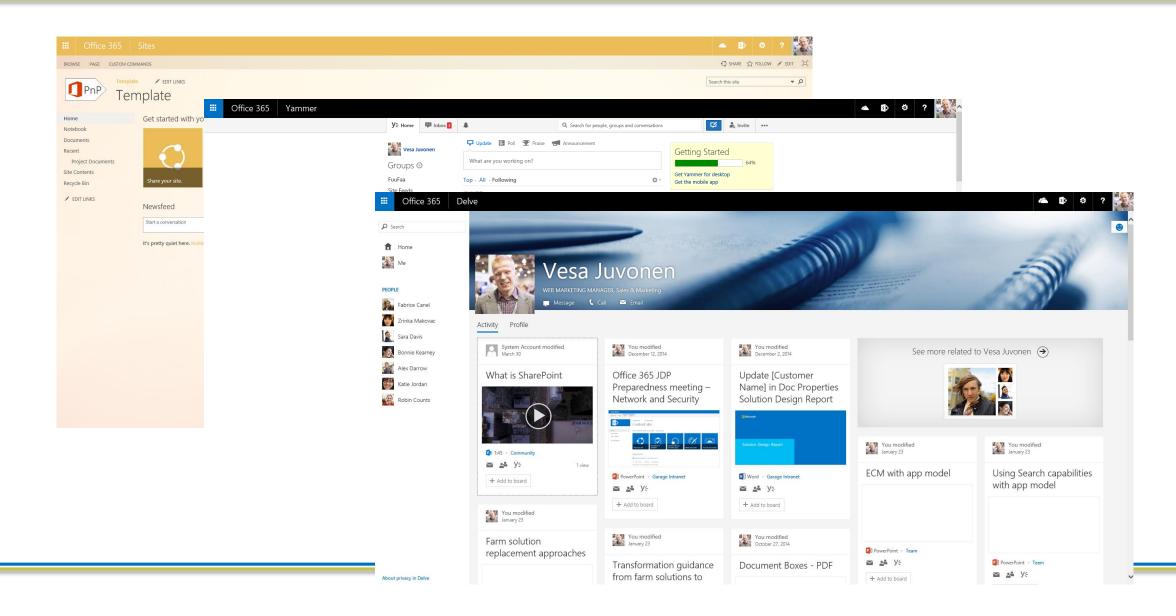
Sandbox solutions will also impact future maintenance costs of the deployment



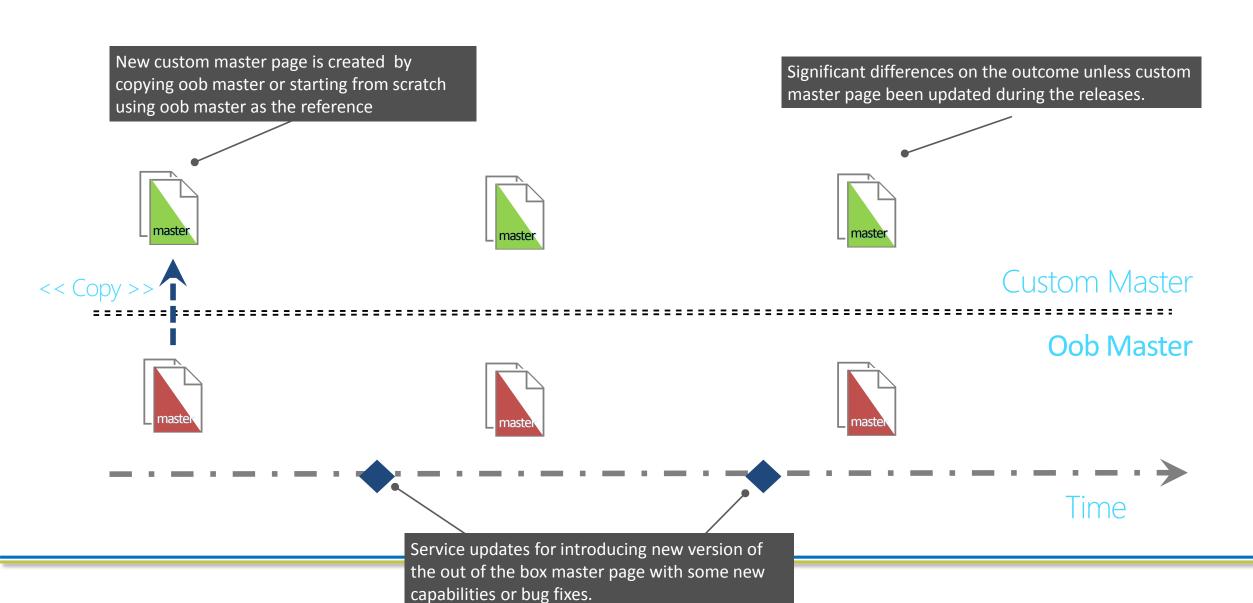
# Constant evolution of the user experience



## Office 365 services and branding



# What is the challenge with custom master page?



# "But I have always customized my sites with custom master, what has changed?" Nothing

Actually this similar maintenance challenge exists in onpremises and across the version upgrades as well. Concentrate on what's truly needed.

# "I have an intranet portal and I need to do heavy branding customizations!" Absolutely fine.

Key point is to understand the impact of the chosen pattern. Custom master pages are completely supported, you might want to use alternative approaches if possible.

#### Branding options for SharePoint sites

#### Office 365 Themes Alternate CSS **Custom Master Page** Theme • Can be used to centrally • Can be used to override • Full control on how the Can be used to control control branding cross site is rendered whatever CSS settings branding, fonts and all services in the Office background image of the Control to color, fonts Applied one by one to 365 sites and even layout settings each site, except for **Options** Limited settings Configuration applied to publishing sites Configuration applied to currently each site each site Any updates to oob • Can be overridden in site • Can be used to provide master pages are not automatically reflected level responsive user on the sites • Only in Office 365, not in experiences on-premises Office 365 Support Office 365 Office 365 Office 365 Fair Good Unlimited Average **Flexibility Cost impact** (short and

long term)

#### Office 365 Themes

#### What

Control high level branding settings cross Office 365 services

#### Why

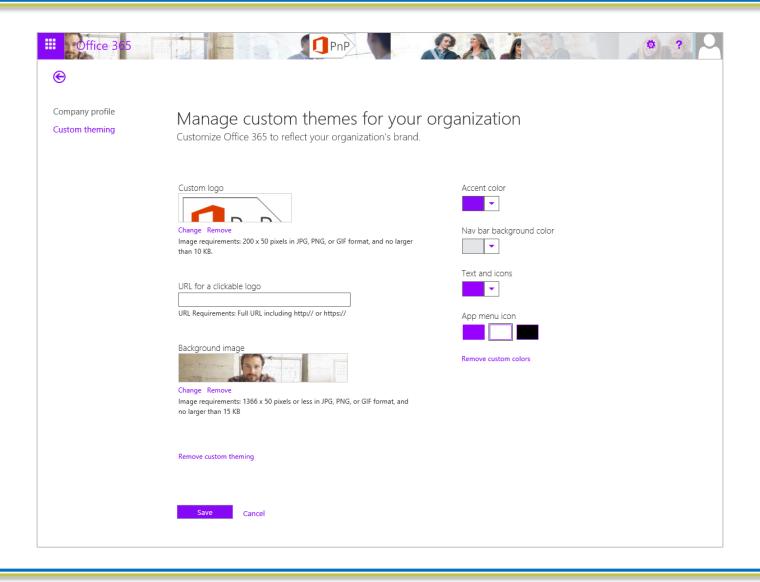
 Provide branding consistency across all services, like Yammer, Delve or OneDrive for Business

#### How

- You can control company wide default branding settings from the Office 365 administration services
- SharePoint sites use Office 365 theme if site specific theme is not applied
- Personal theming option can be disabled by tenant administrator, if needed (coming)



## Controlling themes for Office 365



#### **Themes**

#### What

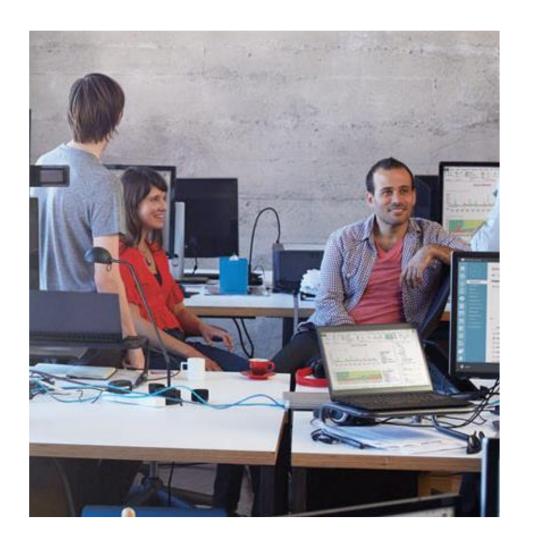
 Provide user branding elements without introducing master page or page layout elements

#### Why

 Continue using out of the box master pages, but introduce customer specific branding elements

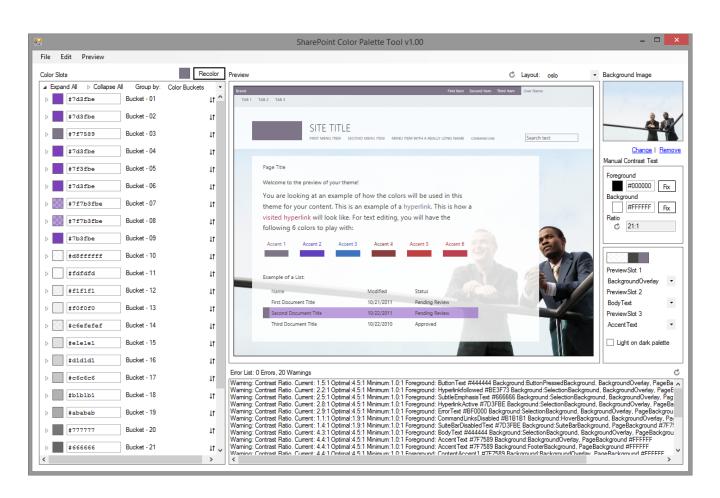
#### How

 Use theming engine for introducing color, fonts and background images for sites



#### SharePoint Color Palette Tool v1.00

- Free downloadable tool to create custom themes
- Can be used to create themes in matter of minutes with company colors and images



http://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/download/details.aspx?id=38182

## Adding alternative styling for host web

#### What

 Provide alternate CSS styling elements to the web by adding custom style elements to the page rendering process

#### Why

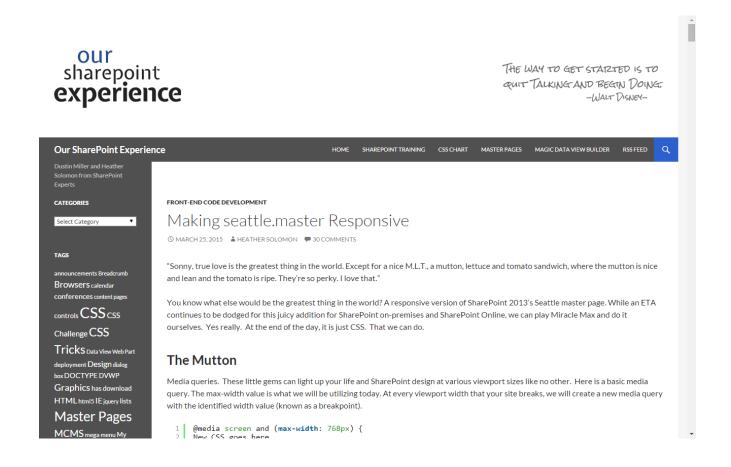
 To provide more comprehensive changes on the page layout compared to what themes can do without introducing a custom master page

#### How

 Use the AlternateCSSUrl web object property, which was introduced as new capability in the 2014 April CU for SharePoint 2013



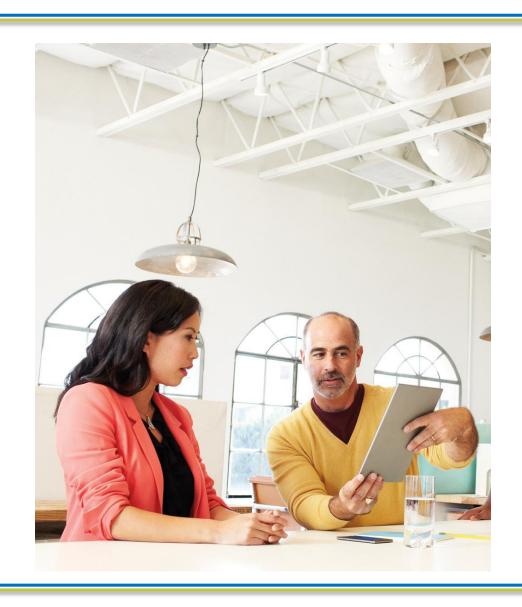
## Making Seattle.master Responsive



- Heather Solomon
- http://blog.sharepointe
   xperience.com/2015/03
   /making-seattle-master-responsive/

#### **Custom Master Page**

- What
  - Replaces the OOTB master page
- Why
  - Provides complete control over the design
- How
  - Upload and set the master page



# Envision IT Branding Recommendations

## User Experience and Branding

Creative designs

Simple and rich branding approaches

Consistent navigation

Responsive design

Accessibility considerations

Consistent
approach for on
premise and
Office 365



## Simple Branding

No custom master page or minimally customized master page

Leverages themes and alternate CSS

Minimizes risk of Microsoft changes affecting the sites, particularly in Office 365

Ideal for collaboration sites

Leverage Bootstrap and Heather Solomon's responsive CSS for seattle.master



#### Rich Branding

Custom master page and CSS

Full control of the user experience

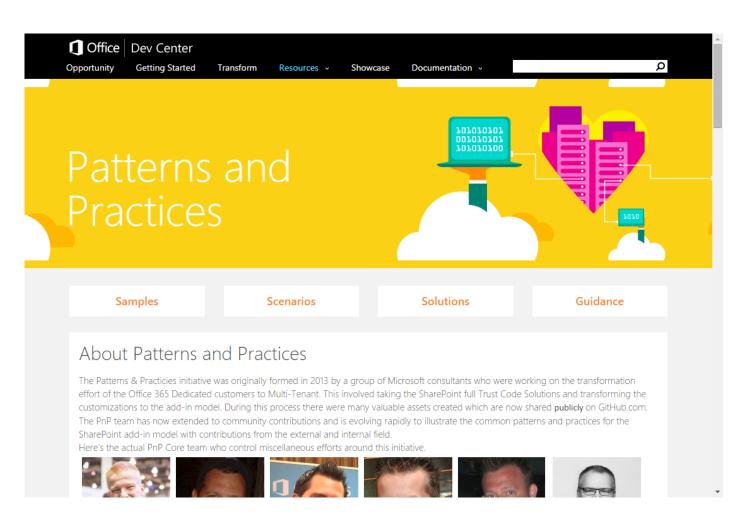
Leverages Bootstrap

Ideal for public web sites and publishing Intranets

Still supported for Office 365, but updates from Microsoft may break things



## **Deploying Branding**



- Microsoft guidance and components to support Office 365 development
- We are leveraging the PowerShell components
- http://dev.office.com/patternsand-practices
- https://github.com/OfficeDev/PnP

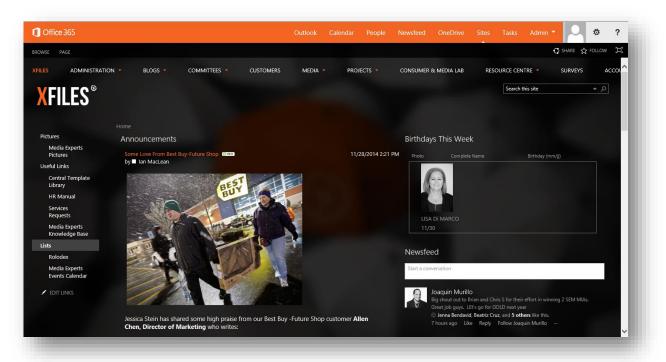
# Navigation

#### **Navigation**

- We have both server and client controls to render top nav, left nav, and breadcrumbs
- Server control is visually better as nav is there as page loads.
   Client control caches to improve performance, but still appears after the page loads
- Both support multiple site collections against one term store
- Client control supports Office 365



#### **Media Experts**



- Top ranked, Canadian owned agency media planning and buying company
- Purely focused on the Canadian consumer
- Intranet housing customer documentation was migrated to O365 from MOSS 2007
- Re-architected into multiple site collections with a content-type hub



## **Envision Shakespeare Company**



- Fictional theatre company web site
- Demonstrates the new features and capabilities of SharePoint 2013
- http://www.envisionit.com/shakespeare
- https://shakespeare.envisionit.com

#### L-3 Wescam



- Top ten global defence contractor for sensor surveillance equipment
- Intranet has clear site structure, easy to navigate
- Graphic, dynamic site that mirrors their public website
- Enhanced Search, custom web part surfaces frequently visited pages

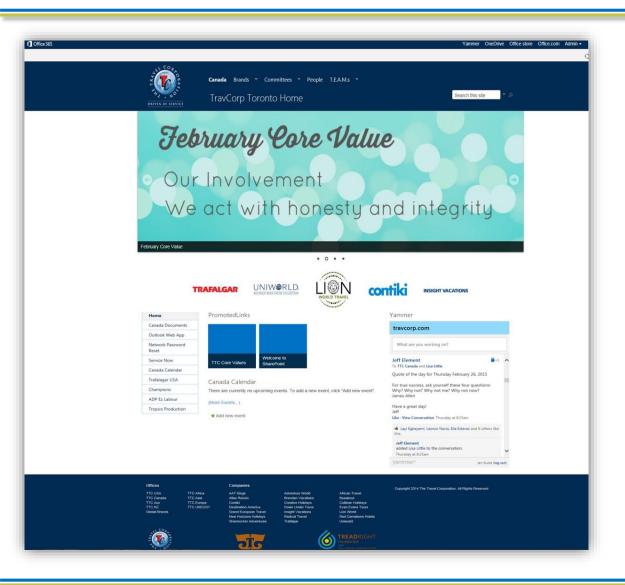
## **Branding Poll**

#### What branding approach are you most likely to implement?

- Office 365 Themes
- SharePoint Themes
- Alternate CSS
- Custom Master Page

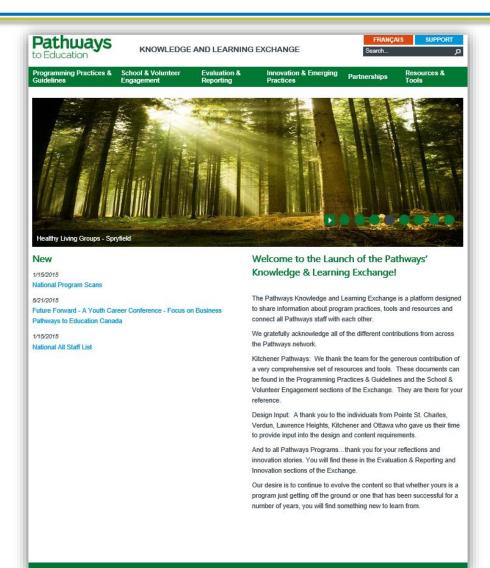


## The Travel Corporation



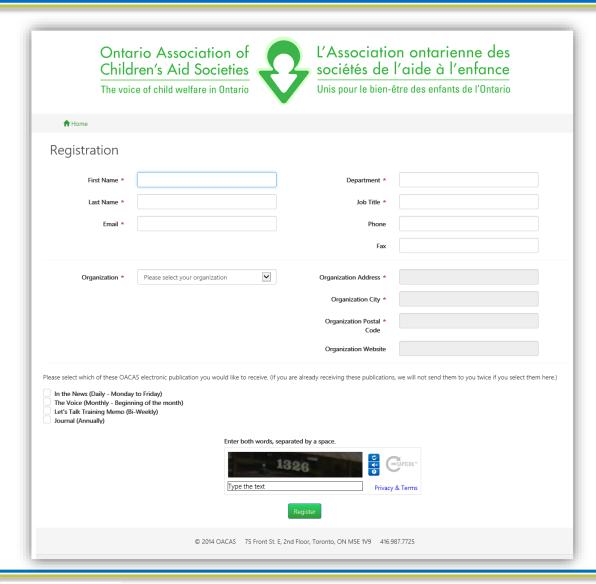
- Diverse brands, locations and travel experiences
- SP Online and Yammer provide a global collaborative intranet environment
- Compelling, creative design
- Adaptive provides optimum experience for mobile

#### Pathways to Education



- Fresh, attractive O365 site in accordance with corporate branding guidelines
- Custom image rotator, lots of white space
- "New" webpart displays latest articles

#### Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies



- O365 solution hosted on Azure
- Accessed Microsoft O365 Nonprofit E1 program for up to 8,000 free user licenses
- Over 1,200 documents shared out to 44 member CAS
- Dynamic pages display tagged content
- Site navigation renders based on Term Store configuration
- A responsive design
- Familiar user experience across
   Extranet and Collaboration sites

#### **Navigation Poll**

#### What navigation approach are you most likely to implement?

- OOTB SharePoint
- Farm solution control (on premise only)
- Client side JavaScript control
- Generated navigation



#### **Pinchin**



- Provide environmental, engineering, health & safety consulting
- Training and mentoring on Office 365 Intranet
- Issues around document management, retention policies
- Groups and permissions, sharing in O365
- Search Centre configuration and refinement setup
- Workflows and alerts

#### **Recent Sessions**

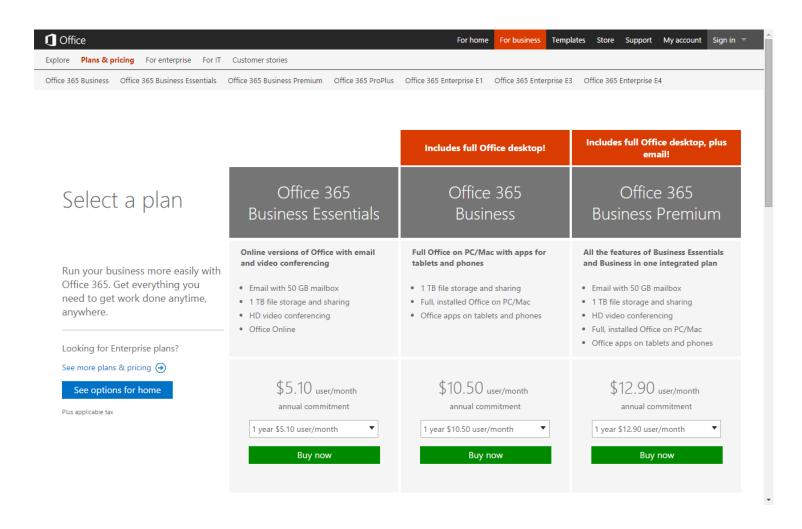
- Office 365 The Future is Now
  - June 9, 2015
- Office 365 Information Architecture and Migration
  - June 16, 2015

www.envisionit.com/Services/Events



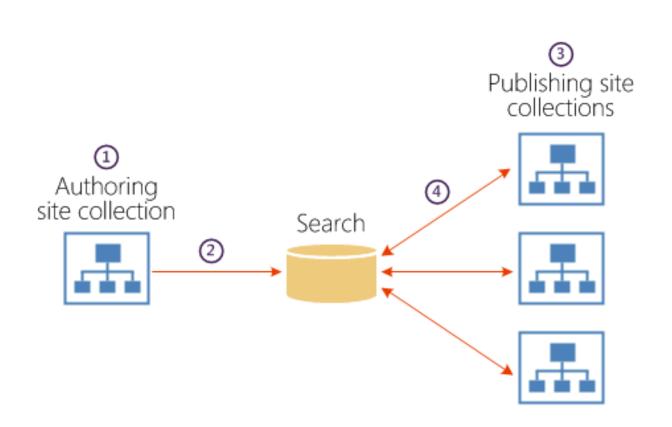
# Suggested Upcoming Topics

## Office 365 and SharePoint On Premise Licensing



- Myriad of options and bundles
- Office desktop can be bundled in as well
- How does this compare to on premises?

## **Cross Site Publishing**



- Author content in one place in SharePoint
- Publish it to multiple locations
  - Multiple areas of the Intranet
  - Sharing between public web site and Intranet
  - Multiple web sites



## Repeatable Deployments

- PowerShell based deployment
- Repeatable between dev, test, and production
- Leverages Microsoft Patterns and Practices



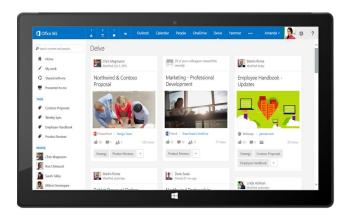
## Hybrid SharePoint

- Some content can't go in the cloud
  - Particularly while we wait for Canadian data centres next year
- Leverage the cloud as much as possible
- Keep the rest on premises in a simple SharePoint farm





Search and discovery across Office 365







#### Stay in the know

Discover information tailored to you from your network.

#### Find what you need

Find the right results from any source and take action

#### Discover new connections

Connect with the right experts and learn more about their content



## **Upcoming Sessions Poll**

#### Which topics would you like to see future sessions on?

- Office 365 and SharePoint On Premise Licensing
- Cross Site Publishing
- Repeatable Deployments
- Hybrid SharePoint
- Delve



#### **Session Format Poll**

#### How would you like to see these delivered?

- Existing webinar format
- Full day paid workshop



## Questions and Next steps

## THANK YOU!