

# SharePoint vs. Intranet: What's the Difference?

Many organizations use SharePoint as an intranet—the central portal within which their teams work, share knowledge, and store information. But since SharePoint's debut in 2001, intranets have evolved. Rather than a simple repository for document management and basic communication, modern intranets now serve as complete digital version of the traditional office experience.



# Intranets have evolved beyond SharePoint

The tailored digital experiences of modern intranets grow with your organization's needs and business objectives, encouraging a depth of collaboration, communication, employee engagement, and corporate culture that simply can't exist within the confines of SharePoint or even a custom, in-house solution. Critically, an Igloo intranet integrates with your existing SharePoint instance, allowing you to extract even more value from your Microsoft tools either by using both in tandem, or by migrating your SharePoint content to Igloo.

To understand the true value of a modern intranet—sometimes called a “digital workplace”—let's examine the key ways it differs from SharePoint, and how it can be used either to augment your SharePoint implementation, or even replace it.



*“Igloo has a great **SharePoint integration** that gets a lot of use at Parkland. ...Igloo makes it much easier to ensure everyone can access the correct version of these documents easily.”*

Larissa Mark, Manager of Employee Engagement at Parkland

## SharePoint Out of the Box

### Benefits

- + **Document management**  
SharePoint's primary purpose
- + **SharePoint Sites**  
Hub and Communication Sites serve new use cases
- + **Office 365 Integrations**  
Teams, Yammer, OneDrive, Office Suite

### Limitations

- **Complexity**  
Costly and difficult to tailor
- **Usability**  
File dumping ground
- **Rigidity**  
Sites and content hard to move
- **Lack of social and collaborative capabilities**  
Not a welcoming destination

**Deployment Speed**



Deploy your way. With Igloo's out of the box feature set and pre-built templates, you can deploy in as little as a month.

**Customization**



Igloo is designed with end users and site admins in mind. Admins can use our powerful editors and widgets to get the exact brand feel they're looking for.

**Governance**



Igloo's permission system allows for a robust centralized or decentralized model, giving teams and leaders the power to build or grow team areas and content in harmony with others.

**Navigation**



Site structures can be represented and navigated in different ways for different teams and employees, ensuring every worker has easy access to the resources they need.

**Engagement**



Admins and non-technical users can build, control, version, draft content, ghost write, broadcast, and collaborate with other users in real time. This ease of use allows for engagement with the entire organization.

**Extensibility**



Igloo has a robust ecosystem of out of the box integrations for your favorite business apps. Have a tool that doesn't have an Igloo integration? Our developer API makes it easy to integrate without the costly development.

**Mobile Accessibility**



Forget about user license limits—even without corporate email logins, your frontline users can easily access your Igloo intranet, receive notifications, find important information and documents, and generally contribute to a thriving corporate culture.



SharePoint requires extensive scoping and development work to achieve a working model, lasting 6 months to 1.2 years.



Out of the box customizations are extremely limited. Branding requires additional knowledge and resources to accomplish.



SharePoint uses a model in which lines of business remain siloed. It does not have a governance model that allows for your company to operate together as a team, and relies heavily on IT.



SharePoint is built on sites with no unifying structure. Tying together all standalone sites will be an ongoing requirement.



Content cannot be made or distributed in a personalized manner, making it extremely difficult to maintain an engaged and aligned workforce without a significant increase in full-time resources.



SharePoint is fantastic at connecting Microsoft products, but often requires heavy development work to connect some third-party applications.



Each user requires a new license with a corporate email and, ideally, a computer to access corporate knowledge. Mobile-first users do not receive accommodations for their different work requirements and limitations, and will struggle to engage or benefit from SharePoint.

# There's so much more to know and achieve.

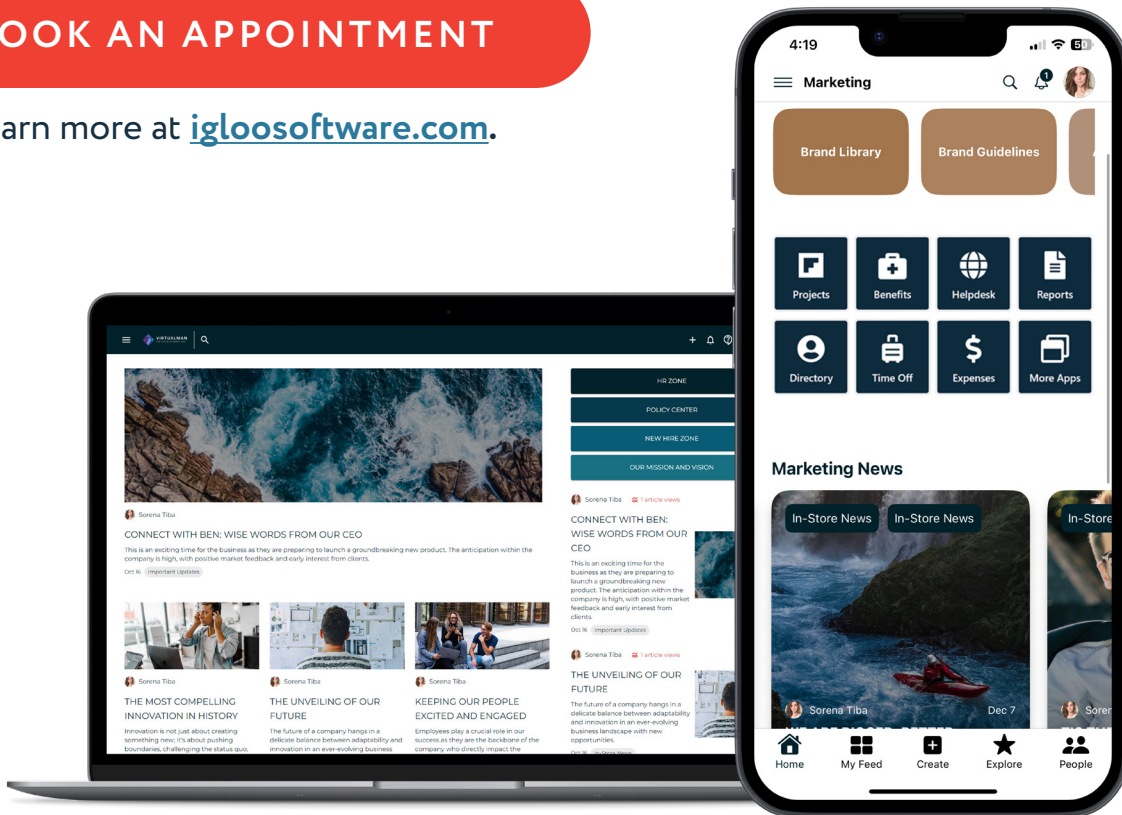
It's clear that an Igloo intranet can take your organization well beyond the confines of SharePoint alone, whether you want to augment SharePoint or replace it entirely.

This is just the beginning, though. An intranet is a truly expansive digital workplace that offers every different type of employee the resources to get more done through superior communication, collaboration, knowledge sharing, integrations, and more.

Talk to an Igloo intranet expert today to learn how much you stand to gain by choosing a modern intranet solution.

**BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

...or, learn more at [igloosoftware.com](https://igloosoftware.com).



At Igloo, we are always innovating, keeping up with the way the world works today. We help companies move beyond traditional intranets to inspiring digital workspaces that improve communication, knowledge sharing, collaboration, and culture. We do not just provide the technology; our leading team of engineers and support professionals offer best-in-class services to ensure success for every customer.

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