

Sunset for SharePoint Server 2016 & 2019: A Practical Playbook

*A practitioner's guide for CIOs, risk managers
and digital-workplace owners*

The Cost of Standing Still

As of July 14, 2026, Microsoft will officially end support for SharePoint Server 2016 and 2019. For organizations still relying on these platforms, “doing nothing” is a high-risk strategy with escalating costs.



Security Gaps That Won't Close

Once support ends, patches and updates stop—leaving critical vulnerabilities exposed to ransomware, data breaches, and reputational harm.



Compliance Red Flags

Using unsupported software puts your organization at odds with ISO 27001, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, and other compliance frameworks. Auditors see this as a critical failure.



Escalating Costs

If you opt for Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU), be aware: they're charged per core, and the price increases by 25% every year. Within two years, you're likely spending more than you would on a full cloud migration.



Limited Talent & Growing Complexity

Support for legacy systems is dwindling. It's becoming harder to find people who understand how to maintain these environments — putting your business at risk if something breaks.



Falling Behind on Innovation

Modern workplace tools like Microsoft Copilot, Viva, Loop, and Fabric aren't available on legacy SharePoint. Sticking with on-prem means missing out on productivity gains and AI-powered insights that your competitors are already unlocking.



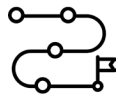
Fragile Integrations

Upcoming retirements of SharePoint Add-Ins (April 2026) and legacy workflows (December 2025) mean custom solutions will start breaking unless proactively modernized.

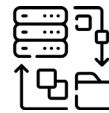


The Five-Phase Path to a Modern Workplace

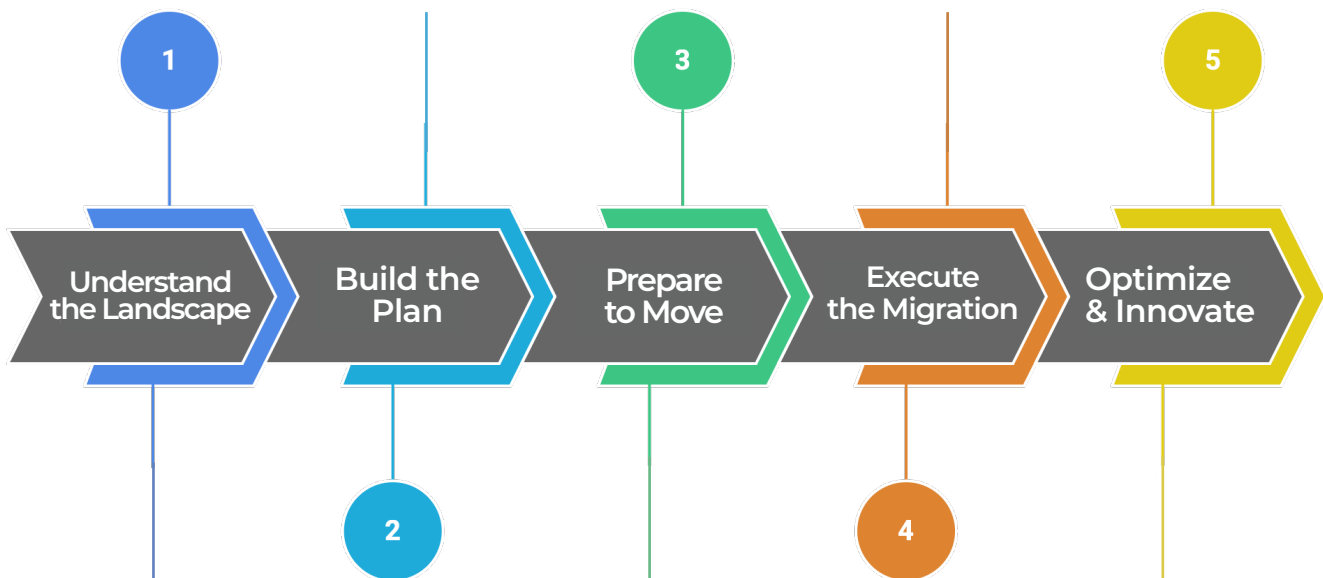
Successfully transitioning to modern cloud platforms requires more than just data migration—it demands a structured, strategic approach. **Our proven Five-Phase Transition Framework guides organizations through every stage of the journey, from initial discovery to post-migration optimization.** By aligning technology with business goals, this framework ensures a smooth, secure, and future-ready transformation to platforms like SharePoint Online, Power Platform, and Azure.



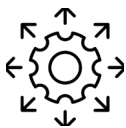
Define the right destination for each workload (e.g., SharePoint Online, Power Platform). Map out licensing, compliance, and retention needs.



Start with a pilot, validate functionality, security, and access controls, Roll out migrations in waves with minimal downtime



Identify all systems, sites, and content. Evaluate what's outdated, risky, or redundant



Eliminate ROT, Modernize custom workflows and integrations, Set up governance policies (DLP, retention, access labels).



Switch off legacy infrastructure, unlock new capabilities (Copilot, Viva, Loop), Track adoption and measure impact



Expanded Customer Readiness Checklist

| Task | Potential Owner | Status |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Appoint executive sponsor & steering committee | CIO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Run farm discovery; export inventory report (servers, DBs, site collections, storage) | Infrastructure Lead | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Map CVE exposure; prioritise internet-facing web apps | Records Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Classify content (sensitive, regulated, ROT) & assign owners | CISO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inventory customisations (Full-Trust, sandbox, Add-Ins) & scope refactor | Dev Lead | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Catalogue Designer/Nintex/InfoPath workflows; design Power Automate | Process CoE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Choose future-architecture; approved budget & roadmap | PMO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implement M365 governance (labels, retention, DLP) | Compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Launch pilot migration (≤ 500 GB or 1 B.U.) | Migration Team | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Validate search, permissions, integrations, Copilot readiness | QA | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Execute wave migrations; decommission on-prem SQL, Workflow | Migration Team | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enable Copilot, Viva, Fabric dashboards; run adoption sessions | Change Mgmt | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Final Security audit: retire ESU spend | CISO | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Questions Every Leadership Team Should Be Asking



1. Risk Appetite

Are we exposing ourselves to cyber risk by staying on unsupported platforms?



2. Talent

How long can we rely on internal staff to keep outdated systems running?



3. Opportunity Cost

What business opportunities are we missing by delaying modernization?



4. Data-Residency & AI

How will we manage sensitive data in Copilot or AI tools if we don't upgrade governance?



5. Business Continuity

What's our plan if a critical workflow fails post-2025?

How Rockhop Can Help

When you're navigating something as high-stakes as a SharePoint end-of-life transition, you need more than a vague plan — you need clarity, evidence, and momentum.

That's exactly what our two-week End-of-Support Assessment delivers:

- A quantified risk scorecard to understand where your biggest vulnerabilities lie
- A board-ready business case to secure internal buy-in and budget
- A phased roadmap tailored to your environment and business goals

This isn't about selling software. It's about helping you de-risk a major transition — and move forward with confidence.

Don't wait for something to break. Get the clarity you need to act — before the deadline forces your hand.

Book your End-of-Support Assessment by emailing us at inquiry@rockhop.ai (Please address it to Dave — he'll get back to you personally.)



About Dave Greve

For organizations that want an independent, data-driven assessment, David is a two-year Microsoft MVP in Office 365 and a published author of two Office 365 Exchange migration books. He is a leading Power Platform expert with a unique combination of over 23 years of consulting and product management experience in the IT industry. From building a professional services business to building products, David has experience partnering with customers to drive solutions that have an immediate business impact.