

KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Exclude accounts from search results



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This article describes how to exclude users from search results in Employee Directory.

Introduction

[Employee Directory](#) support two types of data source:

- Azure AD
- **User Profiles**

In the case of using Azure AD blocked user accounts are not displayed by default. Otherwise, if you use **User Profiles** (actually the app uses SharePoint search index) in some cases disabled accounts may appear in search results.

This article describes how to fix this issue.

Filtering Search Results

There are two filter criteria that are applied to each search request:

- **SPS-UserType** equals **0**
- **SPS-HideFromAddressLists** does not equal **1**

The first filter criteria used to show only users and exclude groups (SharePoint or Security group). The second one is to hide users marked with **Hide from address lists**.



Tip

SPS-HideFromAddressLists is the only OOTB property to hide users from search results globally. The property is not editable and can be changed only by the system within the sync process.

Option 1. Manually Hide User

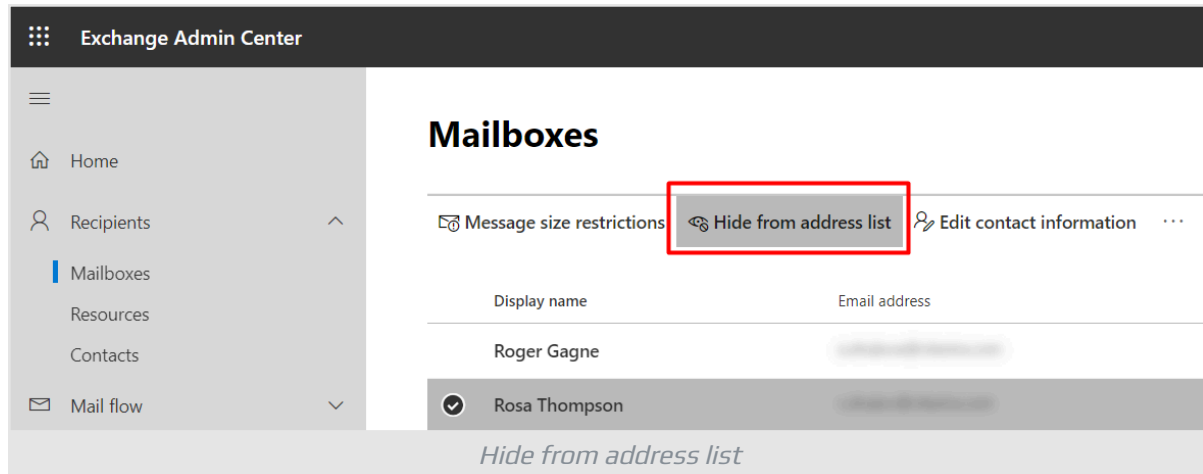
Manually hiding a user from search results based on updating the corresponding mailbox in Exchange Online.

Step 1. Find the mailbox

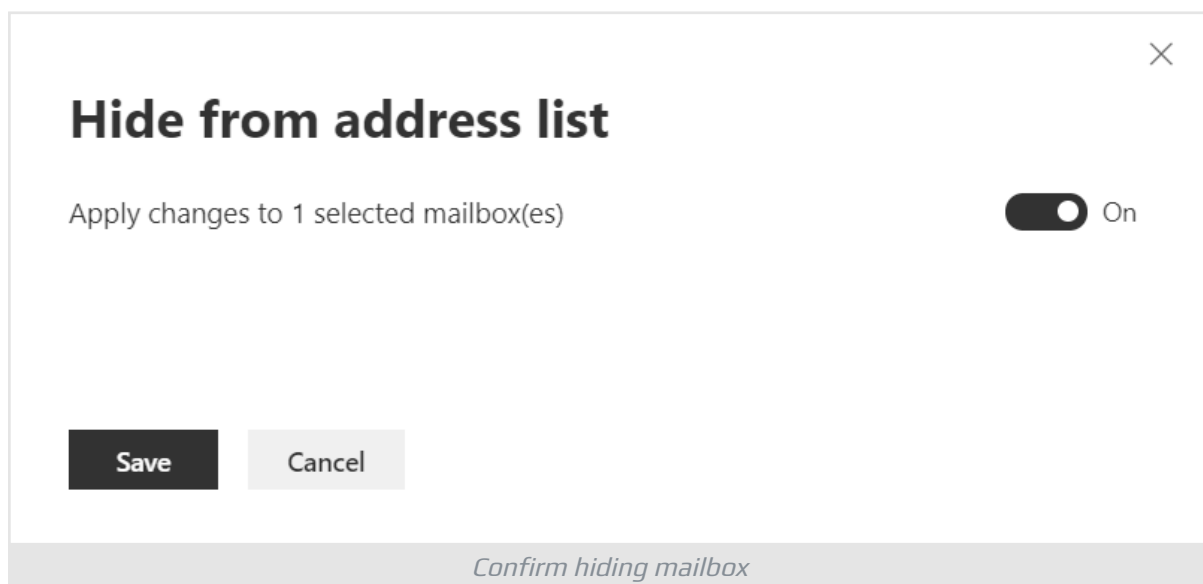
To manually mark a user as hidden go to Exchange Online Admin Center and select **Mailboxes** under the **Recipients** heading.

Step 2. Mark mailbox as hidden from address lists

To hide users from the address list select one or more mailboxes and click **Hide from the address list** button on the toolbar.



And confirm the action by clicking **Save** button:



Once SharePoint crawler updates the property in search index the user will not appear in search results.

Note

It may take up to 24 hours to update data in SharePoint search index.

Option 2. Custom User Property

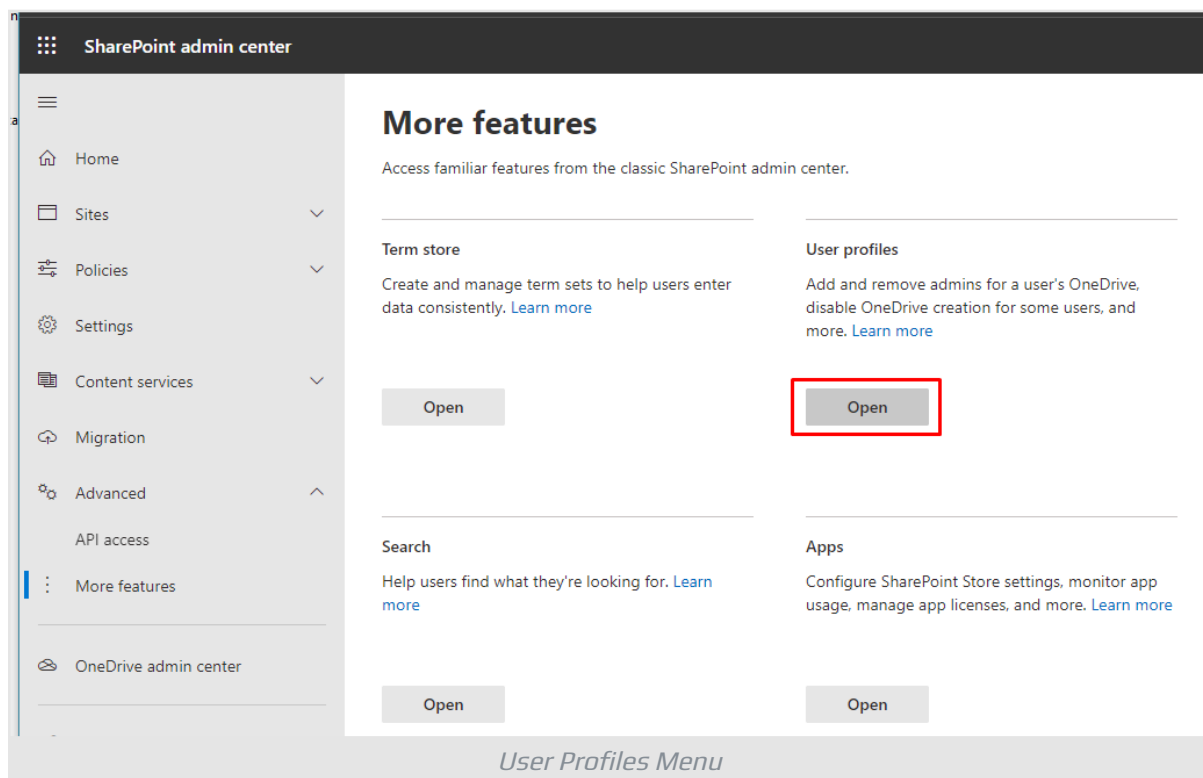
The second option is to create new custom user profile property that is available for editing and make this property available for searching. This approach is time-consuming due to the fact that there is no sort of trigger to update the search schema in SharePoint Online.

Note

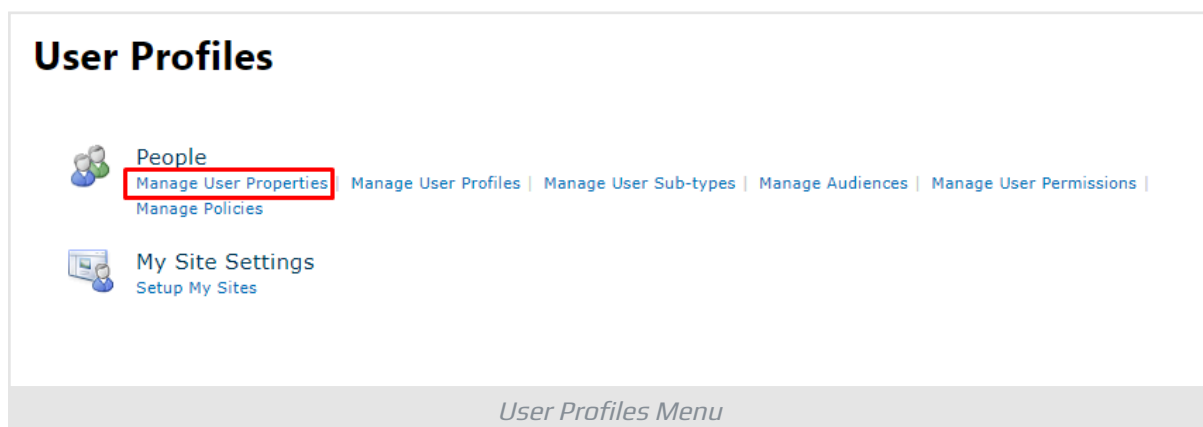
Modification of search schema in SharePoint Online may take a while and there is no functionality to apply changes immediately.

Step 1. Create new User Property

To create new user property go to **SharePoint Admin Center** > **More Features** and select **Open** under **User profiles** section.



Select **Manage User Properties**:



Select **New Property**:

User Profiles

Use this page to add, edit, organize, delete or map user profile properties. Profile properties can be mapped to Active Directory or LDAP compliant directory Entity Fields exposed by Business Data Connectivity.

[New Property](#) | [New Section](#) | [Manage Sub-types](#) | Select a sub-type to filter the list of properties: Default User Profile Subtype ▼

Property Name	Change Order	Property Type	Mapped Attribute
> Basic Information	▼	Section	
Id	^▼	unique identifier	
SID	^▼	binary	
Active Directory Id	^▼	binary	
Account name	^▼	Person	<Specific to connection>
First name	^▼	string (Single Value)	
Phonetic First Name	^▼	string (Single Value)	

User Profiles Menu

Ensure the following options:

- **Type:** boolean
- **Policy Settings:** Optional
- **Default Privacy Settings:** Everyone
- Check **Show in the profile properties section of the user's profile page**
- Check **Show on the Edit Details page**
- Check **Indexed**

Other fields leave as is.

Click **OK** to create a new property.

Step 2. Update User Profile

To make the SharePoint crawler add a new property to index open one or more profiles and check the new field.

OfficeGraphEnabled:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Everyone
DelveFlags:	<input type="text"/>	Everyone
PulseMRUPeople:	<input type="text"/>	Only Me
SPS-TenantInstanceId:	<input type="text"/>	Everyone
SPS-SharePointHomeExperienceState:	<input type="text"/>	Everyone
SPS-MultiGeoFlags:	<input type="text"/>	Everyone
Hidden in Employee Directory:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Everyone

Update User Profile Property

Note

The new user profile property does not appear in search schema until it will be updated in at least one user profile.

Step 3. Ensure Crawled Property Exists

Go to SharePoint Admin Center > **More Features** > **Search** and select **Manage Search Schema**

Search

[Manage Search Schema](#)
Create and modify search properties so that users can query these properties.

[Manage Search Dictionaries](#)
Create and modify lists of terms which will be used to improve the search experience for your users.

[Manage Authoritative Pages](#)
Identify high-quality pages that search will use to improve relevance, as well as low-quality pages that search will consider less relevant.

[Query Suggestion Settings](#)
Show search suggestions as users type in the search box (if not disabled by user).

[Manage Result Sources](#)
Create and modify sources you can query for results. This includes filtered results from SharePoint as well as results from remote sources such as Bing.

[Manage Query Rules](#)
Create and modify query rules to promote important results, show blocks of additional results, and even fine-tune ranking.

[Manage Query Client Types](#)
Create and modify configuration of query client types which are used to identify querying clients so as to prioritize query throttling.

[Remove Search Results](#)
List URLs you would like to remove from search results until the next crawl.

SharePoint Search Service Administration

Wait until new **crawled property** shows up in the search schema.

Note

Usually, it takes from 15 minutes to 4 hours for the new crawled property created by SharePoint search service.

Managed Properties | **Crawled Properties** | Categories


Use this page to view or modify crawled properties, or to view crawled properties in a particular

Filters

Crawled properties

Category

☐ Show unaltered property names



PROPERTY NAME

People:HiddenInEmployeeDirectory

New Crawled Property

Step 4. Create Managed Property

To be able to filter search results you need to create a **managed property** and map the crawled property to it. Go to **Managed Properties** and select **New Managed Property**.

Ensure the following settings:

- **Property Name:** HiddenInEmployeeDirectory
- **Type:** Yes/No
- Check **Searchable**
- Check **Queryable**

Name and description Name and optional description for this property.	Property name: <input type="text" value="HiddenInEmployeeDirectory"/> Description: <input type="text"/>
Type Type of information that is stored in this property.	The type of information in this property: <input type="radio"/> Text <input type="radio"/> Integer <input type="radio"/> Decimal <input type="radio"/> Date and Time <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes/No <input type="radio"/> Double precision float <input type="radio"/> Binary
Main characteristics Searchable: Enables querying against the content of the managed property. The content of this managed property is included in the full-text index. For example, if the property is "author", a simple query for "Smith" returns items containing the word "Smith" and items whose author property contains "Smith". Queryable: Enables querying against the specific managed property. The managed property field name must be included in the query, either specified in the query itself or included in the query programmatically. If the managed property is "author", the query must contain "author:Smith".	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Searchable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Queryable
Mappings to crawled properties The list shows all the crawled properties that are mapped to this managed property. A managed property can get its content from one or more crawled properties.	<input type="radio"/> Include content from all crawled properties <input checked="" type="radio"/> Include content from the first crawled property that is not empty, based on the specified order <div><div>People:HiddenInEmployeeDirectory</div><div><div>Move Up</div><div>Move Down</div><div>Add a Mapping</div><div>Remove Mapping</div></div></div>

New Managed Property

Add Mapping to the new crawled properties created on **step 3**. Select Add a Mapping, type in **hidden** in search field, and select **People:HiddenInEmployeeDirectory** property.

crawled property selection

Select crawled properties to map to New Property(Yes/No)

Filter on a category:
All categories

Search for a crawled property name:
hidden Find

Select a crawled property:
People:HiddenInEmployeeDirectory

OK Cancel

User Profiles Menu

Click **OK** to create a new managed property.

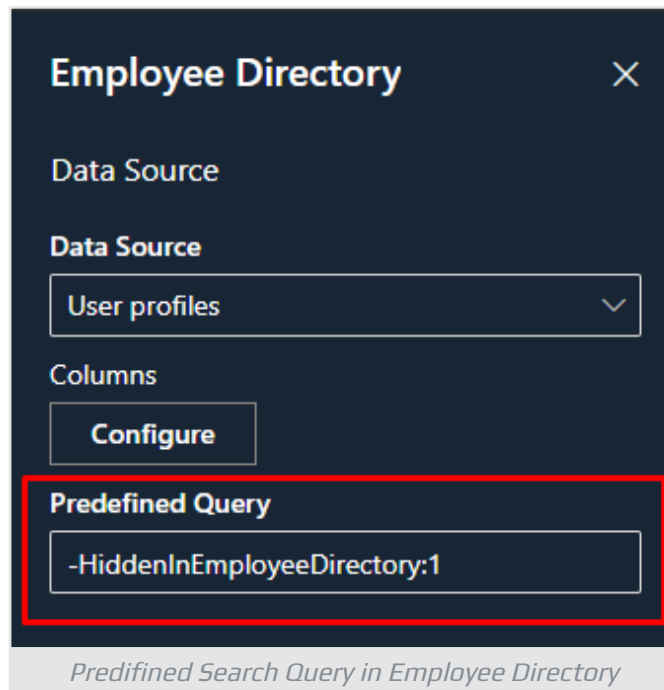
Step 5. Update the Profile Property for All Users

```
# SharePoint Admin Center URL
$AdminSiteURL = "https://vitextra-admin.sharepoint.com"
# Getting credentials to connect to SharePoint Admin Center and
Azure AD
$Cred = Get-Credential
# Connect to Azure AD
Connect-AzureAD -Credential $Cred | Out-Null
#Getting all users from Azure AD
$AllUsers = Get-AzureADUser -All:$True -Filter "UserType eq
'Member'"
# Connect to SharePoint Admin Center
Connect-PnPOnline -Url $AdminSiteURL -Credentials $Cred
$counter = 0
$counterEnabled = 0
$counterDisabled = 0
ForEach($User in $AllUsers)
{
    # User account name
```

```
$UserAccount = "i:0#.f|membership|$
($User.UserPrincipalName)"
Write-host "Update user profile for $
($User.UserPrincipalName)" -ForegroundColor DarkGreen
if($User.AccountEnabled -eq $True)
{
    Set-PnPUserProfileProperty -Account $UserAccount -
Property "HiddenInEmployeeDirectory" -Value $False
    $counterEnabled++
}
else
{
    Set-PnPUserProfileProperty -Account $UserAccount -
Property "HiddenInEmployeeDirectory" -Value $True
    $counterDisabled++
}
$counter++
Write-Progress -Activity "Updating HiddenInEmployeeDirectory
property..." -Status "Enabled: $($counterEnabled), Disabled: $
($counterDisabled), Total: $($AllUsers.Count)" -PercentComplete
(($counter / $AllUsers.Count) * 100)
}
```

Step 6. Set Predefined Query of the Web Part

In the Web Part settings set **Predefined Query** Property to exclude users which marked as hidden for Employee Directory:



The screenshot shows a dark-themed configuration window titled "Employee Directory" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The window contains the following sections:

- Data Source**: A dropdown menu currently showing "User profiles" with a downward arrow.
- Columns**: A button labeled "Configure".
- Predefined Query**: A text box containing the query "-HiddenInEmployeeDirectory:1". This section is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

Below the configuration window, a caption reads: "Predifined Search Query in Employee Directory".

Note

Search results will be empty until the new Managed Property is empty. It may take up to 24 hours to populate the new managed property.

Summary

Our needs:

- 1 To exclude users from search results we create a **managed property**.
- 2 To populate the **managed property** we create a **crawled property**.
- 3 To populate the **crawled property** and manage what data goes to the property we create a **user profile property**.

And steps produced according to the needs:

- 1 Creating new user property to manage which users presented in the search results
- 2 Waiting for new crawled property created by SharePoint
- 3 Creating new managed property and map it to the crawled property
- 4 Set predefined query property to exclude users from the search results.

Terms

Crawled Property

A crawled property in SharePoint search stores content and metadata that is extracted from an item by the crawler, such as a text of a document, author, or title.

Crawled property is not retrievable but may be mapped to one or more managed property.

Managed Property

A Managed property in the SharePoint search schema defines what data from crawled properties are included in the search index.

Managed properties have a large number of settings to determine how the contents are shown in search results. Managed Properties may be referred to in search queries to specify which information you need to return.

User Profile

A user profile is a set of properties that describe a user.

The properties include basic information about the user, contact details, and other data. The user profile is used for such services as Delve, My Site, and others