KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Employee Directory Layouts: Details and Cards, Card Size, Card Fields and Group By

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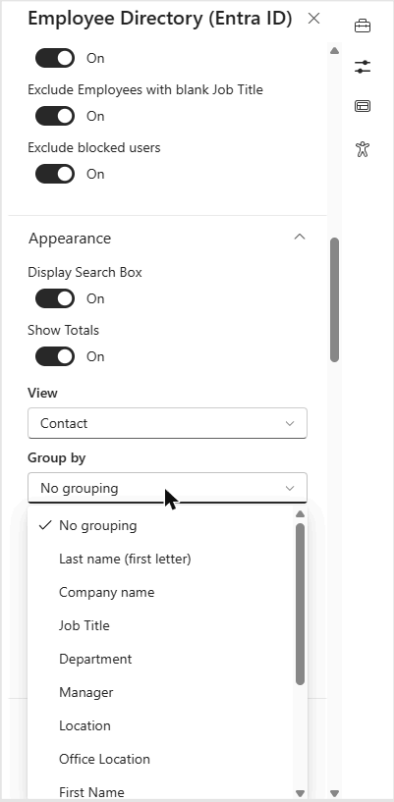
The Vitextra Employee Directory web parts can present people as a sortable **list** or as a grid of contact cards, and both layouts can be split into groups - by department, office, manager, a custom attribute or the first letter of the last name. This article explains every layout setting in the **Appearance** and **Content Fields** sections of the property pane, how each option behaves on the page, and which options are available in which **web part**.

Where the layout settings are

Edit the page, select the web part, and open its property pane (the pencil icon). The layout is controlled by two sections:

- **Appearance** - **Display Search Box**, **Show Totals**, **View**, **Group by**, **Size** (card size) and **Compact List**. In the **Employee Directory (Entra ID)** web part this section also contains **Show alphabetical navigation**.
- **Content Fields** - the fields shown on each card: **Header**, **Secondary**, **Tertiary** and **Optional**.

The columns themselves (which fields exist, their captions and order) are configured in the **Data Source** section with the **Columns** and **Custom Columns** editors.



The Appearance section of the property pane

Note

Settings that do not apply to the selected view are greyed out rather than hidden: **Size** and the **Content Fields** dropdowns are available only in the cards view, and **Compact List** only in the **Details** view. Your values are kept, so switching the view back restores them.

Details view

Select **View** → **Details** to show people as a list (table) with one row per person and one column per field.

Which columns appear and in what order. In **Data Source**, select **Configure** under **Columns**. For each field you can set the **Caption** (the column header text), turn **Show in list** on or off, and change the **Order**. Custom attributes are configured the same way under **Custom Columns** and are placed after the built-in columns. By default the list shows **Image**, **Status**, **Full Name**, **Job Title**, **Department**, **Location**, **Email** and **Business Phone**.

Sorting. Select a column header to sort by that column; select it again to reverse the direction. The **Image** and **Status** columns cannot be sorted. The initial order comes from the **Sort by** and sort direction settings in **Data Source**.

Column width. The list uses a justified layout: columns stretch to fill the width of the web part and can be resized by dragging the header borders. Columns are not hidden automatically on narrow pages - if the visible columns don't fit, the list scrolls horizontally. For a narrow page section or a mobile-first page, keep only a few columns or use the cards view instead.

Compact List. Turn on **Compact List** to reduce the row height so more people fit on the screen. It is on by default for new web parts.

Selecting a row opens the person's details pane; right-clicking a row opens the context menu with the actions enabled by the administrator.

Tip

To learn how to add your own profile properties or **Microsoft Entra ID** attributes as columns, see KB10049. How to Add Custom User Profile Attributes to the Employee Directory Web Part and KB10060. How to Display Custom Entra ID Attributes in the Employee Directory Web Part.

Cards view

Select **View** → **Contact** to show each person as a contact card with a photo, a presence indicator and up to four lines of text. This is the default view for new web parts.

The cards are arranged in a grid whose number of columns follows the width of the web part (not the width of the browser window):

Web part width	Cards per row
less than 641 px	1
641–1023 px	2
1024–1599 px	3
1600–1799 px	4
1800 px and wider	5

Selecting a card opens the person's details pane; selecting it again closes the pane. When you point to a card, its quick actions appear as icons in the top-right corner (a favorite star stays visible for people you have starred); right-clicking the card opens the context menu. Quick actions are shown in the cards view only - for what each action does and how to enable it, see KB10315. Employee Actions in Employee Directory: Chat, Call, Email, Copy Email, Schedule a Meeting and vCard.

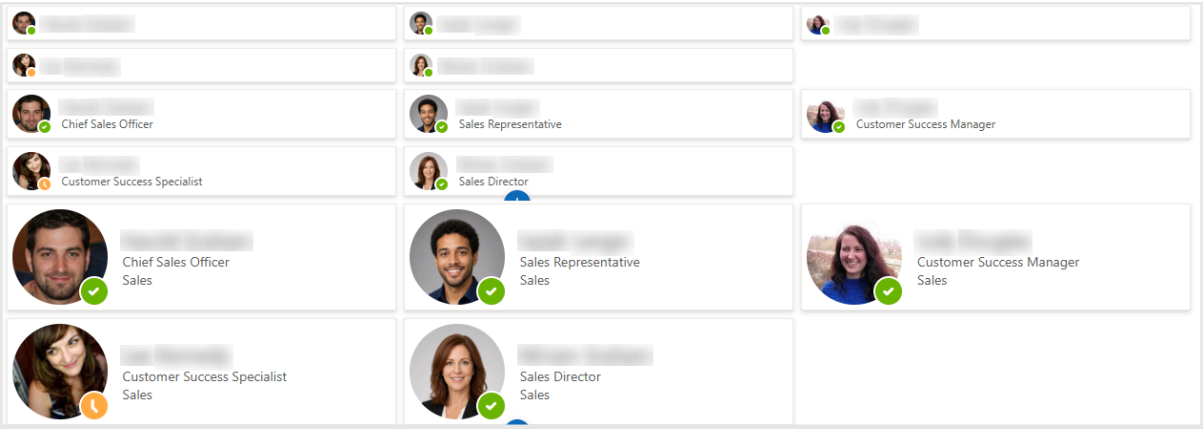
Card size

The **Size** slider (0–5) sets the size of the photo and, with it, how many lines of text a card can show. The slider does not display a number; position 0 is the far left.

Size	Photo	Lines of text shown
0	24 px	Header

Size	Photo	Lines of text shown
1	32 px	Header
2	40 px	Header, Secondary
3	48 px	Header, Secondary
4 (default)	72 px	Header, Secondary, Tertiary
5	100 px	Header, Secondary, Tertiary, Optional

Small sizes (0–1) give a dense name list, ideal for a sidebar or a narrow column. Sizes 4–5 give classic contact cards with job title, department and location.



Contact cards at sizes 1, 3 and 5

Card fields

The **Content Fields** section lets you choose which field fills each line of the card. Only the dropdowns that the selected size can show are displayed:

Dropdown	Shown when Size is	Default field
Header	always	Full Name
Secondary	2 or more	Job Title
Tertiary	4 or more	Department
Optional	5	(Empty)

Each dropdown lists **(Empty)** (leave the line blank) and the configured columns - built-in fields and your custom columns - except **Image** (and, in the **Employee Directory** web

part, **Status**). Fields that hold several values, such as skills, are shown comma-separated. If a person has no value for the selected field, the line stays empty.

Note

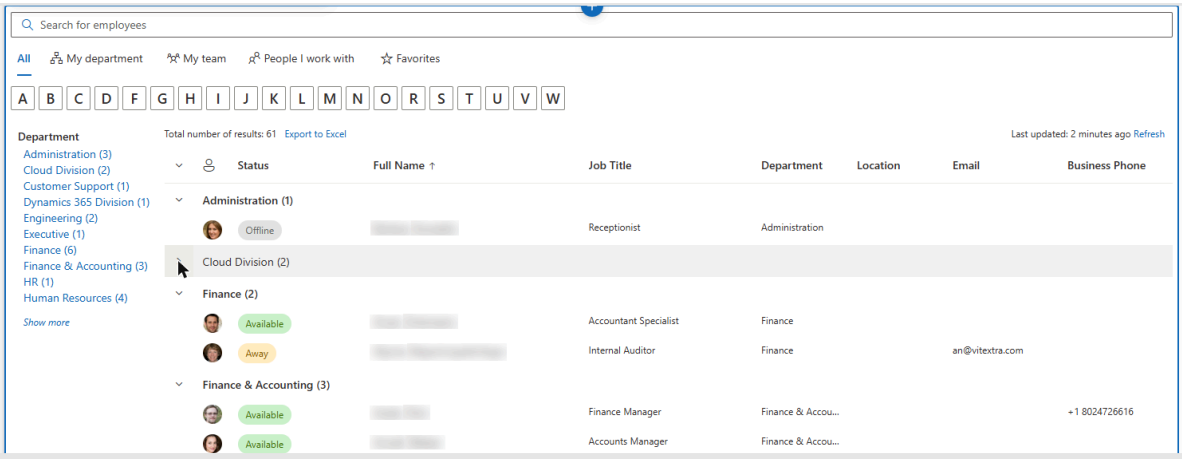
The card fields are independent of the **Show in list** setting of the columns: a field can be shown on the cards even if it is hidden in the **Details** view. A custom column, however, must exist in the **Custom Columns** configuration to be offered in the dropdowns.

Group by

The **Group by** dropdown splits the results into groups with a header for each value. It works in both the **Details** and the cards view. The options are:

- **No grouping** - the default; a single flat list.
- **Last name (first letter)** - groups by the first letter of the last name (if a person has no last name, the first letter of the full name is used). This gives an address-book style A, B, C... layout.
- **Built-in columns** - any configured built-in column, for example **Job Title**, **Department**, **Location**, **Office Location**, **Company name**, **Country/Region**, **City** or **Manager** (grouped by the manager's name). The following columns are not offered because they are unique per person or not meaningful as groups: **Image**, **Status**, **Full Name**, **Email**, **Business Phone**, **Cell phone**, **Home Phone**, **User Name**, **Address**, **ZIP/Postal Code** and **Employee ID**.
- **Custom columns** - every column configured under **Custom Columns**.

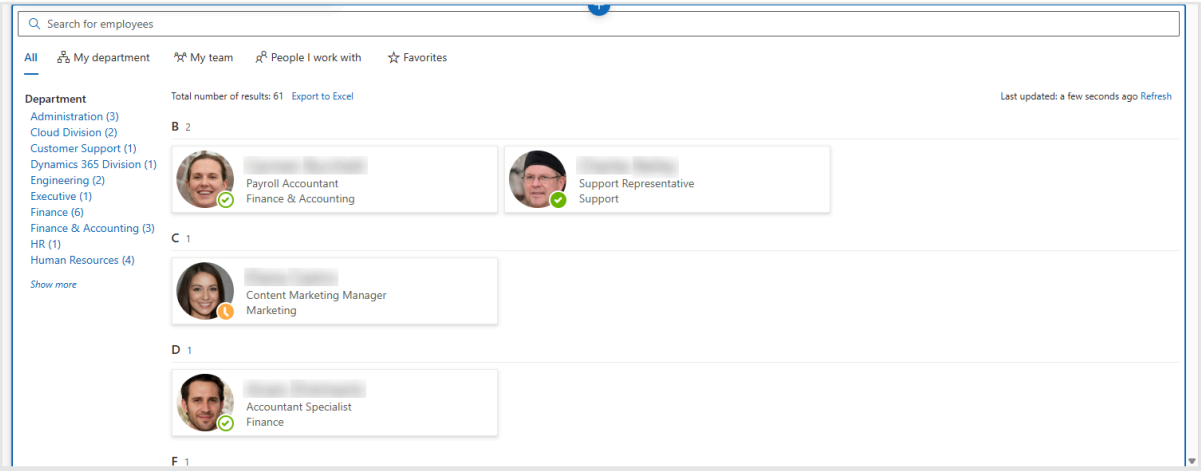
The list of options follows the column configuration: a column appears in **Group by** as soon as it is configured, whether or not it is shown in the list.



The Details view grouped by Department

How groups are displayed

- **Order of groups.** Groups are sorted alphabetically by their value (case-insensitive). People without a value form the last group, labeled **(Empty)**.
- **Details view.** Each group has a header with the value and the number of people. Groups are expanded initially and can be collapsed and expanded with the chevron in the header.
- **Cards view.** Each group has a heading with the value and the number of people, followed by its own grid of cards. Card groups cannot be collapsed.
- **Multi-value fields.** When a field holds several values (for example skills), a person is placed in the group of the first value only.



Cards grouped by the first letter of the last name

Grouping, sorting, search and filters

Grouping is applied last - to the people currently shown after search, quick filters, the refinement panel and the alphabetical navigation have done their work. So when you search for "manager" or select **My department**, the groups are rebuilt from the matching people only, and empty groups are not shown.

Sorting still works inside groups: the groups keep their alphabetical order, and the people within each group follow the current sort order (the **Sort by** setting or the column header you selected in the **Details** view).

Warning

Grouping is applied to the results loaded on the page, not to the whole directory. When results are shown in pages (**Display items in pages of**), a group contains only the people loaded so far, and its count grows when you select **Show More Results...**. If you want complete groups on a single screen, increase the page size; in the **Employee Directory (Entra ID)** web part you can set it to 0 to show all people at once.

Search box and totals

Two toggles at the top of the **Appearance** section control the elements around the results:

- **Display Search Box** - shows the search box above the results. Turn it off for a fixed list, such as a page that always shows one department through a saved query or filter. When the search box is hidden, people can still use quick filters, the refinement panel and the alphabetical navigation, if they are enabled.
- **Show Totals** - shows **Total number of results:** with the number of people that match the current search and filters. The total counts all matching people, not only those already loaded on the page.

Both toggles are on by default.

Which options are available in which web part

Setting	Employee Directory	Employee Directory (Entra ID)	New Employees
Display Search Box, Show Totals	Yes	Yes	No
View (Details / Contact)	Yes	Yes	No - always cards
Group by	Yes	Yes	No
Show alphabetical navigation	No	Yes	No
Size	0–5	0–5	1–5

Setting	Employee Directory	Employee Directory (Entra ID)	New Employees
Compact List	Yes	Yes	No
Content Fields (Header, Secondary, Tertiary, Optional)	Yes - configured columns	Yes - configured columns	Yes - fixed list of fields

In the **New Employees** web part the **Size** slider starts at 1 and shows its current value. The **Content Fields** dropdowns there offer a fixed set of standard fields - **Full Name**, first and last name, **Job Title**, **Department**, **Location**, **Office Location**, **Email**, the phone numbers and **User Name** - because that web part has no column configuration.

Tip

For the rest of the web part settings, see KB10309. How to Add and Configure the Employee Directory Web Part, KB10311. How to Configure the Employee Directory (Entra ID) Web Part: Filters, Exclusions and A–Z Navigation and KB10207. How to Showcase New Hires with the New Employees Web Part.

Terms

List
A list is a storage unit in SharePoint. A list can contain columns of different types, content types, and views. A document library is a special type of list and therefore inherits the functionality of a list.

Microsoft Entra ID
Microsoft Entra ID (formerly Azure Active Directory) is a cloud-based identity and access management service offered by Microsoft. It allows organizations to efficiently manage and secure their users' identities and access to a variety of resources, both internal and external. These resources include Microsoft 365, the Azure platform, and thousands of other software-as-a-service (SaaS) applications.

Web Part
A web part is a primary building block of functionality or content placed on a SharePoint page. Some web parts support customization, such as configuring the web part or changing its appearance.