KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

List Filter Online vs. the Built-in List Web Part: What's the Difference?

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Overview

Every modern **SharePoint** page can show a **list** or a library with the built-in **List** and **Document library** web parts. They are free, need no setup beyond choosing a list and a **view**, and for many pages they are exactly right. So when is a separate **web part** worth it?

This article compares the built-in web parts with **Vitextra List Filter Online** side by side. Both read the same lists and libraries through the SharePoint **REST API** and respect the same item permissions - the difference is in **how users find data** (filter pane, predefined queries, paging), **how much of the view is configured on the page** rather than in list settings, and **what happens on large lists**. The comparison helps you decide when the built-in web part is enough, when List Filter Online fits better, and how the two can live on the same page.

Note

Microsoft regularly updates the modern list experience. The statements about the built-in web parts reflect the behaviour documented by Microsoft and reported in the Microsoft Tech Community in 2026. Check the current Microsoft documentation for the latest details.

The built-in List web part in brief

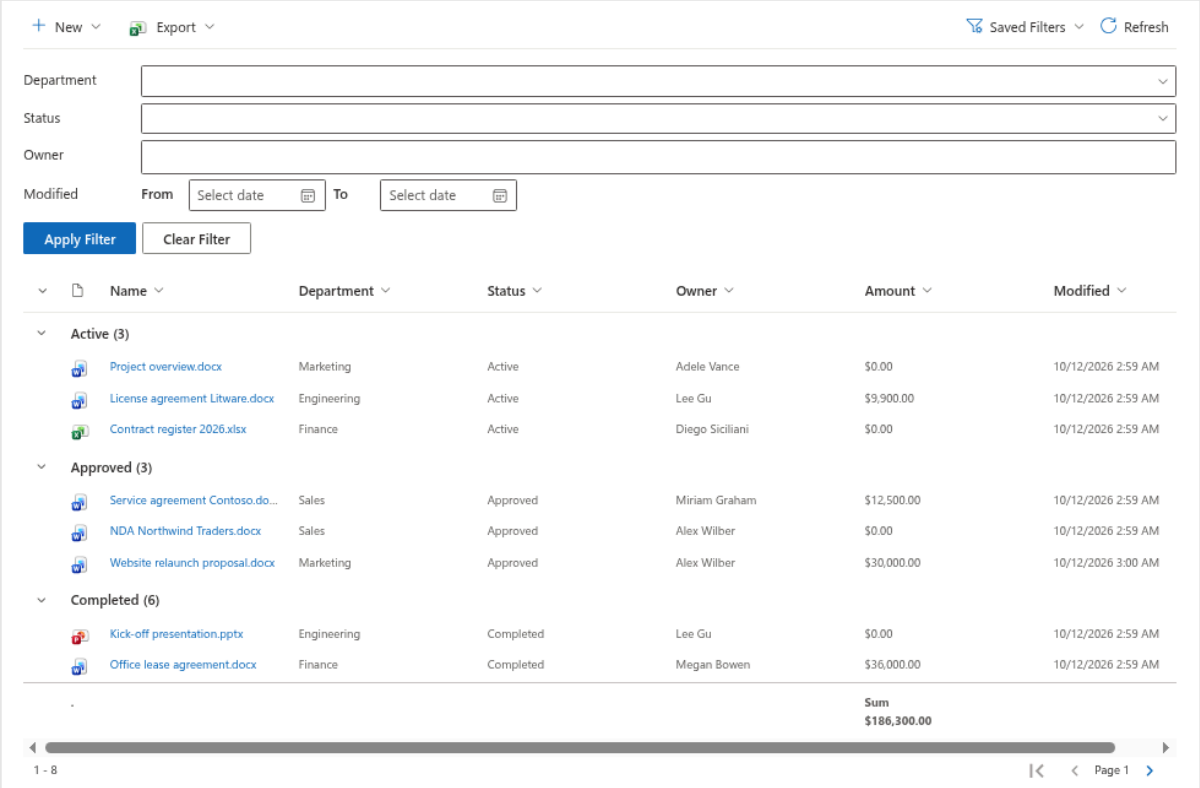
The **List** web part (and its twin, the **Document library** web part) embeds an **existing view** of a list from the **site** into a page. The page editor picks the list and the view, decides whether the command bar and the *See all* link are shown, and chooses the size of the web part. Everything else - which columns appear, how items are sorted and grouped, the item limit and the view filter - is defined in the **view settings of the list**, not on the page.

Users work with the embedded view the same way as with the list itself: the column header menus sort and filter, the **Filters** pane narrows the result by the values present in the view, and **column formatting JSON** is rendered. The web part can be **connected** to another List web part on the page for dynamic filtering (select an item in one list, filter the other), and to the List properties web part.

What the built-in web part does **not** offer is a filter that lives on the page: there are no page-level predefined conditions, no filter controls other than the pane, and no way to open the page already filtered through its address.

List Filter Online in brief

List Filter Online is a web part that shows a list or library with its own **filter pane**, a **Query Builder** for a predefined filter, a **column configurator**, server-side **paging**, grouping with **totals** and an **Excel export** - all configured in the web part property pane by a page editor, without touching the list settings.



List Filter Online on a page: filter pane, grouped results with totals and the pager

Instead of reusing a list view, the web part builds its own **query** from three sources: the predefined filter from the Query Builder, the filters the user selects, and the sorting, grouping and paging settings. The query runs on the server and returns one page of items at a time.

Side-by-side comparison

	Built-in List / Document library web part	**Vitextra List Filter Online**
What is shown	An existing list view; columns, sorting, grouping and filter come from the view settings	Columns, captions, formats, sorting, grouping and filter are configured in the web part; existing

	Built-in List / Document library web part	Vitextra List Filter Online
		views are not used
Source lists	Lists and libraries of the **current site** only	Any **site collection** or site in the **tenant** the user has access to; one list or library per web part
Predefined filter	The view filter: up to 10 conditions with AND/OR, no nested groups; `[Me]` and `[Today]` ± days as dynamic values	Query Builder: conditions in AND/OR nested groups; dynamic conditions *Is Current User*, *Today*, *Last / Next X Days, Weeks, Months, Years*; users cannot remove it (KB10320)
User filters	Column header menus and the Filters pane, which lists values present in the view	A configurable filter pane with more than ten control types - Text, Drop-down, Combobox, People picker, Term picker, Date, Date range, Number, Yes/No and more; each column gets the control that fits it; optional cascading between controls (KB10255, KB10256)
Filter from the page address	Not supported for the web part on a page	**Copy Link to Filter** produces an address that opens the page with the filter applied; the last filter can be remembered per user (KB10253)
Opening from a native list	-	The **Open in List Filter** command in the native list command bar passes the selected items to a page

	Built-in List / Document library web part	Vitextra List Filter Online
		with the web part (KB10254)
Paging	Continuous scrolling in batches; the *item limit* of the view is not honoured as pages	Server-side paging with a configurable page size, the current page number and *First / Previous / Next* navigation
Columns	As in the view	Chosen and ordered in the web part; captions, formats, resizable / sortable / filterable / link-to-item per column (KB10258)
Column formatting JSON	Yes	Yes - the list's formatting is applied; unsupported constructs fall back to the default rendering (KB10259)
Grouping and totals	As in the view (up to two levels, totals per view)	Two grouping columns, with visible headers for the first level only; Count, Sum, Average, Min, Max and other functions, configured on the page (KB10260)
Folders	Folder navigation of the view	Folder navigation with breadcrumbs, flat view without folders, or files and folders at one level; folder colours (KB10261)
Excel export	The list's *Export* command exports the view	Selected items, the current page or all filtered items - with the applied filters

	Built-in List / Document library web part	Vitextra List Filter Online
		and the configured columns
Large lists (over 5,000 items)	The view threshold applies; a non-indexed filter fails at run time	The same threshold applies; the configurator warns about non-indexed filter columns and creates the index in place (KB10257)
Connections to other web parts	Dynamic filtering between List web parts and the List properties web part	Not supported
Collapsed groups	Yes	Users can collapse groups manually; groups always load expanded, with no configurable initial state
Permissions	Item permissions of the list	Item permissions of the list; SharePoint REST API only, no **Microsoft Graph** consent
Branding	**Microsoft 365** look	Follows the site and section theme
Cost	Included in Microsoft 365	Separate product with a free trial

When the built-in web part is enough

Stay with the built-in web part when:

- the list is small or medium-sized and a **ready-made view** already shows what the page needs;
- the audience knows the list and is comfortable with the **column header menus** and the Filters pane;
- you need **dynamic filtering between two web parts** on the page - this is a **feature** the

built-in web parts have and List Filter Online does not;
- the page must stay strictly within what Microsoft 365 provides, without additional apps in the tenant.

In these cases creating one more view in the list settings is the cheapest solution, and the built-in web part renders it faithfully.

When List Filter Online fits better

Choose List Filter Online when the page, not the list, should define the experience:

- **The filter is part of the page.** A "my contracts", "this quarter" or "pending approval" page needs a predefined query that users cannot switch off, built from dynamic conditions rather than hard-coded dates.
- **Users need real filter controls.** A people picker for the owner, a date range for the signing date and a term picker for the category are faster and less error-prone than a header menu with hundreds of values.
- **The list lives on another site.** A hub or a department page shows data from a library in a different site collection.
- **The list is large.** Server-side paging and index warnings help manage a 50,000-item library on a page, provided queries use suitable indexes and sufficiently selective conditions.
- **Filters must be shareable.** A link that opens the page with the filter applied can be sent in a chat or placed in a Quick links web part.
- **The page needs its own columns and totals** without creating and maintaining a view per page.

Warning

List Filter Online does not use existing list views and cannot be connected to other web parts. If either is essential for the page, keep the built-in web part for that part of the page.

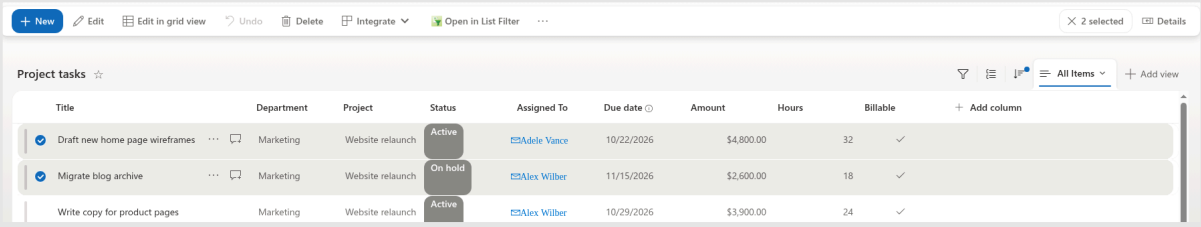
Using them together

The two web parts are not exclusive. A common pattern:

- the **built-in Document library web part** at the top of a team page for quick uploads and day-to-day work with the default view;
- a **List Filter Online web part** below it - or on a separate "Find a document" page - with the filter pane, the predefined filter and the export, for anyone who needs to

find a specific item among thousands.

The **Open in List Filter** command bridges the two: a user who starts in the native list can select items and continue in the page with the richer filtering.



The Open in List Filter command in a native library

Good to know

- Both web parts read data as the **current user**; neither one shows items the user cannot open in the list.
- List Filter Online needs three settings before it shows data: the **site**, the **list or library** and the **columns**. Everything else is optional.
- The view threshold of 5,000 items is a property of **SharePoint Online** and applies to both web parts. The difference is when you learn about it: in the built-in web part at run time, in List Filter Online while configuring the filters.
- To see the exact query that List Filter Online sends, switch on **developer mode** in the property pane and use the **CAML Query** command - useful when a filter does not return what you expect.

Tip

To try List Filter Online, install it from **AppSource** as described in KB10251. How to Install List Filter Online and Add It to a Page, then follow KB10201. Configuring the List Filter Online Web Part. The solution overview is in KB10250. List Filter Online: Solution Overview.

Terms

AppSource
Microsoft AppSource is a global online marketplace with applications and services created for Microsoft 365, Dynamics 365, Power BI, Power Platform, and other Microsoft services. AppSource allows you to find, purchase, and deploy applications in your organization's tenant.

Column Formatting
Column formatting is a way to customize how fields in lists and libraries are displayed by using a JSON definition, for example to show icons, colored indicators, or links, without writing code.

Feature
A feature is a set of SharePoint elements (artifacts), such as site columns, content types, web parts, application pages, custom actions, list templates, list instances, and others.

JSON
JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight, text-based data-interchange format that is easy for people to read and write and easy for software to parse and generate. It is widely used by REST APIs, configuration files, and web applications to exchange structured data.

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 365
Microsoft 365 is a cloud-based subscription service that combines productivity apps such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook with cloud services such as SharePoint, OneDrive, Teams, and Exchange Online, together with advanced security and device management.

Microsoft Graph
Microsoft Graph is a REST API secured with Microsoft Entra ID (formerly Azure Active

Directory) and OAuth 2.0. It provides a single endpoint for accessing data and services in Microsoft 365, such as SharePoint, Outlook, OneDrive, Teams, and others.

REST API
REST API (Representational State Transfer Application Programming Interface) is a standardized way for software applications to communicate over the internet. It enables clients to request and manipulate data on a server using standard HTTP methods such as GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE. REST APIs are widely used for building web services that are scalable, flexible, and can be accessed by various client applications.

SharePoint
SharePoint is a web-based collaboration platform that provides content management, document management, workflow applications, search, and other tools that empower employees and teams to work together. SharePoint is also a secure place to store, organize, and access shared information.

SharePoint Online
The cloud version of SharePoint, a web-based collaboration platform within Microsoft 365 that provides an extensive range of capabilities to store, share, and manage the digital information, content, and knowledge of an organization.

Site Collection
A site collection is a group of one or more SharePoint sites, subsites, and related content. A site collection typically shares common settings, permissions, and configuration, providing a cohesive environment for users to work together on projects, departments, or specific areas of focus. Site collections are often used to separate content and control access rights based on organizational structure, security requirements, or project needs.

Tenant
A Microsoft 365 tenant is a dedicated instance of Microsoft 365 services. The tenant holds the organization's information, such as users and domains (Microsoft Entra ID), configurations, subscriptions, and services. An organization receives a tenant by signing up for Microsoft 365 services.

Terms

View
A view is a saved configuration that determines which items of a list or library are displayed and how, including the columns, sorting, filtering, grouping, and layout. Views can be personal or public.

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.