KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Tenant App Catalog vs. Site Collection App Catalog: Where to Deploy Vitextra Apps

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Overview

Every Vitextra product for **SharePoint Online** is delivered as a **SharePoint** Framework package (`.sppkg`) that has to be uploaded to an **App Catalog**. SharePoint Online offers two kinds of catalog: the **App Catalog**, which serves the whole organization, and **app catalogs**, which serve one site collection each. Which one you choose determines who can deploy the package, where the web parts appear, how API permissions and **Microsoft Teams** are handled, and how many places you have to update later.

This article compares the two catalogs from the point of view of a Vitextra deployment and gives a recommendation. The actual upload steps are described in KB10035. How to Install a Vitextra Product in SharePoint Online.

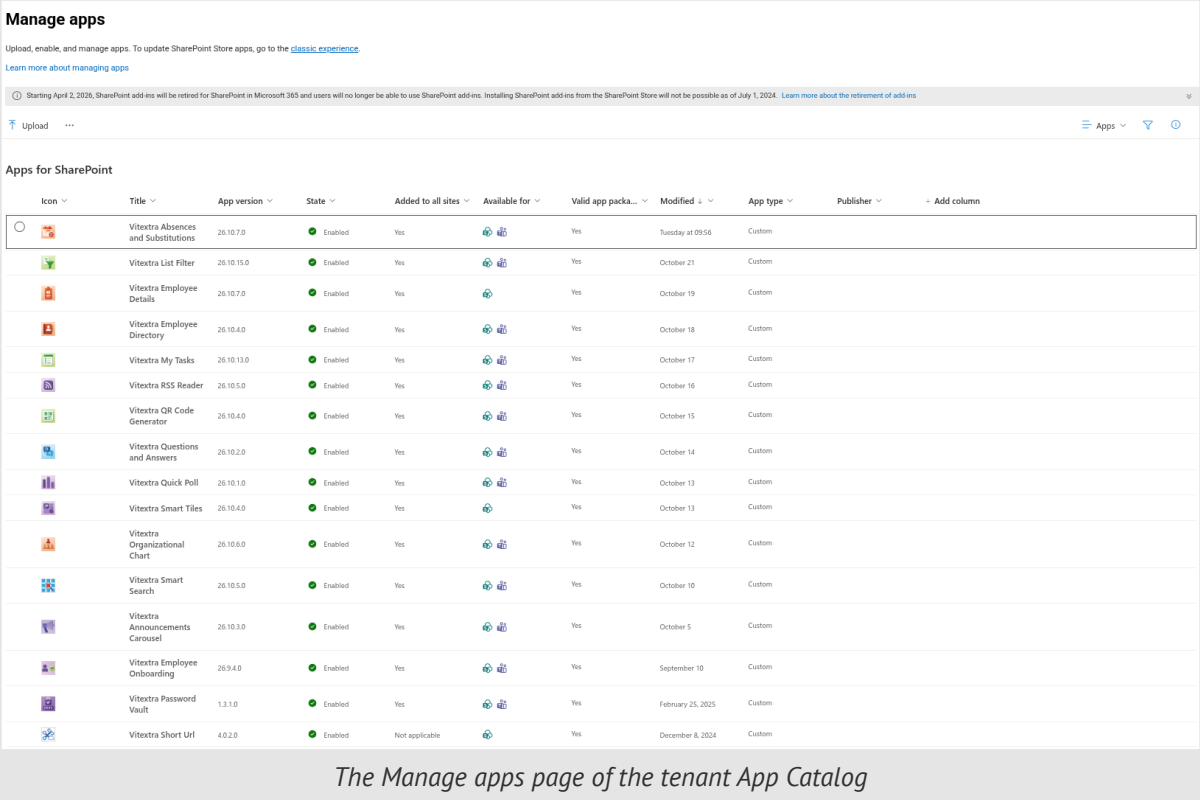
The two catalogs at a glance

	Tenant App Catalog	**Site collection app catalog**
Number per tenant	One (one per geo location in a Multi-Geo tenant)	Any number, one per site collection
Created by	SharePoint Administrator, in the **SharePoint admin center**	SharePoint Administrator, with the SharePoint Online Management Shell
Who can upload packages	App Catalog **site** owners (usually SharePoint Administrators)	Site collection administrators of that site collection
Where the web parts can be used	Any site in the tenant	Only in that site collection
Enable this app and add it to all sites (tenant-wide deployment)	Web parts appear in the toolbox of every site without adding the app	Applies to the sites of that site collection only
API permission requests (**Microsoft Graph**, **Azure DevOps**)	Appear on the **API access** page and are approved tenant-wide	Must already be approved in the tenant
Add to Teams	Available	Not available
Updates	Upload the new package	Upload the new package

	Tenant App Catalog	Site collection app catalog
	once	to every site collection app catalog separately
Vitextra license	One license per tenant	The same license: licensing does not depend on the catalog

The tenant App Catalog

The tenant App Catalog is a special site collection that a SharePoint Administrator creates once from **More features** → **Apps** in the SharePoint admin center. Its **Manage apps** page is where packages are uploaded, enabled, updated, added to Teams and deleted.

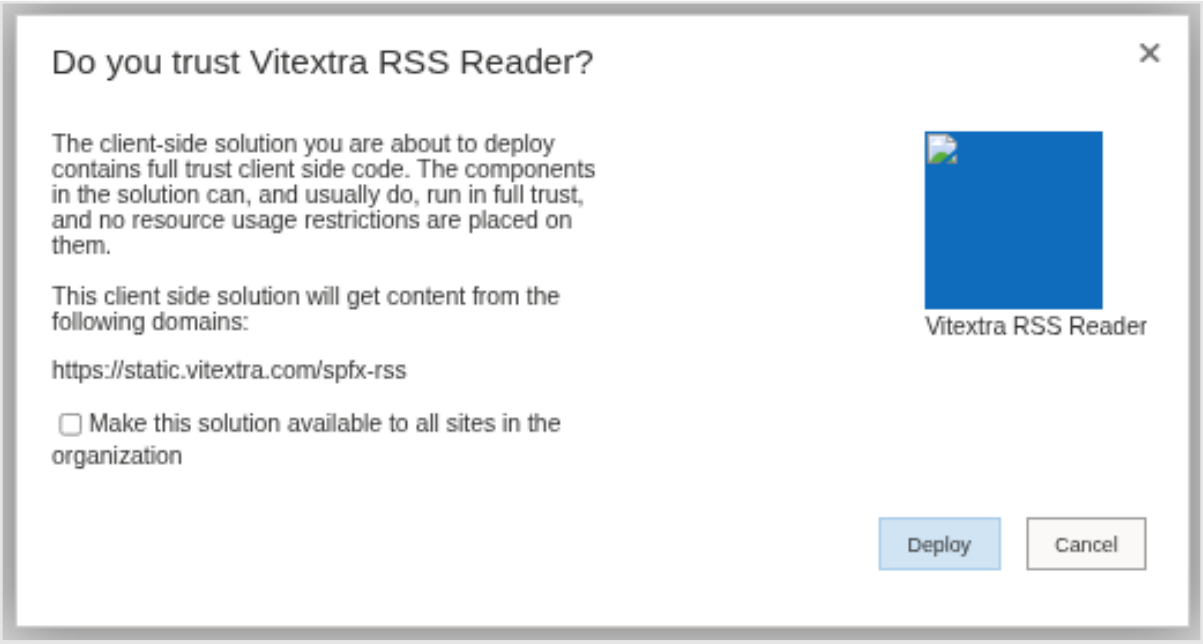


The Manage apps page of the tenant App Catalog

When you upload a Vitextra package, the **Enable app** panel offers the option **Enable this app and add it to all sites**. All Vitextra products support this *tenant-wide deployment*:

- **Selected** - the web parts of the product appear in the **web part** toolbox of every site in the tenant immediately. Site owners do not have to add the app to their sites, and the product is not listed in **Site contents** → **New** → **App**.

- **Not selected** - the product is available to be added, and the owner of each site that needs it adds it once from **Site contents** → **New** → **App** (or **From your organization** in the app picker). The web parts appear in the toolbox of that site only.



Enabling the app in the app catalog

The decision is not final: on the **Manage apps** page you can later select the package and use **Add to all sites** or **Stop adding to new sites**.

Two things are available only from the tenant App Catalog:

- **API permission requests.** Products that read Microsoft Graph - Employee Directory, Employee Details, Organizational Chart, Absence & Coverage, My Tasks, Password Vault - declare the permissions they need, and SharePoint creates the matching requests on the **API access** page when the package is deployed here. See KB10360. How to Approve Microsoft Graph API Permissions for Vitextra Solutions in the SharePoint Admin Center.
- **Add to Teams.** The **Teams app** catalog is tenant-wide, so a Vitextra web part can be published as a Microsoft Teams tab or personal app only from the tenant App Catalog.

Tip

For Vitextra products, select **Enable this app and add it to all sites**. The web parts become available everywhere at once, and each site owner decides whether to place them on a page. The web parts do not change anything on a site until somebody adds them to a page.

A site collection app catalog

A site collection app catalog is an **Apps for SharePoint** library inside an ordinary site collection. A SharePoint Administrator enables it for a specific site collection with the SharePoint Online Management Shell:

```
Connect-SPOService -Url https://contoso-admin.sharepoint.com
Add-SPOSiteCollectionAppCatalog -Site https://
contoso.sharepoint.com/sites/marketing
```

After that, the **site collection administrators** of that site collection can upload packages to **Site contents** → **Apps for SharePoint** without any role in the tenant, and the solutions deployed there can be used only inside that site collection. A tenant App Catalog must already exist: the cmdlet fails without one.



The Apps for SharePoint library of a site collection app catalog

What changes for a Vitextra deployment:

- **Scope.** The web parts are available in the sites of this site collection only. If you select **Enable this app and add it to all sites** here, "all sites" means the sites of the same site collection.
- **API permissions.** A site collection app catalog does not put requests on the **API access** page. For a product that needs Microsoft Graph permissions, deploy the package to the tenant App Catalog first, approve the requests, and only then use the site collection app catalog; the grants are tenant-wide and are shared by both copies. A product without API permissions (**List** Filter Online, Smart Tiles, Quick Poll, **QR Code** Generator and others) works from a site collection app catalog without extra steps.
- **Microsoft Teams. Add to Teams** is not offered; the product can be used in Teams only when it is deployed from the tenant App Catalog.
- **Updates.** Each site collection app catalog is updated separately: a new version uploaded to the tenant App Catalog does not reach packages deployed in site collection catalogs, and vice versa.
- **Governance.** The list of site collections with an app catalog is kept in the tenant App Catalog at `/Lists/SiteCollectionAppCatalogs`. `Remove-`

`SPOSiteCollectionAppCatalog` disables a site collection app catalog: the library stays, but the solutions in it stop working.

Warning

A solution deployed from a site collection app catalog still runs in the browser of the user with the permissions of that user and can call any API the tenant has approved. The smaller scope limits *where the web parts can be placed*, not *what they can access*. Review third-party packages for a site collection app catalog as carefully as for the tenant App Catalog.

Licensing and trial

Vitextra licenses are issued **tenant**, regardless of the catalog, the number of sites or the number of users. The free 14-day trial starts automatically when the product is deployed and first opened in the tenant, and the license is assigned to the Tenant ID - see KB10206. Vitextra Licensing and Account: How to Buy and Activate a License. Deploying the same product from the tenant App Catalog and from one or more site collection app catalogs needs one license.

Which catalog to choose

Use the tenant App Catalog when:

- the product is meant for the intranet as a whole or for several site collections (Employee Directory, Organizational Chart, Smart Tiles on hub and department sites);
- the product needs Microsoft Graph permissions or will be used in Microsoft Teams;
- you want a single place for updates and a single version in the tenant.

Use a site collection app catalog when:

- a department or project team runs a pilot, or needs a product that the rest of the organization will not get;
- your governance rules require that nothing is deployed tenant-wide without a separate review, and you want to delegate the deployment to the site collection administrators;
- the product does not need API permissions and will not be used in Teams.

Most Vitextra customers deploy from the tenant App Catalog with **Enable this app and add it to all sites** and use site collection app catalogs, if at all, for pilots.

Terms

App Catalog
The App Catalog is a special SharePoint site that stores apps for SharePoint, Teams, and other Microsoft 365 services. Global or SharePoint administrators can upload and manage applications from the AppSource marketplace, custom-developed apps, or third-party apps for the organization's internal use. There can be only one tenant-level App Catalog in a tenant; site collection app catalogs can be added for individual site collections.

Azure DevOps
Azure DevOps Services (formerly Visual Studio Team Services) is a cloud-based product that provides version control, requirements management, automated pipelines for builds and releases, and testing capabilities.

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 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.

Microsoft Teams
Microsoft Teams is a chat-based collaboration platform for business communications with features for online meetings, live events, and document sharing.

QR Code
A Quick Response (QR) code is a two-dimensional barcode that stores information. It can be scanned using a QR code reader or a mobile device's camera, providing quick access to the encoded data.

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 Admin Center
The SharePoint admin center is the web portal where SharePoint administrators manage sites, sharing and access settings, the App Catalog, storage, and other SharePoint Online settings for the tenant.

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
A SharePoint site is a container for information within the SharePoint platform. Sites typically offer features such as document libraries, lists, calendars, discussion boards, and workflows, facilitating collaboration, communication, and document management within teams or across departments. Sites can be customized and configured to suit the specific needs and workflows of an organization.

Teams App
A Teams app is an application that extends Microsoft Teams with capabilities such as tabs, bots, message extensions, and meeting extensions. Teams apps are distributed as app packages through the Teams app store, AppSource, or the organization's catalog.

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.