KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Carousel or Stacked: Choosing the Layout, Transitions and Autoplay

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Introduction

The same set of announcements can be presented in different ways. On the home page, a compact carousel that takes up little space works best; in a narrow side column or on a department page, a **list** where everything is visible at once may be more convenient. The Announcements Carousel **web part** supports both scenarios.

This article explains the options in the **Appearance** and **Behavior** groups of the property pane that control how announcements are presented and how readers navigate them.

Choosing the Layout

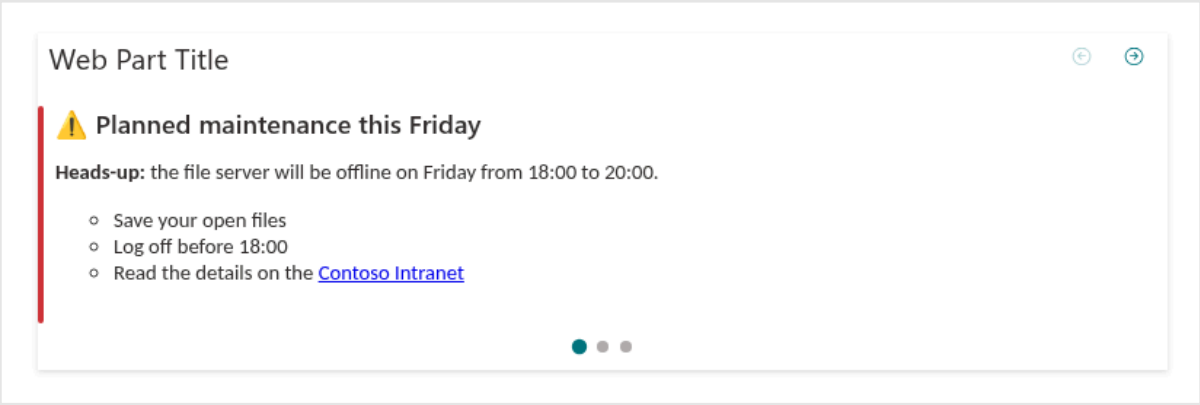
The **Layout** option in the **Appearance** group offers two modes.

Carousel

One card is shown at a time. Readers switch between announcements with the controls described below. This mode is the default.

Choose **Carousel** when:

- the web part is placed in a prominent area of the home page and must not take up much space;
- there are several announcements, and each is important enough to occupy the whole card;
- you want to use autoplay.



The Carousel layout

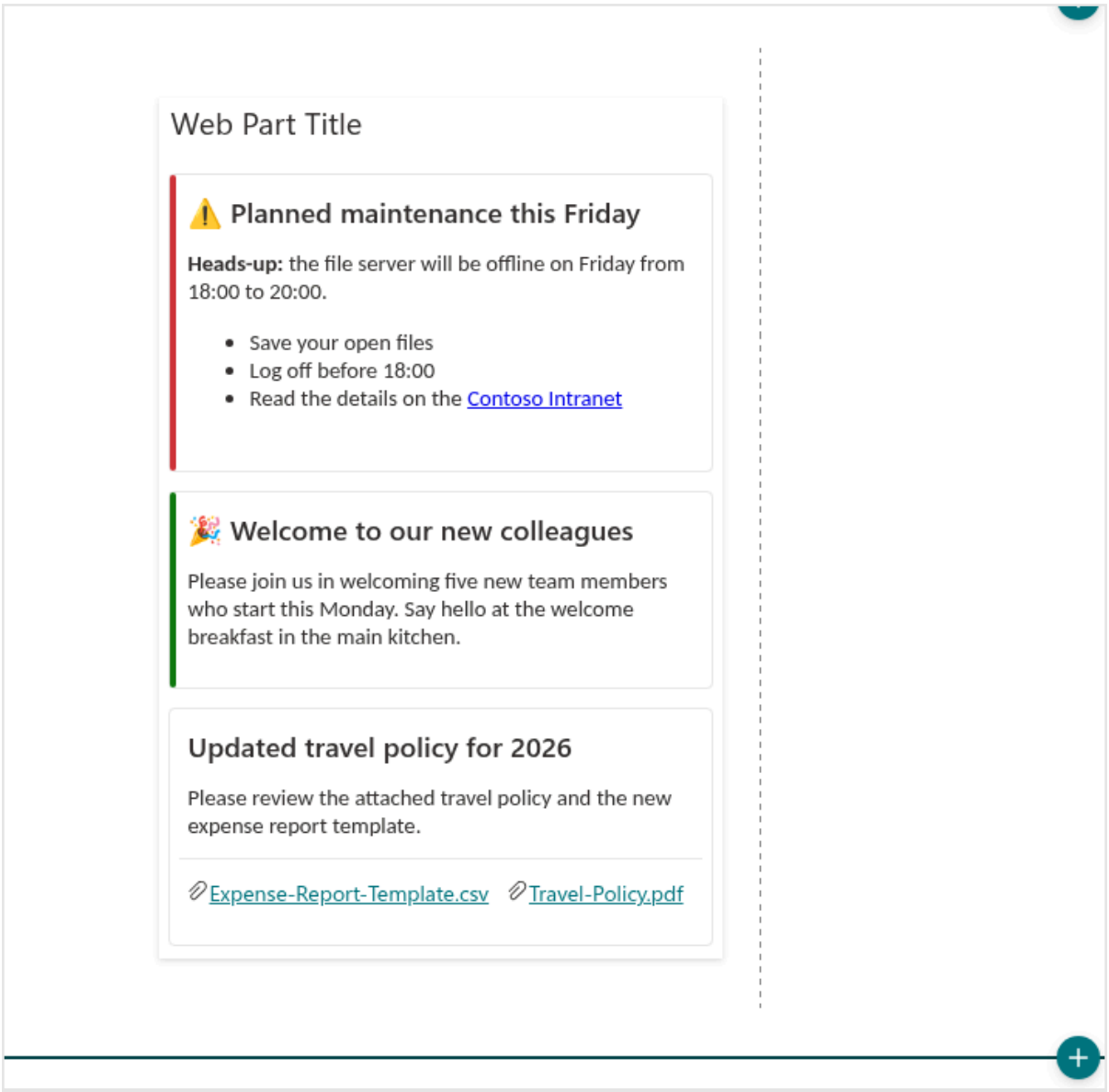
Stacked

All announcements (within the **Maximum items** limit) are shown at once as a vertical list of cards. There are no navigation controls and no autoplay - readers simply scroll

the page.

Choose **Stacked** when:

- the web part is placed in a narrow column of the page;
- readers must see all current announcements without clicking anything;
- there are only a few announcements, and they are short.



The Stacked layout

Tip

In the Stacked layout, set a small **Maximum items** value, for example 3–5, so the web part does not stretch the page. See KB10575. Controlling Which Announcements Are Shown and in What Order.

Transitions

The **Transition** option defines the animation used when switching cards in the Carousel layout:

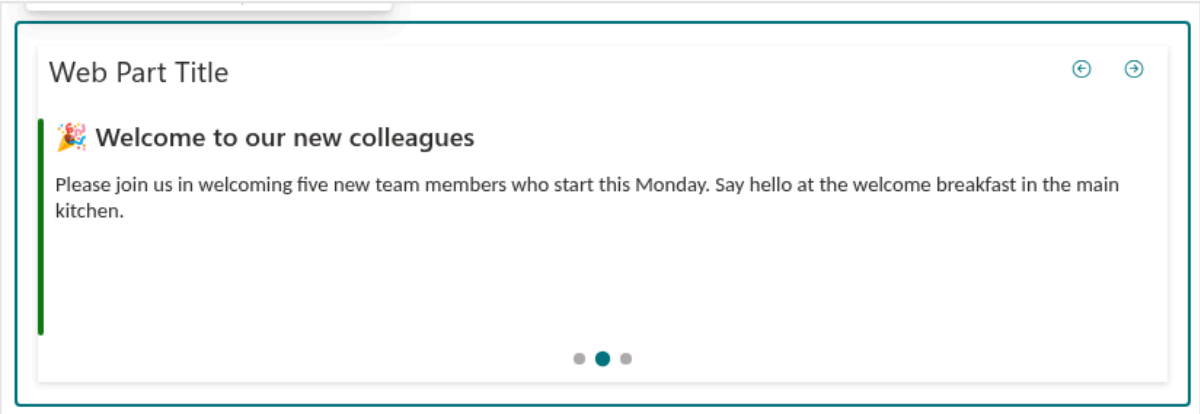
- **Slide** (default) - cards move horizontally, as in a classic slider;
- **Fade** - the current card fades out and the next one fades in smoothly.

Slide emphasizes the sequence of announcements, while **Fade** looks calmer and suits pages with a restrained design. The option is ignored in the Stacked layout.

Navigation

In the Carousel layout, readers can switch announcements in several ways:

- **Previous/next arrows** in the web part header. On the first card, the "previous" button is unavailable; on the last card, the "next" button is unavailable.
- **Pagination dots** under the card show the current position and let readers jump to any announcement. They are controlled by the **Show pagination dots** option in the **Behavior** group (on by default).
- **Keyboard** - when the carousel has focus, the ←/→ keys switch cards.
- **Swipe** - on touch devices, swipe the card left or right.



Carousel navigation controls

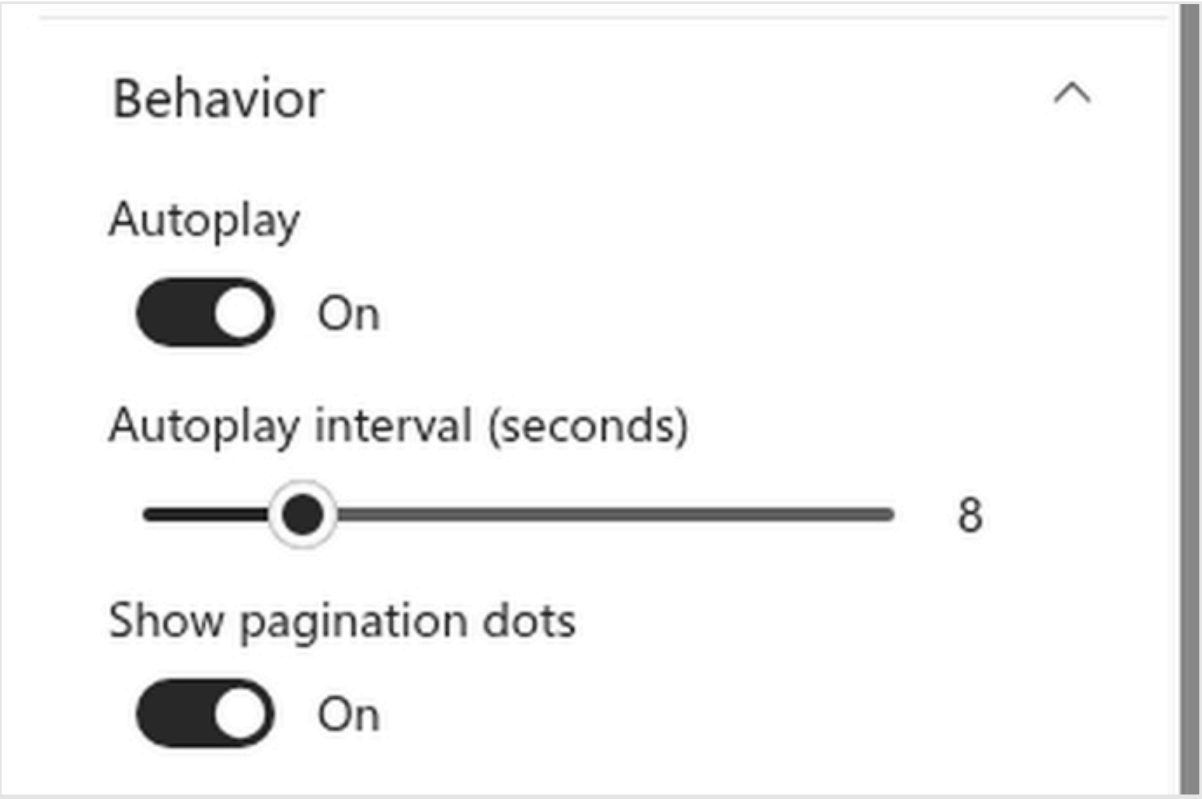
Note

If there is only one announcement to show, the carousel does not display arrows, dots or the Play/Pause button - there is nothing to switch. On sites in right-to-left languages (Arabic, Hebrew), the direction of the arrows, keys and swipes is mirrored automatically.

Autoplay

Autoplay rotates announcements automatically, so readers see all the news without clicking anything. It is configured in the **Behavior** group:

- **Autoplay** - turns automatic rotation on or off (off by default);
- **Autoplay interval (seconds)** - the time each card is displayed, from 2 to 30 seconds, 5 by default. The slider is available only when autoplay is on.



The Behavior group in the property pane

Autoplay is designed to be convenient for readers:

- after the last card, the carousel returns to the first one;
- rotation **pauses** while the pointer is over the web part or while it has keyboard focus, so a reader can calmly finish reading;
- when autoplay is on, a **Play/Pause** button appears in the header, allowing readers to stop or resume rotation;
- while slides are rotating automatically, screen readers do not announce every change, so they do not interrupt the user.

Warning

Autoplay works only in the Carousel layout and only when there are at least two announcements. In the Stacked layout, the autoplay options are ignored.

Tip

Choose the interval based on the length of the texts: 5–8 seconds is enough for a short headline with one or two sentences, while longer announcements need 10–15 seconds. If readers complain that cards change too quickly, increase the interval rather than turning autoplay off.

Recommended Configurations

Scenario	Layout	Transition	Autoplay	Maximum items
Home page, **full-width section**	Carousel	Slide	On, 8–10 s	5–10
Home page, two-thirds section	Carousel	Fade	On or off	5
Side column, department page	Stacked	-	-	3–5
Microsoft Teams tab	Carousel	Slide	Off	10

Conclusion

A layout, a transition and autoplay are enough to adapt the web part to any place on the page: a dynamic carousel for the home page or a compact list for a side column. Whatever you choose, readers keep full control: they can pause rotation, use the keyboard or swipe through the cards. For a complete overview of all web part options, see KB10221. Announcements Carousel: Features and Capabilities of the SharePoint Web Part.

Terms

Full-Width Section
A full-width section in SharePoint Online is a layout option that allows content to span the entire width of the page, providing a more immersive and visually impactful presentation for elements such as images and videos.

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

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.