KINVEY MAKES SHAREPOINT™ MOBILE-FIRST, CLOUD-FIRST

78% of the Fortune 500 use SharePoint with the promise of increased collaboration and an integrated seamless experience. However, today's seamless experience requires mobilizing data and delivering it to the right person at the right time, on any device.

SharePoint was developed for a homogeneous, network connected web-era. Microsoft has not made it easy to unlock your content for today's heterogeneous, subsecond mobile world.

Of course, you could invest time and money in building custom integrations or waiting to upgrade to SharePoint 2016 with all the added costs and extended time line, or you could leverage Kinvey to mobilize your data in minutes – with no special knowledge of SharePoint required.

WHY SHAREPOINT IS COMPLEX

Optimized for a web browser

SharePoint was optimized to operate in a connected, web-browser centric environment. It doesn't provide out of the box support for iOS, Android, or HTML5 mobile apps that require offline operation, data caching, data encryption, and sub-second response time.

SharePoint has different authentication mechanisms depending on whether you are running the on-premises version or the online version. SharePoint Online uses a variation of SAML, and requires three different requests to the server in order to authenticate - not a very mobile friendly approach.

The Problem: SharePoint was built for a web world. Mobile is different.



Microsoft hasn't made it easy to bridge the gap.



The on-premises version of SharePoint uses NTLM. It requires a persistent connection and doesn't easily translate to mobile devices that have constraints on battery life, are continually going to sleep, and have inconsistent network connectivity.

Data Inconsistencies

SharePoint has a highly customizable data model. Users can create new lists of different types, and add any number of fields in those lists. However, the means of customizing list fields is inconsistent. There are several ways to add fields to a list, and how those fields are reflected in the backend varies depending on how you added the fields.

Additionally, to write to a list requires knowledge of the list schema name, which isn't easy to find for users who don't have SharePoint domain expertise. This complexity makes integration difficult and time consuming, especially for developers unfamiliar with SharePoint.

Slow Response Times

Generally speaking, SharePoint systems were designed for web-era response times of seconds. Mobile apps require sub-second response times to keep the user engaged.

Mobile Development

SharePoint uses an abundance of proprietary Microsoft HTML extensions, which makes the translation to mobile extremely difficult. Additionally, mobile developers don't have expertise in the OData protocol SharePoint uses. They are used to working with more common web standards like REST, as well as client-side libraries.

Although Microsoft has included mobile web optimizations for SharePoint, it is not performant and does not handle offline or low bandwidth use cases.

HOW KINVEY HELPS SOLVE THESE ISSUES

Optimized for mobile

To bridge the gap to the mobile world, Kinvey provides an out-of-the-box RAPID connector for configuring access into SharePoint systems, cloud caching to address the performance impedance mismatch between web world (seconds) and mobile world (sub-seconds), and client features such as offline operation and data encryption required for secure consumer-grade online and offline user experiences.

With Kinvey, you just have two steps to mobilizing your SharePoint data: 1) configure your connector, 2) go!

No Code Authentication

Kinvey takes the heavy lifting out of SharePoint access with our no-code Mobile Identity Connect secure connectivity into SharePoint. Kinvey handles the authentication and provides secure session management while translating SharePoint authentication to mobile-friendly OAUTH2, saving mobile developers time and energy.

Data Configuration

Kinvey makes it very easy to configure and securely expose SharePoint data via our no-code RAPID connectors that discover, map, and transform data into usable information that will also be performant on a mobile device.

Mobile speed

Kinvey delivers sub-second response time from device to your SharePoint system. We do this via our optimized client libraries, cloud caching, and streamlined RAPID connectors. The end-to-end experience is optimized to deliver the best mobile user experience.

Mobile Development

Kinvey features both client side as well as server side caching, which allows SharePoint connected applications to work offline and present needed enterprise data to users in sub-second time, despite slow connections or high-latency enterprise systems. Further, Kinvey uses standards that mobile developers are familiar and comfortable with, saving them valuable time and overhead cost.



CONCLUSION

By using Kinvey, you can make SharePoint mobile-first and cloud-first and mobilize your data in minutes - just configure and go! Kinvey provides secure end-to-end performance from the enterprise system to the mobile app and greatly reduces development complexity, enabling faster time to market with better performing apps.



