Microsoft 365

Project Cortex: Frequently asked questions

Office Hours Call
8 April 2020

Agenda

- Most frequently asked questions
- Q&A

Most frequently asked questions

Question:

What is Project Cortex?

Answer:

Project Cortex in Microsoft 365 puts people at the center by making it easy to discover and share knowledge within the tools they use every day. Project Cortex connects and automatically tags your organization's content, including documents and videos, while ensuring best-in-class security and compliance. It uses AI to organize your content into a knowledge network of shared topics like projects and customers to power individual productivity and improve organizational intelligence.

Question:

When will Project Cortex be available?

Answer:

Project Cortex is currently in private preview, with general availability (GA) expected in mid 2020. We will provide more information about exact dates, naming, and pricing as we get closer to GA.

Question:

What about pricing and licensing? Which Microsoft 365 SKUs will Project Cortex be available for?

Answer:

We will provide more information about pricing, licensing, and packaging at GA.

Question:

Why is Microsoft building a new product?

Answer:

In a world of rapid change, learning to learn faster, harnessing knowledge and upskilling employees is the new workplace competitive advantage.

Empowering our people to adapt and gain new skills is more critical than ever. Today it takes too long to come up to speed on a new role, a new team, a new project or even a new topic. It's too hard to find relevant content, answers and experts. And it's too hard to connect and manage all your knowledge across organizational boundaries.

With Microsoft 365 we are focused on helping all our customers solve these challenges. With the combination of a massive content repository, vast signals from the Microsoft Graph and advancements in AI, we have a unique opportunity to realize the true promise of knowledge, to empower people, to fuel innovation, to accelerate learning and protect information.

Question:

Is there a preview program? What's entailed?

Answer:

Microsoft opened a private preview program at Ignite 2019 to a limited number of new applicants.

The Project Cortex Preview Program offers select customers access to Project Cortex and engagement with the Microsoft product team bringing the solution to life. By actively testing features and providing constructive feedback over the course of 4 to 6 months, our preview customers are helping us produce a solution that meets our customer needs and reflects potential use cases.

Question

Where can I learn more about Project Cortex?

Answer

Right here on our Office Hours series! ☺

https://resources.techcommunity.microsoft.com/project-cortex-microsoft-365/project-cortex-office-hours/

Join our Project Cortex Community to stay up to date and receive notifications when information becomes available and announcements are made

https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/project-cortex/ct-p/ProjectCortex

You can also read more on the Project Cortex resource center

https://aka.ms/ProjectCortex

Sign up for our newsletters

Learn about our Content Services Partners and Private Preview Programs (when applicable)

Question:

How does Project Cortex relate to Microsoft 365 and SharePoint?

Answer:

Project Cortex adds new capabilities to the apps and content you already have across Microsoft 365. It includes abilities to find and share knowledge and expertise in apps like SharePoint, Outlook, and Microsoft Teams, and lets you apply AI to classify and organize content in SharePoint libraries.

Question:

Will it work on classic SharePoint? / Will the connection between Project Cortex and SharePoint exist in both modern and classic sites?

Answer:

Project Cortex can mine content from classic sites, but the end user experiences are all on modern.

Question:

How does Project Cortex protect the security and compliance of content?

Answer:

Project Cortex is based on the security and compliance of content enforced across Microsoft 365. For example, access, retention labels, data sovereignty and information barriers are all maintained consistently before and after the activation of Project Cortex. In addition, organizations can apply even more stringent restrictions on the scope and availability of topic information shared by Project Cortex.

Question:

What are the controls from a company perspective? Who would manage these controls? What audit capability comes with the solution? How can I ensure that this does not get turned on by Microsoft without my approval?

Answer:

We will ship both audit controls and security controls for mined topics and knowledge prior to GA. Customers will also need to activate Project Cortex.

Question:

Are the insights generated by Project Cortex restricted to internal users, or can they be made available to guests and other 3rd parties (in a controlled manner)?

Answer:

Project Cortex functionality is available to the folks in your org/AAD. From a 3rd party perspective, we will have APIs in Microsoft Graph.

Question:

Is Project Cortex a new kind of graph, or is it related to the Microsoft Graph?

Answer:

Microsoft Graph helps supply insights about content and knowledge throughout Microsoft 365, and Project Cortex builds on top of the Graph to create your knowledge network. Project Cortex powers new user experiences for knowledge and content management – including content integration via Microsoft Search, automated classification in the Content Center, and knowledge sharing via the knowledge center and topic cards, for example.

Microsoft Graph provides a consistent API for addressing Microsoft 365 data and personalized insights and is used throughout the suite in places such as Microsoft Search and OneDrive suggested files.

Question:

How is Project Cortex different from Delve?

Answer:

Delve is also based on the Microsoft Graph. It is limited to Office documents and is more geared towards connecting people with content than Project Cortex.

On the other hand, Project Cortex creates a visual representation of topics and how they relate to each other, the experts around your organization, and the content that is relevant for each topic. It also automatically organizes, categorizes, and classifies content for you and surfaces it in the applications you are using everyday. It also offers Machine Teaching capabilities to process and organize ingested content - from Office 365 and other repositories, through the Microsoft Search technology and the 100+ connectors to other applications and LOBs.

Question:

Will admins be able to turn Project Cortex "On"/"Off" at the tenant level?

Answer:

Yes, we have a full set of admin controls for the functionality. It will ship "Off" by default so that you are able to plot the right adoption journey for your organization.

Question:

Is any data processed by Project Cortex in the tenant held or processed externally geographically to the Tenant?

Answer:

Data in your tenant stays in your tenant. For AI Builder Forms, content is transited to an Azure processing queue while being processed and is purged after processing.

Question:

What languages will Project Cortex support?

Answer:

At GA, Project Cortex will support English.

We plan to add support for additional languages after GA.

Q&A

Microsoft 365

Thank you!