



Oak Engage and SharePoint: A comparison of features and functionality



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Choosing an intranet platform

We know the importance of due diligence when it comes to seeking new tech solutions. While functionality is one thing, when we think about internal communications, there's more to it. We need to engage our colleagues and provide a sleek, simple user experience.

At Oak, we have first hand experience of being approached by internal comms and HR professionals whose organisations need more than SharePoint can offer. Poor user experience, complicated updates, low engagement rates and long development time are a handful of hurdles that SharePoint users have relayed to us over the years.

As such, we have created this guide to compare the similarities and differences between SharePoint and Oak, highlighting where we can provide additional value and supporting the business case for transitioning to Oak.

Is Oak or SharePoint right for you?

SharePoint

SharePoint offers a space for central storage of files and is integrated with Microsoft365 Suite. Within these documents, you can manage security and permissions and collaborate with colleagues on documents.

The SharePoint platform enables customisation but it requires a lot of technical expertise and can take months upon months to create, often taking significant development to reach functionality beyond the standard features.

Due to the ongoing upkeep and customisation of SharePoint to navigate through updates and further development, it is not uncommon for SharePoint development to be an entire job role in itself.

Oak Engage

Oak is the single source of truth for your people and brings everything into one place. We make it easy for your people to find what they need, when they need it.

Your employees already know how to use Oak. With an instantly recognisable feel, layout and social media familiarity, Oak encourages employee engagement and daily use from your people. With a personalised feed and ease of content creation, the platform encourages uptake from all members of staff.

With Oak Engage as your internal comms and employee engagement partner, you can benefit from being on a Microsoft platform, without any of the downsides. Oak gives you the freedom to personalise, innovate and truly engage with your people, going beyond the limits of SharePoint to enhance the user experience with modern features.

Oak is an ever-evolving product. We constantly reinvest back into Oak with a focus on improving user experience, improving current features and creating solutions to everyday business issues.

We are award winning!

- Named Clearbox Intranet Choice Winner and a leading product 2024
- Continually recognised as a High Performer by G2
- Winner of Best Intranet at the IoIC Awards 2022 with NatWest
- Highly commended at the simply awards 2022 with NatWest
- Shortlisted at the simply awards 2023 with Sevita
- Triple winner with Sevita at the Internal Communications and Engagement Awards 2024

People-first

- Goes above and beyond for customers with 100% satisfaction rate
- Continually recognised as a High Performer by G2 with a 9.5 quality of support score
- Goes above and beyond for their people with 4.5/5 rating on Glassdoor

Oak and Microsoft, a longstanding relationship

We have been a Microsoft Gold Partner for over a decade, building intranets on Microsoft technologies for over 20 years. While originally an on-premise solution, we now take a cloud-first strategy with a strong focus on Microsoft 365, SharePoint and Active Directory.



Oak is built using Microsoft Technologies and hosted on Microsoft Azure, one of the most trusted and established cloud platforms in the world, with a host of additional features and functionality to better engage and communicate with your workforce. With exceptional levels of data protection and site security, Oak is written in Windows languages (.NET/C#) and built on Windows servers, allowing seamless integration with Microsoft Programs.



- ✓ User-friendly experience
- ✓ Make changes quickly
- ✓ Excellent integrations with Microsoft 365
- ✓ Rapid implementation
- ✓ Lower cost with a clear subscription model
- ✓ Access to team of experts and support
- ✓ Mobile and deskless support
- ✓ Owned by and built for communicators



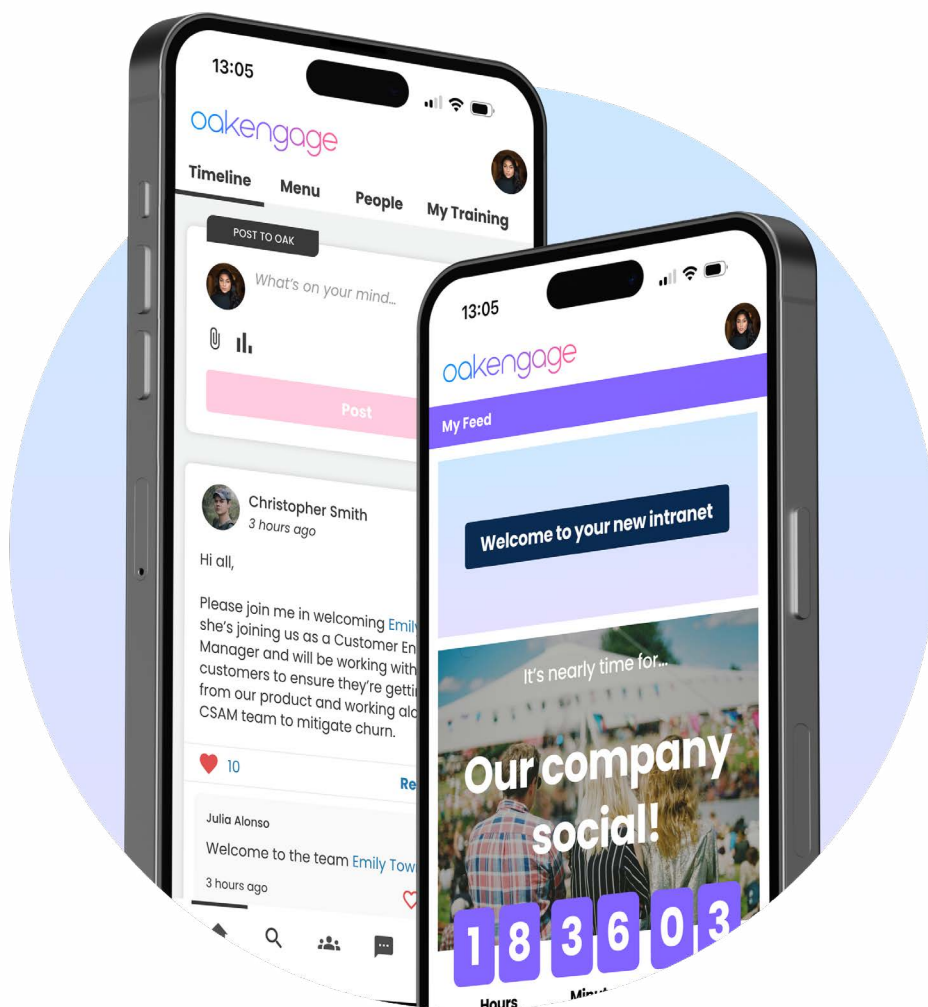
- ✗ Limited to Microsoft roadmap
- ✗ Slow to implement and change
- ✗ Increasing costs over time
- ✗ Dispersed support model
- ✗ Reliance on technical expertise
- ✗ Rigid design and expensive to change
- ✗ Complex permissions and file duplication
- ✗ Limited mobile experience

Oak vs. SharePoint

User experience

With complex permissions and awkward naming requirements often resulting in file duplications, SharePoint is not renowned for a smooth user experience. This can often lead to frustrated users reverting to email for document sharing.

In stark contrast, Oak's interface is much more user-friendly and provides quick ways to store, search and share files with colleagues for collaboration. The user experience goes beyond the administrative, offering opportunities to collaborate across teams, connect with others and enable all staff to work more efficiently.





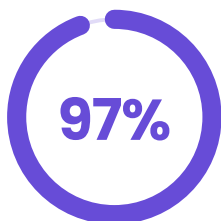
PLURALSIGHT

Customer spotlight

Oak Engage has provided Pluralsight with an intuitive and user-friendly intranet. 'Life at PS' makes it easier for their 2,000 employees to access essential tools and resources. The migration was also completed in just ten days, showcasing our joint commitment to optimising digital workplace tools and processes.



96%
of users on-boarded since launch



97%
quarterly engagement



Customisable homepages
cater to a wide range of employees and job roles, reducing noise and improving user experience

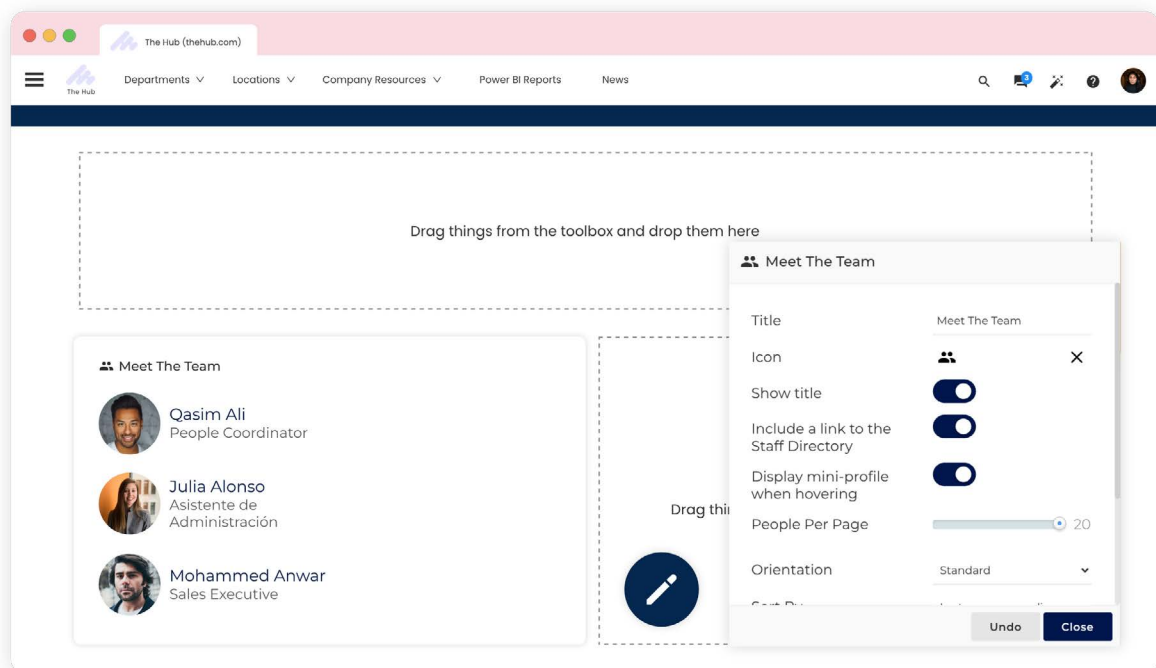
“Life@PS has a user-friendly design and advanced search functionality. These improvements have made a meaningful difference in enhancing the employee experience, allowing our team members to work more efficiently. We’ve already seen such positive feedback. We’ll continue to use data to guide our decisions and strategies, furthering our commitment to excellence and efficiency in all aspects of our operations”

- Will Clive, Chief People Officer at Pluralsight

Make changes, fast

When time and resources are limited, you need to be confident that changes can be made as quickly as possible with ease, without having to wait for a developer to dive in and reconfigure.

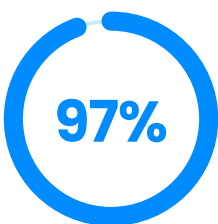
With Oak, our drag and drop functionality and intuitive content or area tags can enable you to swiftly create and categorise documents and resources without IT or development involvement. The support team at Oak can guide intranet managers through novel processes, saving internal resource.





Customer spotlight

Powered by Oak Engage, BK Hub is a dynamic and mobile-friendly platform. It has transformed how Burger King UK's master franchise works and communicates with its 6,000 employees across 300 locations. Oak provides a central hub to keep their employees informed and connected, whilst strengthening the connection between their restaurants and Head Office.



97%
adoption rates



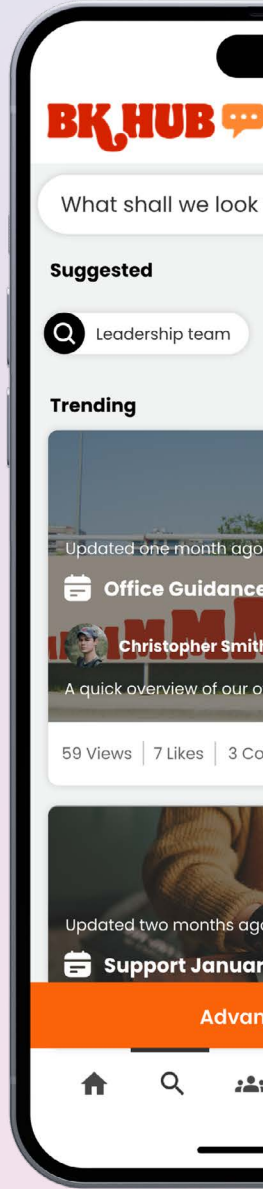
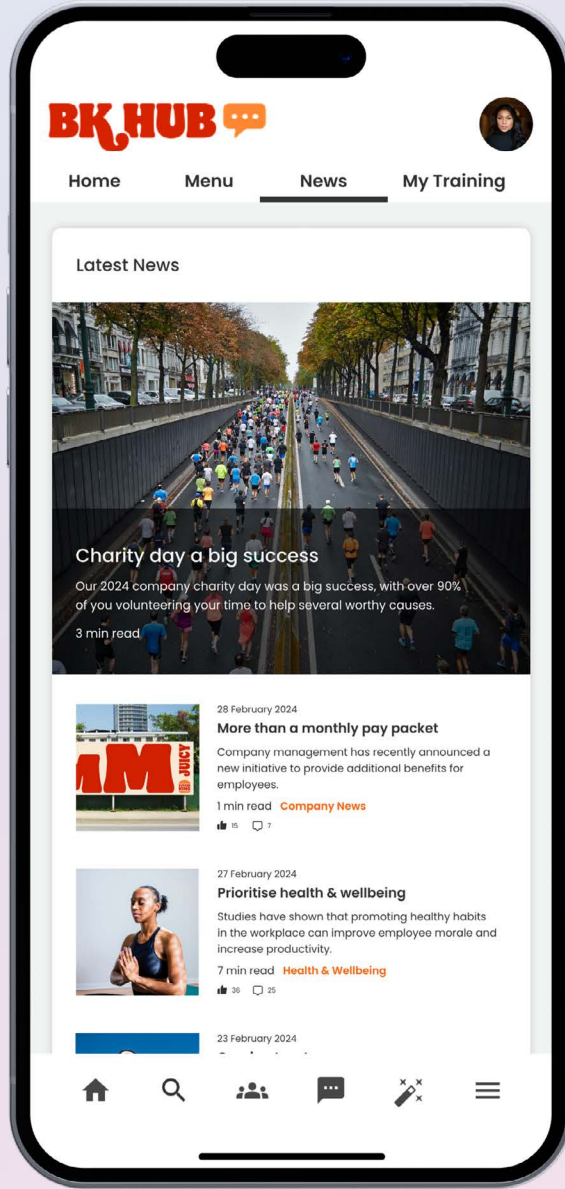
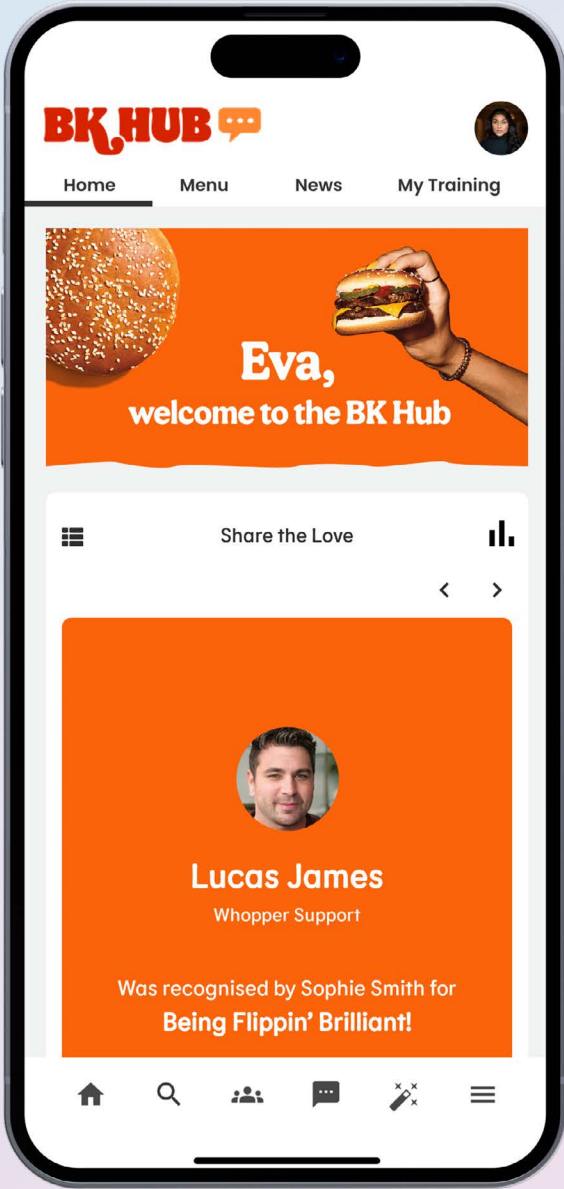
Intelligent delivery
ensures employees only receive the information they need



1 in 4 employees
are using the branded BK Hub mobile app to share best practice, restaurant news and fun, social updates

“Oak has delivered a tool that’s addressed our communication challenges head on. Not only will it transform how we communicate and connect with our people, but it will allow our teams to access the information they need so much quicker and easier than ever before. It will also streamline so many of our internal processes for our managers, saving them all time that they can be spending with their teams instead, rather than on admin.”

- Nick Hollis, Head of Engagement at Burger King UK



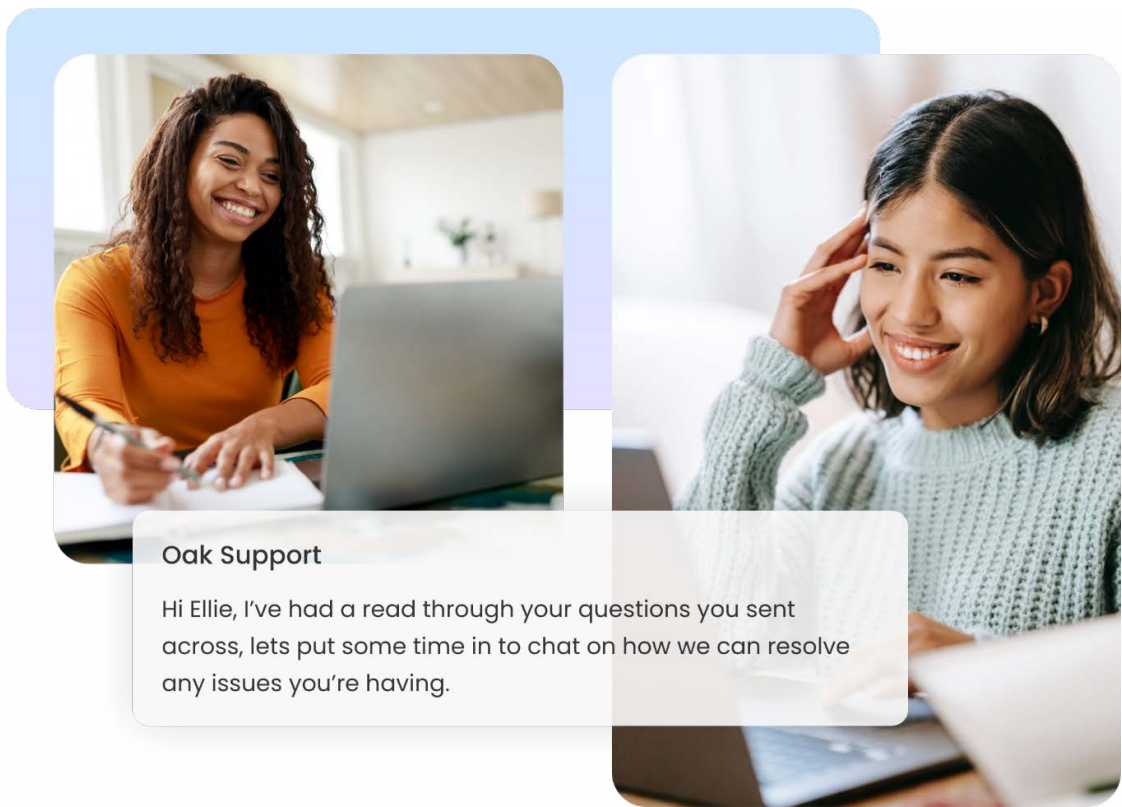
Cost implications

The lifetime cost of SharePoint can be hugely expensive, especially when the solution is customised. Often, the pricing can become complex, especially when developer costs are taken into account. With Oak, there is a simple subscription cost with one of the most competitive rates within the market.

Rapid implementation

With the amount of customisation required for SharePoint, it is not unusual for implementations to take months or even years, depending on their complexity.

With Oak's agile and flexible approach, we have had customers go live in a matter of weeks, sometimes within days! Our excellent usability makes it easy to add, edit and adapt areas of your intranet within minutes instead of months.



'Chatty Patty' was built from the ground up. It has changed the way Five Guys work, allowing them to communicate with their large deskless workforce quickly, recognise and reward employees and bring together training materials, rotas and payslips in one secure place. It has become an essential part of the business.



Knew an app

would work with the majority of the workforce aged 18–30



App launched

within 48 hours



Chatty Patty has brought

the Five Guys community closer than they could have imagined, with engagement skyrocketing throughout the pandemic and sustained today

“Before Chatty Patty, before an internal communication app, we had no real way to communicate with our crew members, it was really difficult. Oak provided a well-rounded app that did a bit of everything and we thought that was perfect for us. Whatever we’ve asked for from Oak we’ve absolutely received and that’s hugely reassuring”

– **Bastian Bauermeister, Head of Operations at Five Guys**

Customer support

Oak is easy and intuitive to use, but we also provide a standard set of short, user-friendly training sessions for administrators and editors, as well as maintaining a Knowledge Base of features and functionality, available to all users. No in-depth IT training is required to create an engaging intranet.

Having the autonomy to personalise your intranet is great, but what happens when you need a hand?

Our dedicated customer success managers and attentive support team work with our customers to ensure they get the most from all of Oak's features to best suit their organisation and communication needs. In contrast, SharePoint support is all hosted online but has a much less personalised approach in addition to its development requirements.

Enhanced mobile experience and deskless

SharePoint has a limited mobile experience while Oak's mobile first approach ensures a seamless experience across all devices, for all staff.

Our mobile app is a great example of being able to move past Microsoft limitations by offering all workers, wherever they are based, the ability to access their intranet, rotas, payslips, business news, updates, critical information and more from a single place.

Using a mobile app is a much more cost-effective option for large deskless organisations. A lot of our customers have transitioned to this across many sectors including retail, hospitality, logistics and manufacturing. While head office staff will still be on Microsoft 365, SharePoint and/or Teams, the bulk of the workforce isn't required to be.



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Customer spotlight

A household name all over the world with more than 850 stores in the UK and Ireland; Aldi chose to partner with Oak Engage to launch their company branded intranet app, MyAldi. Oak's mobile-first approach has helped Aldi to overcome specific colleague engagement challenges, giving all their colleagues access to key information without the need for any work email addresses or 365/SharePoint licences.



95%
MyAldi sign up rate



Access to rotas, payslips

and holiday allowance as well as single sign-on (SSO) for fast access to important information and colleague benefits



In-app notifications

to enable personalised communication with their 50,000 strong workforce across the UK and Ireland

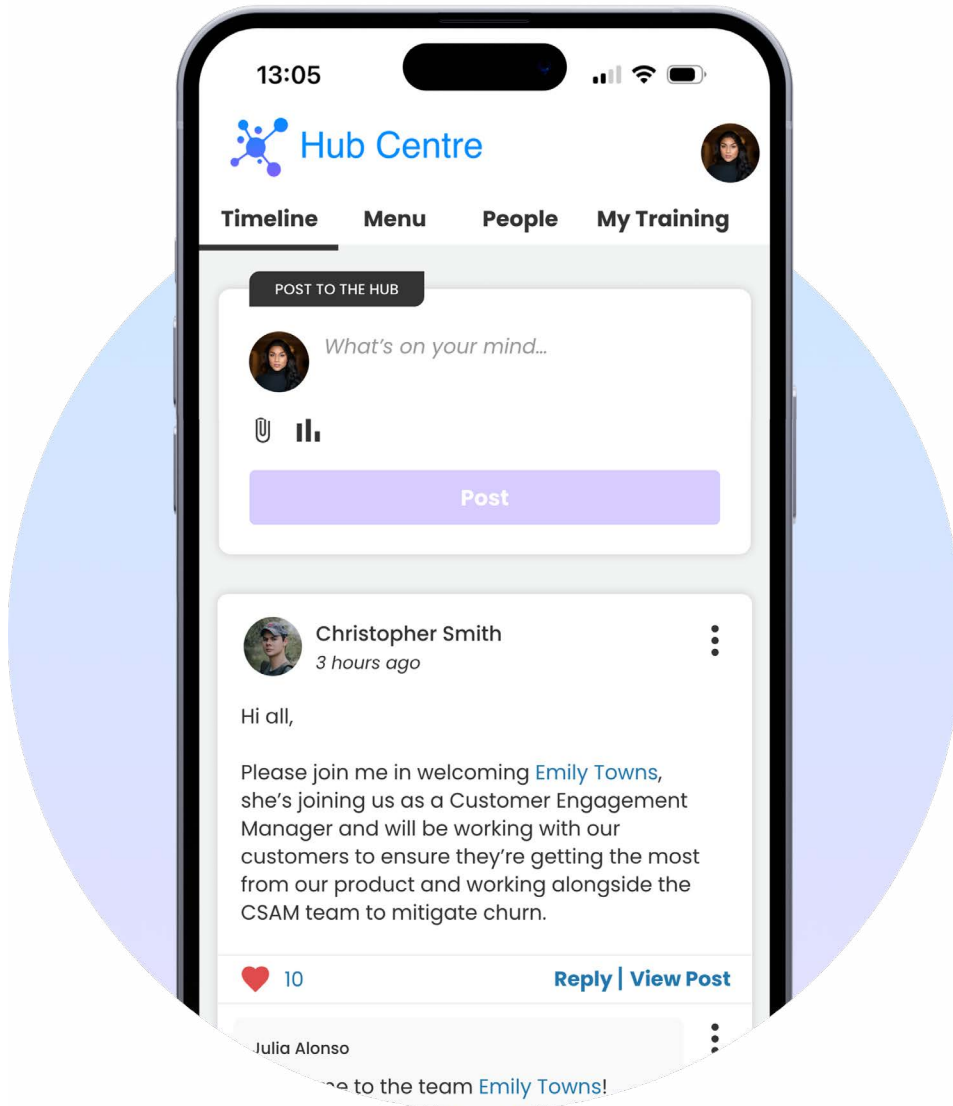
"The Oak team is both incredibly helpful and knowledgeable. With our Internal Comms team, Oak ensure that MyALDI is the most engaging, connective platform possible; and they're always ready to offer ideas for new developments and technical support"

- Charlotte Timmins, Communication Manager, Aldi UK

Communication

While SharePoint is centred around document storage and collaboration, as a Microsoft product it is able to integrate with Microsoft Teams to further enhance teamwork capabilities.

Oak takes communication a step further, with the option to integrate timelines onto homepages to encourage interaction, discussion and idea sharing across wider departments. This can help to create a more sociable, informal and comfortable environment for collaboration and building relationships amongst colleagues.



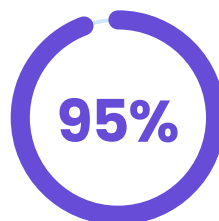


Customer spotlight

National leading structural steel company, Severfield, spent over a year developing a SharePoint intranet which lacked a user friendly interface and brought more challenges than triumphs. After tirelessly trying to build a successful platform they decided they needed a better solution; something intuitive, user friendly and a platform with a large scope for various content formats to keep their employees engaged with ease. That's where Oak came in.



99.5%
total content views



employee engagement rate including content and social sharing features



12-week plan
to launch in order to keep employees updated and informed during pandemic

“We had already spent 12-18 months developing a SharePoint intranet site, which brought with it challenge after challenge and was not user friendly, nor efficient in the time it took to create and post content. It was also very limited in what we could do with the look and feel. We therefore decided that there must be a better solution out there and after some very quick research it was clear that Oak offered not only the basic essentials we were looking for, but way exceeded our expectations in what could be possible for an intranet site... When you've spent months working on something that brought nothing but challenges, it was refreshing to see how easy Oak was to use. Content can be created in minutes, compared to what was hours on our old system. It also looks modern and works great across all devices.”

- Anna Gray, Head of Marketing and Communications, Severfield

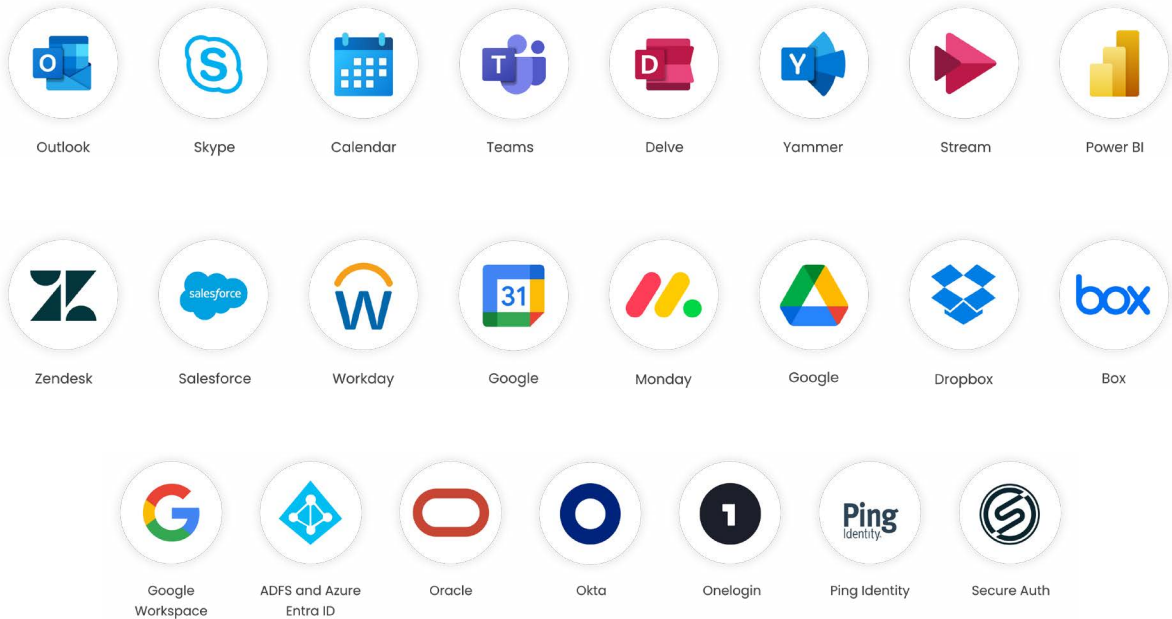
Integrations

Part of Oak’s core offering is the level of integrations that we support for many popular third party applications, in particular Microsoft 365, with strong integrations to SharePoint, OneDrive and Microsoft Teams.

Oak uses Single sign-on (SSO) as an authentication scheme, allowing you to access multiple independent programs from one place, which is also routed via Azure AD. By embedding your integrations into Oak, your data and access is safe, secure and stored in the same place as it would be when using 365 or SharePoint based services.

Where we go the extra mile is the capability to integrate with thousands of systems through Okta.

“By integrating with our key systems, Oak has empowered our people with one central hub. This has also allowed us to streamline access to multiple tools so our people have everything they need in one secure place.” – **Isaac Leach, Operations Manager at Pluralsight**

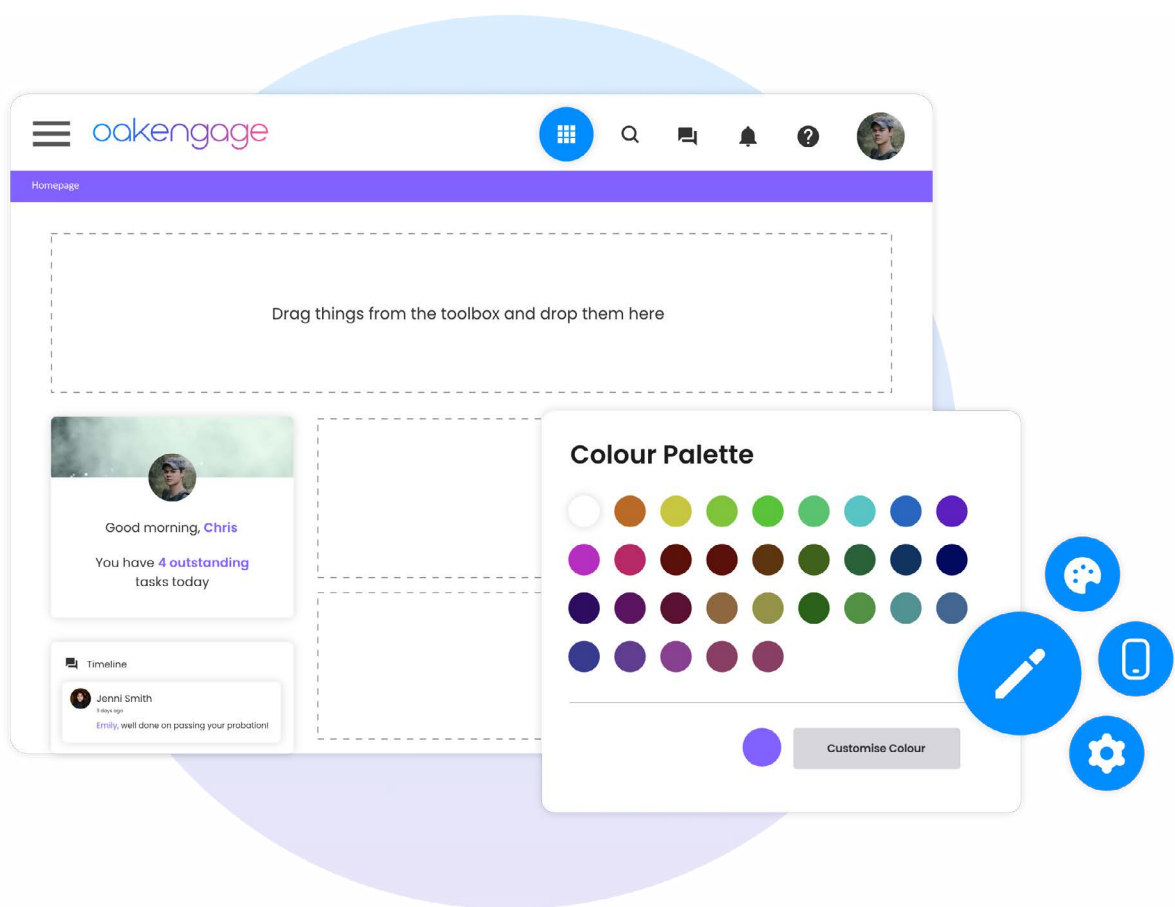


Where Oak surpasses Sharepoint

By partnering with Oak Engage, you get all the benefits of being on a Microsoft platform without any of the downsides. Oak has the freedom to innovate beyond the boundaries of 365. As such, we focus on offering better user experience and modern features that improve communication and engagement for your employees. The business case for shifting from SharePoint to Oak continues here:

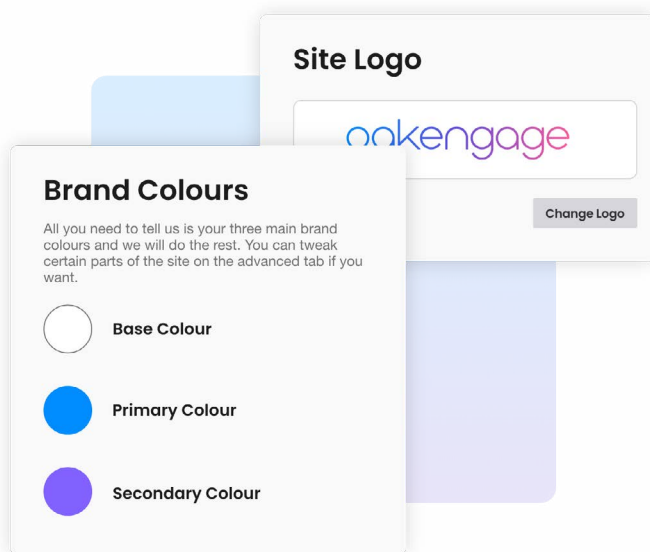
Customised intranet

Oak offers the ability to customise your intranet simply and quickly to better reflect your brand identity and culture. With Oak’s drag-and-drop functionality, it’s incredibly easy to create and edit all kinds of content without any knowledge of code, or having to submit IT tickets for small changes. You can do all of this yourself, unlike an intranet built purely on SharePoint.



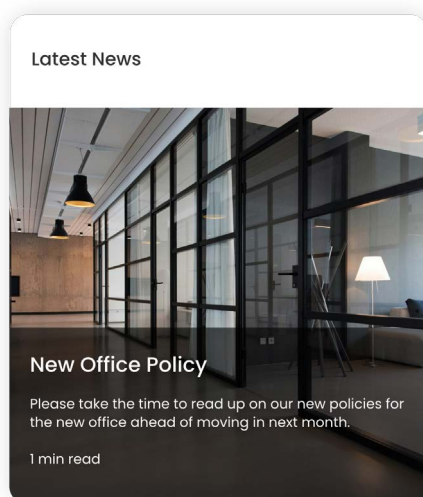
Content management

Our intuitive content management system makes it easy to design fully branded homepages. You can also choose from a variety of impressive layouts that best fit your needs. Our system enables you to remain compliant with business critical documents using version control, establishing a single source of truth for your people.



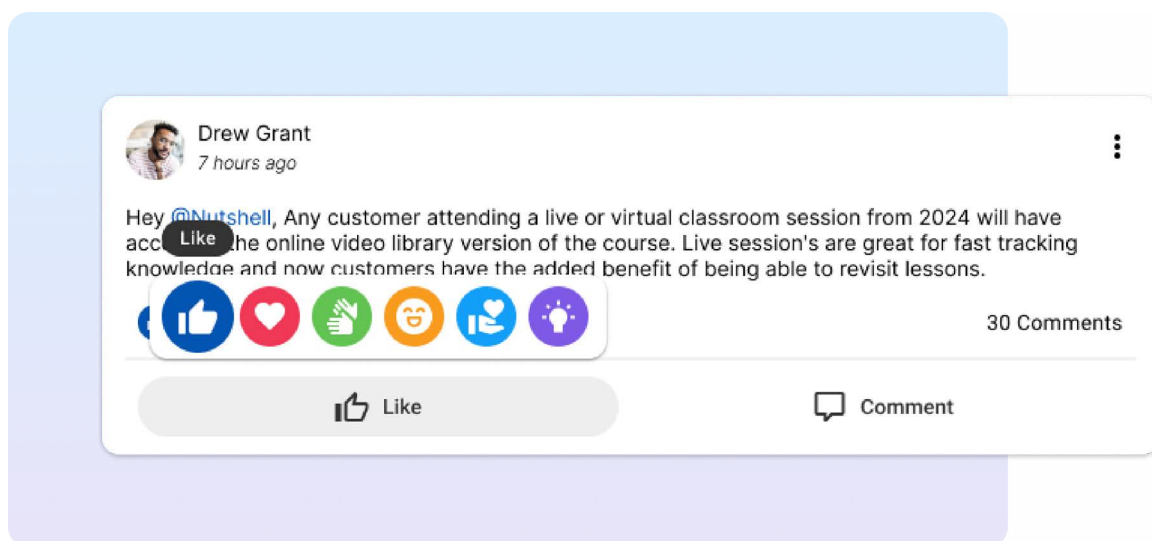
Employee experience

Personalised news leads to increased engagement levels. Oak creates a personalised feed of content for every single employee, delivering targeted and relevant news to suit their preferences and department.



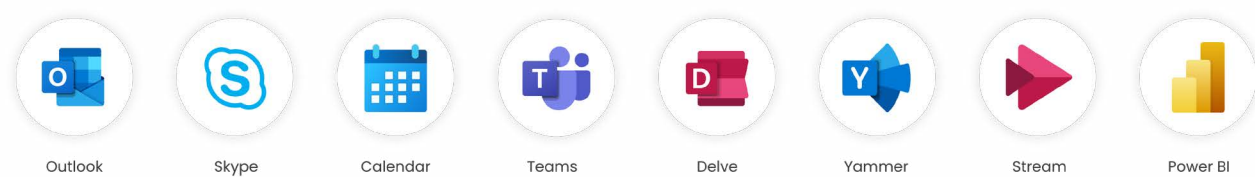
Social and community

Elevate employee engagement and create an inclusive culture with plentiful opportunities to connect. Our social timeline enables colleagues to post updates and collaborate or celebrate key milestones such as work anniversaries. Hubs connect people with similar interests and upcoming company events can garner excitement with countdowns.



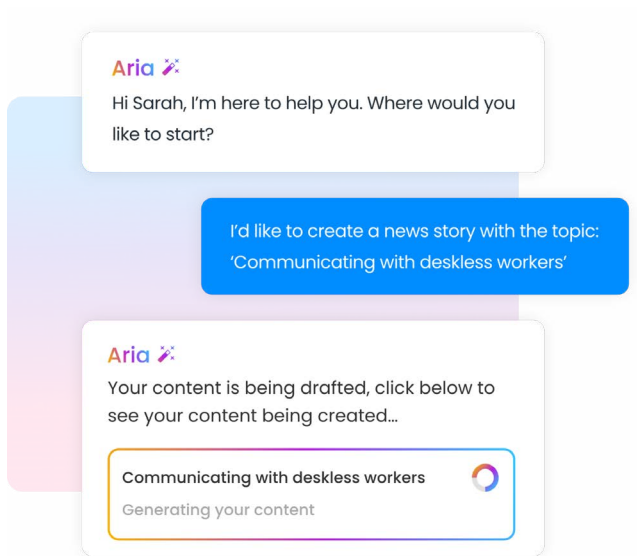
Integrations

The central hub of your digital workplace, Oak allows integration with multiple systems, including SharePoint, Microsoft 365, Salesforce, Workday and Google Drive, among many others, so your people can carry out their jobs effectively. Oak also supports access to multiple tools with a centralised Single Sign-On (SSO) solution, SCIM and SAML. With the ability to access Okta through SSO, we enable you to integrate with over 7,000 systems.



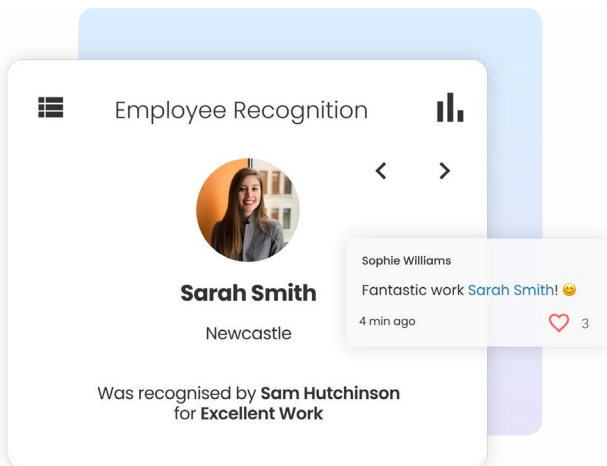
AI intranet

Our AI assistant, Aria, generates high quality content with ease that will resonate with your people. Say goodbye to writer's block and unlock limitless creativity. From crafting company policies to creating relevant news, Aria empowers you to take your internal comms to the next level, guiding you and tailoring content based on your preferences and audiences.



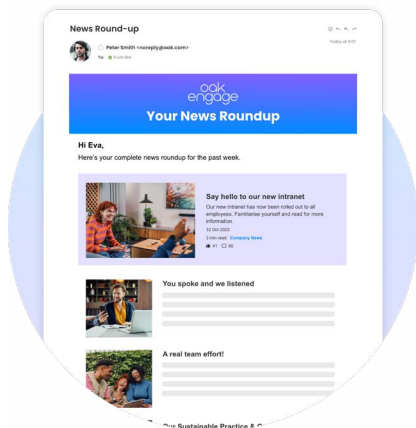
Awards and recognition

Share praise with colleagues for a job well done, or encourage formal employee appreciation initiatives across the business to demonstrate and maintain your company values every day.



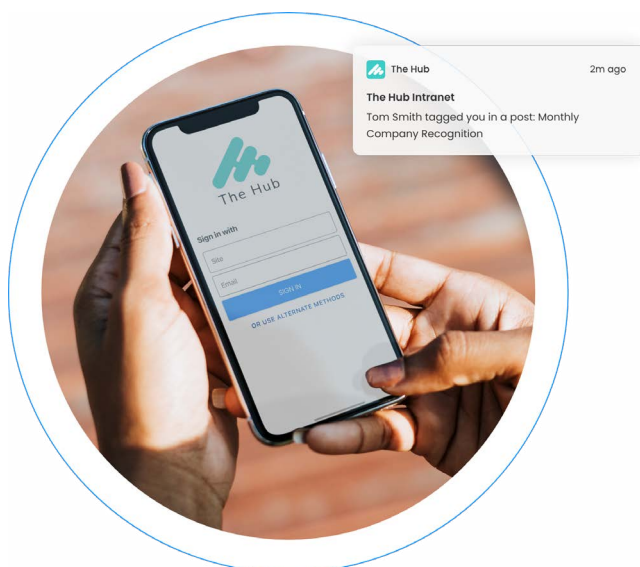
Targeted content

Empower your employees to personalise their feed by setting up topics and content of interest, or opting out of things that aren't relevant to them. Tailored homepages and automatically curated newsletters will bring personalised content to the forefront for your people.



Mobile app

Give everyone secure access to important documents on the go. The app is easy to download and users are created within the system so they don't require a work email address to gain access. This can prove extremely beneficial in both monetary value and communication terms for businesses that have large deskless workforces who may not be assigned a company email. We also offer quick and simple deployment via corporate mobile device management systems.



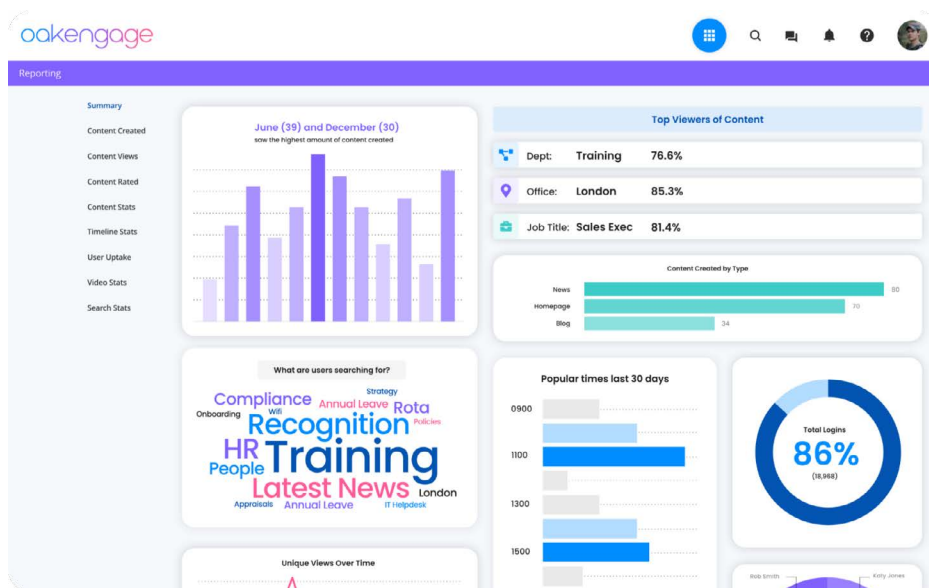
Security

We have built a robust security framework to meet the specific needs of our customers. Our ISO 27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus certifications demonstrate our ongoing commitment to implementing the highest standards of information security.



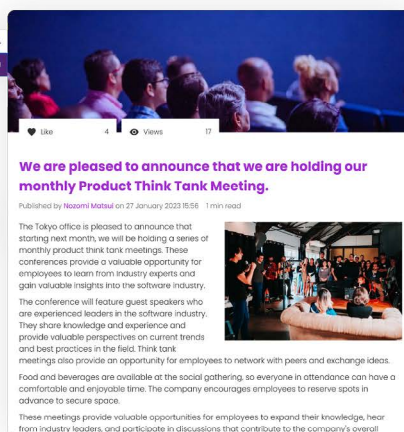
Analytics

Measure success through real-time data, leveraging insights to increase engagement and understand what genuinely matters to your audience. Analytics spans all intranet content as well as newsletter opens, enabling you to get a clear picture of performance and better influence the future of your internal comms strategy.



Auto-translation

Nurture inclusion by ensuring that all of your employee comms are understood. Oak's auto-translation feature will translate a vast variety of intranet content from news updates and policies to articles and blog posts into the user's selected first language. We are proud to have over 127 languages programmed into this feature. This is a significant improvement on SharePoint's requirement for manual translation.



HR help desk

Oak's help desk serves as a centralised hub for all requests, making it easier to manage and respond to enquiries promptly. Set categories and roles to restrict who can raise tickets, investigate or troubleshoot them, giving you full control. For internal quality control or regulatory compliance, teams can run reports on any tickets raised over a specified period of time and their status. Save time pulling information from one programme to another and create your reports in the system the data is managed in, while only granting system access to those who are qualified to manage such information.

Ready to take the next step?

If you are currently using SharePoint and are looking for a completely new solution or one that can integrate it, we hope it is pretty clear that we have an excellent solution worth exploring.

Oak's experts are with you every step of the way from the initial project design, throughout the implementation stage, the branding of your site and initial training. Once live, you can access the Oak academy to access more training courses and broaden your knowledge on how best to communicate and engage your workforce.

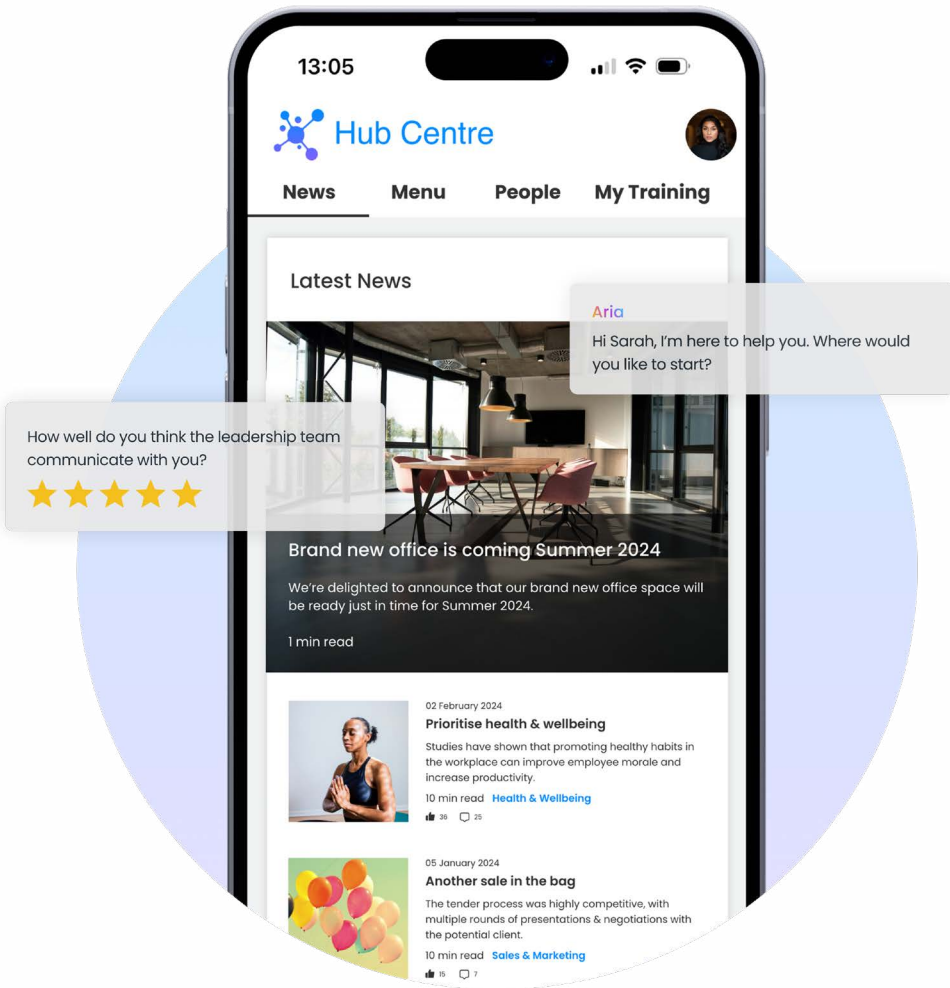
If you would like to see Oak in action, please get in touch to [arrange a demo.](#)

An award-winning employee app and intranet solution

Oak Engage empowers your teams to get the right message, to the right people, at the right time.

We're here to make communication simple. We believe there is a better way to use technology to engage employees, cut through the noise, and inspire action that puts people at the heart of organisations.

The customer is at the heart of Oak Engage, with an attentive support team on hand to help with any customer queries.



Trusted by the world's biggest brands



oak
engage