Enhancing Your Business Processes with SharpCloud Integration

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SharpCloud Integration

SharpCloud offers several approaches to integration and interoperability with many common Line of Business (LoB) tools and is designed to enhance and complement existing methodologies across your business processes and support investment in those tools, as well as being able to stand alone. SharpCloud becomes far more valuable though when it's enriching existing business processes or enabling entire new business processes, as its ability to provide powerful visualisation makes it truly unique in identifying previously unseen insights.

With the ability to connect to tools such as SharePoint, Excel, SmartSheets, Jira, Azure DevOps, VSTS, P6, Oracle, SQL and embedding from Word, PowerPoint, Tableau, BO and many more, SharpCloud allows you to communicate, interact, and collaborate across multiple documents and data in context and by topic.

Office 365 Integrated Data Sources

SharpCloud is fully-integrated with Office 365 meaning you can use your O365 license to authenticate with SharpCloud, providing seamless integration with Excel and SharePoint Online lists built directly into SharpCloud. With secure user authentication via Azure AD and Office 365 single sign-on, SharpCloud can integrate with and augment Office 365 productivity tools and Microsoft Office documents and present this data in a highly visual and flexible way.

Annotations

Annotations allow for content from third party tools to be embedded into a SharpCloud story. Examples of this include graphics and dashboards generated in PowerBI, Tableau and Qlikview. These capabilities allow you to quickly and easily create compelling portals, dashboards and data-driven presentations that provide a greater user-experience.

Representation State Transfer (REST) API

SharpCloud offers a REST API that can be used to access SharpCloud data using modern web programming tools. The SharpCloud API provides a mechanism for other IT systems to communicate directly with the SharpCloud database via an object model-based interface and via ETL and workflow tools such as SSIS, Informatica and Microsoft Flow.
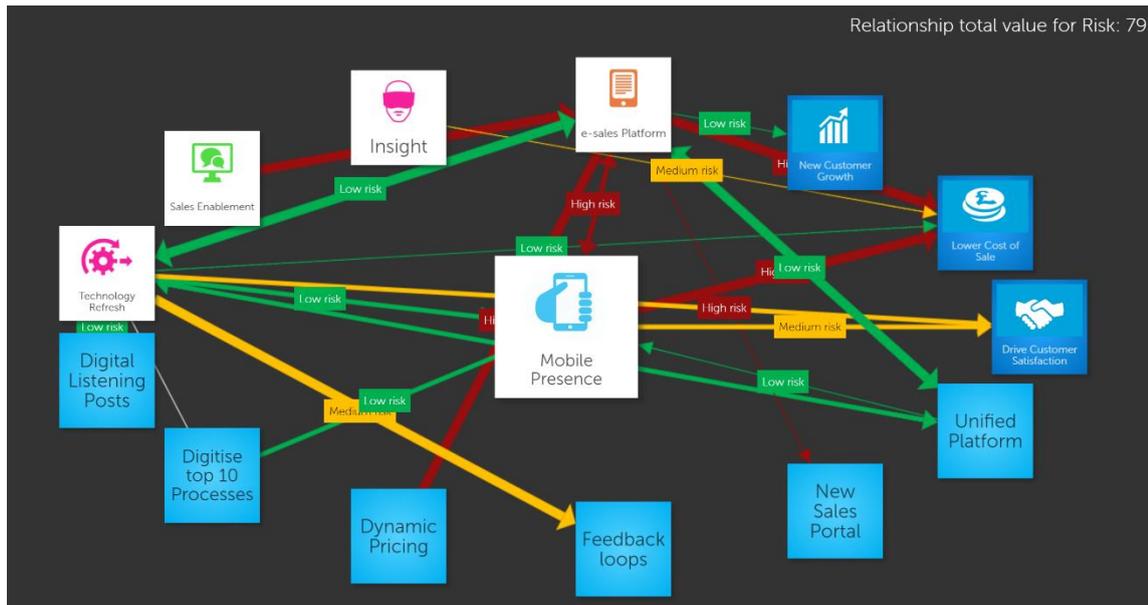
Widgets

Widgets can be embedded into your story views to add new functionality to your story. These connectors use REST API's to read and write data directly to and from third party products to SharpCloud. Examples of this, but not limited to, include JIRA, Azure DevOPs and SharePoint.

"My organization uses SharpCloud to manage our product development projects, resulting in a 10% increase in efficiency. We use SharpCloud to display and leverage data from other line of business tools; Jira, MS Office Project, CRM system and SAP. This provides us with a single source of truth."

Diana Grauer, Vice President of Engineering, Hoerbiger

Enhance your Business Processes with Office 365 and SharpCloud Integration

As the volume of information and data grows, so does our need to easily capture, organise, visualise and share it. Communicating complex and vast sets of data in a compelling and engaging way is an age-old problem.

Enterprise workers struggle to effectively collaborate and tell their stories in context across linear slide decks, spreadsheets and email. Tools born on the cloud, that are fully integrated with Office 365 have seen themselves become a vital part of the business landscape and how we work.

Creating and sharing content and working together has never been easier. Born on Azure and fully integrated with Office 365 authentication, SharpCloud is fast becoming the go-to visual software for Strategic Portfolio Management alongside Office 365 for enterprise organisations.

Office 365 Integrated data source connectors

SharpCloud works seamlessly with SharePoint and Excel to transform information and business intelligence into engaging visual reports, creating a narrative across strategic portfolios. This top-down approach provides a visual representation of the performance of individual projects to your executive leadership teams, creates transparency and highlights new insights and relationships for informed decision making.

SharpCloud provides complete integration with SharePoint and Excel Online. You can bring in data stored in your SharePoint library and a table from a spreadsheet, and constantly sync your stories to remain up-to-date with the latest data, maximising collaboration between teams. You can connect to and sync with multiple SharePoint sources at any time, so you are always working with the latest information.

This functionality removes the manual operation of copying and pasting between SharpCloud and the desktop version of Excel, fully incorporating data entry seamlessly into the SharpCloud interface to provide greater efficiency and transparency across your business process and bring data to life in visually engaging stories.

Business Insights across SharePoint with SharpCloud - Arriva

Arriva have a programme of work which incorporates 6 train operating companies (TOC's), 18 suppliers, some across multiple TOC's, and 97 system components. Trying to understand how they all connect is a real challenge. It is a complex set of interdependencies which needed to be communicated to the team.

SharpCloud is helping to visualise and fully understand their SharePoint data. The output is linked back to SharePoint where the team can collaborate around the SharpCloud storyboard. This means that everyone can view the output even if they don't have access to SharpCloud.
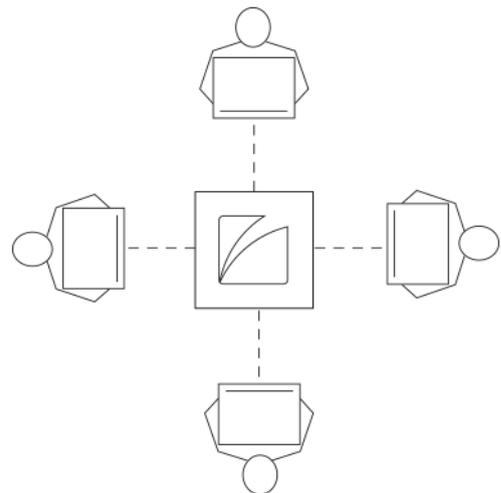
SharpCloud has enabled us to visualise all this data, map the relationships, highlight the gaps and uncover the high-level insight needed. Without the ability to visualise it and drill down into detail, we would never have managed to interpret and understand the data fully.

"We are a big O365 user, everyone uses Teams and SharePoint. SharePoint lists update automatically into our SharpCloud storyboard, so no manual updating is required, making life much easier. It really is seamless. The team is always focused on a live version of the data."

Steve Warner, Head of Business Intelligence, Arriva

The value of SharpCloud for SharePoint

- Create executive dashboards from your SharePoint data - the goal is to communicate information clearly and make it digestible to leadership teams

- Identify gaps and errors in your SharePoint lists - highlight the gaps: the missing technology, resources, projects or innovations, and create a more balanced portfolio

- Identify relationships and interdependencies across your SharePoint data – presenting data visually helps to uncover surprising trends, relationships and insight that wouldn't be apparent from looking at stats alone.

Enhance your Business Processes with SharpCloud Annotations

SharpCloud is different! It compliments line of business BI tools and its ability to provide powerful visualisation combined with relationships, makes it unique in identifying new insights for strategic decision making. Our Annotations capability is providing a greater user-experience for your leadership team and other stakeholders.

Designed to provide insight over existing business management solutions, SharpCloud is brilliant at bringing together data and resources from the line of business tools you currently use, to support the range of methodologies to run and deliver your IT Portfolio.

Annotations has grown beyond what it was originally designed for, it's bringing SharpCloud and other business systems together, providing a window into other systems data and giving you a comprehensive, interactive and dynamic view across your strategic business portfolio.

Annotations

Annotations is an umbrella term for a range of capabilities that collectively allow you to improve the impact and user experience for anyone who interacts with your stories. Using annotations, you can create a unique navigation around your story through click events. You can also embed multiple SharpCloud views into a single view, or embed external content such as word documents, charts, tables and views from other web-based business systems, allowing you to quickly and easily create compelling portals, dashboards and data-driven presentations that provide a greater user-experience for your leadership team and other stakeholders.

You can create four main types of objects and position them on any view:

- Text objects – format and position text objects to provide instructions, explanations and other contextual help.

- Images objects – position images such as brand logos, impactful iconography and large background canvases on any view.

- Navigation objects – by adding click-events to your text or image objects, you can create a whole new way of navigating both within your current story, across other stories and to external URL locations.

- Embedded web documents – annotation objects can be used to embed SharpCloud views from other stories, O365 Excel Tables and charts, PPT or Word documents, or charts, tables and views from other web-based business systems, such as Tableau, Qlik and MS project.
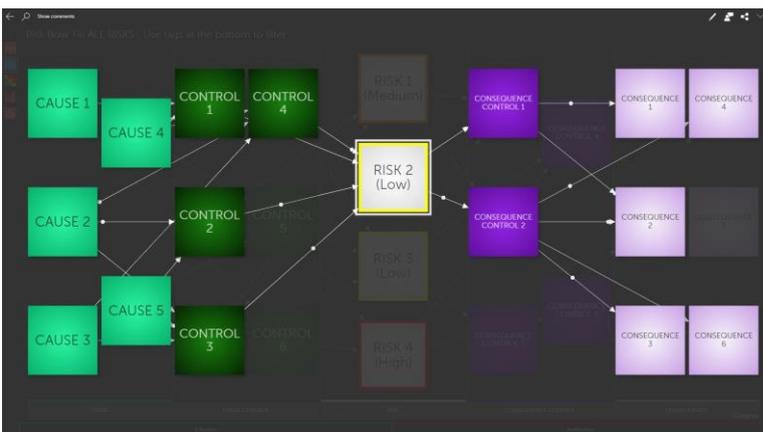
"We are extremely excited at how this capability can benefit your organisation, as customers are already telling us it is 'game changing'. With the annotations feature, I have been able to greatly enhance what we provide to our user community by creating customisable dashboards which generate bespoke reporting and add yet another level to SharpCloud."

David Shipp, Enterprise Risk Manager, Network Rail

Network Rail recently won another award using SharpCloud for Enterprise Risk Visualisation; the ALARM Risk Award for Best Use of Technology in Risk Management and are currently using SharpCloud as a common platform to store and visualise all their strategic risk information.

David goes on to say, "We swim in a sea of information daily and the key here is navigating through all the noise and distraction to what matters the most. SharpCloud's simplicity, versatility and integration with our current processes has made it easy to implement as an 'add- on'. The ability to simplify complex messages and understand where complexity exists is enabling a holistic approach to risk management. It helps us break the silo mentality and is customisable to different levels in the organisation where appropriate."

Annotations enable you to present your portfolio, strategy and roadmaps through a simple interactive portal which can be built into any existing SharpCloud story. Your portal can pull together views from any of your SharpCloud stories, including those from your Enterprise solution, as well as data, collateral and views from any other web-based system. You can embed live versions of your Excel online tables, PowerPoint decks and views from BI project planning and risk systems, giving you a comprehensive, interactive and dynamic view across your strategic business portfolio and valuable new insights.

Enhance Your Business Processes with SharpCloud REST API

SharpCloud is an interactive data visualisation platform. It differs from and is complimentary to, more traditional MIS and BI platforms that focus on delivering a wide range of charts, graphs and dashboards, by creating a unique experience for the end user. SharpCloud takes you on a journey with the data from your line of business systems, enabling you to present it, edit it, augment it, draw relationships from it and comment on it in real time and in multiple dimensions.

Having a great product and platform is only half the story though and we need to focus on ensuring we have the right guidance and support in place to design and integrate SharpCloud with existing business systems and processes, in the optimum way.

SharpCloud offers a **REST (Representational State Transfer) API** that can be used to access

SharpCloud data using modern web programming tools. REST APIs provide a great deal of flexibility, which is one of their key advantages. The SharpCloud API provides a mechanism for other IT systems to communicate directly with the SharpCloud database via an object model-based interface, and via ETL and workflow tools such as SSIS, Informatica and **Microsoft Flow**.

Microsoft Flow is a very useful tool for enterprises to automate and integrate business processes from various cloud- based data sources by creating automated workflows that are based on trigger events.

Flow is all about automating processes that tend to interrupt your daily workflow so you can work more efficiently - everything from simple push notifications and content management to complex business processes with defined steps and stages.

The value of SharpCloud and Microsoft Flow

Microsoft Flow is ideal for its convenient data sharing abilities. Users can create flows to copy files from one place to another place where others can have access to that data as well. Although Microsoft Flow does focus on connecting Microsoft business tools including Office 365, Dynamics CRM and Power Apps, it has hundreds of connectors and can be used with a wide variety of apps and services including Salesforce, SQL Server, Twitter, Box, DocuSign, Slack, Skype and Google Drive.

SharpCloud is a dynamic and agile data visualisation tool for strategic planning, communication and collaboration. By connecting with Microsoft Flow, SharpCloud will allow you, your colleagues, clients and stakeholders to easily communicate, interact, and collaborate across multiple apps, documents and data in context and in one place. SharpCloud stories can be easily shared with others with edit or view only permissions.

Organisations continue to strive for the right tools to help them achieve greater transparency and greater automation and intersection with their business processes. Solutions powered by SharpCloud add value to users at all levels.
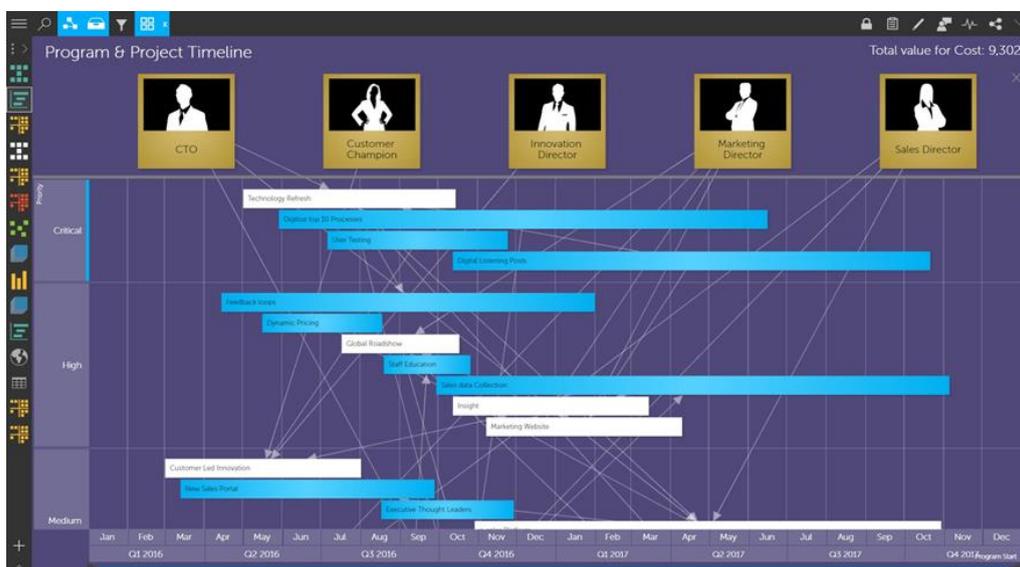
Flow and SharpCloud are easy to use – designed for non-developers, the simplicity of both tools and the small learning curve are a definite advantage over other process automation applications and data visualisation platforms. Together with Microsoft Flow, SharpCloud will bring even more transparency, agility and control to your operational and reporting processes. Data and results are real time and accurate, increasing efficiency and reducing human error. Communication and decision making are more productive.

A great example of the SharpCloud API in use is a two-way integration of SharpCloud with SharePoint lists using Microsoft Flow. One of our customers, Arriva, are using SharpCloud to help to visualise and fully understand their SharePoint data.

SharpCloud brings powerful visual capabilities to the information and benefits include:

- Mapping relationships across the business process (Projects, Risk, Innovation, Roadmapping) to create unique new insights

- Time and cost savings due to automation of regular reporting giving more efficiency and control

- Empowered teams - Increase in staff productivity as people work on real business, not creating slide decks and spreadsheets

- Improved data quality - more transparency, agility and accountability brought to operational and reporting processes

Enhance Your Business Processes with SharpCloud Widgets

SharpCloud becomes far more valuable when it's enriching existing business processes or enabling entire new business processes, as its ability to provide powerful visualisation makes it truly unique in identifying previously unseen insights. Solutions powered by SharpCloud add value to users at all levels.

SharpCloud is brilliant at mapping together top down strategy and bottom up execution. No matter what tools or technologies you're using to track, guide and deliver your projects, SharpCloud sits a layer above that and brings in the necessary and relevant information required from your line of business systems and management tools, enabling leadership teams to make more informed decisions around your Portfolio. SharpCloud is designed to provide insight over existing project and programme management solutions not replace them.

For example, SharpCloud's customisable 'views' allow you to visualise your projects in Gantt formats, as a Kanban, or in whatever form helps your team to ensure that tasks are completed to schedule. Views can also give the PMO the oversight it needs to evaluate different projects for their contribution to the portfolio.

Widgets can now add new functionality to your story. Widgets within SharpCloud come in a number of guises, from 'buttons', text boxes or annotations embedded in other SharpCloud views, to those from other systems through to full integration connectors to third party data sources.

By embedding connector widgets into your story views, you can seamlessly expose and create powerful SharpCloud visualisations from your data. These connectors use REST API's to read and write data directly to and from third party products to SharpCloud. Examples of this include Jira, Azure DevOPs, SharePoint and more...

An example of a widget is SharpCloud providing complete integration with **Jira.** With the ability to connect to Jira, SharpCloud allows you to communicate, interact, and collaborate around your projects. Inbuilt presentation tools allow you to prepare and communicate the performance of individual projects or the portfolio in a visually compelling and dynamic way that empowers real collaboration across teams. SharpCloud brings transparency, agility and control to your operational and reporting processes.

Hoerbiger are using SharpCloud to implement a clear strategy for product and project management, leading to improved transparency, accountability and efficiency across the organisation. All information on their portfolio, projects and development processes are housed in SharpCloud.

"SharpCloud allows us to collaborate in real time. Project information and updates are now accessible online and offline to both key stakeholders and the product development team. Everyone is on the same page."

Diana Grauer, Vice President of Engineering, Hoerbiger

Despite an incredibly innovative engineering team, Hoerbiger were lacking direction and priority for projects. Each of their efforts were ad hoc and they were suffering from not having a clear strategy for product and project management – they were lacking a roadmap.

With SharpCloud, clear processes have been implemented and by using SharpCloud for forms and templates they have clear traceability within their projects and portfolio. Read more here.

The Value of SharpCloud for Jira

SharpCloud is more engaging, collaborative and interactive and a way of solving the same problem with greater speed and efficiency.

No need to get rid of the tools you already use; using SharpCloud above them will ensure more insight into projects, the capture of human knowledge and a more visual dynamic way of presenting and reporting your data.

SharpCloud is Agile software for teams to visually collaborate, co-create, and present roadmaps.

SharpCloud is easy to use within your existing environment of LoB tools and technology landscape and supports the entire end to end business process; all the people, tools, technologies, actions and data that are involved in taking the inputs and then delivering the output in whatever form that might be.

SharpCloud as a platform will help to view your business in one place and deliver meaningful insight to a wide range of strategic goals or problems that need addressing.

SharpCloud brings together resources you currently use, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other Office 365 applications, allowing you to communicate, interact, and collaborate across multiple documents and data in context and by topic.

By gathering information from different data sources in one place, SharpCloud users can quickly create and explore powerful business stories that can be used as presentations, strategic roadmaps or project portfolios. Thanks to embedded images, video, documents and discussion, your business stories become visually impressive and truly interactive.

- Truly data-driven – business stories can be built instantly using Excel and Office 365
- Communication is made easy – turn multiple PowerPoint presentations into one visual conversation
- Seamless collaboration – access your data and stories from cloud, on mobile and on touchscreen

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