

ArtfulBits Discussion Column

for Microsoft® SharePoint®



User Guide

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Overview

Discussion Column is intended to organize conversation in the list item without need to enable list versioning. Component allows entering rich text with formatting, images, tables, hyperlinks, video etc.

Actually Discussion is similar to an IM message system: many users are able to create rich-text messages. As IM, Discussion control can show who and when has published post (configurable in column settings).

The screenshot displays a rich text editor interface. At the top, there is a toolbar with several sections: 'Font' (font size, bold, italic, underline, text color, background color), 'Paragraph' (bulleted list, numbered list, indent, outdent, text alignment, link, unlink), 'Styles' (Paragraph, Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3), and 'Markup' (Edit Source, Select, Convert to XHTML). The 'Paragraph' style is currently selected. Below the toolbar, the text area contains a discussion post. The post starts with a label 'Candidates *' and a text input field containing 'Steven Buchanan'. Below this is a label 'Employee comments (about company and other coworkers)' and a large empty text area. The post content includes a paragraph: 'Great Atmosphere you never clock watch and rarely do days drag on. It is a young fun environment. You can make a lot of money if you are willing to work for it. Would recommend to anyone!'. This is followed by a user signature: 'SharePoint Pass User (10/24/2017 5:52 PM)' with 'Edit' and 'Delete' icons. Another paragraph follows: 'Jim continues to be a valued member of our crew and is a person we are able to count on. Jim's focus to his attendance and punctuality has made our core group operate significantly better over the past 12 months.' This is followed by another user signature: 'Kateryna Skvarko (10/24/2017 3:55 PM)' with 'Edit' and 'Delete' icons.

Useful thing is that it is possible to show all conversations in list view or display just a hyperlink to "View Item" form. It is helpful when discussion has many items and page becomes congested.

Candidates		First Name	Last Name	Employee comments (about company and other coworkers)
Steven Buchanan	...	Anne	Dadsworth	<p>Great Atmosphere you never clock watch and rarely do days drag on. It is a young fun environment. You can make a lot of money if you are willing to work for it. Would recommend to anyone!</p> <p>SharePoint Pass User (10/24/2017 5:52 PM)</p> <p>Jim continues to be a valued member of our crew and is a person we are able to count on. Jim's focus to his attendance and punctuality has made our core group operate significantly better over the past 12 months.</p> <p>Kateryna Skvarko (10/24/2017 3:55 PM)</p>

13	...	Jeff	Mitchell	View Entries...
14	...	Margaret	Patterson	View Entries...
15	...	Kenneth	Gibson	View Entries...

You can also arrange your comments in chronological or reverse order (newest entries first). User signature could be displayed on top or bottom of an entry. Also, you can modify "Date" option display.

Feature List

Feature	SharePoint 2010	SharePoint 2013	SharePoint 2016	SharePoint 2019
Organizing discussion without enabling list versioning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Does not append empty records	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comments editing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ability to show whole discussion history or only link to it in list view	✓	✓	✓	✓
Show user name as a link to user profile page	✓	✓	✓	✓
Display posts in chronological or reverse chronological order	✓	✓	✓	✓
Choosing position of user signature	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import data (text) from existing SharePoint Multiple lines of text column	✓	✓	✓	✓
Language pack support (desired localization could be added by request)	✓	✓	✓	✓

Why ArtfulBits Discussion Column?

It is possible to use standard SharePoint "Multiple lines of text" column with "Append Changes to Existing Text" option for organizing discussion, but:

- Versioning of a list has to be turned on
- New version is created each time items are edited

Even if you edit item, new record will be displayed in discussion history, whether it is empty or not.

ArtfulBits Discussion Column resolves these problems and avoids list versioning, also it does not append empty records to discussion history.

How to Use

To use Discussion column you must select appropriate option in the list of available columns at the Create Column page. In the Discussion Special Settings section you can change default setting in order to adjust column mode to your needs. You can use option Show user login in order to display user login beneath every post in the discussion history. You can also allow or restrict showing the discussion history in the list view. In the end, you can allow/restrict editing comments for different users.

Discussion Special Settings

Specify special Discussion options.

Show user login

Show whole discussion in list view

Show date like:

Date & Time

Date Only

None

Entries' order:

Chronological order

Reverse order (newest entries first)

Signature position:

Top

Bottom

Allow comments editing by:

Site Administrator

List Owner

Users (only their own comments)

[Import Data](#)

Allows to import data of from existing SharePoint Multiple lines of text column.

Select an existing SharePoint Multiple lines of text column:

Import Data

To create Discussion column from existing "Multiple line of text" column follow the next steps:

1. Create the column
2. Choose Artfulbits Discussion type
3. Expand the "Import Data" option
4. Select an existing SharePoint Multiple lines of text column (from current list)
5. Click "OK" button

If you used standard SharePoint "Multiple lines of text" column for organizing discussion than "Append Changes to Existing Text" option in "Multiple line of text" column has to be enabled, and Item Version History has to be enabled too.

Additional Column Settings

Specify detailed options for the type of information you selected.

Description:

Require that this column contains information:
 Yes No

Number of lines for editing:

Specify the type of text to allow:
 Plain text
 Enhanced rich text (Rich text with pictures, tables, and hyperlinks)

Append Changes to Existing Text
 Yes No

Settings ▸ Versioning Settings

Content Approval

Specify whether new items or changes to existing items should remain in a draft state until they have been approved. [Learn about requiring approval.](#)

Require content approval for submitted items?

Yes No

Item Version History

Specify whether a version is created each time you edit an item in this list. [Learn about versions.](#)

Create a version each time you edit an item in this list?

Yes No

Optionally limit the number of versions to retain:

Keep the following number of versions:

Keep drafts for the following number of approved versions:

Release Notes

Version	Notes
v2.2 (December 10, 2018)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added SharePoint 2019 support (for classic mode) Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed minor issues
v2.1 (April 27, 2017)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added SharePoint 2016 support
v2.0 (April 22, 2013)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added SharePoint 2013 support
v1.62 (February 07, 2012)	Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added cross-browser support for comment editing
v1.61 (June 09, 2011)	Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed column settings update
v1.6 (June 01, 2011)	Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added support for new licensing model (ArtfulBits License Manager v1.4) Added "Save site as template" support
v1.54 (April 27, 2011)	Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Column Data Adapter integration
v1.53 (March 23, 2011)	Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added item custom forms support
v1.52 (February 4, 2011)	Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed column upgrading
v1.51 (January 22, 2011)	Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed SharePoint Alerts
v1.5 (November 16, 2010)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Russian and German localization Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed minor issues
v1.41 (July 08, 2010)	Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed error with 6622 Event ID in Event Viewer (Field type DummyField has duplicated definition)
v1.4 (June 11, 2010)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added comments editing functionality Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Setup Wizard

v1.3 (May 13, 2010)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SharePoint 2010 support added Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixed column value clearing during item editing (when nothing entered)
v1.2 (February 01, 2010)	Bugs Fixed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem with product version (Setup Wizard only)
v1.2 (January 21, 2010)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added ability to import data (text) from existing SharePoint Multiple lines of text column
v1.1 (January 12, 2010)	New Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added <i>Entries' order</i> customization (chronological or reverse chronological order)• Added <i>Signature position</i> property (displays user signature on top or bottom of an entry) Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved Setup Wizard
v1.0 (November 02, 2009)	Initial Release

See Also



[ArtfulBits Blog](#)

Professional Blog complements and extends SharePoint default functionality with the possibility of adding video or zoomable image and preview, providing tags for the blog entries, supporting the categorization and tags cloud, filtering the entries by category or tag, configurable global settings and many more.



[Cascaded Lookup Column](#)

Cascaded Lookup Column allows building relationship between parent and child columns, the data selected in one field will determine the options presented in another.



[Category Column](#)

Category Column allows tracking, organizing and grouping list items. Outlook 2007 approach for elements categorization, easy indicator color changing and using of advanced tooltip, provide a high professional component style.



[Column Data Adapter](#)

Column Data Adapter is an extension component providing ability to use ArtfulBits Columns in Microsoft Access forms, reports and Microsoft Excel.



[Column Permissions](#)

Column Permissions allows you to manage access to list content on column level. Permissions can be assigned for individual users and for SharePoint groups as well and are effective in forms and list views, as well as in the SharePoint Alerts, RSS, Datasheet and even during exporting to Excel and opening with Access.



[Discussion Column](#)

Need to organize well formatted conversation in the list item without enabling list versioning? Discussion Column is the right choice. Component allows entering rich text with formatting, images, tables, hyperlinks and other features.



[Email Web Part](#)

ArtfulBits Email Web Part allows sending e-mail messages directly from Microsoft SharePoint site. You can notify task assigned users, send gratitude or just send regular e-mail message, etc.



[Follow-Up Column](#)

Follow-Up Column enables due date flags similar to Outlook follow-up functionality. Applying of flags to the list item allows adding of visual reminder in a natural way.



[Image Upload Column](#)

Quick and simple way of uploading pictures. Image Upload Column provides with ability to select a picture using file browsing dialog, upload and display it in the list view.



[KPI Column](#)

KPI (Key Performance Indicator) Column is simple graphical scorecards that can be used to evaluate business data against business goals. With this column you reduce risk to overlook information about the status of value.



[Link to Document Column](#)

Link to Document Column allows referencing files and folders placed at Document Library and provides easy and intuitive way to download files directly from column. Use this column to provide a browsing interface that allows users to browse to an object to link to instead of typing a URL.



[Parent Selector Column](#)

Parent Selector Column is used for organizing hierarchical relations in SharePoint list. Picker dialog allows choosing data from large lists. Standard Lookup column can be easily converted to Parent Selector column and vice versa.



[Password Change Web Part](#)

Password Change Web Part allows users to change their own passwords from within the SharePoint environment using standard text box interface (current password, new password and confirm new password).



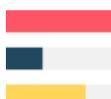
[Password Expiration Web Part](#)

Password Expiration Web Part enables Active Directory users to be notified via Web Part interface that their passwords are about to expire. It also automatically sends out email notifications to users before the password expiration date.



[Professional Calendar Web Part](#)

Professional Calendar Web Part provides following key benefits: it allows combining events from different SharePoint Lists, from any SharePoint Site, in one Calendar view; allows specifying different color sets for different event sources; supports on-the-fly AJAX-enabled editing features in Outlook like style; and other enhanced functionalities.



[Progress Column](#)

Progress Column provides users with the ability to make SharePoint lists more visualized by displaying numerical data on the page using percentage-based progress bar. Professional progress bar style will make your SharePoint list really modern and stylish.



[Shopping Cart Web Part](#)

ArtfulBits Shopping Cart is intended to provide ecommerce functionality. This web part provides a possibility to exhibit items for sale, its basic information, items images, and price, choose the size or other category of item, submit an order and save order in history.



[Video](#)

Video Column and Video Web Part are powerful controls made for uploading, managing, linking and playing video files. These controls support variety of video files that can be uploaded from computer, or linked from SharePoint library or streamed from direct URL.

Remarks

Information in this document may be outdated. Please, visit <https://www.sharepoint-artfulbits.com/> for the latest product version.