



Inspiring Teachers of tomorrow with seamless cloud collaboration

PHZH (Zurich University of Teacher Education) is using third-party add-ins from officeatwork 365 to keep Microsoft Office templates up-to-date on all devices across platforms and locations, helping educators and staff more securely create Office documents using official templates and content.

PÄDAGOGISCHE
HOCHSCHULE
ZÜRICH



Customer

Pedagogical University of Zurich (PH Zurich)

Website: <https://phzh.ch/>
Country: Switzerland
Industry: Higher Education
Company size: 800 employees, 4,000 students

Customer profile

PH Zurich provides training, research and services to help train teachers, educators and administrators

Software and services

Office 365
SharePoint Online
officeatwork 365 web add-ins



With Microsoft Office 365, SharePoint Online, and third-party web add-ins, PH Zurich (Zurich University of Teacher Education) trains and inspires students and teachers across Switzerland, working in the cloud to make the development, discovery, and management of content far more efficient.

Even in today's digital world, hands-on learning with a qualified teacher is vital for development, particularly early on. Yet the world faces a shortage of teachers—according to UNESCO, by 2030, countries will need to recruit a total of 69 million additional teachers worldwide.

PH Zurich is training and inspiring the teachers of tomorrow by providing its nearly 4,000 aspiring tutors with training, research, and support services to help them make a lasting impact on their students. The organization's 800 employees work with students, teachers, administrators, and researchers across Switzerland.

To share content and training resources with students, teachers, and partners, PH Zurich relies heavily on templates. Before, the organization used legacy technologies to deliver templates via an intranet site. As its user base and template library grew, however, template creation, management, updates, and distribution became time-consuming and cumbersome. Administrative and operations staff depended on IT to create and distribute new templates, which took days, and even small updates such as typos or factual corrections required IT staff intervention. PH Zurich also distributed templates directly to clients using a server-based platform, another process requiring IT staff time. Keeping templates up-to-date and secure was a time-consuming challenge.

Before implementing Office 365, PH Zurich staff and clients had to download templates via an intranet site, which could be slow, and in today's 'bring your own device' world, connectivity was often an issue. Now they can use any device to get the content they need, quickly.



With 4,000 students and 800 employees, PH Zurich is using the flexibility and power of the cloud to make developing, discovering and managing its content far more efficient. Using Office 365, SharePoint Online and multiple officeatwork 365 web add-ins, the organisation is using new technologies to train and inspire the teachers of today and tomorrow.



An 'everything just works' user experience

To fully harness the capabilities of Office 365, PH Zurich enlisted the help of Microsoft ISV Partner officatwork 365 AG, who offers SaaS add-in services atop Office 365 that make it simple for users to design, manage, and update templates.

"With all our templates, the problem was always updating them. With Office 365 and the officatwork 365 web add-ins, rolling out new templates and updating them is so easy. Now it takes minutes to publish small changes and corrections," says John Wilhelm, IT Lead at PH Zurich.

With the Template Chooser, Content Chooser, Wizard, and Designer add-ins, PH Zurich staff and clients can create and share content in a fraction of the time it took in the past, quickly creating needed documents using the correct template across Office 365 applications.

Wilhelm notes, *"For our users, everything just works, so that is a big productivity benefit."*

In addition to delivering a great user experience, enabling the cloud through Office 365 and SharePoint Online helps the IT team at PH Zurich be more focused and productive. Staff members spend less time on routine tasks and user support and benefit from the simplified management and security features built into Microsoft cloud technologies.

"If we hosted the same solutions on-premises, we would need 20–40 additional servers, more staff, more know-how, more money—and it wouldn't be as reliable as it is in the cloud," says Wilhelm.

Taming a template beast

Before deploying Office 365, PH Zurich employees and IT staff spent hours searching for, creating, and modifying templates, a frustrating experience resulting in slow, inefficient workflows. The IT staff spent much of their time managing the thousands of templates created over the years, making small changes, and applying updates. Employee productivity was hampered by the long cycles it took to make changes to an existing template or to create a new template for students.

"With Office 365 and the officatwork 365 web add-ins offered as SaaS on Microsoft Azure, we now have a simple solution that's easy to use and simple to manage," explains Wilhelm. *"We don't even need to deploy add-in updates, as we get those automatically via the Office 365 admin portal in conjunction with the Office Store."* (AppSource.com)





“Office 365 and the officeatwork 365 web add-ins are user-friendly and always available, including connecting BYOD computers, so it’s a timesaver for our IT staff and users. That’s a big win for us, and our students.”

John Wilhelm, IT Lead at PH Zurich

Users can now create and design templates in minutes, without having to rely on IT staff. Because PH Zurich is using Office 365 together with the officeatwork 365 web add-ins, the templates ensure the content they’re creating in applications such as Word and PowerPoint are automatically brand-compliant, consistent, and secure. And IT staff benefit from the built-in security and management features; user settings and permissions are automatically inherited across Office 365, SharePoint Online, and the add-ins, so tasks such as adding or removing users take just a few clicks. Also useful: the add-in reporting feature, which will push template and content usage data directly to Microsoft Power BI.

Over the next few months, PH Zurich will use Office 365 to get deeper analytics and gain insights about template usage, which will help employees save time and make better decisions about which content truly benefits students and educators.

Digital transformation to:

- Empower employees
- Engage customers
- Optimise operations
- Transform product
- Transform business

Partner: officeatwork AG, Switzerland
Partner website: <https://www.officeatwork365.com>

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