What's new in SDL Tridion Sites 9.5

SDL Tridion

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SDL Tridion Sites 9.5 marks a major step towards a fully rejuvenated user experience for SDL Tridion practitioners, while also including improvements in Search and Content Delivery.

Employees expect enterprise software to be intuitive to use – just like the technology they use in their personal lives. SDL is working hard on aligning its software portfolio to make this a reality, balancing sophisticated controls and powerful capabilities with ease of use.

A new user experience

SDL Tridion Sites 9.5 focuses on delivering major improvements for employees who work in Content Manager Explorer (CME). We have gathered input from a large number of customer interviews, user experience (UX) sessions, and through an extensive pilot period – combined with ideas and enhancements for usability improvements that we collected previously through Support, SDL Ideas, the SDL Community and other channels.

Our UX team has redesigned the user interface (UI) with the following principles in mind:

Task focused

Touchscreen enabled

Progressive disclosure

Good defaults

Contextual relevance

Configurability

Experience Space – an exceptional new way of working

The name of the new user interface is Experience Space. It's a workspace that helps you build great experiences faster and easier, with less clicks and better defaults. It also speeds up onboarding of new employees and reduces training needs.

Experience Space broadly offers the same capabilities of the current CME – referred to as the Classic UI from now onwards – but with some important features added, such as an improved BluePrinting® viewer and an in-context page preview with clear actions and panels.

Besides offering easier content management, it also ships with a brand new Rich Text Editor that improves accessibility checks, copy/paste and table editing, and support for certain touch-enabled devices.

The new user interface supports your existing page and content models to facilitate a smooth transition. SDL Tridion Sites 9.5 ships with both the Classic UI and Experience Space so they can be used in parallel.

SDL Tridion Sites Experience Space
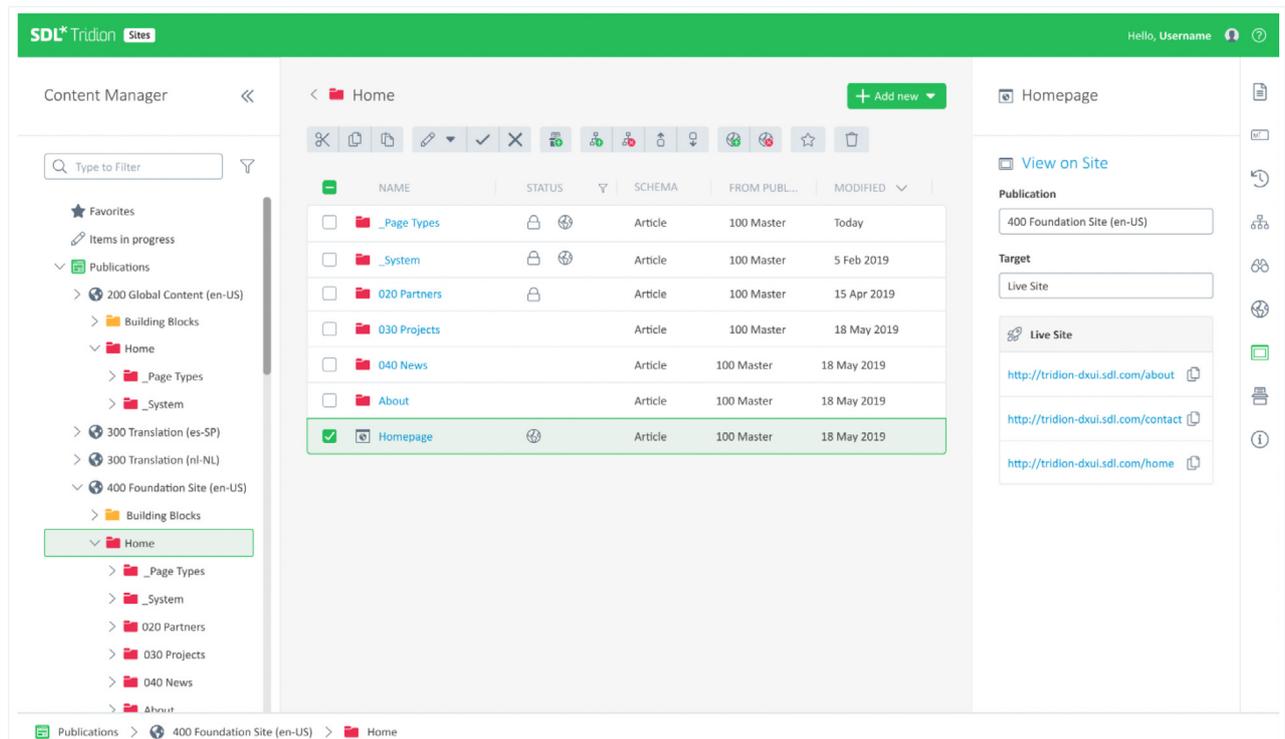
Dynamic Experience Delivery (DXD)

Dynamic Experience Delivery (DXD) is the content delivery component of SDL Tridion. It has been improved in two key areas – querying content through the GraphQL API and Elasticsearch-based search.

Headless Content Publishing

To make headless content publishing even easier, SDL Tridion Sites 9.5 redefines the way content is published from your content manager to your content delivery (DXD) environments – as well as how it can be queried from there.

New data publishing capabilities allow you to define – at the content schema level – which fields need to be published to DXD, as well as which ones are searchable. This highly granular control over what data is transferred to DXD adds extra security to your environments.

Content is published to DXD in JSON format for easy headless content consumption. The new JSON publishing (depicted in green below) runs in parallel with your existing template/rendering mechanism, to ensure backward compatibility.

Content Delivery

- Windows Server 2016, 2019

- Linux RHEL 7.6 and 8

- .NET 4.8

- AdoptOpenJDK 11.0, Oracle JDK 11.0

- SQL Server Azure, MS SQL Server 2017 and 2019, AWS RDS SQL Server 2017

- Oracle 18c, 19c

- Elasticsearch 7.4

Headless content publishing using semantically modeled JSON
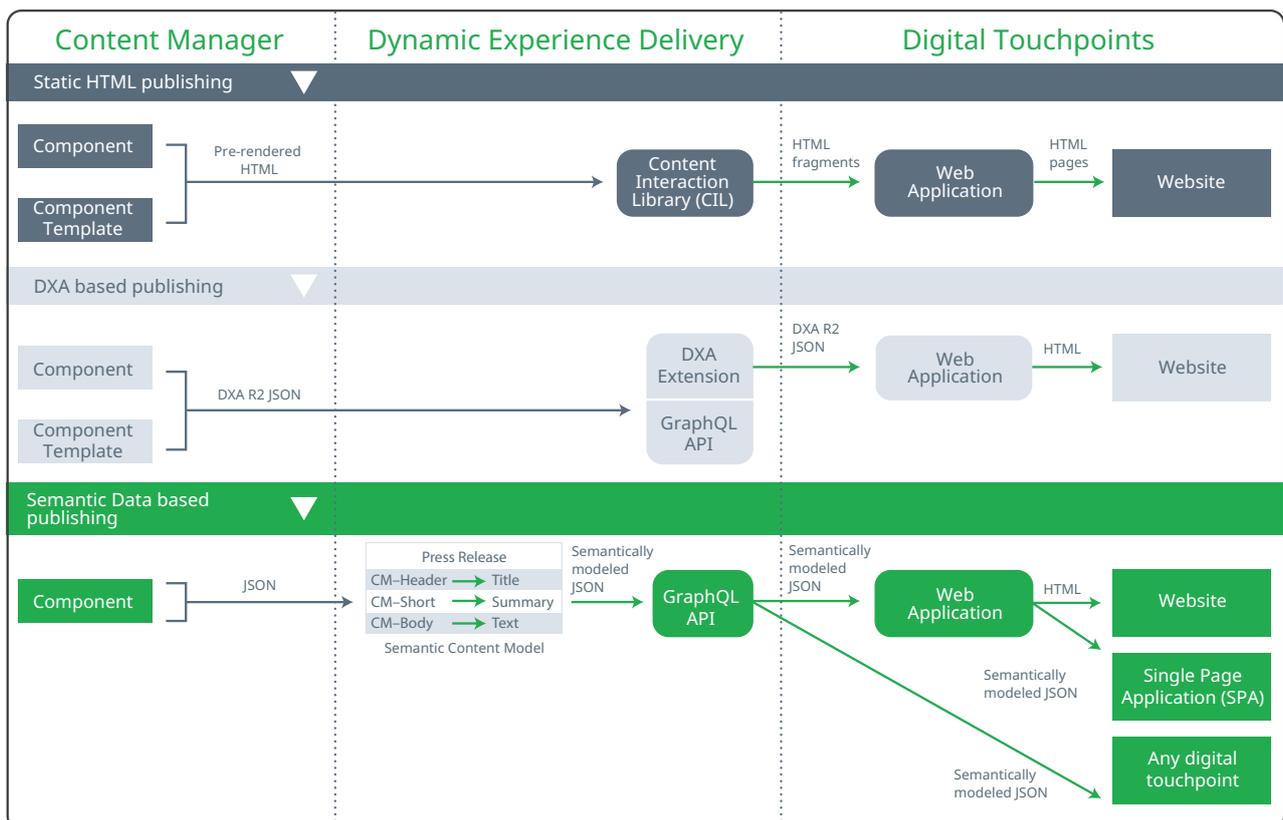
Once JSON content has been published to DXD, a new feature called 'Semantic Content Models' allows you to define a mapping between the Tridion content fields and how they are queried through the GraphQL API. This abstraction mechanism removes dependencies between the two, so that future changes to your content model don't directly impact your front-end applications. As a result, your front-end developers can build engaging digital experiences more easily, without needing to know the inner workings of SDL Tridion.

Search

SDL Tridion Sites now ships with out-of-the-box support for Elasticsearch-based search for published content, helping you find published content within pages, components and binaries. You can also search for content from SDL Tridion Docs, providing federated search capabilities across both unstructured and structured content. People searching on your website or other digital channels can now find all the relevant information quickly and easily, without the need to perform multiple searches across your marketing content or in-depth product and service information.

Since SDL Tridion Experience Optimization uses the same technology, you can also personalize the customer experience across various content types, all using the same technology and infrastructure footprint.

Access Management

A new Access Management UI allows you to configure external identity providers such as Auth0, PingIdentity and Microsoft Azure AD – supporting protocols including SAML 2.0, OpenID Connect, Windows Authentication and LDAP. SDL Tridion also keeps an audit trail of changes made to identity provider settings and user profiles, so you can always see who has changed what and when.

SDL Tridion Access Management

Content Manager

- Windows 8.1, 10; Windows Server 2016, 2019

- Linux RHEL 7.6 and 8

- .NET Framework 4.8

- .NET Core 3.1 (Add-on and Access Management Service)

- AdoptOpenJDK 11.0

- SQL Server Azure, MS SQL Server 2017 and 2019, AWS RDS SQL Server 2017

- Oracle 18c and 19c

Access Management — Manage user access to SDL applications from a single location

NAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	DATE MODIFIED
DEVSDLPRODUCTS	DEVSDLPRODUCTS test	LDAP	5/1/2020 1:13 PM
Azure AD	Azure AD	OpenIdConnect	5/1/2020 5:29 PM
Auth0 SAML	Auth0 SAML	SAML2P	5/1/2020 5:37 PM
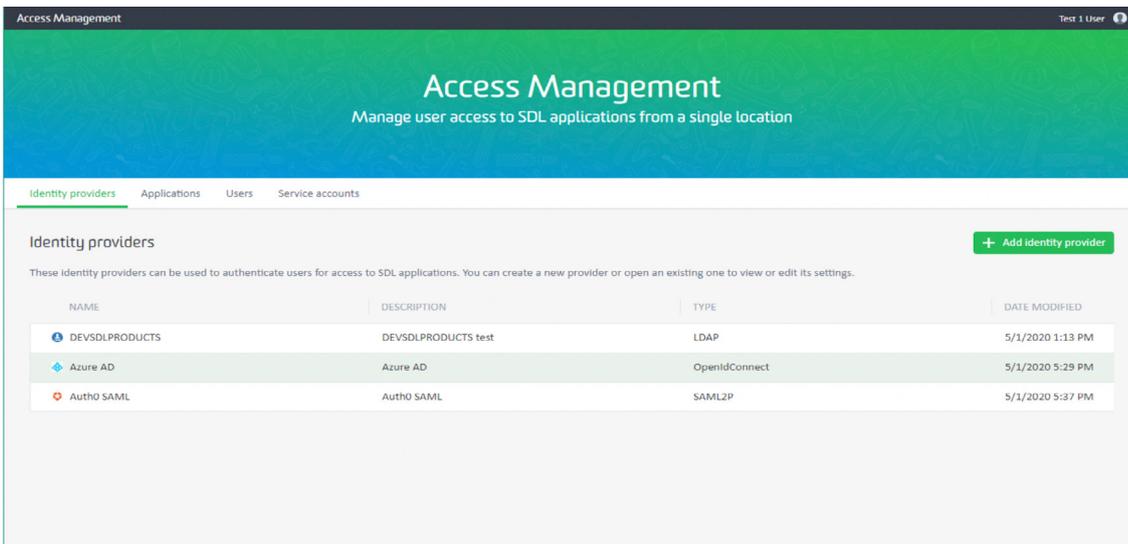
Appendix: Summary of features launched per release

Functional features per release

Features	8	8.5	9	9.1	9.5
Experience Space	✕	✕	✕	✕	✔
Experience Manager	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Prescriptive personalization	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Contextual footprint preview	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Content experiments	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
User favorites	—	✔	✔	✔	✔
Adaptive BluePrinting®	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Ability to browse to page from Content Management Explorer	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Site	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Content Bundles/Multi-item workflow	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Collaborative workflow	—	✔	✔	✔	✔
Translation for multimedia item metadata	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
In-context translation review	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Metadata support for translations	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Extendable and built-in privileges	✕	✔	✔	✔	✔
English, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Japanese UI	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Simplified Chinese UI	✕	✔	✔	✔	✔
Single Sign on	—	✔	✔	✔	✔
Pre-defined Regions support	✕	✕	✔	✔	✔
Usability improvements for Component Presentations	✕	✕	✔	✔	✔
Blended marketing and product information from SDL Tridion Docs	✕	✕	✔	✔	✔
Image editing	✕	✕	—	—	—
Access DAM managed content	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
eCommerce enabled web pages	—	—	—	✔	✔
CRM driven personalization and lead capturing	✕	—	—	✔	✔

Legend	✔ Full support	— Partial support	✕ No support

Appendix: Summary of features launched per release

Technical features added per release

Features	8	8.5	9	9.1	9.5
Future ease of upgrade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PowerShell scripts for database updates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ambient Data Framework	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scalable multi-threaded content deployer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cloud DB Support: Microsoft, Amazon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site Topology Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site Topology Manager UI	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
Headless content delivery architecture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centralized configuration for microservices	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public artifact repository	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Digital Experience Accelerator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Translation Manager event system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
External Content Library (API)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bulk load of items via API	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UI notification API	✕	✓	✓	✓	✓
ETW tracing	—	✓	✓	✓	✓
Elasticsearch Engine	✕	✕	—	—	✓
Shared delivery platform (DXD)	✕	✕	✓	✓	✓
Shared taxonomies with SDL Tridion Docs	✕	✕	✓	✓	✓
GraphQL Content API	✕	✕	✓	✓	✓
Semantic Content Models	✕	✕	✕	✕	✓
Rolling Upgrade Support	✕	✓	✓	✓	✓
Docker container Support for DXD	✕	✕	✓	✓	✓
SAML 2.0 support	✕	✕	—	—	—
OpenID Connect	✕	✕	✕	✕	—
Technology agnostic integration framework	✕	✕	✕	✓	✓
Add-On Management	✕	✕	✕	✓	✓
Access Management UI	✕	✕	✕	✕	✓

Legend	✓ Full support	— Partial support	✕ No support

Find out more at **sdl.com/tridion**

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