MICROSOFT 365 APPS · PUBLISHER GUIDE

Publisher is being removed: find and convert .pub files first

Publisher left Microsoft 365 on 1 October 2026, and Office updates are now removing it: Current Channel from mid-November, Monthly Enterprise Channel from early December. If it still opens on a PC, use that time to convert the files you need. Here's how.

The timeline

1 Oct 2026	Publisher no longer included with Microsoft 365 subscriptions (MC1469564)
13 Oct 2026	Support ended for Office LTSC 2021, Visio LTSC 2021, Project LTSC 2021 and perpetual Publisher (MC1509797)
Mid-Nov 2026	Removal starts on Current Channel, with Version 2611 (Build 16.0.20625.xxxxx)
Early Dec 2026	Removal starts on Monthly Enterprise Channel
Not stated	Semi-Annual Enterprise Channel timing. For build numbers and timing, Microsoft says to contact Microsoft Support
Not changing	.pub files aren't deleted. Subscribers just can't open them in Publisher

Find and sort

1 **Find .pub files**

Microsoft says to search local storage, OneDrive and SharePoint. At tenant scale, use a Purview content search.

```
WHERE Purview content search · keyword: filetype:pub
```

2 **Sort by owner and last use**

Keep what the business still needs, and let owners decide on the rest. Devices on Current Channel lose Publisher first, so start there.

Convert, replace and tell

3 **Choose PDF or Word**

To read or print, save as PDF. To keep editing, save as PDF and open it in Word (the layout may vary), or rebuild it in Word, PowerPoint or a Microsoft Create template.

4 Bulk convert while Publisher works

Microsoft's sample script needs "a working and licensed version of Publisher installed", so run it before the update reaches that PC.

```
WHERE Convert-PubFileToPDF.ps1 -Filter "*.pub" -Recurse
```

5 Replace the processes

Newsletters, labels, certificates and signs: move each one to a new template, and tell the people who make them.

6 Tell staff

"Publisher is being removed from our PCs from [date]. If you have .pub files you still need, save them as PDF (or PDF then Word to keep editing) by [date], or ask [contact] for help."

Watch out for

- "This is not an extension and does not mean Publisher is still supported." Treat it as a conversion window only.
- Office LTSC 2021 apps keep running, but without security fixes. Move those devices to Microsoft 365 Apps or, where you must stay offline, Office LTSC 2024.
- Microsoft Copilot is supported only on cloud-backed apps in Microsoft 365 suites, another reason not to stay on LTSC 2021.

Sources

1. Message center posts, via mc.merill.net: MC1469564 Publisher removal · MC1509797 Office LTSC 2021
2. Microsoft Support: Publisher will no longer be supported after October 2026
3. Keyword queries for eDiscovery and content search - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/purview/ediscovery-keyword-queries-and-search-conditions

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