PROJECT INSIGHT

Microsoft Project Online Is Going Away: What Teams Need to Know

What's happening

Microsoft has announced the **deprecation and retirement of Microsoft Project Online**. While the service remains available today, it is no longer a strategic product and is entering a defined end-of-life period.

Beginning **April 2026**, Project Online enters a **wind-down phase**. During this period, the focus shifts entirely to stability and support rather than enhancement. The service will be **fully retired in September 2026**, at which point access will end.

This change reflects a broader shift in how Microsoft is approaching work management across its platform. Rather than investing in a single, centralized project system, Microsoft is moving toward a more modular model built across multiple tools.

What this means:

- Project Online is stable today, but teams need to plan to migrate to another solution by September 2026.

- No new features or roadmap investments are planned.

- Teams need to assess current features and make sure the next tools will support them.

Microsoft Project Online Deprecation Timeline

March 2026
Operating as usual

April 2026
Wind-down begins

September 2026
Retired

By September 2026, Project Online is retired and will no longer be accessible. Data will no longer be available through the service.

What Microsoft is Recommending to Replace Project Online

Microsoft is **not offering a direct replacement** for Project Online.

Instead, guidance points to a distributed approach, where different tools support different parts of work management.

Under this model:

- **Microsoft Planner** is positioned for task-level and team execution

- **Microsoft Power Platform** tools are used to rebuild workflows and reporting where needed

- **Microsoft Teams** will serve as the primary collaboration and access layer

Each of these tools addresses one part of what Project Online previously handled, but no single tool replaces it end-to-end.

This approach provides flexibility, but it also introduces complexity and service gaps that teams need to account for.

What this fragmented model means for teams

Moving away from Project Online often means moving away from a single system of record.

In practice, teams may find that:

- Portfolio visibility will require multiple tools

- Reporting will rely on aggregation rather than extraction

- Resource and financial tracking may require additional solutions

- Ownership and governance will become more complex/important, not less

This is not inherently a problem, but it does require **intentional design**. Teams that assume the transition is simply a tool swap often discover gaps later in the process.

Organizations are expected to determine how these capabilities will be addressed moving forward, whether through configuration, integration, or additional platforms.

What to assess in your current Project Online setup

As Project Online is retired, Microsoft's guidance relies on a combination of **Planner, Power Platform, and Teams**. This approach works well for some aspects of work management, but it does not replace everything that Project Online once provided.

This table will help you understand where Microsoft's approach generally works as expected and where teams usually need to plan more carefully.

Microsoft's recommended tools replace task execution well, but enterprise visibility, governance, and forecasting typically require additional planning.

Use this as a practical gut check for your own environment.

Areas to Assess	🙂 Worry less If Microsoft's approach is usually sufficient	🙁 Worry more If this capability is important to you
Task and team-level execution	Your primary need is assigning tasks, tracking progress, and collaborating within teams	You rely on coordinated delivery across many teams or programs
Basic workflows and automation	Simple notifications, approvals, and updates meet your needs	You depend on complex, governed workflows that must be consistent
Ad-hoc reporting and dashboards	You are comfortable building and maintaining custom Power BI reports	You expect standardized, system-managed reporting out of the box
Portfolio visibility	You do not require a single, consolidated view across projects	Leadership expects roll-ups across projects and programs
Cross-project dependencies	Dependencies stay within individual projects	Dependencies regularly span teams, programs, or shared milestones
Resource capacity and availability	People are mostly dedicated to one team or project	People are shared across multiple projects and availability matters
Budgeting and financial tracking	Financials are managed outside Project Online	Project Online is used for budgets, actuals, or forecasts
Enterprise scheduling and forecasting	Planning is short-term and execution-focused	Long-range schedules and delivery forecasts are critical
Structured intake and prioritization	Work arrives informally and volume is low	You rely on standardized intake and prioritization
Governance and consistency	Teams already operate with light standards	Standards are enforced today through the system
Single system of record	Project data is already distributed across tools	Project Online is considered the authoritative source of truth
PMO operating model	There is no formal PMO or centralized oversight	The PMO relies on Project Online for reporting and governance

What teams should be paying attention to now

This transition is less about selecting tools and more about understanding needs.

Teams should take time to clarify:

- What visibility leadership relies on today

- Which reports and schedules are business-critical

- Where project, resource, and financial data currently live

- How many systems need to remain connected after Project Online is retired

Answering these questions early makes later decisions easier and far less reactive.

Learn how teams like yours are approaching this transition

Many organizations are already planning for the retirement of Project Online and exploring how to preserve visibility while adapting to a more modular model.

To support that planning, we're hosting a short, practical **Power Tutorial** that covers:

- What's changing and when

- Where teams typically encounter challenges

- How organizations are approaching the transition in practice

The goal of this session is to provide clarity and real-world context so teams can decide what steps make sense for their own environment.

Watch the tutorial for more practical advice about replacing Project Online.