KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Discussions Lists and Columns Reference

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Overview

Discussions stores everything in five lists of the site where the board was created: four custom lists and one document library. They are ordinary SharePoint lists in **Site contents**, covered by the site permissions, versioning, retention and search like any other list. This article is the reference for their columns — for administrators who build views, reports or flows on the lists, and for anyone who needs to correct an item by hand. Where the data lives and what leaves the tenant is covered in KB10411. Where Discussions Stores Your Data: Lists, Columns and Privacy; this article is about the schema. The version described is 26.10.3.

How the lists are created and recognised

The lists are created by the web part the first time a site owner creates a board on the site (**New board** on the Not Configured screen). This requires the **Manage Lists** permission. Every list is created with these settings:

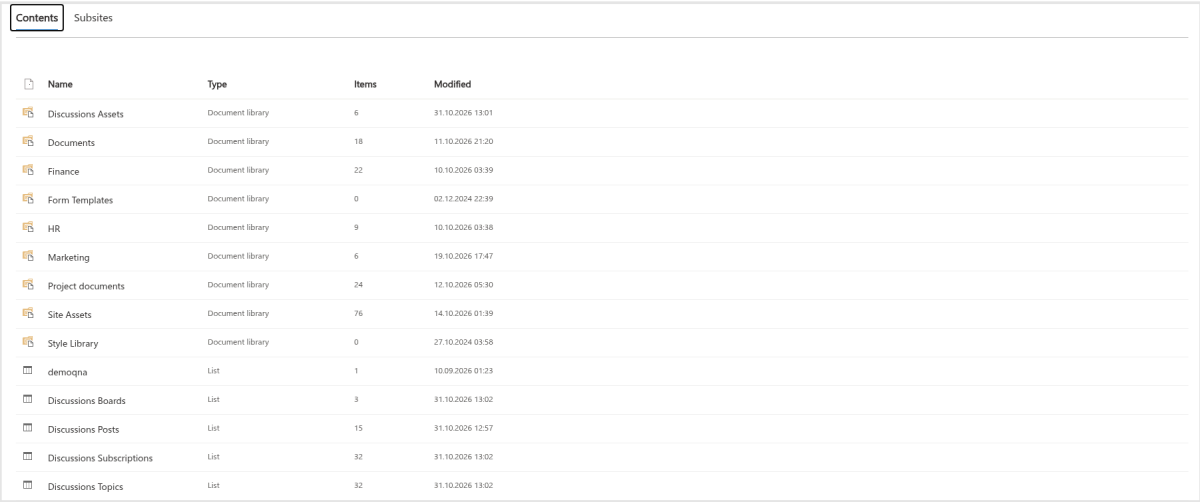
- versioning **on**, content types **off**, grid editing **off**, not hidden, included in search crawling;
- attachments **enabled** on the four lists; folder creation enabled only in the library;
- every custom column is added to the default view.

The list **titles** are taken from the interface language of the user who creates them: *Discussions Boards*, *Discussions Topics*, *Discussions Posts*, *Discussions Subscriptions*, *Discussions Assets* on an English site, *Доски обсуждений*, *Темы обсуждений*, *Сообщения обсуждений*, *Подписки обсуждений*, *Файлы обсуждений* on a Russian site. The column display names follow the same rule; the internal names are always the ones in the tables below and always start with `Vtx`.

The web part does not depend on the titles. Each list is recognised by a **marker column** with a fixed ID, so a list can be renamed freely and still found: it is looked up first by its default title, then among the visible lists of the same template by the marker column.

List	Default title	Template	Marker column	Holds
Boards	**Discussions Boards**	Custom list	**Mode** (`VtxMode`)	One item per board: mode, categories, approval rule
Topics	**Discussions**	Custom list	**Board**	One item per

List	Default title	Template	Marker column	Holds
	Topics		(`VtxBoard`)	topic with its counters and status
Posts	**Discussions Posts**	Custom list	**Topic** (`VtxTopic`)	One item per reply, with the parent reply and the thread path
Subscriptions	**Discussions Subscriptions**	Custom list	**Target type** (`VtxTargetType`)	Who follows which board or topic, and how often
Assets	**Discussions Assets**	Document library	**Discussions asset** (`VtxDiscussionsAsset`)	Inline images of posts, in a folder per year



The five lists in Site contents

Note

A site that was set up with an earlier version may lack the **Discussions Subscriptions** list, the **Discussions Assets** library and the moderation columns. The web part adds the missing lists and columns as soon as a user with **Manage Lists** opens a page whose web part was configured before the two lists existed; board setup (**Create board** and **Use board**) always runs the same check, so columns introduced by later versions are added there as well. A list or column that already exists (recognised by its ID) is never created twice; users without **Manage Lists** only look the lists up.

In the tables below, **Indexed** means that the column was created with a SharePoint index so that filters on it stay fast on large lists. **Default** is the value SharePoint assigns when an item is created without the column; the web part sets most columns explicitly.

Discussions Boards

One item per board. **Title** is the board name shown in the **Board** drop-downs. Moderators edit the title, the description, the mode, the categories and the approval setting in the **Board settings** panel of the web part; the list form is an alternative.

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Description	`VtxDescription`	Multiple lines of text (plain)	No	Empty	A description of the board, edited in the **Board settings** panel; not shown by the web part in this version
Mode	`VtxMode`	Choice	No	*Discussion*, *QnA*, *Mixed*; default *Discussion*	The mode of the board: discussions

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					only, questions and answers only, or both. New boards are created with *Mixed* unless another mode is chosen
Categories	`VtxCategories`	Multiple lines of text (plain)	No	Empty	The categories of the board, one name per line; see KB10423. Organizing Topics with Categories
Topics	`VtxTopicCount`	Number	No	0	The number of topics of the board: set to 0 at creation, increased when a topic is created and decreased when a topic is deleted

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					from the web part (best-effort); not shown by the web part in this version
Require approval	`VtxRequireApproval`	Yes/No	No	No	*Yes*: topics and replies of users without **Manage Lists** are created as *Pending* and wait in the moderation queue

Discussions Topics

One item per topic. **Title** is the topic title; **Created** and **Created By** are the posting time and the author; **Attachments** holds the files attached to the topic.

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Body	`VtxBody`	Multiple lines of text (enhanced rich text)	No	Empty	The text of the topic as sanitised HTML
Board	`VtxBoard`	Lookup to **Discussions Boards** (Title)	Yes	—	The board the topic belongs to

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Category	`VtxCategory`	Single line of text	Yes	Empty	The category name; empty for a topic without a category
Type	`VtxTopicType`	Choice	Yes	*Discussion*, *Question*; default *Discussion*	Whether the topic is a discussion or a question
Status	`VtxStatus`	Choice	Yes	*Open*, *Answered*, *Locked*; default *Open*	*Locked* while a moderator keeps the topic locked; otherwise *Answered* when an answer is accepted and *Open* when the answer is unmarked or the accepted reply is deleted. The answered state shown by the web part is derived

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					from **Accepted post**, not from this column, so locking a question does not change its badge or its view
Pinned	`VtxIsSticky`	Yes/No	Yes	No	Pinned topics are listed first
Featured	`VtxIsFeatured`	Yes/No	Yes	No	Shown in the **Featured** view
Replies	`VtxReplyCount`	Number	No	0	The number of approved replies, maintained by the web part
Views	`VtxViewCount`	Number	No	0	Incremented the first time the topic is opened in a browser session
Last activity	`VtxLastActivity`	Date and time	Yes	—	The time of the last approved

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					reply (or the creation time); the topic list is ordered by it
Last reply by	`VtxLastReplyBy`	Person	No	—	The author of the last approved reply — for a reply approved from the moderation queue, its author, not the moderator
Accepted post	`VtxAcceptedPostId`	Number	No	0	The ID of the accepted reply in **Discussions Posts**; 0 when none. The source of the answered state: the *Answered* badge and the **Answered** view are topics with a value

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					greater than 0, the **Unanswered** view is questions with 0
Likes	`VtxLikeCount`	Number	No	0	The number of likes on the topic
Liked by	`VtxLikedBy`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users who liked the topic; one like per user
Approval status	`VtxApprovalStatus`	Choice	Yes	*Approved*, *Pending*, *Rejected*; default *Approved*	The moderation state; members see *Approved* items and their own, moderators see everything
Mentions	`VtxMentions`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users mentioned with @ in the body, for notifications
Reports	`VtxReportCount`	Number	Yes	0	The number of reports; the topic

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					appears in the moderation queue while it is greater than 0
Reported by	`VtxReportedBy`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users who reported the topic; one report per user
Legacy id	`VtxLegacyId`	Single line of text	Yes	Empty	`{source list ID}:{item ID}` of the classic Discussion Board item the topic was imported from; lets the importer skip already imported topics

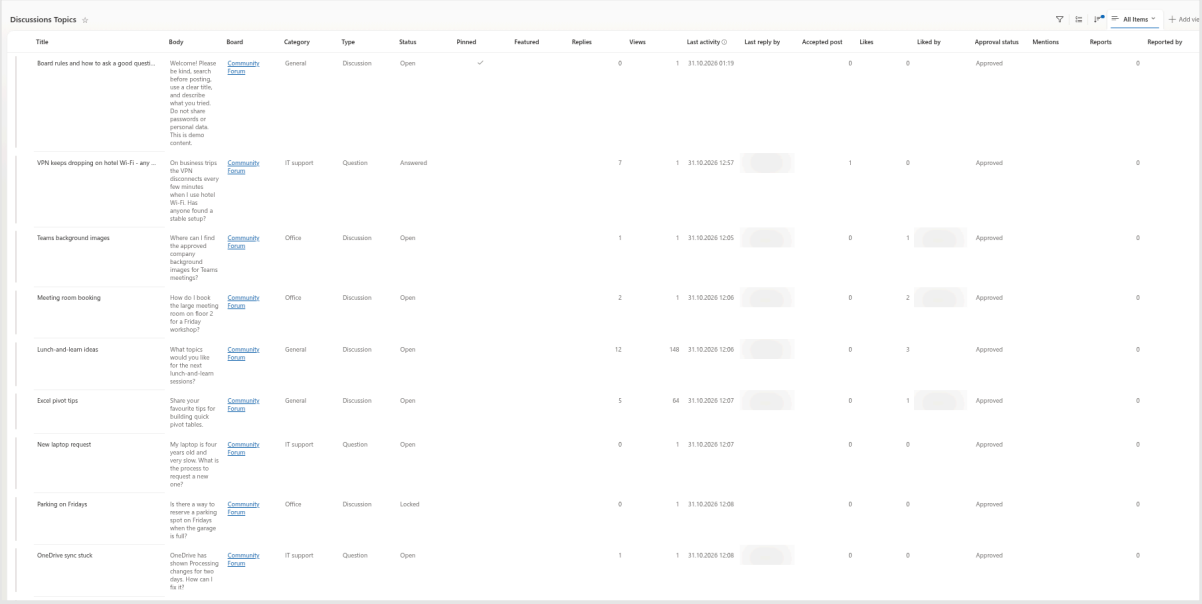
Discussions Posts

One item per reply. **Title** is set to *Re:* followed by the topic title; **Created** and **Created By** are the posting time and the author; **Attachments** holds the files attached to the reply.

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Body	`VtxBody`	Multiple lines of text (enhanced rich text)	No	Empty	The text of the reply as sanitised HTML
Topic	`VtxTopic`	Lookup to **Discussions Topics** (Title)	Yes	—	The topic the reply belongs to
Parent post	`VtxParentPost`	Lookup to **Discussions Posts** (Title)	Yes	—	The reply this one answers; empty for a top-level reply
Path	`VtxPath`	Single line of text	Yes	Empty	The IDs of the ancestor replies written by the web part, for example `/12/15/`; `/` for a top-level reply
Depth	`VtxDepth`	Number	No	0	The nesting level: 0 for a top-level reply, 1 for a reply to it, and so on
Is accepted answer	`VtxIsAccepted`	Yes/No	No	No	*Yes* for the reply accepted as the answer;

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
					at most one per topic
Likes	`VtxLikeCount`	Number	No	0	The number of likes on the reply
Liked by	`VtxLikedBy`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users who liked the reply
Approval status	`VtxApprovalStatus`	Choice	Yes	*Approved*, *Pending*, *Rejected*; default *Approved*	The moderation state of the reply
Mentions	`VtxMentions`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users mentioned with @ in the reply
Reports	`VtxReportCount`	Number	Yes	0	The number of reports on the reply
Reported by	`VtxReportedBy`	Person (multiple)	No	—	The users who reported the reply
Legacy id	`VtxLegacyId`	Single line of text	Yes	Empty	`{source list ID}:{item ID}` of the classic reply this one was imported from

The lookups to the topic and to the parent reply are created **without** cascade or restrict delete behaviour: deleting a topic in the list does not delete its replies, and deleting a reply does not delete the replies under it. The **Delete** command of the web part behaves differently: it deletes a topic together with all its replies and the inline images of the **Discussions Assets** library, and it refuses to delete a reply that has replies of its own. The web part attaches replies whose parent is missing to the top level of the thread so that nothing disappears from view; see KB10432. Counters, Last Activity or Best Answer Look Wrong.



The Discussions Topics list in SharePoint

Discussions Subscriptions

One item per user and target. **Title** is `Board:ID` or `Topic:ID`.

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
User	`VtxUser`	Person	Yes	—	The subscriber
Target type	`VtxTargetType`	Choice	Yes	*Board*, *Topic*; default *Board*	Whether the subscription is to a board or to a topic

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Target id	`VtxTargetId`	Number	Yes	0	The ID of the board item or of the topic item
Frequency	`VtxFrequency`	Choice	No	*Immediate*, *Daily*, *Weekly*; default *Immediate*	How often the subscriber wants to be notified
Board	`VtxBoard`	Lookup to **Discussions Boards** (Title)	Yes	—	The board of the subscription (also for topic subscriptions), so a flow can group by board

A user has one item per target; following again with another frequency updates the existing item, and unfollowing deletes it. The author of a topic is subscribed to it automatically with *Immediate*. The web part only maintains this list; sending email is the job of a Power Automate flow whose contract is described in KB10414. How Notifications Work in Discussions: Subscriptions, Mentions and Power Automate.

Discussions Assets

A document library for the images inserted into topics and replies with the editor (pasted, dropped or chosen with **Insert image**). Each image is uploaded under a unique name into a folder named after the current year (`2026`, `2027`, …) so that no folder grows past the list view threshold. The library has a single custom column:

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
Discussions	`VtxDiscus`	Single line	No	Empty	Marker

Column	Internal name	Type	Indexed	Default / values	Purpose
asset	`sionsAsset`	of text			column only; lets the library be recognised whatever its title

Files attached to a topic or a reply with **Attach file** are **not** stored here — they are list item attachments of the topic or reply item, kept with the item in the **Discussions Topics** or **Discussions Posts** list.

Choice values

The choice columns store the **English** values below regardless of the interface language; the web part translates them for display.

Column	Values	Shown as
Mode (`VtxMode`)	`Discussion`, `QnA`, `Mixed`	*Discussions only*, *Questions and answers only*, *Discussions and questions*
Type (`VtxTopicType`)	`Discussion`, `Question`	*Discussion*, *Question*
Status (`VtxStatus`)	`Open`, `Answered`, `Locked`	the *Locked* badge; the *Answered* badge is derived from **Accepted post** (see above); *Open* has no badge
Approval status (`VtxApprovalStatus`)	`Approved`, `Pending`, `Rejected`	the *Awaiting approval* and *Rejected* badges; *Approved* has no badge
Target type (`VtxTargetType`)	`Board`, `Topic`	—
Frequency (`VtxFrequency`)	`Immediate`, `Daily`, `Weekly`	*Immediately*, *Daily digest*, *Weekly digest*

What you can edit in the lists

The web part writes the lists through the SharePoint REST API as the signed-in user, and it reads them back on every load, so changes made in the list forms are picked up on the next reload. Some columns are safe to edit, some are maintained by the web part and better left alone:

Safe to edit in the list	Maintained by the web part
Title, **Description**, **Mode**, **Categories**, **Require approval** of a board — or, more conveniently, the **Board settings** panel of the web part	**Replies**, **Views**, **Last activity**, **Last reply by** of a topic and **Topics** of a board (recomputed on activity; a manual value is kept until the next reply, view, or created or deleted topic)
Category, **Pinned**, **Featured**, **Status** (*Locked*), **Approval status** of a topic or reply (the title, category and body of a topic are also editable with **Edit** in the topic view)	**Accepted post** of a topic together with **Is accepted answer** of the reply — change them only together; the answered state follows **Accepted post**
Body of a topic or reply (plain HTML; the web part sanitises it on display)	**Path**, **Depth**, **Parent post**, **Topic** of a reply — moving a reply by hand breaks the thread
Frequency of a subscription	**Likes** / **Liked by**, **Reports** / **Reported by** — keep the count equal to the number of people

Warning

Do not delete or rename the `Vtx` columns, and do not change their types. The web part recognises the lists by the IDs of the marker columns and reads every other column by its internal name; a missing column causes the board to fail with an error. Renaming the **display name** of a column or of a list is harmless.

Tip

Because the lists are ordinary SharePoint lists, you can build what the web part does not offer: a list view of topics with **Approval status = Pending** for moderators, an **Export to Excel** of the topics for a report, a Power BI report over **Discussions Topics** and **Discussions Posts**, or a Power Automate flow on **Discussions Subscriptions** for email delivery.