Communities

Harness the power of topic-focused communities on Stack Overflow Enterprise.

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[PDF VERSION](#)
Tags | **Community** | **Engagement** |

Applies to: Free Basic Business **Enterprise**

*This documentation is for **Stack Overflow Enterprise**. Free, Basic, and Business users can access their documentation* [here](#). [Find your plan.](#)

Overview

The Stack Overflow Enterprise (SOE) Communities feature offers an exciting way for users to engage and collaborate across shared interests, projects, or expertise. Communities are self-organizing groups where members can:

- Share and learn together
- Grow their knowledge and expertise
- Solve problems
- Build connections and break down knowledge silos

At their heart, Communities are organized around one to ten content tags. Communities automatically include questions, answers, Articles, and Collections that contain at least one of the defined tags. Content that contains additional tags not defined by the Community is still included.

Communities are not the same as Private Teams. Private teams have controlled membership, and their content is not accessible to the main site. Communities feature public content, and any user can join and view the associated content. Communities and Collections differ as well. Collections are curated lists of content assembled by moderators. Communities automatically include all content associated with the Community tags.

Access and Manage Communities

Before you can use Communities, a site admin needs to enable the feature. Once enabled, access the Communities area by clicking **Communities** in the SOE left-hand menu. The Communities home page shows existing Communities with their name, description, number of members, and associated tags.
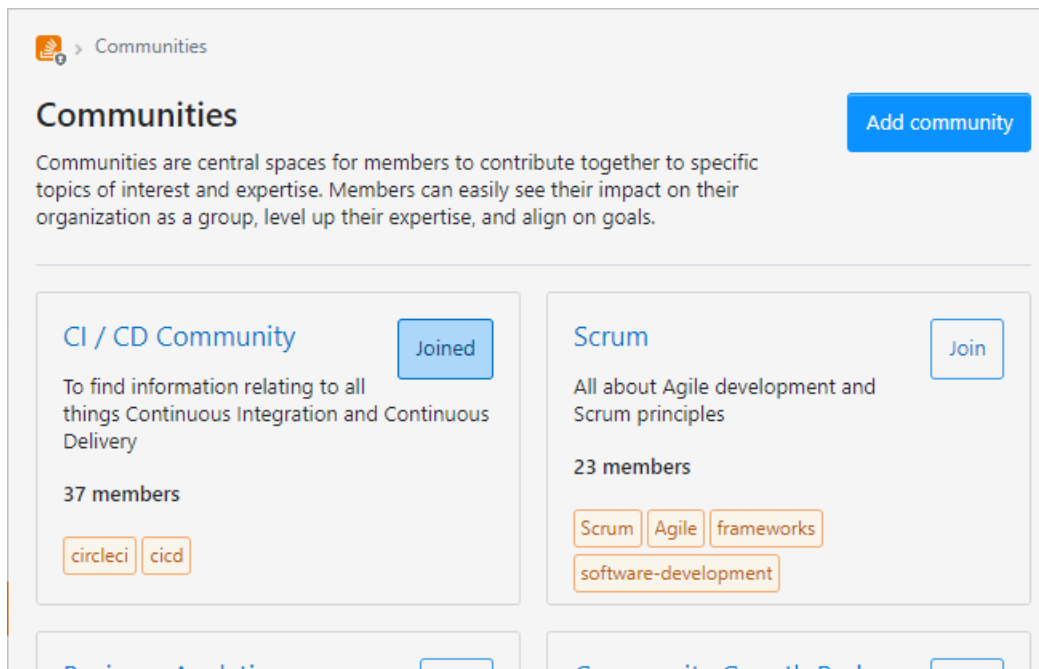
To join any Community, click the corresponding **Join** button. If you've already joined a Community, you'll see "Joined". To leave a Community, click **Joined** (this button becomes **Leave** when you hover over it with your mouse).

Click on any Community title to enter that Community. The Community overview page appears, listing member statistics, posts, answers, edits, and other details about the Community. The top of the overview box shows an "Unanswered questions" list, which is a convenient way to add to the Community's content.

In addition to the default **Overview** of the Communities content, you can focus on a specific content type by clicking **Questions**, **Articles**, or **Collections**. To see members of the Community, click **Members**. The "TRENDING" area shows the Community's questions, answers, and articles sorted by most recent and view count.

The "COMMUNITY ACTIVITY" area shows details about recent activity in the Community. To see the activity of all members of the Community, click **All activity**. To see only your own activity, click **Your activity**.

Add Content to a Community

Any member can add content from inside a Community by clicking **Add to Community**, then selecting **Question**, **Article**, or **Collection**.
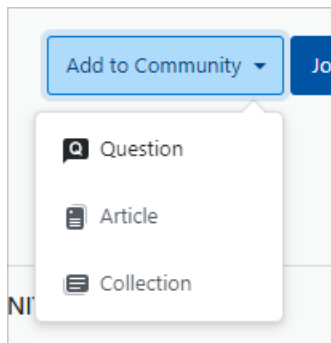
The process for adding content from inside a Community is the same as from elsewhere on the site, with one exception: SOE will automatically populate new questions and Articles with the Community's tags. Before submitting, you can add or delete these tags. If you remove all of the Community's tags, however, your new content won't appear in the Community.

You can achieve similar results by adding content (for example: asking a question) from within the main site. Be sure to include at least one of the Community's tags, and your new content will appear in the Community.

Community Alerts, Updates, and For You

Your "For You" area will notify you when you've joined a community or have been added to a Community by someone else. Additionally, all users will see Community activity in the weekly digest email, which will highlight new Communities created in the past month and largest Communities (by member count).

Integrations

You can monitor Community activity (questions, answers, Articles) in both Slack and Microsoft Teams, receiving alerts when someone adds a new question, answer, or Article in your Community.

Slack
To create a Slack notification for a Community, click your avatar (profile image) then **Settings**. Click **Slack integrations** under the "APPS & INTEGRATIONS" heading. Click **Create Slack notification**. In the "Get notifications in Slack" dialog, you must select **All tags**. If you select **Specific tags** instead, SOE will gray out (disable) the Community selector.

Use the Community pull-down menu to select which Community to receive notifications from.

Microsoft Teams

To create Microsoft Teams notifications for Communities, go to your Stack Overflow Microsoft Teams integration. Click **Notifications**, then use the "What activity…" checkboxes to select the type of activity you want to receive notifications for. In the "Filter this activity by" area, click **Community**.

With the **Community** filter selected, you'll see a pull-down menu that lists all Communities you're a member of. Select the Community you want to receive notifications for.

Click **Create notification** to accept your selections and create the Community notification. Learn more about setting up Slack and Microsoft Teams integrations.

Add a Community

Users granted rights to create new Communities will see an **Add community** button at the top of the Communities home page. Click this button to create a new Community.

In the "Create new community" box, enter a **Community name** and **Community purpose** (description) for the new Community. In the **Tags** area, select at least one tag (up to a maximum of 30 tags) to define your Community's content focus. Your new Community will automatically include any questions, answers, or Articles that contain any one of these tags. When users create new content from inside the Community, SOE will automatically pre-populate these tags.

NOTE: *In order to avoid duplicates, you can't create a Community with the same name or exact set of tags as an existing Community.*

In the **Members** area, SOE will suggest subject matter experts and top contributors for your selected tag(s). Click **Add** on each suggestion to accept. Your user name will appear automatically in the **Members** list as well. Click the **X** button by your name to remove yourself if you don't want to be a member of the new Community.

You can also manually locate and add members to your new Community, including individual users, groups, and departments. Adding members to a Community at creation is optional—anyone can join the community later, and community

creators, admins, and moderators can also add or remove members. There's no limit to the number of members a Community can have.

NOTE: *Adding members to a new Community on creation—especially those with subject matter expertise—can help jump-start engagement.*

Edit or Delete a Community

From within a Community, the Community creator, admins, or moderators will see a **Manage** button in the upper-right corner (other users will not see this button). Click **Manage**, then **Edit** or **Delete Community**.
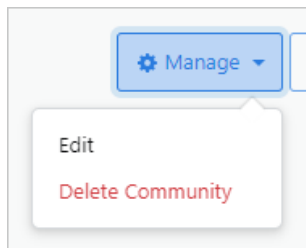
Editing a Community allows you to change the name, description, tags, and member roster. Deleting a Community removes it completely from your SOE site.

NOTE: *Exercise caution when changing your Community's tags, as adding or removing tags can dramatically change the content of your Community.*

If you need further support or have questions, contact your site administrator.