



MICROSOFT ALTERNATIVES

Perpetual Publisher version is independent of the Microsoft 365 Suite. If you can find the software online, you will still be able to install and use after October 2026.

Microsoft Designer is an AI-powered app similar to Canva that generates custom images and layouts from text prompts. Designer is part of the premium Microsoft 365 Personal or Family subscription. At this time, Designer is not available with Microsoft Business subscription, however, you can sign up for the free version by creating a separate account.

Microsoft Powerpoint is a great option and is part of all Microsoft 365 suites. Set up documents in 8.5"x11" format rather than 16:9.

Microsoft Word is an easy way to set up newsletters, cards and calendars with templates, and is generally a simple alternative to Powerpoint.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Canva** is more template-driven than Microsoft Designer. It offers a decent free version, while a paid subscription gets you additional tools, features, and images.
- **Google Docs** is a free alternative with most of the same capabilities and limitations as Publisher. You can also collaborate, dictate content and translate on this platform.
- **Adobe Express** offers a free version with high-quality fonts, professional photography tools, and sophisticated assets. It isn't quite as intuitive as Canva, but has a nice ease of use and polish for freelancers or small businesses.
- **Scribus** is a desktop publishing and layout app that can produce print-ready publications. It's frame-based like Publisher.
- **Affinity** is mid-to-high-tier, pro-level graphic design, layout, illustration, and vector editing software that's entirely free.

Webpage source: <https://www.pcmag.com/explainers/microsoft-pulling-plug-on-publisher-this-fall-8-alternatives-to-try>

Microsoft Publisher will no longer be supported after October 2026

As of 1 October 2026, Microsoft Publisher will reach its end of life. After that time, it will no longer be included in Microsoft 365 and existing on-premises suites will no longer be supported. **Microsoft 365 subscribers will no longer be able to open or edit Publisher files in Publisher.** Until then, support for Publisher will continue and users can expect the same experience as today.

Many common Publisher scenarios—including creating professionally branded templates, printing envelopes and labels, and producing customized calendars, business cards, and programs—are already available in other Microsoft 365 apps such as Word and PowerPoint. You can also find a wide array of customizable templates at Microsoft Create. You can prepare your files for Publisher retirement by converting and saving them in to a PDF format. This is the easiest way to view your files after 1 October 2026.

Convert to a PDF format BEFORE 1 OCT 2026

Steps to Convert Publisher Files to PDF

1. Open Publisher file.
2. Go to File > Save as.
3. Choose a location to save the file.
4. Name the file.
5. Select PDF as the file type and Save.

How to edit PDF Content AFTER 1 OCT 2026

Steps to Edit PDF Content

1. Convert a Publisher file to PDF, and open with a PDF reader and editing software.
2. Convert a Publisher file to PDF, and then open a Word document.
 - 1 - Open Word. No file is open, only the program.
 - 2 - Go to File > Open.
 - 3 - Locate and open the PDF file.
 - 4 - Select OK in the dialog box.
 - 5 - From here your document will open as a Word file.

NOTE: When converting to Word

The converted Word document will be optimized for text editing. As a result, its layout may vary from the original PDF, particularly if the document included has many graphics.

Webpage source: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/microsoft-publisher-will-no-longer-be-supported-after-october-2026-ee6302a2-4bc7-4841-babf-8e9be3acbfd7#:~:text=In%20October%202026%2C%20Microsoft%20Publisher,edit%20Publisher%20files%20in%20Publisher>

FAQ GUIDELINES

Can I still install Publisher after October 2026?

If you have a Microsoft 365 subscription, Microsoft Publisher will no longer be available for installation or download after October 2026. However, if you have the Perpetual version of Publisher, although support will end, you will still be able to install and use the app beyond this date.

What can I use instead of Publisher?

We suggest using the recommendations provided as starting points for common Publisher scenarios.

How can I find my Publisher files?

A file search for ".Pub" on your PC, OneDrive, or SharePoint can help you locate your Publisher files.

I have many Publisher files; is there a way to convert them all to PDF?

Yes. If you have a large number of Publisher files, you can use a PowerShell script or other automation for bulk export. You can refer to the link below for example conversion script as a guide.

When using a third-party conversion tool to convert directly from Publisher to another file type.

Please understand that these services vary in quality and capabilities, and Microsoft will not provide support or guarantee results. Nor will the Diocesan IT department or the Communication office staff be able to offer assistance with third-party conversion tools.

We strongly suggest that bulletin editors familiarize themselves with one of the alternative programs before October. The diocese is not responsible for converting files or purchasing alternative design platforms.

TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS BY EMAIL,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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