

# Office Web Apps Server

## Office Web Apps deployment simplified

View the content roadmap.



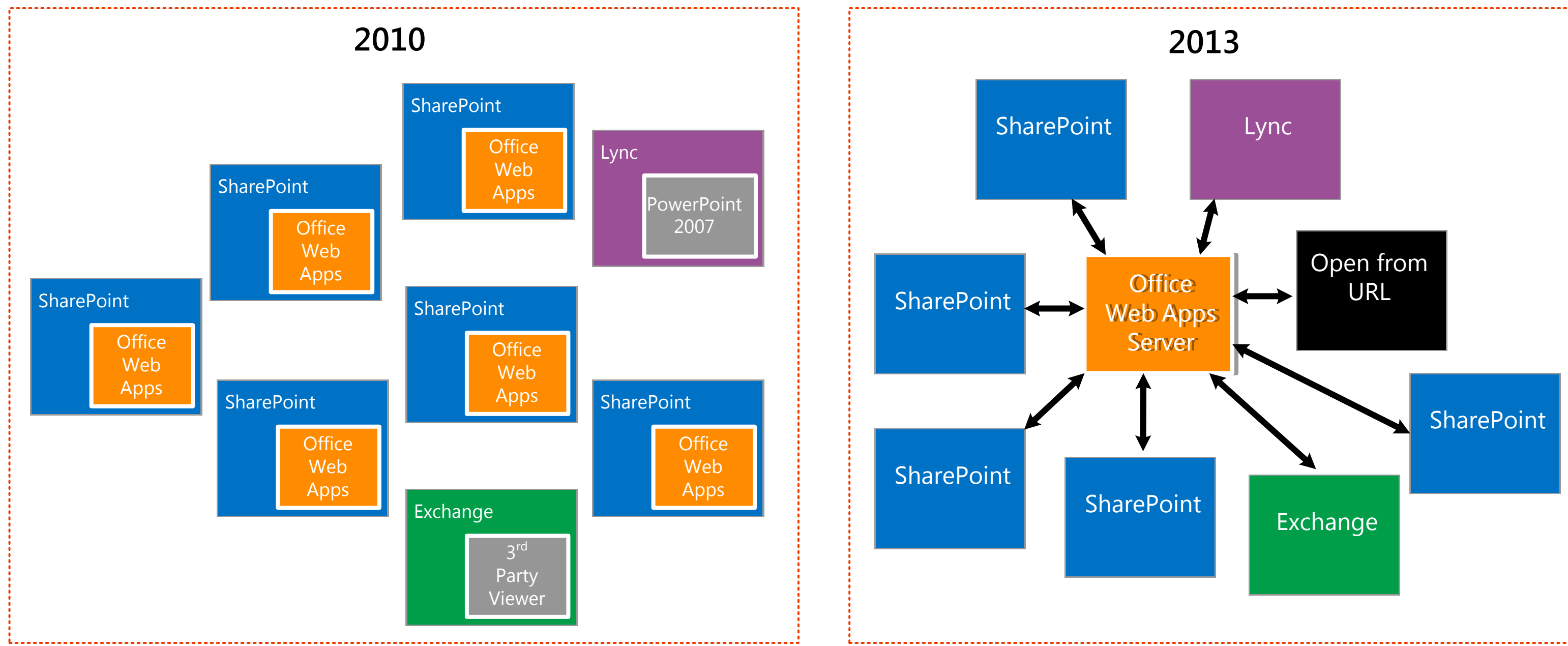
### What is Office Web Apps Server?

Office Web Apps Server is an Office server product that provides browser-based file viewing and editing services for Office files. Office Web Apps Server works with products and services that support WOPI, the Web app Open Platform Interface protocol. These products, known as hosts, include SharePoint 2013, Lync Server 2013, and Exchange Server 2013.

An Office Web Apps Server farm can provide Office services to multiple on-premises hosts, and you can scale out the farm from one server to multiple servers as your organization's needs grow. Although Office Web Apps Server requires dedicated servers that run no other server applications, you can install Office Web Apps Server on virtual machine instances.

It is easier to deploy and manage Office Web Apps within your organization now that it is a stand-alone product. If you deploy SharePoint 2013, for example, you no longer have to optimize the SharePoint infrastructure to support Office Web Apps, which in earlier versions was tightly integrated with SharePoint Server 2010. You can also apply updates to the Office Web Apps Server farm separately and at a different frequency than you update SharePoint 2013, Exchange Server 2013, or Lync Server 2013. Having a stand-alone Office Web Apps Server farm also means that users can view or edit Office files that are stored outside SharePoint 2013, such as those in shared folders or other websites. This functionality is provided by a feature known as Online Viewers.

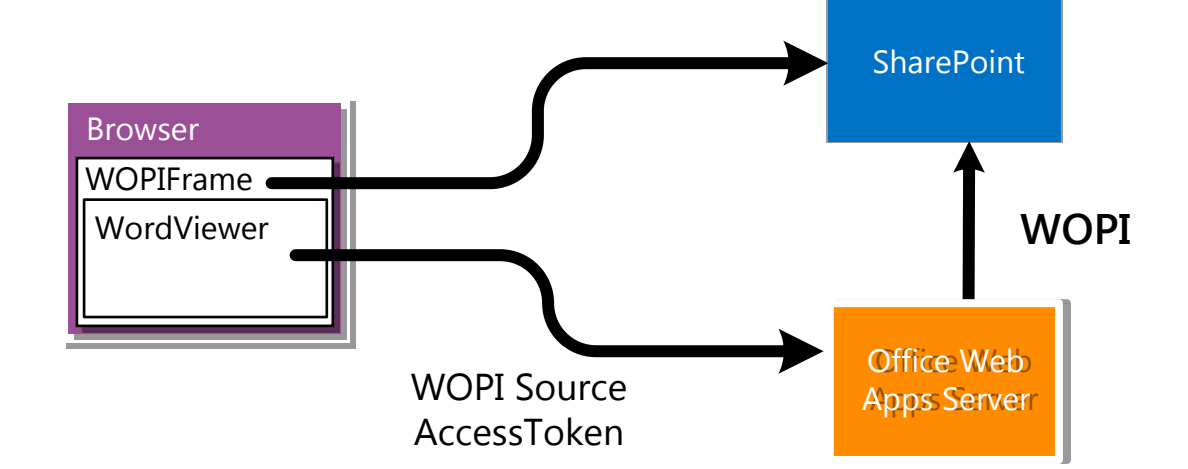
### Office Web Apps then and now



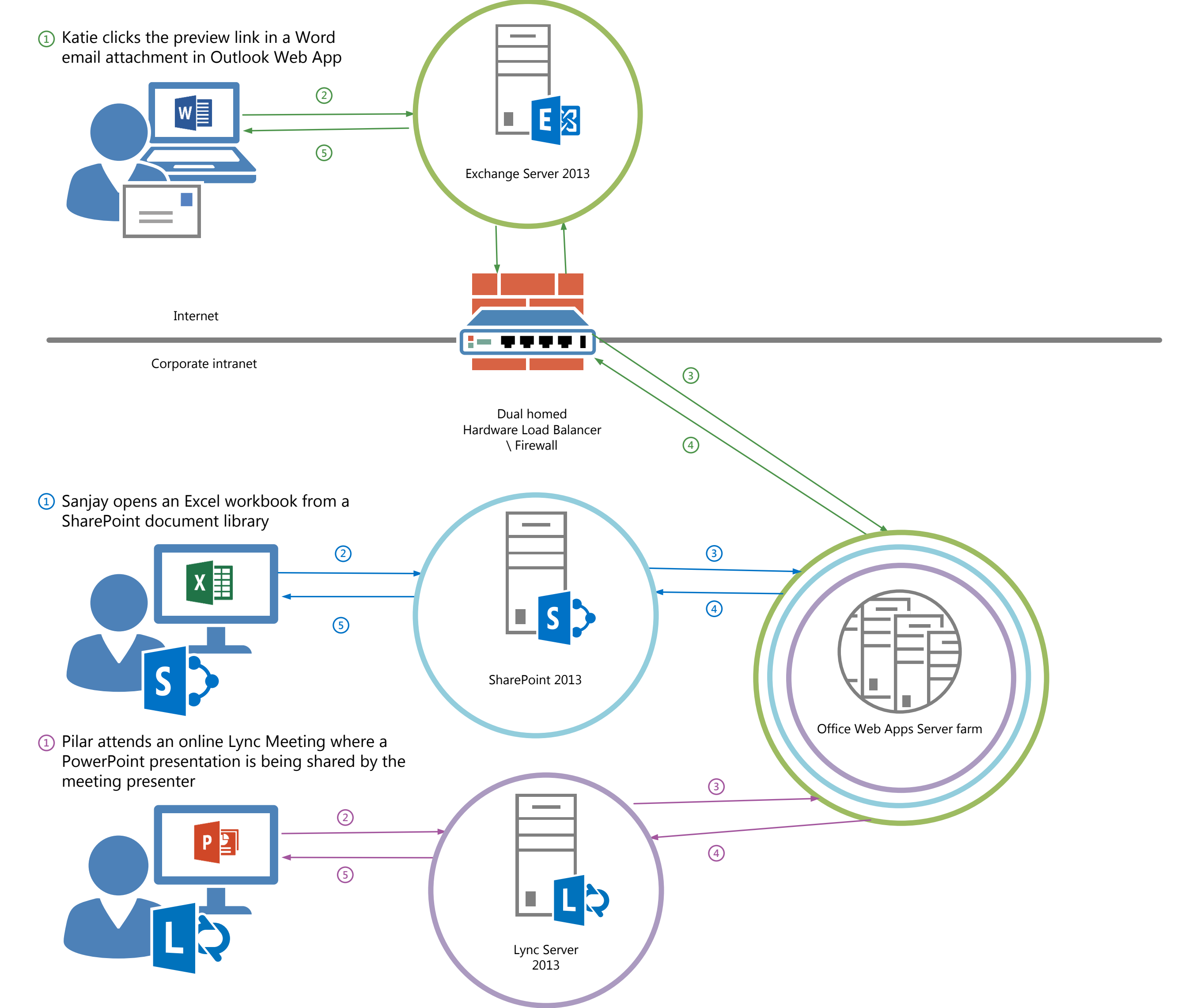
### How Office Web Apps Server works

A key part of the new integration model is a new public WOPI API that Office Web Apps Server uses to communicate with hosts. Office Web Apps Server fetches and manipulates files using the WOPI API. We often refer to Office Web Apps Server as a WOPI App. Hosts must recognize WOPI requests from WOPI apps.

Here's an example of the data flow between the browser, SharePoint Server 2013, and Office Web Apps Server.



### Office Web Apps Server usage scenarios



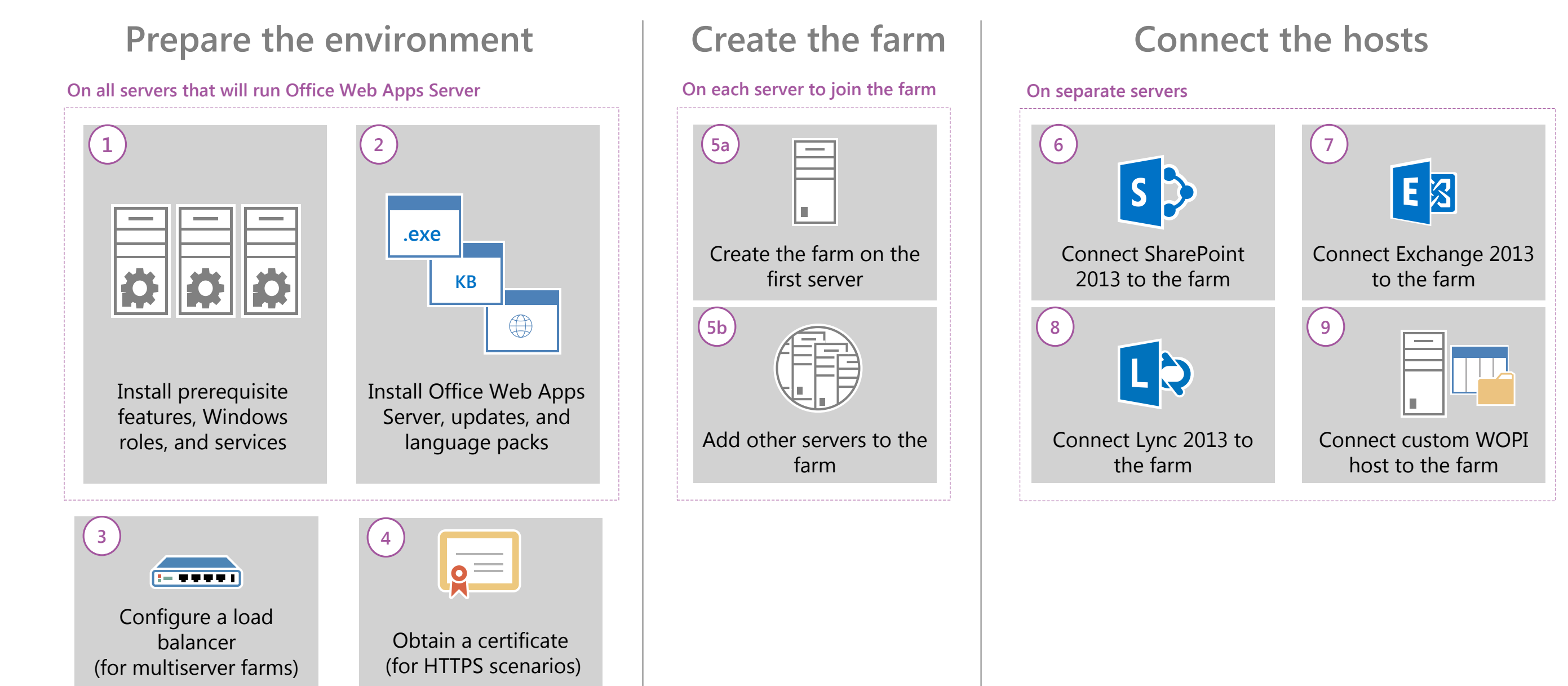
### How WOPI works:

- The user wants to view or open a document that is stored on a host that runs Exchange Server 2013, SharePoint 2013, or Lync Server 2013.
- The host directs the browser to a special page that contains an IFRAME that connects to a page on Office Web Apps Server.
- The page initiates a request to Office Web Apps Server. The request includes the file name, access token, and the URL of the file location on the host.
- Office Web Apps Server responds to the request by getting the document from the host and then rendering the document in the IFRAME. The user can then view or edit the document in the web browser.

### Office Web Apps Server host capabilities and the user experience

Host	Office Web Apps	Capabilities	User Experience
SharePoint 2013	Word, PowerPoint, Excel	Users can view and, in some cases, edit Office documents in SharePoint libraries by using a supported web browser on computers and on many mobile devices, such as Windows Phones, iPhones, iPads, and Windows 8 tablets. The following illustration summarizes the viewing and editing capabilities of Office Web Apps on different kinds of devices.  	Document preview in SharePoint 2013 library or search results    Office Web App when opened from SharePoint 2013  
Exchange Server 2013	Word, PowerPoint, Excel	Users of Outlook Web App can preview Office file attachments by using Word Web App, Excel Web App, and PowerPoint Web App. These previews provide rich, full-fidelity viewing of Office files and any comments within them, without downloading the files before viewing them. Office Web Apps Server won't be used to render any attachments in IRM protected messages. Office Web Apps Server integration for attachment previews is available to all Exchange Online customers. Exchange on-premises customers have to deploy Office Web Apps Server to enable the functionality.	Attached files in an email shown in Outlook Web App with Exchange 2013 configured to use Office Web Apps Server    Outlook Web App preview of Excel document  
Lync Server 2013	PowerPoint	Users can present and view PowerPoint presentations in Lync 2013 on many different devices. Lync Server 2013 now uses standard DHTML and JavaScript to broadcast PowerPoint presentations instead of customized DHTML and Silverlight. Also, users who have appropriate permissions can scroll through and view any slide they wish during the presentation, without affecting the presentation.	PowerPoint presentation broadcast in Lync 2013 configured to use Office Web Apps Server  

### Deployment process



### Video demo: see how it's done

To watch a demonstration of how to setup Office Web Apps Server and configure SharePoint 2013 to use Office Web Apps for a test environment, scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet.

This video covers procedures that are performed on two servers: the server that runs Office Web Apps Server, and the server that runs SharePoint 2013. Remember that these must always be separate servers as described in the software, hardware, and configuration requirements for Office Web Apps Server.

The high-level steps to follow along with this video are described in the TechNet article Overview of Office Web Apps and how they work on-premises with SharePoint 2013.

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## Configuring Office Web Apps for SharePoint 2013 is simple.