



Microsoft 365
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Power App Builder's Guide To Choosing the Right Path

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Principal Cloud Advocate, Microsoft

Whova



The official event app for the
Microsoft 365 Community Conference

Event invitation code: TBA

Join the event app to access:

- ➔ Event announcements
- ➔ Personalized agenda, session details
- ➔ Speaker & attendee profiles
- ➔ Networking, meet-ups, messages
- ➔ Event documents



April Dunnam

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Microsoft

Content Creator – YouTube @aprildunnam

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[LinkedIn.com/in/AprilDunnam](https://www.linkedin.com/in/AprilDunnam)

What We're Covering Today



01

The Journey



02

Current Reality



03

The Surface Spectrum



04

The Decision Guide

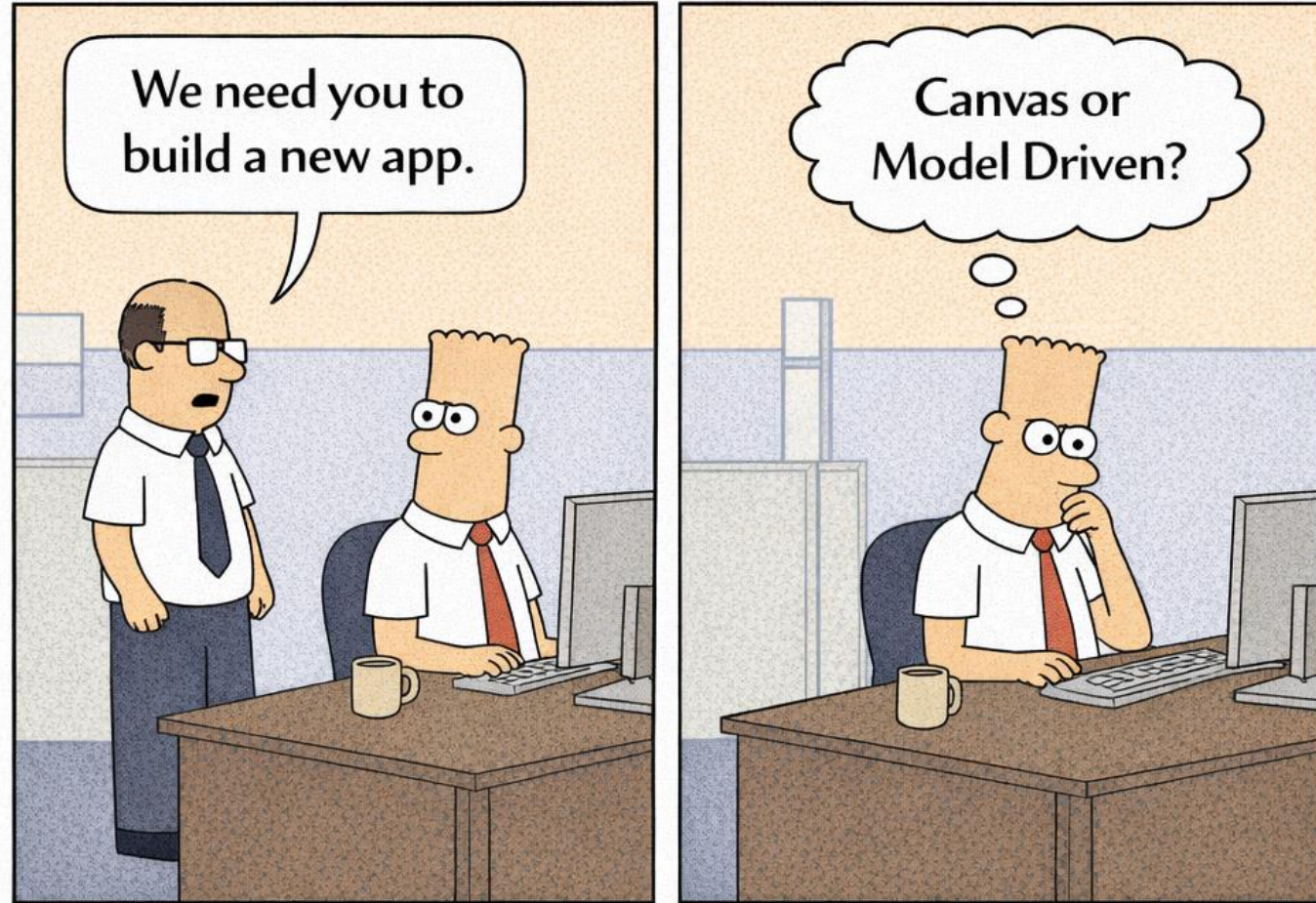


05

DEMOS!

Pre-2025

Remember When...



Those were the days...

Back in the day

Canvas Apps

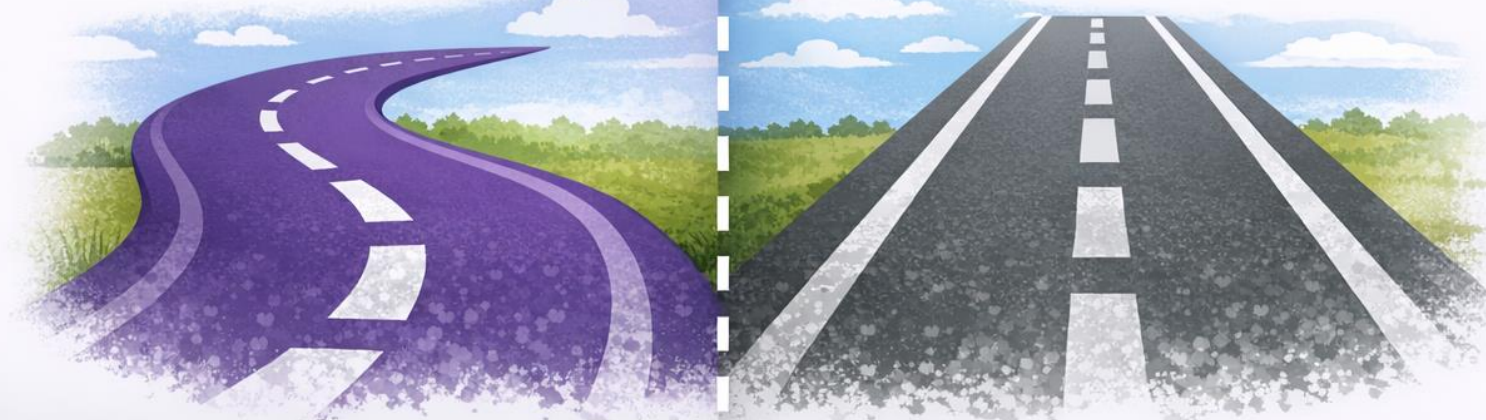


- UI-first & flexible
- Customizable UX

Model-Driven Apps



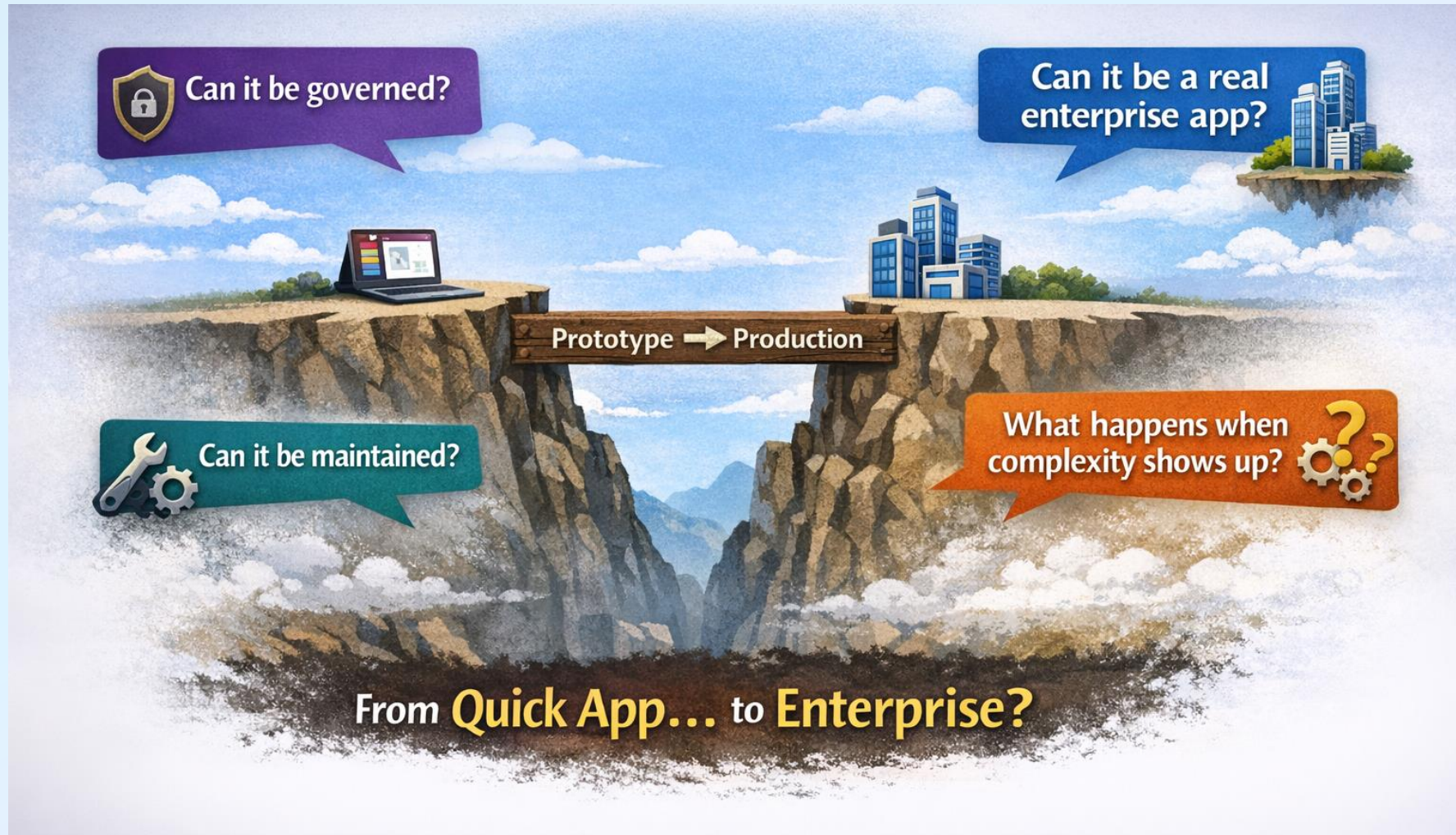
- Data-first & structured
- Process-focused



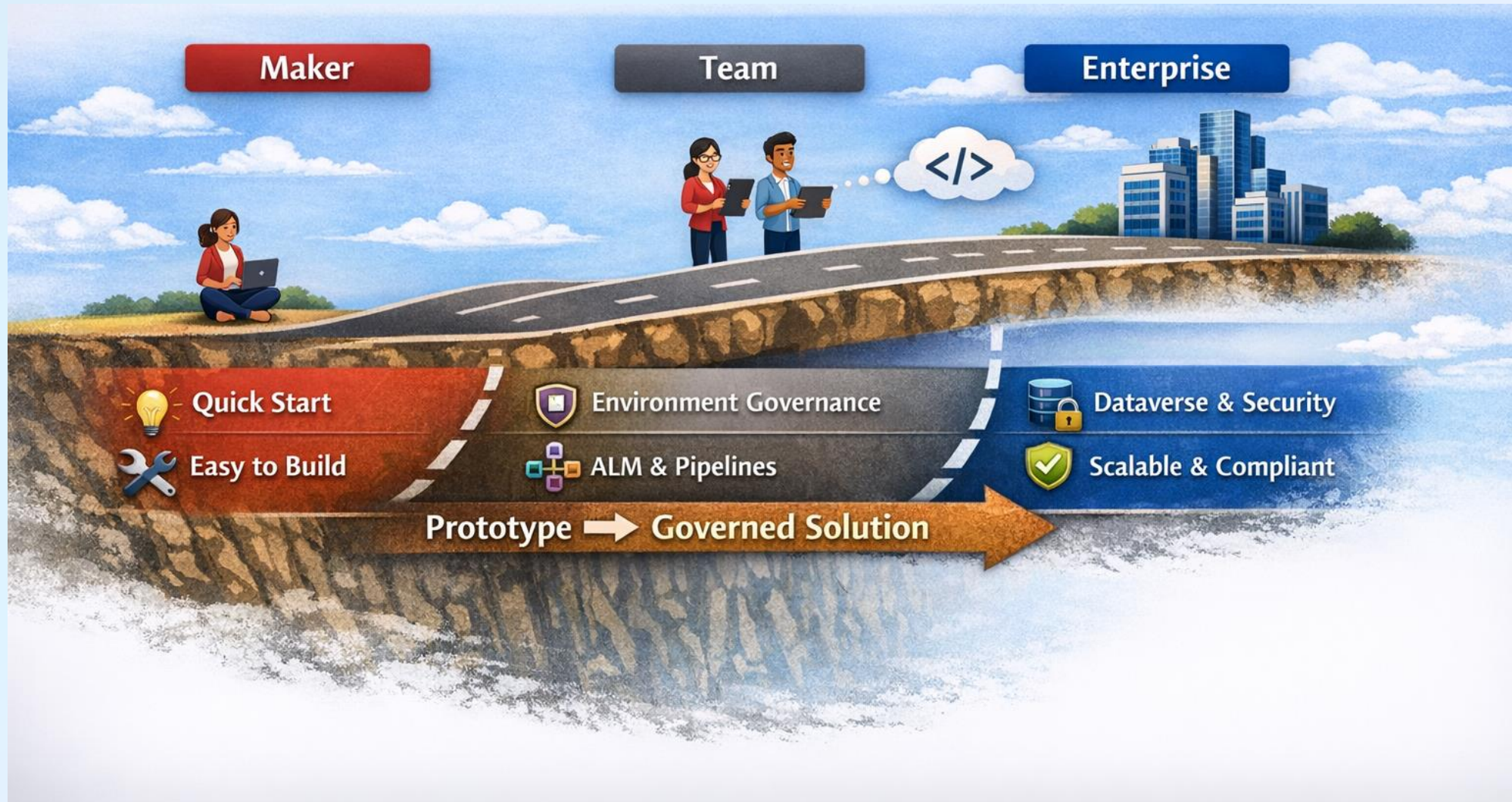
Everyone Can Be an App Builder





But Can It Scale?



The "No Cliffs" Era



Current Day...

←  r/PowerApps · 5mo ago
polarzombies  Regular

What do you think will be the future of canvas apps now that generative pages have been introduced?

Discussion



About me Blog How To ▾ Vote Interviews Events


Low-Code Is Dead... Ish. From Canvas Hacks to React Apps

Search ...



Categories

Dynamics 365 (147)



Thomas Sandser · Dynamics 365, PowerApps · 28/08/2025 · 3 Minutes



Is this the end of Canvas Apps?

 Alexander MacVean 
Business Applications Practice Lead | Power Platform & Dynamics Architect | ...

February 24, 2026

←  r/PowerApps · 5mo ago
ahatasham5  Regular

Is Power Apps still relevant in the no-code / "vibe code" era?

Discussion

↑ 28 ↓ ↻ 39 👤 ➦ Share

"Vibe Coding" is the cause of all the speculation

Prompt-based

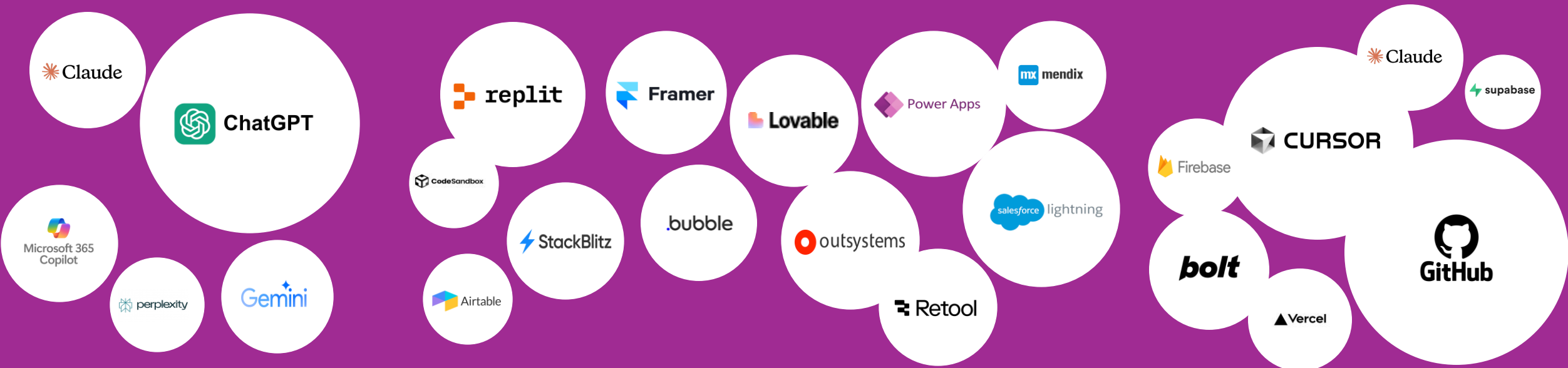
"AI-generated apps"

Fast, lightweight apps with built-in chat for end users

AI-Assisted Full Stack

"Pro-developer platforms"

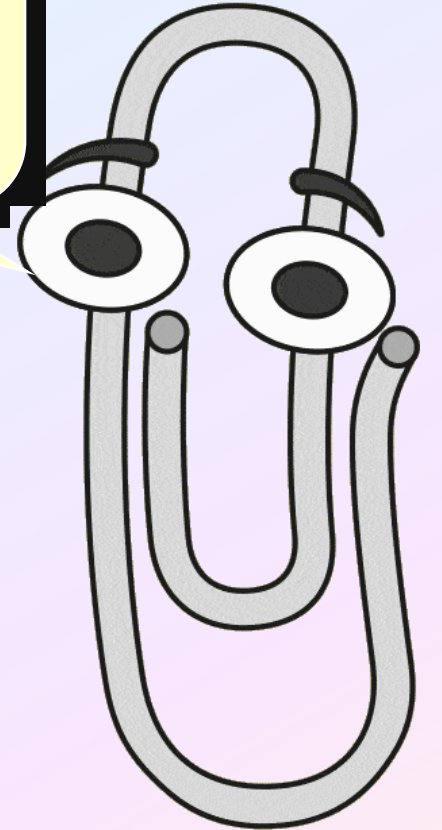
Dedicated IDE for pro-developers to create enterprise-ready apps



Vibe Coding + Power Platform

A Safe Space to Create

I see you're
writing a **full-
stack enterprise
application**



Safe Space for Vibe Engineering



Power Platform

Fast, secure, enterprise ready



Cloud Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)

Highly customizable, more code/config required

Development experience

- ✓ Idea-to-published in hours
- ✓ Built-in Power Platform stack

Authentication

- ✓ Built-in MS Entra, no code required

Connectivity

- ✓ 1400+ connectors out of the box

Data Layer

- ✓ Dataverse included

Hosting

- ✓ Cloud service with disaster recovery and CDN built-in

Deployment

- ✓ Pipelines deployments included with Managed Environments.
- ✓ Optional DevOps/GitHub integration

End-user playback

- ✓ Web – just share the app

Governance

- ✓ Enterprise-grade governance (PPAC, Managed Environments)

Full stack config required

'App registrations' require coordinating with Admins

Custom configuration (or code) required

SDK or API integration per data source

No built-in data layer

Manual wiring of services

Traffic manager set up needed for multi-region

CI/CD requires Azure DevOps or GitHub setup

Web only, requires Azure configuration

Requires custom code/config for parity with Power Platform

It's Not Just Power Apps Anymore



Copilot

+



Apps

+



Agents

The New Power Apps Landscape



Canvas Apps

Drag and Drop, formula-based building with flexible UI



Model Driven Apps

Data first, structured UI



Vibe Apps

Prompt-based building for a full code app



Code Apps

Full code app building with Dev Tools

The Builder Spectrum

DESCRIBE	CONFIGURE	DIRECT AND CODE
<p>Tools:</p> <p>vibe.powerapps.com App Builder in M365 Copilot Generative Pages (browser)</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Makers with no code background</p> <p>Best for:</p> <p>Quick internal tools, prototypes, single-purpose apps</p>	<p>Tools:</p> <p>Canvas App Model-Driven + Generative Pages</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Makers who know the platform</p> <p>Best for:</p> <p>Production internal apps, complex forms & workflows</p>	<p>Tools:</p> <p>Claude Code / GH Copilot Canvas via YAML Generative Pages Code Apps (React) PCF Components</p> <p>Who:</p> <p>Pro-devs & Advanced Makers comfortable with a terminal</p> <p>Best for:</p> <p>Max control, complex logic, automated testing, Custom UX, pixel-perfect enterprise apps</p>

Are Canvas Apps dead?

THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH ARE

GREATLY EXAGGERATED

Recently Shipped for Canvas (Wave 1, 2026)

NEW Theme Copy-Paste	NEW Canvas Authoring in Code Editors Build & edit canvas apps in GitHub Copilot or Claude Code	NEW Offline Mode Improvements
NEW Power FX enhancements	NEW Component enhancements	NEW Modern Controls Overhaul New controls revamped and GA

Use Canvas BUT: Try the GitHub Copilot CLI / Claude Code


DEMO

You describe. AI generates .pa.yaml. It validates. It syncs live into your open Studio session.


- Power Apps
- Home
- Create
- Learn
- Plans
- Apps**
- AI hub
- Tables
- Flows
- Solutions
- More
- Power Platform

+ New app → Import app Monitor All apps Search

Apps



Start with design
Pick a layout or start from blank to shape your app's UI.



Start with data
Pick a table or create tables to power your app.

My apps Shared with me All

Name	Modified	Owner	Type
Speaker conference app	1 week ago	April Dunnam	Code

Model Driven Apps

What's New

Modern app designer

Refreshed sitemap, navigation, and form editing experience. Faster to build.

M365 Copilot & Agent Integration

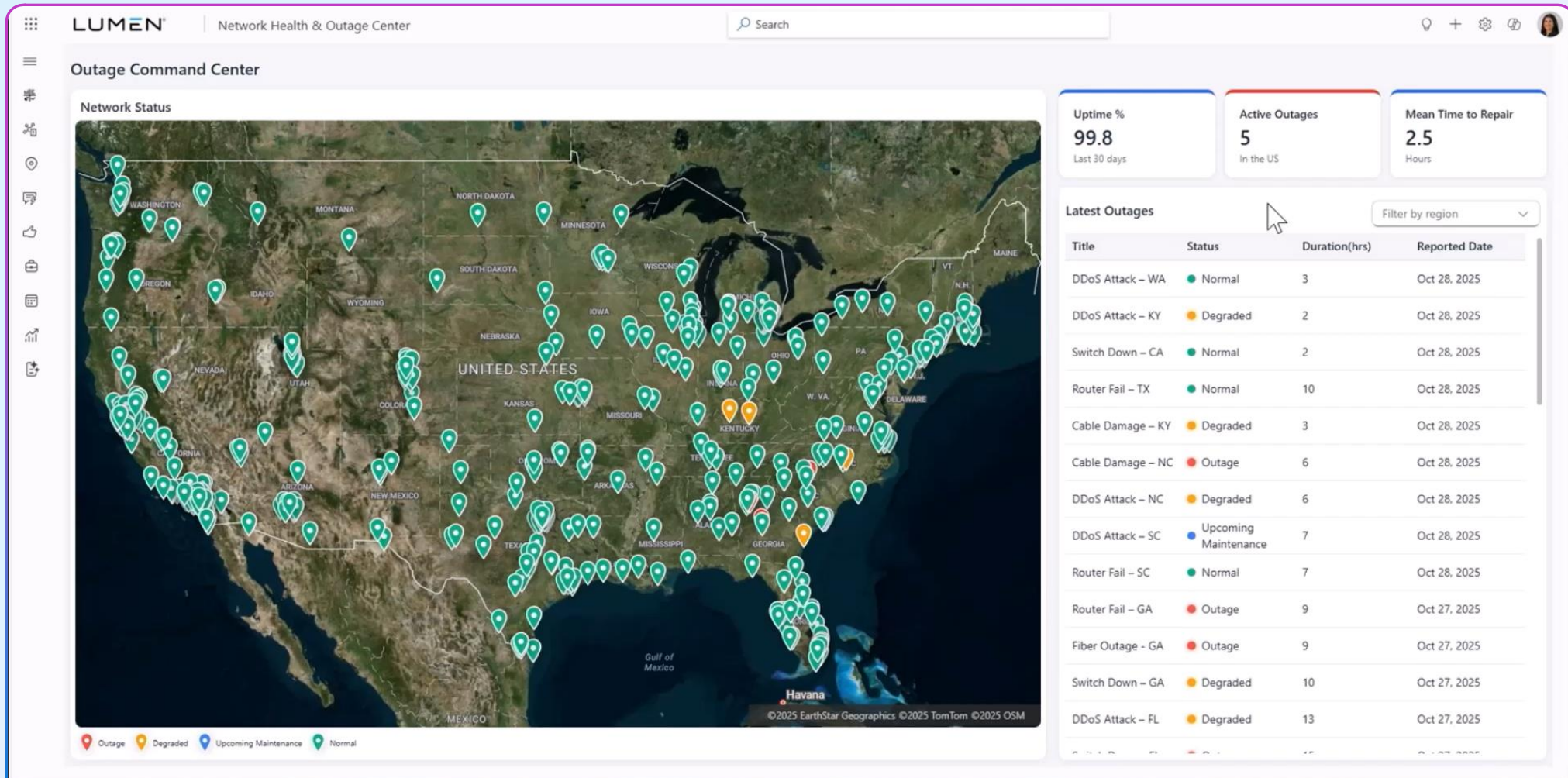
Full power of M365 Copilot integrated in your app experience plus out-of-the-box agents for end users

Generative Pages

Describe the page you need and AI generates a React-based page within your MDA

Apps working with agents

Reduce busy work with built-in agents for data entry and exploration



M365 Copilot in Power Apps

Bring the full power of Microsoft 365 Copilot and its agents to business apps

The screenshot displays a Power Apps interface for a recruitment application. On the left, a table titled "All Candidates" lists 407 candidates with columns for name, role, profile, current stage, days in stage, interview availability, location, source, and background. The table includes various status indicators like "Applied", "Interview", "On Hold", "Rejected", "Offer", and "Screen".

On the right, the Copilot interface is active, showing a bubble chart titled "Candidate Pipeline by Stage". The chart plots the number of candidates in each stage against the average days spent in that stage. A red bubble highlights the "Interview" stage as a statistical outlier.

What you're seeing

- X-axis: Stage
- Y-axis: Number of candidates in the stage
- Bubble size: Average days in that stage
- Color: Red marks a statistical outlier in average days (IQR method). In this snapshot, "Interview" is a clear outlier at ~32.0 days on average.

Numbers behind the chart

- Applied — 61 candidates, avg 7.0 days (not unusual)
- Screen — 48 candidates, avg 5.3 days (not unusual)

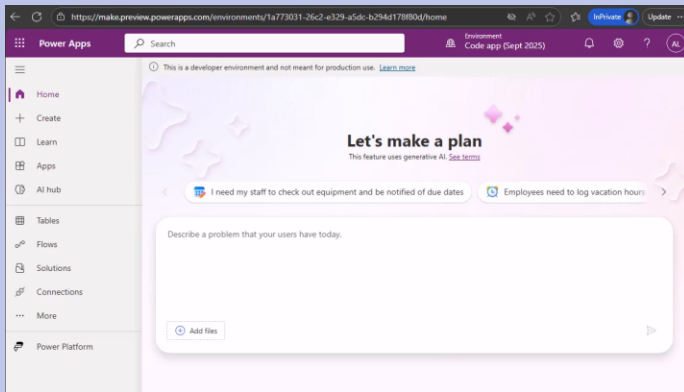
Message Copilot
Tools Sources

AI-generated content may be incorrect



Generative Pages

For builders



Generative Pages
vibe.powerapps.com

General Availability (US Region)

1. Dataverse-only, for Model Driven Apps
2. Built on React
3. Iterative refinement via Prompts
4. Code is Editable
5. New: Generative via Dev Tools (GitHub Copilot CLI)

MDA BUT: Try Generative Pages

DEMO


Add a custom page to your MDA without writing React

Describe it in the browser. Get React. Own the code. Iterate with follow-up prompts.

- Home
- Create
- Learn
- Plans
- Apps
- AI hub
- Solutions**
- Tables
- Flows
- Connections
- Dataflows
- Agents
- AI models
- Prompts
- Custom connectors
- Retention Policies
- Wrap projects
- Catalog
- Websites

[+ New solution](#)
[← Import solution](#)
[📁 Open AppSource](#)
[📄 Publish all customizations](#)
[📄 Set preferred solution](#)
[🕒 See history](#)
[🔗 Connect to Git](#)

Solutions

Deployment
 Track all solution deployments in one place. See what's active, what has failed, and get recommendations for improvement.

Create plan from a solution
 AI assistants can review current solution and create a plan with detailed analysis of the data model and objects

Unmanaged
 Managed
 All

Display name	Name	Created	Version	Publisher	Solution check	Source control status
Asset Register	AssetRegister	16 hours ago	1.0.0.0	Demo	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
MultiUpload Sample	MultiUploadSam...	3 months ago	1.0.0.0	Demo	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
BulkOperation Sample	BulkOperationSa...	3 months ago	1.0.0.0	Demo	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
Contoso Inspections	ContosoInspecti...	8 months ago	1.0.0.0	Demo	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
Asset Inspection	AssetInspection	8 months ago	1.0.0.0	Demo	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
Common Data Services	Crae39e	9 months ago	1.0.0.0	CDS Default Publ...	Hasn't been run	🔗 Not Connected to Git
Default Solution	Default	9 months ago	1.0	Default Publisher...	Not supported for analy...	🔗 Not Connected to Git

**The Surface Spectrum is
expanding**

**Apps as a
destination**



**Apps as
capability layers**



Copilot



M365



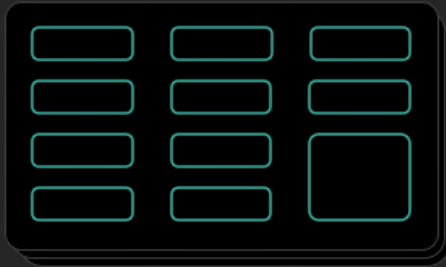
Agents

Power Apps MCP Server

Equip your agent with app tools

Automate repetitive app tasks

Equip your agent with AI app tools like autonomous form filling



`invoke_data_entry tool`

Supervise agent activity

Enable control handoffs for HITL review



`request_assistance tool`

`log_for_review tool`



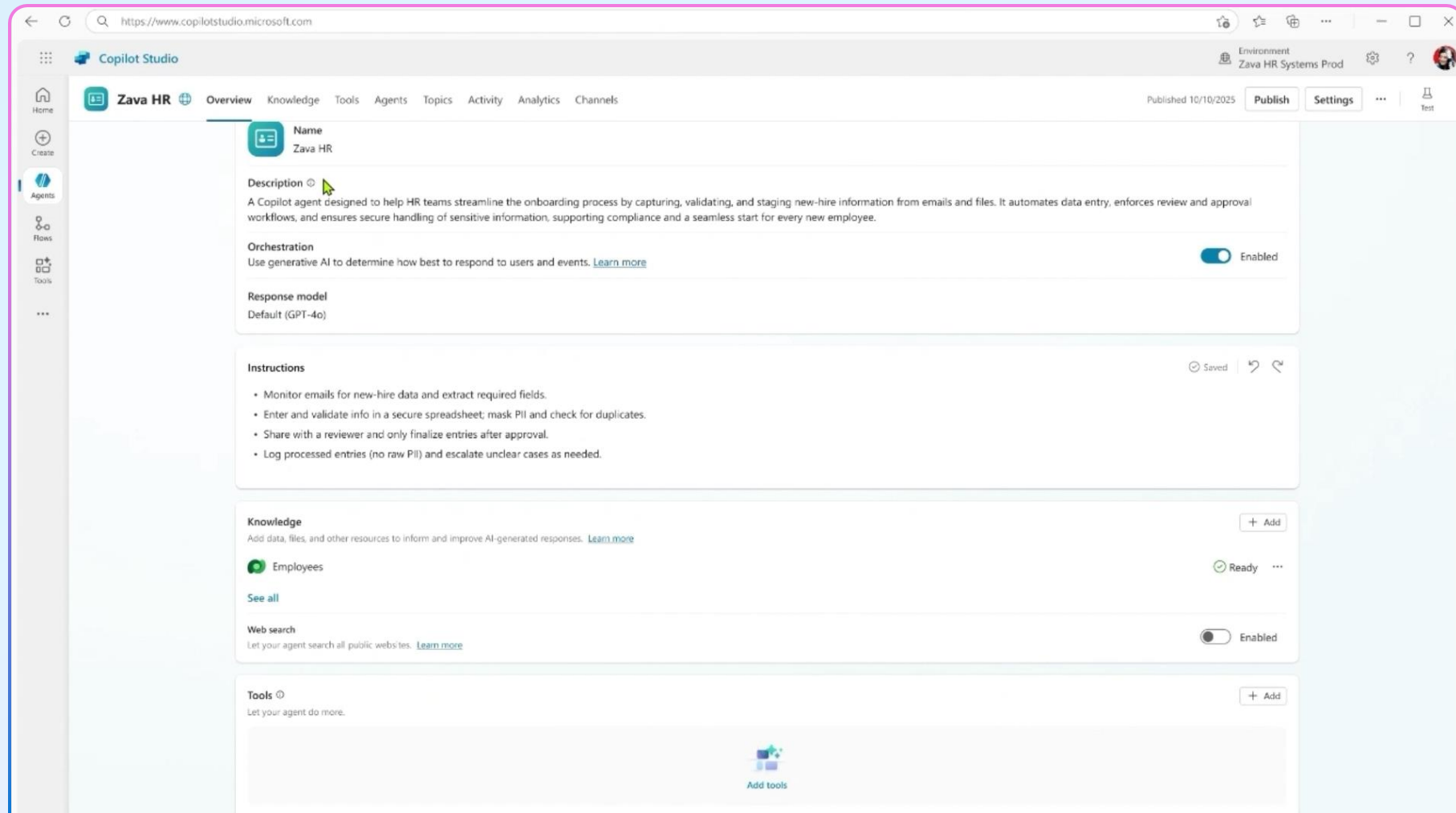
Your agent



Power Apps
MCP Server

Power Apps MCP: Agents Working with Apps

Power Apps MCP servers enable shared capabilities across app and agent experiences



Power Apps in M365 Copilot

- Interact with Model Driven App Grids and Forms directly in an M365 Copilot Chat
- Uses the Power Apps MCP Server

Today

I need to check on Atlanta hiring. Show me all the active candidates there

Zava HR

Location contains Atlanta and Status equals Active Open

Zava HR > Candidates

<input type="radio"/>	Candidate Name	Role Title	Profile Completion %	Current Stage
<input type="radio"/>	Leah Phillips	Technical Writer	43	Interview
<input type="radio"/>	Sophia Turner	Systems Analyst	83	Applied
<input type="radio"/>	Ethan Sherman	Product Manager	29	On Hold
<input type="radio"/>	Alex Cooper	Product Manager	91	Hired
<input type="radio"/>	Leah Bowen	Technical Writer	6	Applied
<input type="radio"/>	Sophia Novak	Program Manager	57	On Hold
<input type="radio"/>	Emily Cook	Product Manager	13	Interview

Rows: 1 - 10 of 51 Page 1

Here are all **active candidates in Atlanta**—you can review their current stage and how long they've been there directly in the grid.

Message Copilot

+

AI-generated content may be incorrect

DEMO

Power Apps in M365 Copilot

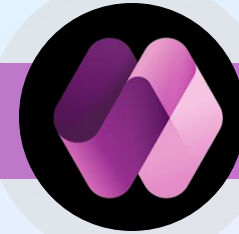
Vibe Apps

Vibe Engineering Spectrum

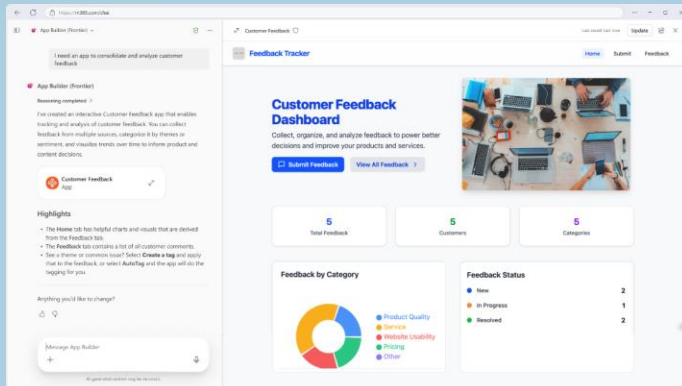
No code



Pro code

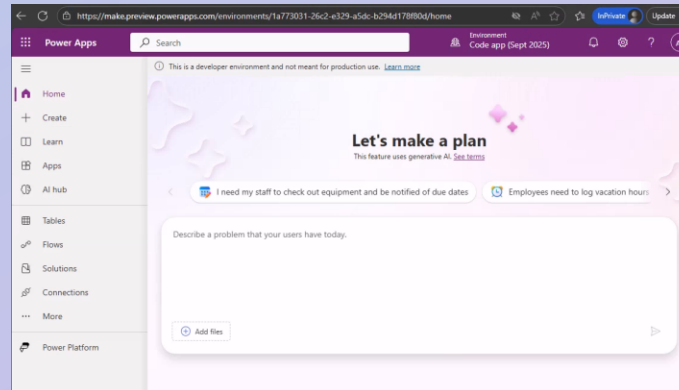


For end-users



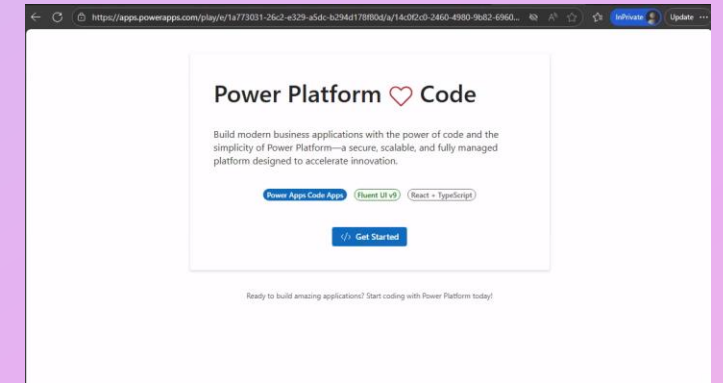
Copilot App Builder

For builders



Generative Pages
vibe.powerapps.com

For developers



Code Apps
Power Pages BYOC

Feature Comparison





App Builder

Personal and team productivity



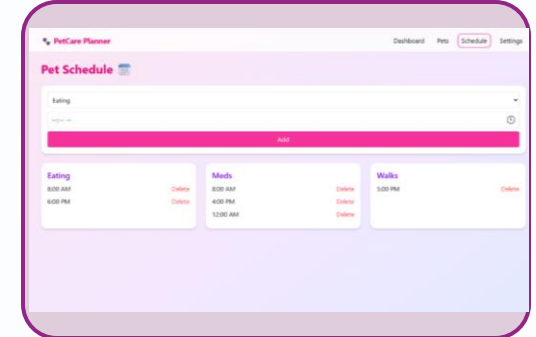
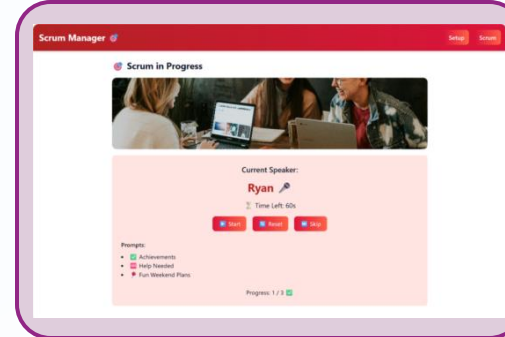
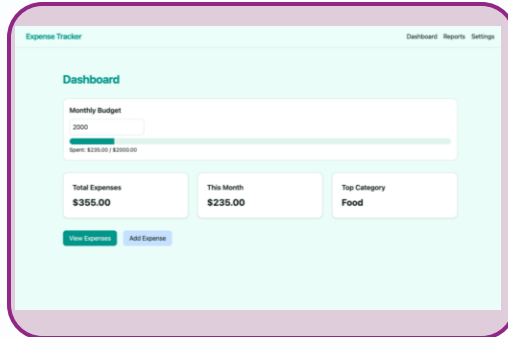
Power Apps

Enterprise value and scale

Maker experience	Prompt to app	Low/Pro code Prompt to code
Connectivity	Access to M365 Graph	Access to 1400+ connectors, incl. Premium connectors
Data Storage	SharePoint Lists 	Dataverse 
Automation	----	Cloud flows
Deployment	Embedded M365 Copilot experience only, Internal applications	Desktop, web, mobile Microsoft Teams Power Pages
Governance	Inherits M365, basic admin monitoring	Enterprise Full (Managed Environments, ALM)
Extensibility	Edited through agent	Native integration across Microsoft Pro-code extensibility



App Builder Scenarios



Productivity

- "Build a team scrum app that randomizes the order, and has a minute timer"
- "We host regular tech talks and need an app to manage scheduling and tracking"
- "I need an app to track our office inventory"

Presentation

- "I need to make a proposal to a customer for purchasing, include an interactive ROI and pricing calculator"
- "I need a timeline app that I can use to track product dates and releases, make sure I can drill in to understand more"

Prototyping

- "Design a landing page for a fictional startup with a hero section, feature blocks"
- I need a fast marketing page - clean typography, testimonial slider, and a simple signup form. Ship it with sample copy I can edit.

Play

- "Create a quiz app that tests users on world capitals with multiple choice buttons."
- "Create a simple app that lets users ask questions about cats and get fun facts in response."

AI-powered app building with Power Apps

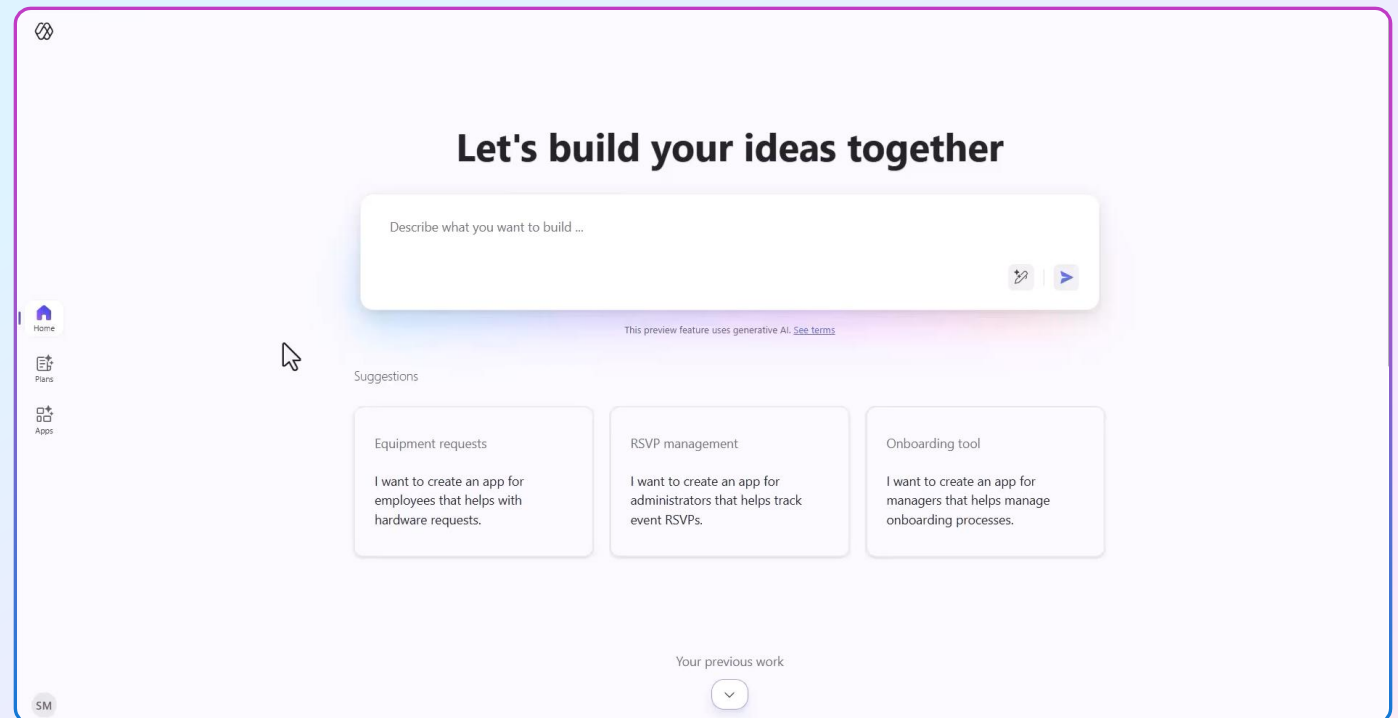
Work with a team of agents that builds full-stack apps on Vibe.PowerApps.com

Build with a team of agents: Automate requirements, solution architecture, and code generation

Enterprise power with Dataverse: Quickly visualize and edit relational tables, deploy to millions of users

Create great UX with ease: Beautiful theming, delightful animation, intuitive drag-and-drop design

Deploy on a robust platform: Solutions scale with great ALM, managed availability, security, and more





DEMO

Vibe.PowerApps.Com



Let's build your ideas together

Describe what you want to build ...

This preview feature uses generative AI. [See terms](#)

- Home
- Plans
- Apps

Suggestions

Equipment requests

I want to create an app for employees that helps with hardware requests.

RSVP management

I want to create an app for administrators that helps track event RSVPs.

Onboarding tool

I want to create an app for managers that helps manage onboarding processes.

Your previous work



Let's Get Real

GOOD FOR

1. Rapid Prototyping
2. AI Powered Assistance
3. Totally custom UI/UX
4. Ok giving up fine grain control

GUT CHECK

1. Currently a preview feature, US region only
2. Need Power Apps Premium + Copilot license (no idea what future licensing could be)
3. Currently only supports Dataverse
4. 4k character limit for prompts
5. Solution management isn't fully baked – added to preferred solution and if not set goes into default solution
6. Can't directly manipulate the code

Code Apps

Know it, Don't Fear It

WHAT IT IS

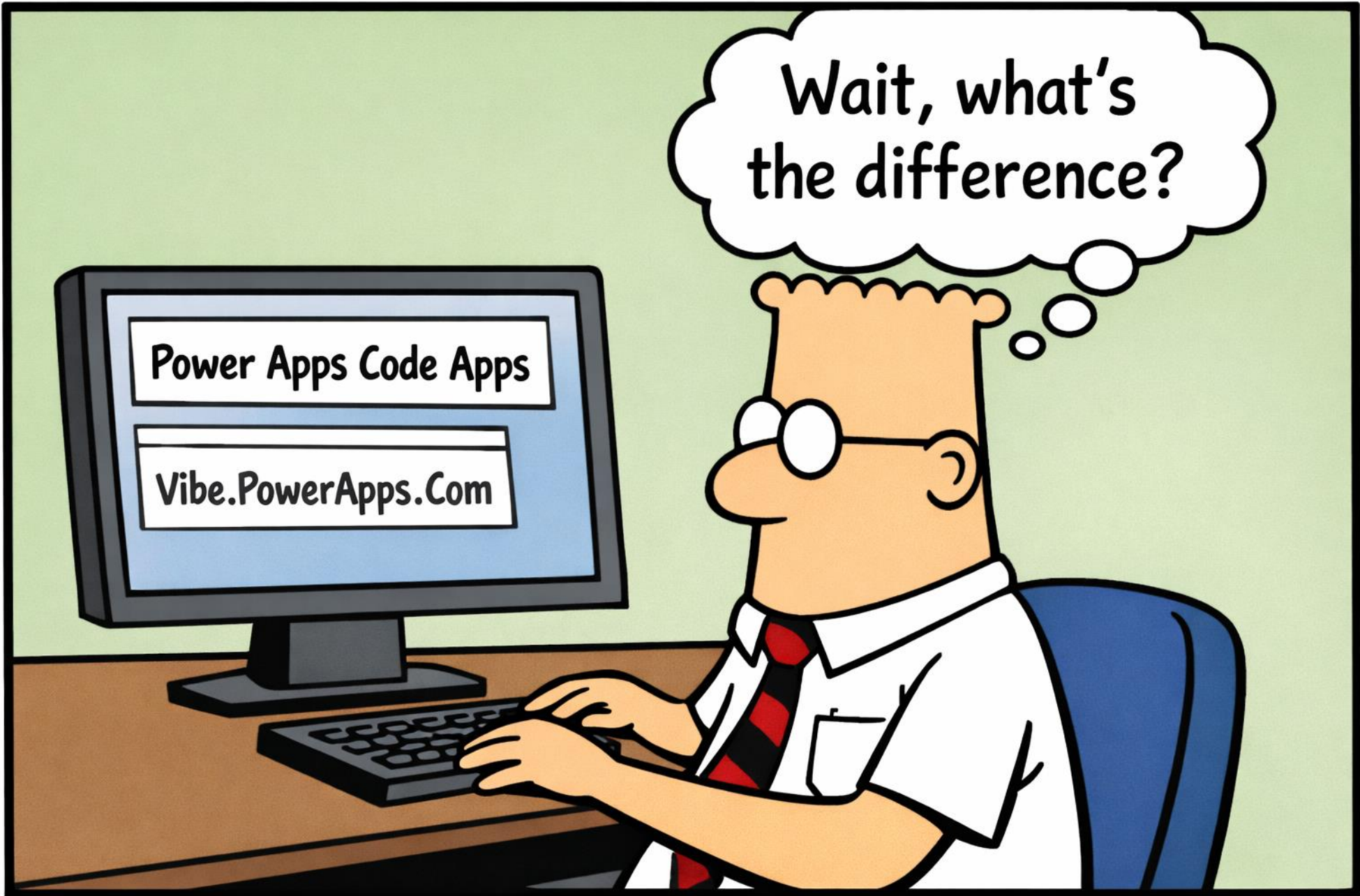
Full React/TypeScript apps in VS Code. Deployed on Power Platform. Enterprise governance, Dataverse, connectors, ALM in Power Platform but built with full code.

WHO IT'S FOR

Dev team comfortable with React and TypeScript. Complex UX requirements. When Power Fx genuinely isn't the right tool.

WHO IT'S NOT FOR

Maker teams without React experience.



Power Apps Code Apps

Full Code Editing in VSCode



Full Control of Code

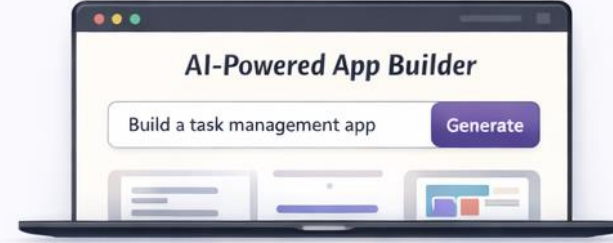
Manual Coding & GitHub Copilot



For Developers & Experienced Makers

Vibe.PowerApps.com

No-Code, Prompt-Based Creation



Easy Prompts

AI Generated App



Quick & Easy for Non-Coders

VS.

Same Full Code React App

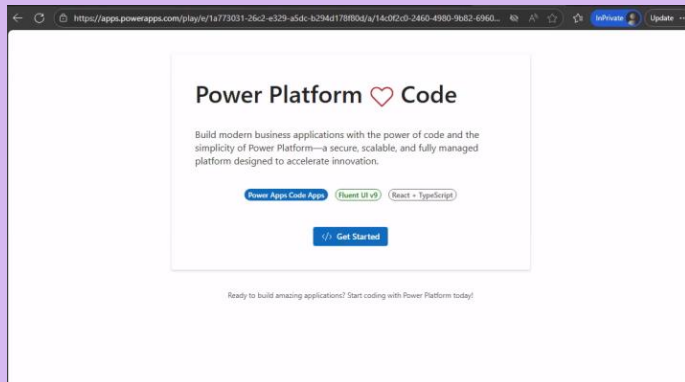
Direct Code Control

AI-Driven Creation



Code Apps

For developers



Code Apps

Manage

- Environments
- Environment groups
- Tenant settings
- Data
 - Data (preview)
 - Data integration
 - Data export

AI suggestions for formula columns Preview

Allow users to get AI suggestions when creating formula columns. Currently in preview. [Learn more](#)

Off

Natural language grid and view search Preview

Find your data in model-driven app views with the help of Copilot. [Learn more](#)

Power Apps Code Apps

Allow users to bring apps they've created outside Power Apps and run them in Power Apps. Note: if this setting is turned off, those apps will no longer run. Make sure that the code app is from a trusted source. [Learn more](#)

Enable code apps

On

Delete disabled users

Show the "Delete user" option in "Settings > Users" for disabled users, so you can permanently delete them from this



Show All Commands **Ctrl + Shift + P**

Open File **Ctrl + O**

Open Folder **Ctrl + K Ctrl + O**

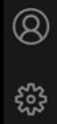
Open Recent **Ctrl + R**

Open Chat **Ctrl + Alt + I**

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

[Icons] pwsh + [Icons] [Close]

PS C:\Users\Fowu> |



Decision Guide

3 Questions to Ask Before You Build

3 Questions Before You Build

Q1

Who's building and maintaining?

- No-code maker → Just Describe It (vibe.powerapps.com, App Builder)
- Maker who knows the platform → Guide the Studio (Canvas + AI, MDA + Generative Pages), possibly Code Apps
- Developer → Code Apps

Q2

Where will users encounter this?

- Full-screen app they open intentionally → Standalone (Canvas, MDA, Code App)
- Mid-task inside Copilot / M365 apps → MDA + MCP, App Builder
- Agents operating autonomously → Invisible layer (Power Apps MCP, Dataverse Skills)

Q3

How complex and how long-lived?

- Quick prototype or single-purpose personal apps → vibe.powerapps.com or App builder
- Departmental solution, 6–18 months → Canvas or MDA with proper ALM
- Enterprise system, long-lived → Code Apps, Canvas or MDA + Code for custom layers

The Framework in Action — 3 Real Scenarios

Scenario 1: HR needs an expense tracker; maker team; runs in Teams daily

Q1: Maker team → Guide the Studio

Q2: In Teams daily → Standalone embedded in Teams

Q3: Medium complexity, long-lived → Canvas + Dataverse + ALM

Recommendation:

Canvas App + Teams integration or potentially vibe.powerapps app

Scenario 2: Sales wants a tool to get Dataverse account data in M365 Copilot

Q1: No builder needed — MDA already exists

Q2: In Copilot → MDA + MCP

Q3: Read and create records; no complex logic

Recommendation:

MDA + Power Apps MCP

Scenario 3: Startup needs a custom benefits signup app; dev team comfortable with React

Q1: Pro-dev team → Code It zone

Q2: App with custom UI need → Standalone (web)

Q3: Long-lived, complex UX requirements

Recommendation:

Code Apps (React)

These Paths Are Not Mutually Exclusive

You can combine multiple paths for full enterprise solutions. Here's an example:

Field Service Management System



Canvas App

Field tech mobile app — logs jobs, captures photos, gets signatures.



Model-Driven

Back-office dispatch, work orders, SLA tracking, business rules. Might have gen pages for custom UI.



Code App

Company portal for job status and invoices.



MDA + MCP

Work orders surface in Copilot for managers



Power Apps MCP in an Agent

Auto-assigns jobs, drafts customer updates, flags SLA risk via MCP.

The Honest Maintainability Table

01

Canvas (Studio):

Power Fx. Maker-maintained. Fully governable. Still the right answer for most internal apps. Your home base.

02

Canvas (GitHub CLI):

Power Fx. Makers can maintain it in Studio. The CLI is just the fast advanced build/edit path. Output is identical.

03

MDA + Generative Pages:

Maker maintained. Generated React pages benefit from someone who can read TypeScript for deep edits.

04

Vibe Apps:

React output. Great for POCs. Be honest about long-term ownership before committing.

05

Code Apps:

TypeScript/React. Developer artifact. Explicitly not a maker-maintenance path.

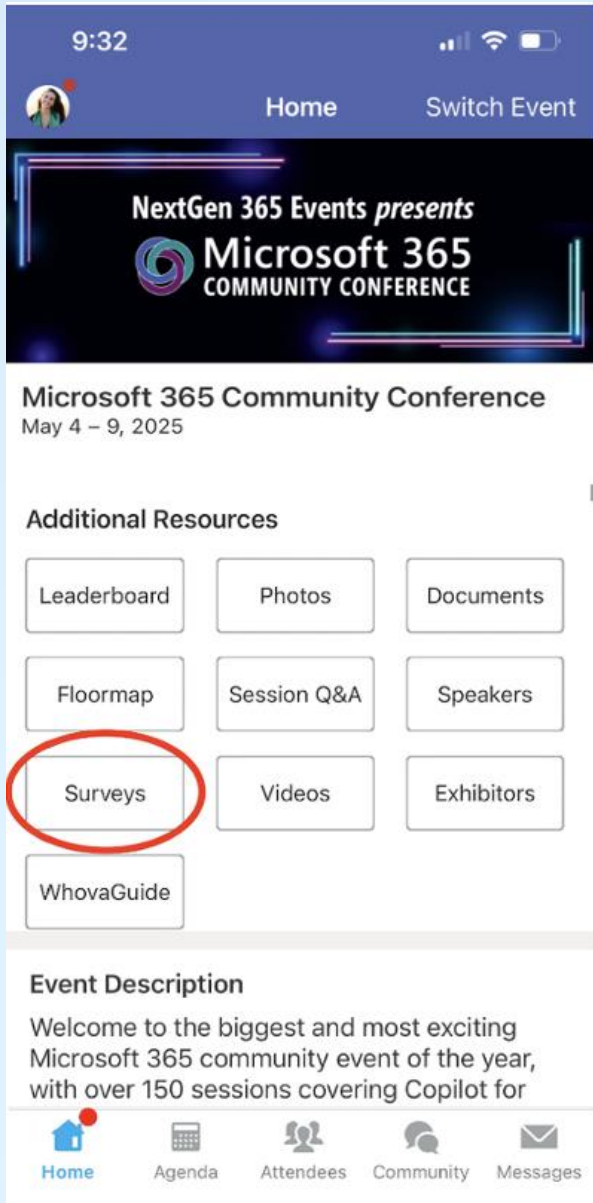


Keep building what you know.

Add one new thing.

That's today's ask.

You don't have to start over. You don't have to learn everything at once. Pick one but and try it this month.



Session feedback surveys

We want to hear from YOU!

Share your feedback to make next years conference even better!

Here's how –

- Simply go to the Whova App on your smartphone.
- Scroll down on the M365 Community Conference Homepage to 'Additional Resources' to click "Surveys".
- Click Session Feedback.
- Scroll down to find this session title.
- Complete the session feedback survey.
- Finally, click 'Submit'.

It's just that easy!

Keep Learning



Agent Academy (free, open-source AI agent curriculum)

aka.ms/agent-academy



Generative Pages docs

learn.microsoft.com/power-apps/maker/model-driven-apps/generative-pages



Canvas App AI code generation tools

learn.microsoft.com/power-apps/maker/canvas-apps/create-canvas-external-tools



Power Apps MCP

aka.ms/appskills/get-started



Dataverse Skills

github.com/microsoft/Dataverse-skills



April on YouTube

youtube.com/@aprildunnam