



A guide to Low-Code Plugins aka Functions aka who even knows anymore



Agenda

- Who am I?
- What are low-code plugins?
- Why and when to use them?
- How do they work? DEMO
- How do they compare to pro-code plugins?
- Conclusions



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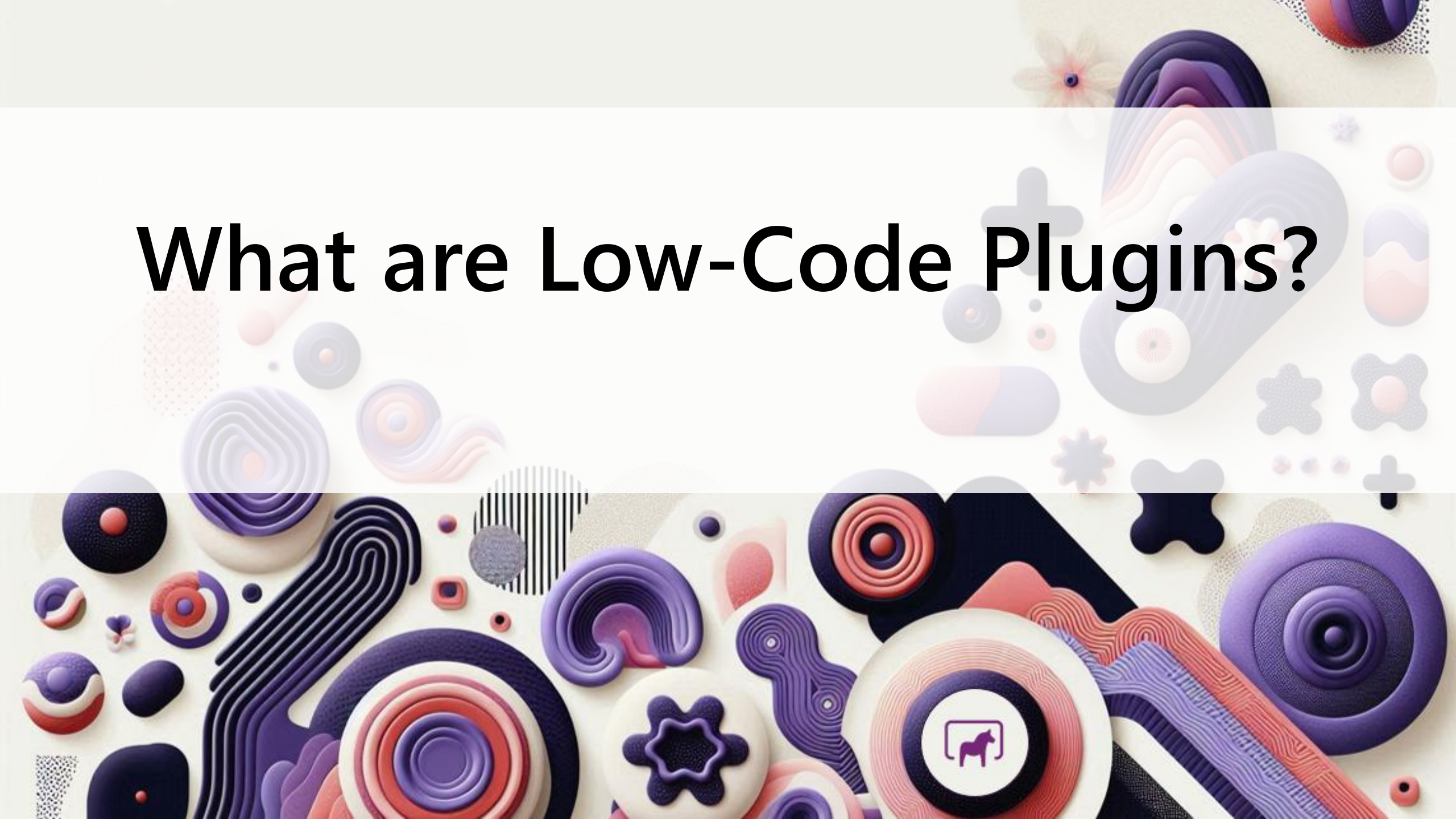
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<https://saralagerquist.com>

- Arbetat med Platformen sen 2013
- Startade som slutanvändare
- Blev konsult 2015
- Startade PPCS 2019
- MVP sen 2019
- Paus 2021 🤖
- Åker runt i världen och pratar på konferenser
- En av organisatörerna för Nordic Summit

What are Low-Code Plugins?



How Microsoft describes it...

“Traditionally, plug-ins were created as custom classes compiled into a .NET Framework assembly, which were then uploaded and registered within Dataverse. However, with the introduction of low-code plug-ins, users can create these event handlers with minimal or no coding required, and without the need for manual registration.”



What are Low-Code Plugins?

- Preview feature (private/public forth and back a bit)
- Reusable logic
- Written in PowerFx
- **Can be invoked in both apps, flows and agents**
- Server-side logic
- Sync logic
- Use connectors and custom connectors in the PowerFx-code
- Two types: Instant and Automated



When and Why use Low-Code Plugins?

Instant

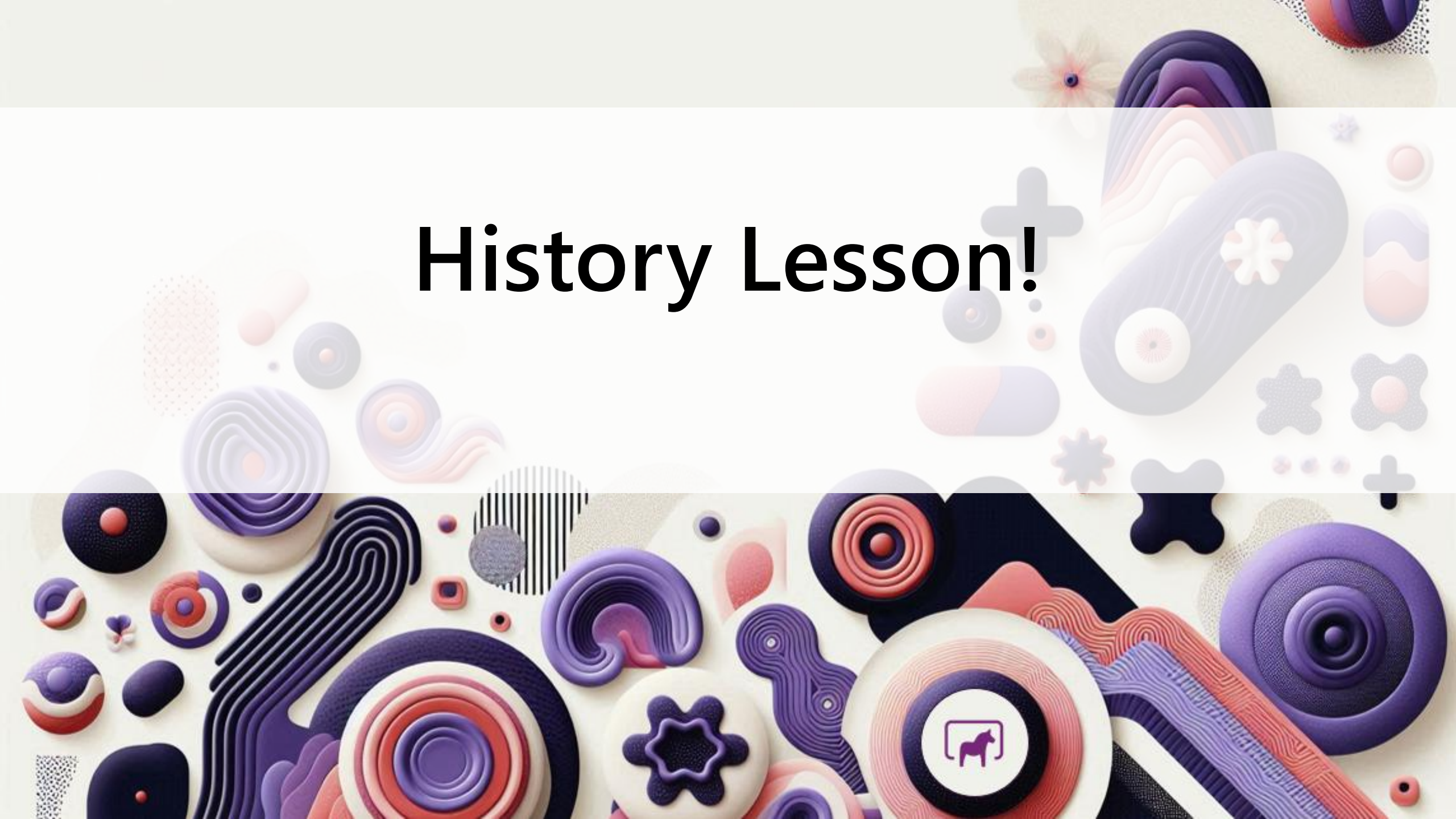
- Reusable functions
- Power Fx not as accessible in Power Automate
- Easy to add to an Agent
- Use cases: simpler solutions, same logic called in several places

Automated

- GAP in the Platform
- Update Rollup-functionality to RealTime
- Upgrade from RT-workflows
- Use cases: Validation, naming records



History Lesson!





Low-Code Plugins History

- Actually Public Preview 2023
- Released with the Power CAT “Accelerator App”

[Power Apps](#) · 4 min read

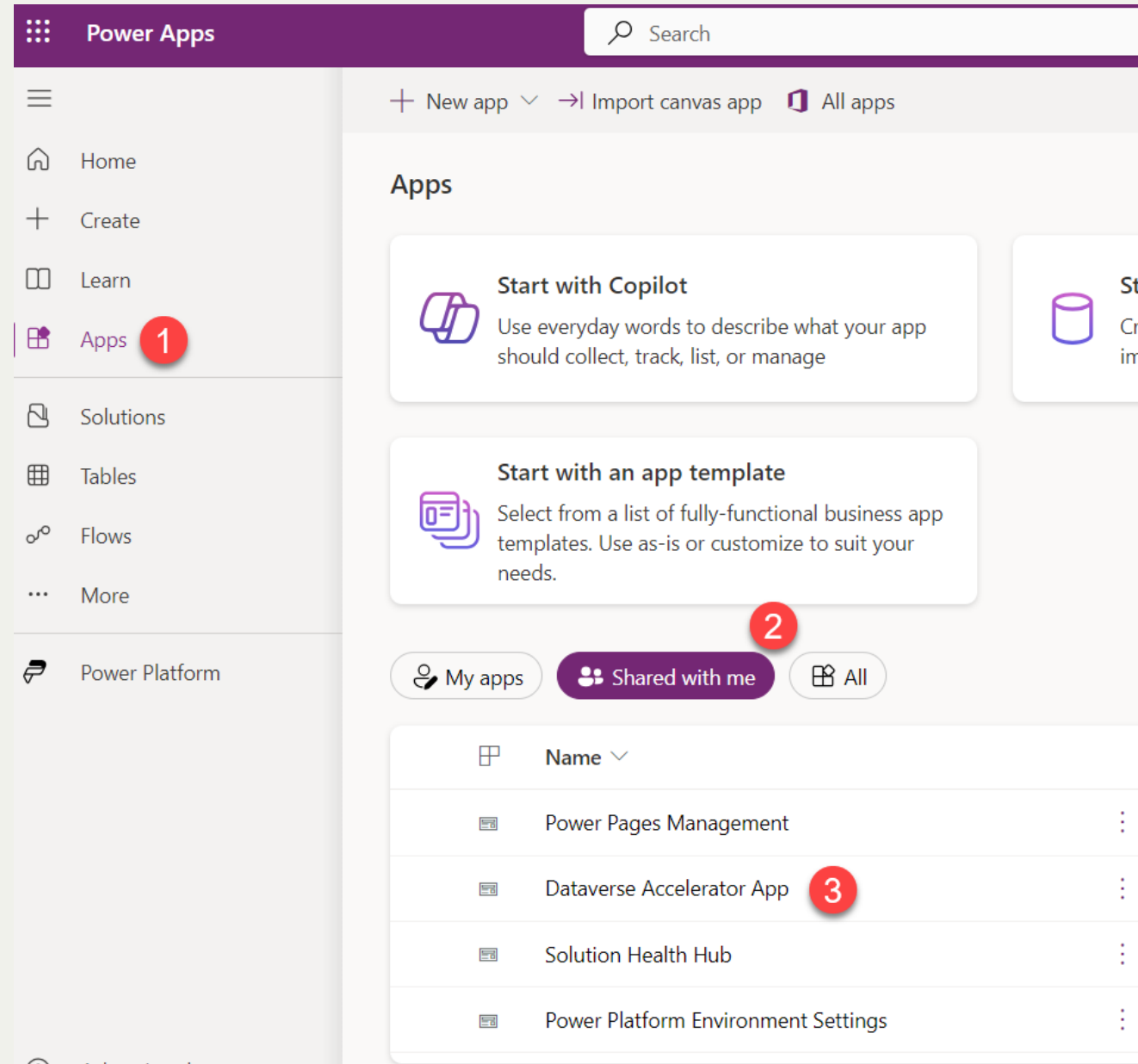
Dataverse Low Code Plug-ins now in public preview

By [Divya Kamath](#)

October 10, 2023

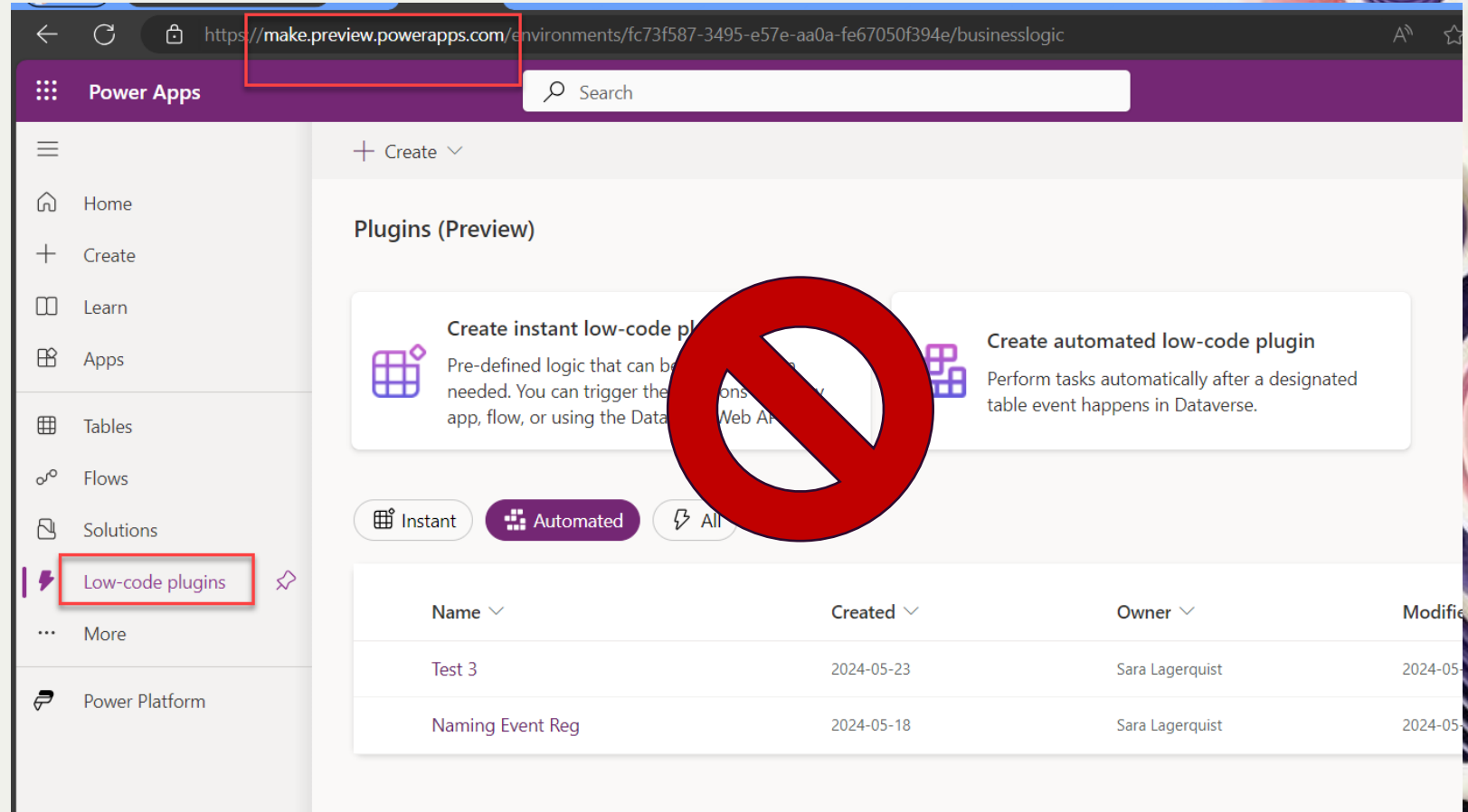
History

- Accelerator App from Power CAT Team
 - Preinstalled in most environments
 - New environments doesn't seem to have this app anymore



History

- A month in may 2024...
- In the maker portal in preview
- Removed two weeks later 🤔
- Then silence.



In walks... Functions



Release Planner – “Functions”

Public Preview Feb 2025

Build your low code hyperscale backend on Dataverse

Author Power Fx functions in Power Apps

Public Preview
Feb 2025



Drive business value by streamlining your development process, enabling cost-effective and flexible solutions, while democratizing the ability to create and manage business logic.

This makes Power Apps a more powerful and scalable platform for organizations like yours, allowing you to build tailored, business-critical applications with minimal resources while maintaining control and governance.

Share

Learn more

Available to:

Admins | Makers

Last updated:

Dec 05, 2024

Timelines:

- Early Access: ---
- Public Preview: **Feb 2025**
- General Availability : **Mar 2025**

Included in:

Microsoft Dataverse
2024 release wave 2

[Read release overview](#)

[Download wave summary](#)

Enabled for:

Admins, makers, marketers, or analysts,
automatically

This feature is meant to be used by administrators,
makers, or business analysts and is enabled
automatically.

Change history



Functions vs Instant Low-Code Plugins

Functions

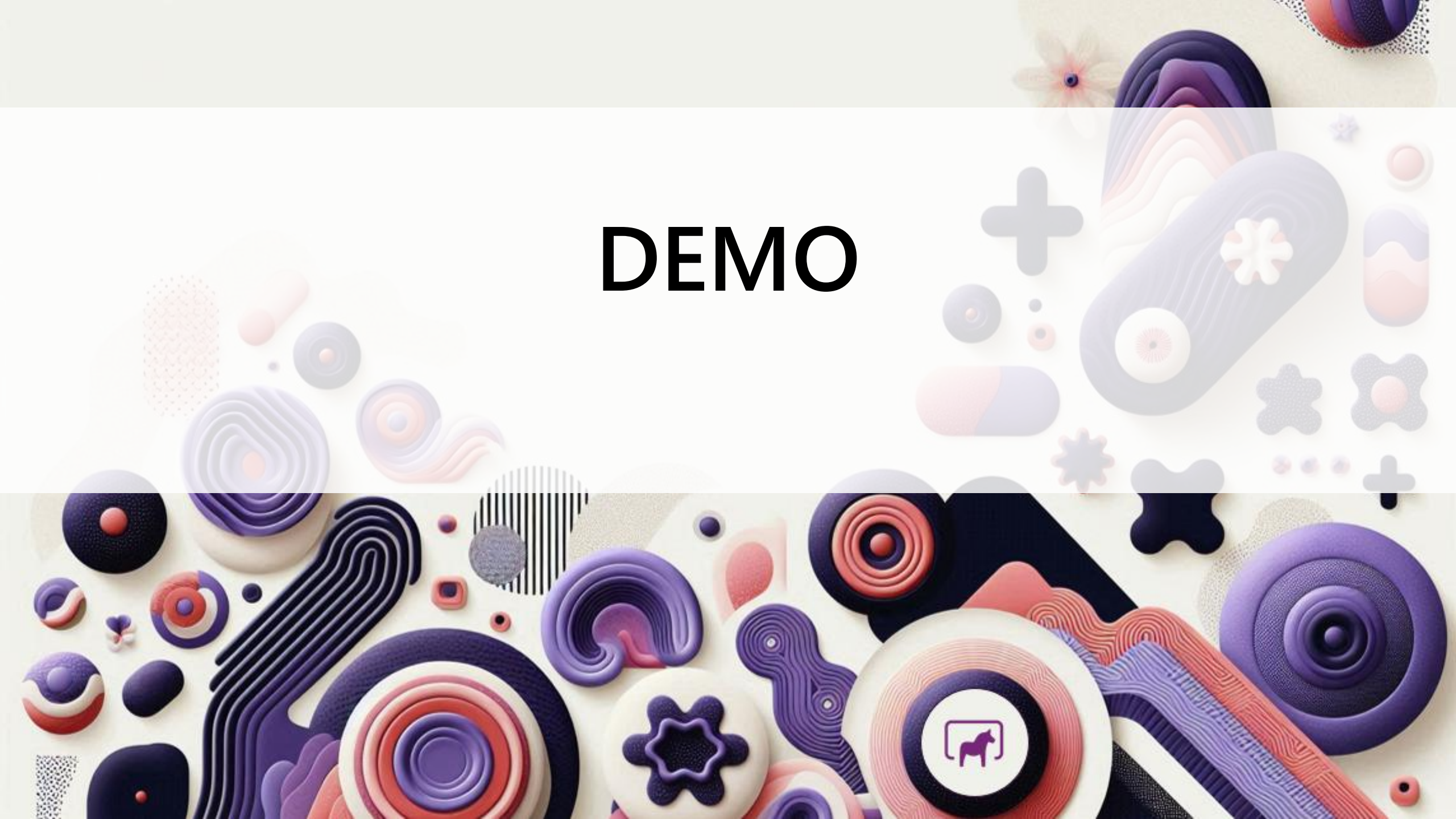
- In the navigate on menu in maker portal
- No connector functionality (yet?)

Instant Low-Code Plugins

- Accelerator App from Power CAT
- Could use connectors



DEMO



DEMO

- Where to Navigate to get Started
- How it looks in a solution
- How it is used in a Power Automate Flow
- How it is used in a Canvas App/Custom Page
- How it is used in Copilot Studio/an Agent

**But what about
the automated
low-code
plugins?**



Automated Low-code Plugins

- Nothing in the release notes
- Nothing in the same UI as Functions
- Still accessible from the Accelerator App



Compare Plugins

| Function | Pro-Code | Low-Code |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Messages | Create, Update, Delete, Assign, Share, Win, Lost | Create, Update, Delete |
| Column triggers | Can specify columns | Not configurable (yet?) |
| Execution Order | Configurable | Not configurable |
| Enablement | Can be deactivated | Not able to deactivate (in UI) |
| Performance | | Abstraction layer of Power Fx |



This is a vertical, abstract collage with a light cream background. It features a variety of colorful, layered shapes. Dominating the composition are several circular and semi-circular forms with concentric rings in shades of purple, pink, and red. Some of these shapes have a 3D, paper-cut appearance. Interspersed among these are more organic, wavy, and elongated shapes in similar color palettes. A notable element is a circular shape with horizontal black and white stripes. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a small circular icon containing a purple silhouette of a horse standing within a rectangular frame. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic, with a focus on color and form.



-

Summary

Instant

- Instant is now called “Functions”
- Public Preview in February 2025
- Available from the navigation in the maker portal
- Creates a Custom API in the Solution

Automated

- Not announced anywhere
- Creates a Plugin Step in the Solution



Summary Problems

- IntelliSense is slightly different than other PowerFx editors
- Format is missing
- Small box became smaller box
- Can't choose both create and update (for instant)
- Can't add to solution (only by setting default solution)
- ~~Can't edit from solution~~
- Lot's of components in the solution 🙄
- Functions are not very googleble
- Missing configuration in the UI like: triggering attributes, rank etc
- Microsoft Learn site is not updated
- Supported to use functions to call other functions but can't deploy them because of dependencies



It's in PREVIEW



Years and not ready yet?



Q&A





Tack!
