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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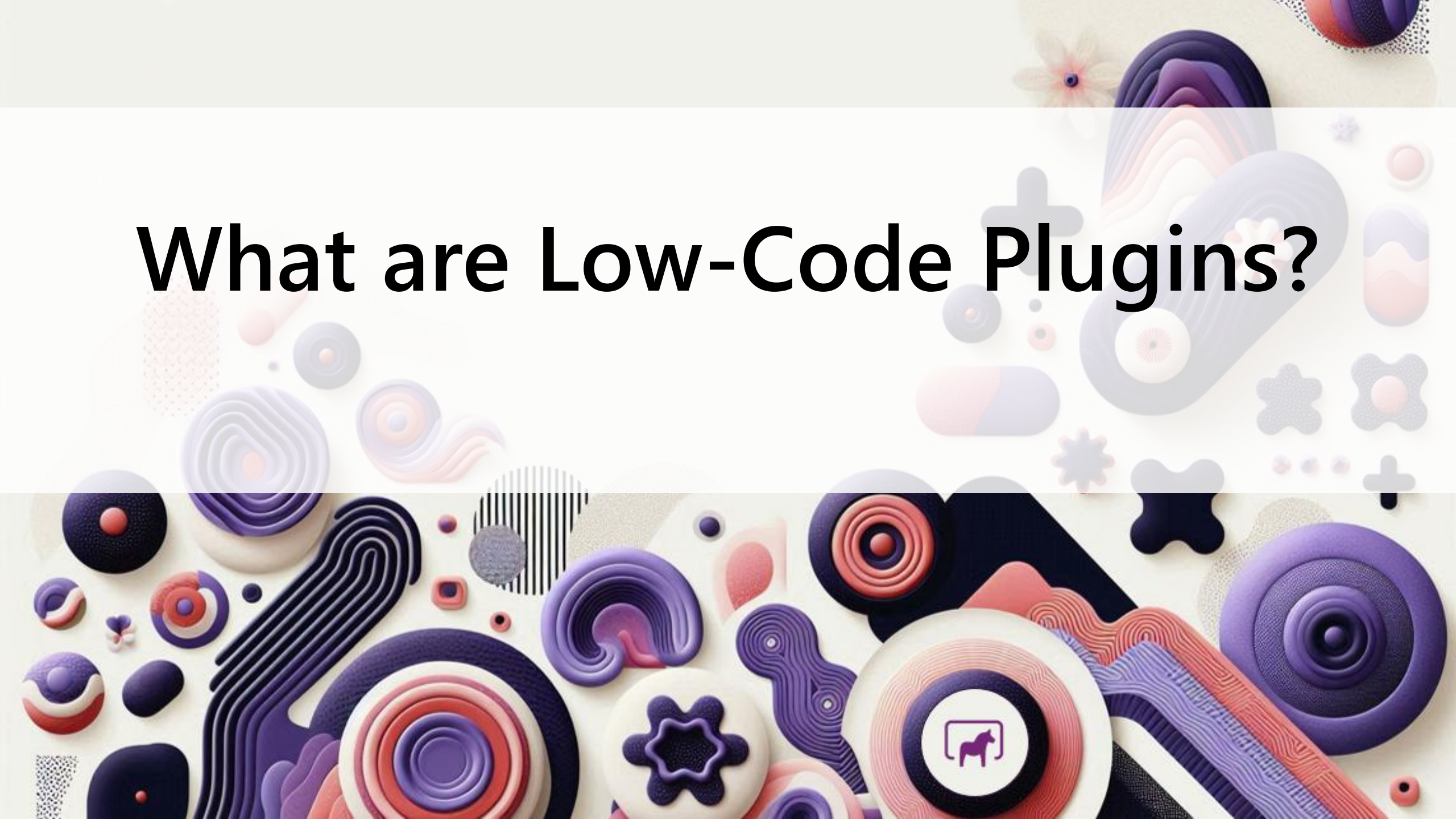
✍️ https://saralagerquist.com

- 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

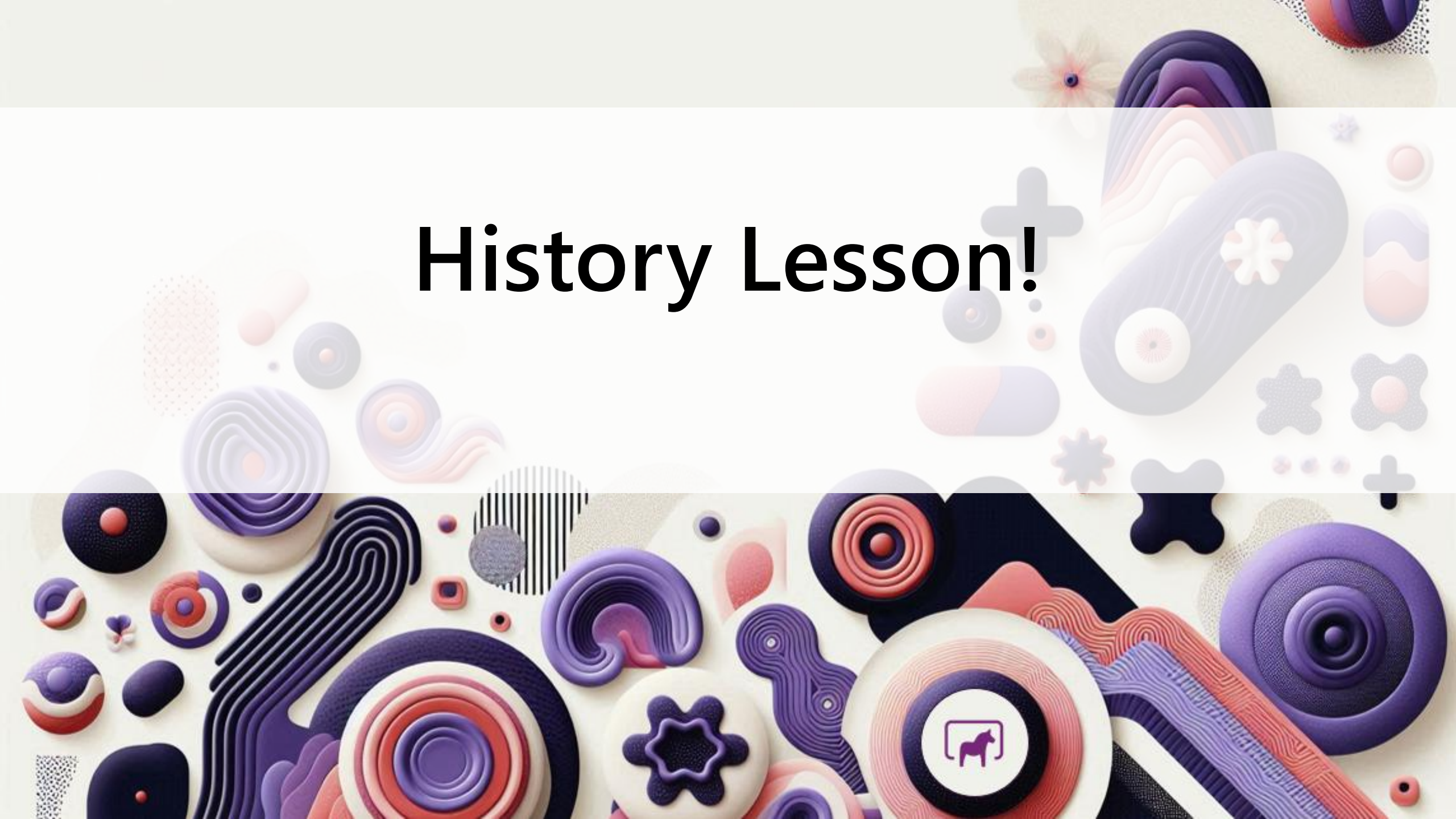# When and Why use Low-Code Plugins?

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
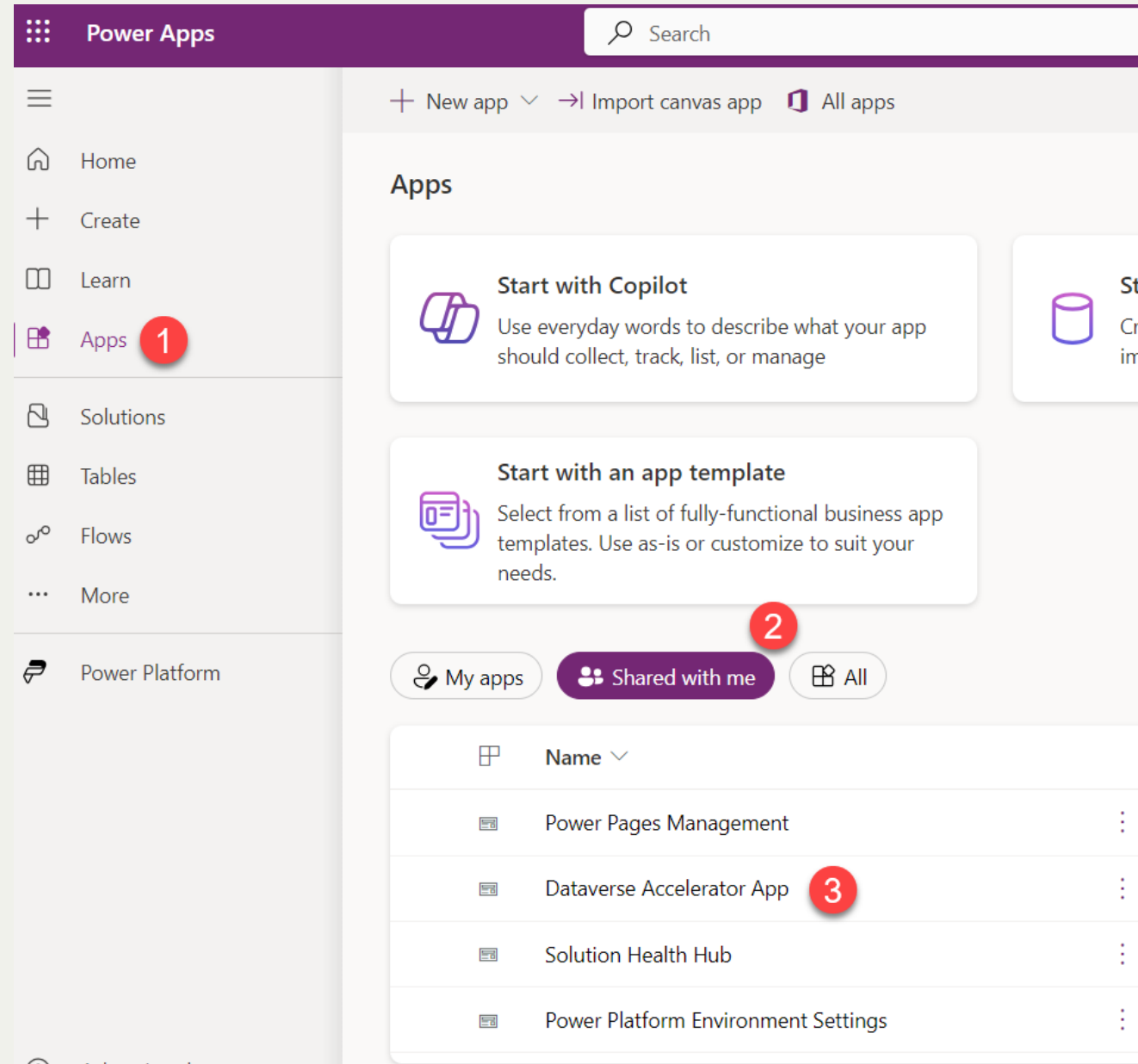- Released with the Power CAT "Accelerator App"

Power Apps · 4 min read

Dataverse Low Code Plug-ins now in public preview
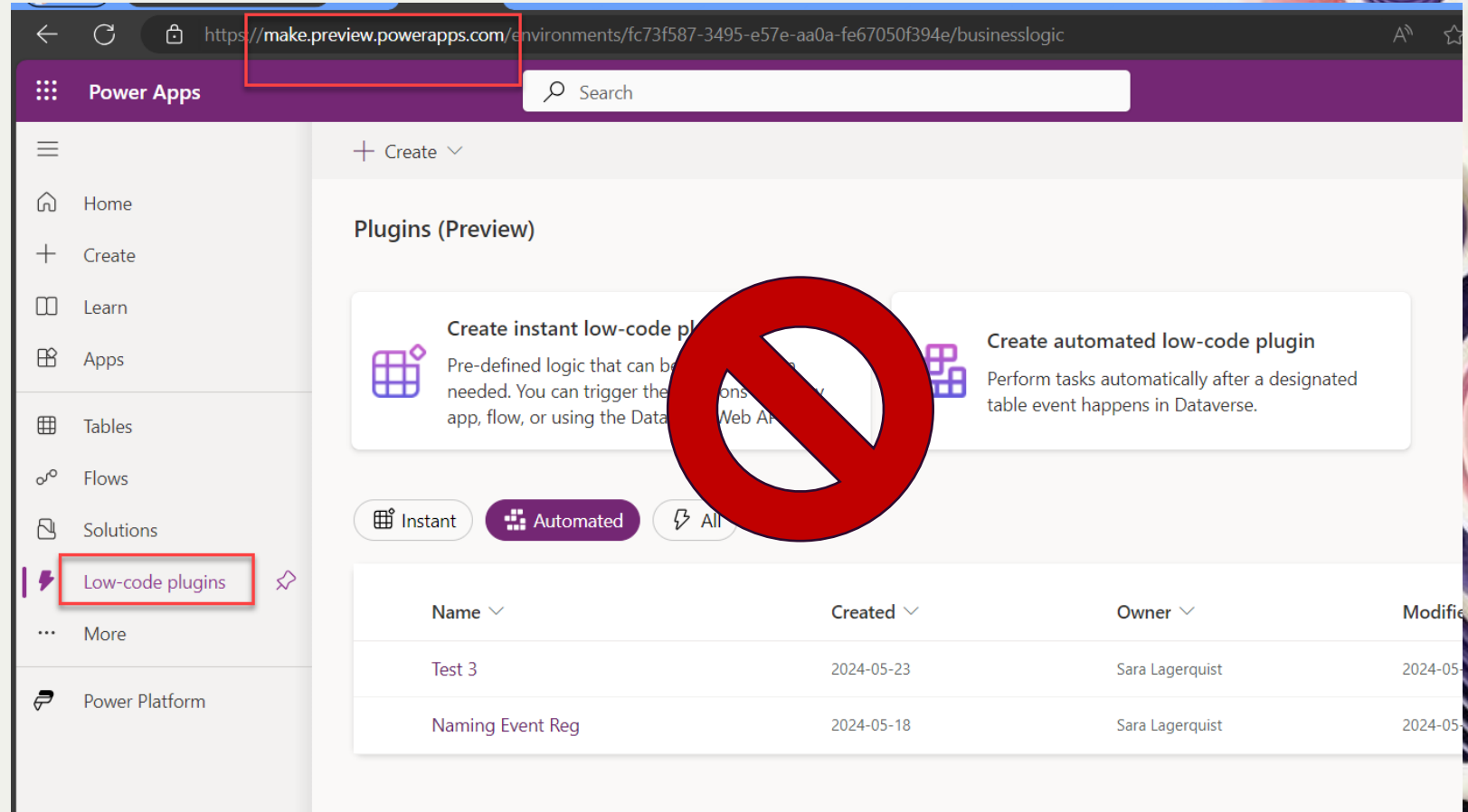
By Divya Kamath

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

Functions vs Instant Low-Code Plugins
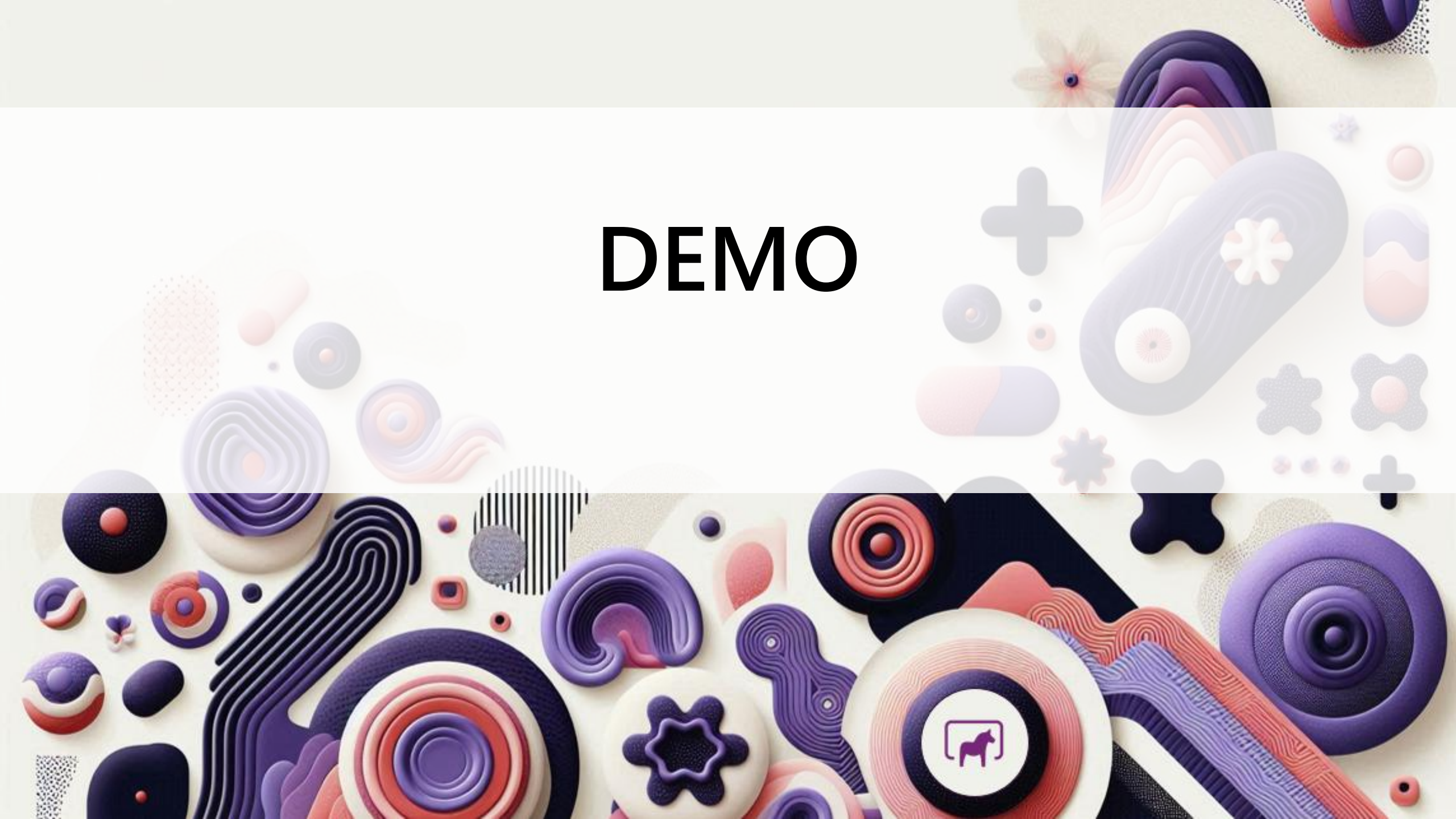
Functions

- 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?

SOMEONE TELL ME, WHAT IS HAPPENING!

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

Update Low-Code Plugins in Plugin Registration Tool

Update Low-Code Plugins in Plugin Registration Tool

- Update Execution Order

- Update triggering attributes

- Able to deactivate

- Update stage (pre, post) works but are not reflected back in the UI

- Update message from create to update breaks the plugin

- Update message from create to createmultiple works 🤔

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!