KPMG
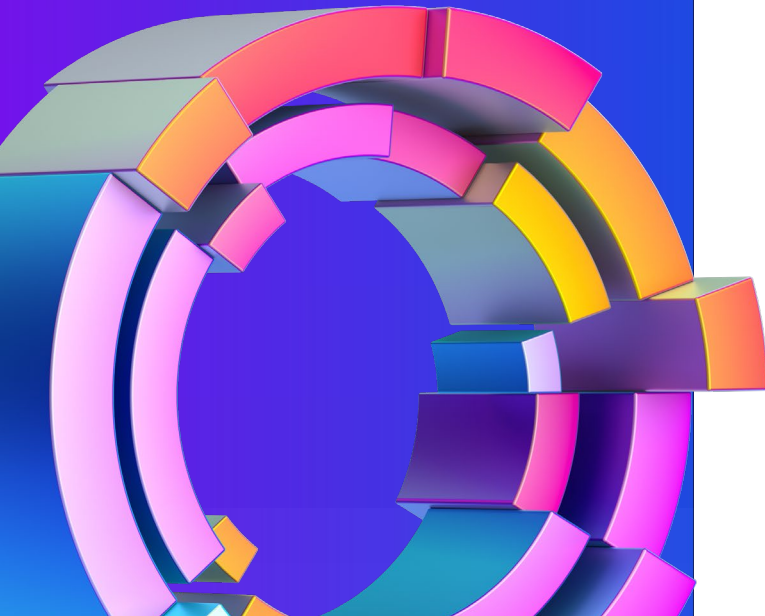
Accelerate Innovation with Low Code

Automate your everyday time-consuming tasks with low-code technologies.

Unlock the power of automation thanks to low-code revolution

Companies around the world face the constant need for digital transformation to adapt their business to the dynamically changing market environment. Every day new ways to increase staff productivity and automate time-consuming, repetitive, error-prone processes are being developed. However, even with dedicated IT departments, many companies struggle to satisfy the internal needs of reflecting new processes in IT solutions to improve work. It becomes even more challenging due to fierce competition for top talents on the market, which has left a shortage of professional developers to meet the demands of all companies.

Who can benefit from adapting low-code applications?

The implementation of low-code applications has eliminated the technical barrier and opened the door for much broader range of non-technical users. Creating applications and automating processes is much easier thanks to implementation of easy to use and simple commands or visual elements such as drag-and-drop. Low-code automation has a positive effect on work of:

Business users:

Allowing non-technical business users to develop and deploy applications that meet their specific needs and improve every-day efficiency as well as ensure a high quality data source for analysis.

IT professionals & developers:

Reducing developers' workload allowing them to focus on more complex projects. Moreover, facilitation of quick development and deployment of advanced applications by providing pre-built templates.

Managers:

Improving efficiency and productivity by streamlining business processes and automating repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on strategic initiatives.

Benefits of Microsoft Power Platform Low Code

Low Code brings new possibilities and value to the organization opening the door of automation to a wide range of business users and IT professionals. Low code can boost organizational agility and empower employees to quickly build professional-grade apps that solve business challenges.

Fast development
Creating a business application with low code tools is usually much faster than creating similar application using professional code. Many applications can be created and put into use in a matter of few weeks.

Easy integration
Power Platform has over 350 connectors that can be used to connect to source systems or other applications. It is also possible to create custom connectors that will connect to the selected API.

Faster digital transformation
Because low code solutions are faster to create and do not require pro developers to be created, the digital transformation of the company can occur faster and on a larger scale.

Cost reduction
Low code applications and flows do not require pro developers to be created, they can be developed by business users or less advanced IT professionals.

Flexibility
Low code applications and flows are easier to edit or modify when business assumptions have changed or new modules/processes need to be added.
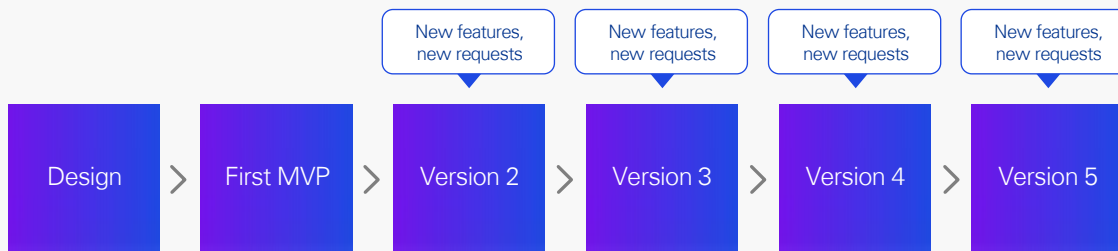
Accessibility
Power Platform applications can be accessed via Web on any device without installing any software.

Low Code project development
Source: Microsoft

New features, new requests

New features, new requests

New features, new requests

New features, new requests

Design > First MVP > Version 2 > Version 3 > Version 4 > Version 5

With „waterfall" model or even more modern agile approach, it may take several months from starting the project to introducing users with first, working MVP of the application.
Benefiting from Low Code technology, Power Apps can significantly reduce this time and start engaging users already at a very early stages of the project providing fast results to users and crucial feedback to developers early on.

Power Apps and Power Automate as a part of Power Platform capabilities

Microsoft's answer to the growing demand for digital transformation and the simultaneous lack of a sufficient number of pro developers is Power Platform which, consists of several Low Code tools that can be successfully used by both pro developers as well as business users. In the core of Power Platform automation solutions, there are two universal tools - Power Apps and Power Automate – which combined can create multiple automatic solutions to daily challenges.

Power Apps

allows to easily create business applications for daily use in variety of areas from creating daily to-do list, managing timesheet or desk booking to more complex like budgeting & planning, inventory management, expense approvals, financial acceptance flows or helpdesk app.
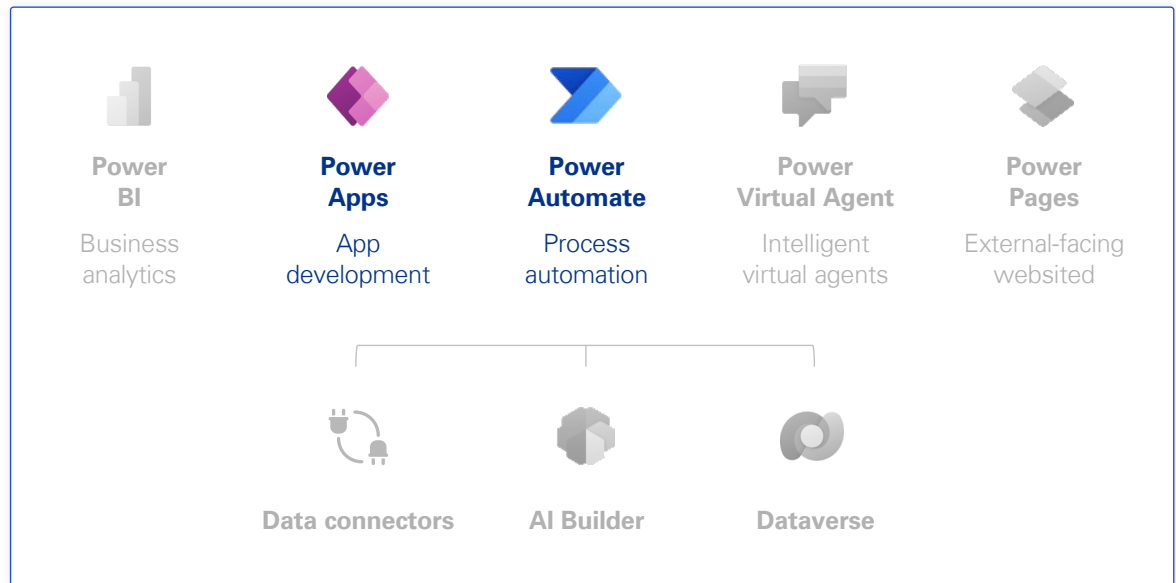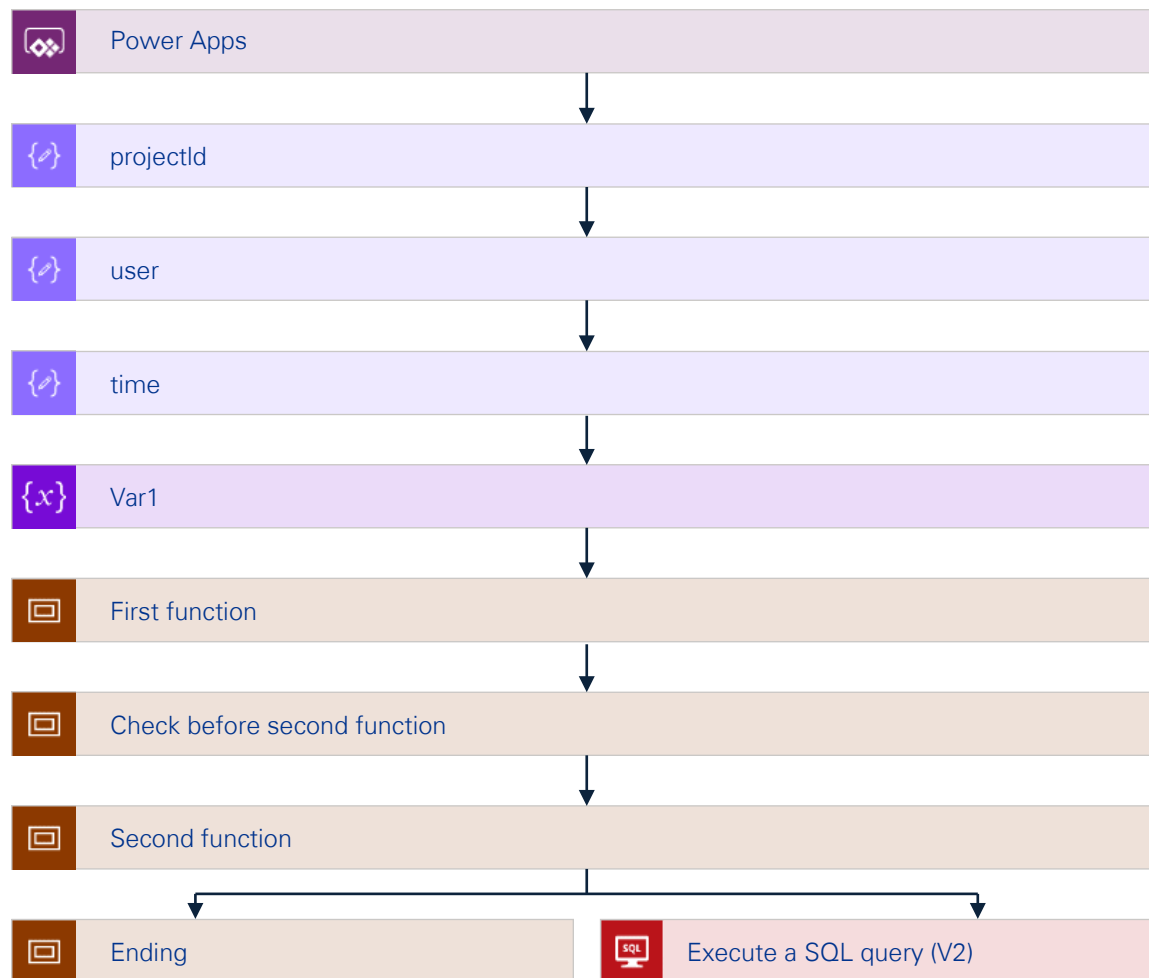
Power Automate

allows to create business process automation for repetitive tasks such as – saving emails attachments, merging files (Excel, Word etc.) from different sources and users, integrating customers' orders and many others more advanced and customized processes.

Microsoft Power Platform

Power BI	Power Apps	Power Automate	Power Virtual Agent	Power Pages
Business analytics	App development	Process automation	Intelligent virtual agents	External-facing websited

Data connectors   AI Builder   Dataverse

Creating workflows and processes with Power Automate

Power Apps

projectId

user

time

Var1

First function

Check before second function

Second function

Ending

Execute a SQL query (V2)

Power Automate combines technologies of robotic process automation (RPA) and digital process automation (DPA) with easy to use interface and simple commands, making automation available for non-technical users.

Power Automate uses tools and methods (pre-built components such as drag and drop or select) to create automated processes. Users can base on ready templates or develop a whole process from scratch.

Each process needs to start with a trigger – an event triggering the action like incoming email or updating value in Dataverse record. Power automate provides a variety of triggers that consist of 3 categories: automated, instant and scheduled.

Each action is possible to be executed thanks to connectors - tools that allow Power Automate to integrate with both Power Platform, Azure as well as external services like Twitter. Currently in Power Automate there are available more than 350 connectors and additional option to create custom connectors to various APIs.

# Creating business applications with Power Apps

Power Apps provides a low-code development platform that allows users to build web and mobile apps that connect to various data sources and services.
Apps can be created in two types: Canvas App or Model-driven App

Canvas App

allows users to create dedicated application from scratch with full control over visual and functional aspects. They can be connected to many data sources and further integrated with other Microsoft services, such as Power BI or Microsoft Teams – creating a complete end-to-end solution. Canvas Apps are simple and intuitive - best suited for scenarios where the app's functionality is more important than its data structure.

Model-driven App

provides more structured approach to app development, which can be beneficial for large and complex application where data structure is more important than design and functionality. It provides consistent and responsive interface while allowing to create own relational data models supported by business rules, built-in data validation and security components such as Security Roles.
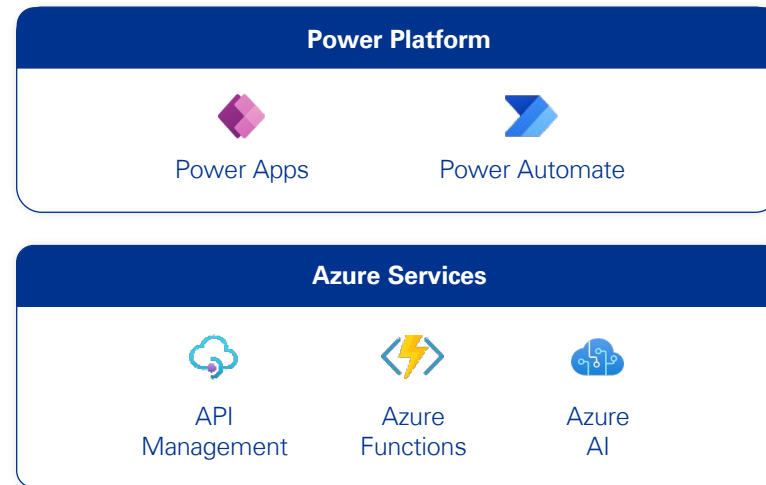

Canvas App

Model-driven App
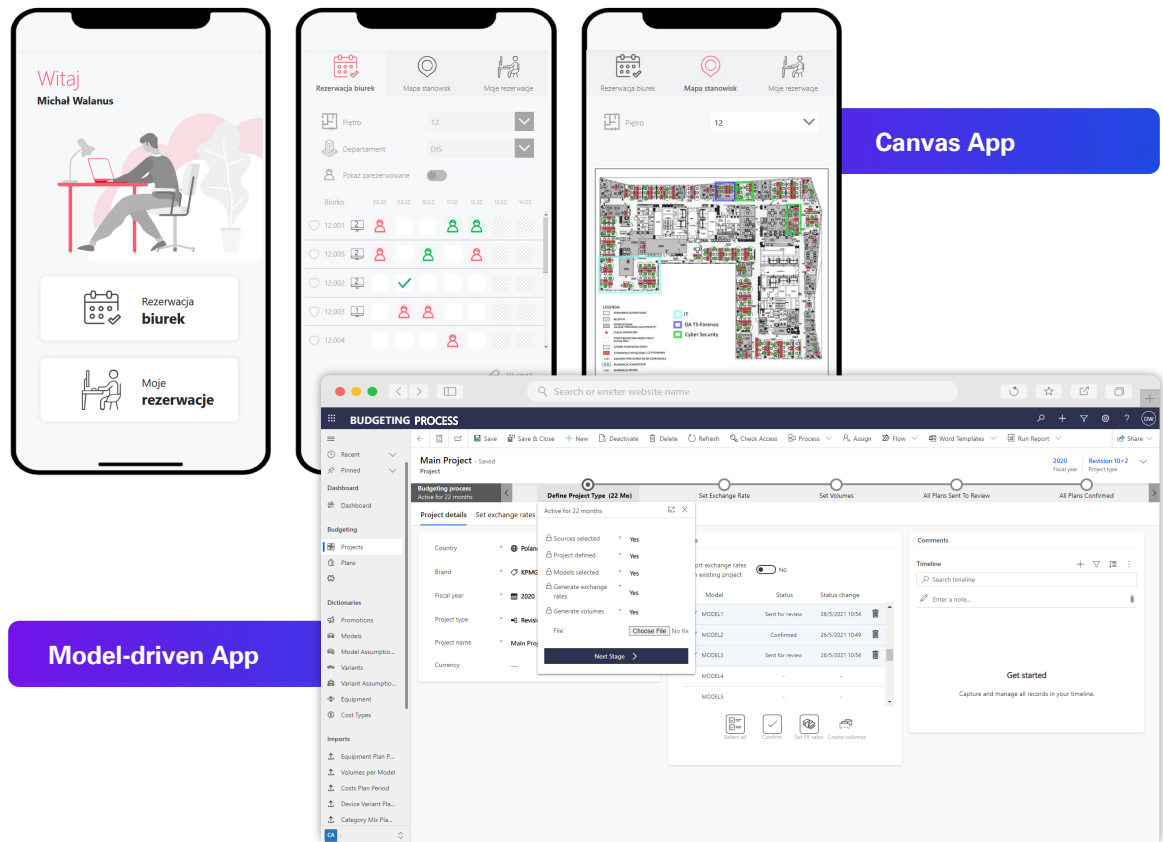
The ease of development with low-code applications can also brings implications that are best managed if addressed upfront

Automated solutions bring benefits like reducing the time and errors linked inevitably to all manual processes, accelerating information flow or improving user's experience. Therefore, they can be applied across many business areas, roles and functions within and outside of the organization creating wide flow of the data.

Moreover, the development process differ from the classic professional approach. With Power Apps and Power Automate, solutions are often created collaboratively by pro-developers and business users

Therefore, the low-code adaptation process implies several factors.

Azure DevOps

Business User

Power Platform

Power Apps   Power Automate

Azure Services

API Management   Azure Functions   Azure AI

Pro Developer

Understanding the implications and best practices can accelerate the succesful journey with Low Code:

Adapting ALM – despite the broad availability and ease of creation of low-code solutions, application lifecycle management (ALM) practices should still be considered for creation, development and maintenance:

1. **Make sure that your IT department is familiar with Power Platform Center of Excellence Kit** – it will greatly help managing users, applications and environments.

2. **Set good practices for your citizen developers** - naming conventions, dedicated environments, documentation for apps and flows – these are just a few good practices that you can adapt in your company.

3. **Consider using Azure DevOps for critical apps** – although it is recommended to use Azure DevOps at early stage of the project, it is never too late to integrate it for crucial apps even after development is done.

Data security – it is important to understand where data is stored and how it is used by different services or connectors. Make sure that connectors you want to use meet your organization's security standards. Don't share your environments and application with everyone - define security roles and teams that best fit your organization.

Custom development – some complex functionalities can't be created using only low code tools, make sure that your business users can always ask for support of experienced developers.
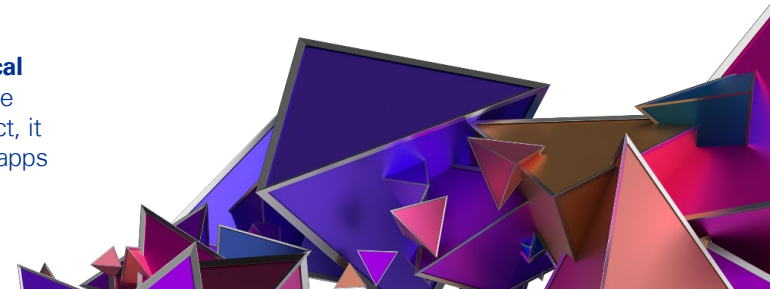
Be a part of the low-code revolution with support of experienced and passionate KPMG Team
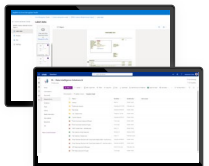
Low-code applications are the next step towards greater productivity and user experience. Knowing it's potential and best practices KPMG Team is ready to support you on the way to discover the true value of automation for your organization.

Low-code applications bring together the technology and business to generate value. That's why KPMG provides not only technical, but also business support in identifying needs, designing, UX/UI, implementing and maintaining automation solutions using Power Apps and Power Automate. KPMG experience in process automation covers many projects including:

Power Automate
Custom Power Automate flow extracting data from invoices
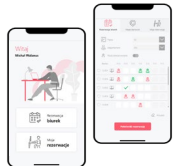
Launched on demand from SharePoint library;

Listing invoices in dedicated SharePoint folder;

Extracting key information with use of AI services;

Saving extracted information to the Dataverse database.

Power Apps
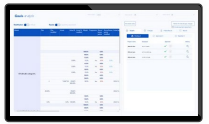Mobile and Web application for office desks booking.

Consisted of three modules:
- Desk booking module;
- Booking management module;
- System administrator module (not available to users).

Application additionally extended by Power Automate flows, used for example for sending push notifications to users' mobile devices.

Power Apps
Application for multi-level approvals of tasks and goals for Sales rep.

Application integrated with Power BI report;
Enabling setting tasks and goals (based on data from Dataverse and Azure SQL) and sending for multi-level approvals using Power Apps;

Application extended with Power Automate flows, which, among others, automatically notify users about the need to perform an action.

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