Power Platform Quick Start

Power Platform in Government Community Cloud (GCC) means three products: Power Apps, Power Automate, and Power BI. This document will provide brief guidance for these products.

Here are the high-level use case suggestions:

- If it is for gluing together existing O365 products for internal users, then use Power Automate. For example:
    - You can use Excel and Outlook connectors to build a flow to email someone when an Excel file (located in OneDrive or SharePoint) is updated.
    - Power Automate can incorporate a Microsoft Form to collect data from the public without extra expense.
    - Approval workflows can be built in Power Automate.
- If it is about collecting data from authenticated/verified external users, and/or if it is about creating logical workflows, then use Power Apps.
- Power Apps forms can be used for data entry, data viewing, or data editing and are optimized for mobile devices. Power Apps can be used on Android and iOS using the native Power App.
- Power Apps and Power Automate flows can be shared with individuals or groups of people.
- Power BI is a data analytics and graphical presentation tool.
- If the app is intended for anything other than personal use, the Department is recommended to create a dedicated Departmental App Makers Active Directory Group. No matter which individual creates the app, they will share ownership with this entire group. We are still obtaining clarification from Microsoft re: shared connector accounts. Also, please note that just sharing app ownership does not actually share ownership of any ancillary resource that the app may need to function.
- It is recommended that each version of a Power Automate & Power App that is active should be exported as a package (as a backup) by the app maker. Each time the application changes, a new package should be exported with the version specified in the package name (e.g. MyApplication_V1, MyApplication_V2). Ownership of the app should be shared so more than one person can make changes.

Licensing:

- Basic functionality of Power Automate and Power Apps are both available in the M365 G3 license (which is the license most State of Maine employees have) at no extra expense.
- Data collected from Power Automate and Power Apps can be stored in OneDrive, SharePoint for G3 license holders, and a few other places. https://stateofmaine.sharepoint.com/sites/MaineIT-O365/SitePages/Power-Apps-Data-Sources.aspx
- Premium connectors in Power Automate (e.g. connectors to on-prem databases), require an elevated Per User license and therefore an extra cost.
- Dataverse (previously called Common Data Service) is only available at the elevated Per User license (at extra cost). Dataverse is a default standard data structure for storing relational information.
- Makers can create reports and dashboards in Power BI Desktop (if they install the desktop application), but the reports and dashboards cannot be published and consumed by anyone that does not have a Power BI Pro license, which is an extra cost. A "maker" can be an individual or group of licensed people who can develop an application in this tenant.
- Power BI Free is not available to government entities.
- In order for an external user to have access to a Portal Power App, it is an extra expense. Contact MaineIT Computing Infrastructure and Services (CIS) for this portal.

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