#CollabDaysBE

How to deal with long running approvals in Power Automate

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CollabDays Belgium 2022 by BIWUG

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WHO AM I

RIK DE KONING

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WHAT WILL BE COVERED

AGENDA

General

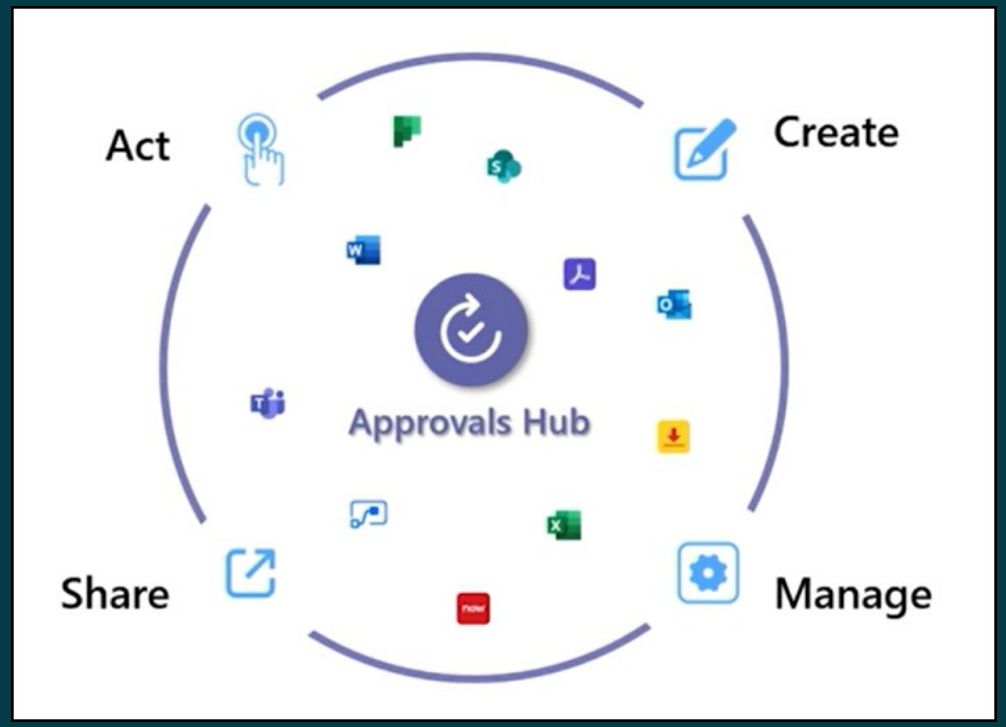
- Approvals
- Limitations

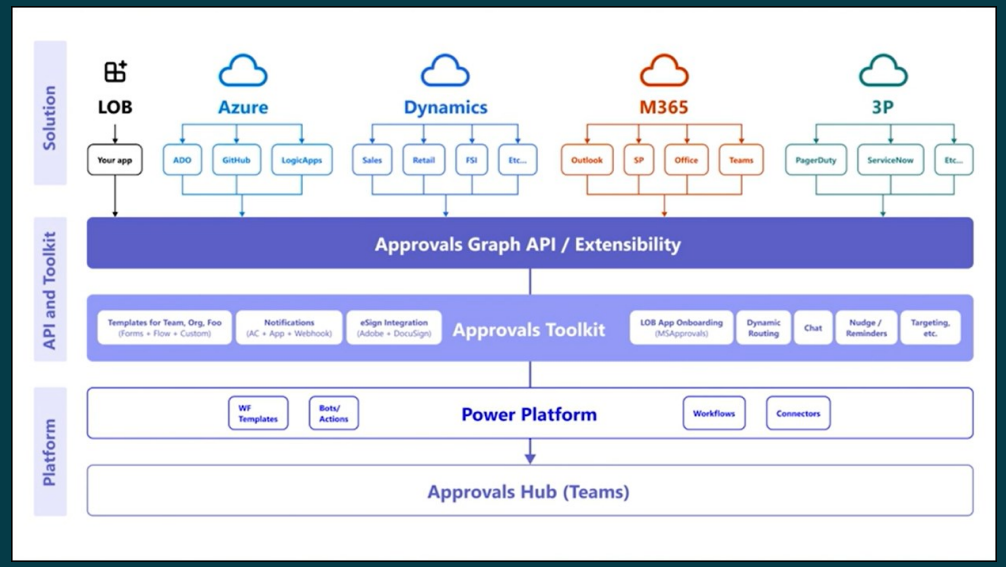
Workaround 1

- SharePoint

Workaround 2

- Dataverse





WHAT IS IT

APPROVALS

- Streamline requests and processes
- Uses Microsoft Dataverse
- 1 or more outcomes
- Feedback/Reassign
- Adaptive card/Markdown
- Lasts forever
- Approvals Hub (Teams integration)
- Approvers: Internal/guest* users

* *Guest users need to have a valid license (Power Automate Free/Per user)*

What's Next for Approvals

- ✓ Approvals Graph API's
- ✓ Data Export
- ✓ Sequential approvers
- ✓ Share requests
- ✓ Approvals in SharePoint
- ✓ Bulk editing
- ✓ Tag Approvals
- ✓ Approvals in Office
- ✓ Mandatory Comments
- ✓ Set Priority
- ✓ Due Date
- ✓ Tasks Integration
- ✓ Shifts Integration
- ✓ Print to PDF
- ✓ Delegate
- ✓ Analytics Tab
- ✓ Group Approvers
- ✓ + Many more

https://aka.ms/OD13

DEMO 1

WHAT CAN'T YOU DO

LIMITATIONS

- Markdown <> HTML
  https://www.about365.nl/2020/02/27/power-automate-approvals-markdown-or-html
- Reassigning
- **30 day flow run limit**

HOW TO WORK AROUND THESE LIMITATIONS

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

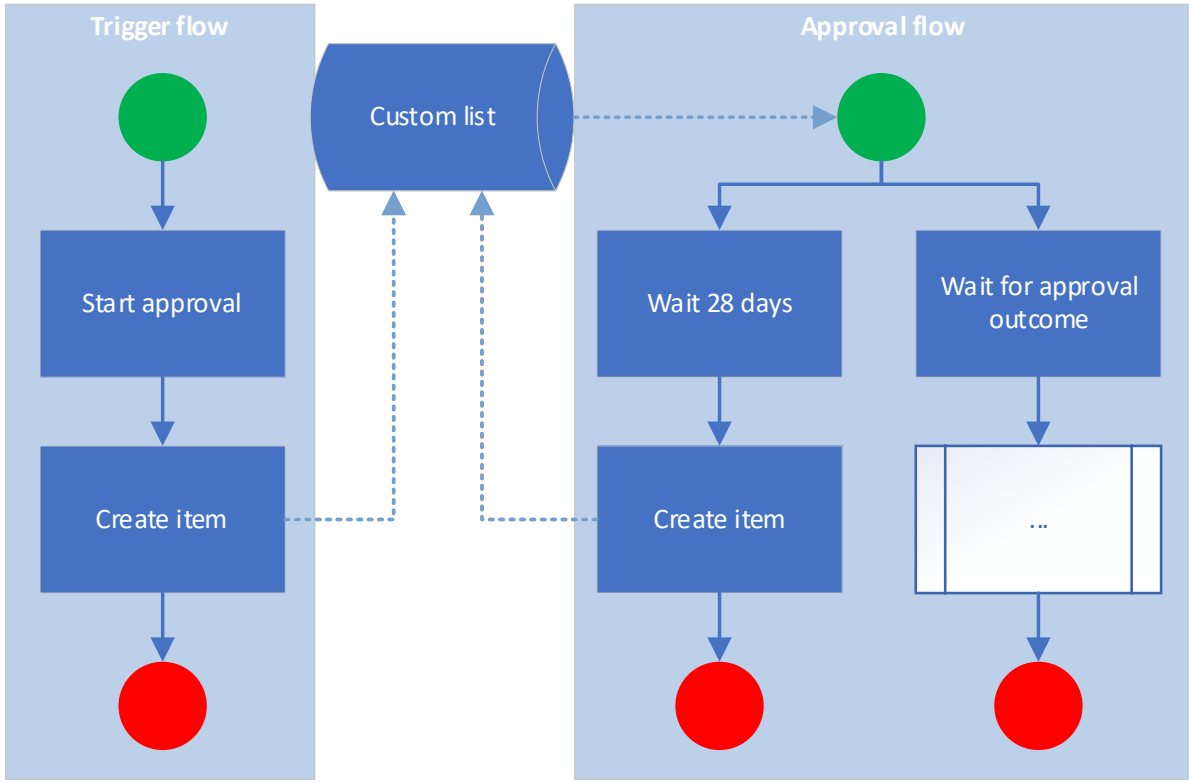
WORKAROUND 1

SharePoint

- Custom list
  - Custom Approval ID column

Two-flow setup

- Trigger flow
  - Start approval
  - Create item in custom list
- Approval flow
  - Wait for approval outcome and process it, or
  - Wait for 28 days and recreate item in custom list



DEMO 2

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 1

PROS

- Free
- Bypass 30-day limit
- Reusable
- Approval status overview (dashboard)

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 1

CONS

- Additional SharePoint configuration needed
- SharePoint list view threshold (when using dashboard)
- ‘Lag’ between child flow end & child flow start
- Child flow keeps running until approval has been given (flow runs)

- **Trigger intervals, based on plan:**
  - Free/trial: up to 15 minutes
  - M365 integrated: up to 5 minutes
  - Premium: up to 1 minute

- **Action request limits (24 hours), based on plan**
  - Free/trial: 25.000 per tenant
  - M365 integrated: 6.000 per user
  - Per user: 40.000 per user
  - Per flow: 250.000 per flow

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 2

Dataverse

- Solutions required
  - Microsoft Flow Approvals
  - Microsoft Flow Approvals Core Solution

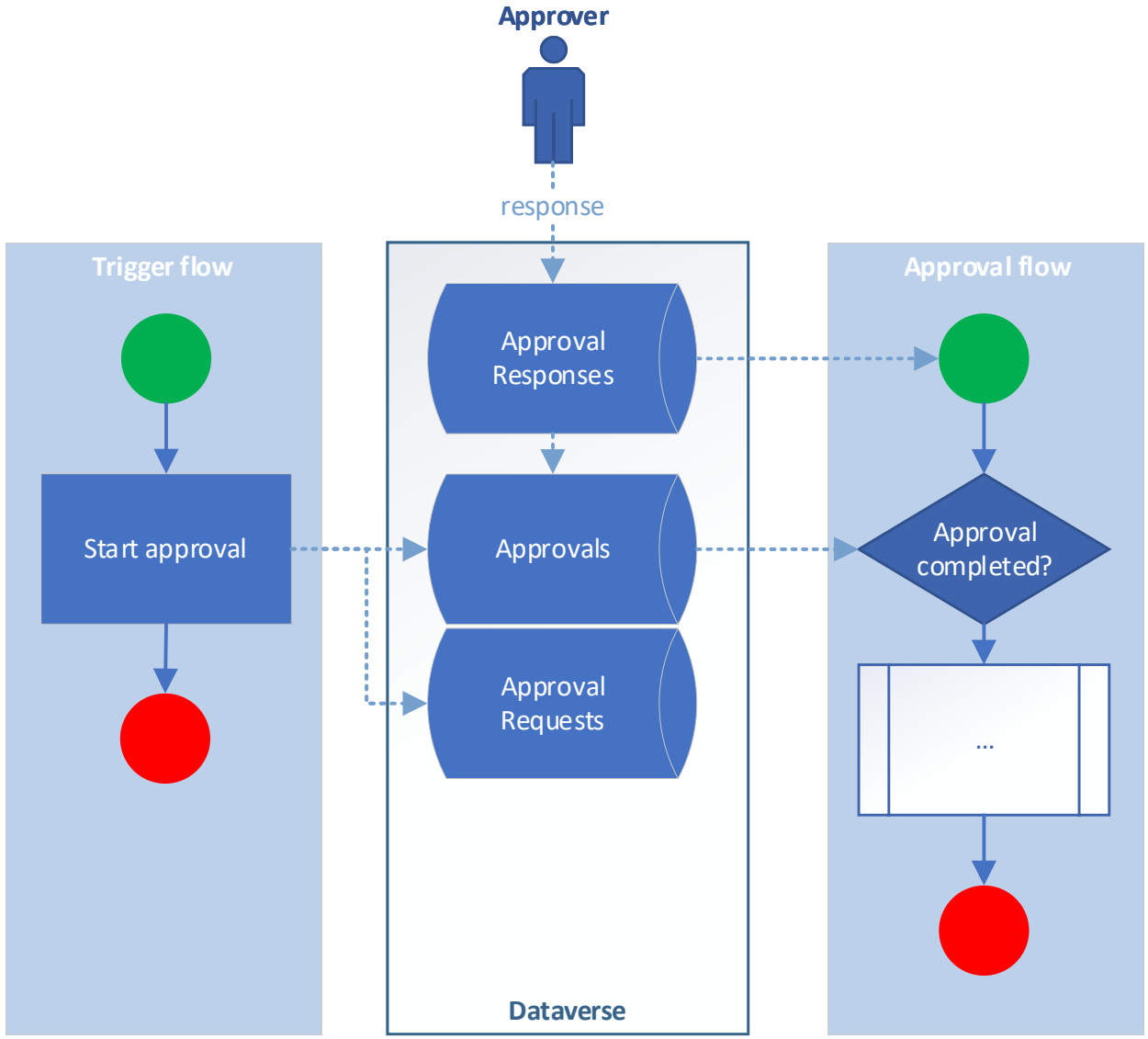
- Dataverse tables
  - Approvals
  - Approval Requests
  - Approval Responses

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 2

Dataverse

- Two-flow setup
  - Trigger flow
    - Start approval
  - Approval flow
    - Process approval outcome



DEMO 3

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 2

PROS

- Bypass 30-day limit
- Reusable, but watch out!
- Less lag, but never a ‘black hole’
- No additional Dataverse configuration needed
- Flow only runs when needed

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT

WORKAROUND 2

CONS

- Premium license required
- Works on all approvals within your environment
  - Can be filtered (default/custom columns)
- No approval status overview (dashboard)
  - Can be configured

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