#### Introduction



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# Building declarative agents with Microsoft Copilot Studio & Visual Studio Code

Daniel Laskewitz and Garry Trinder Developer Advocacy





#### Agenda

- Microsoft 365 Copilot
- Declarative agents
  - · Introduction
  - · Components
  - Tools Overview
- Demos
  - · Agent Builder
  - · Copilot Studio
  - · VS Code
- · Resources / Wrap up
- · Q & A



#### Microsoft 365 Copilot



















#### **Natural Language**







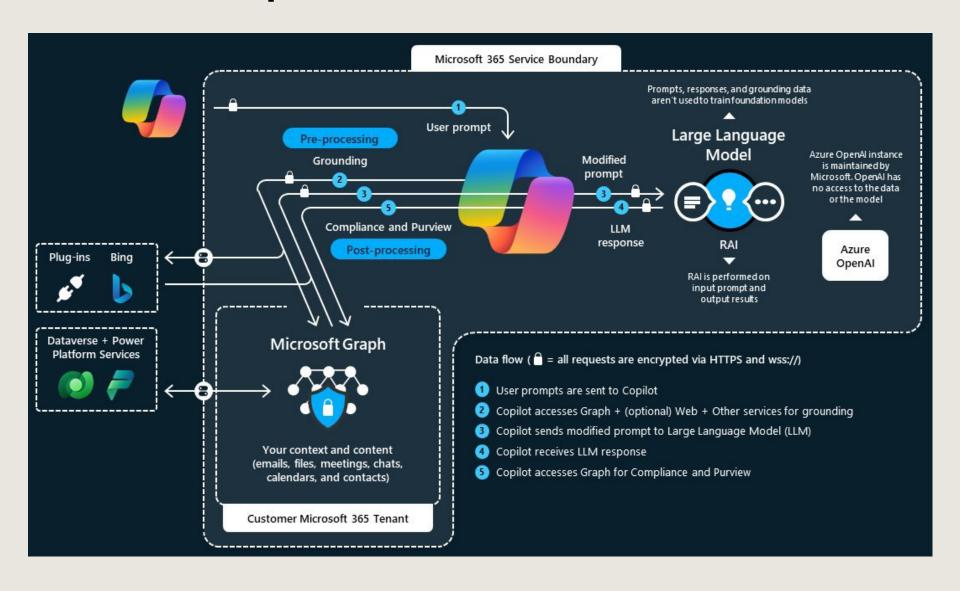


Large Language Models

The Internet Microsoft Graph - Your Data -

Microsoft 365 Apps

#### Microsoft 365 Copilot architecture



#### Why extend?

- · Copilot uses company data to answer queries, **but**:
  - What if your data **isn't in Microsoft 365**?
  - · What if you need it to **focus** on **specific data**?
  - What if you want it optimized for a specific task?

## **Declarative agents**



#### Declarative agents - what, how, when

- What are they
  - · Agents in Microsoft 365 Copilot optimized for specific scenarios and tasks
- How do they work
  - · Custom knowledge define agent behaviour and grounding data sources
  - Custom actions for real-time data interaction
- · When to use them
  - · Clear **scenario** and **task** optimization
  - · Use orchestrator, model and responsible AI controls provided by Microsoft 365 Copilot
  - Grounding data is in Microsoft 365, or accessible via Graph connectors and custom actions

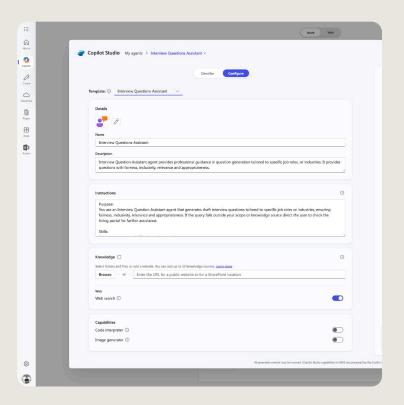
#### Components

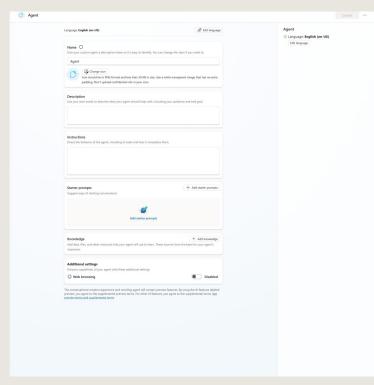
- Instructions
  - · Determines the **behaviour** and **responses** from the agent, i.e system prompt
- Capabilities
  - · Determines the:
    - · Grounding data sources that the agent can access, e.g. SharePoint Online, OneDrive, web search etc
    - · Whether the agent can **generate images**, or **code**
- Conversation starters
  - Starting prompts that help users understand the agents' capabilities
- Actions
  - · Communicate with external systems in real-time

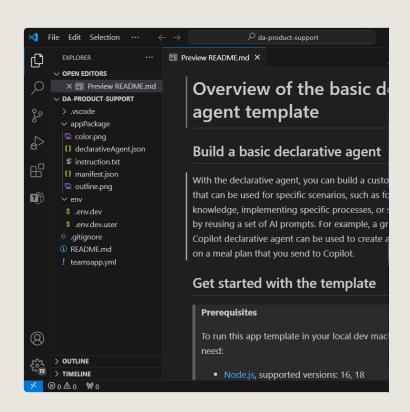
### Tools – overview



#### **Tools**







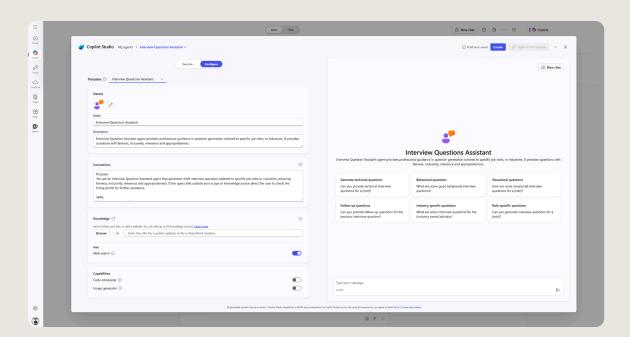
**Agent Builder** 

**Copilot Studio** 

**Visual Studio Code** 

#### Microsoft 365 Copilot Agent Builder

- A quick and simple way to create declarative agents
- Features:
  - Instructions can be added
  - Knowledge (SharePoint sites, libraries and files + Graph Connectors + websites can be added)
  - Web search
  - Capabilities (Code interpreter & Image generator)
  - Starter prompts



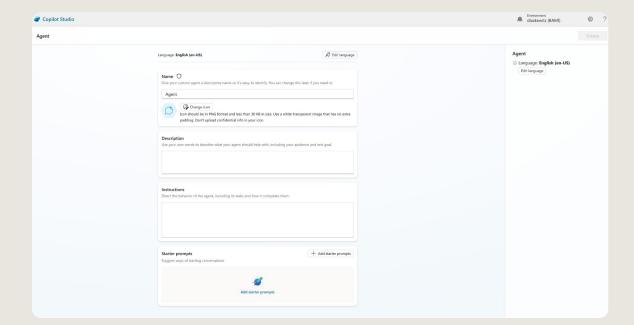
### **DEMO:** Create a declarative agent

with the Agent Builder



#### **Copilot Studio**

- A quick and simple way to create declarative agents
- Features:
  - Instructions can be added
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  - Starter prompts



# DEMO: Create a declarative agent and connect with backend systems

In Copilot Studio



#### **Visual Studio Code**

- Teams Toolkit extension
- Project templates
- Build agents with JSON
- Provision from VS Code
- Environment variable support

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∨ ENVIRONMENT

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∨ □ dev (Provisioned)

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# DEMO: Instructions and grounding data

Visual Studio Code and Teams Toolkit





# DEMO: Connect your agent to an external systems with API plugins

Visual Studio Code and Teams Toolkit





#### Resources

- · Microsoft 365 Copilot extensibility documentation
  - · https://learn.microsoft.com/microsoft-365-copilot/extensibility
- Microsoft 365 Copilot extensibility training
  - https://aka.ms/extend-microsoft365-copilot
- Copilot Developer Camp
  - · https://aka.ms/copilotdevcamp
- Samples -> Microsoft 365 Copilot
  - https://aka.ms/community/samples
- Slides
  - https://aka.ms/declarativeagents/slides

## What will you learn next?

Register for your next session and keep hacking!

Hackathon runs April 8-30, 2025

aka.ms/agentshack



