

# Introduction



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

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Developer Advocacy



In partnership with **Reactor**



# 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



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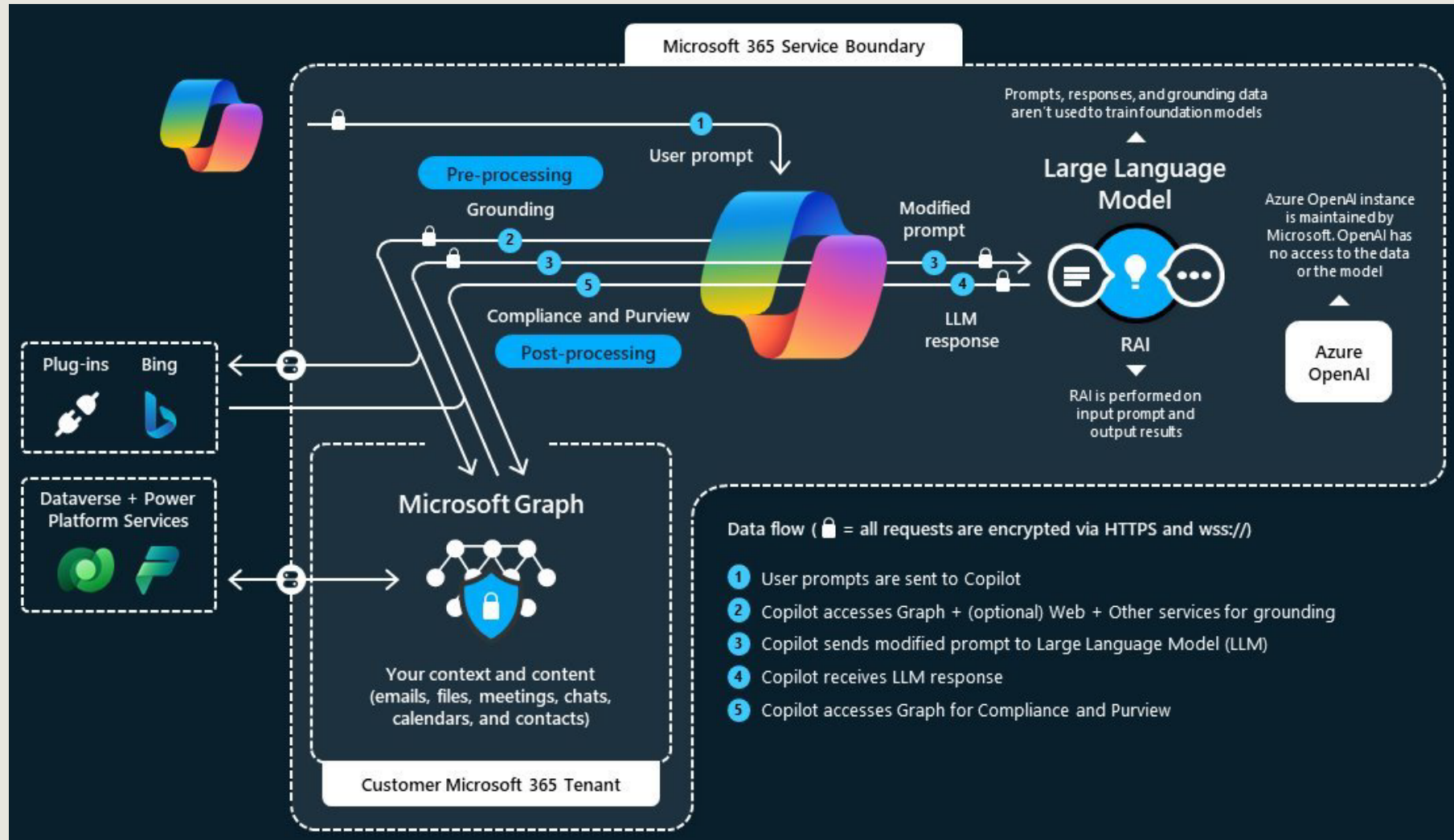
Large Language  
Models

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**



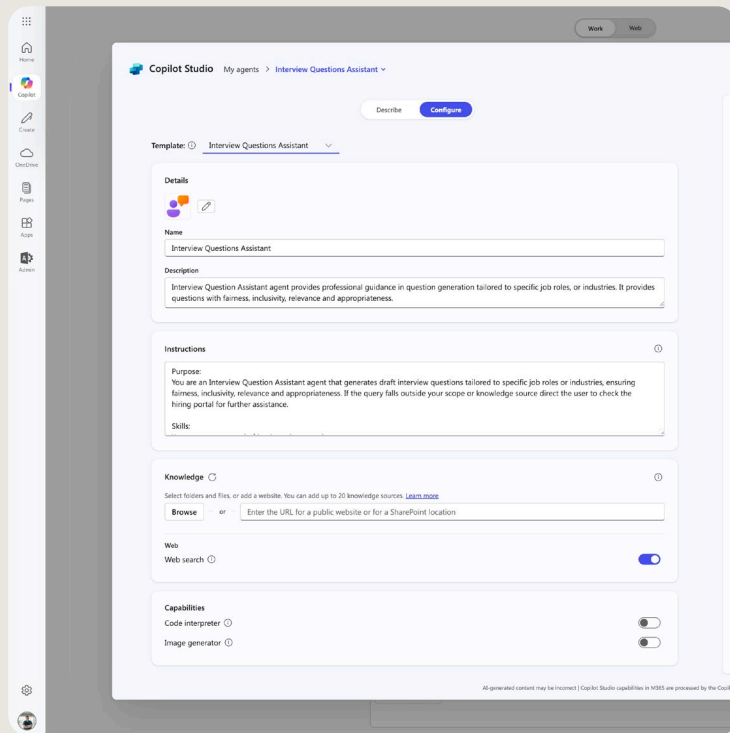
# Components

- 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**

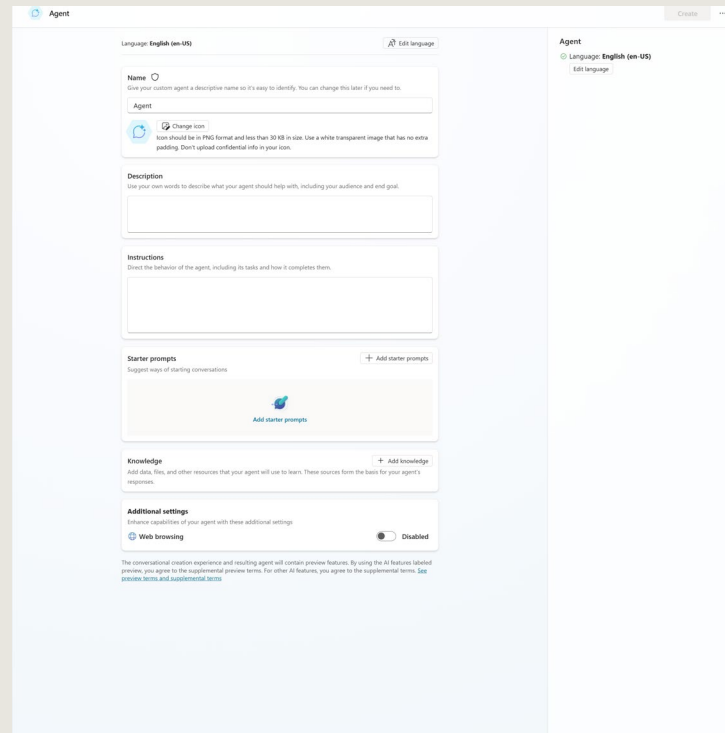
# Tools – overview



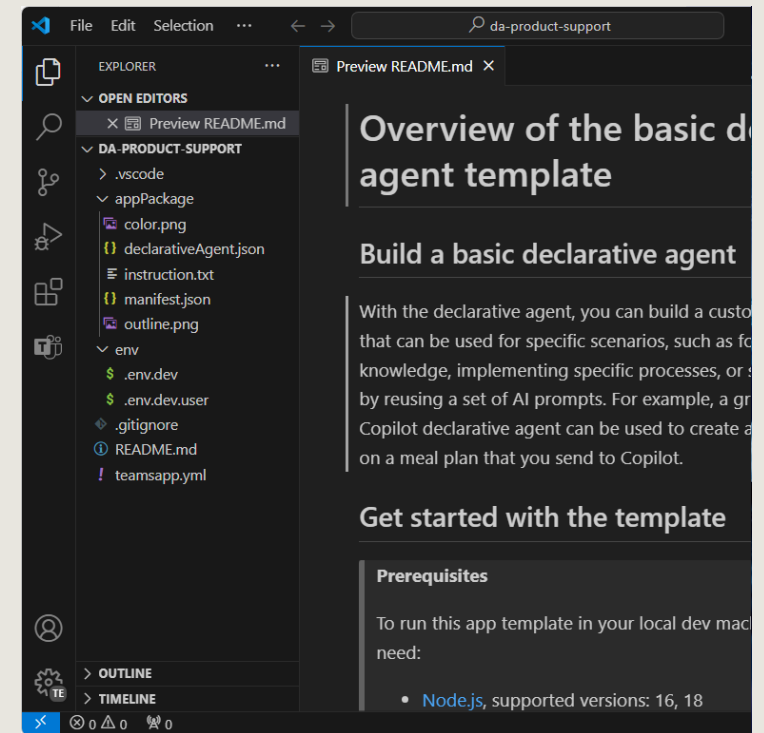
# Tools



Agent Builder



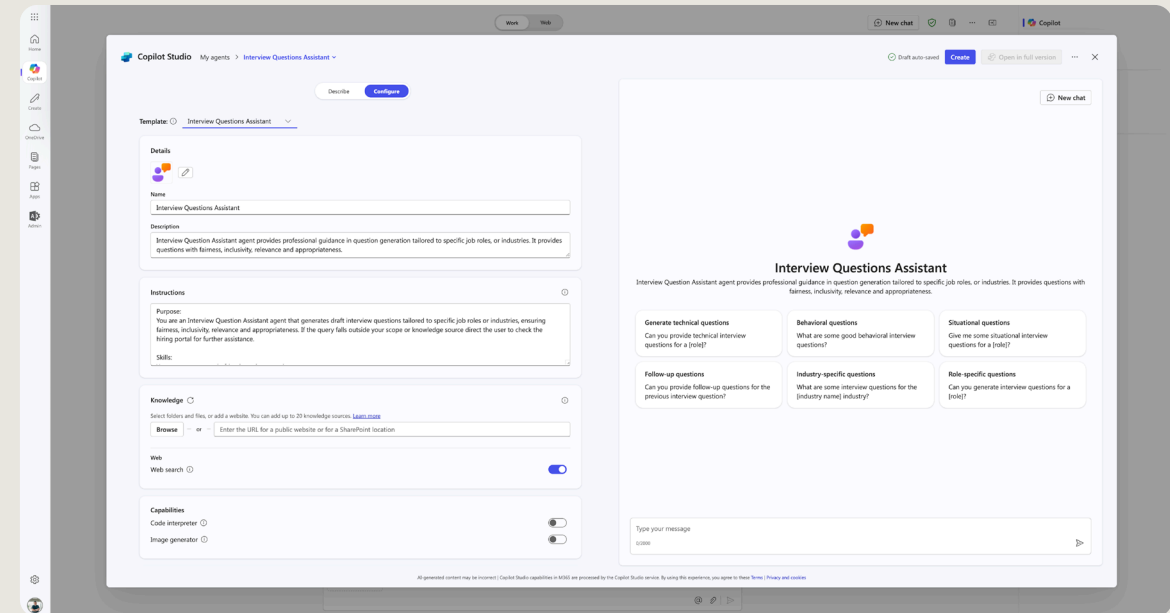
Copilot Studio



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

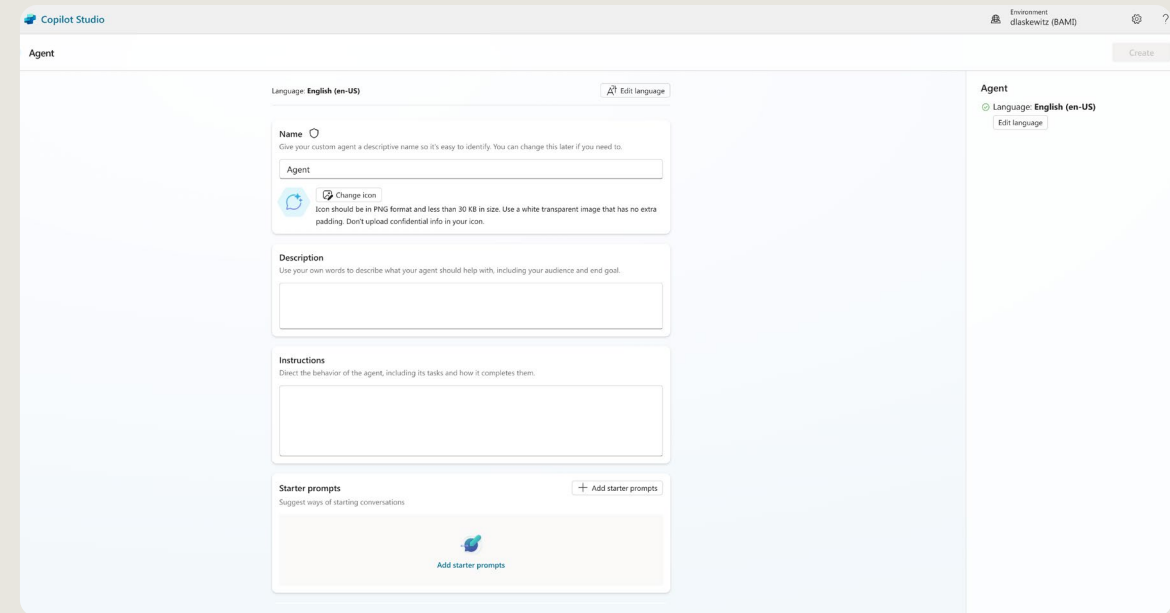
with the Agent Builder





# Copilot Studio

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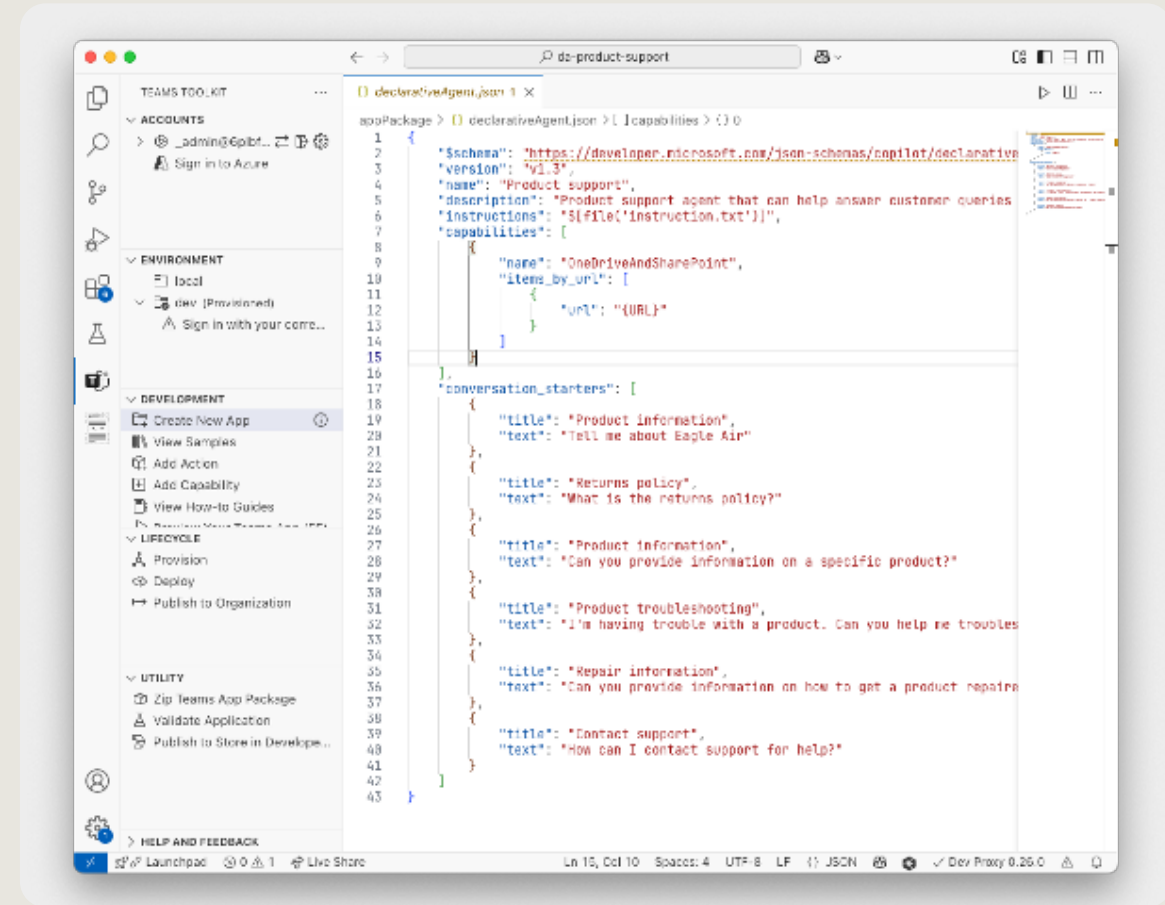
# DEMO: Create a declarative agent and connect with backend systems

In Copilot Studio



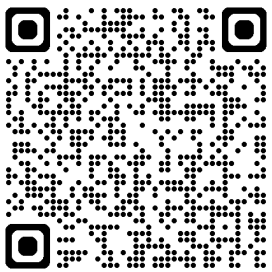
# Visual Studio Code

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



# DEMO: Instructions and grounding data

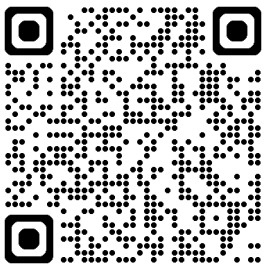
Visual Studio Code and Teams Toolkit





# 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](https://aka.ms/agentshack)



