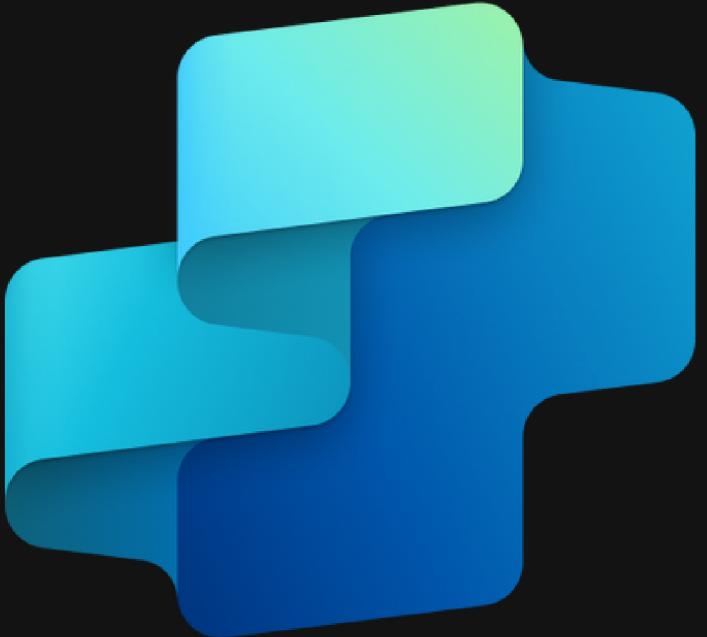


- 20 -

Practical Plugin Creation: From Flow to Topic



MONTHLY MASTERY

FEATURE-A-DAY

with Copilot Studio



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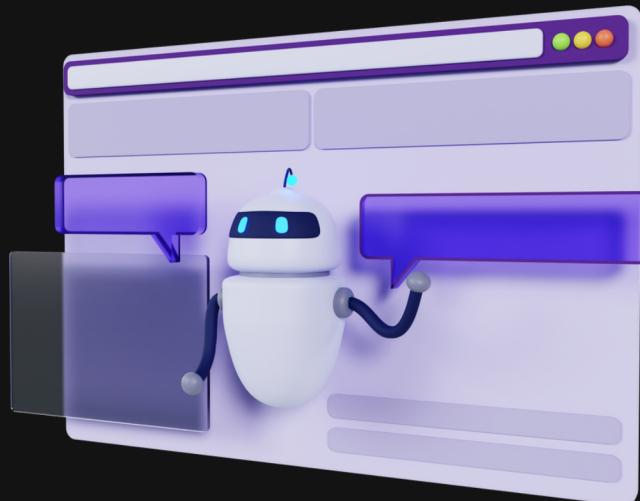


Plugin Action Creation

Our goal

Today's journey in Copilot Studio is all about harnessing plugin actions for practical use.

Our goal is to create a **plugin action** utilizing **Power Automate flow**, then integrate this plugin into a **topic** in Microsoft Copilot. We'll see how **generative actions** can streamline and simplify this conversation, transforming the way our Copilot interacts and responds to user queries about desk availability.



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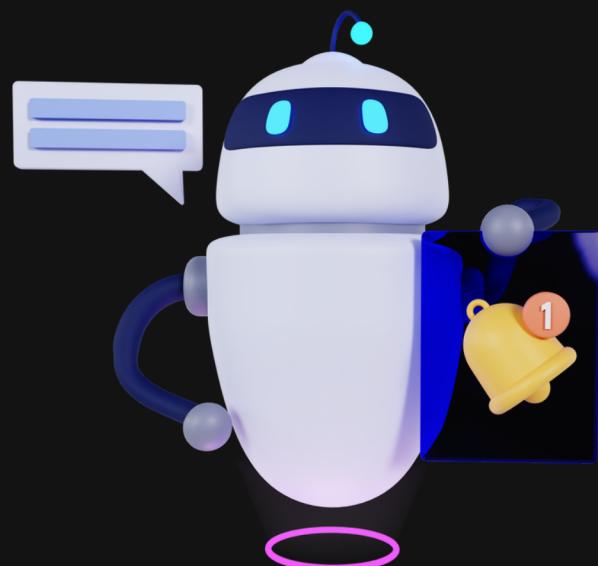


Plugin Action Creation

Setting the Stage

Our toolkit includes:

- Dataverse table [Shared Desk](#) that lists desks and their equipment.
- Power Automate flow designed to find desks meeting specific requirements.



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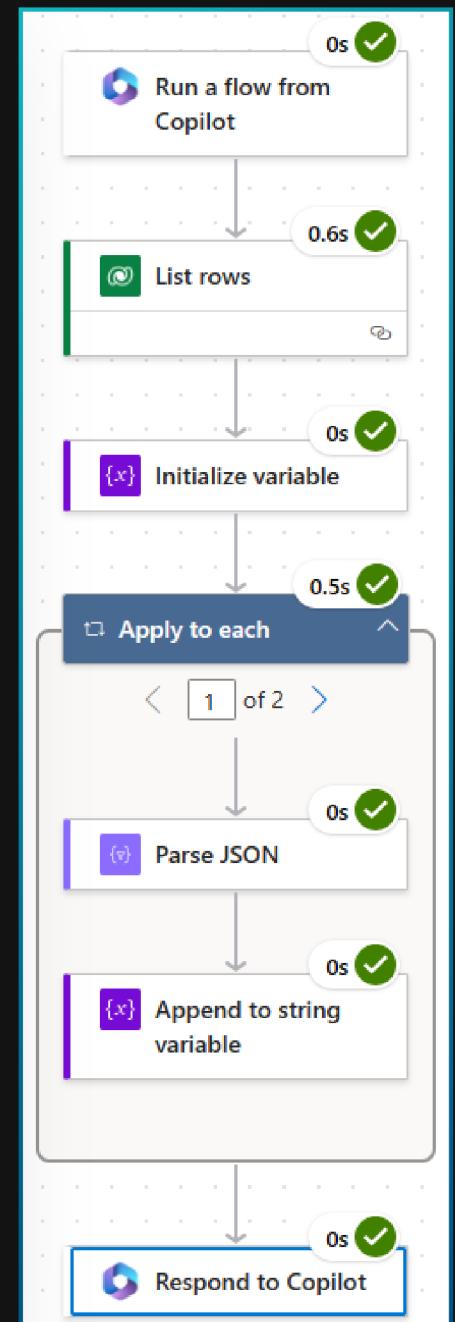
Plugin Action Creation Flow Steps

The flow is **triggering** from the Copilot and retrieves the value of the required equipment.

List rows action retrieves desks that match the specified equipment criteria from a Dataverse table **Shared Desk**.

Within the **Apply to each** the flow sifts through each desk item, capturing and organizing the desk's name and its floor for a concise summary.

Respond to Copilot sends the processed information back to Copilot.



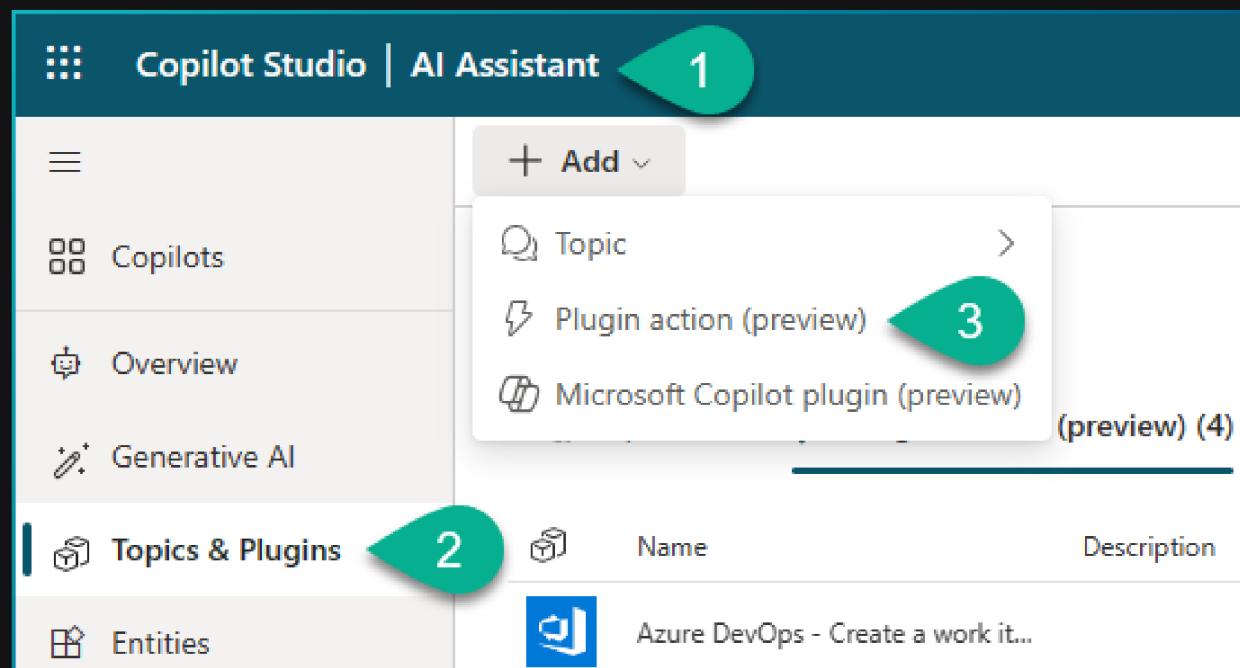
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Plugin Action Creation

Create a Plugin Action

Let's circle back to what we mastered on Day 16, it's time to roll up our sleeves and craft a [plugin action](#). Head over to [Topics & Plugins](#), select [Add](#), and then select [Plugin action \(preview\)](#) to get started on bringing your plugin to life.



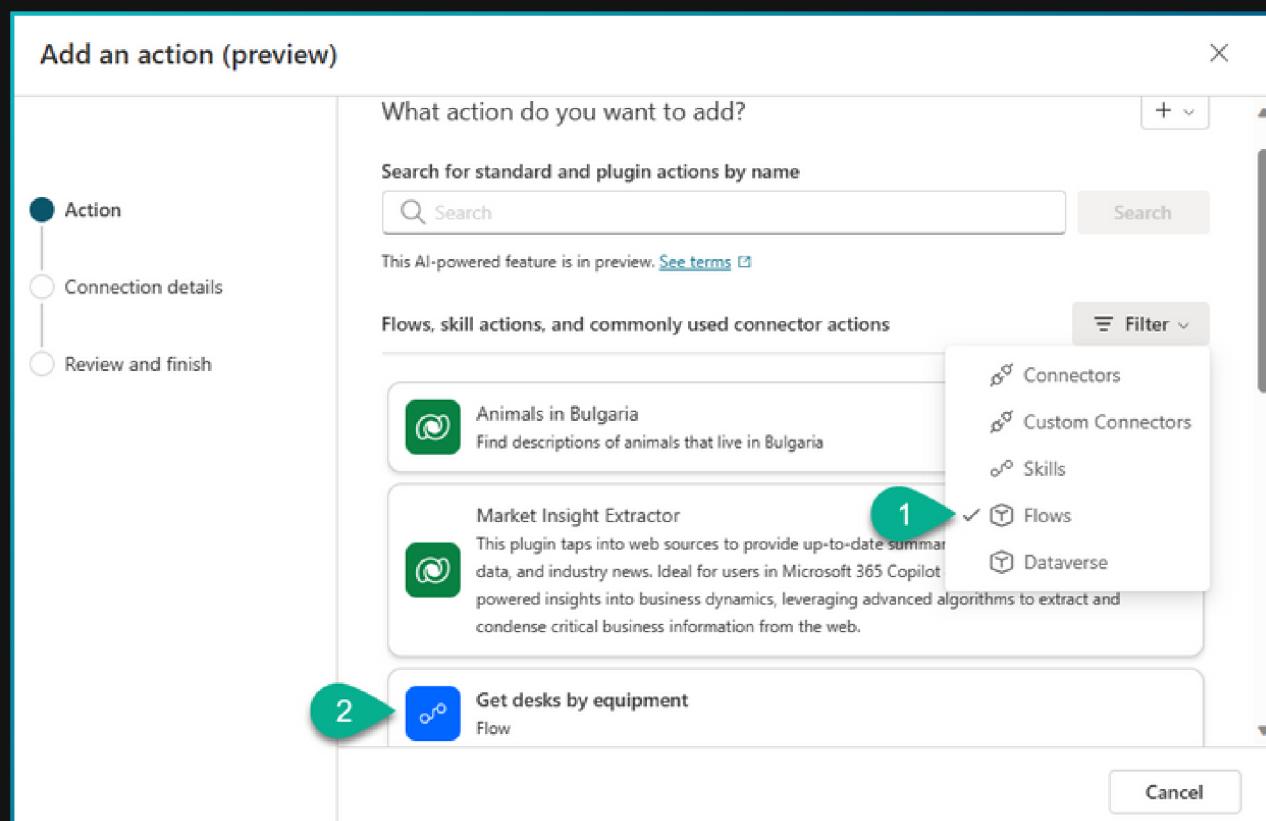
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Plugin Action Creation

Create a Plugin Action

Today we focus on the **flow plugin**, our secret sauce to automation magic within Copilot. It's all about choosing our crafted **Power Automate flow**, configure it and integrating it smoothly.



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Plugin Action Creation

Configure a Plugin Action

When it comes to a Flow Plugin we have the power to shape its **Inputs** and **Outputs**. Like giving the Copilot a script makeover, adding richer, more informative dialogue.

With the magic of **variables** and the spellbinding syntax of **Power Fx** expressions, we can craft messages that are not just heard, but truly listened to.

The screenshot shows the 'Outputs' tab of a plugin action configuration. At the top, there are tabs for 'Details', 'Inputs', and 'Outputs', with 'Outputs' being the active tab. Below the tabs, there is a section titled 'Display' with a sub-section 'Available desks: (x) Output.desks string'. A dropdown menu is open, showing the option 'You create a message'. Below this, there is a rich text editor toolbar and a text input field containing the Fx expression 'Available desks: (x) Output.desks string'. Further down, there is a section titled 'Outputs' with a sub-section 'Add'.



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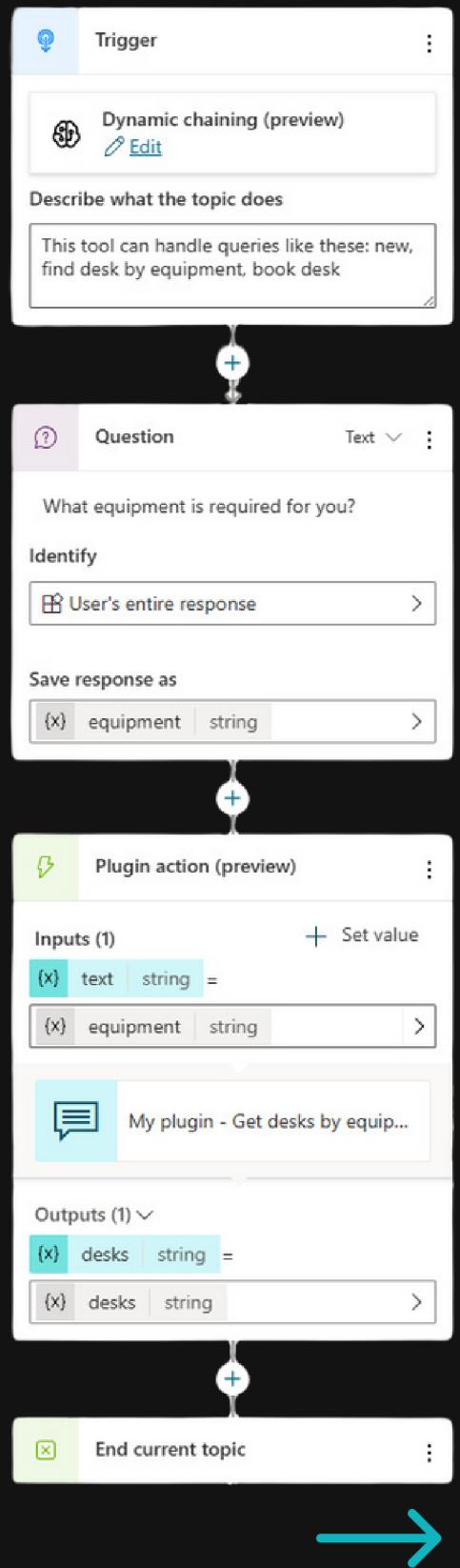


Plugin Action Creation

Create a Topic

Now let's get our Topic ready for the big show. Revisiting the lessons from Day 4 with a modern twist. Our current topic's actions:

- **Ask a Question Node.** A small secret: it's our safety net to avoid any "Oops!" moments. Here, we casually ask the user about what equipment they fancy.
- **Plugin Action Node.** This is where our star performer steps in. We'll add our crafted plugin here, tweaking the inputs to ensure our backstage Power Automate flow has all it needs for a smooth act.
- **End Current Topic Node.** And finally, we wrap things up neatly.



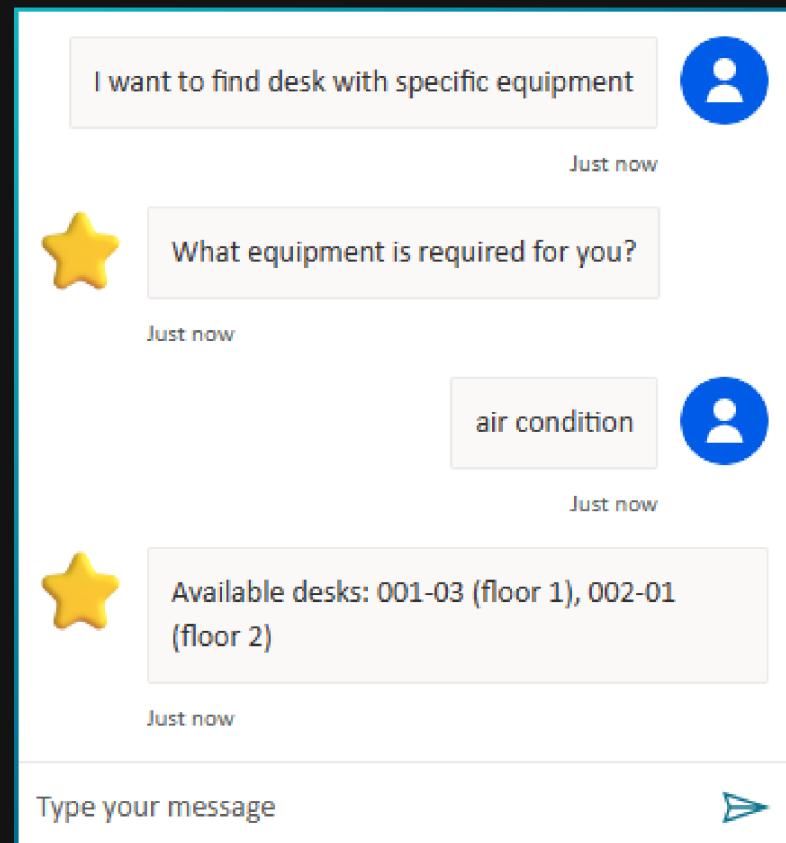
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Plugin Action Creation

Test the Topic

Now it's time to put our setup to the [test](#). Go ahead and use one of the [trigger phrases](#) from our topic. This should activate our Copilot, which will then use the flow plugin to search for desks based on your specified requirements.

It's the moment of truth
to see how well our crafted
topic and plugin action
work [together](#) in finding
the right desk options!



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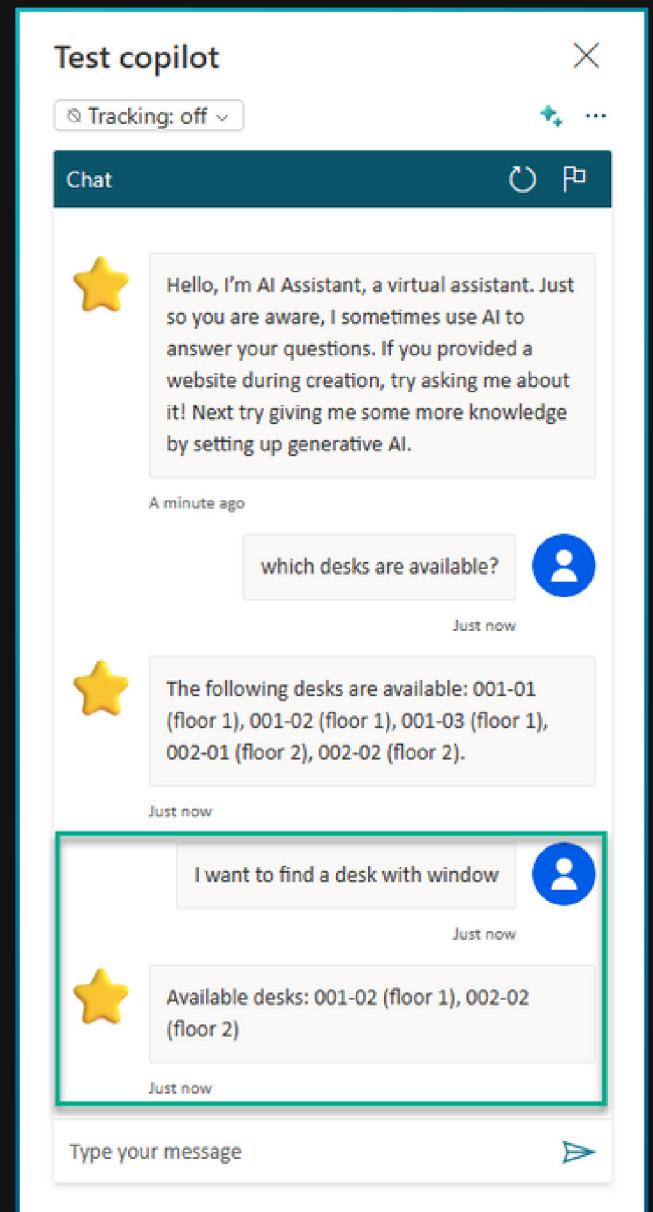


Plugin Action Creation

Enable Generative Actions

Taking our journey further, let's apply what we learned yesterday about **Generative Actions**. If you haven't already, turn them on to experience a more natural conversation flow.

In my Copilot, I used a plugin to list available desks. When I requested desks near a window, Copilot smartly recognized my preference and provided the relevant information, no extra questions needed.



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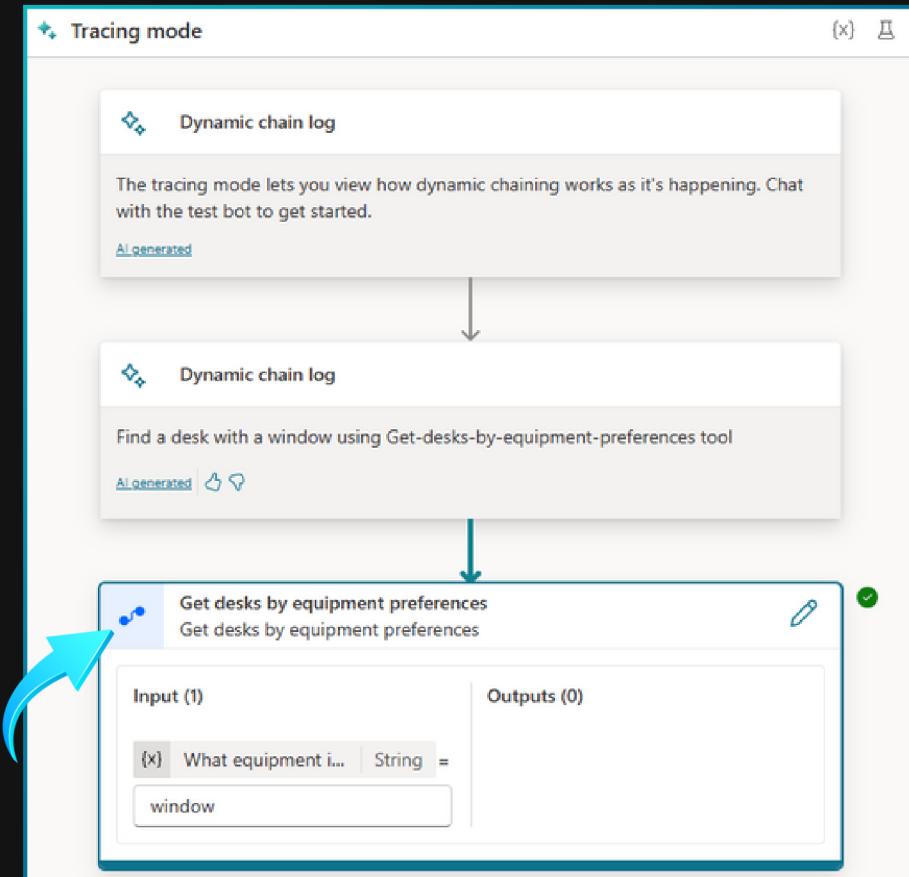


Plugin Action Creation Enable Generative Actions

In the [new tracing mode](#), we observe that Copilot [directly activated the plugin](#) to find the desired desks, bypassing the topic.

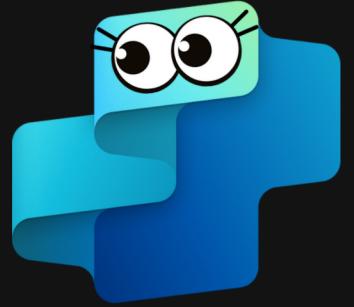
This demonstrates a smooth, [streamlined](#) conversation, showcasing how Copilot's development becomes more natural and [time-efficient](#) with such features.

It's a clear example of the advanced capabilities we've been exploring.



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Today's Task: Practical Plugin Implementation

1. Create and Test a Flow Plugin

Utilize your Power Automate flow to create a flow plugin, and integrate it into a topic in Copilot.

2. Experiment with Generative Actions

Activate Generative Actions and observe how they enhance the natural flow of conversation in Copilot.

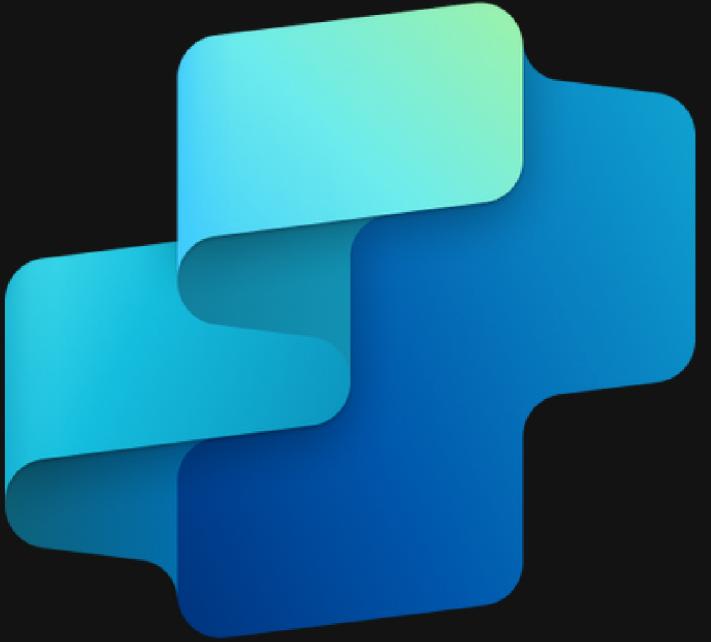
3. Utilize Tracing Mode

Turn on the new tracing mode to analyze how Copilot chooses to trigger plugins or topics, streamlining the interaction process.



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