By Scott Sugar on February 04, 2021

Power BI Usage Metrics Across All Workspaces: Step by Step

Insights & Automation

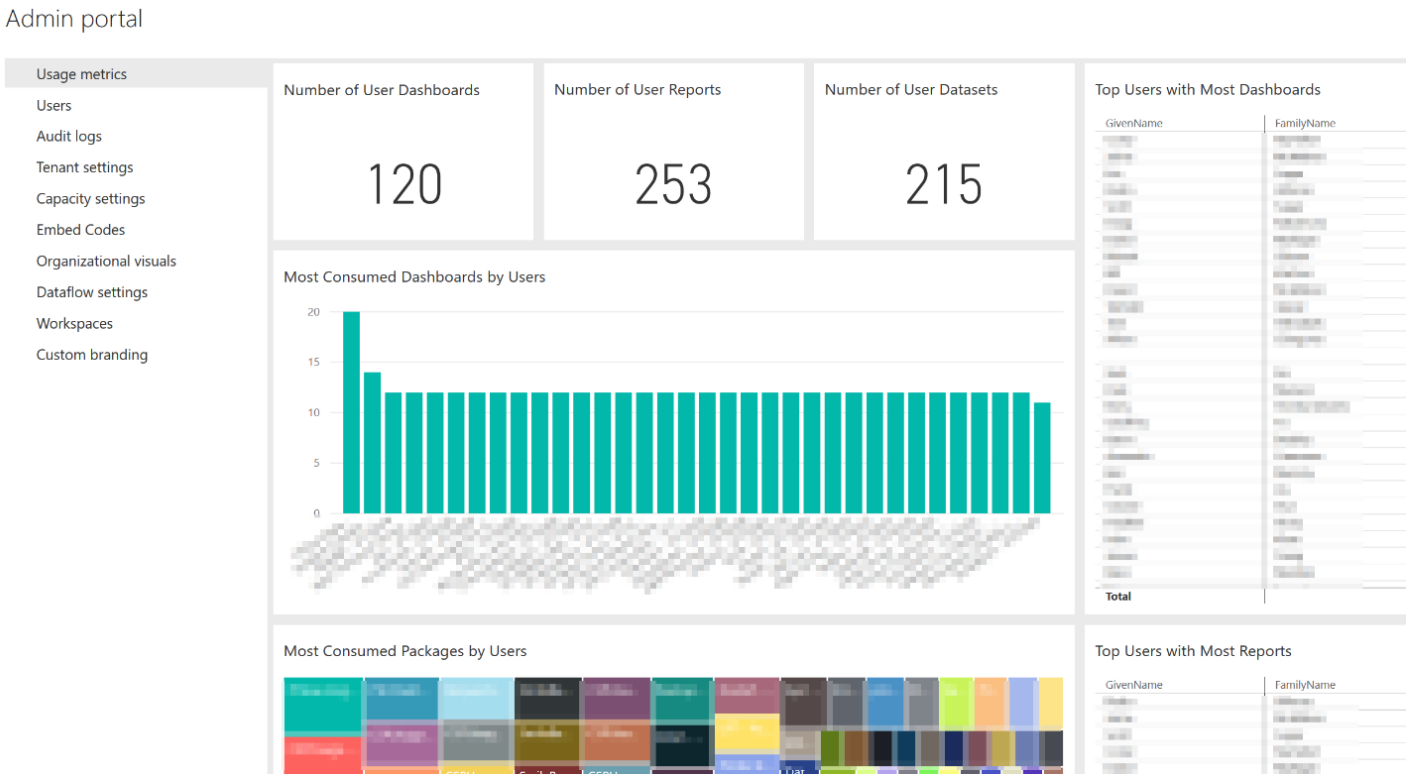
In this blog, I want to talk about Power BI Usage Metrics across all Workspaces.

You've heard the adage, "You can't manage what you can't measure". So, when it comes to managing your tenant's online Power BI service, how do you measure the usage of your reports, dashboards, and datasets? Which reports are getting the most attention? By whom? Are there unused reports or workspaces that could be cleaned up?

There are Usage Metrics at the report/dashboard level that can be saved, edited, and unfiltered to show usage across an entire workspace, but for organizations with more than a few workspaces, monitoring usage at the workspace level is not scalable and doesn't allow for a unified view of usage across the tenant.

The online Power BI service does offer Usage Metrics in the Admin portal, but it's not customizable or interactive, and seems to be more focused on "who has how many reports/dashboards" rather than the question I set out to answer "who's using the service, and what are they looking at?"

So, let's look at Power BI Built-In Usage Metrics in the Admin portal:



Power BI Usage Metrics: Solution Walkthrough

Set up Pre-Requisites

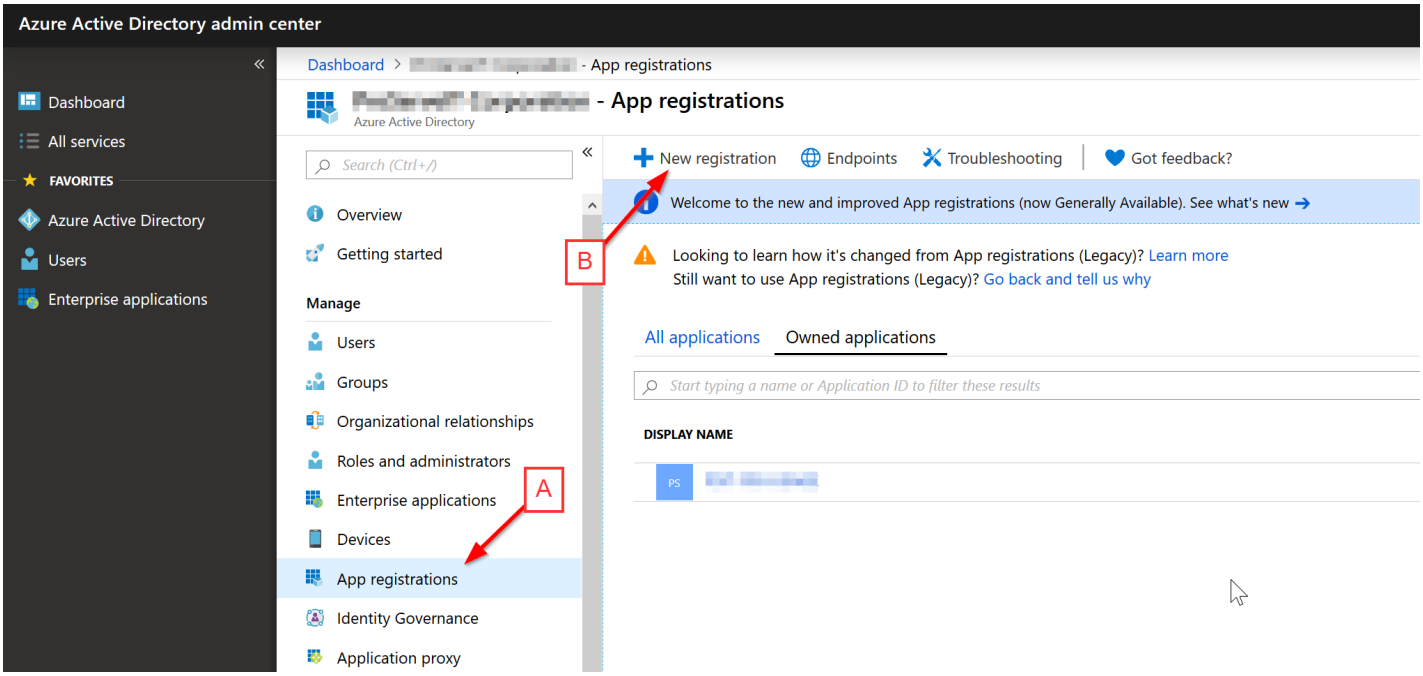
We have a few things we need to set up in order to get this solution working:

Azure AD Global Admin account
Azure AD Application - to help us authenticate to the O365 Management APIs
Power BI Streaming Dataset - to hold the Power BI activity logs

Create an Azure AD Application

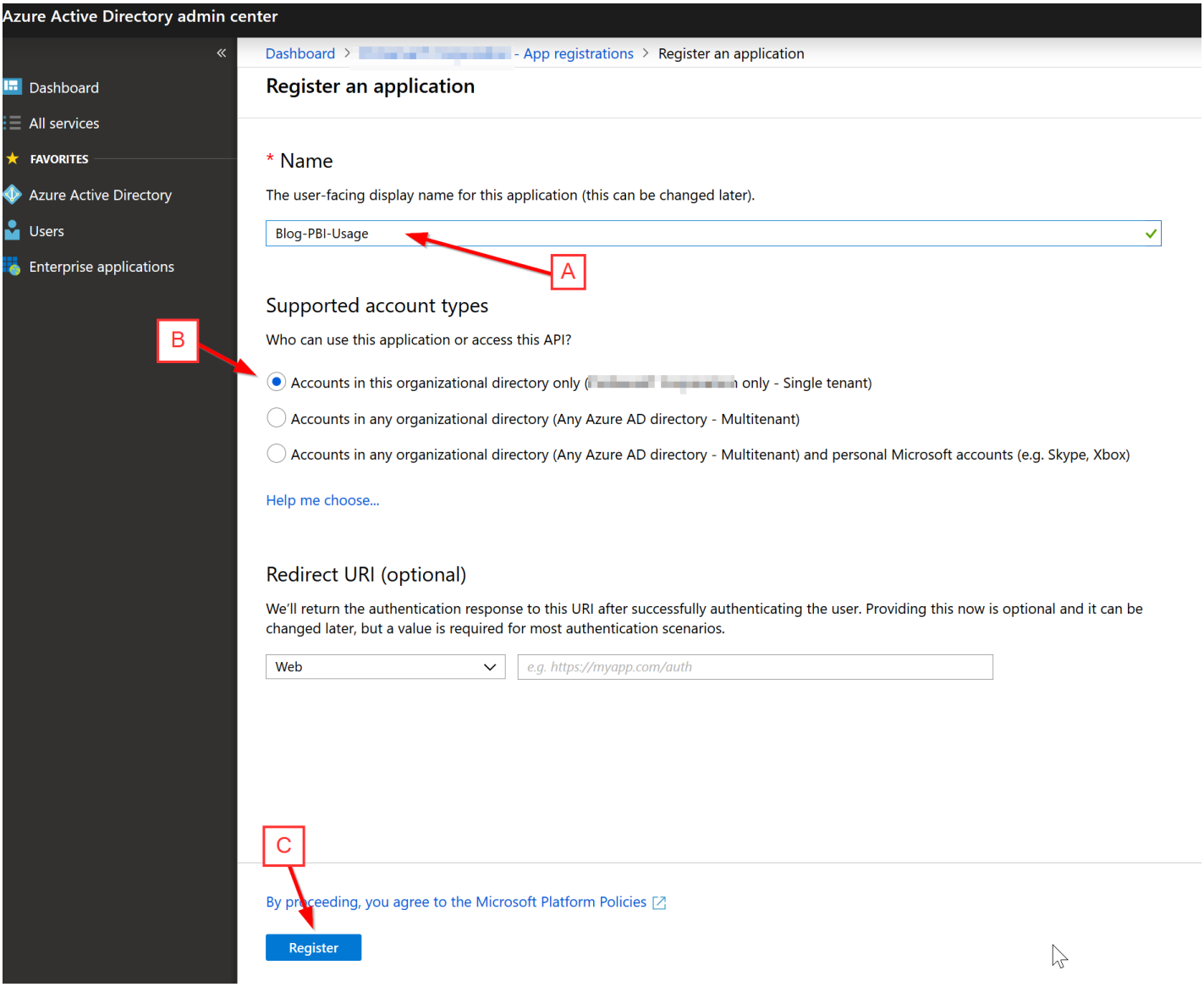
1. Login to Azure AD Admin Portal and Create a new Azure AD Application

. Click App Registrations
. Click New Registration



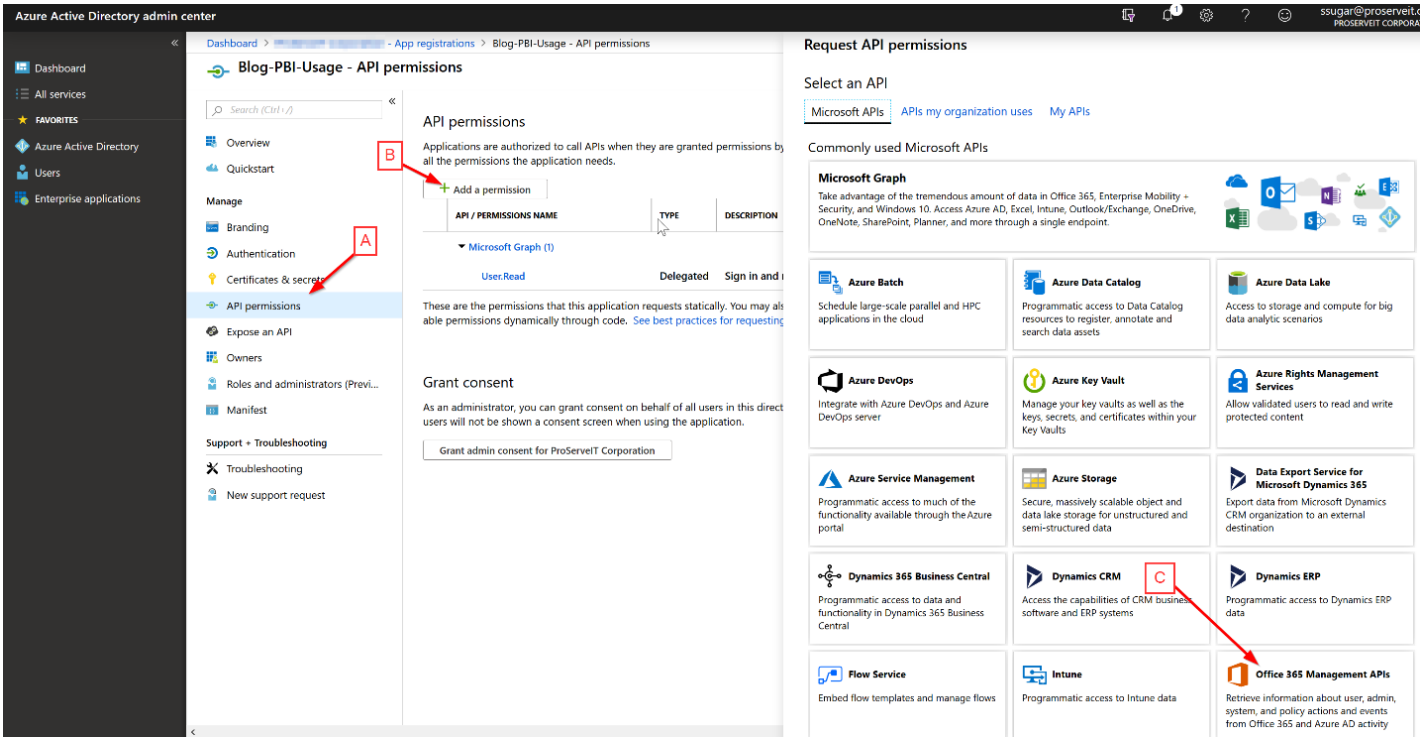
2. Register Azure AD Application

. Enter Application Name
. Select Supported Acccount Types (default is fine if just gather activity logs for one tenant)
. Click Register



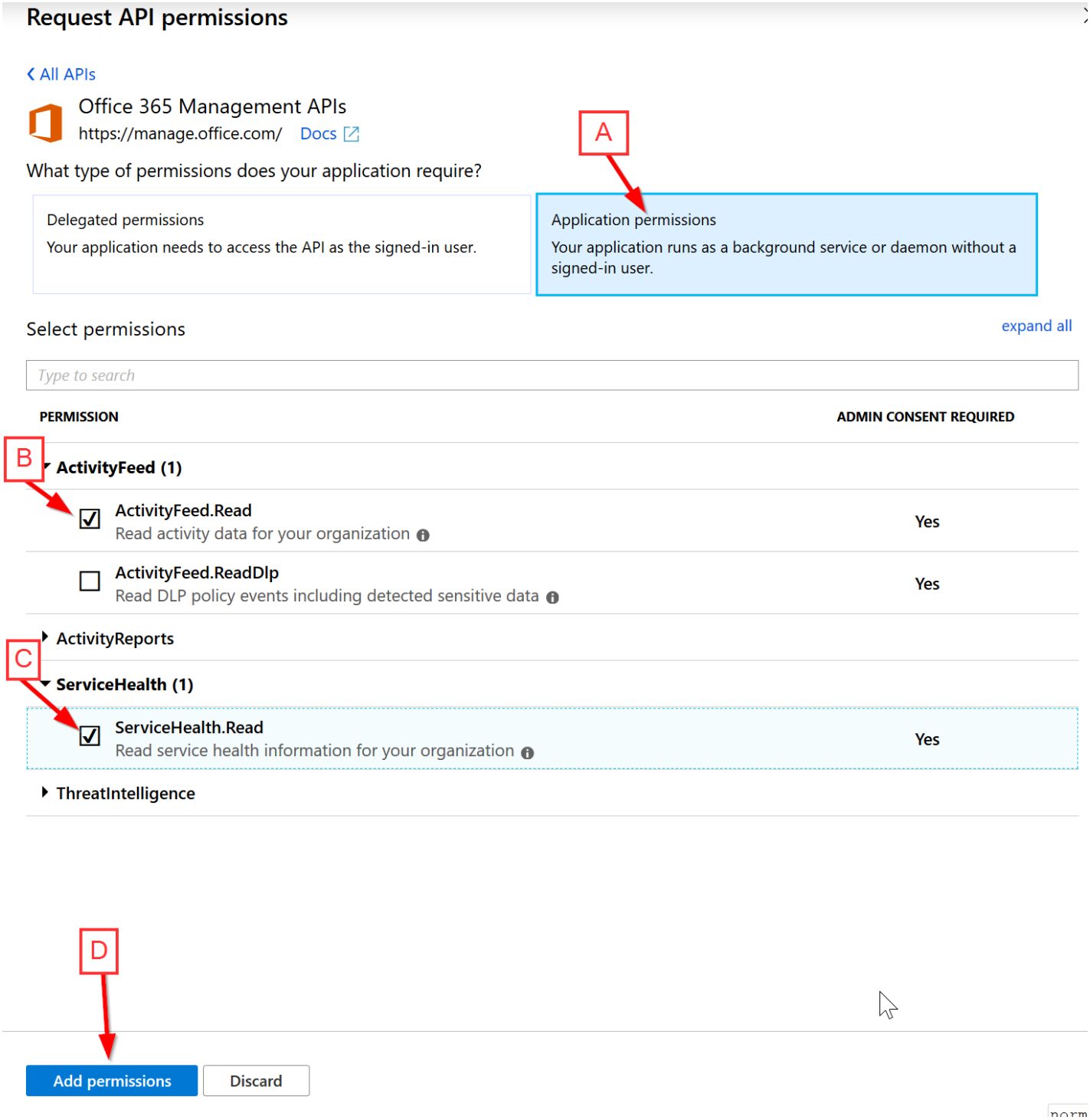
3. Add API Permissions

. Click API Permissions
. Click "Add a permission"
. Click "Office 365 Management APIs"



4. Request API Permissions

. Click "Application Permissions"
. Select ActivityFeed.Read
. Select ServiceHealth.Read
. Click "Add permissions"



4a. Grant Admin Consent for your org

. Click "Grant admin consent for ..."