

Designing Smarter Power Apps Solutions

- 15+ years' working with Dynamics 365 CE/CRM (since version 4.0)
- Specialize in CRM configuration, business process integration, automation, and tool evaluation
- Deep expertise across multiple first-party apps
- Moved to Dallas in January 2023, from Midwest
- Co-host Awkward Silence podcast with friend Ed Gonzales
- Hobbies:
 - Watching documentaries
 - Watching professional sporting events
 - Everything to do with the Milwaukee Brewers



Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



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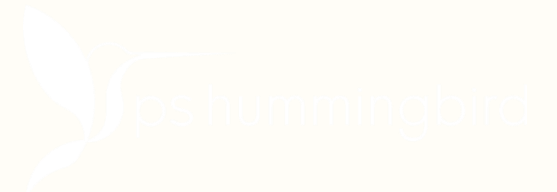
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Solution Architect



Agenda

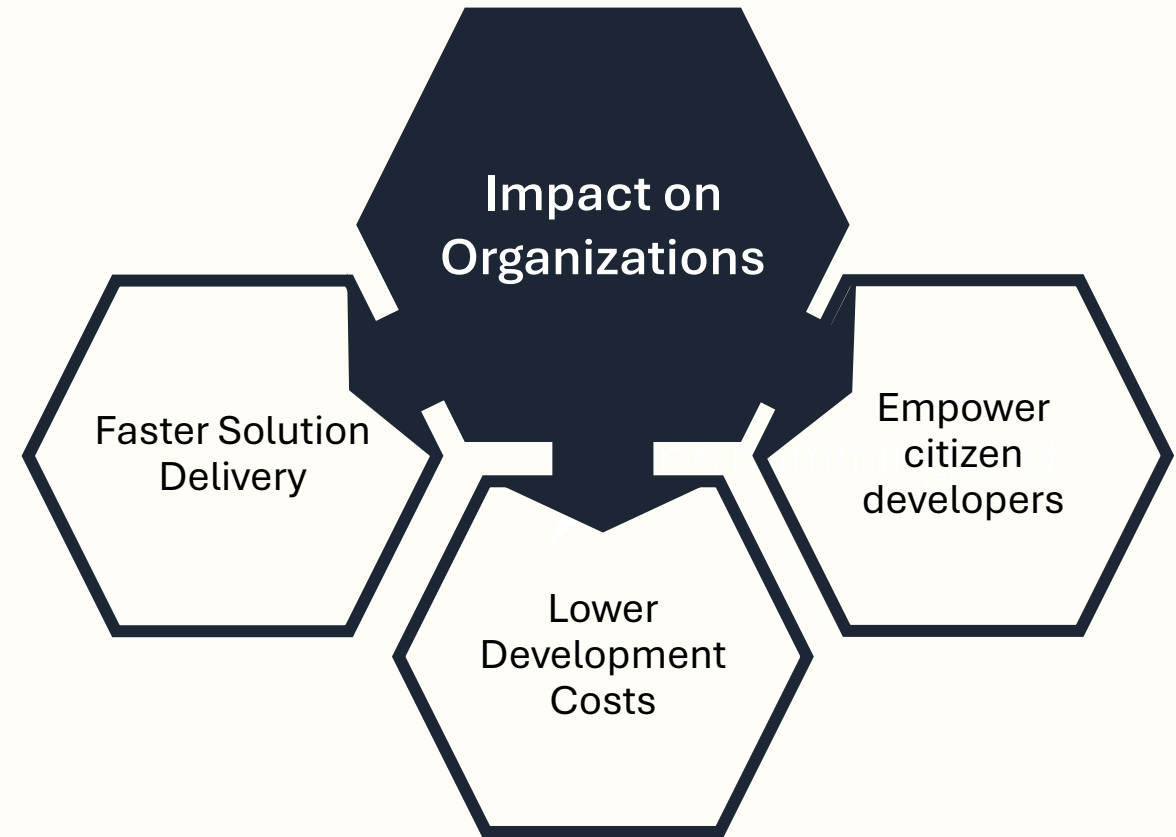
- Copilot-First Experience
- Plan Designer Deep Dive
- Generative Pages Deep Dive
- Demo: Idea to App in Minutes

Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



The Shift to AI-Driven Development

- Describe your business need in natural language
- AI generates user stories, data models, and app recommendations
- Accelerates time-to-value and reduces complexity



Business Challenges Today



Time-Consuming Planning



Fragmented Tools



UI Design Bottlenecks

Business Challenges Solved

Plan Designer

- Converts natural language into structured requirements
- Generates process flows and data models automatically
- Provides solution recommendations aligned with best practices

Generative Pages

- Instantly creates responsive, data-connected pages
- Aligns UI with user intent and app structure
- Reduces manual layout and design work

Before the AI-Driven Shift



Manual
Planning

+



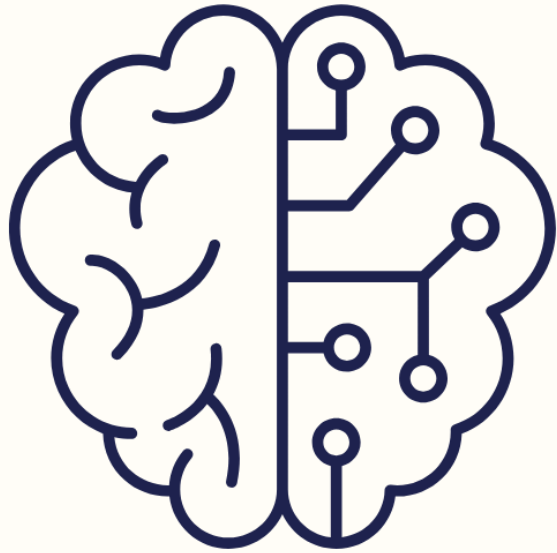
Manual UI
Design

=



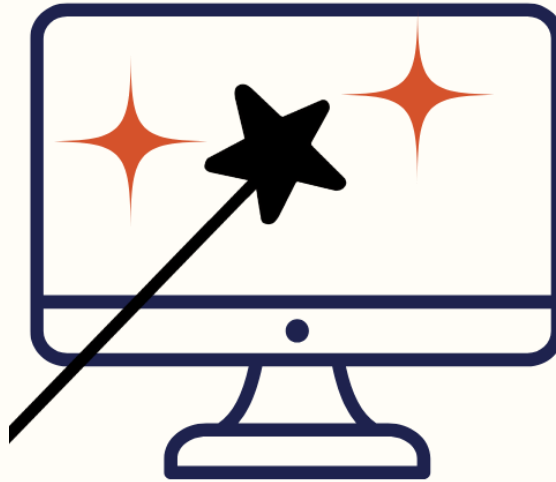
Long
Timelines

After the AI-Driven Shift



AI-Driven
Planning

+



AI-Generated
UI

=

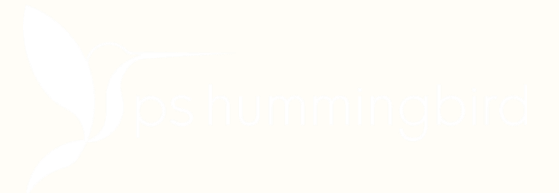


App in
Minutes

Plan Designer

AI-powered blueprint for app design

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Solution Architect



Describe



Generate



Build

Made Possible with Agents



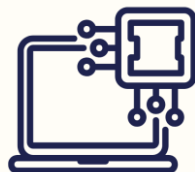
Requirements Agent



Process Agent



Data Agent



Solutions Agent

Requirements Agent

Role

Captures the functional needs of the app in the form of user stories

What it does

- Translates natural language input into structured requirements
- Identifies roles (e.g., employee, manager) and actions (e.g., submit, approve)

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Requirements Agent Example

Input

“Employees submit leave requests for manager approval.”

Output

User Story: As an employee, I want to submit a leave request so that my manager can approve it.

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Process Agent

Role

Maps business workflows and process steps

What it does

- Creates a visual or logical flow of tasks
- Defines triggers, approvals, and automation opportunities

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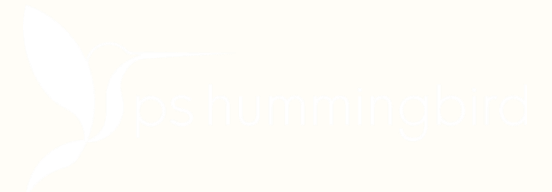
Process Agent Example

Step 1: Employee submits leave request

Step 2: Manager reviews and approves/rejects

Step 3: Employee is notified

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Data Agent

Role

Suggests data entities, fields, and relationships

What it does

- Analyzes requirements and process flows to infer data structure
- Creates tables like *Expense*, *Employee*, *Approval* with relationships

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Data Agent Example

Table: Leave Request

Fields:

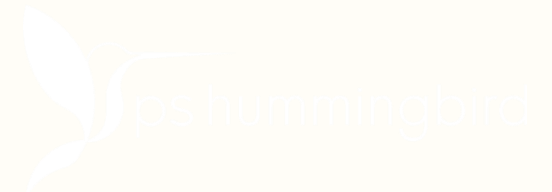
- Date
- Type
- Length
- Status

Table: Employee

Fields:

- Name
- Department

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Solution Architect



Solutions Agent

Role

Recommends app components and integrations

What it does

- Suggests Power Apps screens, Power Automate flows, and connectors
- Aligns recommendations with best practices and governance

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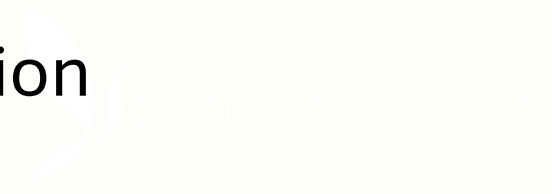
hummingbird



Process Agent Example

- Approval workflow via Power Automate
- Integration with Dataverse for data storage
- Suggested UI templates for leave request submission

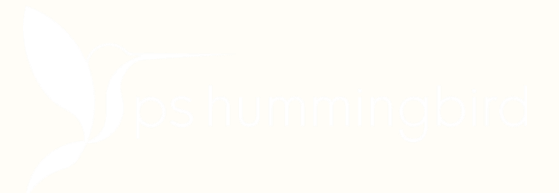
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Generative Pages

AI-powered page creation for Power Apps

Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



Why Generative Pages Matter

Accelerates UI design	—————→	Pages generated in seconds
Reduces manual effort	—————→	No need for hand-built layouts
Ensures consistency & best practices	—————→	Responsive, accessible design
Empowers all makers	—————→	Citizen developers & pro devs



How AI Interprets Structure & Intent

Inputs from Plan Designer

- Data model (tables, fields, relationships)
- Process flows (steps, approvals, triggers)
- User stories (roles, actions, outcomes)

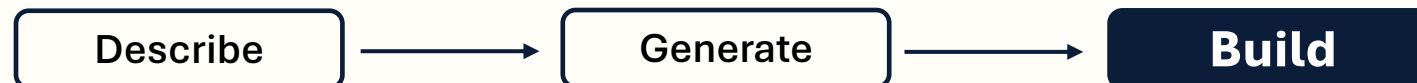


AI Generates

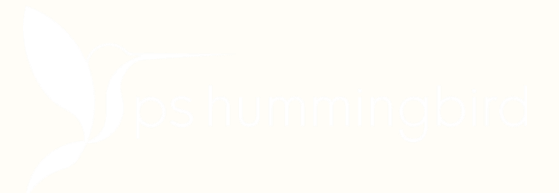
- Page layouts with responsive design
- Controls bound to data
- Navigation & logic aligned with workflows

App in Minutes

AI accelerates design + build phases

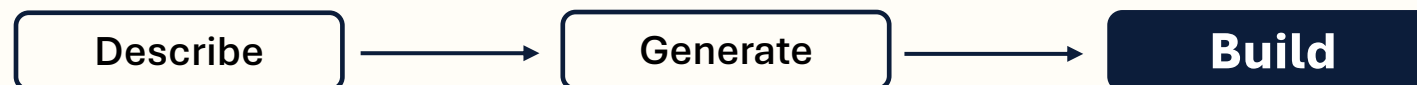
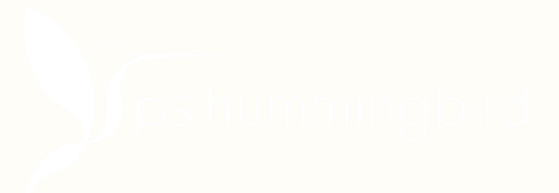


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Demo

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Use Case – Leave Request App

- Employees need a simple way to request time off without manual paperwork
- Managers require an easy approval process to track and manage requests
- HR wants accurate calendar updates to avoid scheduling conflicts
- The app should:
 - Allow employees to submit leave request quickly
 - Enable managers to approve or reject requests with one click
 - Integrate with calendars for real-time visibility
 - Provide a dashboard for approvals and status tracking

Asley Steiner
Senior Manager
Scheduling

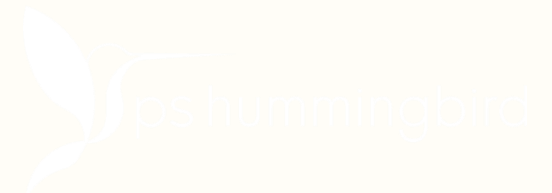
MVP
Microsoft
Project
Manager

Plan Designer Natural Language

Employees need a way to request time off. Managers should be able to approve or reject these requests. Once approved, the leave should automatically update the company calendar. The app should include a page for employees to submit leave requests and a dashboard for managers to review and approve or reject requests. The data model should include Employee details and Leave Request information such as start date, end date, reason, and status.

So, this was cool... Can you
actually use it?

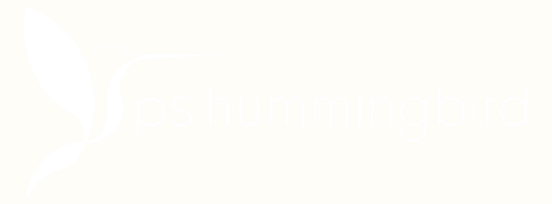
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Solution Architect



Sure, but there are things to consider

- Works exclusively with Dataverse
- Auto-creation doesn't equal the right solution
- Think of it as a Junior Assistant
- “Good Enough” isn't always Good
- Power Automate suggestions are not turnkey
- May recommend creating out-of-box tables

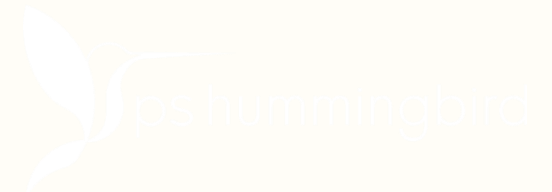
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Good Use Cases

- Proof Of Concept
- Starting point
- Small team to increase productivity
- When you're stuck 😊

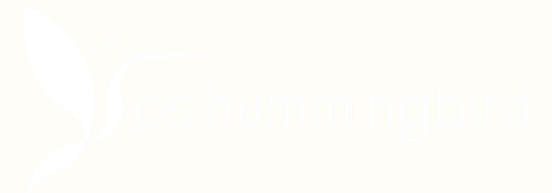
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Tips for Refining AI-Generated Outputs

- Validate requirements before building
- Adjust data model for accuracy
- Customize UI for branding & usability
- Iterate prompts for better results

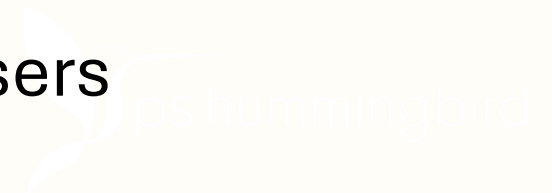
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Governance & Security Considerations

- Enforce data policies and compliance standards
- Use separate environments for Dev, Test, and Prod
- Apply role-based access control for makers and users
- Review and monitor AI-generated outputs for accuracy

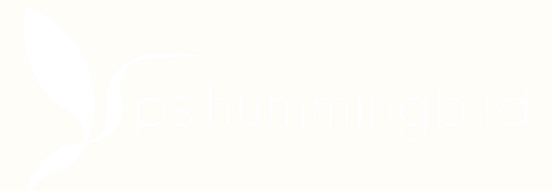
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Key Takeaways

1. AI is transforming app development
2. Plan Designer accelerates design
3. Generative Pages simplify UI creation
4. End-to-End workflow = Idea to App in minutes
5. Governance and refinement remain critical

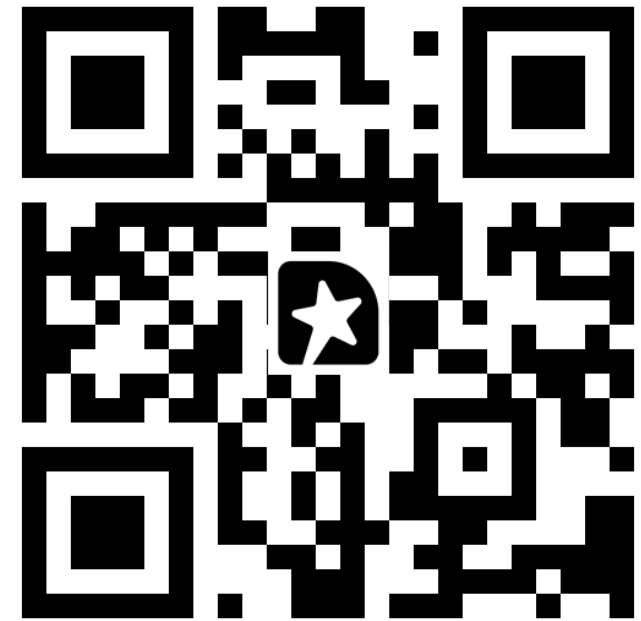
Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



Q&A

Ashley@ashleymsteiner.com

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Designing Smarter Power Apps Solutions

Please tell me what you think!
Take the session survey!

Power Apps

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Home

Create

Learn

Plans

Apps

AI hub

Solutions

Tables

Flows

More

Power Platform

Try new experience (preview)
Explore a new way to plan and build your apps

Let's make a plan

This feature uses generative AI. [See terms](#)

I need my staff to check out equipment and be notified of due dates

Employees need to log vacation hours

My team needs a solution for...

Employees need a way to request time off. Managers should be able to approve or reject these requests. Once approved, the leave should automatically update the company calendar. The app should include a page for employees to submit leave requests and a dashboard for managers to review and approve or reject requests. The data model should include Employee details and Leave Request information such as start date, end date, reason, and status.

Add files

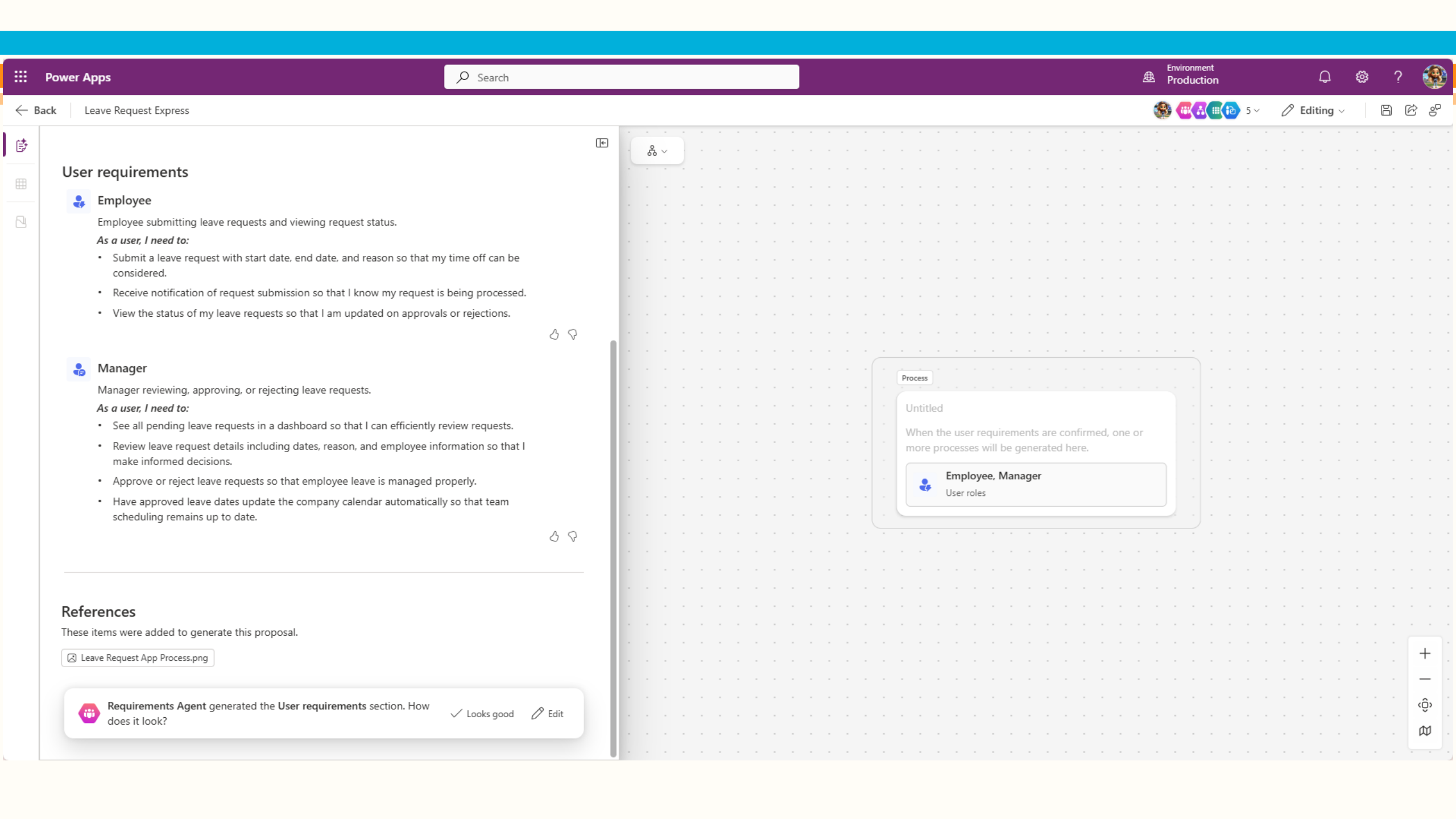
Leave Request A...

☒

Include preview features

Plans

See all plans



User requirements



Employee

Employee submitting leave requests and viewing request status.

As a user, I need to:

- Submit a leave request with start date, end date, and reason so that my time off can be considered.
- Receive notification of request submission so that I know my request is being processed.
- View the status of my leave requests so that I am updated on approvals or rejections.



Manager

Manager reviewing, approving, or rejecting leave requests.

As a user, I need to:

- See all pending leave requests in a dashboard so that I can efficiently review requests.
- Review leave request details including dates, reason, and employee information so that I make informed decisions.
- Approve or reject leave requests so that employee leave is managed properly.
- Have approved leave dates update the company calendar automatically so that team scheduling remains up to date.



References

These items were added to generate this proposal.

Leave Request App Process.png



Requirements Agent generated the User requirements section. How does it look?

✓ Looks good

Edit

Process

Untitled

When the user requirements are confirmed, one or more processes will be generated here.



Employee, Manager

User roles



Manager reviewing, approving, or rejecting leave requests.

As a user, I need to:

- See all pending leave requests in a dashboard so that I can efficiently review requests.
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- Approve or reject leave requests so that employee leave is managed properly.
- Have approved leave dates update the company calendar automatically so that team scheduling remains up to date.

The processes for solving the business problem. Each process appears as a card next to this document.

Leave Request Submission and Review

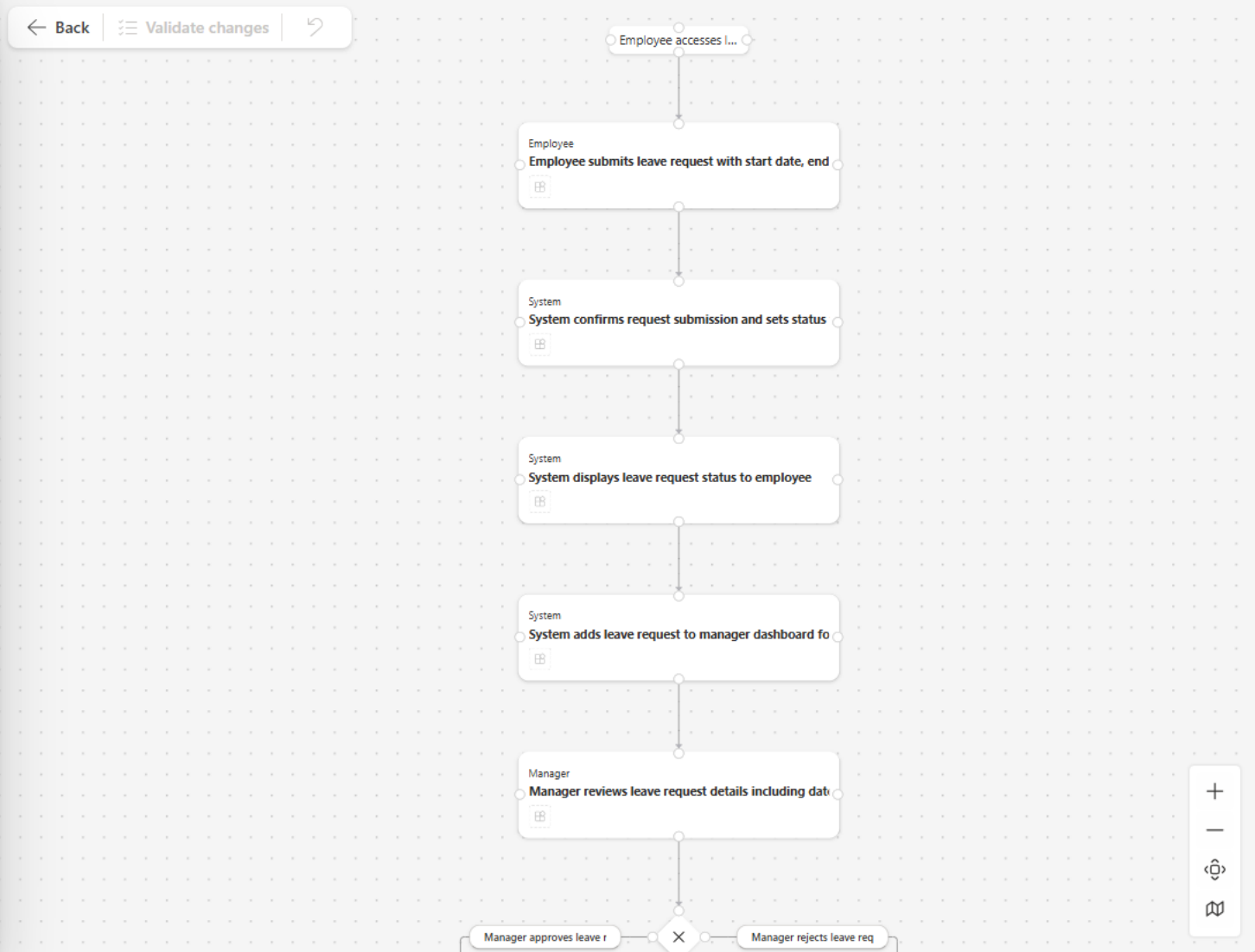
This process covers the end-to-end workflow for employees to submit leave requests and for managers to review, approve, or reject them. It includes employee submission, notification, manager dashboard review, decision-making, and automatic calendar updates for approved requests.



These items were added to generate this proposal.

Process Agent generated a set of processes next to the document.
Does everything look ok?

✓ Looks good

 Edit

Power Apps

← Back Leave Request Express

Manager

Manager reviewing, approving, or rejecting leave requests.

As a user, I need to:

- See all pending leave requests in a dashboard so that I can efficiently review requests.
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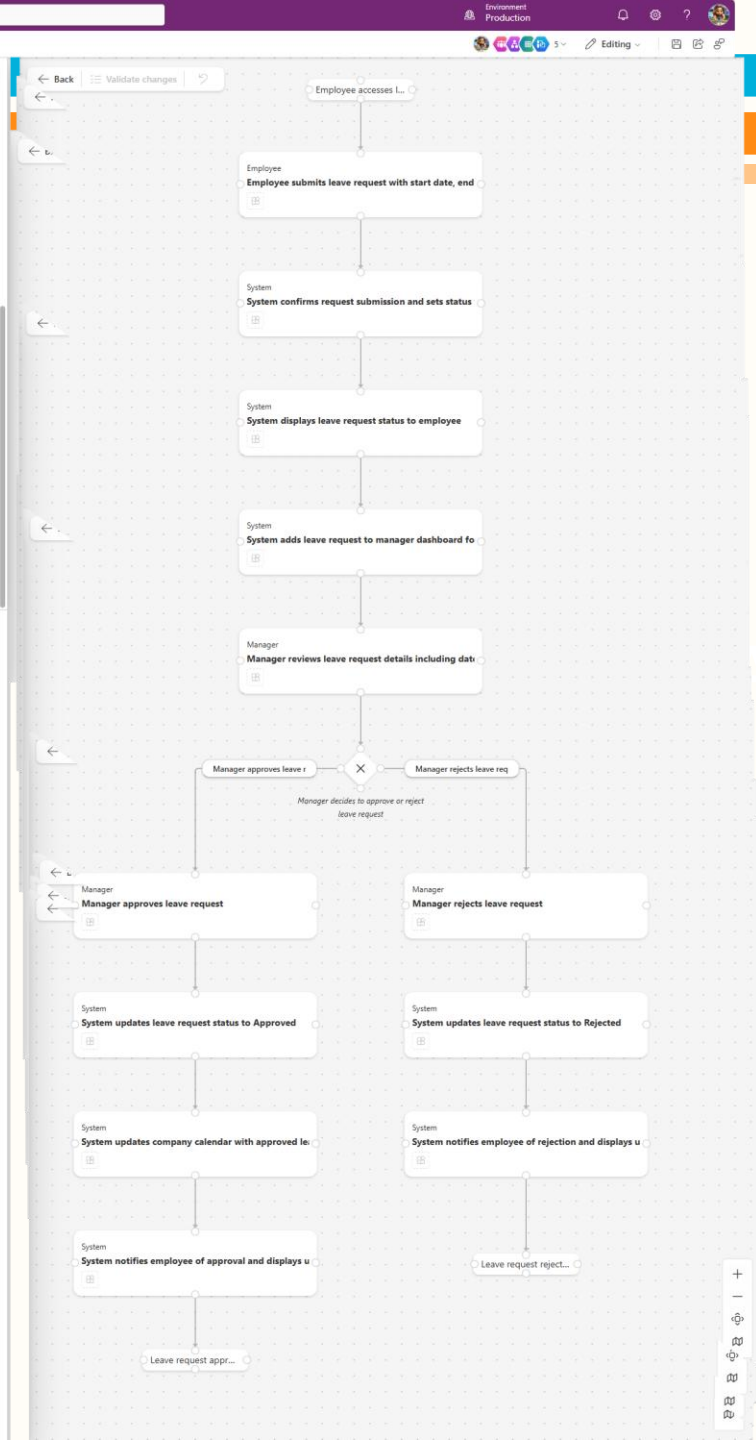
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Leave Request App Process.png

Process Agent generated a set of processes next to the document. Does everything look ok? ✓ Looks good ✎ Edit



Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect

ps hummingbird

MVP
Microsoft®
Most Valuable
Professional

Power Apps

Search

Environment
Production

Back

Leave Request Express

Have approved leave dates update the company calendar automatically so that team scheduling remains up to date.

User processes

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This process covers the end-to-end workflow for employees to submit leave requests and for managers to review, approve, or reject them. It includes employee submission, notification, manager dashboard review, decision-making, and automatic calendar updates for approved requests.

Data model

The tables that will be used to store and provide information.

Employee

New

This table contains records of employee details.

Leave Request

New

This table contains records of leave requests submitted by employees.

References

These items were added to generate this proposal.

Leave Request App Process.png

Data Agent generated the Data model section. How does it look?

These tables will be saved in a new solution. [Change solution](#)

✓ Looks good

Edit

Process

Leave Request Submission and Review

This process covers the end-to-end workflow for employees to submit leave requests and for managers to review, approve, or reject them. It includes employee submission, notification, manager dashboard review, decision-making, and automatic calendar updates for approved requests.

Employee

Dataverse table

New

Leave Request

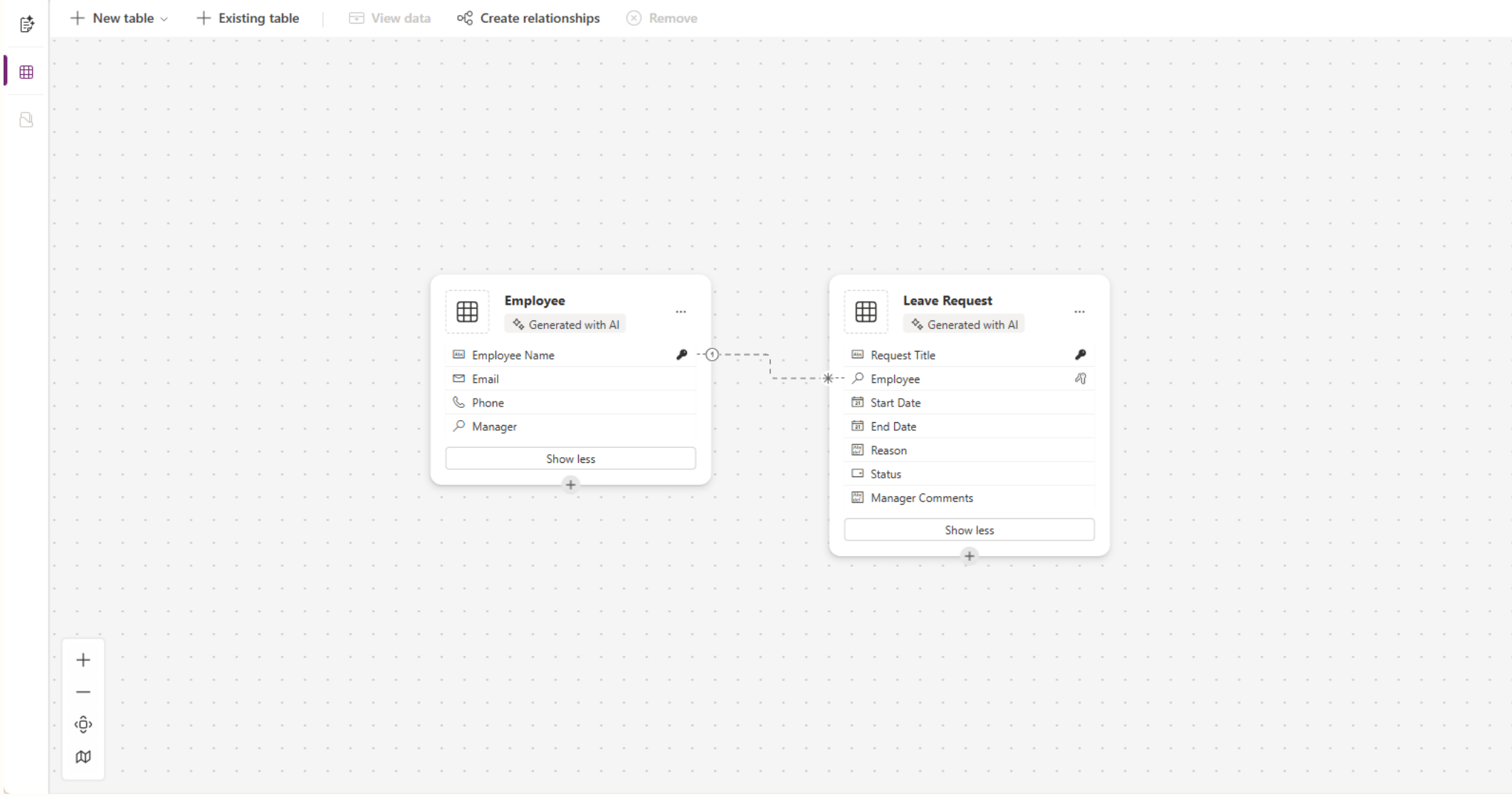
Dataverse table

New

Employee, Manager

User roles

View process



Copilot

Hi Ashley, what can I help you with?

Create

Describe tables, columns, rows, and relationships and they'll be generated for you

Import data

Create tables from Excel or .CSV files, or Sharepoint lists

Change

Describe the changes you'd like to make

View prompts

What would you like to do next?

Make sure AI-generated content is accurate and appropriate before using. [See terms](#)

 Reconnecting If you're working with other people, wait until you're reconnected before making additional changes.

Employee

This table contains records of employee details.

111 leave request

This table contains records of leave requests submitted by employees.

Technology

The apps, flows, and other objects that will be used to solve the business problem.



The Leave Request Portal

Canvas app New

Enables employees to submit leave requests and view statuses, and managers to review and decide on requests efficiently.



Leave Request Notifications

Power Automate flow New

Sends instant notifications to employees after submission and when requests are approved or rejected.



Leave Calendar Sync ⓘ

Power Automate flow New

Automatically updates the company calendar when leave requests are approved, helping managers manage team schedules.

References

These items were added to generate this proposal.



Your tables have been saved. To create and customize an object, just hover over it and select **Create**.

X

Process

Leave Request Submission and Review

This process covers the end-to-end workflow for employees to submit leave requests and for managers to review, approve, or reject them. It includes employee submission, notification, manager dashboard review, decision-making, and automatic calendar updates for approved requests.



The Leave Request Portal

Canvas app **New**



Leave Request Notifications

Power Automate flow **New**

Leave Calendar Sync

Power Automate flow **New**



Employee

Dataverse table



Leave Request

Dataverse table

[Show 1 more](#)

View process



Power Apps

Search

Environment
Production

Back

Leave Request Express

Reconnecting If you're working with other people, wait until you're reconnected before making additional changes.

Employee

This table contains records of employee details.

Leave Request

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The Leave Request Portal

Canvas app

New

Enables employees to submit leave requests and track their statuses, and managers to review and decide efficiently.

Leave Request Notifications

Power Automate flow

New

Notifies employees after submission and managers if a request is approved or rejected.

Leave Calendar Sync

Power Automate flow

New

Automatically updates the company calendar when leave requests are approved, helping managers manage team schedules.

References

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Leave Request App Process.png

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The Leave Request Portal

Canvas app

New

Leave Request Notifications

Power Automate flow

New

Leave Calendar Sync

Power Automate flow

New

Employee

Dataverse table

Leave Request

Dataverse table

Show 1 more

View process

Tree view

Screens Components

🔍 Search

+ New screen

> App

- Employees screen

> ScreenContainer1

- > ☐ Leave Requests screen

- > ☐ Welcome screen

Employees

Search

+ New

Sarah Williams

+1 555-0104

sarah.williams@example.com

Maria Rodriguez

+1 555-0102

maria.rodriguez@example.com

David Johnson

+1 555-0103

david.johnson@example.com

James Chen

+1 555-0105

james.chen@example.com

John Smith

+1 555-0101

john.smith@example.com

Sarah Williams

Email

sarah.williams@example.com

Phone

+1 555-0104






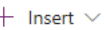
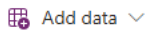
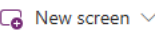
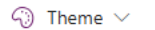
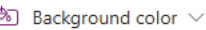
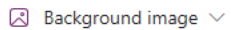
Employee Name


Sarah Williams

Manager

Maria Rodriguez

☐ Employees ...

 Back      Insert  Add data  New screen  Theme  Background color  Background image ...

Fill = fx  `RGBA(255, 255, 255, 1)`

Tree view

Screens Components

+ New screen

> App

> Employees screen



> ScreenContainer1

> Leave Requests screen

> Welcome screen

The data source "cra5b_LeaveRequests" was added to your app.

Leave Requests



Search

+ New

Vacation December
12/30/2025 12:00 AM

Conference
7/22/2025 12:00 AM

Vacation May
5/15/2025 12:00 AM

Personal Leave
8/18/2025 12:00 AM
Rejected due to workload

Medical Leave
6/5/2025 12:00 AM
Approved, take care

Vacation December

Request Title

Vacation December

Manager Comments

End Date

12/30/2025 00 :00

Reason

Holiday vacation

Start Date

12/20/2025 00 :00


Status

Pending


Employee


Maria Rodriguez

Leave Requ...



+ 80%



 **Reconnecting** If you're working with other people, wait until you're reconnected before making additional changes.

Data model

The tables that will be used to store and provide information.

This table contains records of leave requests submitted by employees.

Technology

The apps, flows, and other objects that will be used to solve the business problem.

Enables employees to submit leave requests and view statuses, and managers to review and decide on requests efficiently.

Sends instant notifications to employees after submission and when requests are approved or rejected.

Automatically updates the company calendar when leave requests are approved, helping managers manage team schedules.

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Leave Request App Process.png

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Canvas app

Power Automate flow NewPower Automate flow **New**

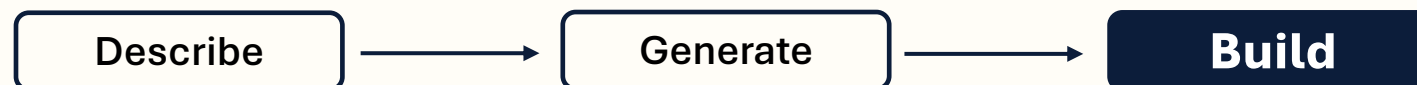
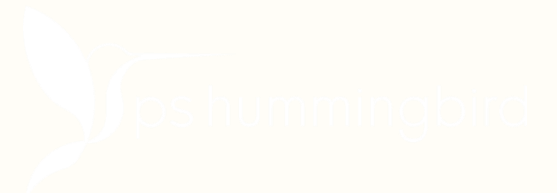
Dataverse table

Dataverse table

[Show 1 more](#)[View process](#)

Generative Pages Only

Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



Generative Pages Prompt

Create an app for managing employee leave requests. The app should include:

1. A Request Leave page where employees can submit time-off requests with fields for start date, end date, reason, and status.
2. An Approval Dashboard for managers to view pending requests and approve or reject them.

Integrate with the company calendar so approved leave updates automatically. Apply company branding and make the interface simple and user-friendly.

Employees need a way to request time off. Managers should be able to approve or reject these requests. Once approved, the leave should automatically update the company calendar. The app should include a page for employees to submit leave requests and a dashboard for managers to review and approve or reject requests. The data model should include Employee details and Leave Request information such as start date, end date, reason, and status.

Task completed

Your app is ready! It includes a complete data model, implemented screens, workflows, and supporting technologies. You can now explore and interact with your new Power Platform app.

I've also created a plan that outlines the core framework for your solution -- including requirements for user roles, data tables to store information, and key components like agents, and flows. It's designed to guide your build from concept to completion with clarity and flexibility.

Time Off Manager

Plan



Enter your message



AI-generated content may be incorrect

Leave Request Portal

Home

Submit Request

My Requests

Manager Pending


Leave Request Portal

Move fast on time off

Submit leave requests, track statuses, and review pending items in one place. Designed for employees and managers to stay aligned.

Request Leave

View My Requests

Manager Pending

Pending

Awaiting review



3 requests

Approved

Good to go



1 requests

Rejected

Needs attention



1 requests

