

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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Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



Agenda

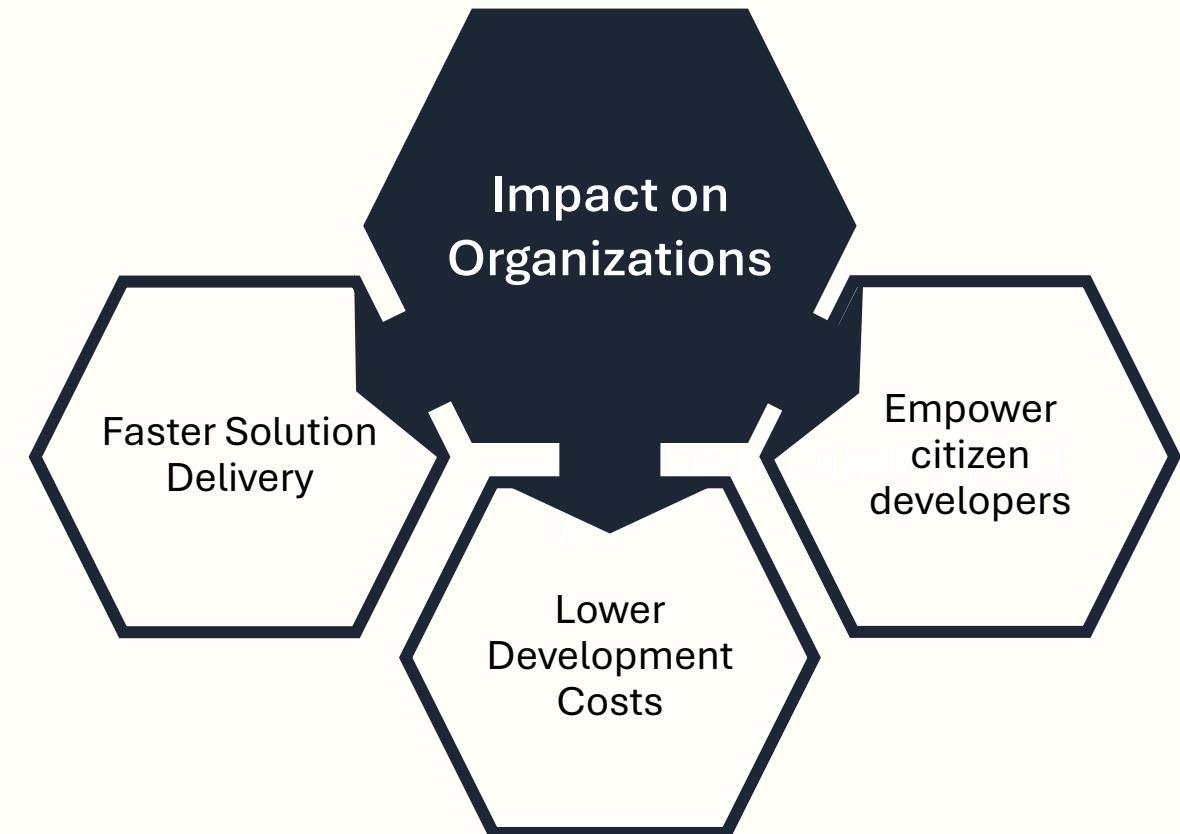
- Copilot-First Experience
- Plan Designer Deep Dive
- Generative Pages Deep Dive
- Demo: Idea to App in Minutes

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

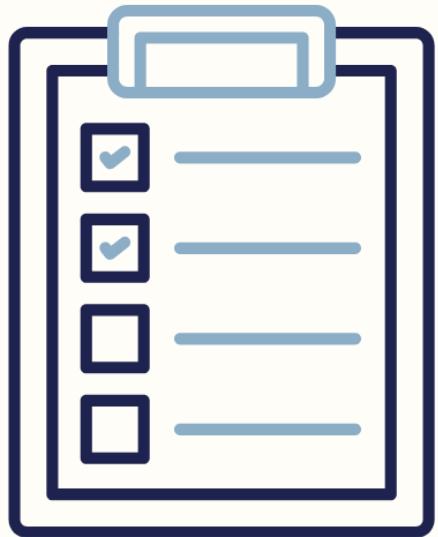
Plan Designer

- 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

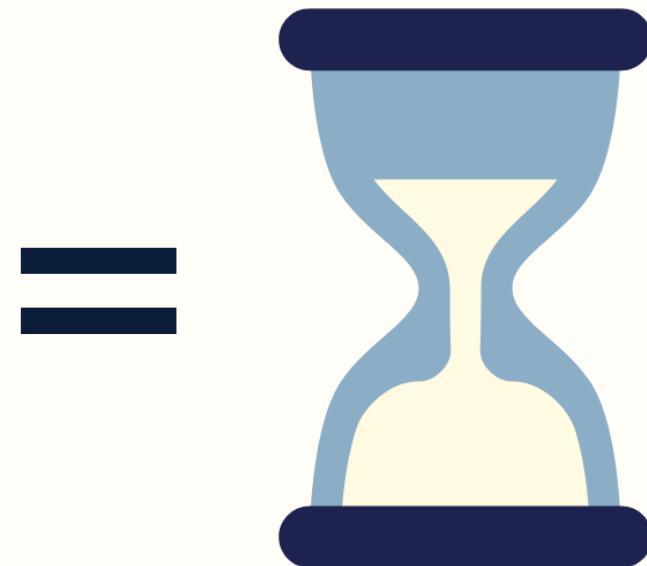
Before the AI-Driven Shift



Manual
Planning

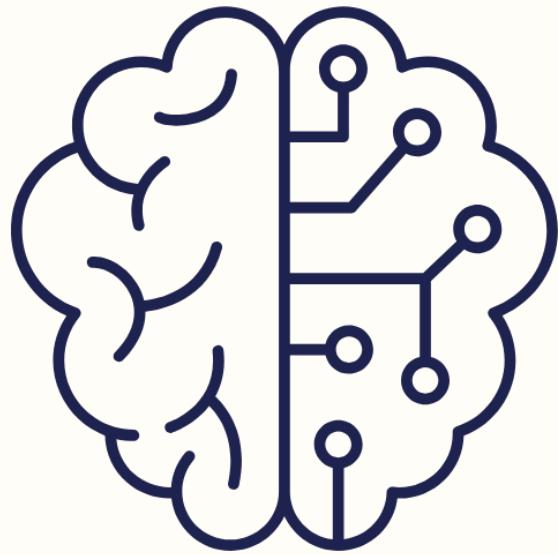


Manual UI
Design

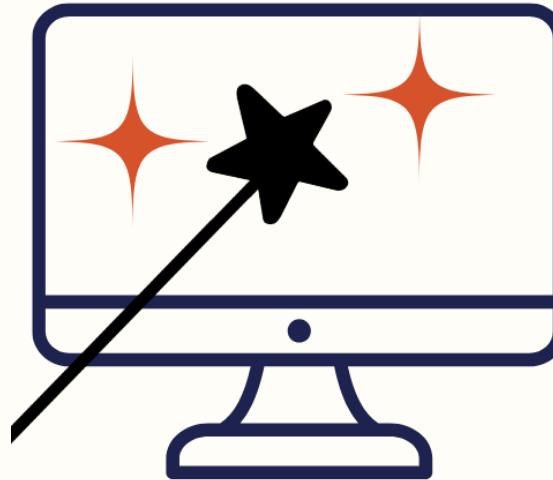


Long
Timelines

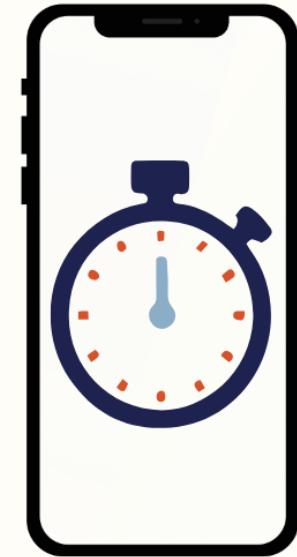
After the AI-Driven Shift



AI-Driven
Planning



AI-Generated
UI



App in
Minutes

Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



Plan Designer

AI-powered blueprint for app design

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)



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.



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

Ashley Stenger
Solution Architect



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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Solution Architect



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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Solution Architect



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

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Solution Architect

What it does

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



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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Solution Architect



Ashley Stener
Solution Architect



Generative Pages

AI-powered page creation for Power Apps

Describe

Generate

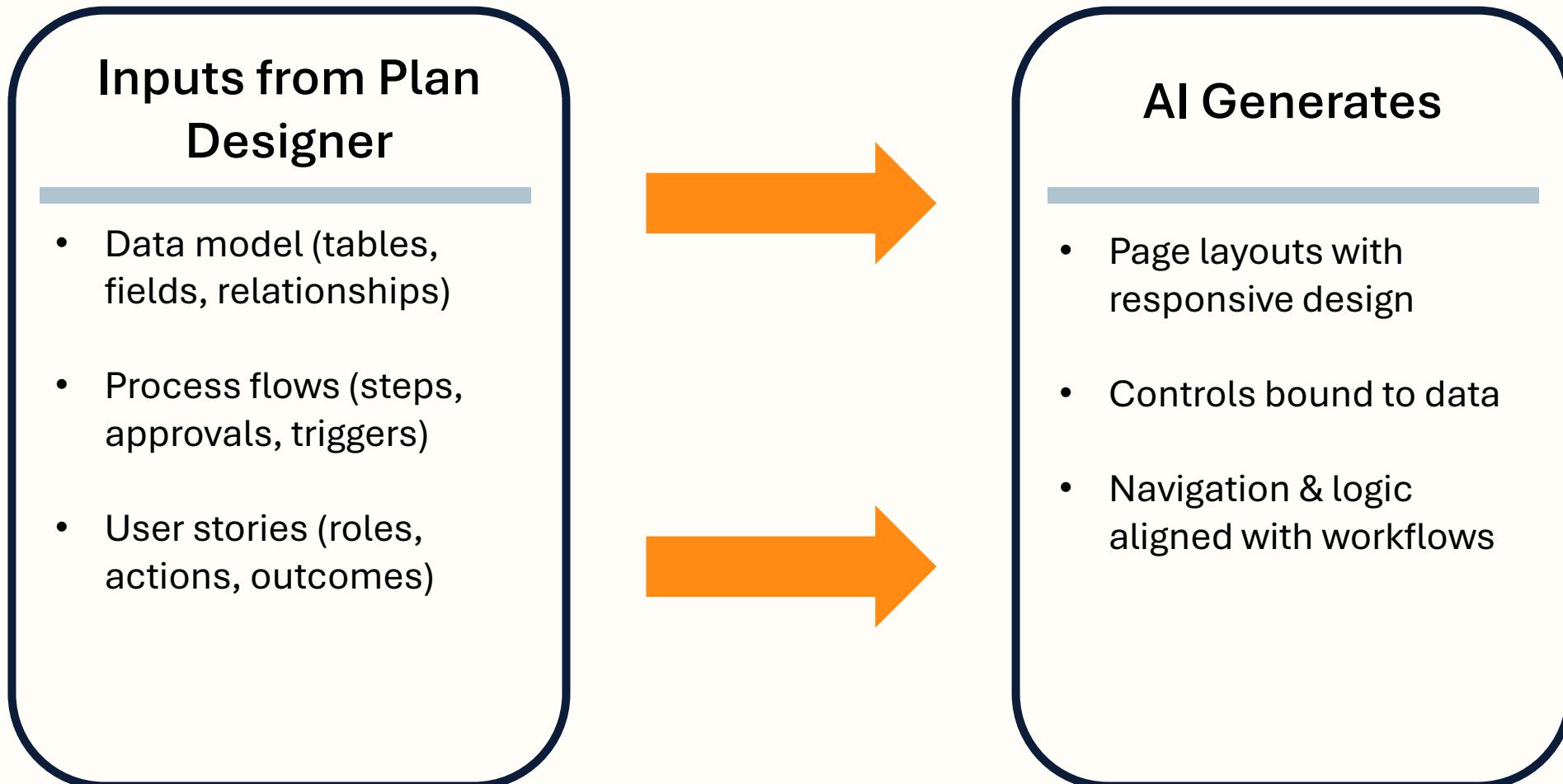
Build



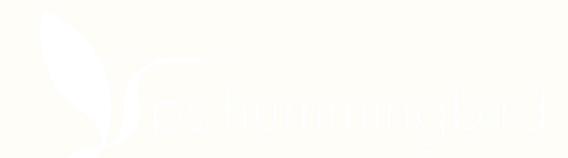
Why Generative Pages Matter

- 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



Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



App in Minutes

AI accelerates design + build phases

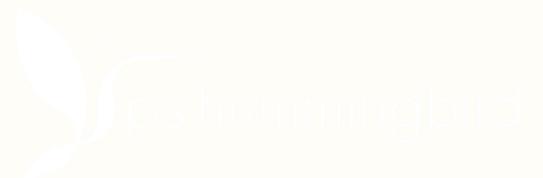
Describe

Generate

Build



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Solution Architect



Demo



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

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?

Hey Stener
Solution Architect



Sure, but there are things to consider

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

Ashley Steiner
Solution Architect



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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Solution Architect



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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Solution Architect

DS hummingbird



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 Stenger
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!

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

≡
 Home

+ Create

□ Learn

Plans

Apps

AI hub

Solutions

Tables

Flows

... More

Power Platform

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 fo >

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

← Back

Leave Request Express

5

Editing

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.

User processes

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.



References

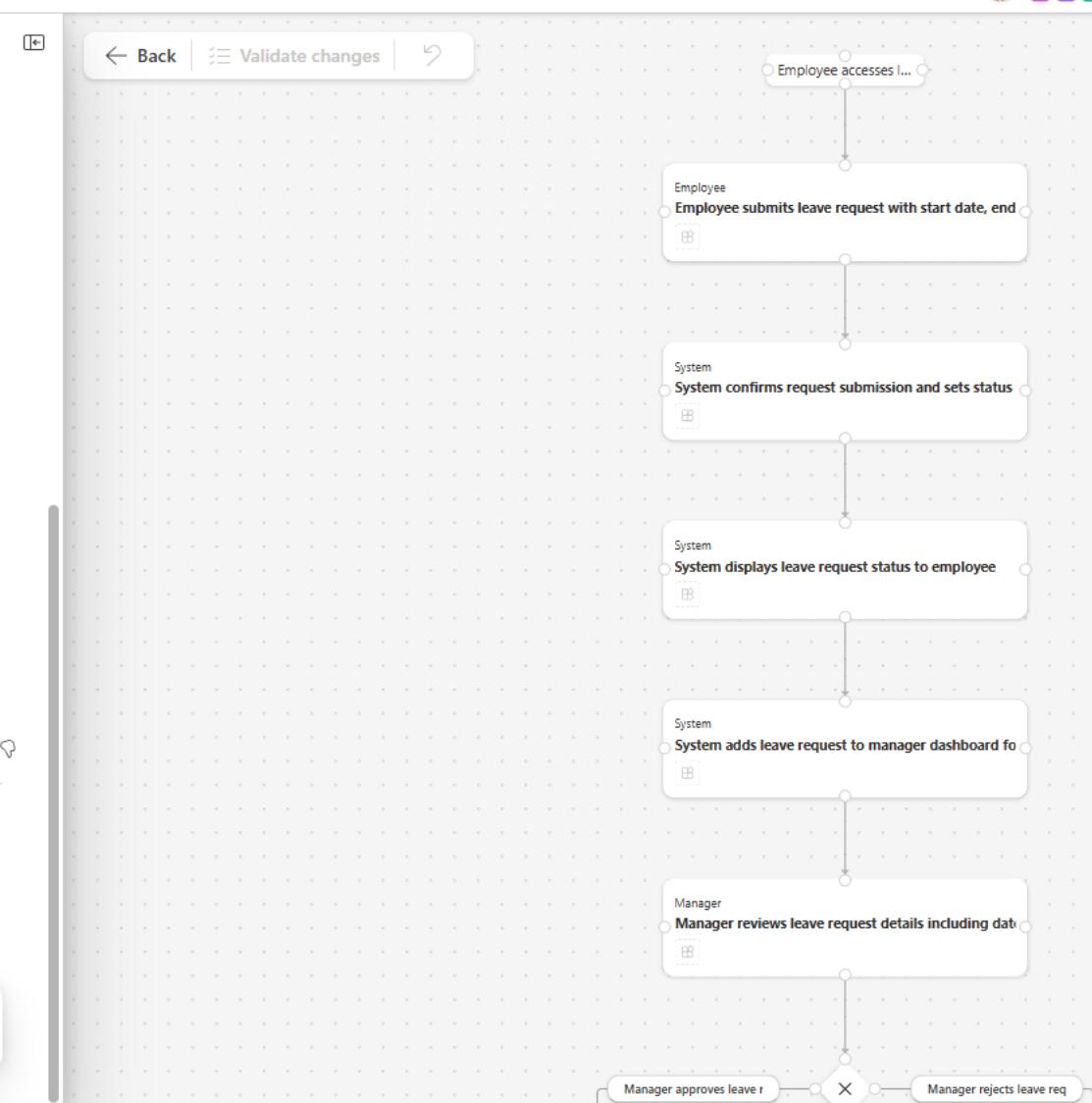
These items were added to generate this proposal.

Leave Request App Process.png

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

✓ Looks good

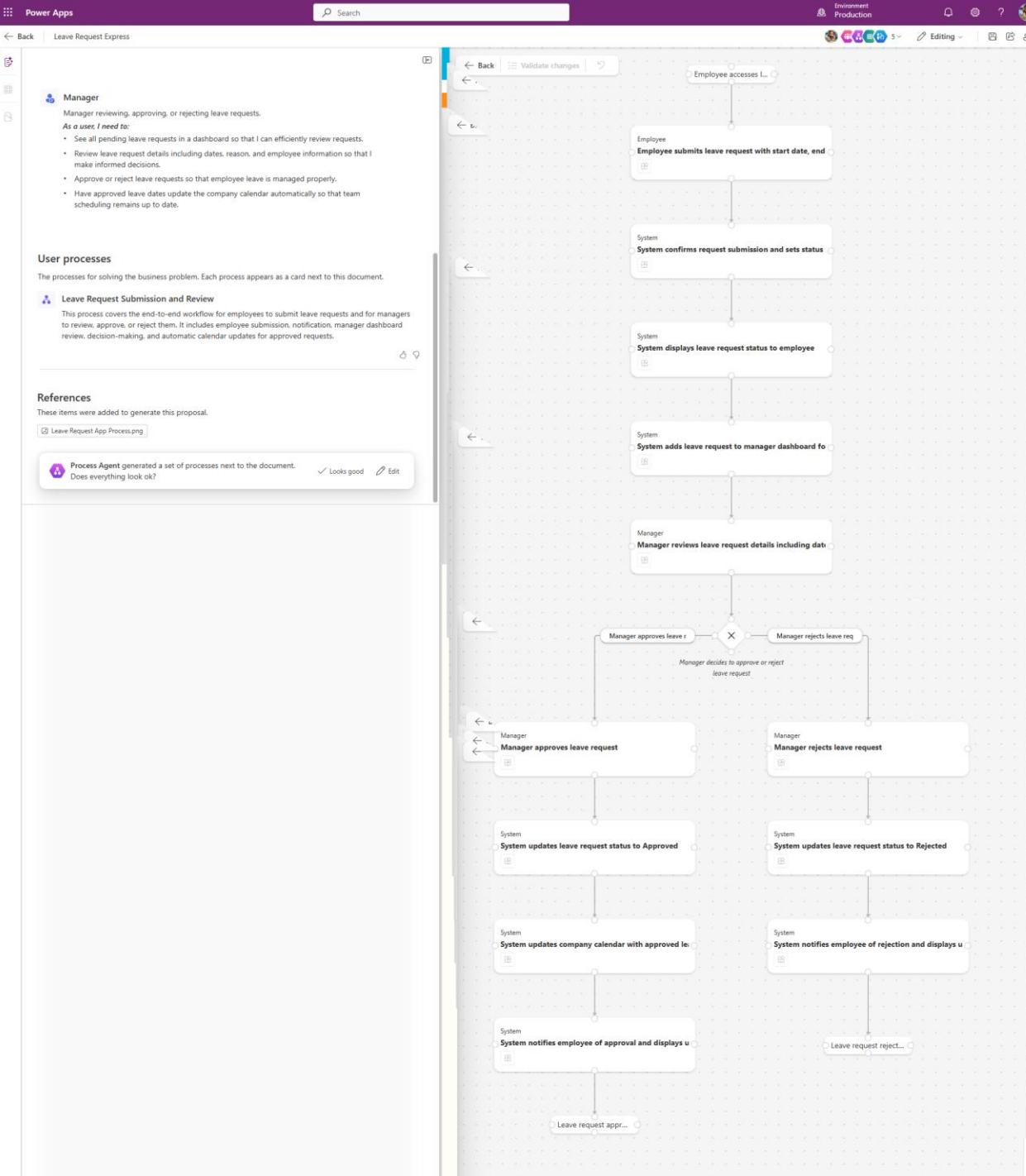
Edit



Shley Stenger
Solution Architect



Microsoft
Dynamics 365
Professional



← Back

Leave Request Express

5

Editing



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

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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

88 v

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](#)



← Back | Leave Request Express

Copilot 5 | Editing |

+ New table | + Existing table | View data | Create relationships | Remove

Employee Generated with AI

Employee Name
Email
Phone
Manager

Show less

+

Leave Request Generated with AI

Request Title
Employee
Start Date
End Date
Reason
Status
Manager Comments

Show less

+

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](#)

← Back | Leave Request Express

5

⚠ 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

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.

Leave Request App Process.png

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

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](#)

+

-

↶

↷



← Back

Leave Request Express



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Create

Replace with existing

Convert to model-driven app

Remove from plan

Leave Request Notifications

Power Automate flow [New](#)

Sends notifications to employees after submission of leave 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.



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](#)

References

These items were added to generate this proposal.

Leave Request App Process.png



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



Back | Forward | Insert | New screen | Theme | Background color | Background image | ...
Fill = fx RGB(255, 255, 255, 1)

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

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	Employee Name
sarah.williams@example.com	Sarah Williams
Phone	Manager
+1 555-0104	Maria Rodriguez

Fill

Tree view

Screens Components

Search

+ New screen

> App

< Employees screen

> ScreenContainer1

> Leave Requests screen

> Welcome screen

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

Leave Requests

Search

Vacation December

Request Title	End Date
Vacation December	12/30/2025 00 :00
Manager Comments	Reason
Holiday vacation	
Start Date	Status
12/20/2025 00 :00	Pending
Employee	Maria Rodriguez

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

Leave Requ...

80%

Leave Request Form

 **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 employee details.



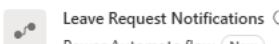
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Technology

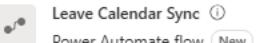
The apps, flows, and other objects that will be used to solve the business problem



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



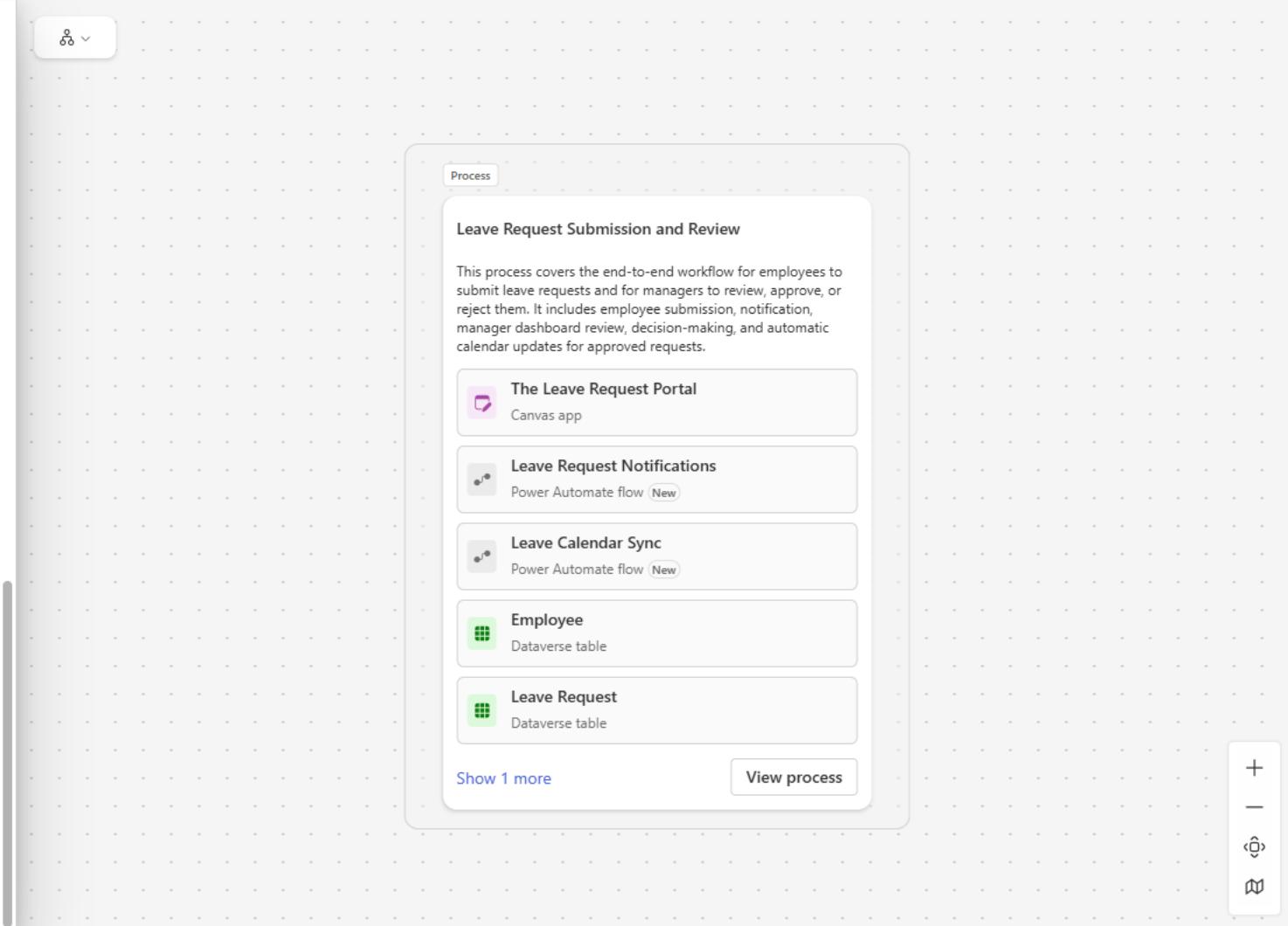
Sends instant notifications to employees after submission and when requests are approved or rejected.



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

References

These items were added to generate this proposal.



Ashley Stener
Solution Architect



Generative Pages Only

Describe

Generate

Build



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

Plan Data App | ⌛ ⌚ ⌂ ⌁ ⌃

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

