Designing your Power Platform Environment Strategy

Aaron Rendell, Microsoft MVP, Encodian
Ben Haynes, Solution Architect, Encodian

Agenda

- Why do you need an Environment Strategy?
- Designing Your Power Platform Environments.
- Implementing Data Loss Prevention (DLP) Policies
- Managed Environments
- Pipelines and Application Lifecycle Management (ALM)
- Q&A

Question…

How many Admins do we have in the room today?

Question…

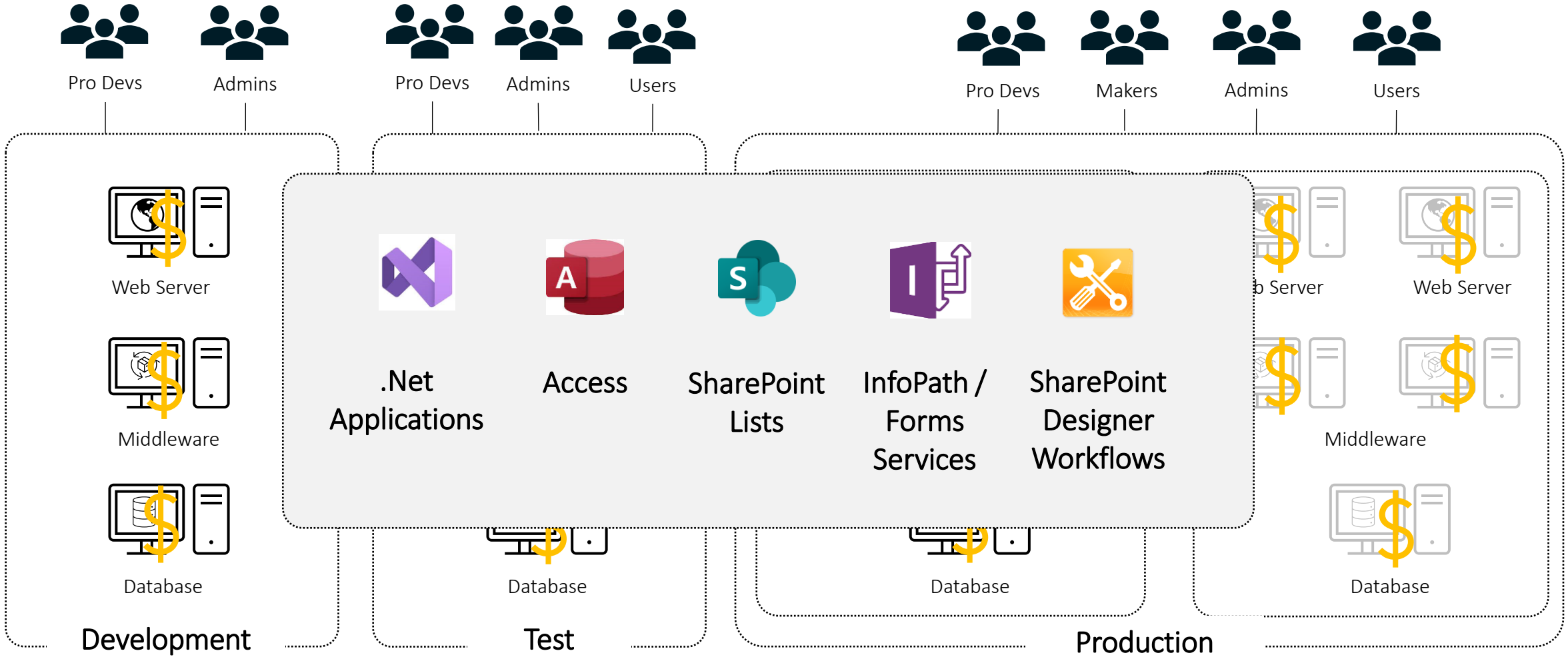
Who has implemented a Power Platform environment strategy?

Question…

Who feels in control of their Power Platform environment, and the Apps and Flows within it?

Why do you need to consider an environment strategy?

Lets take a step back in time…



Why Do We Need to Consider an Environment Strategy?

The Power Platform enables citizen developers and business users to create and manage their own applications. However, without a management strategy, there is a risk of **uncontrolled proliferation of apps**, leading to challenges in **governance, security, and compliance**.

Why Do We Need to Consider an Environment Strategy?

Scalability and Administration

- Where are your Makers creating their applications?
- What happens when things break?
- Is the solution architecture suitable?

Security and Compliance

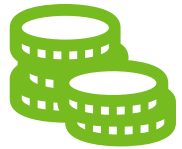
- Where is the data being stored?
- Who's managing the permissions?
- Does your Data Protection Officer need to be worried?

Lifecycle Management

- Is there a need for ALM?
- Who is responsible for creating the Environments?
- Where is the source code saved?

Standardisation and Consistency

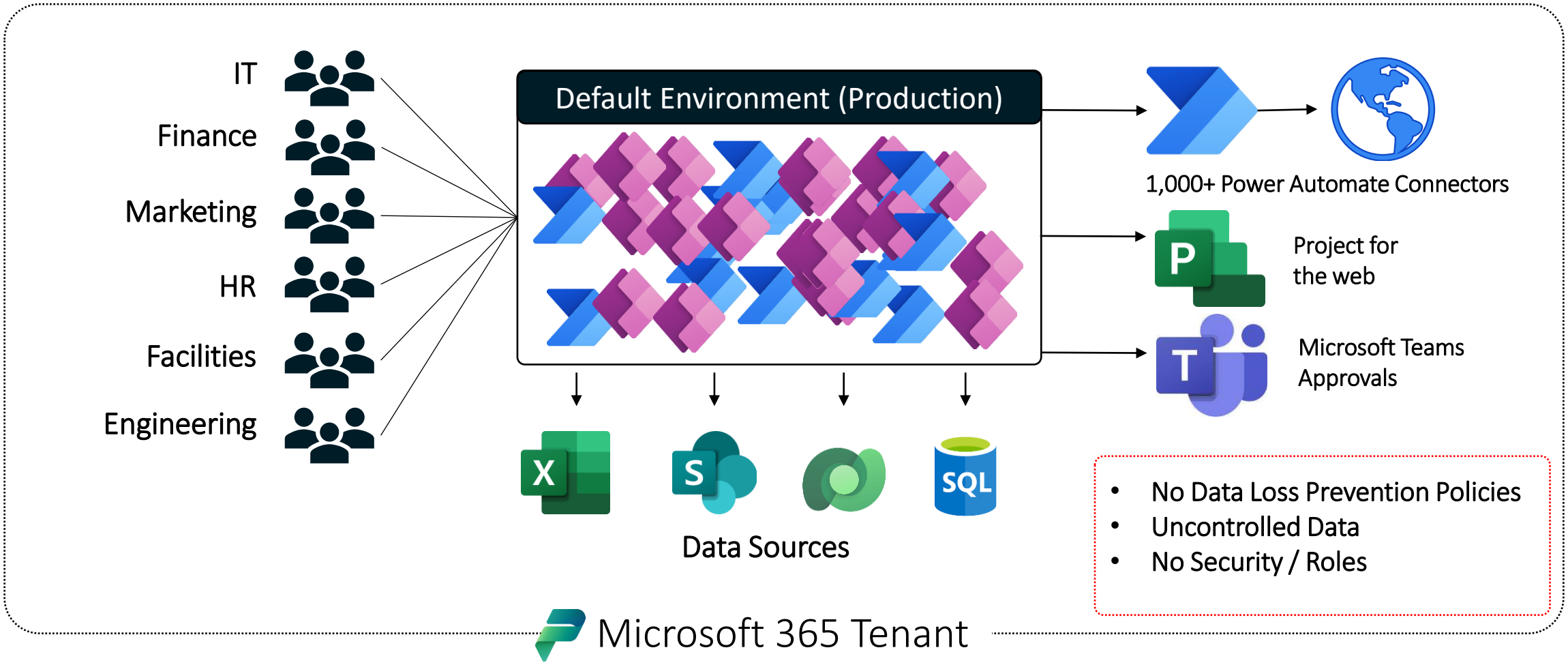
- Are there Usage Policies aligned to strategy?
- Are there branding templates and reusable components available?



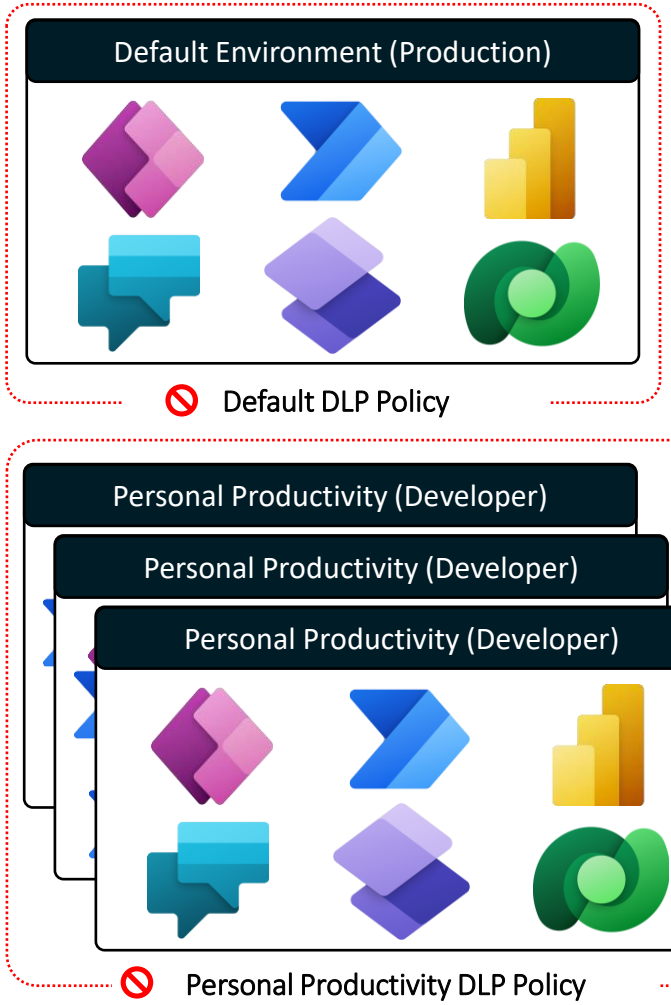
Licence Management

- Is everyone licenced according?
- Are my flows going to fall over because they exceed API limits?
- Is there enough database capacity?

Your Power Platform Environment without a Strategy



Your Power Platform Environment with a Strategy



Designing Your Power Platform Environments.

User Personas

Who are we talking about? What are their roles and responsibilities?

Users

Employees, **consuming** an app or a flow for personal productivity, increasing department efficiency or sharing across an organisation.

Makers

Employees, **creating** an app or a flow for personal productivity, increasing department efficiency or sharing across an organisation.

Pro Devs

Collaborates with professional development and information technology (IT) teams to integrate and build applications.

Assumed to be familiar with concepts like ALM, DevOps, branching, and merging.

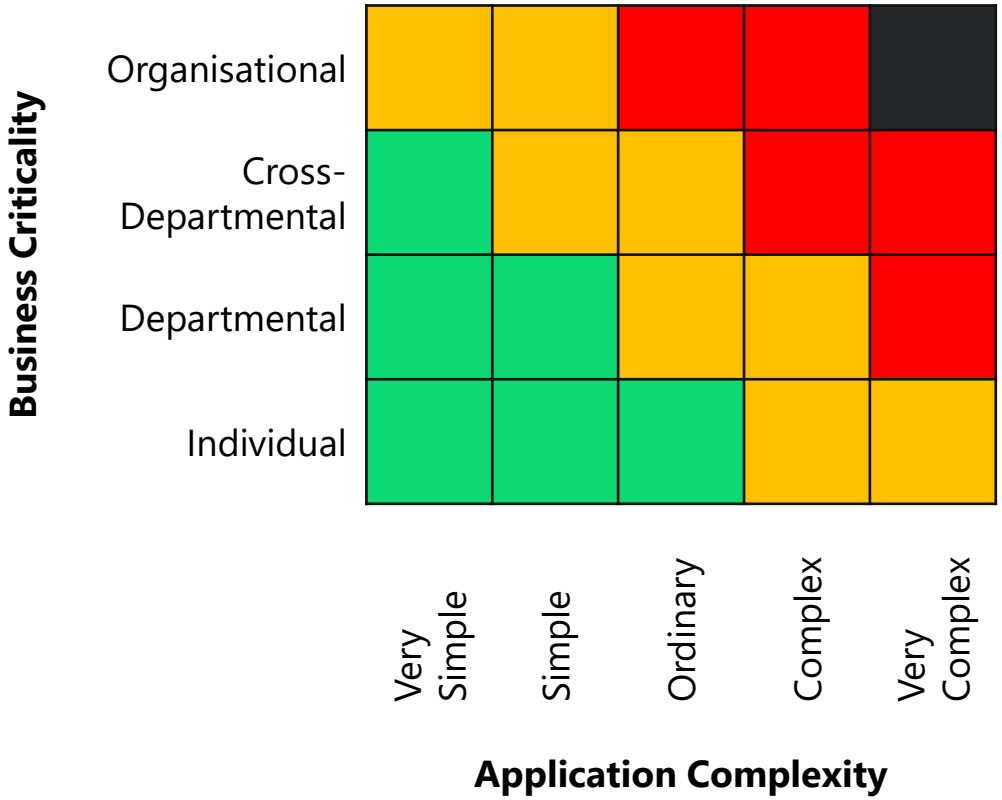
Admins

Operate, maintain and secure all platform-related services + surrounding areas.

Support nurturing a low-code platform by ensuring readiness and community-wide shared skills inside an organisation.

Application Complexity

What type or applications are we dealing with?



Business criticality - can be determined by the impact on business processes, number of users, data sensitivity, regulatory compliance or business continuity and availability requirements.

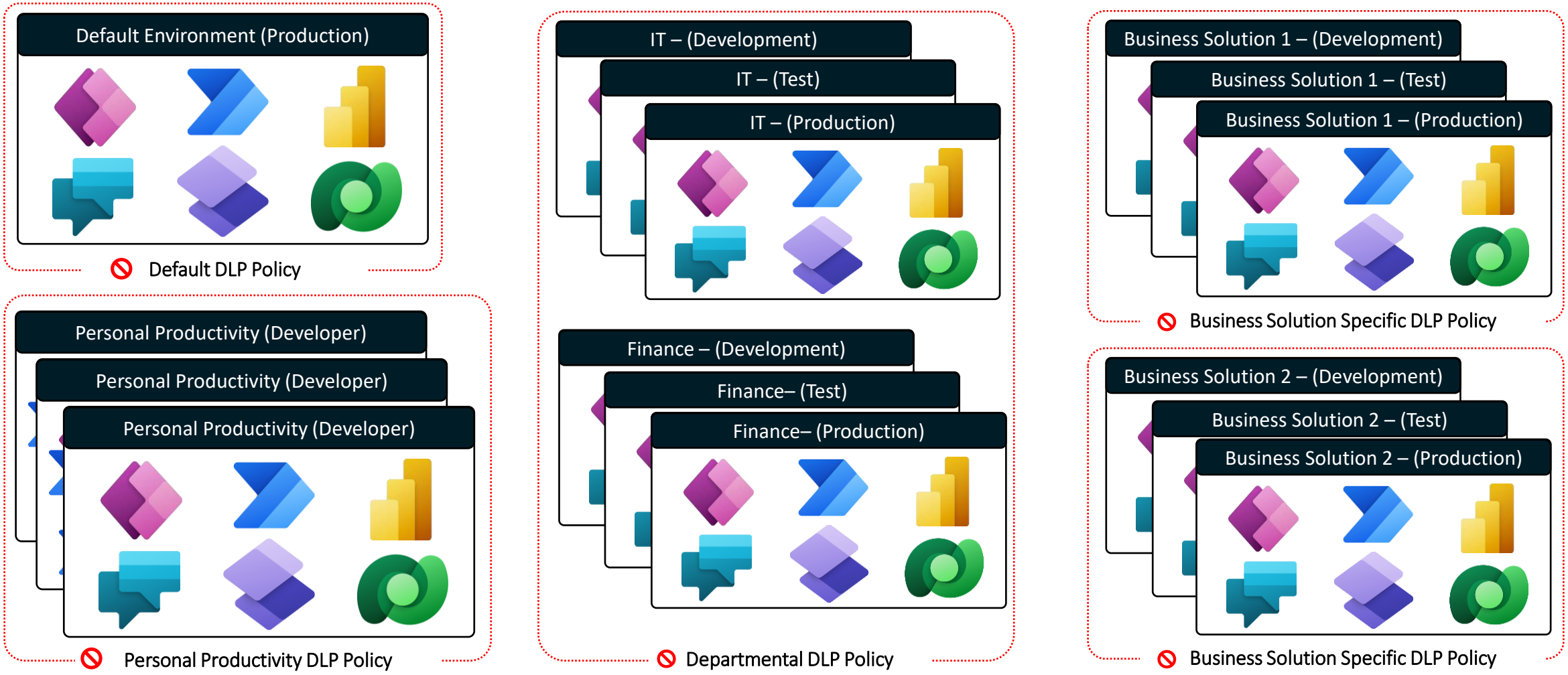
Application Complexity - can be determined by the simplicity of the user interface, the amount of integration to workflows and data sources, custom components or deep automation and cross-system interoperability.

- Off Limits – move to alternative solution.
- Danger – requires oversight and governance
- Supported – co-create with Makers
- Safe zone – Citizen Developer self-governing

Suggested Environment Types

- **Default** Environment
  - **Access**: Open to everyone in your tenant.
  - **Purpose**: Basic Office 365 productivity apps, such as creating an app from a SharePoint list, Approvals.
  - **Users**: Individuals or small teams.
  - **Connectors**: Standard.
  - **DLP policy**: Restrictive.
  - **Environment Type:** Production
- **Personal Productivity** Environment
  - **Access**: Restricted to individual.
  - **Purpose**: Basic Office 365 productivity apps, such as creating an app from a SharePoint list.
  - **Users**: Individuals
  - **Connectors**: Standard.
  - **DLP policy**: Restrictive.
  - **Environment Type:** Developer
- **Departmental** Environment
  - **Access**: Restricted to Azure AD Departmental Group.
  - **Purpose**: Departmental Solutions. More advanced solutions, such as integrating or Azure DevOps.
  - **ALM**: In some cases.
  - **Users**: Team or business unit.
  - **Connectors**: Standard + premium.
  - **DLP policy**: Less restrictive.
  - **Environment Type:** Combination - Developer / Production
- **Custom** Environment
  - **Access**: More advanced makers. By request only.
  - **Purpose**: Mission-critical scenarios and/or high-complexity and/or org-wide usage.
  - **ALM**: Required.
  - **Users**: Company-wide.
  - **Connectors**: Standard + premium + custom.
  - **DLP policy**: Permissive.
  - **Environment Type:** Developer / Production

What does this therefore look like?



Implementing Data Loss Prevention

Data Loss Prevention Policies Key Facts

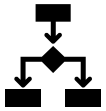
Data loss prevention policies (DLP) enforce rules for which connectors can be used together .

Connectors are classified as either Business Data only or No Business Data allowed.

A connector in the business data only group can only be used with other connectors from that group in the same app or flow.

Tenant admins can define policies that apply to all environments

Fully block usage of 3rd party connectors (standard and premium) as well as Microsoft owned premium connectors



Can go granular to select only certain actions or end points

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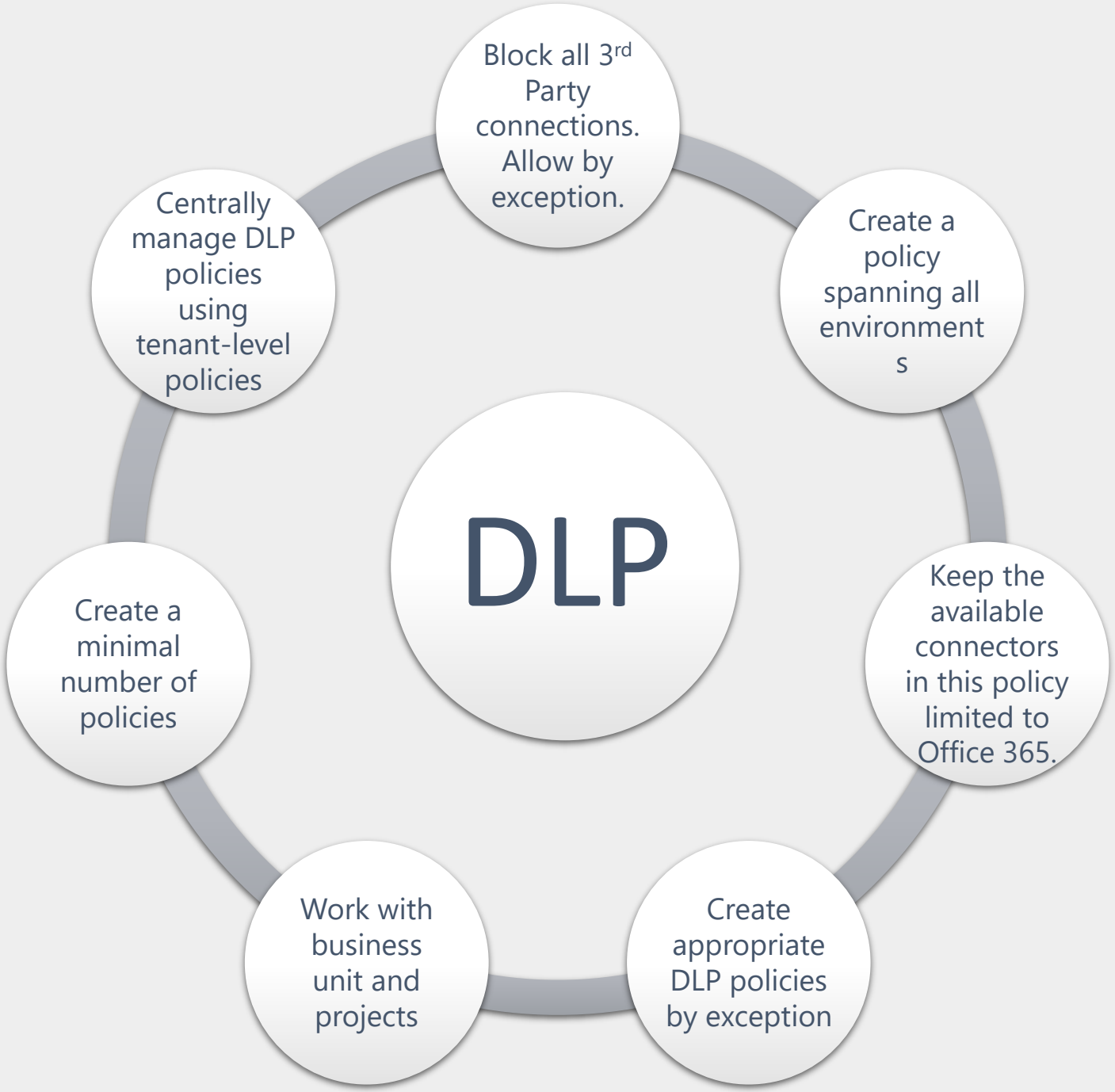

DLP
Block all 3rd Party connections. Allow by exception.
Create a policy spanning all environments
Keep the available connectors in this policy limited to Office 365.
Create appropriate DLP policies by exception
Work with business unit and projects
Create a minimal number of policies
Centrally manage DLP policies using tenant-level policies

Data Loss Prevention – Key Takeaways

1

Data is the most important asset you have, safeguard it. Implement DLP now if you have not already.

2

Define your Data Loss Prevention strategy by identifying sensitive data and then classifying it.

3

Define data handling policies. Establish clear guidelines on how sensitive data should be handled within the Power Platform.

4

Utilise data loss prevention tools. Leverage the built-in DLP capabilities provided by the Power Platform

5

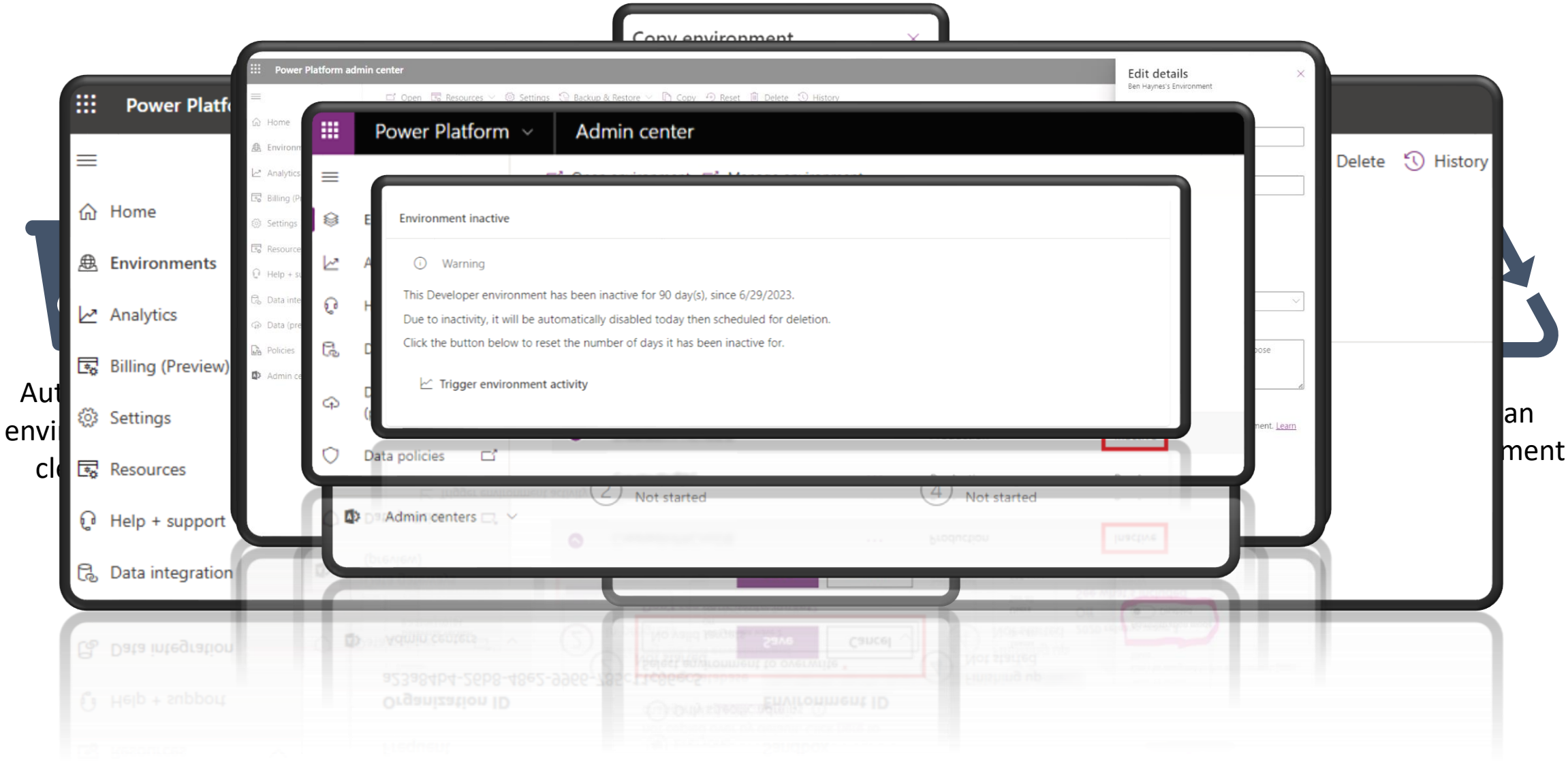
Establish monitoring mechanisms to track data usage and detect any potential violations.

6

Regularly review and update your DLP strategy as new risks and technologies emerge.

Managing Environments.

Administer Environments



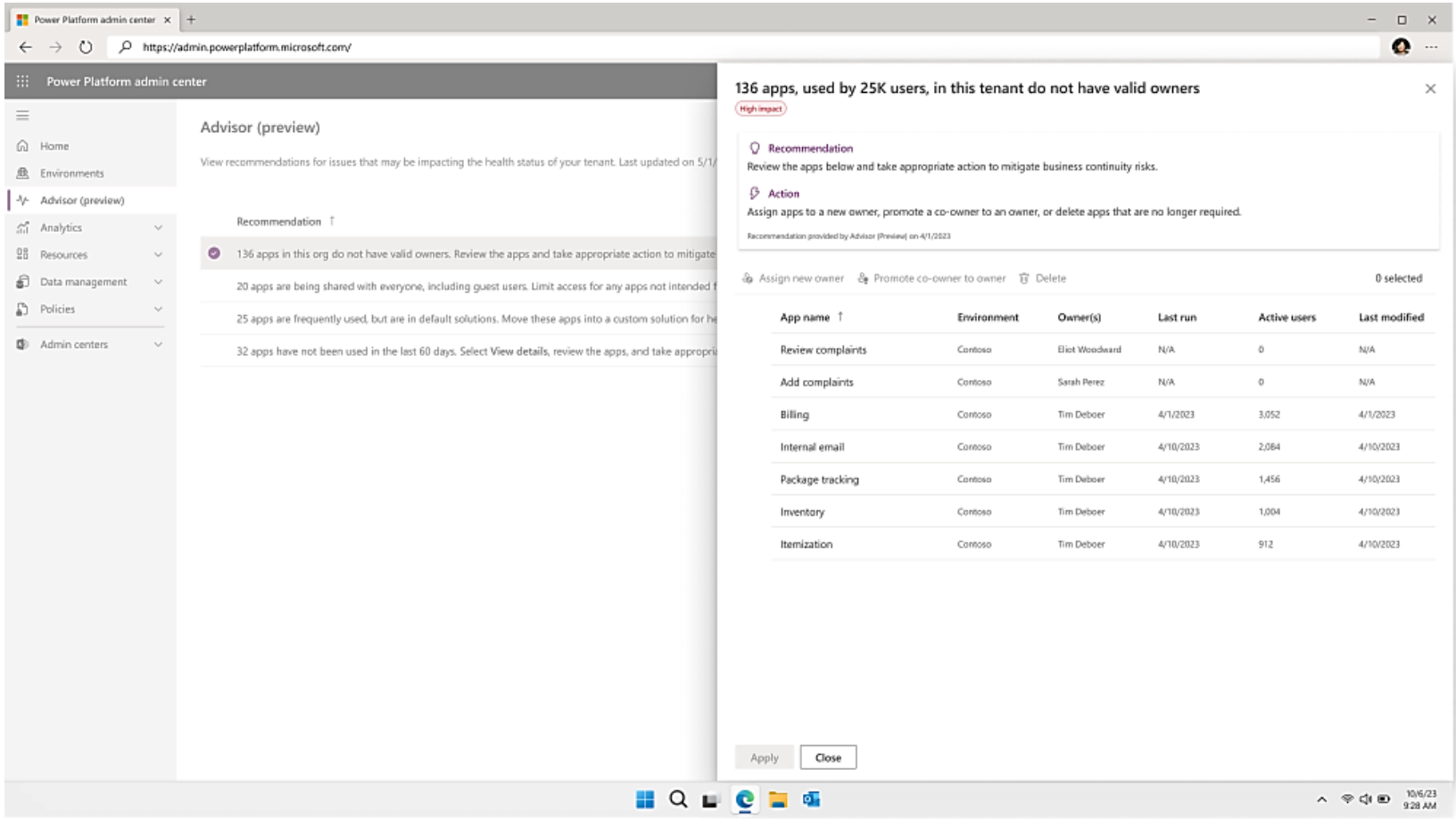
Power Platform Advisor

Provide admins with proactive recommendations and inline actions to govern and secure the platform more easily.

This includes recommendations to:

- Clean up unused apps,
- Lock down over-shared apps,
- Add owners to abandoned apps.

Currently in Private Preview



Managed Environments.

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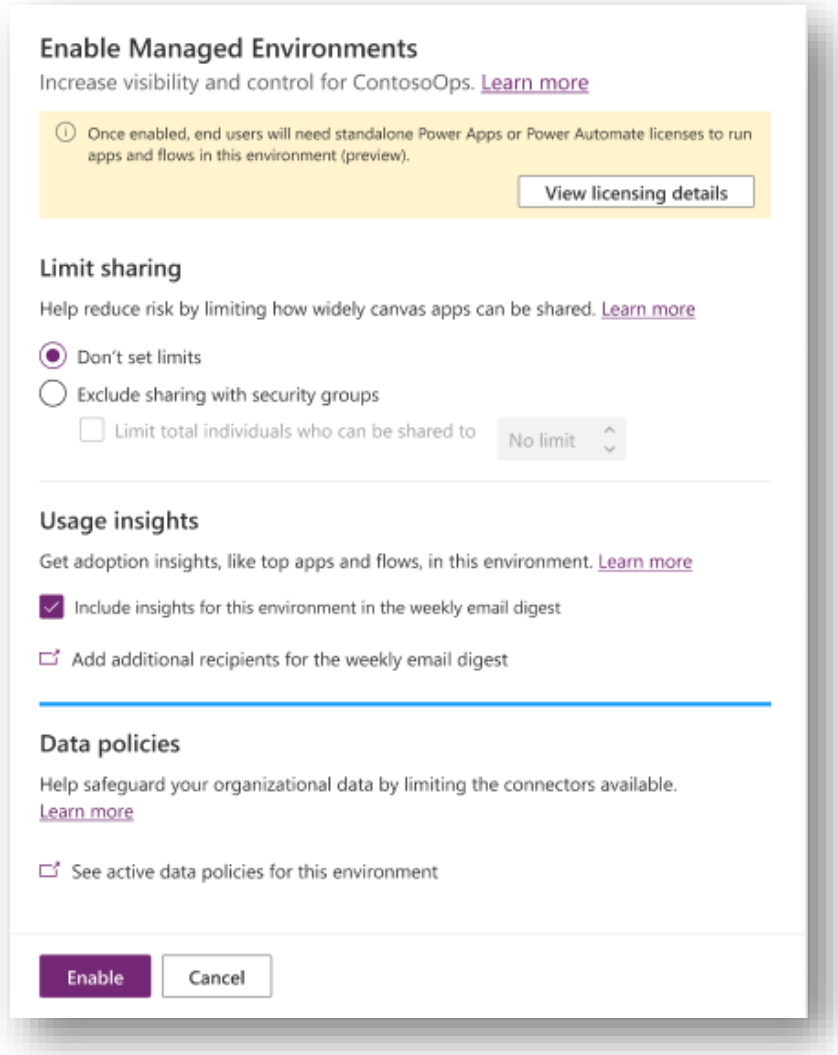
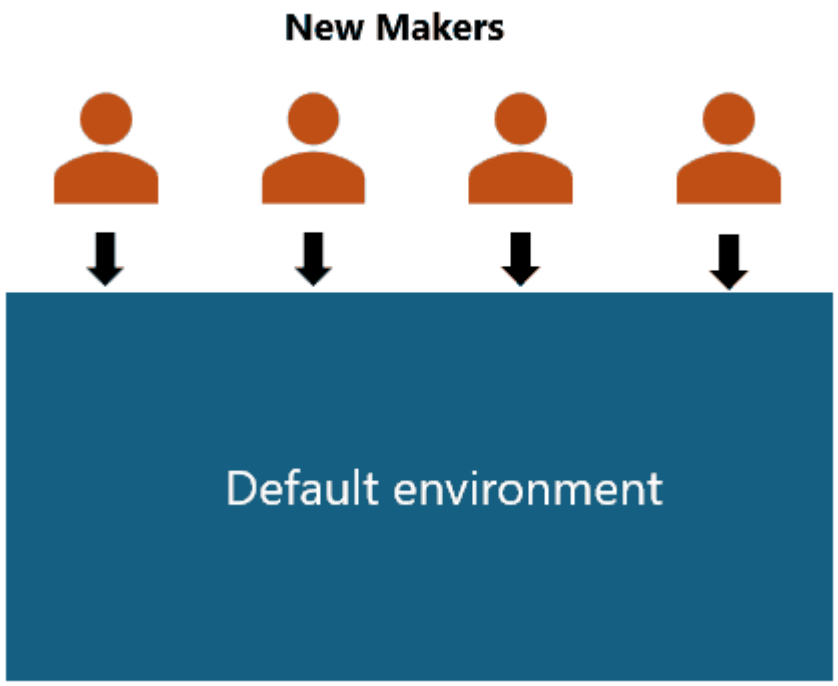
Managed Environments –Key Facts

Limit	Limit the sharing of canvas apps.
See	See usage insights into your app and flows and see those inactive resources you can safely clean up
Identify	Identify all the data polices applied to your environment
Check	Check your solutions to enforce checks against a set of best practice rules.
Provide	Provide maker welcome content help makers get started with Power Apps



Default Environment Routing (Preview)



A new Managed Environments feature that allows Power Platform admins to automatically direct new makers into their own personal developer environment when they visit make.powerapps.com for the first time.

Requires that the **Developer environment assignment** setting is enabled for **Everyone**

Enable the feature in Power Platform admin center

1. In the Power Platform admin center, in navigation pane, select **Settings**.
2. On the **Tenant settings** page, select **Environment routing (preview)**.
3. In the **Environment routing** pane, turn on the **Create personal developer environments for new makers** option.

Managing Application Lifecycle Management.

Where am I?

I am the default

I am manually moving assets across environments

I am using solutions to move assets between environments

I am using solutions and pipelines to move assets between environments

Defining an ALM Strategy

- Define Environment Strategy
- Use Solutions
- Establish change management process
- Test in every environment before moving
- Deploy solutions using a controlled and planned approach

Pipelines

Admins centrally manage and govern pipeline

Makers run preconfigured pipelines

Developers can use and extend pipelines

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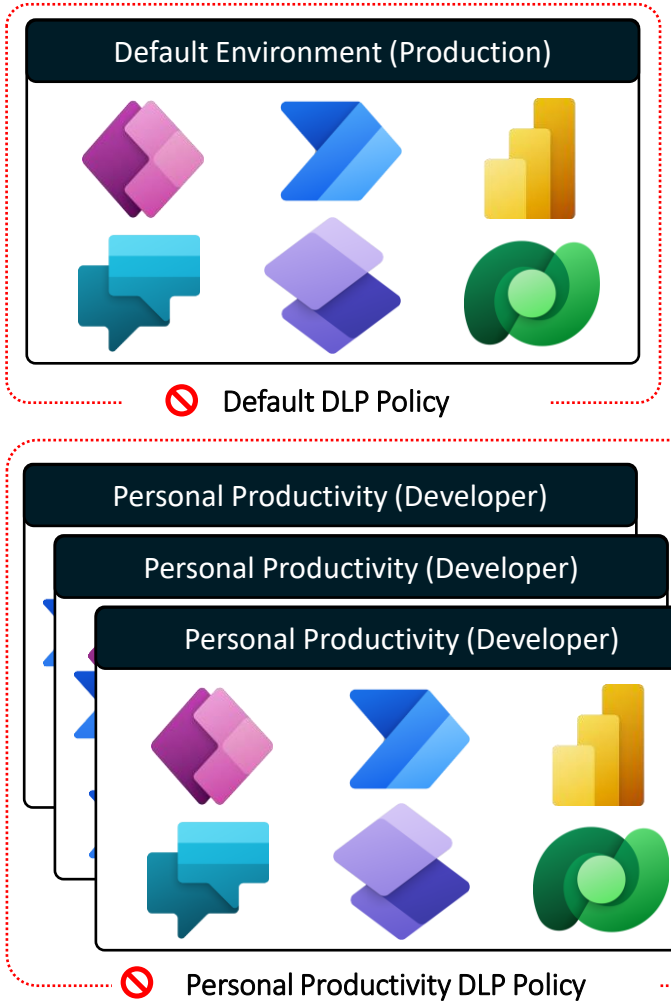
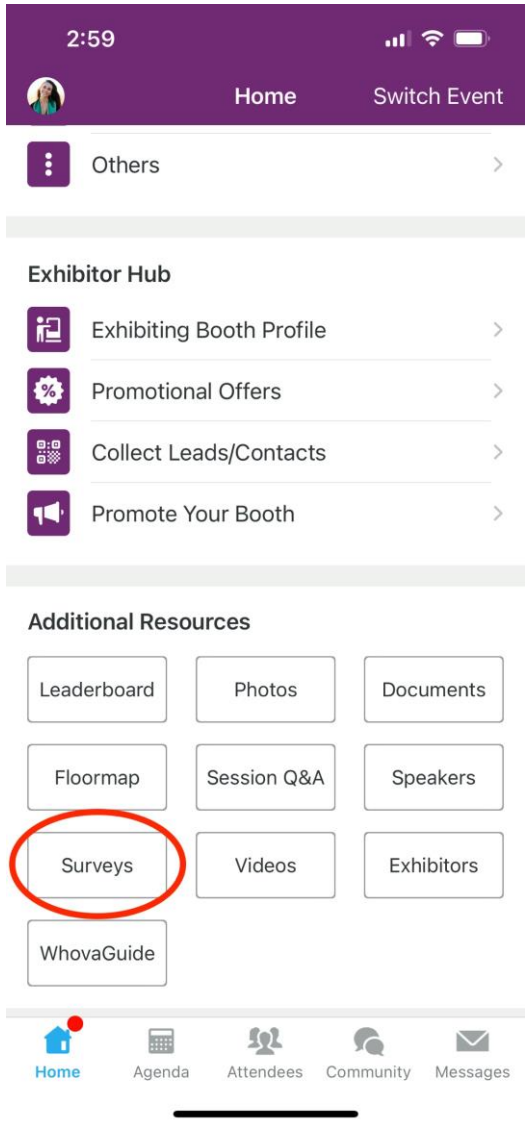
Your Power Platform Environment with a Strategy



Thank You

Session Feedback Surveys



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