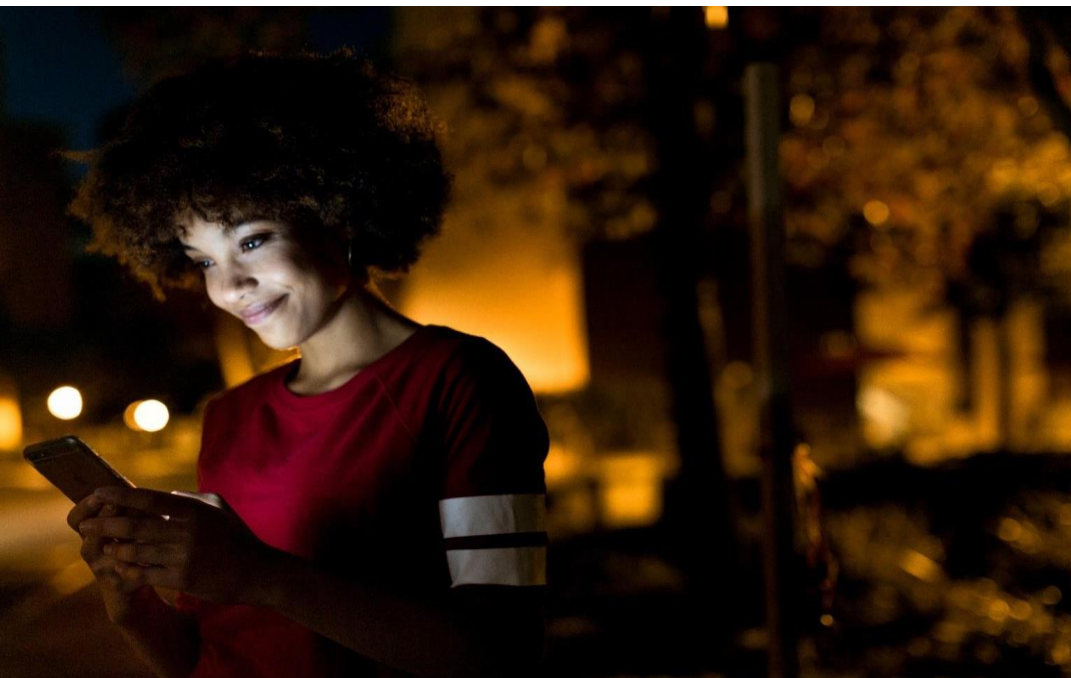


# Empowering RPA enthusiasts: Harnessing the Potential of Power Automate (MPPC23)

**Lab 09 – Monitor desktop flows runs and machines**

30 mins

September 2023



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## Lab Overview

If Contoso Coffee shop keeps growing the business and needs to have more and more automations running on multiple machines. It will become important to be able to monitor all the desktop flow runs and the machines running them. Power Automate provides an easy way to do so with Desktop flow activity. You will complete the following in this lab:

- **Check your current and completed desktop flows runs**

Desktop flow activity provides the perfect entry point to find all your desktop flow runs. We will first trigger some flows and view them from the **Current runs** tab which gives a real-time view of your flows running in the environment. This can be important if you want to understand the current workload and potentially identify a flow that takes too much time to complete. Then we will look at a successful flow run details.

- **Identify an issue**

As you scale the automation in your business, you may need a straightforward way to ensure all your desktop flows are running as expected. Monitor your desktop flow runs, drill down into the issue that just happened.

- **Monitor your machines**

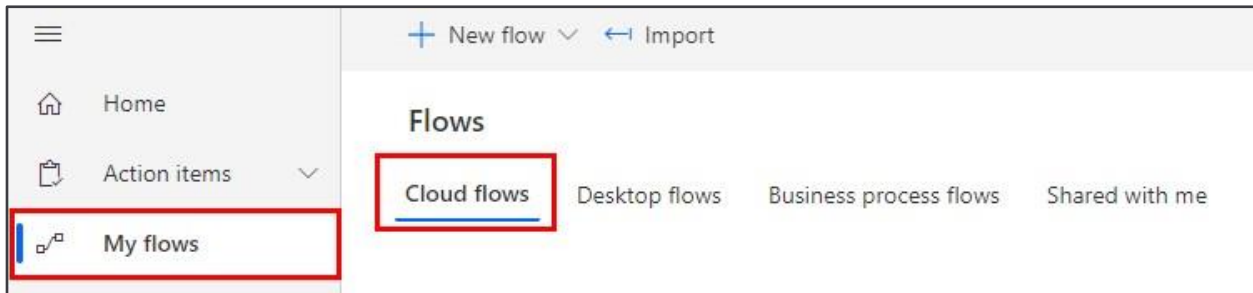
As you scale the automation in your business, you need an overview of your machines to ensure they run as expected, they remain up-to-date and that you can identify and troubleshoot any issue they face.

## Prerequisites

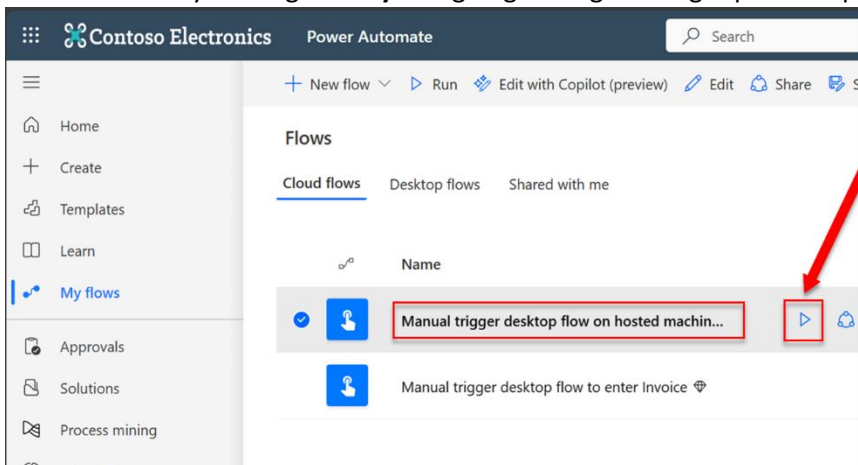
This lab builds on the initial setup lab (lab 1) and labs 2-8 – ensure these labs are complete.

# Exercise 1: Check your currently running desktop flows

1. Go to <https://powerautomate.microsoft.com>. Then go to **My flows** > **Cloud flows**.

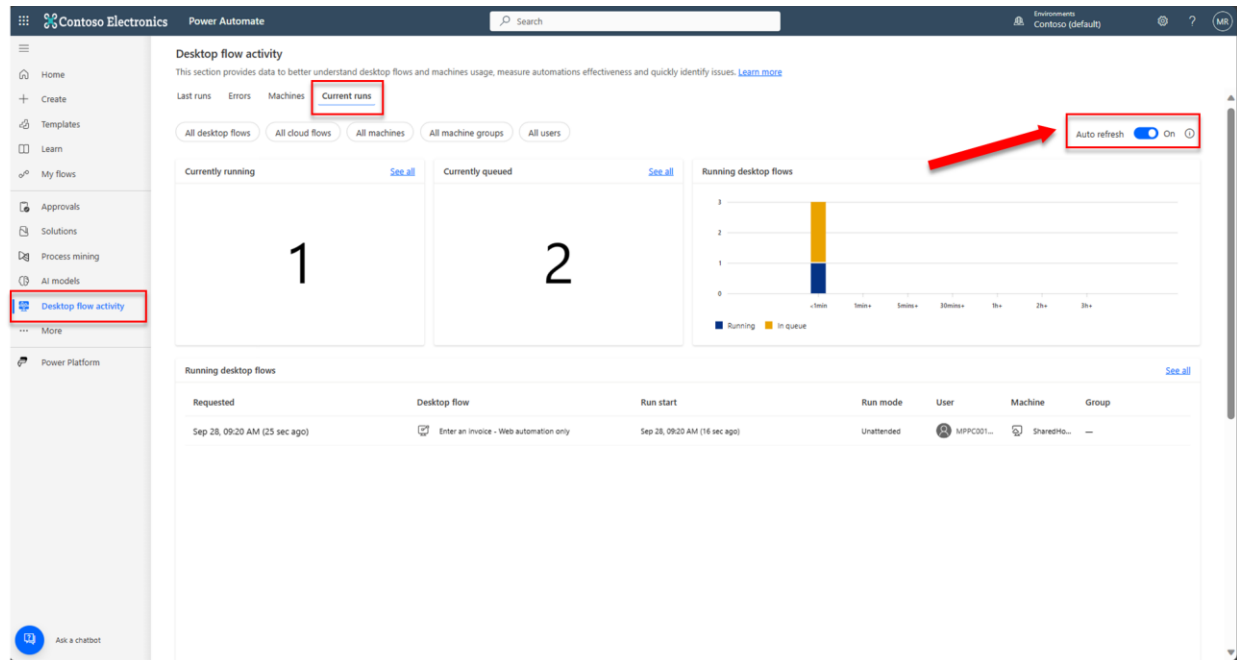


2. Trigger 3 consecutive runs of the flow named “**Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine**” by clicking on **Play** and going through the right panel steps (3 times):

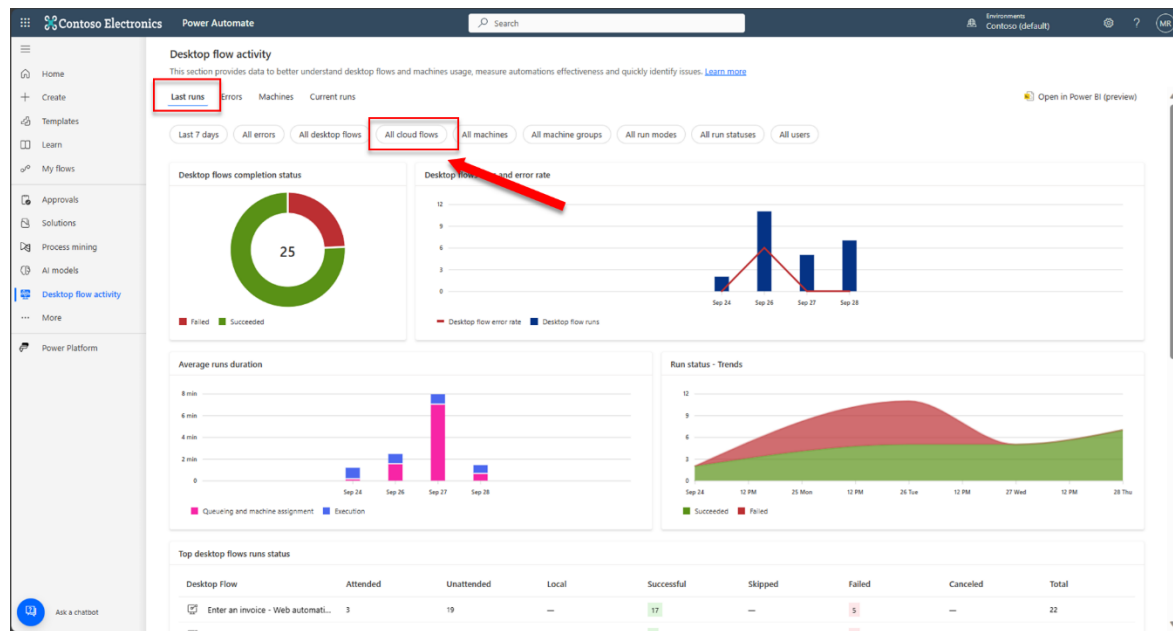


3. From the left navigation pane, Go to **Desktop flow activity**, then select **Current runs** tab and set the **Auto refresh** toggle (at the top right corner of the screen) to **On** so that the page will refresh automatically.

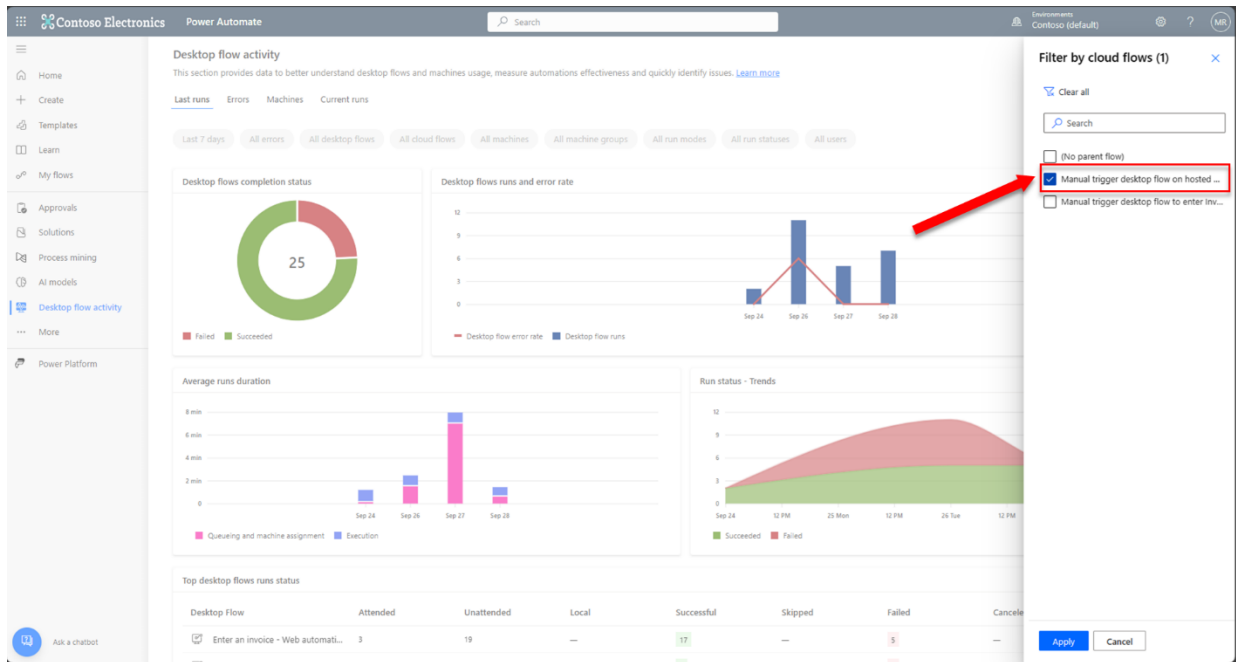
You should be able to see your 3 triggered runs either in currently queued or currently running depending on how fast you came to this page and how fast the machine was able to take on your requested flow runs. Below in the screenshot you can see one has already been picked up by the machine (currently running) and 2 are currently queued.



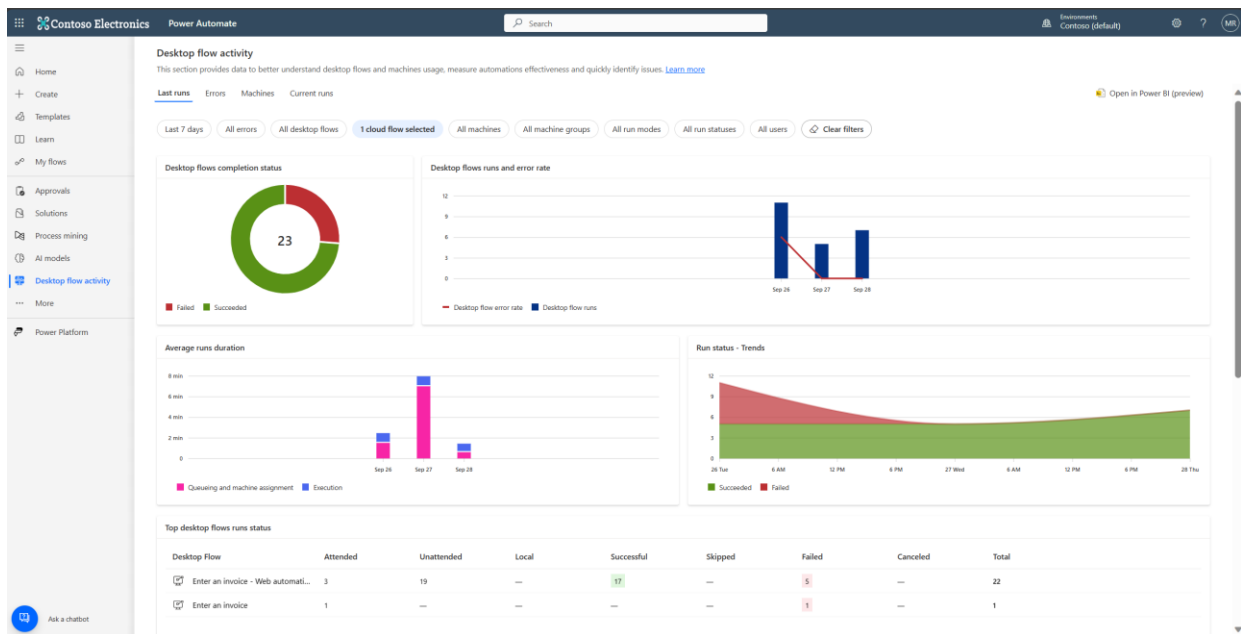
4. Once at least one flow has completed, go to **Last runs** tab and from the top level filters, select your **All cloud flows**



5. Then select the cloud flow you just triggered (**Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine**) and click on **Apply**:



6. You should only see desktop flow runs that were triggered by that cloud flow, then scroll down to the **“Last desktop flow runs”** section and select the first completed run in the list (which is your most recent flow run):



**Desktop flow activity**

This section provides data to better understand desktop flows and machines usage, measure automations effectiveness and quickly identify issues. [Learn more](#)

Flow	Count	Success	Failure	Duration	Machine
Enter an invoice - Web automati...	3	20	18	5	23
Enter an invoice	1	—	—	1	1

**Last desktop flows runs** [See all](#)

Requested	Desktop flow	Status	Error	Run start	Run mode	Duration	User	Machine	Group
Sep 28, 09:48 AM (1 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	—	Sep 28, 09:48 AM (52 sec ago)	Unattended	00:00:47	MPPC001...	SharedHo...	—
Sep 28, 09:20 AM (29 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	—	Sep 28, 09:21 AM (28 min a...	Unattended	00:01:45	MPPC001...	SharedHo...	—
Sep 28, 09:20 AM (29 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	—	Sep 28, 09:20 AM (28 min a...	Unattended	00:01:16	MPPC001...	SharedHo...	—
Sep 28, 09:20 AM (29 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	—	Sep 28, 09:20 AM (29 min a...	Unattended	00:00:42	MPPC001...	SharedHo...	—
Sep 28, 09:01 AM (48 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	—	Sep 28, 09:02 AM (46 min a...	Unattended	00:02:15	MPPC001...	SharedHo...	—

**Runs by machines**

Machine	Count
SharedHostedVMForMPPC	20

**Runs by machine groups**

Machine group	Count
Hosted group for invoice processing	4

**Runs by desktop flow user**

User	Count
MPPC001 RPA	24

7. Verify the different information on that page:

- (1) The **Run details** section, giving you details like the cloud flow which triggered this run, the start time, duration, the target machine on which this flow run happened, the version of PAD and links to the flow inputs/outputs, run mode and more.
- (2) The **Run status** timeline telling you which user triggered it and how much time each step took until completion.
- (3) The **Action details** section, showing each desktop flow step (to be read from the bottom to the top).

**Run details**

Parent cloud flow run: Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine  
 Target machine: SharedHostedVMForMPPC  
 Version: 2.35.159.23221

Parent desktop flow run: —  
 Target machine group: —  
 Run mode: Unattended

Start: Sep 28, 09:48 AM (2 min ago)  
 Duration: 00:00:47  
 Status: Succeeded  
 Flow outputs: [See output details](#)

**Run status**

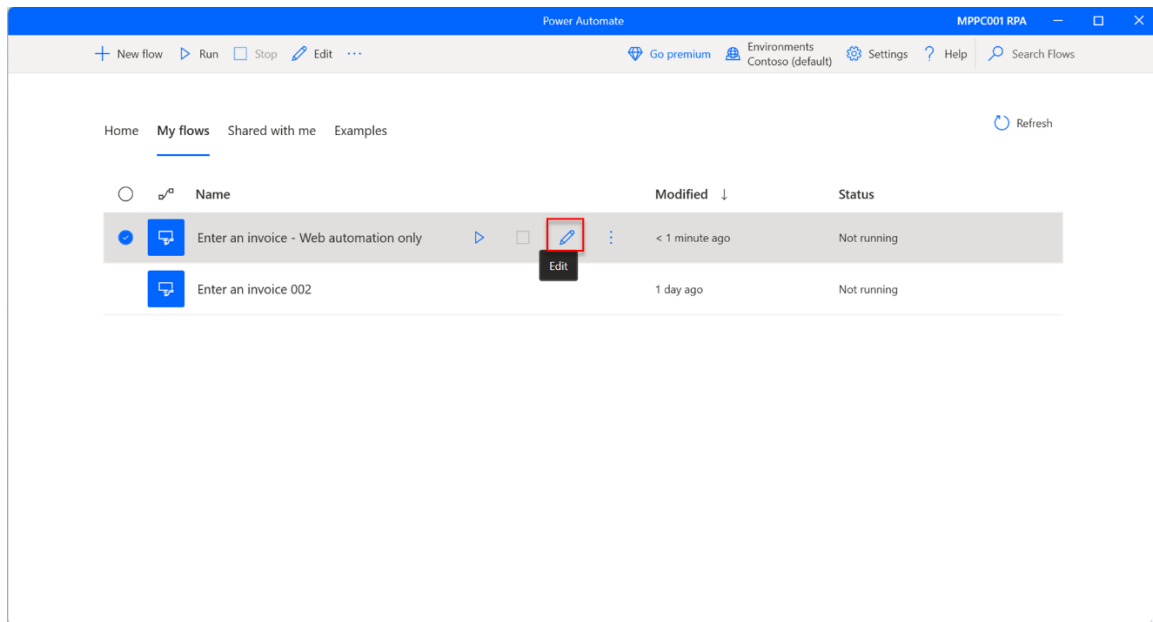
Timeline: 00:00:07 (Requested) → 00:00:02 (Queued) → 156 ms (Machine assignment) → 00:00:32 (Connection and execution) → 00:00:06 (Finalize)

**Action details**

Start	Subflow	Action index	Action name	Duration	Status
09:49:16 AM	Currency_Converter	4	Close web browser	192 ms	Succeeded
09:49:15 AM	Currency_Converter	3	Get details of element on web page	00:00:02	Succeeded
09:49:12 AM	Currency_Converter	2	Populate text field on web page	00:00:03	Succeeded
09:49:07 AM	Currency_Converter	1	Launch new Microsoft Edge	00:00:05	Succeeded
09:49:07 AM	main	11	Run subflow	31 ms	Succeeded

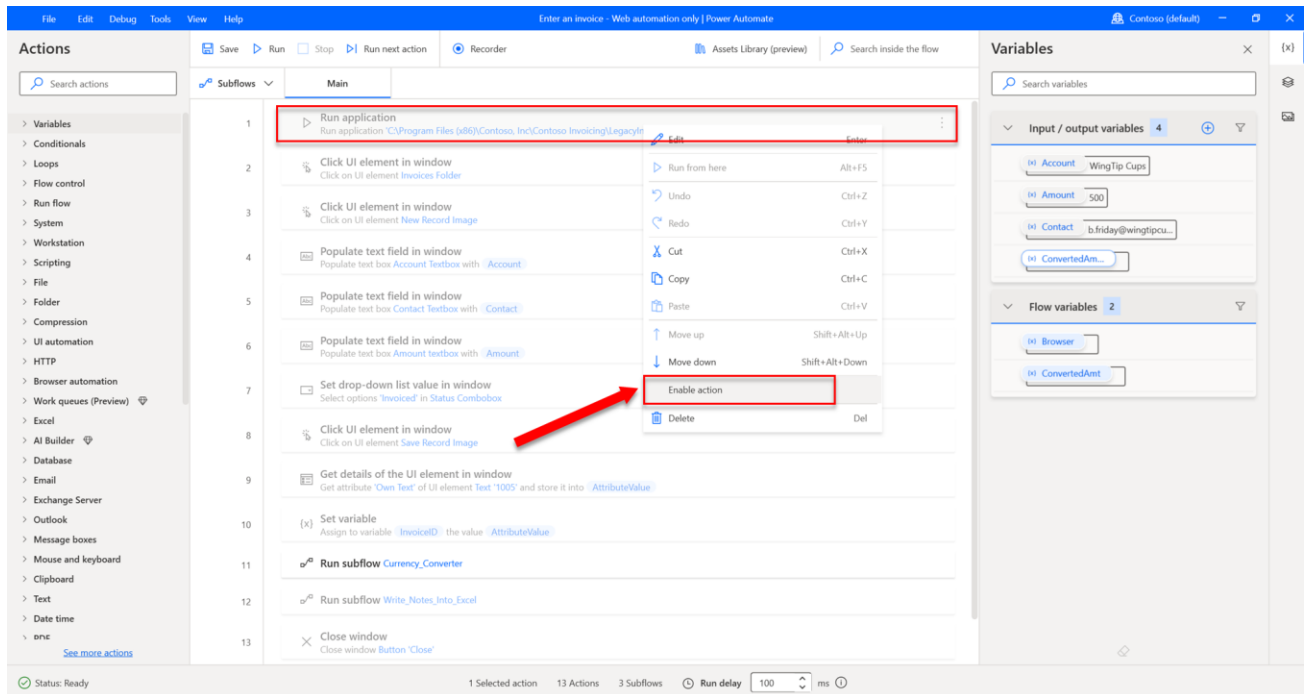
## Exercise 2: Identifying an issue with Desktop flow activity

1. Open **Power Automate for Desktop** and edit your flow **Enter an invoice – Web automation only**:

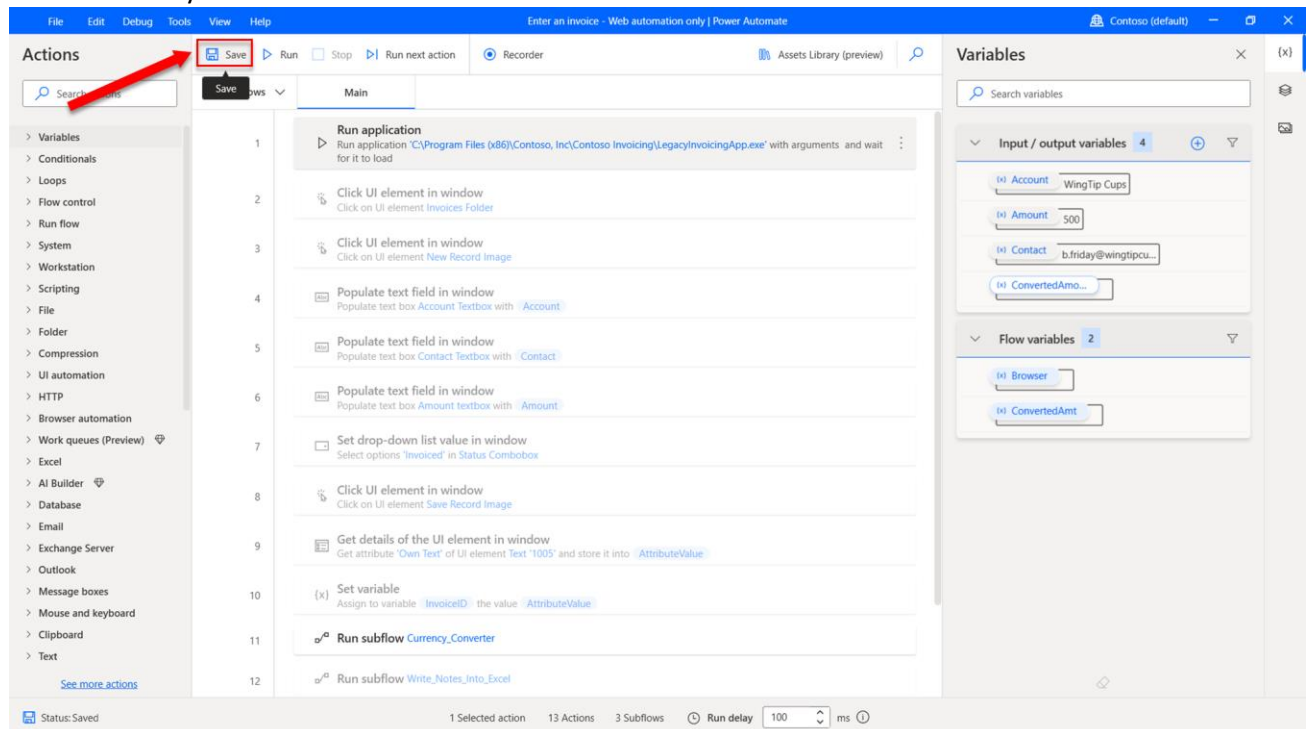


2. We're going to re-enable actions needing the Contoso invoice app, in order to cause an explicit failure. **Right-click** on the first step and select **"Enable action"**

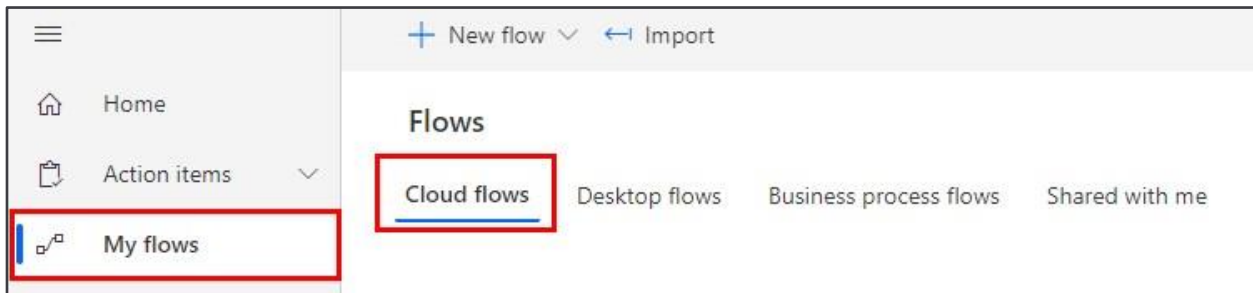




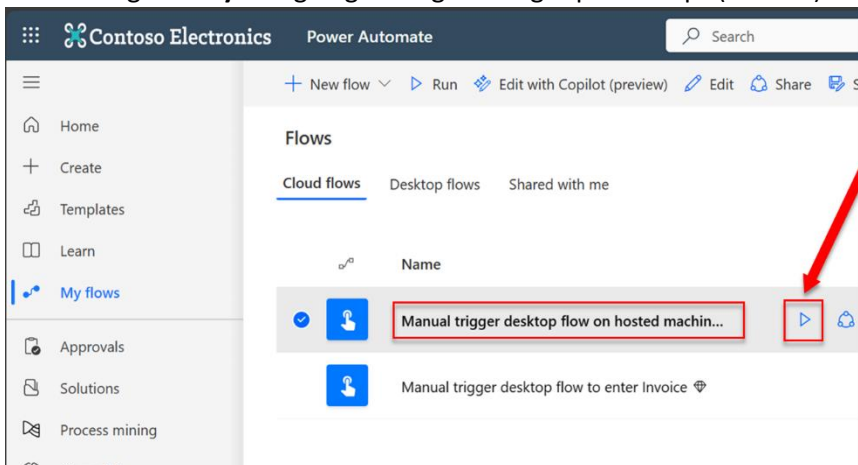
### 3. Then **Save** your modification:



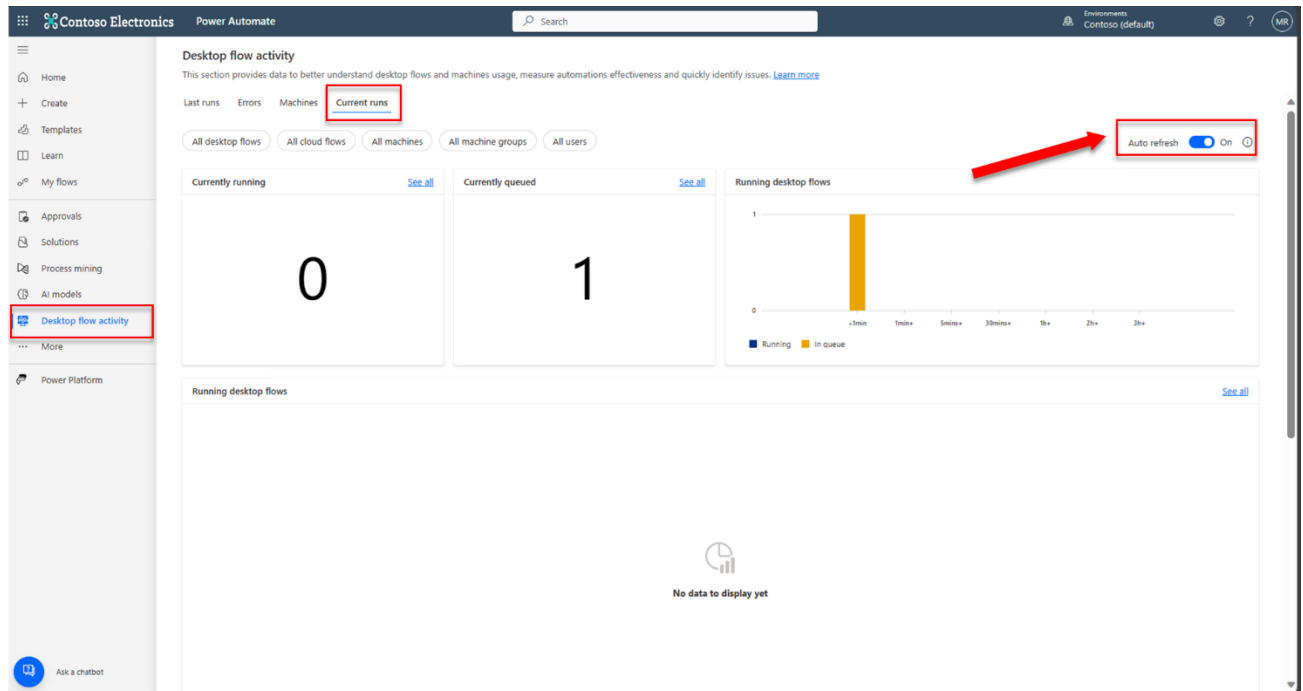
8. Go to <https://powerautomate.microsoft.com>. Then go to **My flows > Cloud flows**.



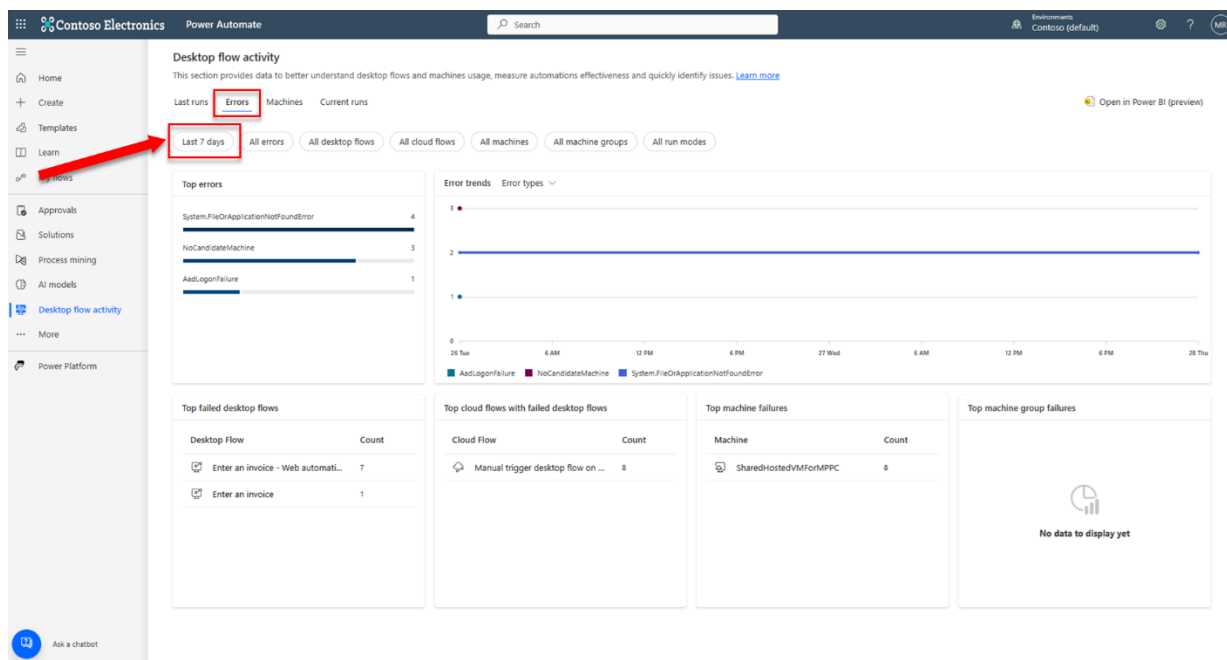
9. Trigger one flow run of your flow “**Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine**” by clicking on **Play** and going through the right panel steps (3 times):



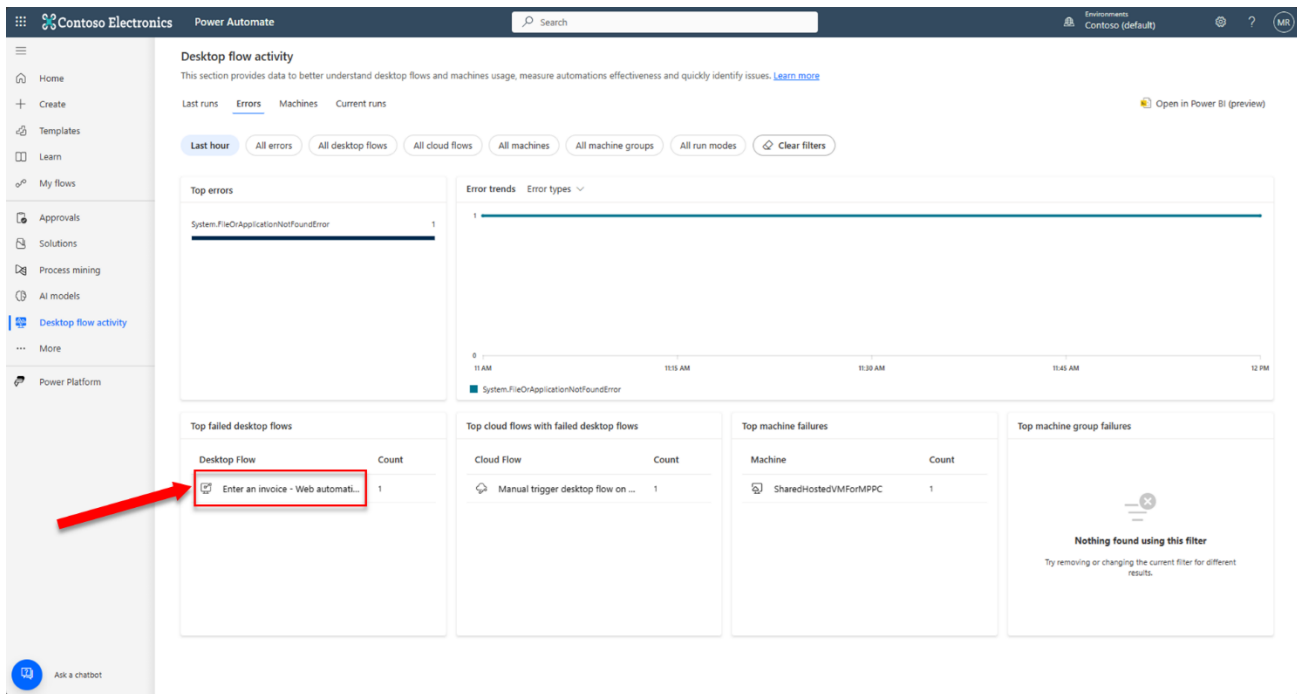
10. From the left navigation pane, Go to **Desktop flow activity**, then select **Current runs** tab and set the **Auto refresh** toggle (at the top right corner of the screen) to **On** so that the page will refresh automatically.



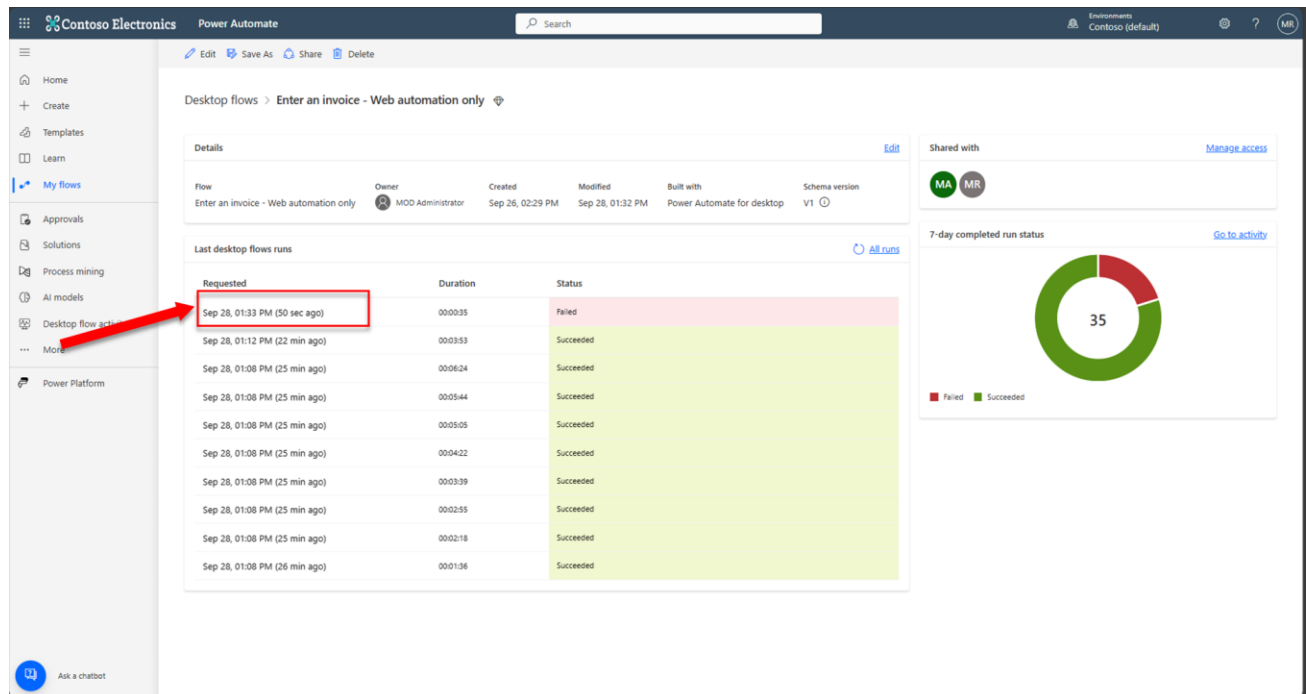
11. Wait until your flow runs and disappears from this view, then go to **Errors** tab, select the date filter and change it from “**Last 7 days**” to “**last hour**”:



12. We could further drill down using the different filters but here there is only one error (which is **System.FileOrApplicationNotFoundError**). Let's get more details by selecting the desktop flow that raised this error by clicking on it from the **Top failed desktop flows** section at the bottom.



13. Now, we're in the Desktop flow details page and we can see that the last run failed. Click on Start time (**Requested** column)



14. I can see the failure happened at the 4<sup>th</sup> step (Connection and execution), which means the Power Automate was able to trigger the desktop flow on the target machine but it failed completing successfully. I can see that the first step called **Run application** failed. Click on **View details** to get more information.

The screenshot shows the Power Automate interface for a failed desktop flow. The 'Run status' section displays a timeline of steps: Requested, Queued, Machine assignment, Connection and execution (highlighted with a red box and an arrow), and Finalize. The 'Action details' table provides a detailed view of the failed action.

Start	Subflow	Action index	Action name	Duration	Status
01:33:43 PM	main	1	Run application	147 ms	Failed

15. An more detailed view shows up listing all the performed actions with a right panel opened giving precise information about the failure. Locate **(1)** the error details, **(2)** the machine screenshot taken during the error with links to input & outputs as well as **(3)** a deep link to open Power Automate for Desktop to fix the issue and links to the support documentation. Click on **Fix issue on Power Automate Desktop** link then click on **Launch app** to automatically open the desktop flow.

Desktop flows > Enter an invoice - Web automation only > Ran at Sep 28, 01:33 PM > Actions details

Start	Subflow	Action index	Action name	Duration	Log level	Status
01:33:43 PM	main	1	Run application	147 ms	—	Failed

**Error Details**

Action: Run application

Start time: Sep 28, 01:33 PM (9 min ago) | Duration: 147 ms

Error: Action 'Enter an invoice - Web automation only' failed

**Error Details**

Problem while executing action 'RunApplicationAndWaitToLoad'. File or application 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Contoso, Inc\Contoso Invoicing\LegacyInvoicingApp.exe' not found.

Microsoft.PowerPlatform.PowerAutomat

**Error context**

Inputs: [See input details](#)

Outputs: [See output details](#)

[Fix issue in Power Automate Desktop](#)

**Documentation**

Learn more about Desktop flow errors  
/ps-public-ppaerrortroubleshooting

Is this content helpful? [👍](#) [👎](#)

Desktop flows > Enter an invoice - Web automation only > Ran at Sep 28, 01:33 PM > Actions details

Start	Subflow	Action index	Action name	Duration	Log level	Status
01:33:43 PM	main	1	Run application	147 ms	—	Failed

**Error Details**

Action: Run application

Start time: Sep 28, 01:33 PM (9 min ago) | Duration: 147 ms

Error: Action 'Enter an invoice - Web automation only' failed

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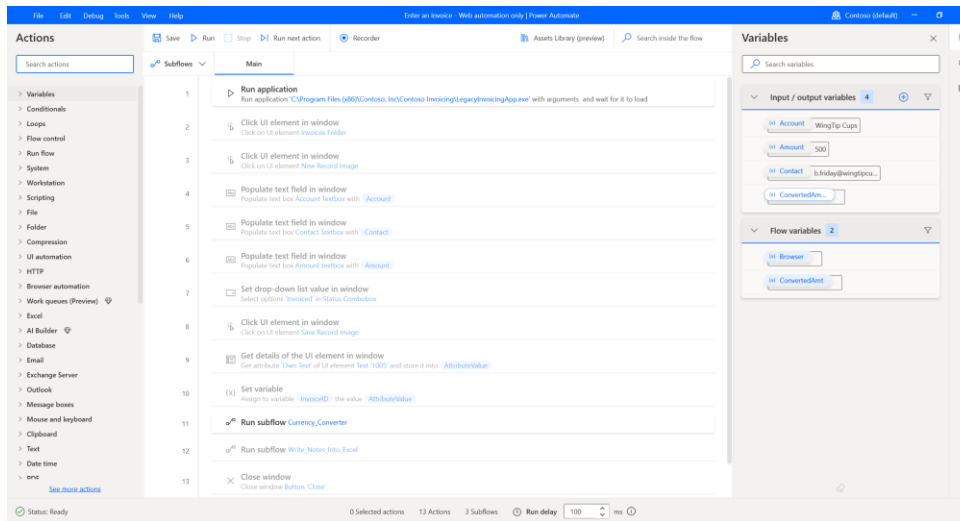
**Power Automate for desktop**

You're about to go to Power Automate for desktop

Select Launch app to go to the flow designer in Power Automate for desktop.

[Launch app](#) [Cancel](#)

16. You should have your desktop flow “Enter an invoice – Web automation only” opened in PAD:

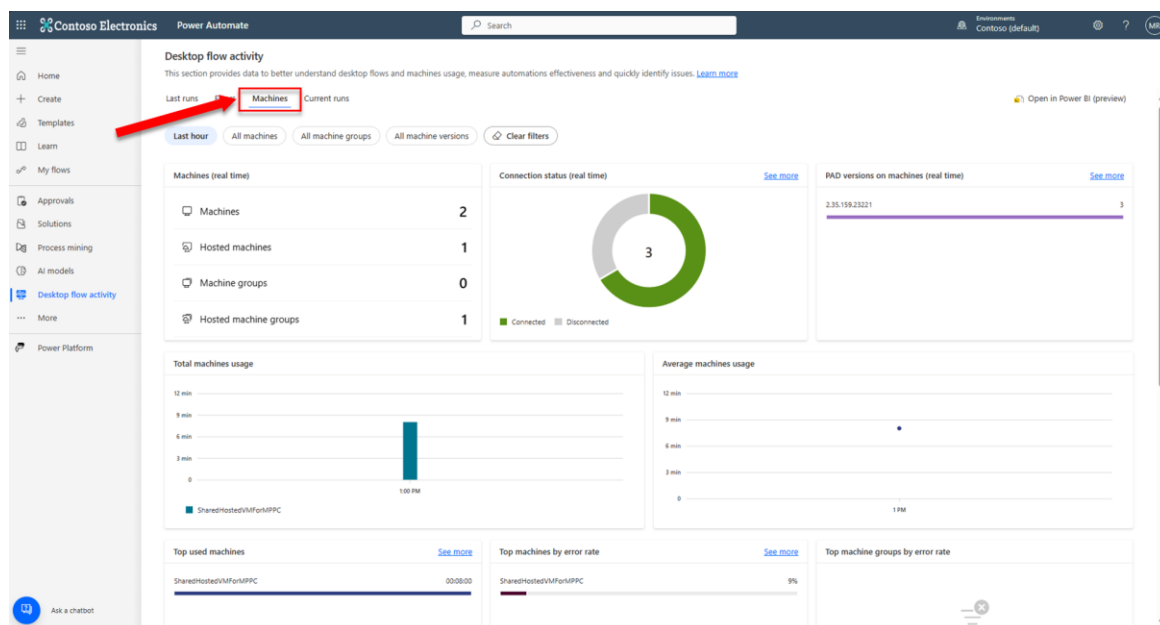


## Exercise 3: Monitor your machines

The error we just went through was that the Contoso app wasn't installed, hence the actual fix is to have it installed on that hosted machine. With hosted machines, you can create custom VM images to ensure your necessary software is installed by default when machines are created, we will just go through finding this hosted machine and understand its current configuration.

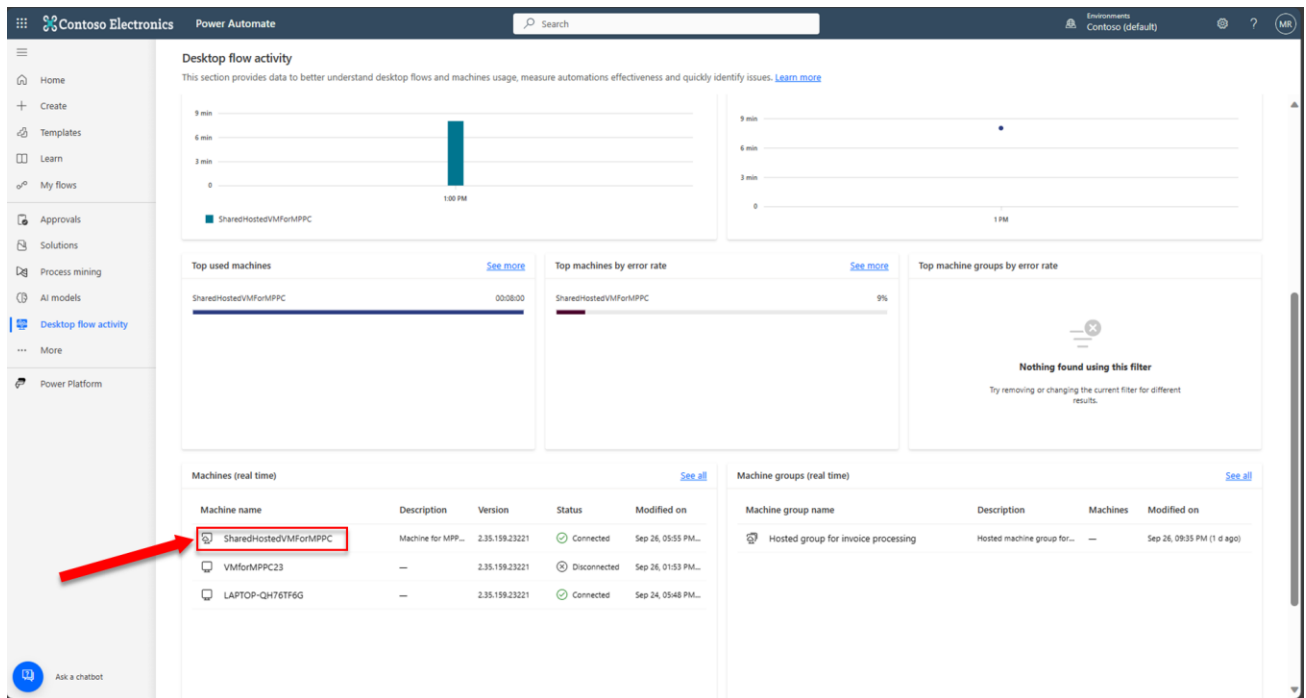
1. Go to <https://powerautomate.microsoft.com> and then from the left navigation pane select **Desktop flow activity** and click on the **Machines** tab.

You have an overview of all the machines and machine groups you own or that have been shared with you, see if they're connected or not, which version of PAD is installed and insights upon their utilization.



2. Scroll down and click on the hosted machine name.

**Note** the different icon for hosted machines compared to regular machines.



3. From this page, I can a lot of information about this machine. What were the last runs, its connectivity status, what connections are targeting it and much more. What I'm interested now, is checking with VM image was used to create this machine. Click on the



VM image name (**Desktop Windows Desktop image**).

**Machines > SharedHostedVMForMPPC**  
Machine for MPPC workshop (lab 7)

**Machine details**

Connectivity status Connected	Flow activity 0 running, 0 queued	<b>VM image Default Windows Desktop image</b>	Network connection Microsoft Hosted Network (Default)	Owner MPPC001 RPA	Version 2.35.159.23221
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**Last runs**

Requested	Desktop flow	Status	Run mode	Parent flow
Sep 28, 01:33 PM (43 min ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Failed	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:12 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...
Sep 28, 01:08 PM (1 h ago)	Enter an invoice - Web automation only	Succeeded	Unattended	Manual trigger desktop flow...

**7-day completed run status**

33

Failed Succeeded

- This is the default vanilla VM image provided by Power Automate, it is not a VM image that includes the Contoso application.

**VM images > Default Windows Desktop image**  
Default Windows Desktop image for use in Microsoft Desktop Flows. Windows 11 Enterprise 22H2 with Microsoft Edge.

**VM image details**

Used in Both	Version 1	Reference MicrosoftWindowsDes... ent-cpwin11-22h2-ent-cpc-os	Owner SYSTEM - Deactiv...
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**VM image used in**

Name	Description	Type	Owner
SharedHostedVMForMPPC	Machine for MPPC workshop (lab 7)	Hosted machine	MPPC001 RPA
Hosted group for invoice processing	Hosted machine group for invoicing	Hosted machine group	MPPC001 RPA

The right fix will be to create a custom VM image that includes the Contoso application and create a hosted machine with it.

# Check your knowledge

Lab 11

5 mins

1. Can you monitor your desktop flow runs in real-time?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No
  
2. What information do I get in case of a desktop flow failure?
  - A. Error details (error code, error message, input and output)
  - B. Screenshots
  - C. Links to the support documentation and a link to open the desktop flow script
  - D. Detailed timeline of the desktop flow execution
  - E. All the above
  
3. Can you have an overview of all the machines in the environment?
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

## Answer Key

1. Can you monitor your desktop flow runs in real-time?

- A. **Yes**
- B. No

Answer: **A.** The current runs tab in Desktop flow activity provides a real-time overview of all queued or running flows.

2. What information do I get in case of a desktop flow failure?

- A. Error details (error code, error message, input and output)
- B. Screenshots
- C. Links to the support documentation and a link to open the desktop flow script
- D. Detailed timeline of the desktop flow execution
- E. **All the above**

Answer: **E.** Desktop flow run details page provides advanced troubleshooting information and recommendation to help you understand the issue and quickly act to fix it.

3. Can you have an overview of all the machines in the environment?

- A. Yes
- B. **No**

Answer: **No.** Desktop flow activity respects the environment RBAC (role based access control), you can only see flow runs and machines you own or that have been shared with you. Note that if an admin uses Desktop flow activity, then yes, they have an overview of all flows and machines running in that environment.

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