Microsoft 365 (M365) Digital Destination

Power Apps Customer Usage Guidelines

1. Introduction

Sections in these Guidelines

This document provides CDC developers with guidelines for using Microsoft Power Apps at CDC. Since there is an agency-wide license for all staff, we expect that Power Apps will be widely used so we need to make sure the tool is used for its intended purposes, and everyone is aware of its limitations. Though we expect that many CDC staff will be using Power Apps as consumers (users), this guide is focused on what Power Apps developers need to know to use the tool appropriately.

You can create, run, and share Power Apps, but you're limited to the capabilities available through the Power Apps for Microsoft 365 for Government included in the M365 Government Community Cloud (GCC) G5 licensing, which includes the canvas apps personal productivity capabilities. There are connectors and templates in the GCC but there are limitations and not all will function as part of this M365 release. To see the limitations of Power Apps in GCC, please refer to the Power Apps US Government feature limitations. During this M365 release, all Microsoft Power Apps will be saved in the default environment.

With Power Apps premium licenses, you will be able to create, run, and share Power Apps that utilize premium features. With these licenses, you can use additional features that aren't available with the M365 release of Power Apps. Some of these additional features include accessing the SQL server, Dataverse (formerly known as Common Data Service (CDS)), and the on-premises data via a gateway. To utilize a premium license, you must follow the request and review process first. See Section 8 – Power Apps Premium for details on this process.

1.1 What is Power Apps

Power Apps is a suite of apps, services, connectors, and data platform that provides a rapid application development environment to build custom apps for your business needs. Using Power Apps, you can quickly build custom business apps that connect to your business data.

1.2 Different Types of Power Apps

1.2.1 Canvas (M365)

Canvas apps give you the flexibility to arrange the user experience and interface the way you want it. Allow your creativity and business sense to guide how you want your apps to look and feel.

1.2.2 Model-Driven (Premium)

When you create a model-driven app, you can use Dataverse (formerly CDS) to rapidly configure forms, business rules, and process flows. You create a model-driven app from the Power Apps site.

For more information, see Model-Driven Apps.

1.2.3 Dataverse for Teams

Microsoft Dataverse for Teams delivers a built-in, low-code data platform for Microsoft Teams. It provides relational data storage, rich data types, enterprise-grade governance, and one-click solution deployment. Dataverse for Teams enables everyone to easily build and deploy apps. Learn More: Microsoft Dataverse for Teams overview – Power Apps | Microsoft Learn ⧉

Last Reviewed: April 6, 2023