# Testing a runbook in Azure Automation

When you test a runbook, the [Draft version](/documentation/articles/automation-creating-importing-runbook#publishing-a-runbook) is executed and any actions that it performs are completed. No job history is created, but the [Output](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-output-and-messages#output-stream) and [Warning and Error](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-output-and-messages#message-streams) streams are displayed in the Test output Pane. Messages to the [Verbose Stream](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-output-and-messages#message-streams) are displayed in the Output Pane only if the [$VerbosePreference variable](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-output-and-messages#preference-variables) is set to Continue.

Even though the draft version is being run, the runbook still executes the workflow normally and performs any actions against resources in the environment. For this reason, you should only test runbooks at non-production resources.

The procedure to test each [type of runbook](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-types) is the same.

## To test a runbook in the Azure Management Portal

You can only work with [PowerShell Workflow runbooks](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-types#powershell-workflow-runbooks) in the Azure Management Portal.

1. [Open the Draft version of the runbook](/documentation/articles/automation-edit-textual-runbook#to-edit-a-runbook-with-the-azure-portal).
2. Click the **Test** button to start the test. If the runbook has parameters, you will receive a dialog box to provide values to be used for the test.
3. You can stop or suspend the runbook while it is being tested with the buttons underneath the Output Pane. When you suspend the runbook, it completes the current activity before being suspended. Once the runbook is suspended, you can stop it or restart it.
4. Inspect the output from the runbook in the output pane.

## Related articles

* [Creating or importing a runbook in Azure Automation](/documentation/articles/automation-creating-importing-runbook)
* [Editing textual runbooks in Azure Automation](/documentation/articles/automation-edit-textual-runbook)
* [Runbook output and messages in Azure Automation](/documentation/articles/automation-runbook-output-and-messages)