

Lab 4: Use the Catalog

Building solutions with consistent branding, custom mappings to various data sources, multi-faceted flows and triggers, and embedding various components with custom logic into apps can be repetitive work. Creating all this from scratch every time is a waste of time and error prone. Organizations also want to drive towards maintainable patterns and consistency for their makers.

The catalog in Power Apps and Power Automate enables makers to share and install reusable assets, such as apps, flows, connectors, prompts, and more, that are customized for your org, by your org. Because the catalog is built on top of our solutions framework, you can also easily install catalog items from any environment in a tenant, and have catalog assets accessible from authoring experiences, like Canvas Studio and flow designer.

Catalog overview: [Catalog in Power Platform - Power Apps | Microsoft Learn](#)

Using the catalog: [View, submit, and install catalog items - Power Apps | Microsoft Learn](#)

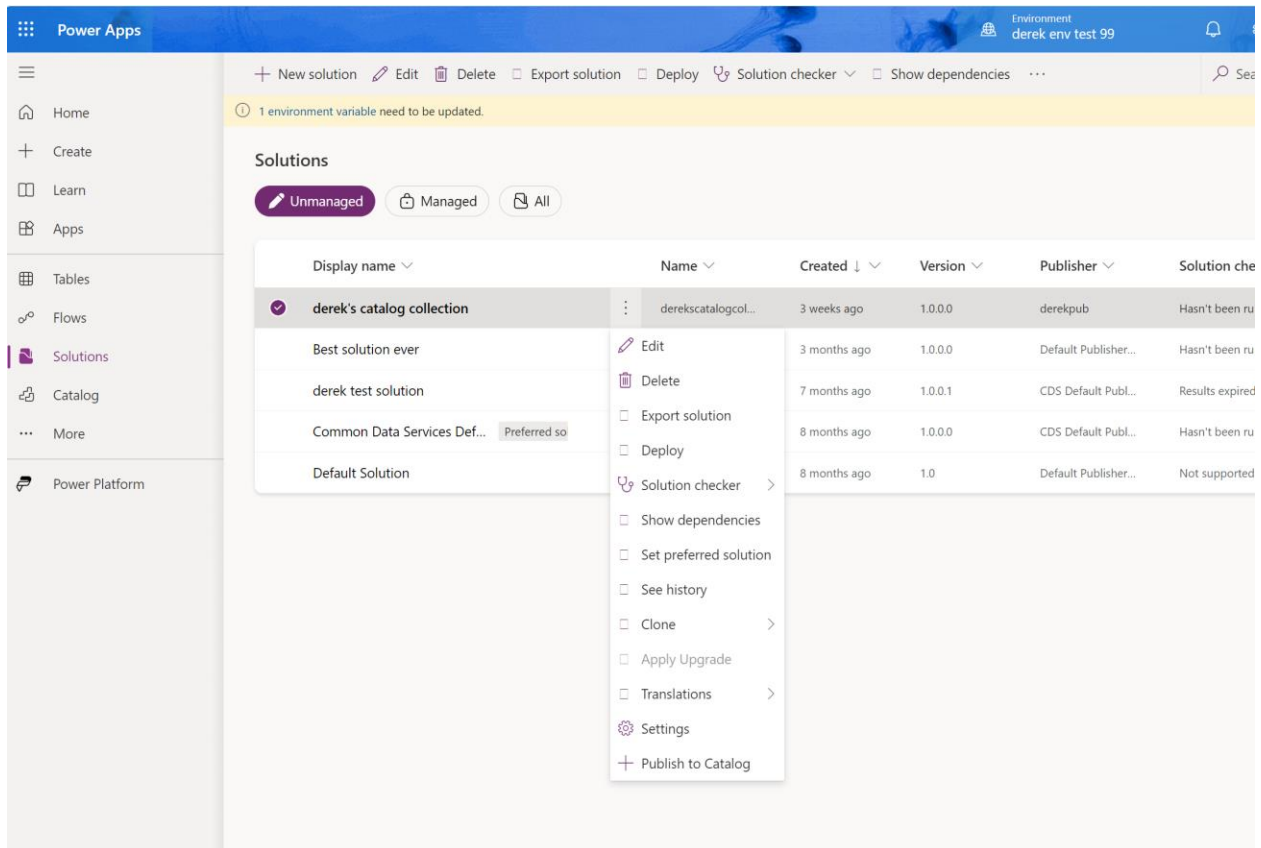
Administer the catalog: [Administer the catalog - Power Platform | Microsoft Learn](#)

Lab 4 – Tasks

1. [Submit a solution to the Catalog](#)
2. [Install the Catalog item](#)
3. [Resubmit and update the Catalog item](#)

Task 1: Submit an item to Catalog

Navigate to the the dev environment you created in lab 1 (should be a managed environment) by clicking the environment selector on top of the page. Go to the solutions page, and pick a solution you created. You can also create a new solution if you prefer, just ensure you name it something unique you will recognize. Click the three dots, and click “Publish to Catalog”:



Step 1: Add your solution

1. **Select a catalog:** If you have multiple catalogs set up, you can select which catalog you would like to publish this item to. Select the Workshop Pipeline Host Environment.
2. Select **managed item** or **template** for your submission. **CHOOSE A MANAGED ITEM FOR THIS STEP.**

Managed items can't be edited by other makers, your environment shares a single copy, and that copy can be versioned with updates over time. Makers can then update their solutions with your updates.

A **template** is a standalone copy that can be edited, makers can have as many copies as they want, and won't automatically update solutions in environments when new updates are published.

3. **Select a primary component:** A solution might have many components in it. You might want makers to open a specific component for editing after they install it,

such as opening Canvas Studio for your canvas app. Set the primary component to whichever you think is the "focus" of the solution, otherwise, set **Unspecified**, and installers go the solution itself.

Step 2: Catalog info

Enter the following information:

Field	Instructions
Title	Rename the item if needed before it gets submitted to catalog. The default is the solution name. You can't edit title when submitted a managed item.
Description	Provide details on this catalog item. Makers read your description in the catalog gallery to find out more about it.
Business justification	By default, your admin must approve all catalog submissions before they're added to the catalog. This field provides a justification for your submission to your admin.
Works with	A flow that you're building might be intended to work with canvas apps and model apps, for example. Indicate here what your catalog item is intended to work with.
Business categories	Select up to five business categories that describe your catalog item. Makers use these categories to search for catalog items that are of interest to them.
Publisher	Select an existing publisher in this environment, or create a new publisher, to connect to this catalog submission. A maker can't resubmit a catalog item unless they're part of the publishing group that submitted the item the first time.
Author	This defaults to the current user, but you can change it if needed

Step 3: Solution info

Enter the following information:

Field	Instructions
Solution icon	Attach an icon to your solution (216 x 216 pixel) to help identify it in the catalog gallery
template images	Attach some screenshots or other visuals that can help makers understand more details about this catalog item
Help link	Add the URL for any help documentation

Privacy policy link Add the URL for any privacy policy documentation

Legal terms link Add the URL for any legal terms documentation

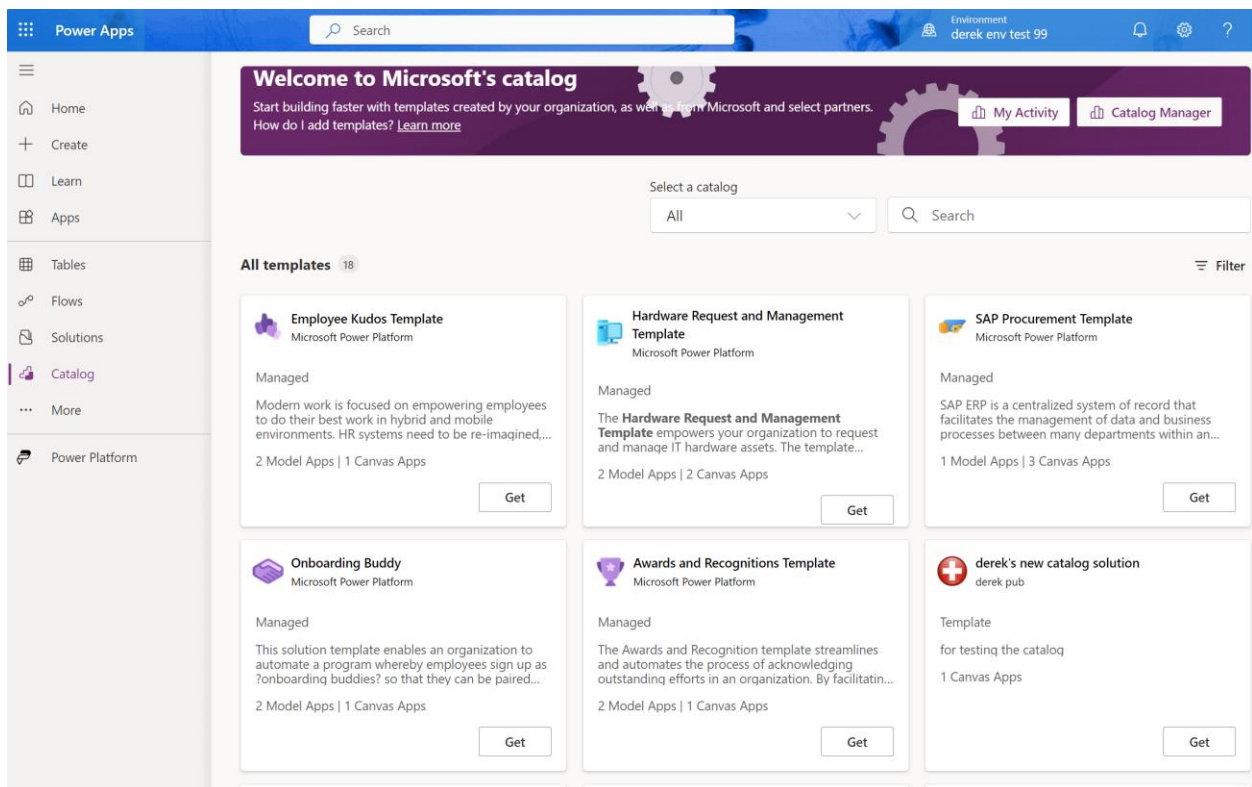
Step 4: Review and finish

This last step provides a summary of all the info you provided. If everything looks good, select **Submit** to publish to the catalog.

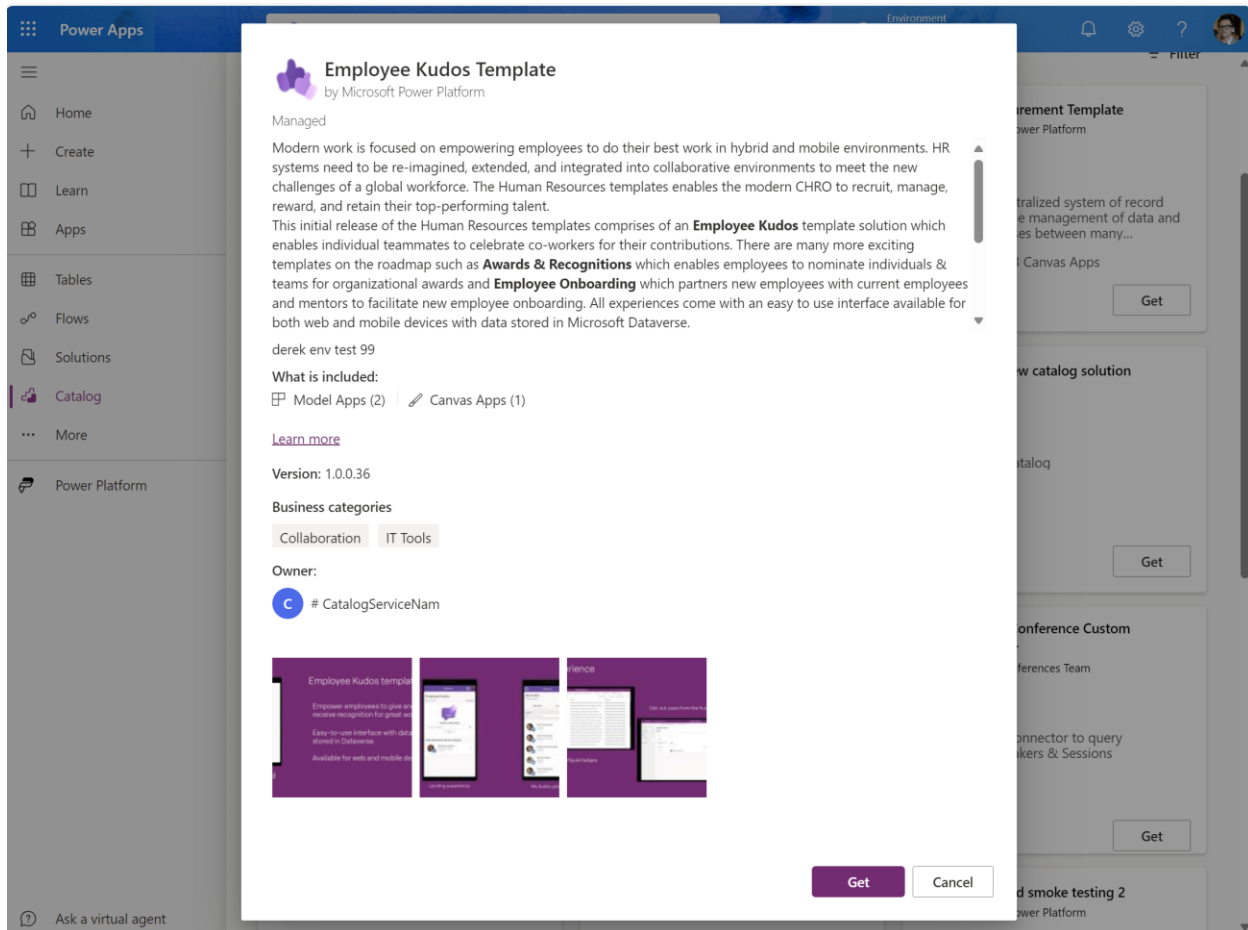
Stay on the page until the submission completes. When it's done, you should be able to find your new catalog item in the Catalog page (click "Catalog" in the left menu).

Task 2: Install the Catalog item

Navigate to a **DIFFERENT** environment from where you submitted the Catalog item that is **ALSO NOT** the Catalog Pipeline Host Environment. Click the Catalog page in the left menu, and find your newly submitted catalog item, and click "Get".



This will open up the details page for the Catalog item. You can see all your previously entered metadata here. Click “Get”.



This will start a wizard for you to install the item. NOTE: If any of the steps are not needed, they will be skipped. Example: your solution did not have any environment variables, so the environment variable step will not exist in the wizard.

Step 1: Check connections

This step checks the connections for the solution to make sure they're working for you in your environment. If there are any connection issues, you see a red status notification, and can resolve by selecting the ellipsis (...) next to the problematic connection to update it.

Step 2: Environment variables

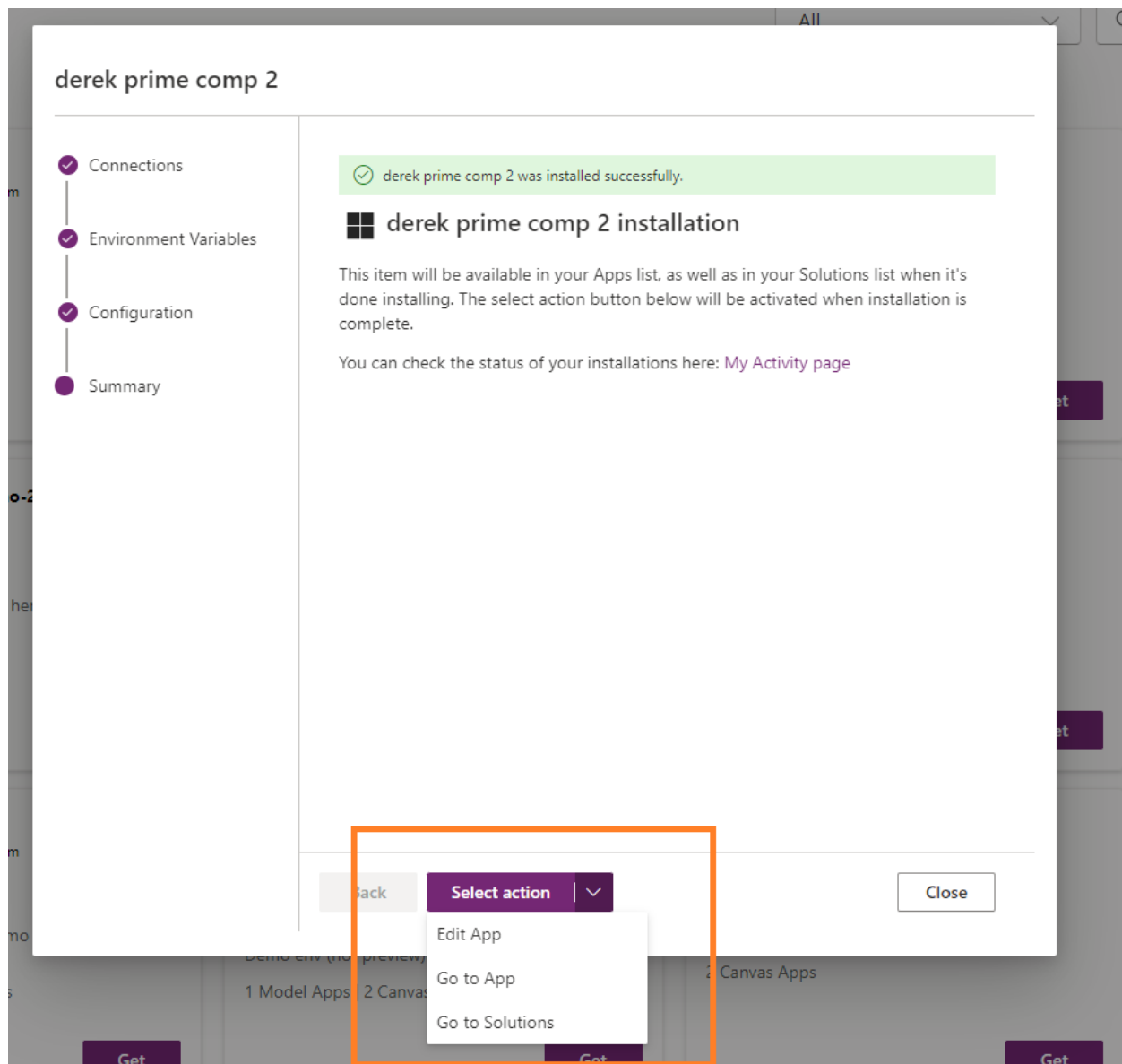
The publishing maker might decide some environment variables need to be specified before you can acquire the solution. Typically, these variables are set to some default value. If unsure of what to fill out, check with the author of the catalog item or in the details of the catalog listing, available on the catalog details. More information: [Step 2: Catalog info](#)

Step 3: Configuration

The publishing maker determines this step, if they want you to provide any additional information for using the solution. This might include things like, "*What days of the week do you run a report?*". If no additional information needed, this step is blank.

Step 4: Summary

When you reach the final step, the summary screen, you're now waiting for the catalog item to install into your environment. Depending on the complexity, this might take from less than a minute to several minutes. When complete, you're given several options in the dropdown, depending on what's included in the catalog item, and if the author set a primary component during submission. The following is an example where a canvas app is the primary component of the catalog item:



In this example, you can:

Edit App: Opens the app in Canvas Studio

Go to App: Takes you to the app screen, if you aren't ready to edit yet

Go to Solutions: Opens the solution file

Depending on what is contained in the catalog item package, different options appear.

After the catalog item is installed, you can find the catalog item:

In the **Unmanaged solutions** list in the solutions page if the catalog item was a **template**

In the **Managed solutions** list in the solutions page if the catalog item was a **managed item**

Task 3: Resubmit and update the catalog item

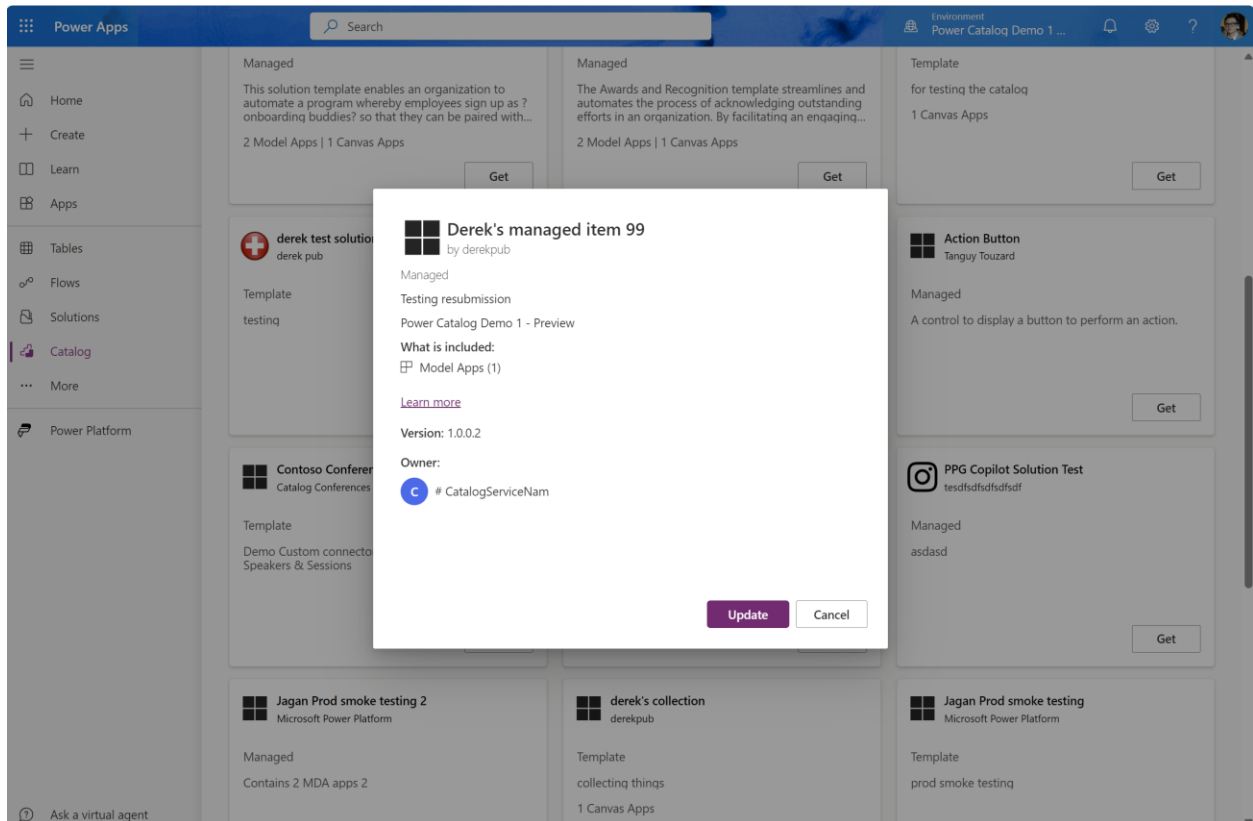
Navigate back to your dev environment from lab 1, find the original solution you submitted in task 2. Publish the item again to the **SAME environment you picked in task 2**. You will now see a different experience on your wizard:

The screenshot shows the 'Add your solution' wizard in Power Apps. The wizard is titled 'Add your solution' and shows a progress bar with steps: Add your solution, Catalog, Solution Info, and Review + Finish. The 'Catalog' step is active. The 'Select catalog' section shows a dropdown menu with 'Power Catalog Demo 1 - Preview' selected. Below this, an attention message states: 'Attention: This item has already been submitted to this Catalog as a managed item. Resubmitting this item will update the version in the Catalog, and users using this managed item can fetch the update from the Catalog directly.' It also notes: 'Updating the version number will update the version number of the original solution. In general, avoid setting the version to a lower number using this form.' The 'Current version' is 1.0.0.0 and the 'New version' is 1.0.0.1. The 'Select primary component' section shows a dropdown menu with 'Dataverse Accelerator App - Model App' selected. At the bottom, there are 'Back', 'Next', and 'Cancel' buttons.

You can see resubmitting a managed item will version the item with any changes you made. This allows you to control the version that your organization uses to have the most up to date and authoritative changes. You can see the version number is auto-incremented by 1. You can update the version number if you like (but do not set it lower).

On the next screens, everything will be pre-populated for you, and you should be able to submit as you did previously. Wait for the submission to finish, **and then navigate to the environment where you just resubmitted the item**. Click Catalog in the left menu, and find the item you just resubmitted. Click get.

On the details screen, you will see the “get” button is now an “update” button, which signifies that an update to this catalog item is available.



Click update, and step through the installation wizard. When completed install, the managed solution in your managed solution list will be updated with the most recent version.