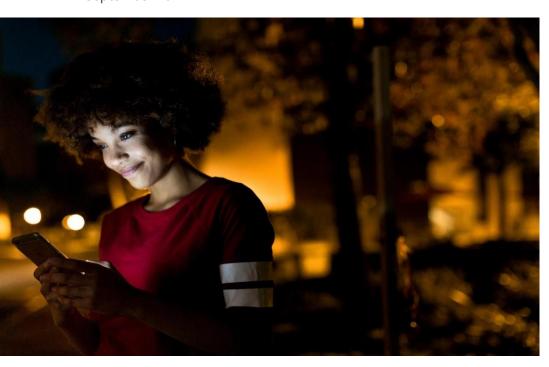


Redefined in the Age of Al: Power Automate Desktop (PPCC24)

Lab 09 – Monitor or troubleshoot your automations

30 mins

September 2024



This document is provided "as-is." Information and views expressed in this document, including URL and other Internet Web site references, may change without notice. You bear the risk of using it. Some examples are fictitious and are for illustration only. No real association is intended or inferred. This document does not provide you with any legal rights to any intellectual property in any Microsoft product. You may copy and use this document for your internal reference purposes.

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.

Monitor your automations

While desktop flow activity helps you to monitor your desktop flows, the new Automation Center (preview) provides comprehensive monitoring and troubleshooting experiences for your automation processes across Power Automate, catering to various personas involved in automation.

Prerequisites

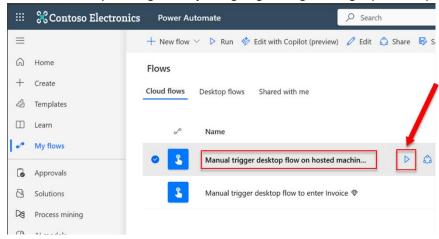
This lab builds on the initial setup lab (lab 1) and labs 2-8 – ensure these labs are complete.

Exercise 1: Check your currently running desktop flows

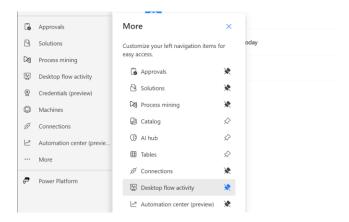
1. Go to https://powerautomate.microsoft.com. Then go to My flows > Cloud flows .



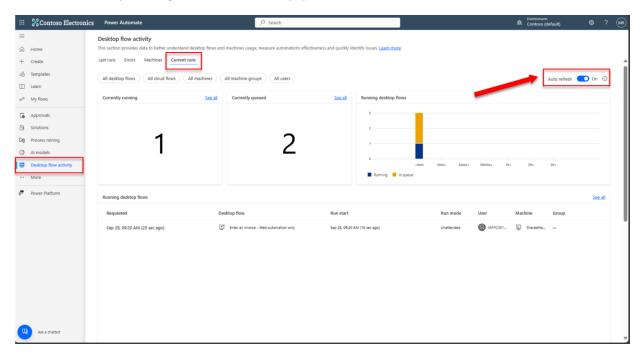
2. Trigger 3 consecutive runs of the flow named "Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine" by clicking on Play and going through the right panel steps (3 times):



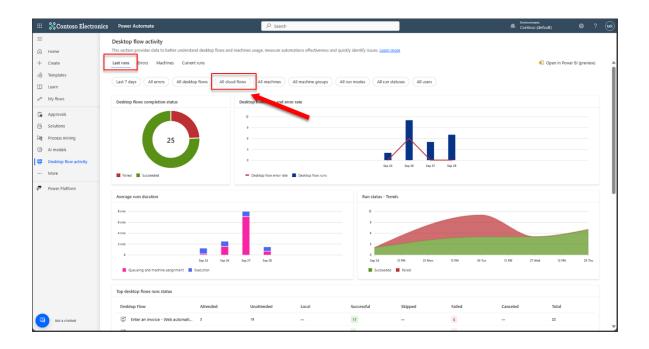
3. From the left navigation pane, Go to **Desktop flow activity**, then select **Current runs** tab and set the **Auto refresh** toggle (at the top right corner of the screen) to **On** so that the page will refresh automatically. <u>Note</u>: if you don't see Desktop flow activity in the left navigation pane, select **More** and make sure **Desktop flow activity** is pinned to the left navigation for easy access.



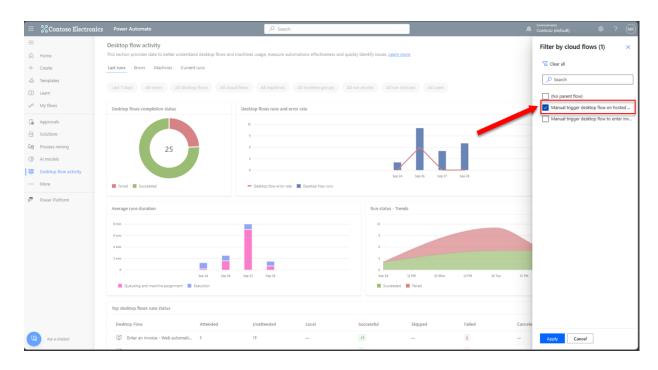
You should be able to see your 3 triggered runs either in currently queued or currently running depending on how fast you came to this page and how fast the machine was able to take on your requested flow runs. Below in the screenshot you can see one has already been picked up by the machine (currently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



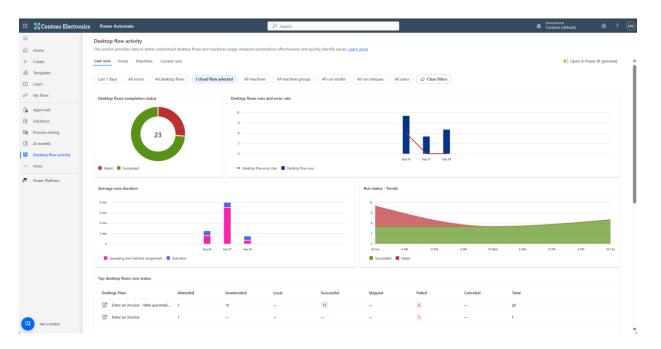
4. Once at least one flow has completed, go to **Last runs** tab and from the top level filters, select your **All cloud flows**

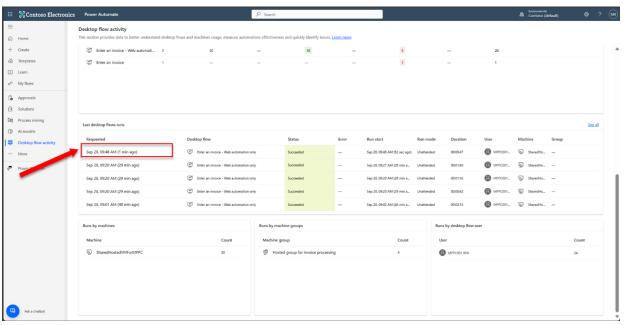


5. Then select the cloud flow you just triggered (Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine) and click on Apply:

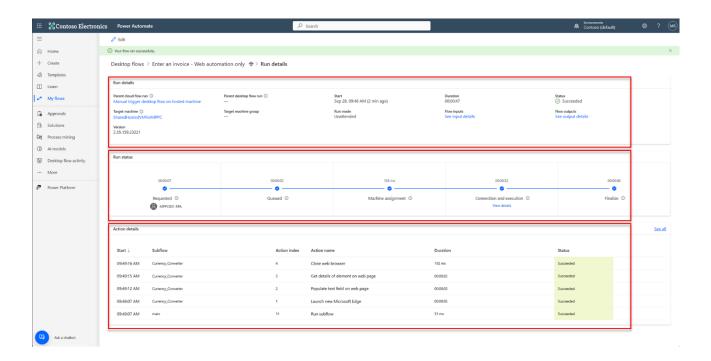


6. You should only the see desktop flow runs that were triggered by that cloud flow, then scroll down to the "**Last desktop flow runs**" section and select the first completed run in the list (which is your most recent flow run):



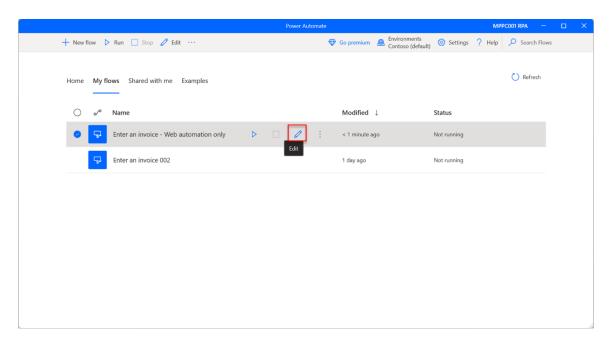


- 7. Verify the different information on that page:
- (1) The **Run details** section, giving you details like the cloud flow which triggered this run, the start time, duration, the target machine on which this flow run happened, the version of PAD and links to the flow inputs/outputs, run mode and more.
- (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).

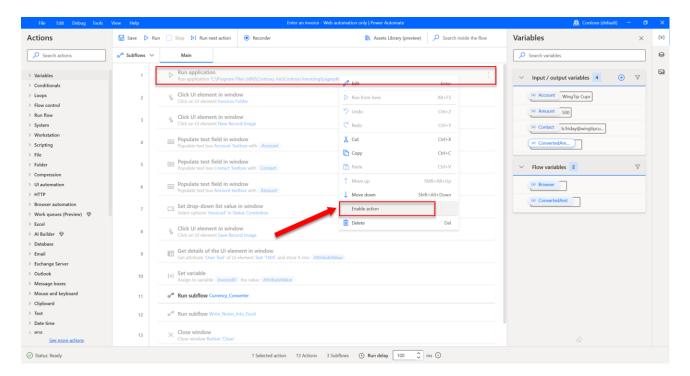


Exercise 2: Identifying an issue with Desktop flow activity

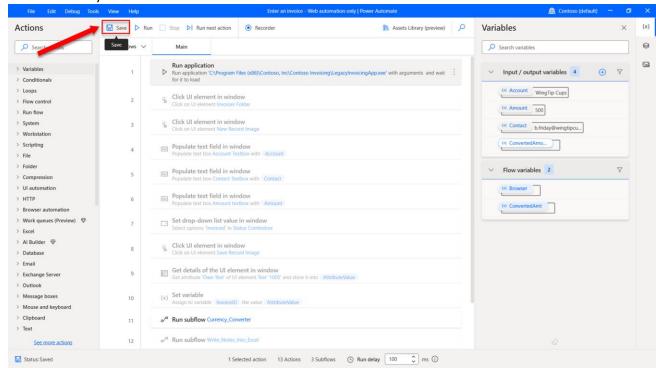
1. Open **Power Automate for Desktop** and edit your flow **Enter an invoice – Web automation only**:



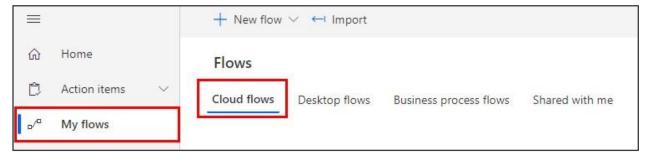
2. We're going to re-enable actions needing the Contoso invoice app, in order to cause an explicit failure. **Right-click** on the first step and select "**Enable action**"



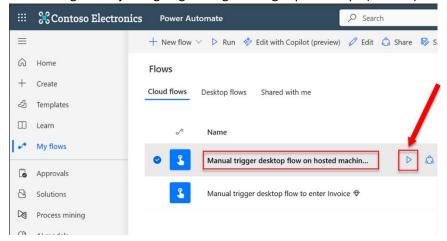
3. Then Save your modification:



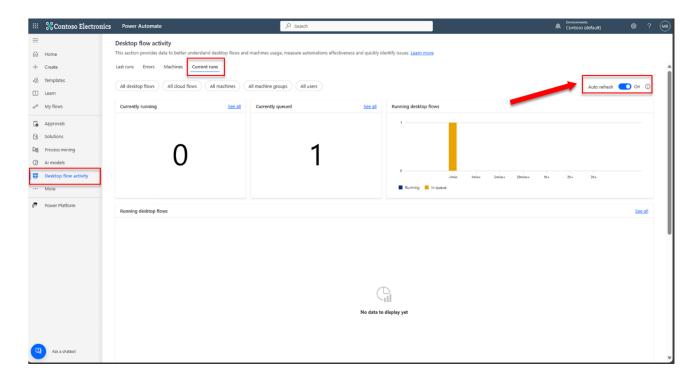
8. Go to $\frac{\text{https://powerautomate.microsoft.com}}{\text{My flows}}$. Then go to $\frac{\text{My flows}}{\text{My flows}}$.



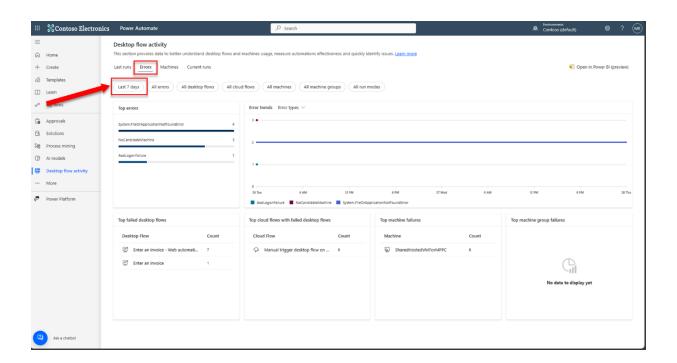
9. Trigger one flow run of your flow "Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine" by clicking on Play and going through the right panel steps (3 times):



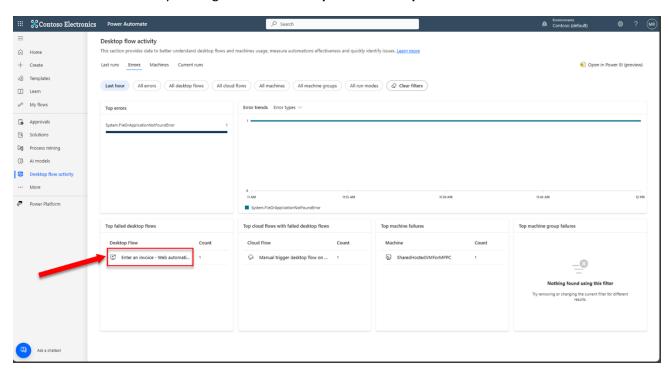
10. From the left navigation pane, Go to **Desktop flow activity**, then select **Current runs** tab and set the **Auto refresh** toggle (at the top right corner of the screen) to **On** so that the page will refresh automatically.



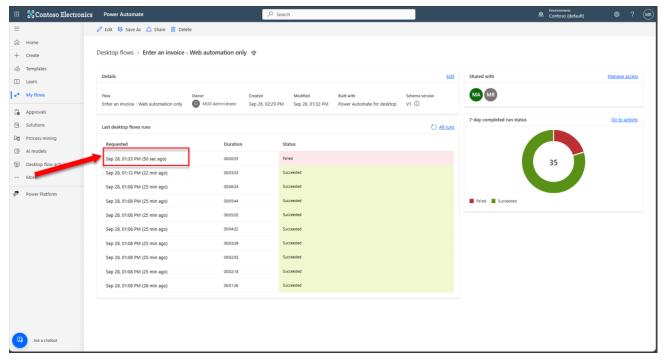
11. Wait until your flow runs and disappears from this view, then go to **Errors** tab, select the date filter and change it from "**Last 7 days**" to "**last hour**":



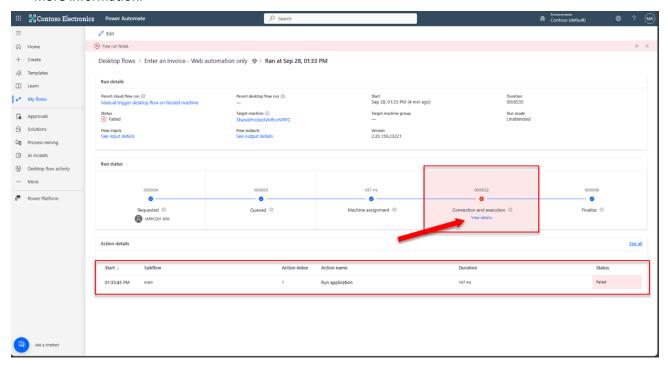
12. We could further drill down using the different filters but here there is only one error (which is **System.FileOrApplicationNotFoundError**). Let's get more details by selecting the desktop flow that raised this error by clicking on it from the **Top failed desktop flows** section at the bottom.



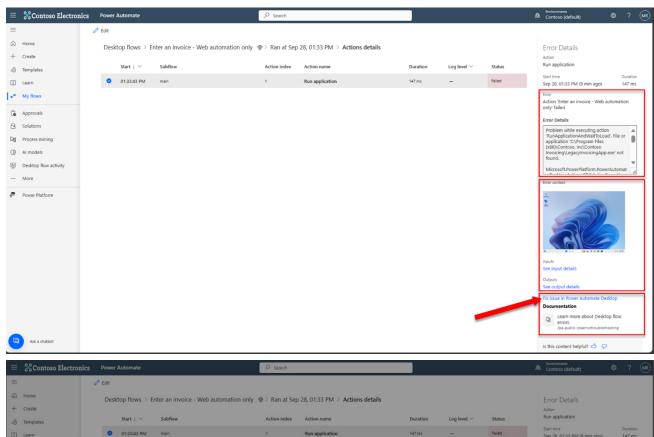
13. Now, we're in the Desktop flow details page and we can see that the last run failed. Click on Start time (Requested column)

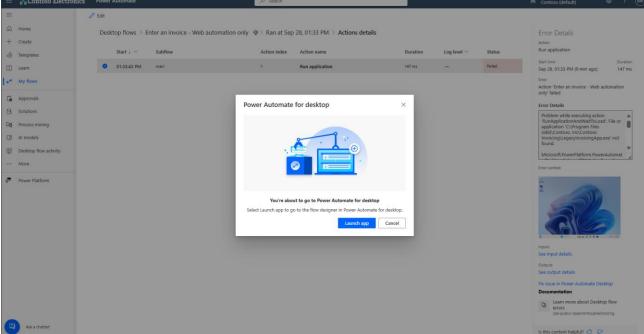


14. I can see the failure happened at the 4th step (Connection and execution), which means the Power Automate was able to trigger the desktop flow on the target machine but it failed completing successfully. I can see that the first step called **Run application** failed. Click on **View details** to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

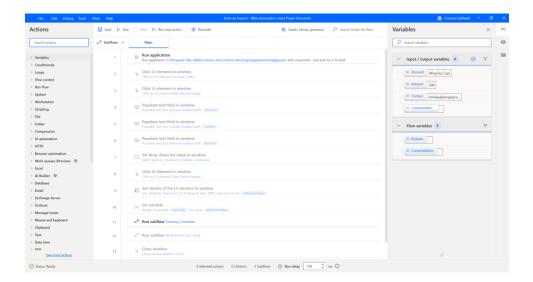


15. A more detailed view shows up listing all the performed actions with a right panel opened giving precise information about the failure. Locate (1) the error details, (2) the machine screenshot taken during the error with links to input & outputs as well as (3) a deep link to open Power Automate for 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.





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

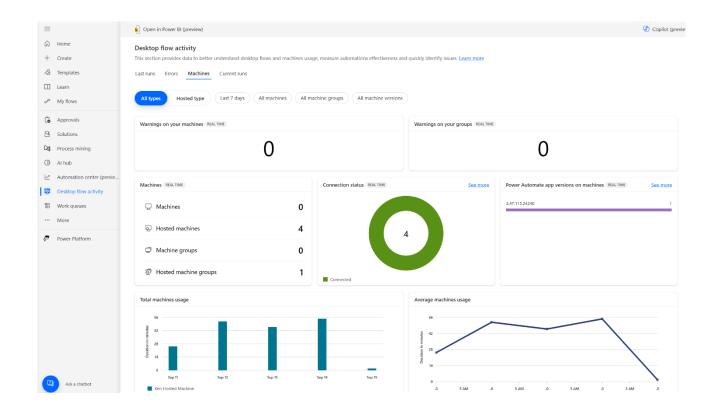


Exercise 3: Monitor your machines

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.

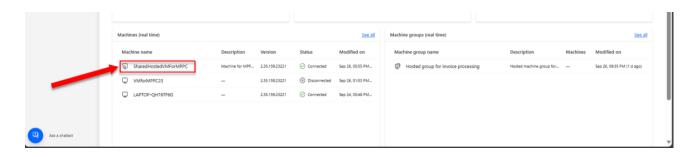
1. Go to https://powerautomate.microsoft.com and then from the left navigation pane select **Desktop flow activity** and click on the **Machines** tab.

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.



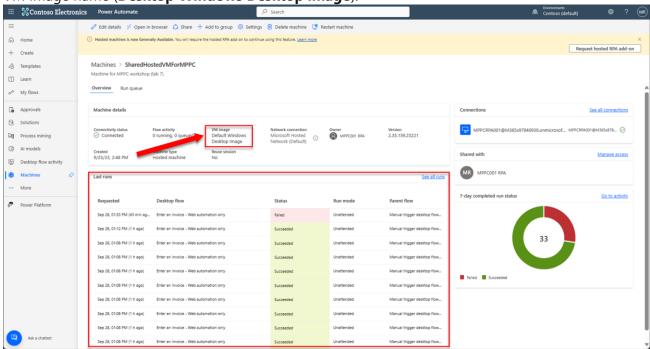
2. Scroll down and click on the hosted machine name.

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

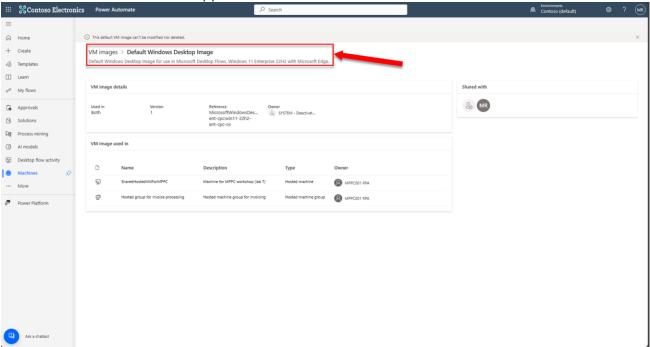


3. From this page, you can get a lot of information about this machine. What were the last runs, its connectivity status, what connections are targeting it and much more. What I'm interested now, is checking with VM image was used to create this machine. Click on the

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



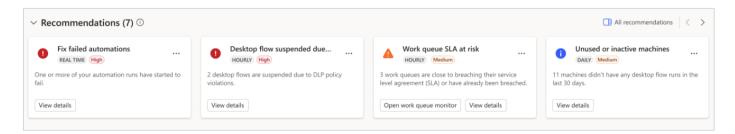
4. This is the default vanilla VM image provided by Power Automate, it is not a VM image that includes the Contoso application.



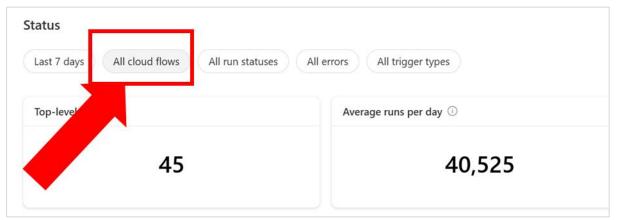
The right fix will be to create a custom VM image that includes the Contoso application and create a hosted machine with it.

Exercise 4: Monitor your automations with the automation center

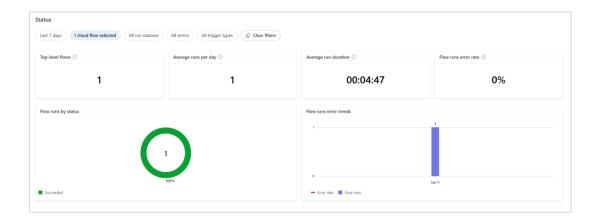
- 1. Go to https://powerautomate.microsoft.com. Then from the left navigation go to Automation Center.
- 2. In the **Overview** tab, the automation center provides you a top-level view of your flow run activities. In the **recommendations** section, you can retrieve a list of automation health, compliance or actionable recommendations (such as an inactive machine or a lack of capacity).



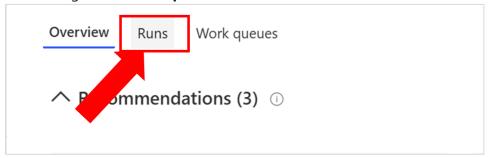
3. In the **status** section, you can monitor and troubleshoot your automation processes across Power Automate. In the list of filters, select **all cloud flows**.



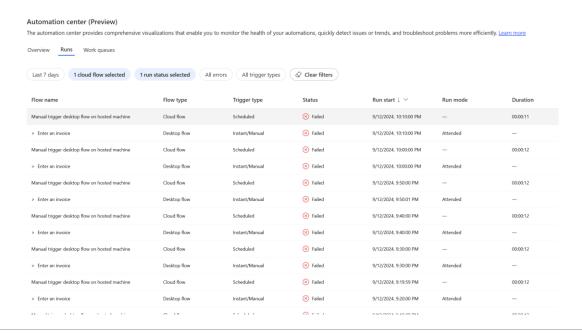
4. In the right pane, you can now select your cloud flow **Manual trigger desktop flow on hosted machine** and click on **Apply**. All the dashboards and data will be updated to show you the activity of your automations (number of runs, average duration, etc..)



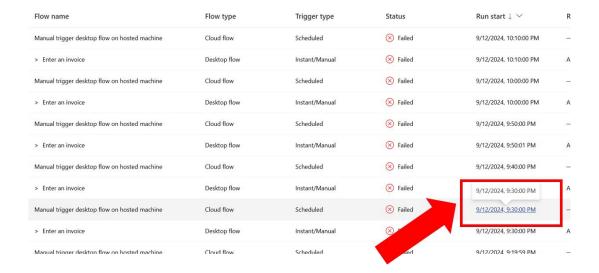
5. When you see that your flow has failures, you can filter on run status to show only failures and go to the **Runs pivot**.



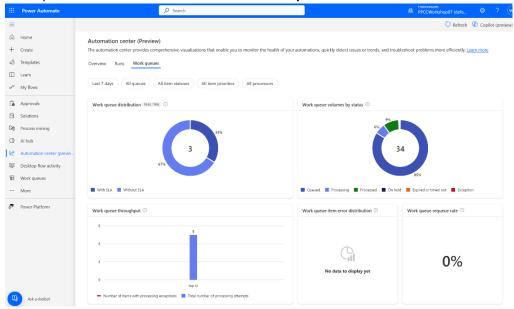
6. From the runs tab, you can view all the runs of your cloud flow that failed. If your cloud flow failed because of a desktop flow, you will also see the child desktop flow and the related error.



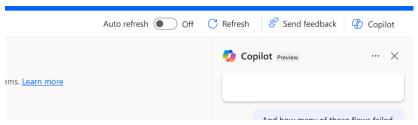
7. You can then select in the **run start** column, the run you want to investigate and you will be redirected to the run details page (that you already saw in the previous exercices).



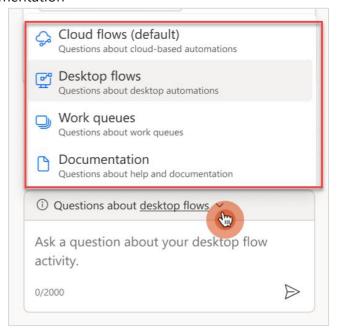
8. The last tab available is for Work queues and help understand the usage across the different work queues in the environment. Click on **Work queues** tab to discover it.



9. Let's now discover how you can monitor your automations with Copilot. In the right corner of the command bar, select **Copilot (preview)**

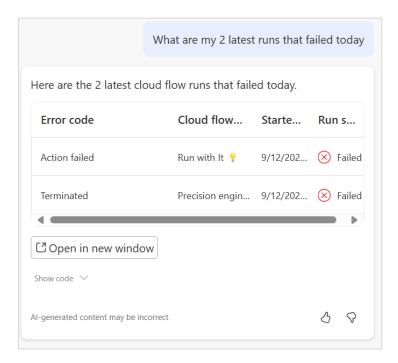


- 10. **Copilot (preview)** is designed to assist with the analysis of automation activity, work queue performance, and to provide answers to common questions about Power Automate capabilities (generative answers). Copilot in automation center can answer questions about the following four skills:
 - a. Cloud flow run logs (by default, the "cloud flow" skill is preselected)
 - b. Desktop flow run logs
 - c. Work queue data
 - d. Documentation



11. You can select one of the suggested questions or ask your own questions. For example, start by typing **What are my 2 latest runs that failed today**.

12. Copilot will provide you with a table showing you the latest failed runs.



13. You can select "Open in new window" to go through the results and browse the generated FetchXml code. If you want to <u>learn more about FetchXML</u>.

Congratulations!

You have completed this Lab!

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
- 4. What are the different skills supported by Copilot in the automation center?
 - A. Cloud flows / Desktop flows
 - B. Work queue
 - C. PowerApps
 - D. Documentation
 - E. All the above

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.

- 5. What are the different skills supported by Copilot in the automation center?
 - A. Cloud flows / Desktop flows
 - B. Work queue
 - C. PowerApps
 - D. **Documentation**
 - E. All the above

Answer: A, B et D. Apps are not part of the Automation Center.

© 2024 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reser	ved

Information in this document, including URL and other Internet Web site references, is subject to change without notice. Unless otherwise noted, the example companies, organizations, products, domain names, e-mail addresses, logos, people, places, and events depicted herein are fictitious, and no association with any real company, organization, product, domain name, e-mail address, logo, person, place, or event is intended or should be inferred. Complying with all applicable copyright laws is the responsibility of the user. Without limiting the rights under copyright, no part of this document may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), or for any purpose, without the express written permission of Microsoft Corporation.

Microsoft may have patents, patent applications, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights covering subject matter in this document. Except as expressly provided in any written license agreement from Microsoft, the furnishing of this document does not give you any license to these patents, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property.

The names of manufacturers, products, or URLs are provided for informational purposes only and Microsoft makes no representations or warranties, either expressed, implied, or statutory, regarding these manufacturers or the use of the products with any Microsoft technologies. The inclusion of a manufacturer or product does not imply endorsement of Microsoft of the manufacturer or product. Links may be provided to third party sites. Such sites are not under the control of Microsoft and Microsoft is not responsible for the contents of any linked site or any link contained in a linked site, or any changes or updates to such sites. Microsoft is not responsible for webcasting, or any other form of transmission received from any linked site. Microsoft is providing these links to you only as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement of Microsoft of the site, or the products contained therein.

© 2023 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Microsoft and the trademarks listed at

https://www.microsoft.com/enus/legal/intellectualproperty/Trademarks/Usage/General.aspx are trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.