Managing Microsoft 365 through the command-line

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About me

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BIWUG

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Agenda

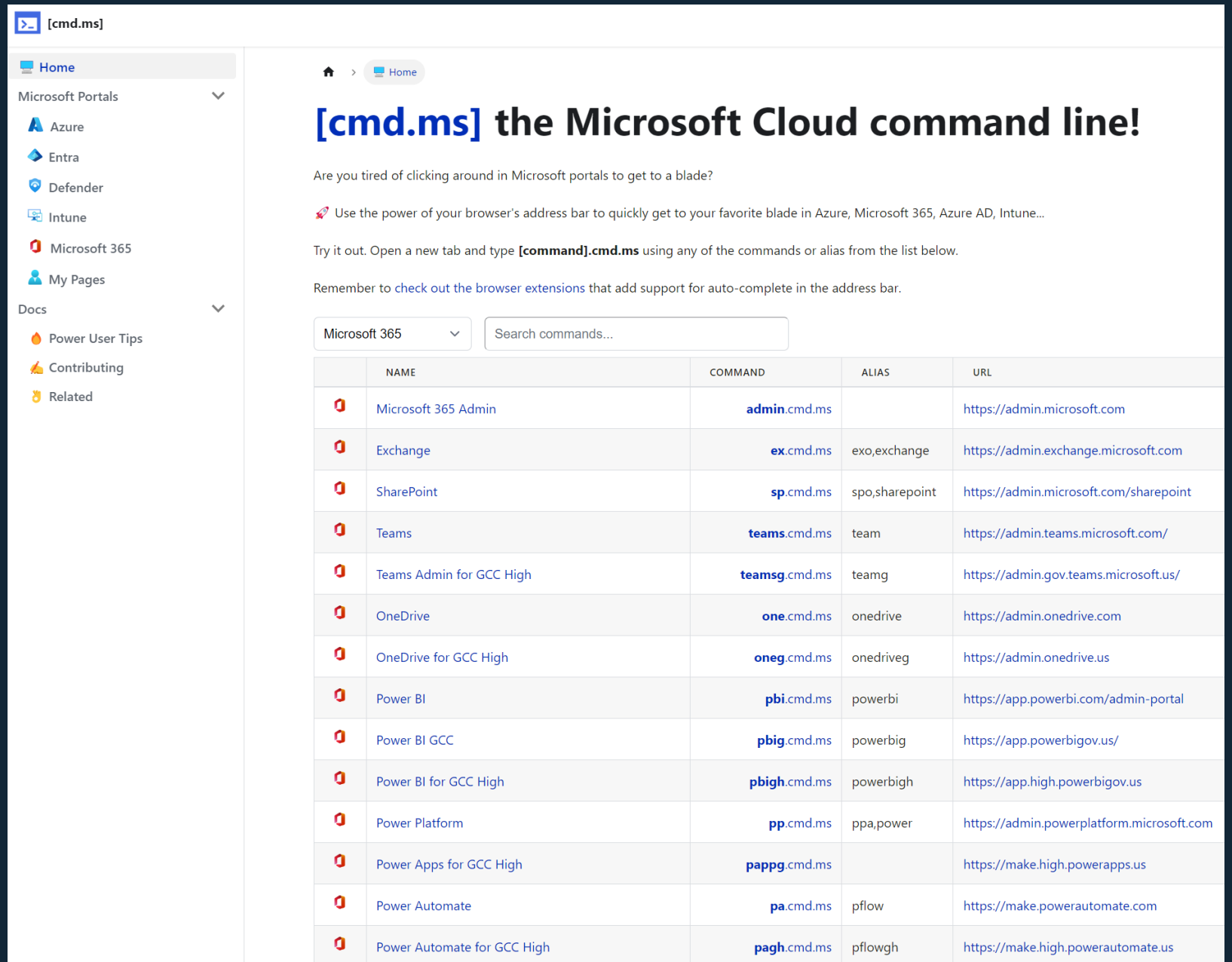
1. Managing Microsoft 365 in a nutshell
2. Getting to know the Microsoft Graph
3. PowerShell to the rescue
4. The rise of the CLI
5. Integration & automation
6. When to use what

Managing Microsoft 365 in a nutshell

Anyone need an admin portal?

- admin.microsoft.com
- security.microsoft.com
- compliance.microsoft.com
- entra.microsoft.com
- intune.microsoft.com
- …

cmd.ms

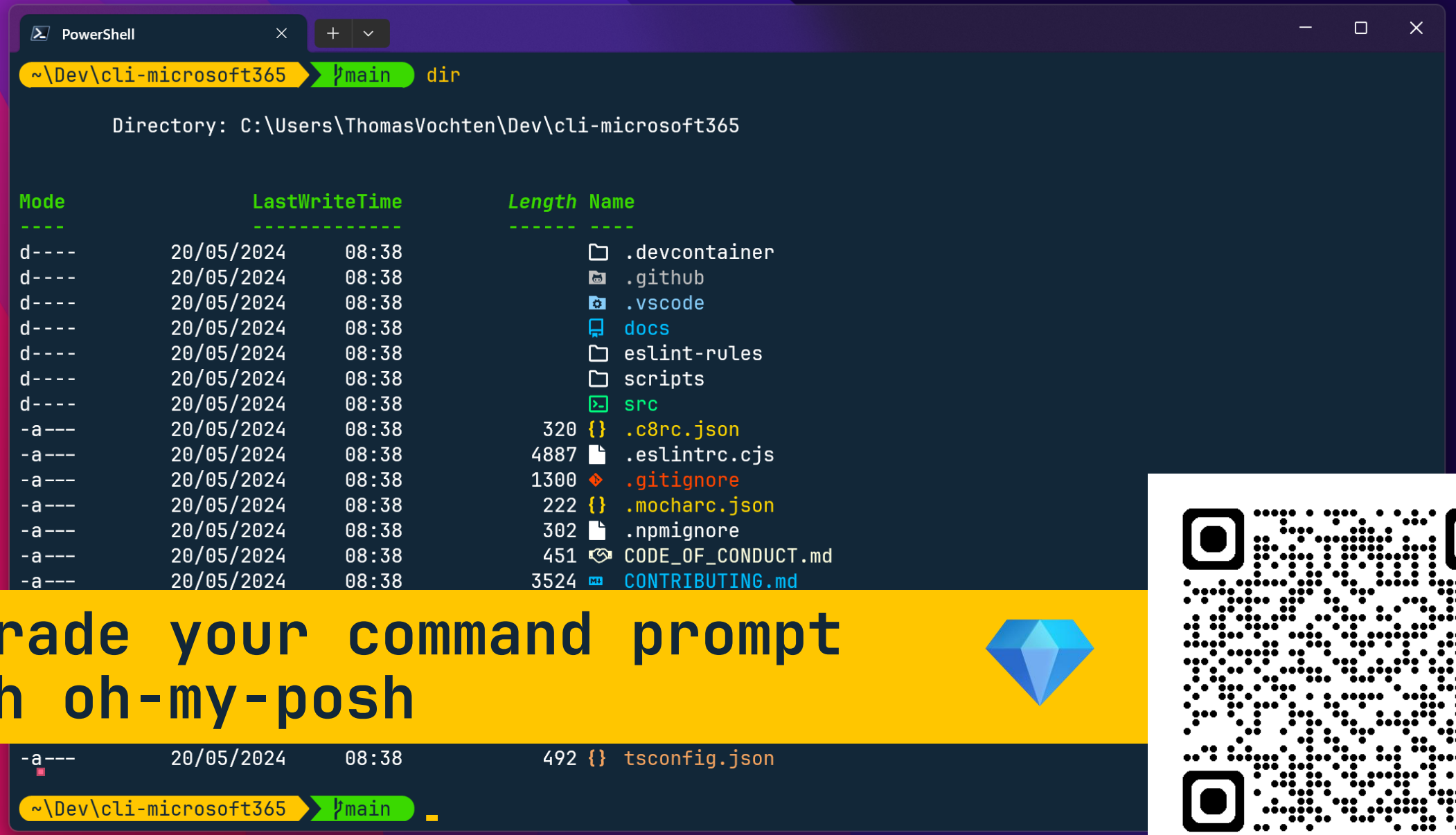

[cmd.ms]
Home
Microsoft Portals
Azure
Entra
Defender
Intune
Microsoft 365
My Pages
Docs
Power User Tips
Contributing
Related
Home
[cmd.ms] the Microsoft Cloud command line!
Are you tired of clicking around in Microsoft portals to get to a blade?
Use the power of your browser's address bar to quickly get to your favorite blade in Azure, Microsoft 365, Azure AD, Intune...
Try it out. Open a new tab and type [command].cmd.ms using any of the commands or alias from the list below.
Remember to check out the browser extensions that add support for auto-complete in the address bar.
Microsoft 365
Search commands...
NAME
COMMAND
ALIAS
URL
Microsoft 365 Admin
admin.cmd.ms
https://admin.microsoft.com
Exchange
ex.cmd.ms
exo,exchange
https://admin.exchange.microsoft.com
SharePoint
sp.cmd.ms
spo,sharepoint
https://admin.microsoft.com/sharepoint
Teams
teams.cmd.ms
team
https://admin.teams.microsoft.com/
Teams Admin for GCC High
teamsg.cmd.ms
teamg
https://admin.gov.teams.microsoft.us/
OneDrive
one.cmd.ms
onedrive
https://admin.onedrive.com
OneDrive for GCC High
oneg.cmd.ms
onedriveg
https://admin.onedrive.us
Power BI
pbi.cmd.ms
powerbi
https://app.powerbi.com/admin-portal
Power BI GCC
pbig.cmd.ms
powerbig
https://app.powerbigov.us/
Power BI for GCC High
pbigh.cmd.ms
powerbigh
https://app.high.powerbigov.us
Power Platform
pp.cmd.ms
ppa,power
https://admin.powerplatform.microsoft.com
Power Apps for GCC High
pappg.cmd.ms
https://make.high.powerapps.us
Power Automate
pa.cmd.ms
pflow
https://make.powerautomate.com
Power Automate for GCC High
pagh.cmd.ms
pflowgh
https://make.high.powerautomate.us

The tools I use

Windows Terminal

Visual Studio Code

Windows Subsystem for Linux

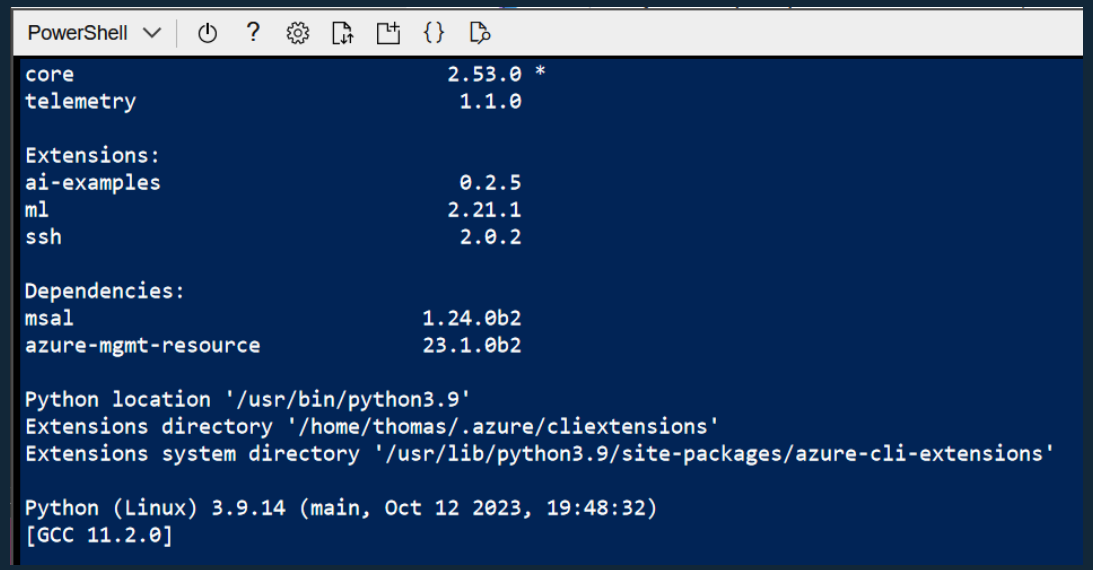


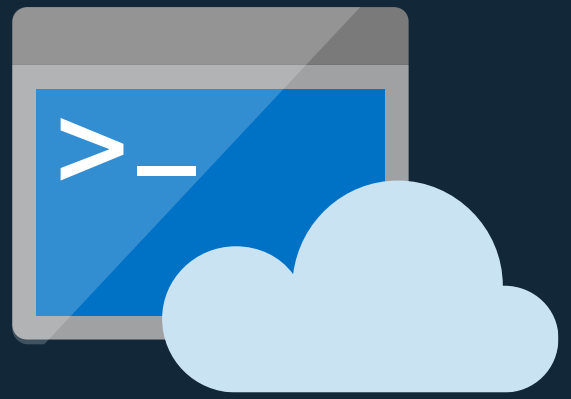
Upgrade your command prompt with oh-my-posh

https://ohmyposh.dev/

Cloud shell

- Authenticated shell when you need it
- Needs to be deployed to an Azure subscription
- Comes preloaded with the most common tools





Getting to know the Microsoft Graph

Microsoft 365 Platform

Extend Microsoft 365 experiences


Documents


Conversations


Portals


Timeline


Search

Build your experience


Web apps


Bots & agents


Device & native


Daemon apps


Workflow automation


Analytics apps

Microsoft Graph
REST APIs and webhooks

External data

Connectors

Microsoft Graph

Microsoft 365 | Windows 10 | Enterprise Mobility + Security

Azure AI platform

Microsoft Graph
Data Connect

Microsoft Identity

One API to rule them all

- Is a “RESTful API”
- HTTP / Standards based
- Has a single endpoint: graph.microsoft.com
- Works with structured data (json)

Beneath the covers

GET https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/users


```
{
        "businessPhones": [
        "(212) 555-8335"
        ],
        "displayName": "Aaron Painter",
        "givenName": "Aaron",
        "jobTitle": "Strategy Consulting Manager",
        "mail": "aaronp@thvo.net",
        "mobilePhone": null,
        "officeLocation": null,
        "preferredLanguage": null,
        "surname": "Painter",
        "userPrincipalName": "aaronp@thvo.net",
        "id": "676ca8a1-eaab-4e15-8ee2-72c97b53a4df"
}
```

Some common operations

Operation	URL
GET my profile	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me
GET my files	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/drive/root/children
GET my photo	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/photo/$value
GET my mail	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/messages
GET my high importance email	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/messages?$filter=importance%20eq%20'high'
GET my calendar events	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/events
GET my manager	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/manager
GET last user to modify file foo.txt	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/drive/root/children/foo.txt/lastModifiedByUser
GET users in my organization	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/users
GET groups in my organization	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/groups
GET people related to me	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/people
GET items trending around me	https://graph.microsoft.com/beta/me/insights/trending
GET my notes	https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/onenote/notebooks

Graph Explorer

- Interactive tool to learn about the Graph
- Works with demo data **or your own tenant**
- Abstracts away a lot of the complexity
- Your first stop in getting to know the Graph

https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/graph/graph-explorer

Graph Explorer

Tenant Sample

Sample queries | Resources ...

Search sample queries

See more queries in the Microsoft Graph API Reference docs.

Getting Started (8)

- GET my profile
- GET my profile (beta)
- GET my photo
- GET my mail
- GET list items in my drive
- GET items trending around me
- GET my manager
- GET my To Do task lists

Applications (8)

GET | v1.0 | https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me | Run query

Request body | Request headers | Modify permissions | Access token

OK - 200 - 128 ms

Response preview | Response headers | Code snippets | Toolkit component | Adaptive cards | Expand

You are currently using a sample account. Sign in to access your own data.


```
{
    "@odata.context": "https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/$metadata#users/$entity",
    "businessPhones": [
        "+1 412 555 0109"
    ],
    "displayName": "Megan Bowen",
    "givenName": "Megan",
    "jobTitle": "Auditor",
    "mail": "MeganB@M365x214355.onmicrosoft.com",
    "mobilePhone": null,
    "officeLocation": "12/1110",
    "preferredLanguage": "en-US",
    "surname": "Bowen",
    "userPrincipalName": "MeganB@M365x214355.onmicrosoft.com",
    "id": "48d31887-5fad-4d73-a9f5-3c356e68a038"
}
```

Microsoft | Microsoft Graph Explore Graph Explorer Docs API Learn Developer Program Support All Microsoft

Graph Explorer

Tenant Sample

Sample queries | Resources ...

Search sample queries

See more queries in the Microsoft Graph API Reference docs.

Getting Started (8)

- GET my profile
- GET my profile (beta)
- GET my photo
- GET my mail
- GET list items in my drive
- GET items trending around me
- GET my manager
- GET my To Do task lists

Applications (8)

GET v1.0 https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/photo/$value Run query

Possible error found in URL near: $value

Request body | Request headers | Modify permissions | Access token

OK - 200 - 133 ms

Response preview | Response headers | Code snippets | Toolkit component | Adaptive cards | Expand

You are currently using a sample account. Sign in to access your own data.

Graph Explorer

Tenant
Sample

Sample queries | Resources ...

Search sample queries

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- GET my profile
- GET my profile (beta)
- GET my photo
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Applications (8)

GET v1.0 https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/photo/$value Run query

Possible error found in URL near: $value

Request body | Request headers | Modify permissions | Access token

OK - 200 - 133 ms

Response preview | Response headers | Code snippets | Toolkit component | Adaptive cards | Expand

C# CLI Go Java JavaScript PHP PowerShell Python

```
# Leverage the power of our client libraries. Download the PowerShell client library here https://aka.ms/pshellsdk
# To read more about our SDKs, go to the documentation page at https://aka.ms/pshellsdkdocs
Import-Module Microsoft.Graph.Users

# A UPN can also be used as -UserId.
Get-MgUserPhotoContent -UserId $userId -OutFile $outFileId
```

Graph Explorer

Tenant
Sample

Sample queries | Resources ...

Search sample queries

See more queries in the Microsoft Graph API Reference docs.

Getting Started (8)

- GET my profile
- GET my profile (beta)
- GET my photo
- GET my mail
- GET list items in my drive
- GET items trending around me
- GET my manager
- GET my To Do task lists

Applications (8)

GET | v1.0 | https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me/photo/$value | Run query

Possible error found in URL near: $value

Request body | Request headers | Modify permissions | Access token

OK - 200 - 133 ms

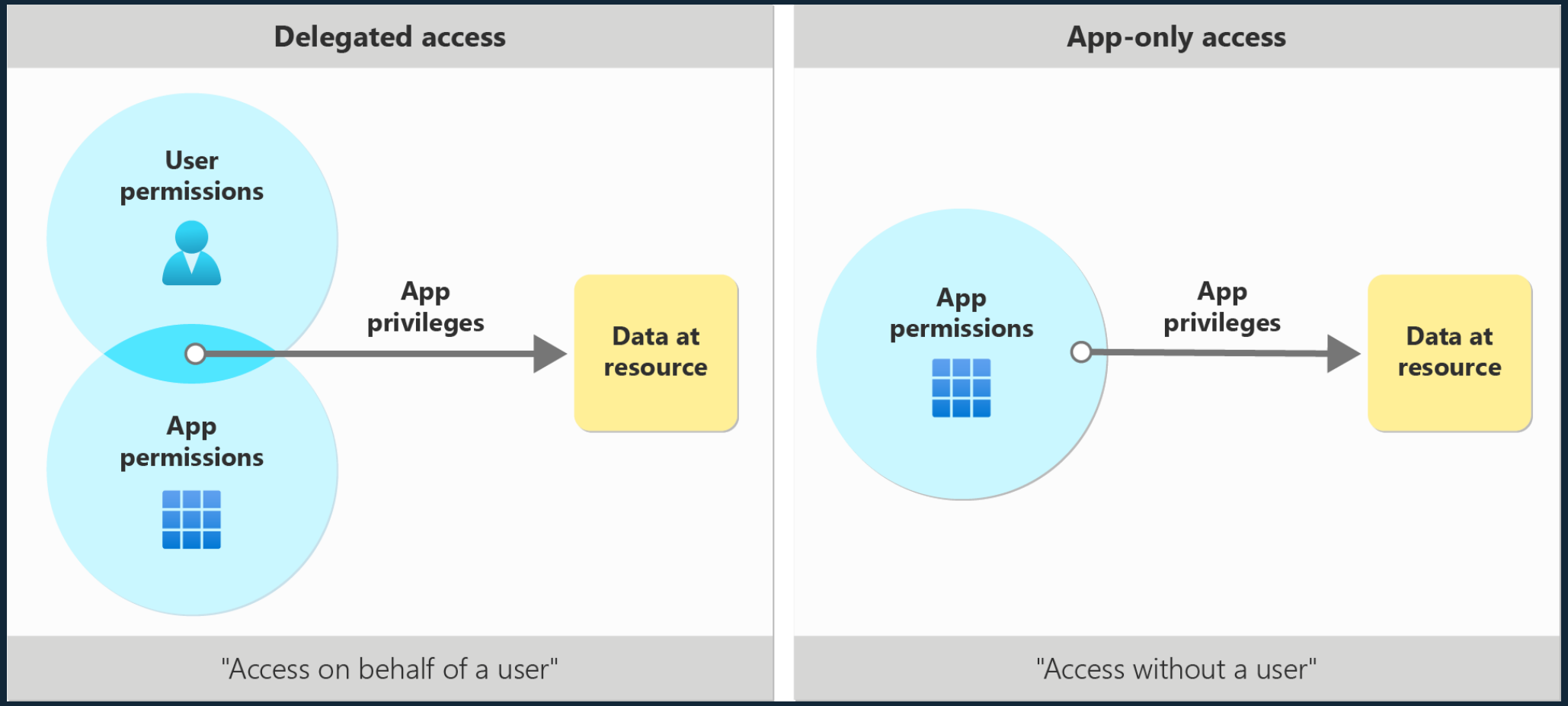
Response preview | Response headers | Code snippets | Toolkit component | Adaptive cards | Expand

C# | CLI | Go | Java | JavaScript | PHP | PowerShell | Python

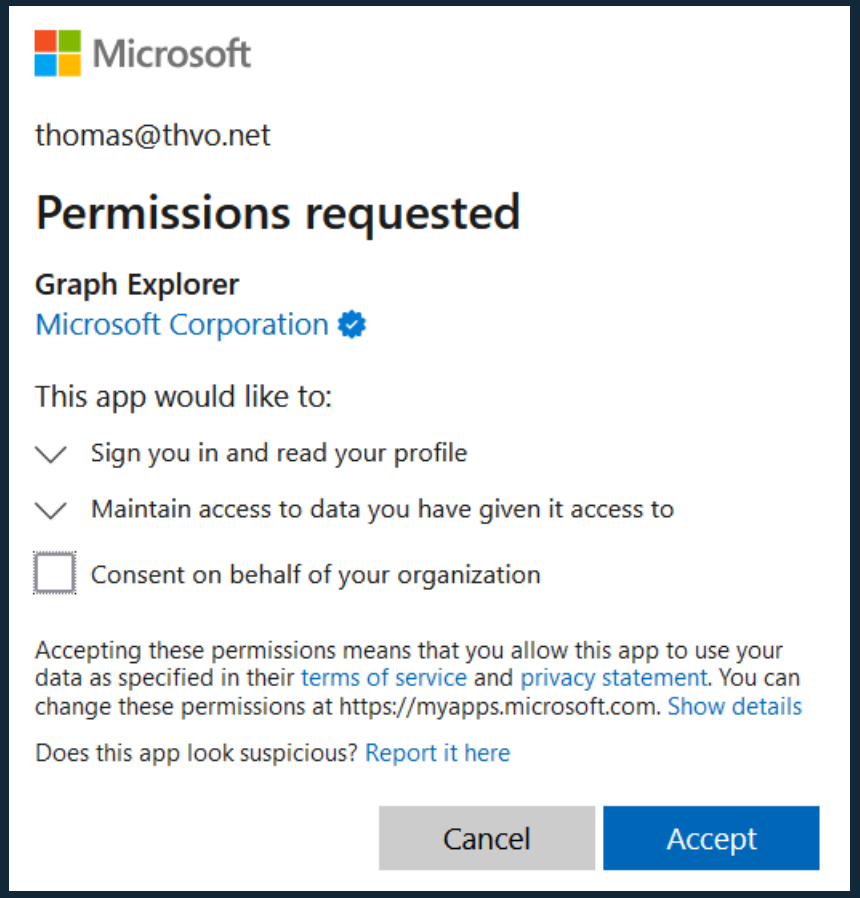
```
// Leverage the power of our client libraries. Download the CLI client library here https://aka.ms/msgraphclisdk
// To read more about our SDKs, go to the documentation page at https://aka.ms/sdk-doc

mgc users photo content get --user-id {user-id}
```

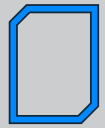
Graph permissions model



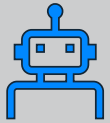
Giving consent (delegated)



Typical AuthN & AuthZ workflow



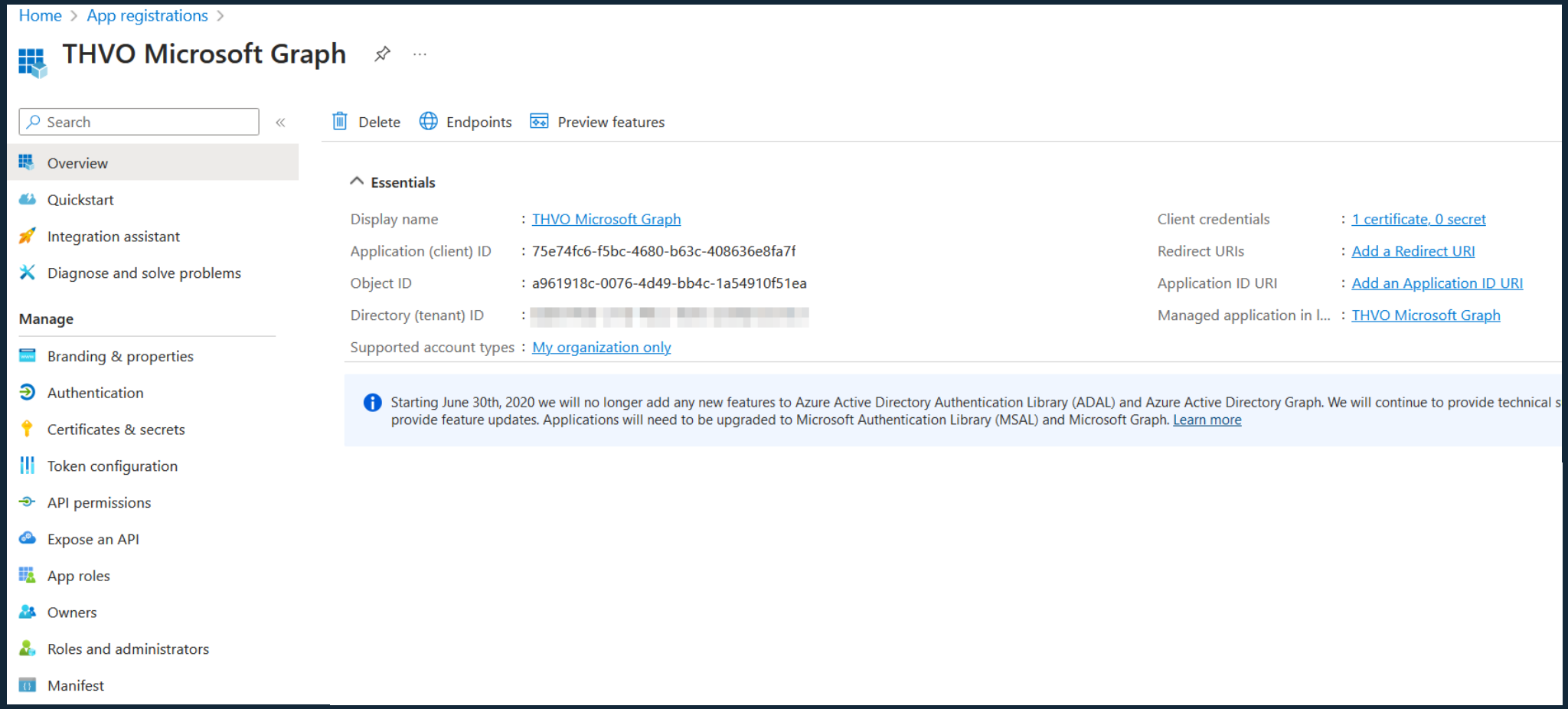
Register an application in Entra ID



Configure authentication

Grant the necessary permissions to the app

Registering an app in Entra ID



Authentication options

User prompt / device code (interactive)

AppId & Secret

Certificate

Managed Identity

Preferred

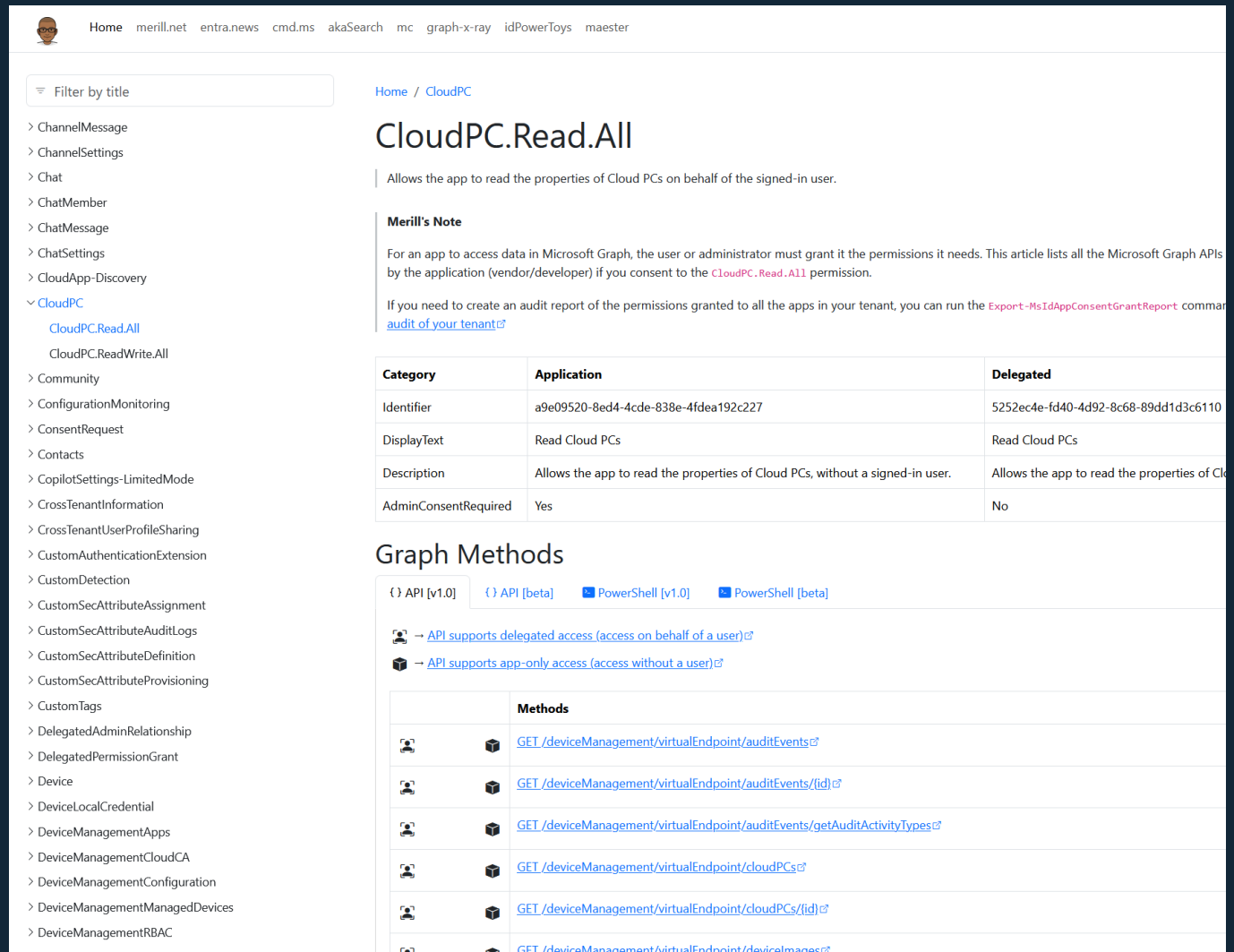
Granting permissions

- Every operation requires specific permissions
- Don’t grant too many permissions
- Some permissions require admin consent!

Permission type	Permissions (from least to most privileged)
Delegated (work or school account)	User.Read, User.ReadWrite, User.ReadBasic.All, User.Read.All, User.ReadWrite.All, Directory.Read.All, Directory.ReadWrite.All, Directory.AccessAsUser.All
Delegated (personal Microsoft account)	User.Read, User.ReadWrite
Application	User.Read.All, User.ReadWrite.All, Directory.Read.All, Directory.ReadWrite.All

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/graph/api/overview

Graph Permissions Explorer 💎



https://graphpermissions.merill.net/permission/

PowerShell to the rescue

So many PowerShell modules

- Teams
- SharePoint Online
- Exchange
- AZ
- PnP
- M365 DSC
- …

Microsoft Graph SDK for PowerShell

One module to rule them all

Cross-platform

Modern Authentication

Fine-grained privilege control

The possibilities are endless…

- Onboarding users
- Working with Excel data
- Finding meeting times
- Converting documents
- Managing employee profiles
- Keeping email data in sync
- Correlating security alerts
- …

“When a user leaves, query their OneDrive with the Graph to let users know about shared documents they will lose access to”

PowerShell SDK

- `Install-Module Microsoft.Graph`
- Verify: `Get-InstalledModule Microsoft.Graph`

Prereqs:

- PowerShell 5.1 or later
- .NET Framework 4.7.2 or later
- `Install-Module PowerShellGet -Force`

Navigating the SDK

```
Get-Command -Module Microsoft.Graph* *team*
Find-MgGraphCommand -Uri '/users/{id}'
```

Prefix is always “Mg”

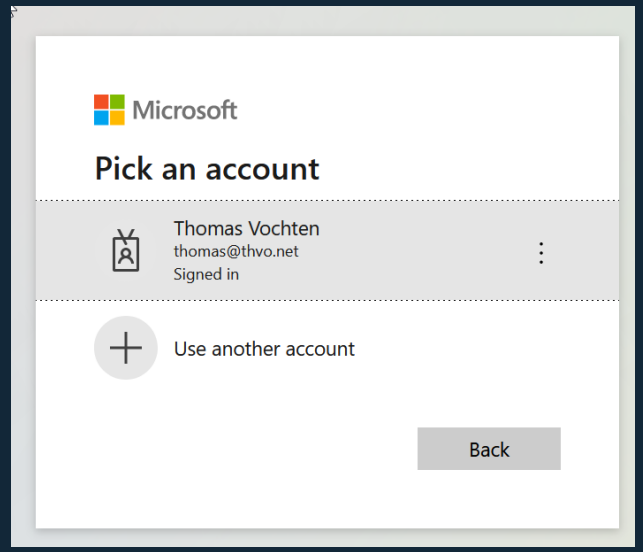
Verbs in HTTP vs PowerShell

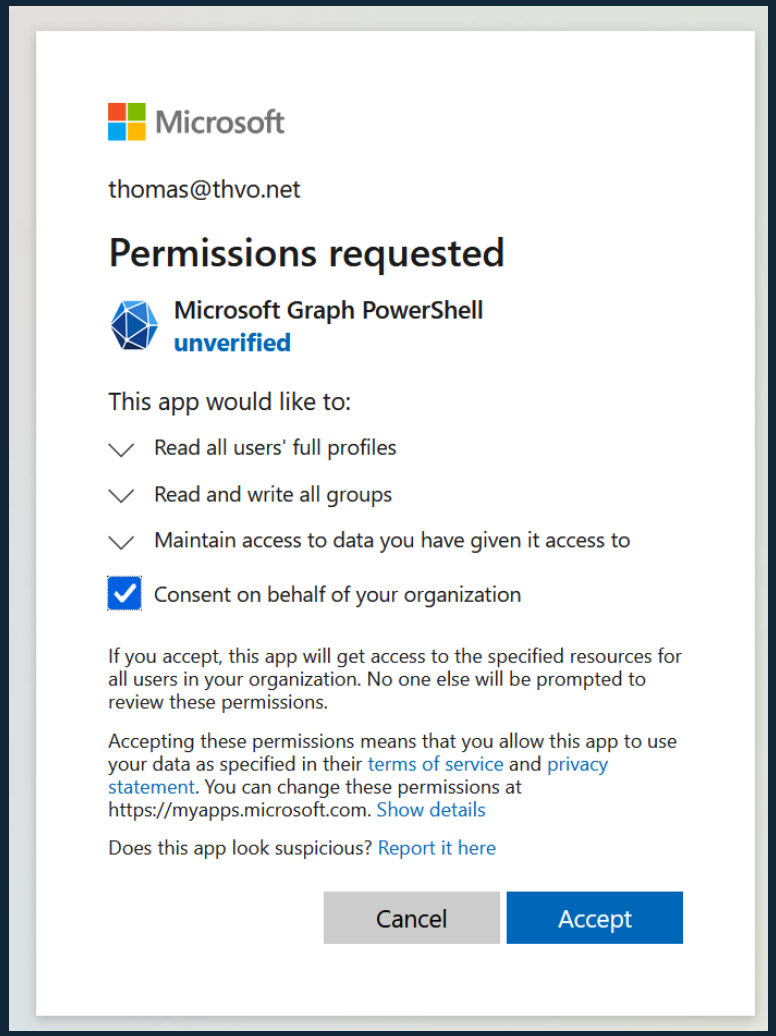
- GET Get-Mg…
- POST New-Mg…
- PUT New-Mg…
- PATCH Update-Mg…
- DELETE Remove-Mg…

Connecting to the Graph

```
Connect-MgGraph -Scopes
"User.Read.All","Group.ReadWrite.All“

(Get-MgContext).Scopes
```





Basic examples

```
Get-MgUser
New-MgTeam
Update-MgTeamChannel
Remove-MgGroup
```

Example: exporting team members

```powershell
# Specify the Team ID
$teamId = "TEAM_ID_HERE"

# Get members of the Team
$members = Get-MgGroupMember -GroupId $teamId -All

# Export to CSV
$members | ForEach-Object {
    [PSCustomObject]@{
        DisplayName = $_.DisplayName
        Email       = $_.Mail
    }
} | Export-Csv -Path "TeamMembers.csv" -NoTypeInformation
```

Using a certificate or managed identity 🔐

```
Connect-MgGraph
   -ClientID YOUR_APP_ID
   -TenantId YOUR_TENANT_ID
   -CertificateName YOUR_CERT_SUBJECT

Connect-MgGraph -Identity

Get-MgContext
```

No cmdlet that suits your needs?

```
Invoke-MGGraphRequest
```

```
Invoke-MgGraphRequest -Method GET
https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/me
```

The rise of the CLI

The Microsoft 365 CLI

- Community-driven, by the PnP team
- What can I use it for?
- Prerequisites: node.js (comes as a npm package)

```
npm install -g @pnp/cli-microsoft365
```

- Cross-platform
- Can be run inside a Docker container
- AuthN & AuthZ also through app registration

https://pnp.github.io/cli-microsoft365

Logging in with the m365 CLI

```
~ m365 login -t certificate -c ~/dev/graph/GraphAppOnly.pem --appId 75e74fc6-f5bc-4680-b63c-408636e8fa7f --
tenant 8de074e0-c71d-48cc-9ef3-3239d1ee31b1
{
  "connectionName": "21d6fcd9-15d4-4e0f-bbd1-70e5dc3f19b0",
  "connectedAs": "THVO Microsoft Graph",
  "authType": "certificate",
  "appId": "75e74fc6-f5bc-4680-b63c-408636e8fa7f",
  "appTenant": "8de074e0-c71d-48cc-9ef3-3239d1ee31b1",
  "cloudType": "Public"
}
~ m365 status
{
  "connectionName": "21d6fcd9-15d4-4e0f-bbd1-70e5dc3f19b0",
  "connectedAs": "THVO Microsoft Graph",
  "authType": "certificate",
  "appId": "75e74fc6-f5bc-4680-b63c-408636e8fa7f",
  "appTenant": "8de074e0-c71d-48cc-9ef3-3239d1ee31b1",
  "cloudType": "Public"
}
~
```

Getting help with the m365 CLI

```
~ m365 help planner

CLI for Microsoft 365 v10.1.0
Manage Microsoft 365 and SharePoint Framework projects on any platform

Commands groups:

  planner bucket *  5 commands
  planner plan *    5 commands
  planner roster *  8 commands
  planner task *    11 commands
  planner tenant *  2 commands
```

Example: SharePoint site creation

```
#!/bin/bash

# Variables
siteName="Marketing Portal"
siteUrl="https://contoso.sharepoint.com/sites/marketing"

# Create communication site
m365 spo site add --type CommunicationSite --title "$siteName" --url "$siteUrl" \
--owners admin@contoso.com --allowFilesSharing

echo "Created SharePoint site: $siteName"
```

Example: group creation

```
#!/bin/bash

# Define variables
groupName="Marketing Team"
groupMailNickname="marketing-team"
userEmail="user@contoso.com"
teamMessage="Welcome to the Marketing Team! Let's get started!"

# Create a Microsoft 365 group
m365 aad o365group add --displayName "$groupName" --mailNickname "$groupMailNickname" --isPrivate

echo "Group '$groupName' created."

# Add a user to the group
m365 aad o365group member add --groupId "$groupMailNickname" --user "$userEmail"

echo "User $userEmail added to group."

# Create a team based on the group
m365 teams team create --groupId "$groupMailNickname"

echo "Microsoft Team created for group."

# Post a message to the team's General channel
m365 teams message add --teamId "$groupMailNickname" --channelId "General" --content "$teamMessage"

echo "Message posted to the General channel."
```

The MS Graph CLI

- Official Microsoft CLI
- Manual installation for now
- Supports native Windows (no nodejs required)
- What can I use it for? Why is it there?
- Prerequisites
- AuthN & AuthZ as any Graph application

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/graph/cli/overview

The MS Graph CLI

```
~\dev mgc me get
{
  "@odata.context": "https://graph.microsoft.com/v1.0/$metadata#users/$entity",
  "businessPhones": [],
  "displayName": "Thomas Vochten",
  "givenName": "Thomas",
  "jobTitle": "Owner",
  "mail": "thomas@thvo.net",
  "mobilePhone": null,
  "officeLocation": null,
  "preferredLanguage": null,
  "surname": "Vochten",
  "userPrincipalName": "thomas@thvo.net",
  "id": "3be288ca-7a34-44fd-856b-ed7286065de5"
}
```

Example: adding an owner to a group

```
#!/bin/bash

# Variables
groupId="GROUP_ID_HERE"
newOwnerId="USER_ID_HERE"

# Add owner to group
mgc groups owners add --group-id $groupId --owner-id $newOwnerId

echo "Added owner with ID $newOwnerId to group $groupId"
```

Integration & automation

Better together!

Use PowerShell as the orchestrator

Use a CLI when needed

```powershell
# PowerShell: Step 1 - Create a Microsoft 365 Group
$groupName = "Marketing Team"
$groupDescription = "A marketing team for campaigns and content planning"
$ownerEmail = "owner@contoso.com"

Write-Host "Creating Microsoft 365 Group: $groupName ..."

# Create the group
$group = New-MgGroup -DisplayName $groupName -MailEnabled $true -MailNickname "marketingteam" `
    -GroupTypes @("Unified") -SecurityEnabled $false `
    -Description $groupDescription -Owners @($ownerEmail) `
    -Visibility "Private"

Write-Host "Group created with ID: $($group.Id)"

# Save Group ID for further steps
$groupId = $group.Id

# m365 CLI: Step 2 - Convert the Group to a Team
Write-Host "Converting the group to a Team ..."
$m365Command = "m365 teams team set --groupId $groupId"
Invoke-Expression $m365Command

Write-Host "Team created successfully."

# m365 CLI: Step 3 - Post a welcome message to the Team's General channel
$welcomeMessage = "Welcome to the Marketing Team! Let's collaborate and make great campaigns together."

Write-Host "Posting a welcome message to the General channel ..."
$m365Command = "m365 teams message add --teamId $groupId --channelId General --content '$welcomeMessage'"
Invoke-Expression $m365Command

Write-Host "Welcome message posted successfully!"
```

```powershell
# Define variables
$groupDetails = @(
    @{ GroupName = "Sales Team"; GroupMailNickname = "sales-team"; Users = @("user1@contoso.com", "user2@contoso.com") },
    @{ GroupName = "Marketing Team"; GroupMailNickname = "marketing-team"; Users = @("user3@contoso.com", "user4@contoso.com")
)

# Create Microsoft 365 Groups using Microsoft Graph PowerShell
foreach ($group in $groupDetails) {
    $groupName = $group.GroupName
    $groupMailNickname = $group.GroupMailNickname
    Write-Host "Creating group: $groupName ..."

    $createdGroup = New-MgGroup -DisplayName $groupName -MailNickname $groupMailNickname -GroupTypes @("Unified") -MailEnabled
    
    Write-Host "Created group: $groupName with ID: $($createdGroup.Id)"

    # Use m365 CLI to add users to the group
    foreach ($user in $group.Users) {
        $m365AddUserCommand = "m365 aad o365group member add --groupId $($createdGroup.Id) --user $user"
        Invoke-Expression $m365AddUserCommand
        Write-Host "Added user $user to group $groupName."
    }

    # Use m365 CLI to create a team and post a welcome message
    $m365CreateTeamCommand = "m365 teams team create --groupId $($createdGroup.Id)"
    Invoke-Expression $m365CreateTeamCommand
    Write-Host "Created a Team for $groupName."

    $welcomeMessage = "Welcome to the $groupName! Let's collaborate and make it a success."
    $m365PostMessageCommand = "m365 teams message add --teamId $($createdGroup.Id) --channelId 'General' --content '$welcomeMes
    Invoke-Expression $m365PostMessageCommand
    Write-Host "Posted welcome message to General channel for $groupName."
}

Write-Host "All groups processed successfully."
```

Automate what exactly?

- License management
- Reporting
- Auditing
- Monitoring
- Change management & tracking
- …

Choices

- Scheduled Tasks
- Azure Webjobs
- Azure Automation
- Azure Functions
- Azure Logic Apps
- Power Automate
- Azure DevOps / GitHub Actions
- Azure batch

Automating PowerShell

Azure Automation

Azure Functions

When to use what

When to use what

It depends 😳

- On the capabilities provided
- On the type of automation needed
- On what you’re used to

Comparison

Feature/Capability	Graph SDK (PowerShell)	m365 CLI	Graph CLI	Native Modules
Platform Support	Cross-platform	Cross-platform	Cross-platform	Windows-only
Ease of Use	Familiar PowerShell syntax	Simple commands	JSON-based API focus	Easy for specific tasks
Best for Admins	Yes	Yes	Limited	Yes
Best for Developers	High	High	High	Low
Automation Integration	Strong	Strong	Moderate	Moderate
Access to Graph API	Simplified	Limited	Full	No

Useful resources

- 🌐 Microsoft Graph docs / Microsoft Graph Explorer
- 🌐 Microsoft Graph PowerShell docs
- 🌐 PowerShell Module Browser
- 🌐 CLI for Microsoft 365
- 🌐 PnP PowerShell
- 🌐 Practical 365
- 🌐 Planet PowerShell

- 📗 Automating Microsoft 365 with PowerShell
- 📗 Office 365 for IT Pros

Takeaways

- Get to know the Microsoft Graph, even if you're not a developer.
- Graph PowerShell is probably the easiest way to get started
- The true power of these tools comes from using them together
- Discover automation possibilities, but use the simplest tool that could possibly work

Thank you

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