

Robotic Process Automation with Desktop Flows



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Overview



Introduction to Robotic Process Automation

Introduction to Desktop flows

Desktop flows in action!



Introduction to Robotic Process Automation

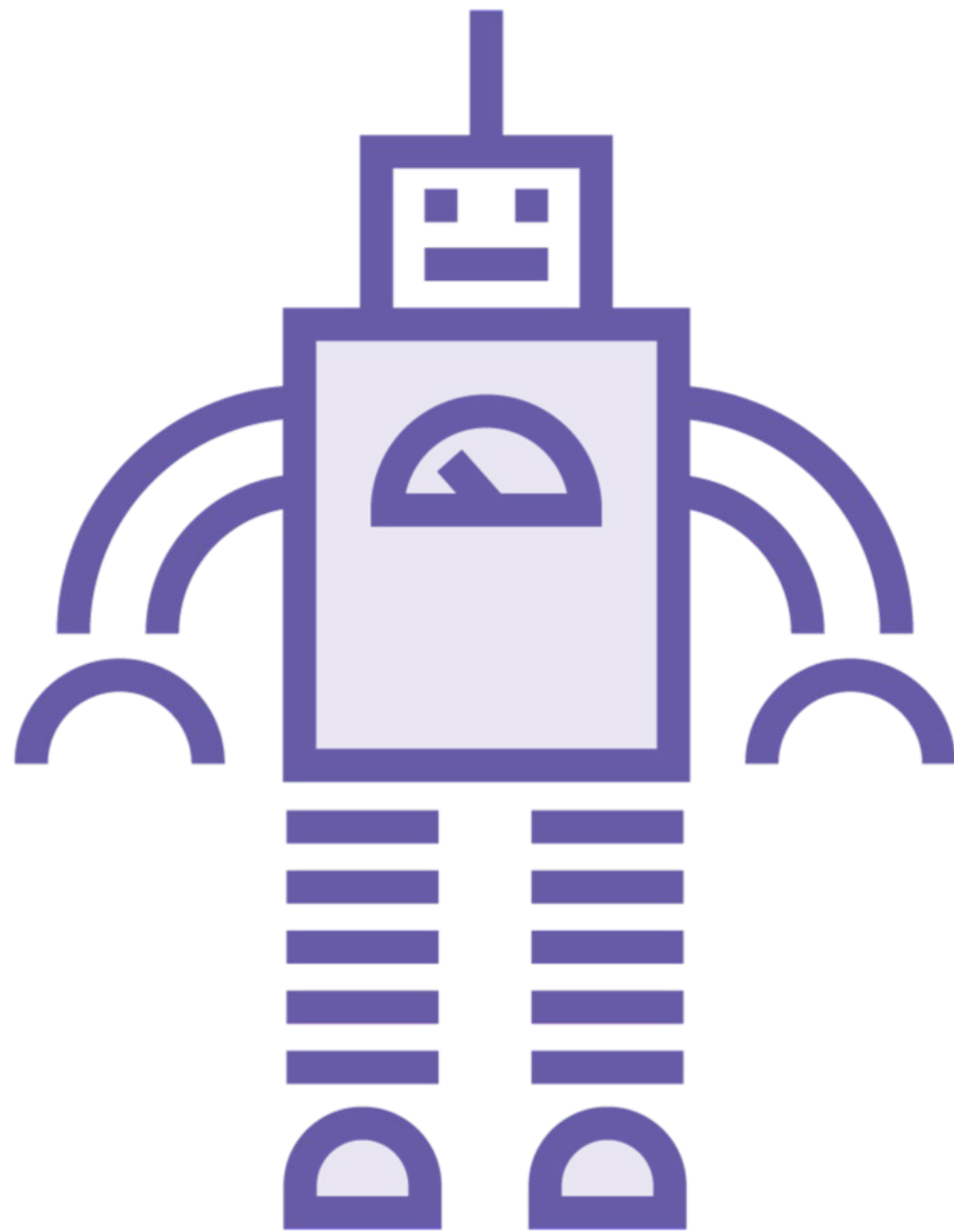


Robotic Process Automation (RPA)

Robotic Process Automation is the technology that allows anyone today to configure computer software, or a “robot” to emulate and integrate the actions of a human interacting within digital systems to execute a business process



Robotic Process Automation



Traditional workflow automation tools interact with APIs

- **Connectors in Power Automate terms**

What about legacy applications with no APIs?

RPA systems “watch” a user’s mouse clicks / keyboard in a user interface

- **And replicate it over and over**



Introduction to Desktop Flows



Desktop Flows in Power Automate

Robotic Process Automation is a newer offering inside the Power Platform

General availability in April 2020

Initially released as “UI flows”

Enables Power Automate to automate all your business processes

Whether they are modern or legacy

Premium licensing required



Connectors (Cloud Flows) or Desktop Flows?

Connectors (Cloud flows)

Modern apps with APIs

Desktop flows

Legacy apps (no APIs)



Two Options for Running Desktop Flows

Attended

Active Windows user session

Unattended

High volume tasks

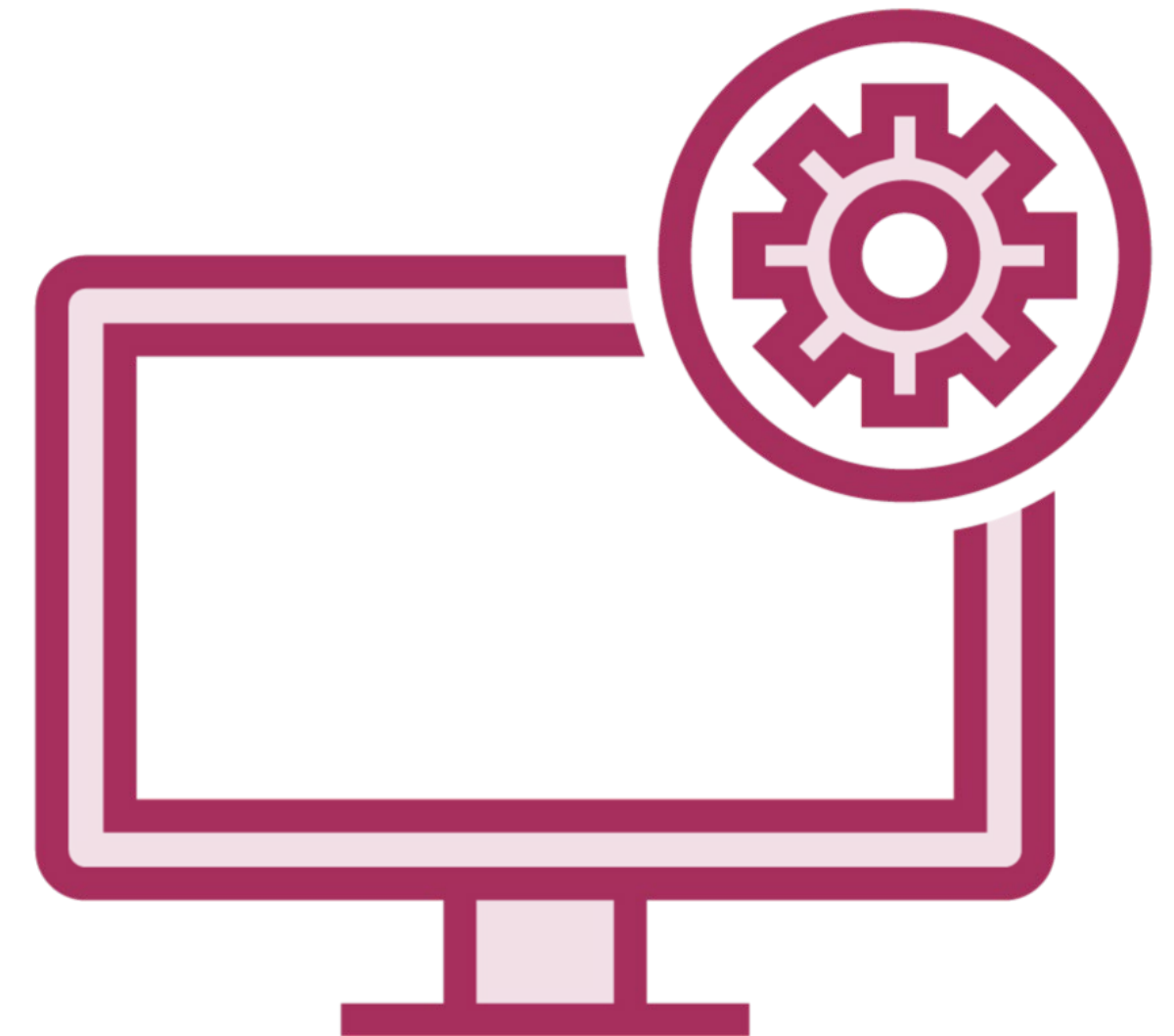
Fully automated without any user needed

The Desktop flow will log on a remote computer

Do its job

Log off

Screen is locked – no one can see the flow while it runs



Desktop Flows Licensing (As of August 2022)

Attended Desktop Flows

Per user plan with attended RPA

40\$ per user/ Month

Unattended RPA add-on

Per bot plan

\$150 per bot/month

<https://powerautomate.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/>



Desktop Flows in Action!

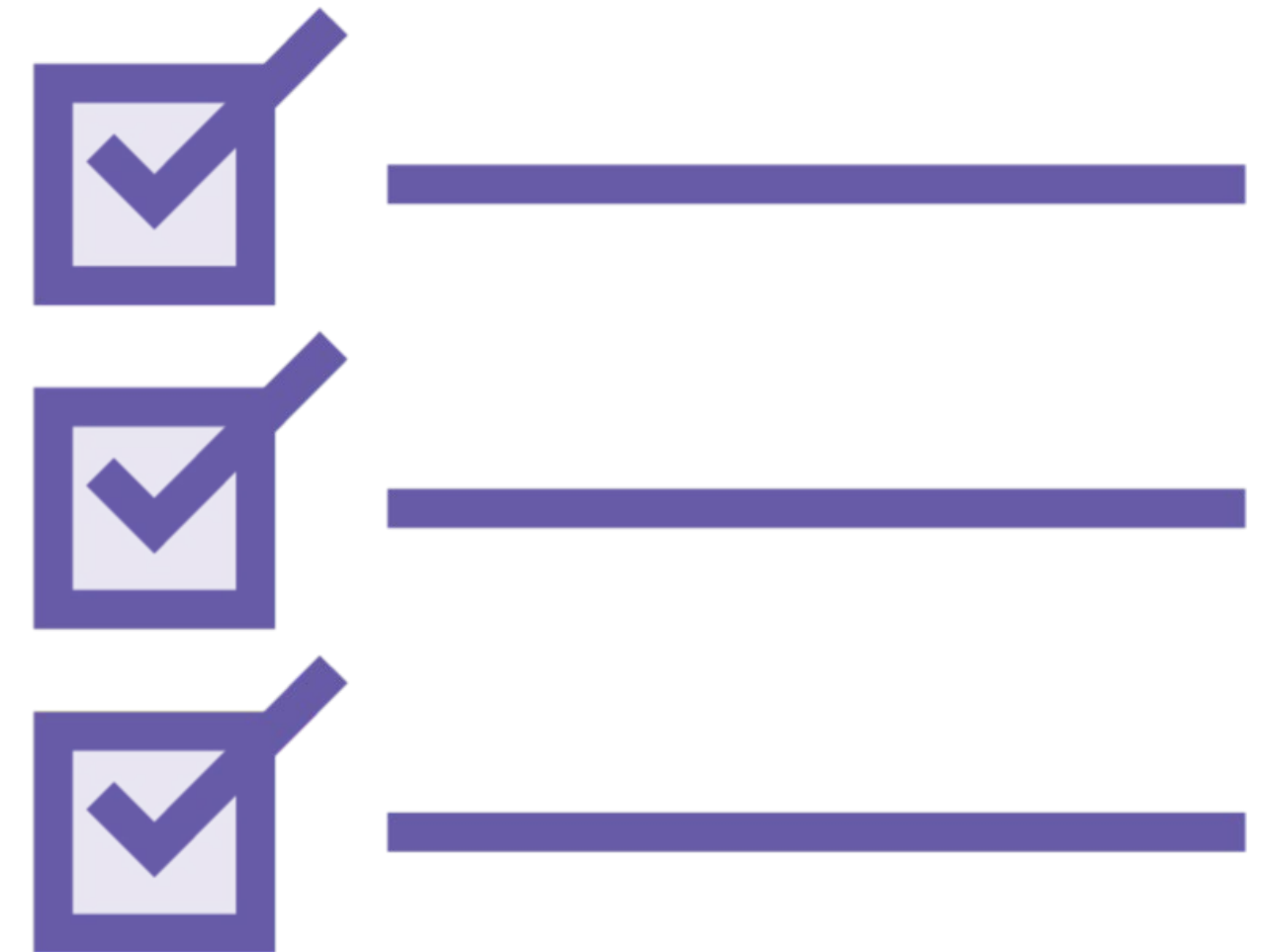


Getting Ready to Create Desktop Flows

Make sure you have the licensing required for Desktop flows

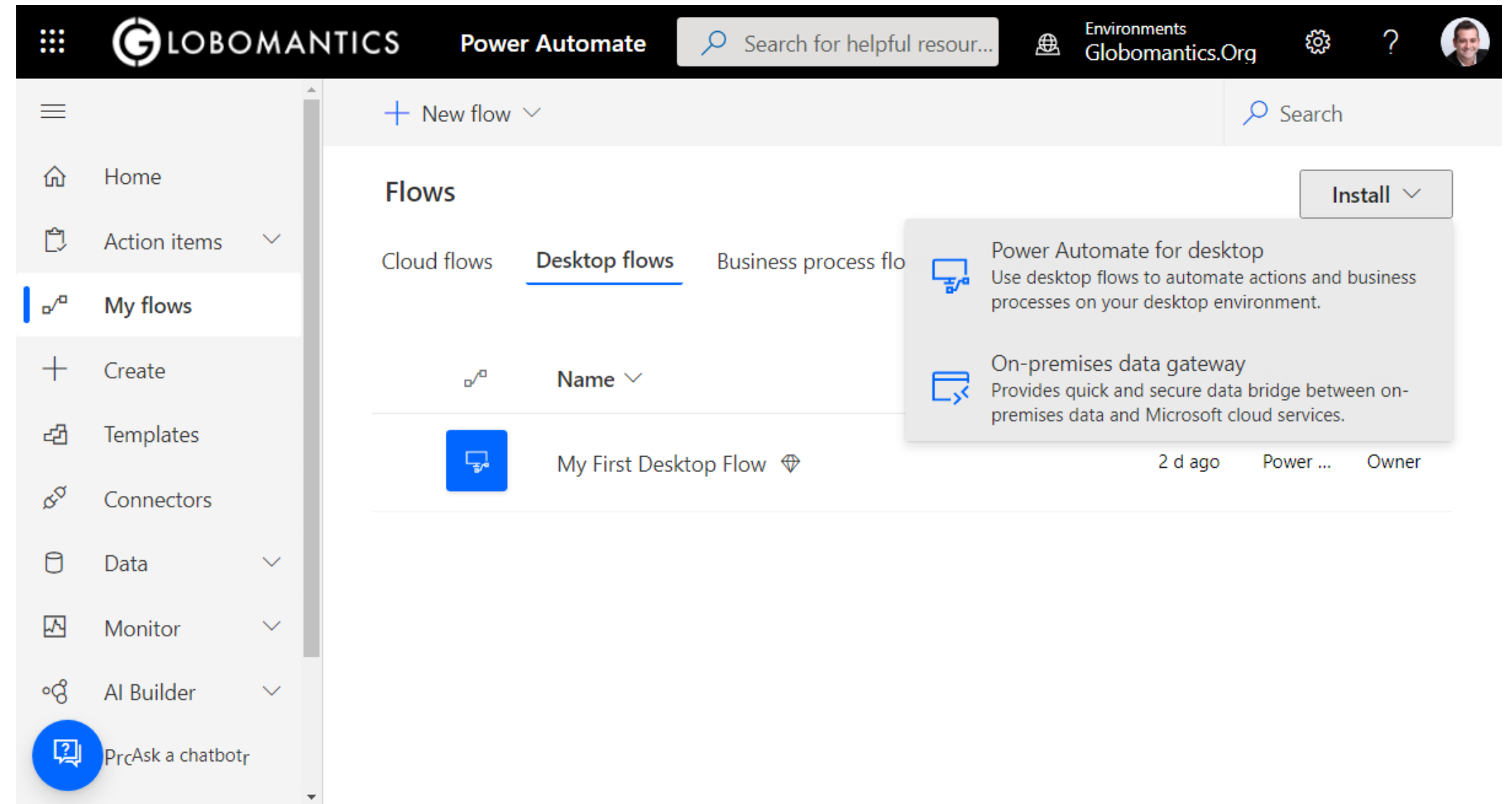
You will need to install Power Automate for Desktop

Tool used to create Desktop flows





**Download it from the
Desktop flows tab**


**Install button at the
top right**



Machine Runtime App


 **Installation details** 


Install to

C:\Program Files (x86)\Power Automate Desktop 

Package includes

☒ Install the Power Automate for desktop to build desktop flows.
☒ Create a shortcut.


☒ Install the machine-runtime app to connect to the Power Automate cloud portal.
☒ To run desktop flows in unattended mode, allow remote connections on this computer. 

☒ Install Microsoft Edge (version 80 or later) WebDriver and ChromeDriver (for using web apps in your flows). 

☒ Required data collection
We collect the diagnostic and usage data required to keep Power Automate for desktop content secure and up to date and troubleshoot, support, and improve the product. The Power Automate for desktop app can't run without the data required for this application and your device. [Learn more](#)

☐ Optional data collection
You can share optional diagnostic data which further enables the ability to make product improvements.

☐ By selecting 'Install', you agree to Microsoft's [terms of use](#).

 [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#)

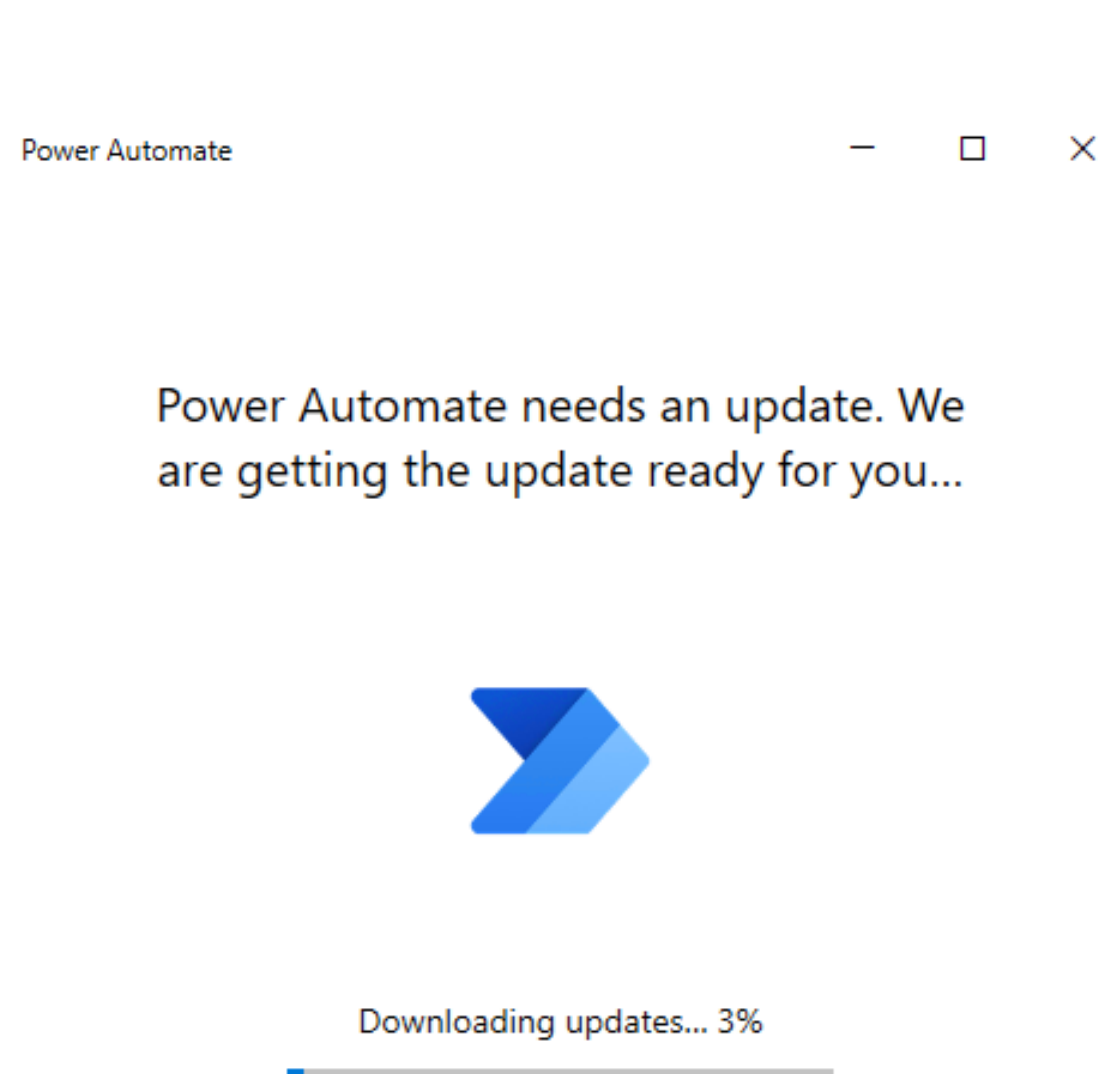
Version: 2.20.132.22123

Install

Cancel



Windows 11 Users



Power Automate Desktop is pre-installed on Windows 11 devices

- It might need an update first time you open it!

The machine-runtime app is not pre-installed

- Install it from settings



Two ways to create your flow

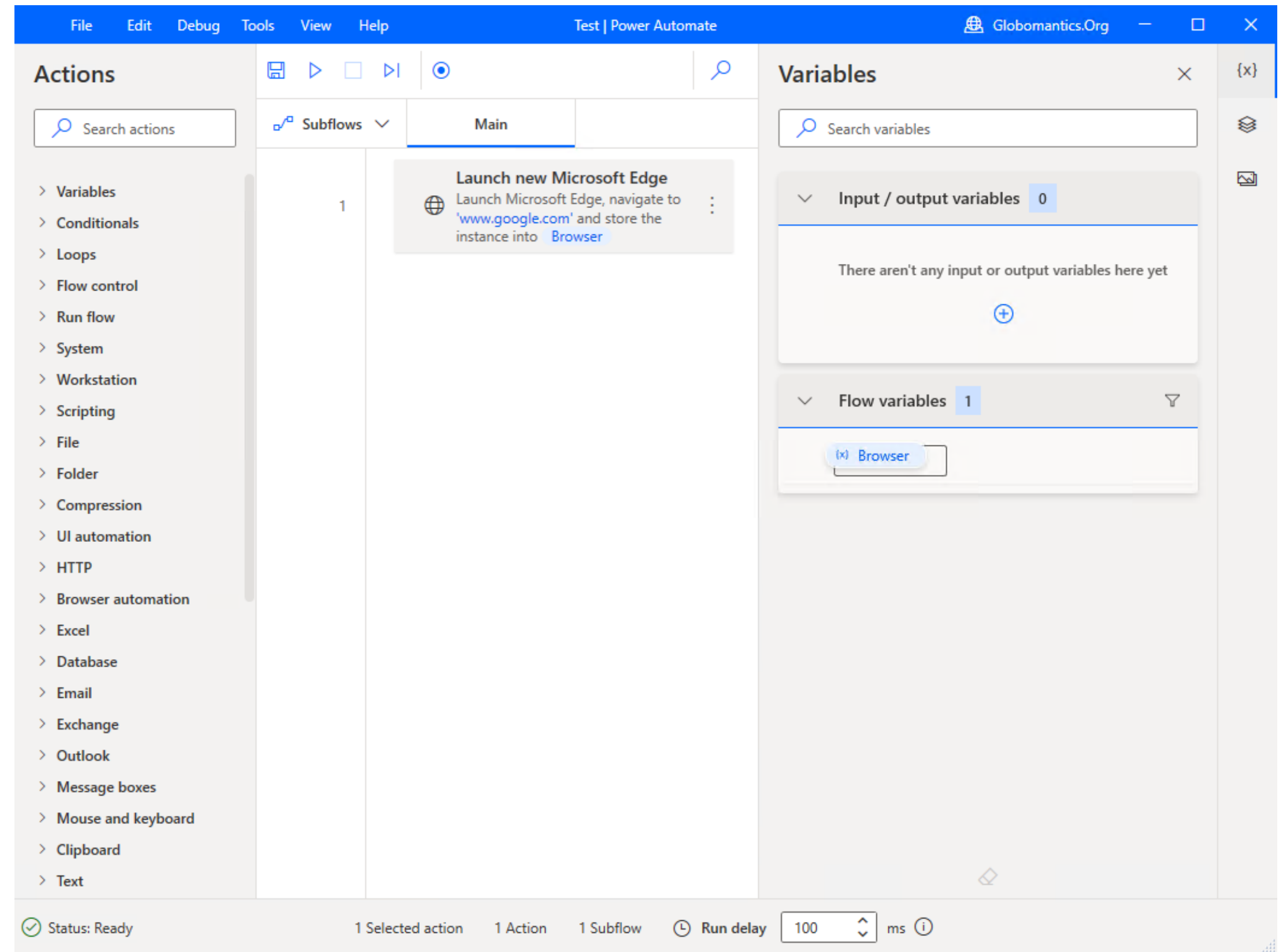
Add from the hundreds of possible actions

Record yourself doing the process

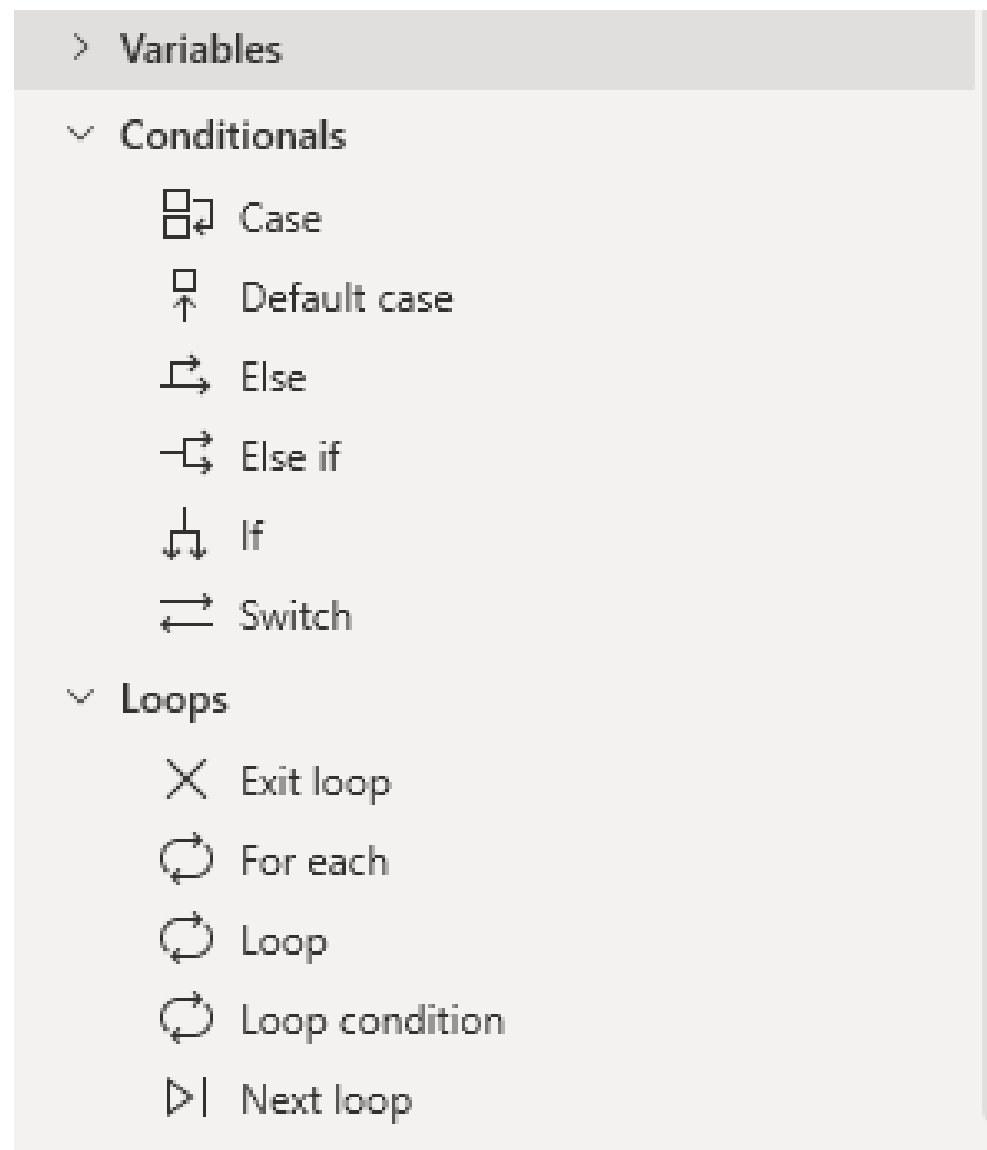
Most of the time it's a mix of both!

Record the process

Clean up / optimize



Logic Controls



Power Automate desktop has multiple logic controls

- Variables
- Conditions
- Loops

Allows you to create advanced flows that follow your business logic



Our Scenario

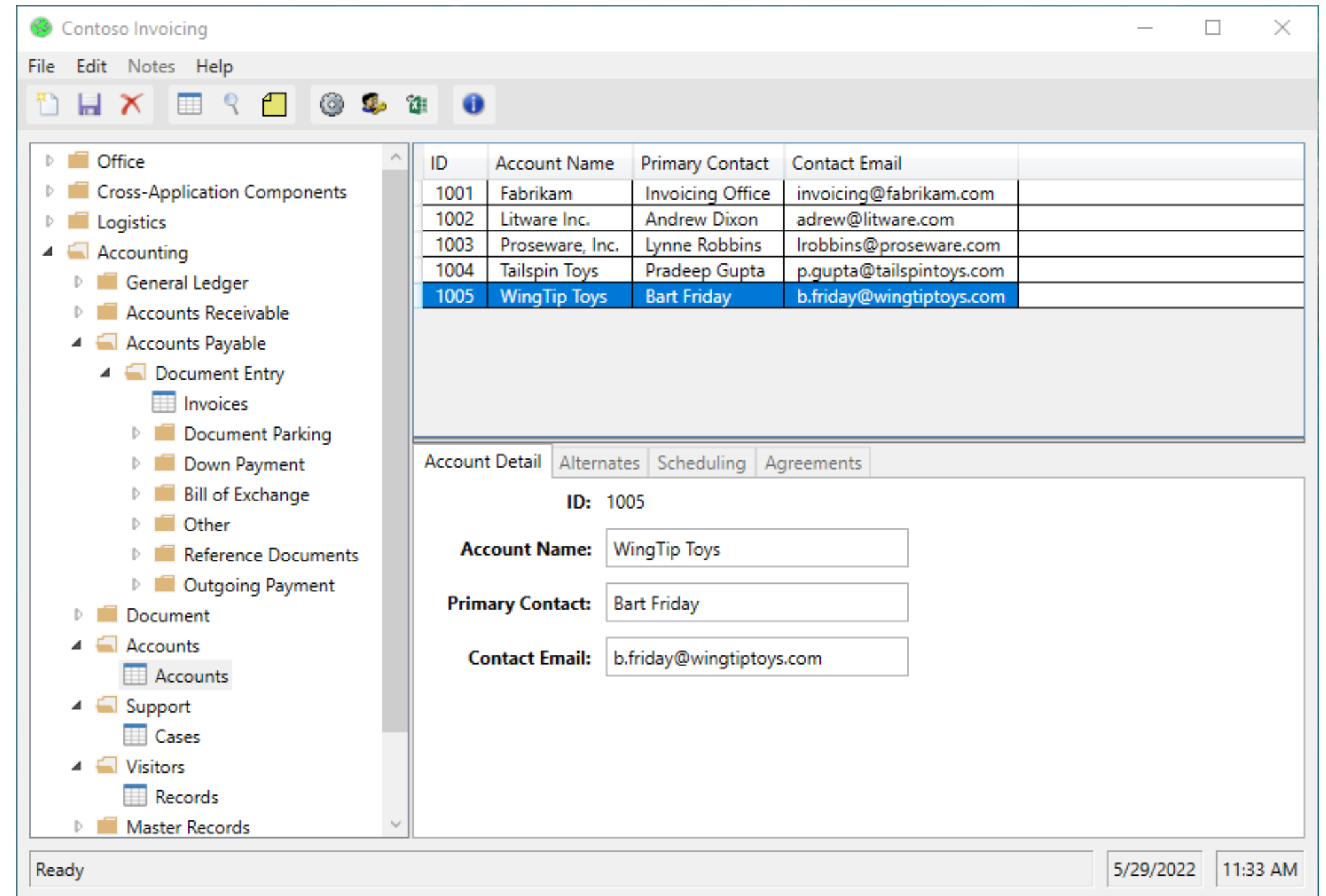
Globomantics has a need to automate a business process around creating invoices – however, the process uses a legacy application with no APIs. You need to automate invoice creation in the legacy invoicing application using robotic process automation.



Contoso Invoicing app

Simple legacy app
provided by Microsoft to
learn Desktop flows

[https://github.com/MicrosoftDocs/mslearn-developer-tools-power-
platform/tree/master/p
ower-automate-
desktop/contoso-
invoice-app](https://github.com/MicrosoftDocs/mslearn-developer-tools-power-platform/tree/master/power-automate-desktop/contoso-invoice-app)



Demo



Desktop Flows in Action



Conclusion



Introduction to Robotic Process Automation

- Copy actions of a human
- Useful for legacy applications with no APIs

Desktop flows in Microsoft Power Automate

- Allows enterprises to automate all their processes with Power Automate
- Attended and unattended



Up Next:
Course Conclusion

