Unlocking Productivity with Power Platform: 3 Key Strategies for Controlled Adoption (or Clean-Up)

In today's fast-paced digital landscape, organisations are increasingly turning to Microsoft's Power Platform to drive productivity and innovation. However, rapid adoption of this powerful tool suite can lead to chaos and clutter when due consideration is not first given to proper structure and governance. This article will explore three steps you can take to empower your citizen developers, while minimising the administrative headache that can come with an uncontrolled Power Platform tenancy.

1. Establish an Environment Strategy

The foundation of a successful Power Platform setup lies in creating a well-structured set of environments that balance development, testing, and production needs. [Microsoft](#) makes a few key recommendations:

- The Default environment should be used only for 'Personal Productivity', not for business-critical applications.
- Development, Testing and Production environments should be created and used for business applications. Each project and/or business unit should have its own Development environment, while Test and Production environments may be shared or separate.

- Developer environments are a great tool for POCs and trainings, as they provide a free development environment to build and test with Power Apps, Power Automate, and Microsoft Dataverse. Only one user can access the Developer environment, so content can't be shared in an uncontrolled manner as is the risk with the Default environment.
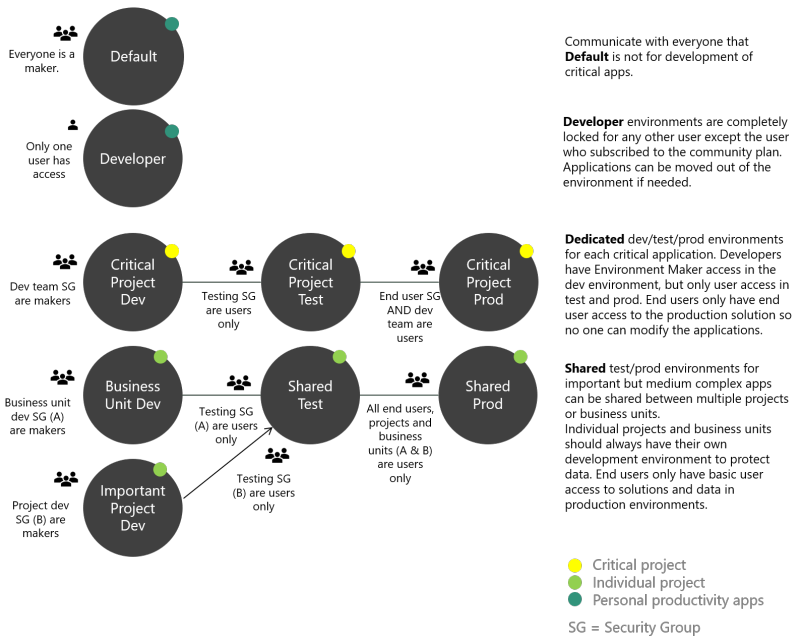
Image 1 – Environment Strategy from Microsoft

2. Implement Basic Governance and CI/CD with the Power Platform CoE Resources

Environment structure can only take you so far – the real power lies in knowing – and controlling – what's inside. Microsoft's Centre of Excellence toolkit has a (very, very broad) range of governance tools and resources. Note that some of these require Premium connectors. A few highlights include:

Compliance and Adoption Dashboard

This gives an overview of the content in each environment. This is particularly useful for identifying content in the default environment that may require promotion to a Production environment with a higher level of governance and support, as well as content that is orphaned or does not follow best practice.
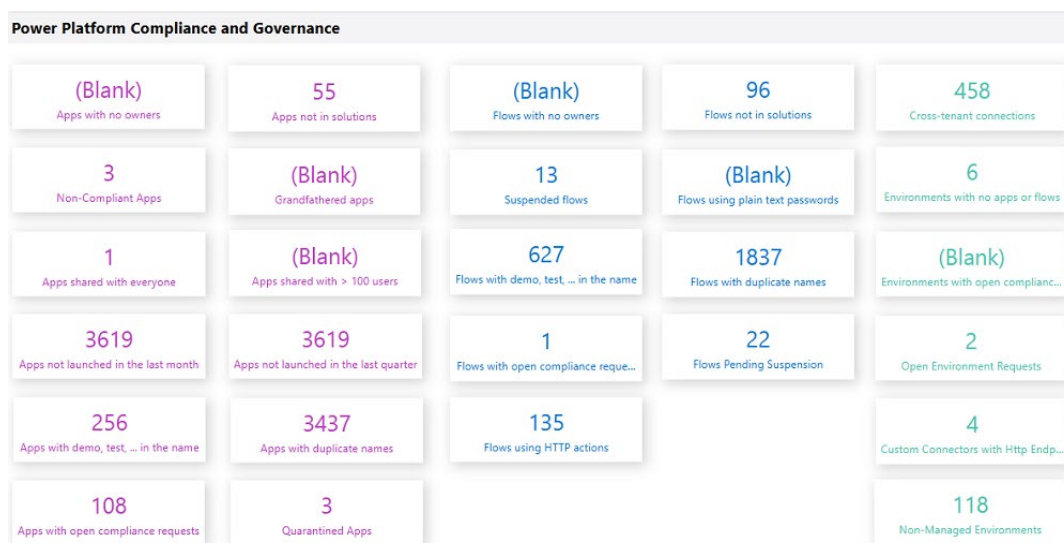

Power Platform Compliance and Governance

(Blank) Apps with no owners	55 Apps not in solutions	(Blank) Flows with no owners	96 Flows not in solutions	458 Cross-tenant connections
3 Non-Compliant Apps	(Blank) Grandfathered apps	13 Suspended flows	(Blank) Flows using plain text passwords	6 Environments with no apps or flows
1 Apps shared with everyone	(Blank) Apps shared with > 100 users	627 Flows with demo, test, … in the name	1837 Flows with duplicate names	(Blank) Environments with open complianc…
3619 Apps not launched in the last month	3619 Apps not launched in the last quarter	1 Flows with open compliance reque…	22 Flows Pending Suspension	2 Open Environment Requests
256 Apps with demo, test, … in the name	3437 Apps with duplicate names	135 Flows using HTTP actions		4 Custom Connectors with Http Endp…
108 Apps with open compliance requests	3 Quarantined Apps			118 Non-Managed Environments

Image 2 – Compliance and Adoption Dashboard from Microsoft

DLP editor tool

This can assist with setting up or re-configuring data loss prevention policies across Power Platform environments. These policies control which connectors can be used together (or at all). The tool also does impact analysis, showing which flows or applications would be affected by a change in DLP policy.
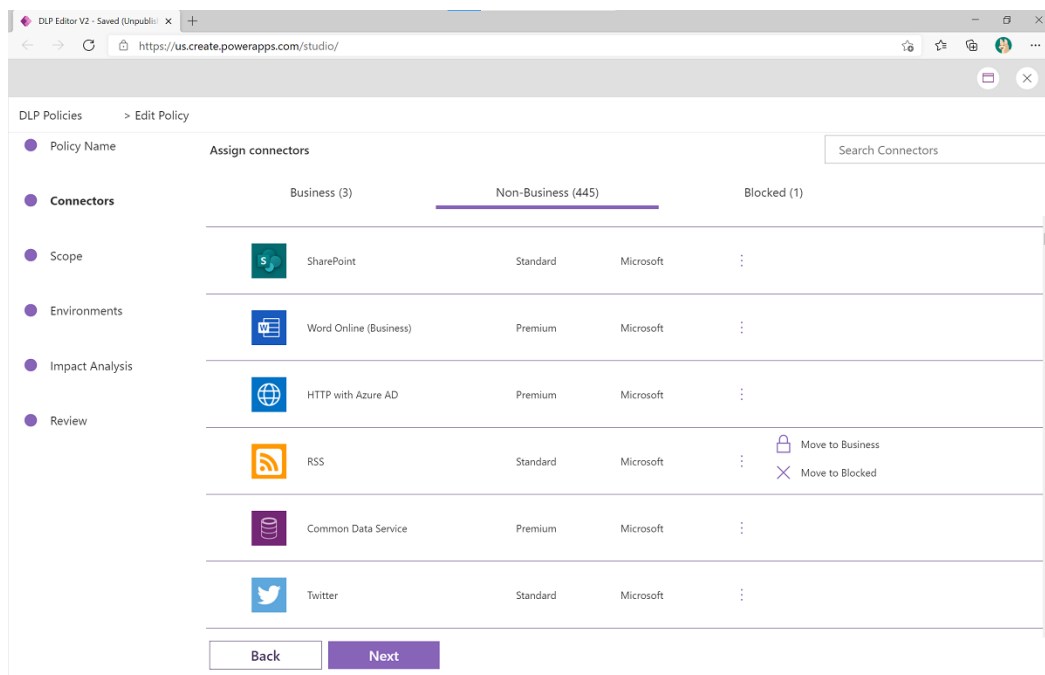

Image 3 - DLP Editor App from Microsoft

ALM Accelerator

This helps with controlling the deployment of applications across environments via Power Platform Solutions, integrating with Azure Pipelines and Git source control without the need for custom code.
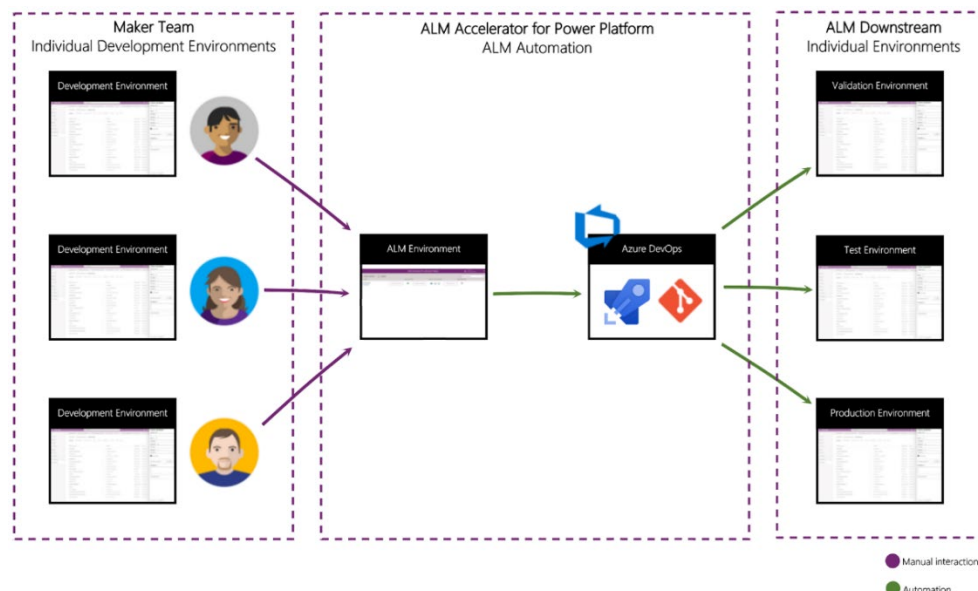
Image 4 – ALM Accelerator from Microsoft

3. Foster Collaboration and Consistency

Teams work better together. A couple of key actions can enable collaboration and consistency across development efforts:

- Publishing and adhering to basic **Coding Standards/Guidelines** helps to ensure consistency across the organisation, making it easier to productionise POC content and understand other developers' work, and makes code easier to maintain and extend. [Various](#) [example](#) [systems](#) have been developed and published. Adopting one of these can accelerate development while maintaining code consistency.

- Establishing **Component Libraries/Repositories** for commonly used content and business-specific templates is a good way to provide standardised resources and ensure consistency across applications developed by different teams or individuals.

By following these strategic steps and utilising the recommended tools, organisations can get started on the right foot towards harnessing the full potential of the Power Platform, while mitigating risks associated with unregulated usage.

If your business is looking to drive productivity and innovation, or needs a review of their Power Platform environment, please contact one of our specialists by [emailing us](#) today or call 03 9924 3000.