Driving Innovation with Fusion Teams

Extending the Reach of SAP Using Low-Code Tools

Hello!

Welcome to ASUG!

What We'll Cover

- Assessing the Current State of SAP Development
- A Fresh Approach to SAP Development
- Breaking Down Barriers to Productivity
- Unlocking Productivity with Fusion Teams
- Wrap-Up

Assessing the Current State

Understanding the Current State of SAP Development

Common Challenges

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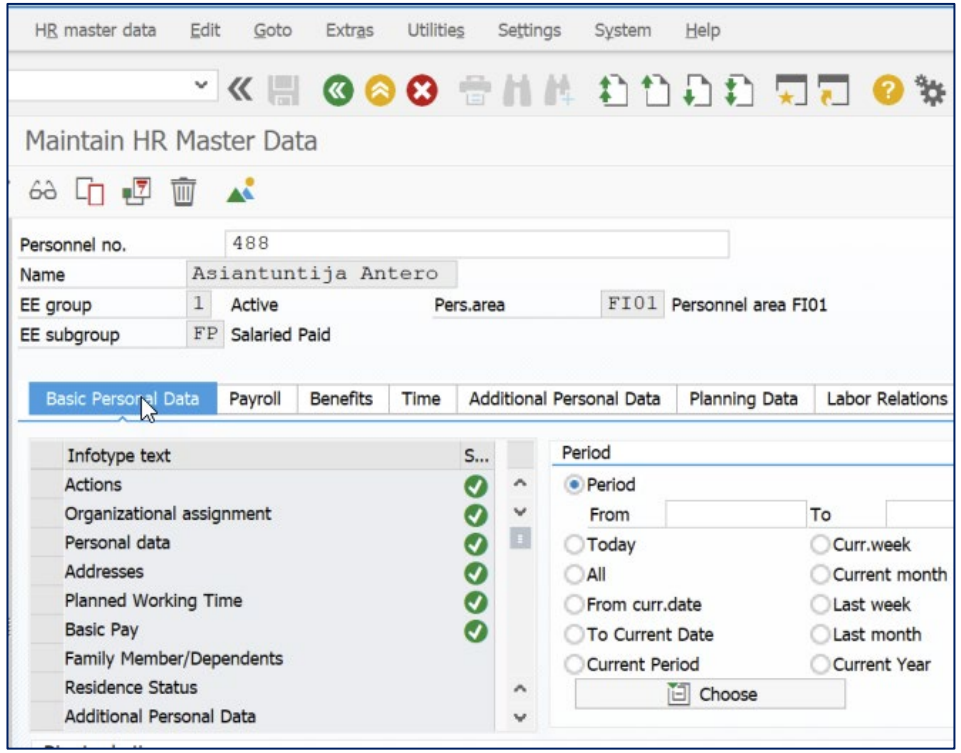
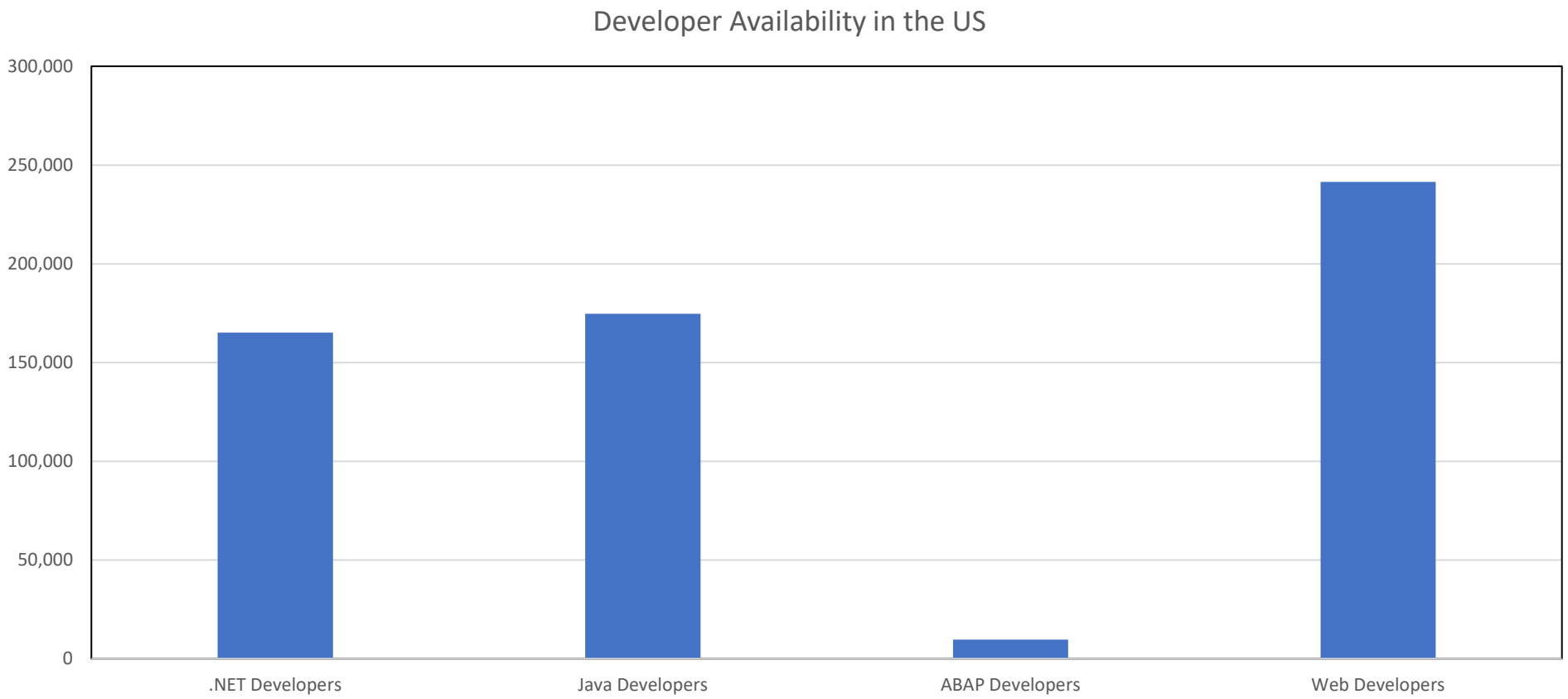
- The needs from the business outweigh the capacity of IT
- The business has a difficult time articulating what it wants/needs
- Custom SAP solutions (e.g., Fiori apps) are expensive to build and maintain
- There are limitations to what can be built using ABAP & NetWeaver technologies
- SAP change management is slow and complex
- Apps / solutions only address *part* of a process problem

Limited User Experience

- Many users still primarily transact in the legacy SAP GUI
- Processes are fragmented
- Workflow / automation is sparse
- Lack of transparency / analytics
- Minimal support for mobility
- Limited notifications



Resource Constraints



Reference: https://www.zippia.com/sap-abap-developer-jobs/demographics/

Developer Productivity Issues

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- Programming languages provide abstractions that make it easier to solve complex problems
- There's a direct correlation between the quality of abstraction and developer productivity:
  - Ex: ABAP (as a 4GL) made developers more efficient creating reports and other enhancements
- Although there have been incremental improvements to ABAP over the years, productivity curves have largely plateaued

A Fresh Approach

Getting Started with Low-Code Development Platforms

A New Abstraction Model

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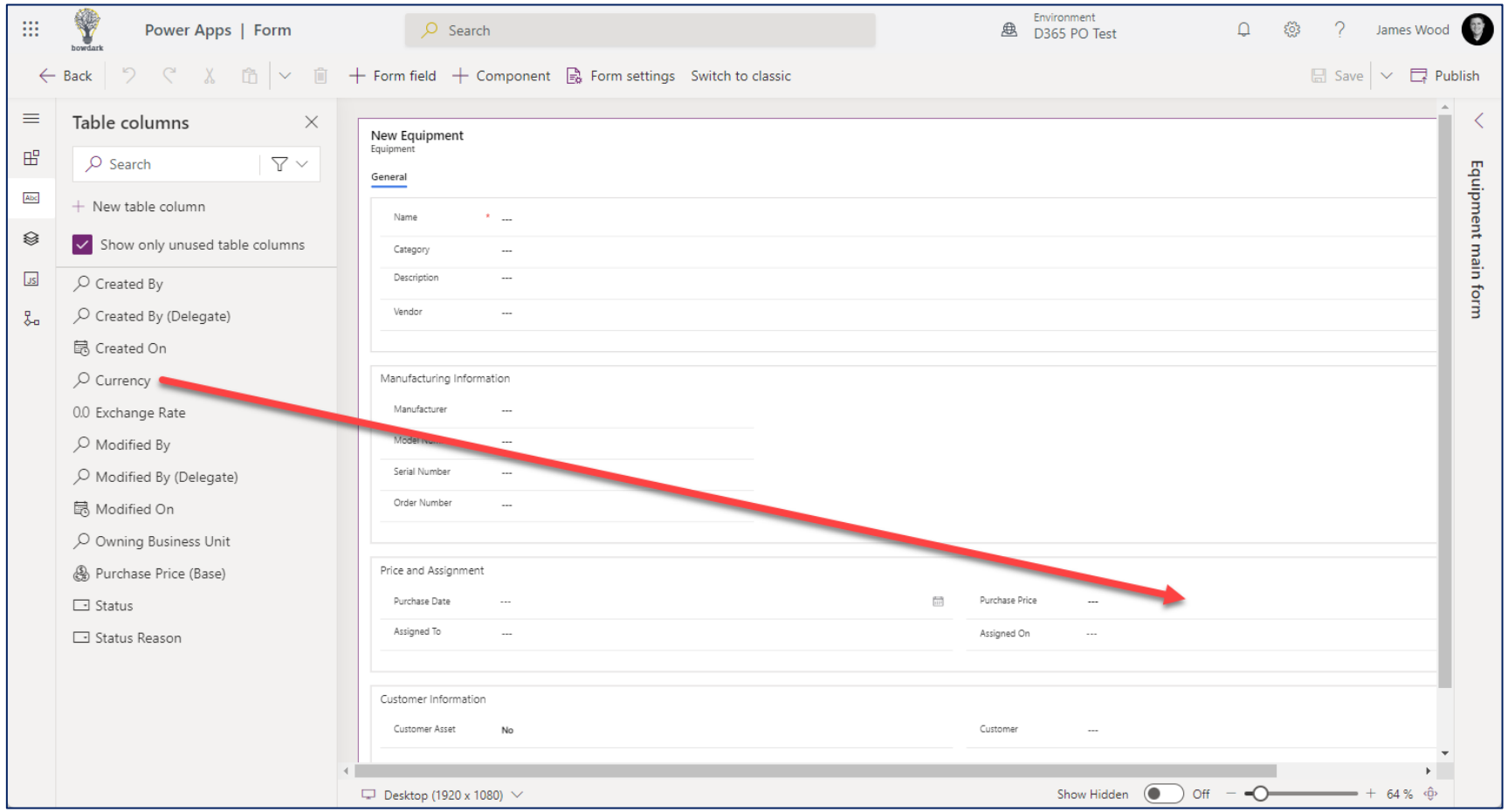
- Low-code development platforms (LCDP) have introduced a new style of development focused on:
  - Model-driven or declarative design
  - Reusable components and templates (think Lego™)
  - Visual programming using graphical WYSIWYG editor tools
  - Automatic code generation
  - Simplified logic (think Excel formulas)

Why Low-Code Tools Matter

1. LCDPs significantly lower the barrier to development, unlocking the door for citizen developers
2. They also make developers much more efficient
   - Developer productivity here at Bowdark is up **over 60%** with low-code tools
3. They offer unprecedented agility (e.g., DevOps, ALM)
4. They unlock many new app scenarios
5. They significantly reduce the TCO for custom solutions

WYSIWYG Designer Tools



Simplified App Logic

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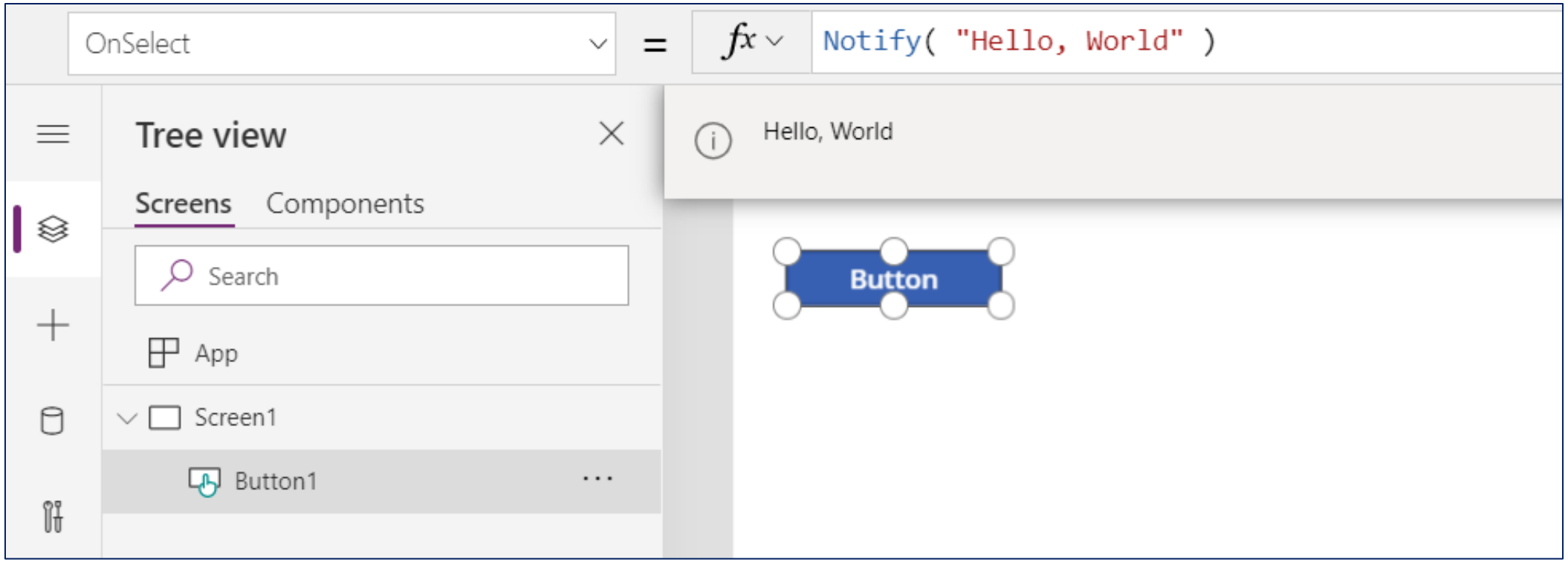

SAP AppGyver Examples

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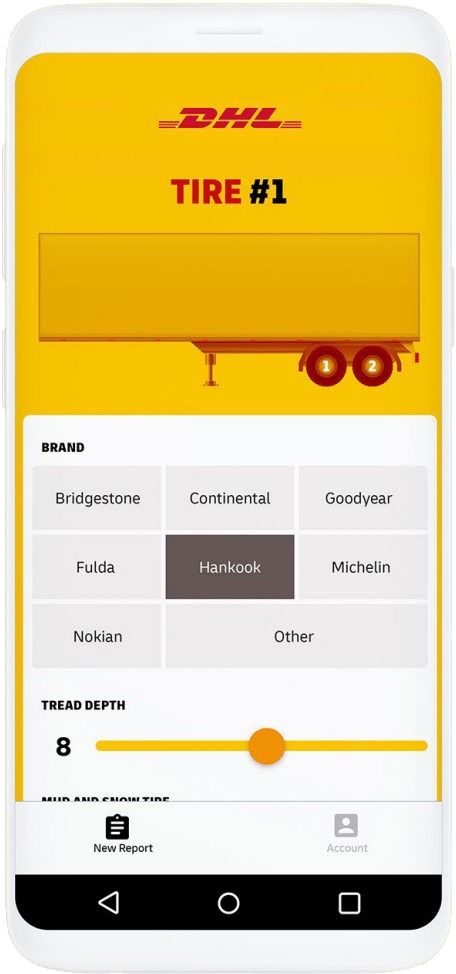

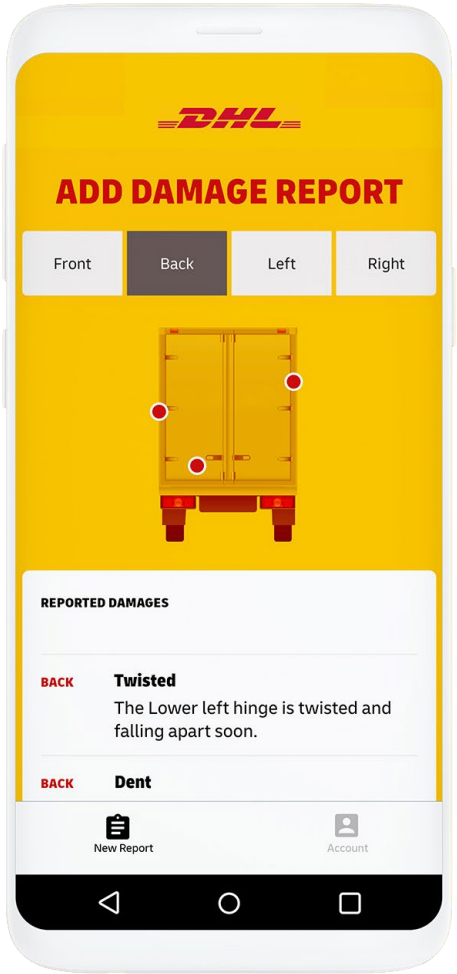

MS Power Apps Examples

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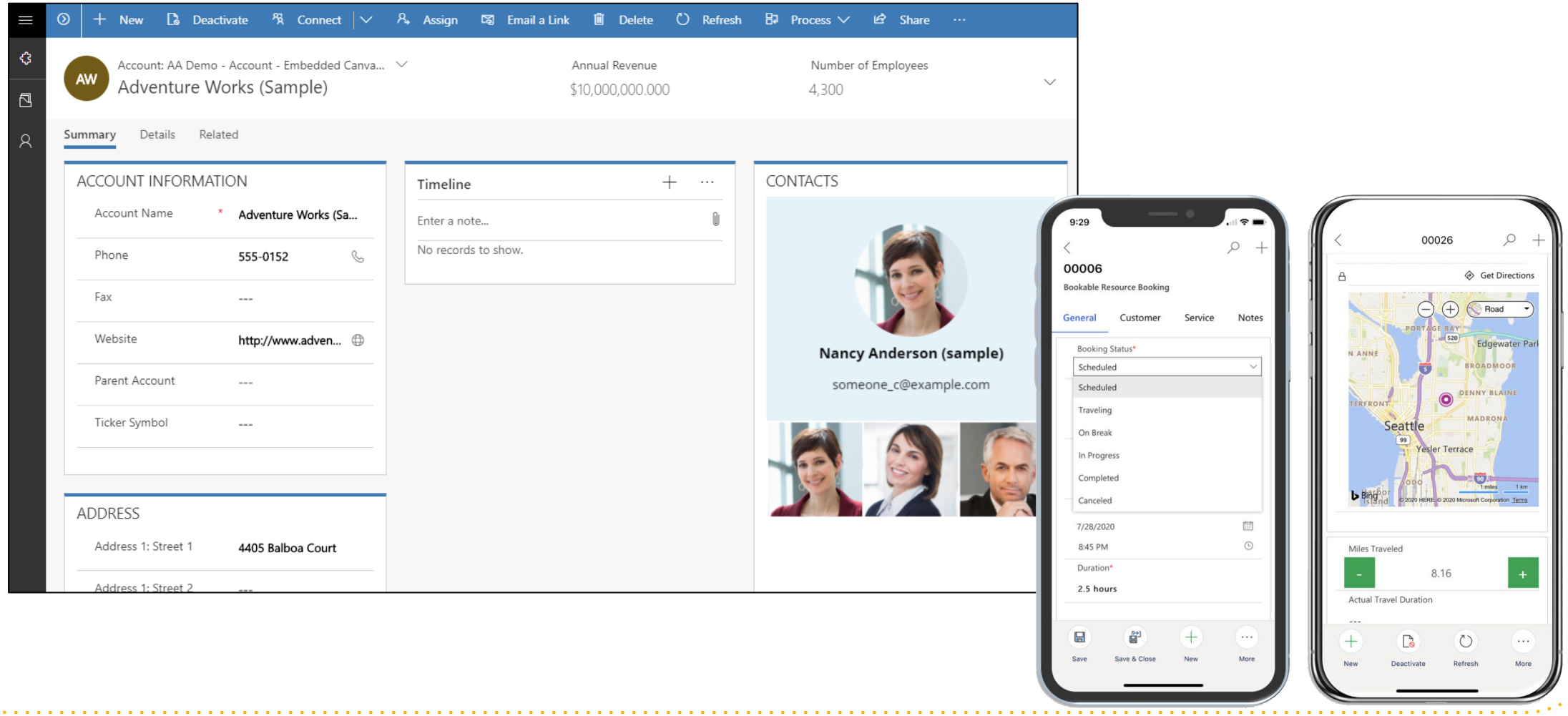

Just Add ~~Water~~ APIs

- REST (OData) APIs are the lifeblood of LCDPs
- When defined *properly*, APIs can be:
  - Used to create new user experiences
  - Mixed-and-matched to create app mash-ups (ex: SAP + Salesforce)
  - Leveraged by a wider audience of developers
  - Shared across the enterprise

From APIs to Connectors

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Office 365


Outlook


SharePoint


OneDrive


MS Teams


Slack


Notifications


SAP


Salesforce


Dynamics 365


Workday


Adobe Sign


DocuSign


Stripe


SQL Server


Oracle


Mainframes


AWS


FTP / Files


ArcGIS


Azure Communication Services

More Than Just Apps

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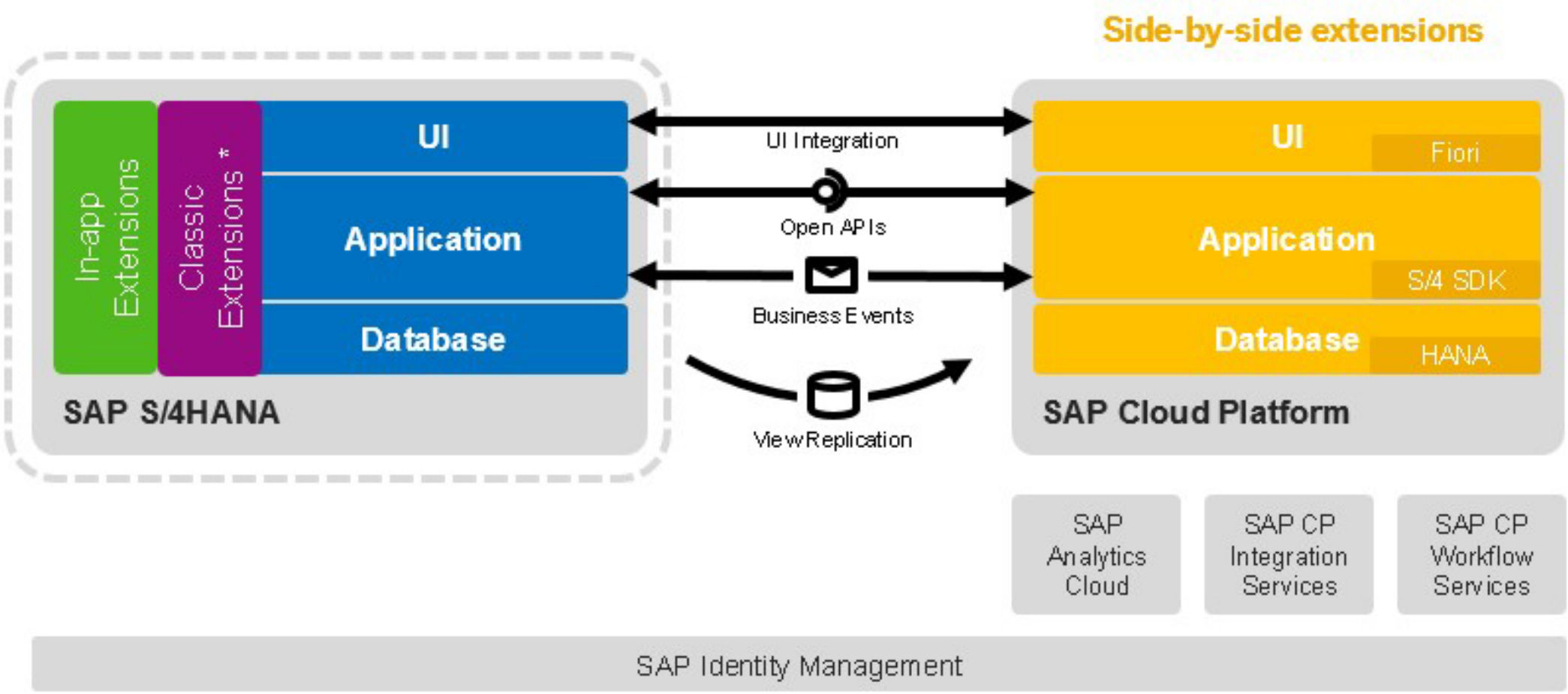
- Besides web and mobile apps, LCDPs can also be used to (rapidly) develop:
  - Self-service portals
  - Spreadsheet replacements (Excel + Access)
  - Interfaces
    - Ex: Microsoft provides over 700 connectors OOTB to easily connect SAP with various cloud and on-premises business systems
  - Workflows
  - Automations (RPAs)
  - AI & machine learning-based solutions
  - Reports & dashboards
  - Chatbots

“The best app is no app”

- Eleanor Roosevelt (Probably)

Pro-Code Extension Concept



Low-Code Extension Concept

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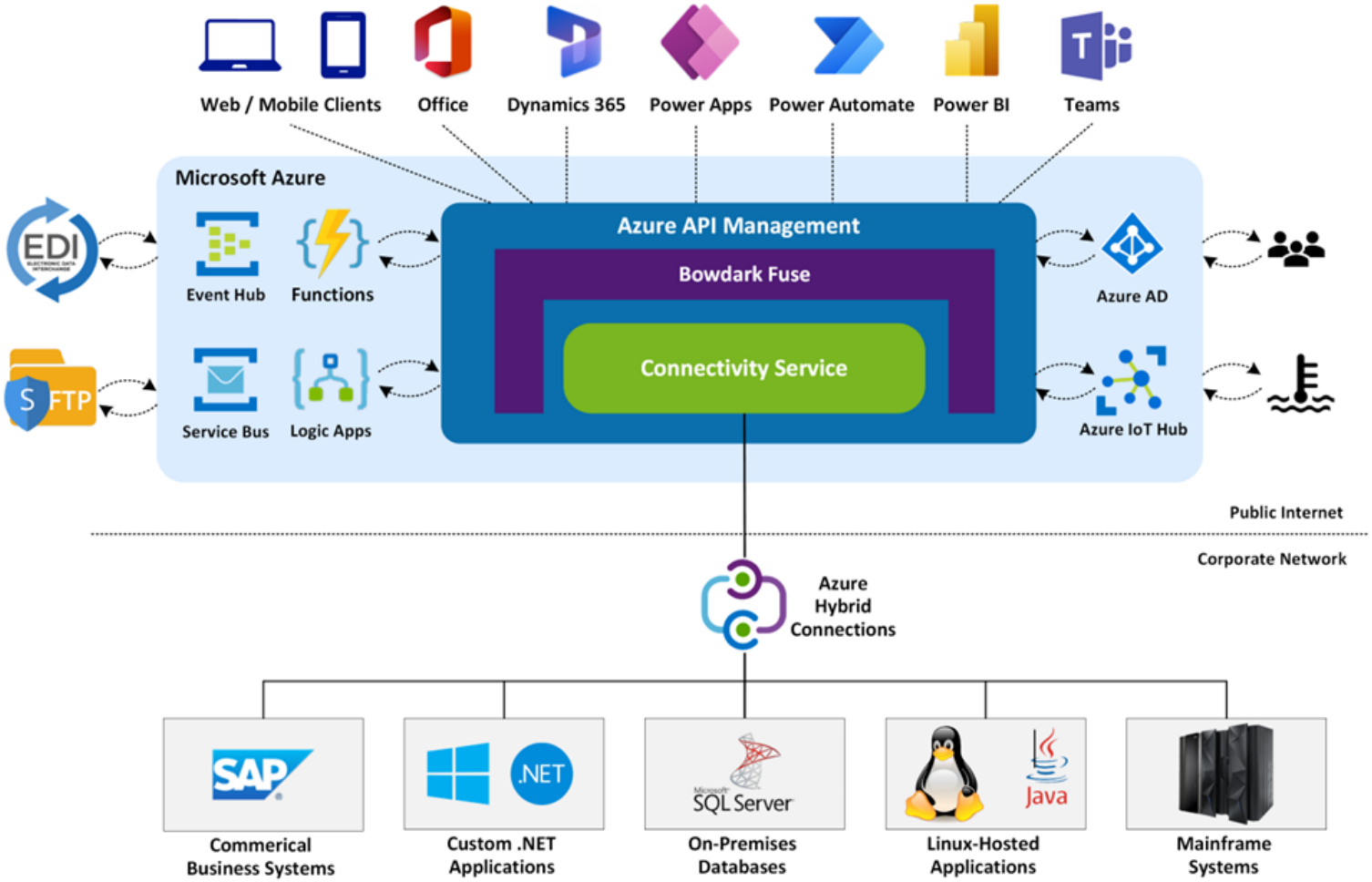
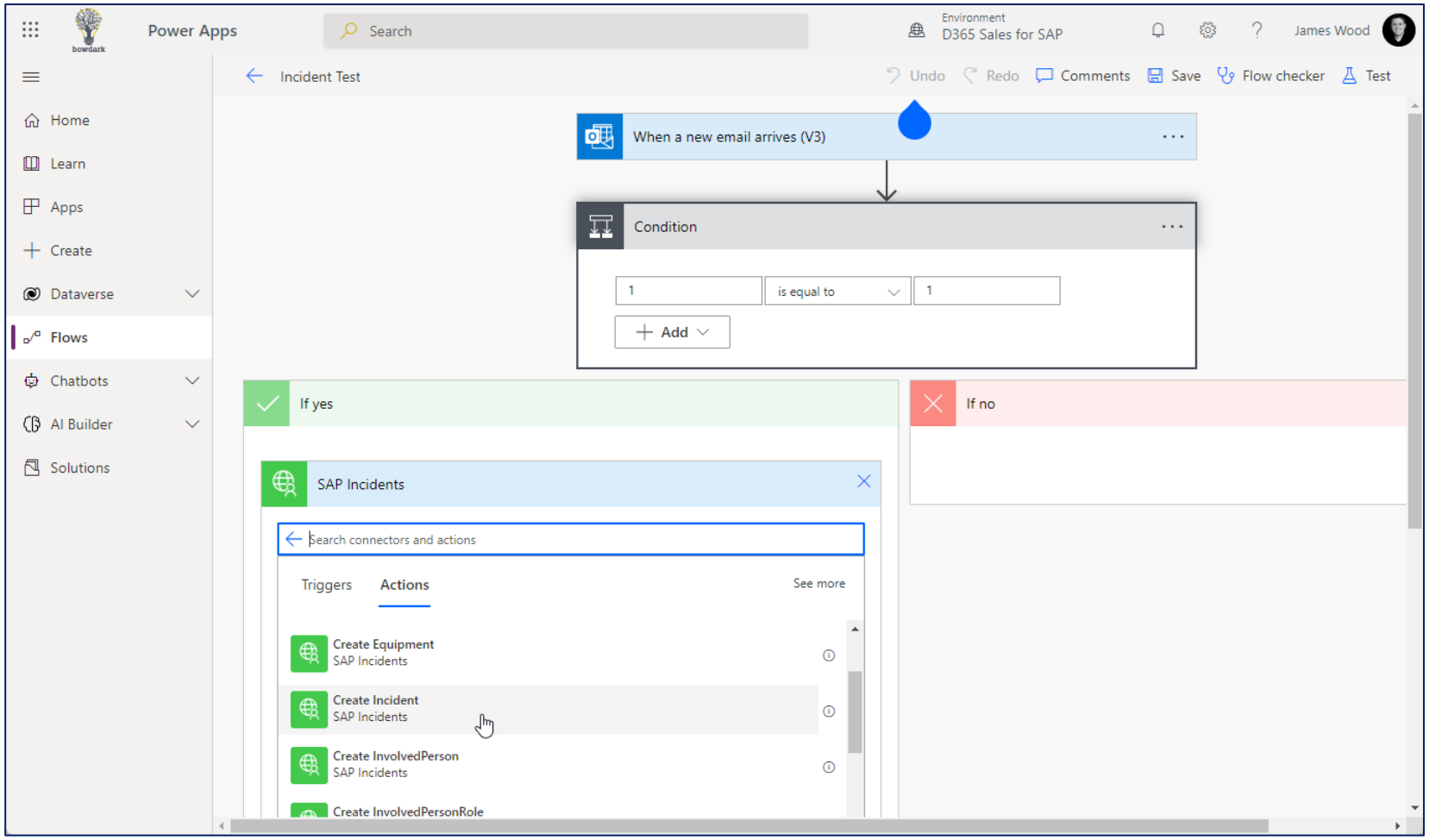
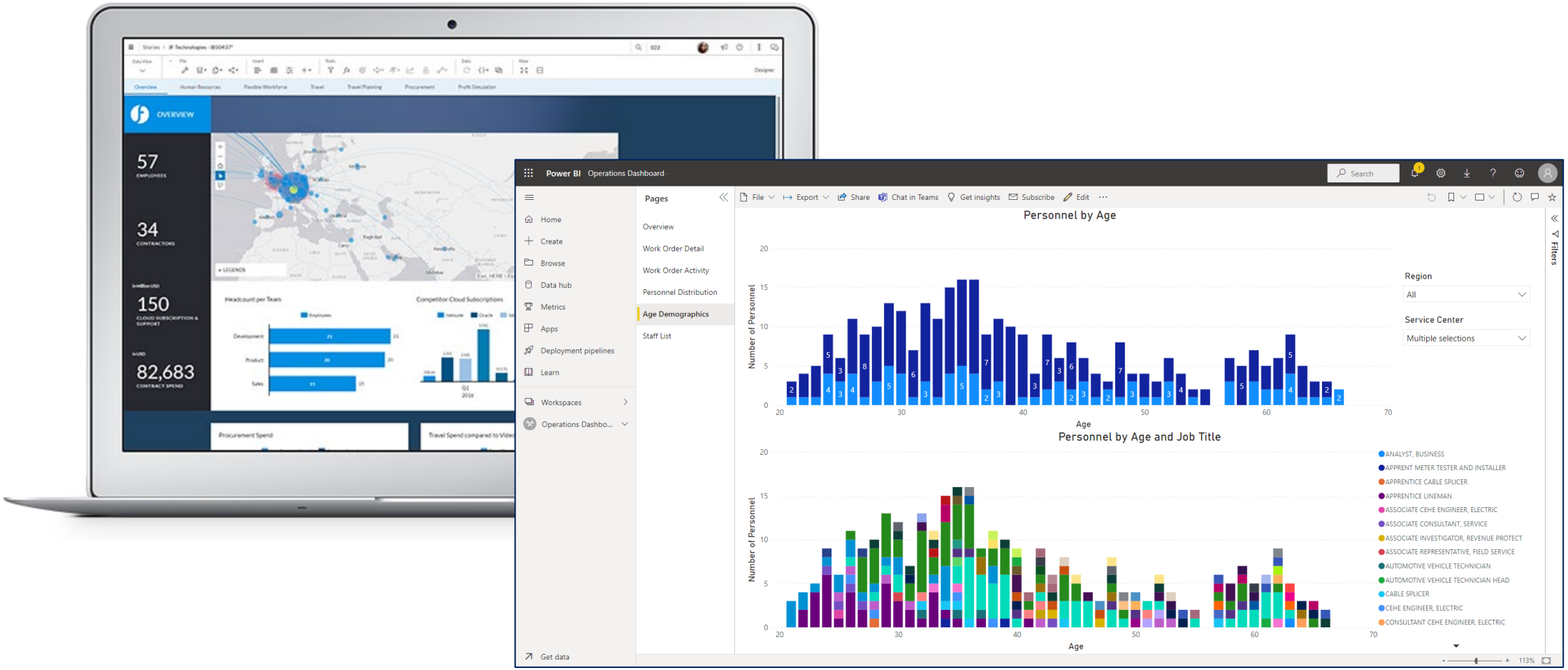


Workflows & Automations



Self-Service Analytics



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Breaking Down Barriers

Extending the Reach of SAP

The Need for SAP APIs

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- APIs (specifically OData APIs) are essential for (securely) exposing SAP functionality to LCDPs
- Although SAP is continually expanding its API catalog (e.g., through the SAP API Business Hub, etc.), there are still many gaps
- Bottom Line: Most apps/solutions will require the development of custom APIs (at least until a critical mass of APIs is attained)

Stretching Pro-Code Resources

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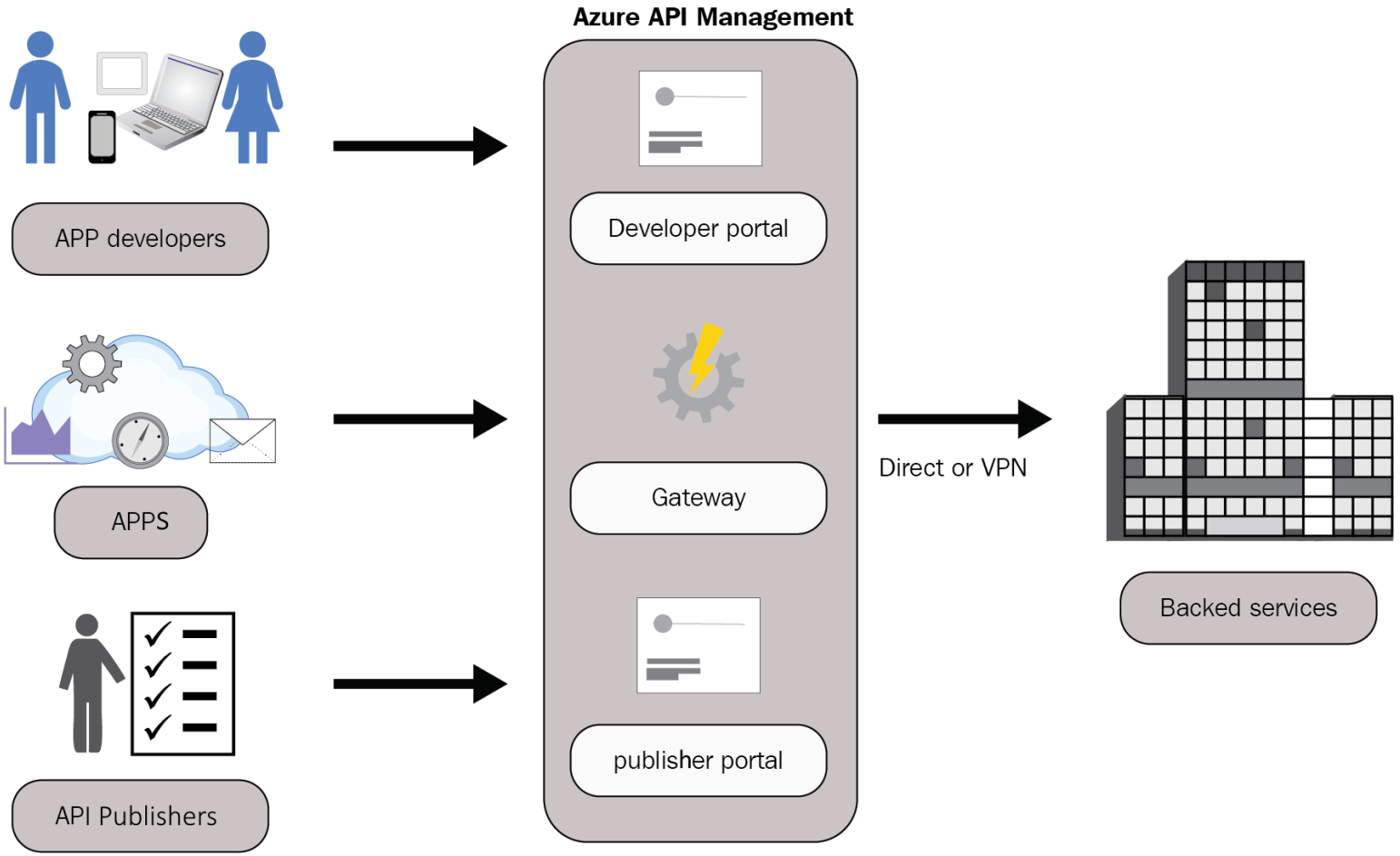
- Using a low-code approach, pro-code development can be limited to just API development
- With SAP Gateway and HANA these APIs can come together quickly:
  - SAP data can be modeled using Core Data Services (CDS)
  - From here, there are many tools that make it easy to (securely) expose SAP data through OData services
- These investments offer many repeat benefits as they can be reused in other app scenarios

Publishing APIs for Reuse



Getting Started with Fusion Teams

Enabling a Wider Audience for SAP Development

Introducing Fusion Teams

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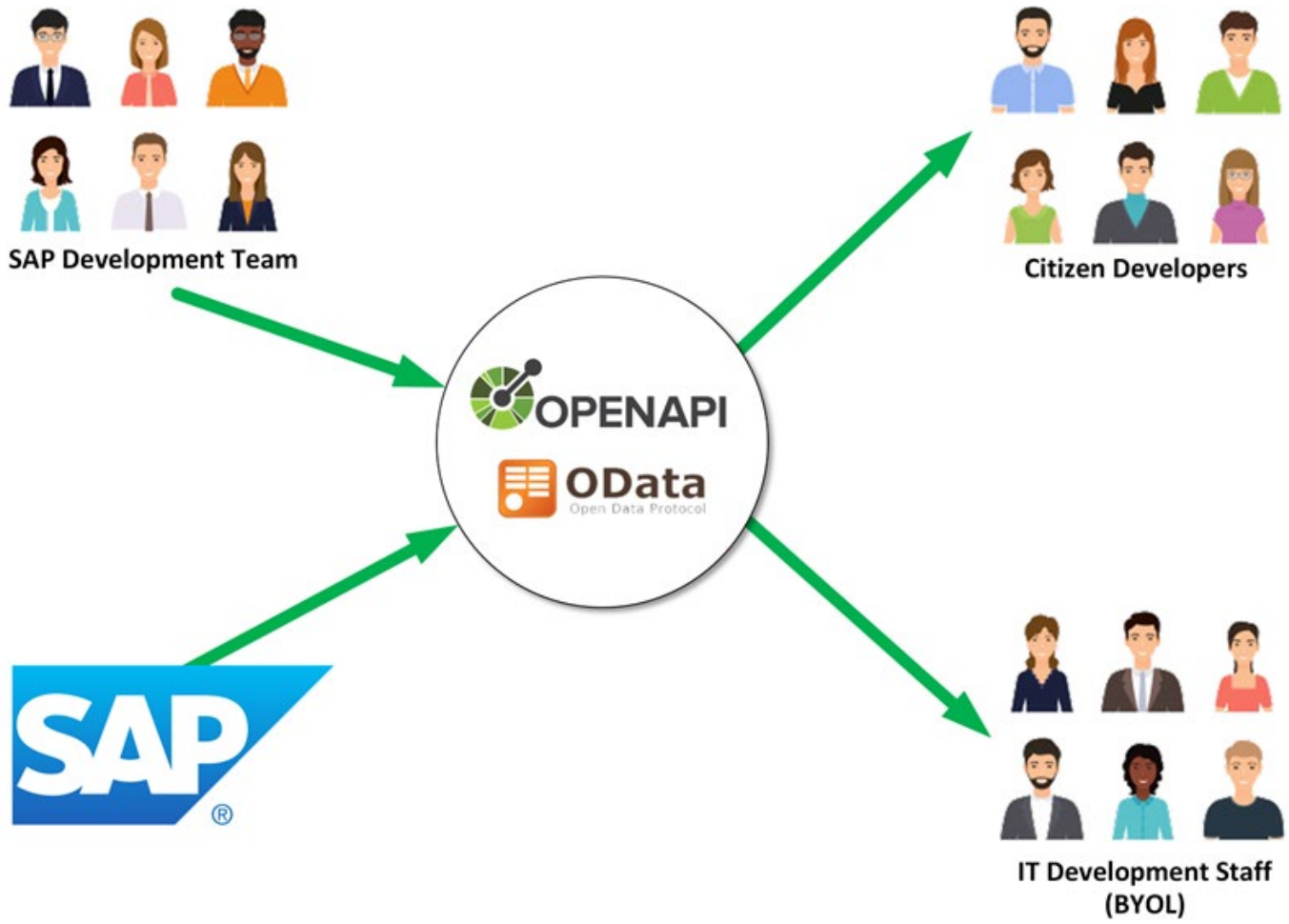
- Gartner defines fusion teams as “multidisciplinary digital business teams that blend technology and business domain expertise to drive initiatives to create digital products and solutions”
- This combined approach allows the team to play to their respective strengths:
  - Business analysts and SMEs can focus on the improving business processes
  - IT / pro-code developers can fill in technical gaps where needed

Low-Code + Pro-Code Unite



A New Development Paradigm

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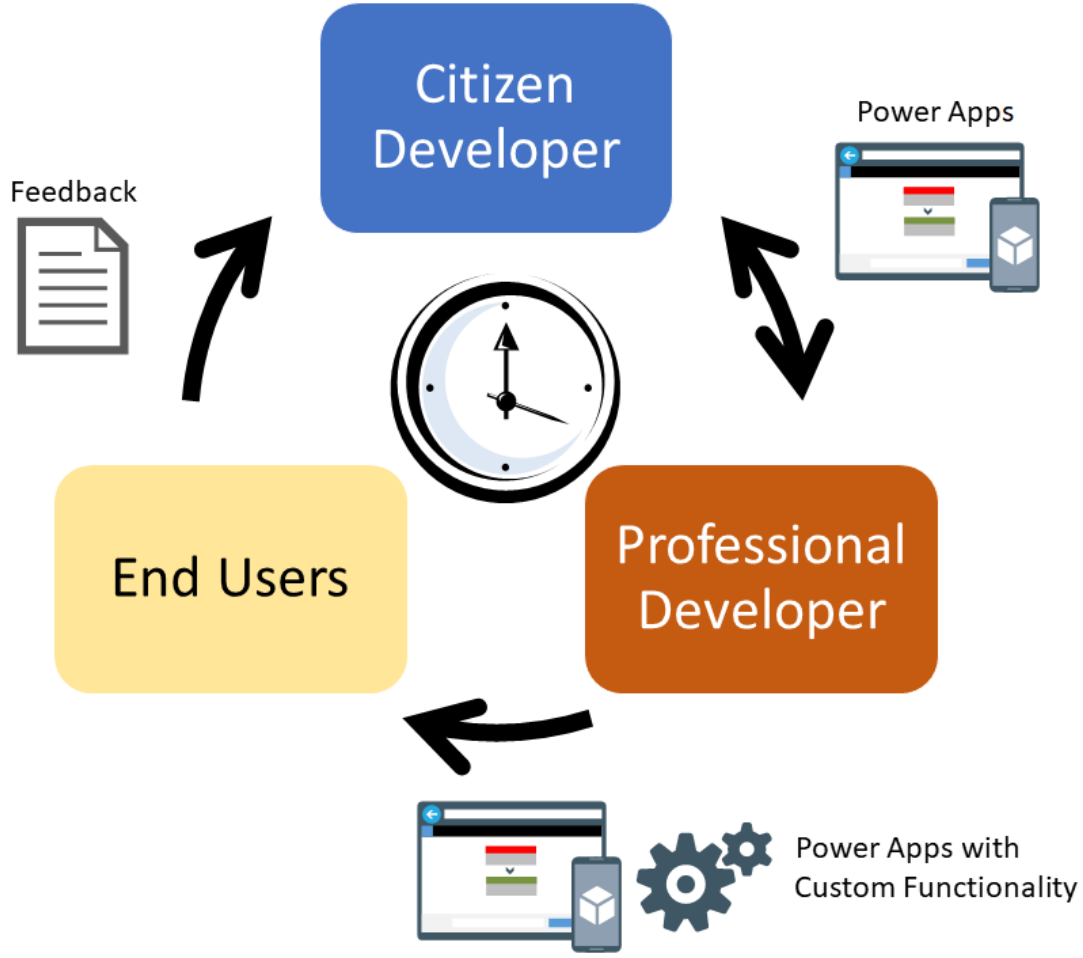

Wrap-Up

Key Points to Take Home

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- SAP pro-code development still has its place but there are some notable limitations that make it difficult to gain traction with digital transformation initiatives
- Low-code development platforms can be used to innovate around the edges with SAP
- Regardless of your direction, it’s vitally important to focus your attention on SAP API enablement
- Embracing the fusion team concept can supercharge your digital transformation journey

Q&A

Questions ==> { Answers }

Thank you!

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