



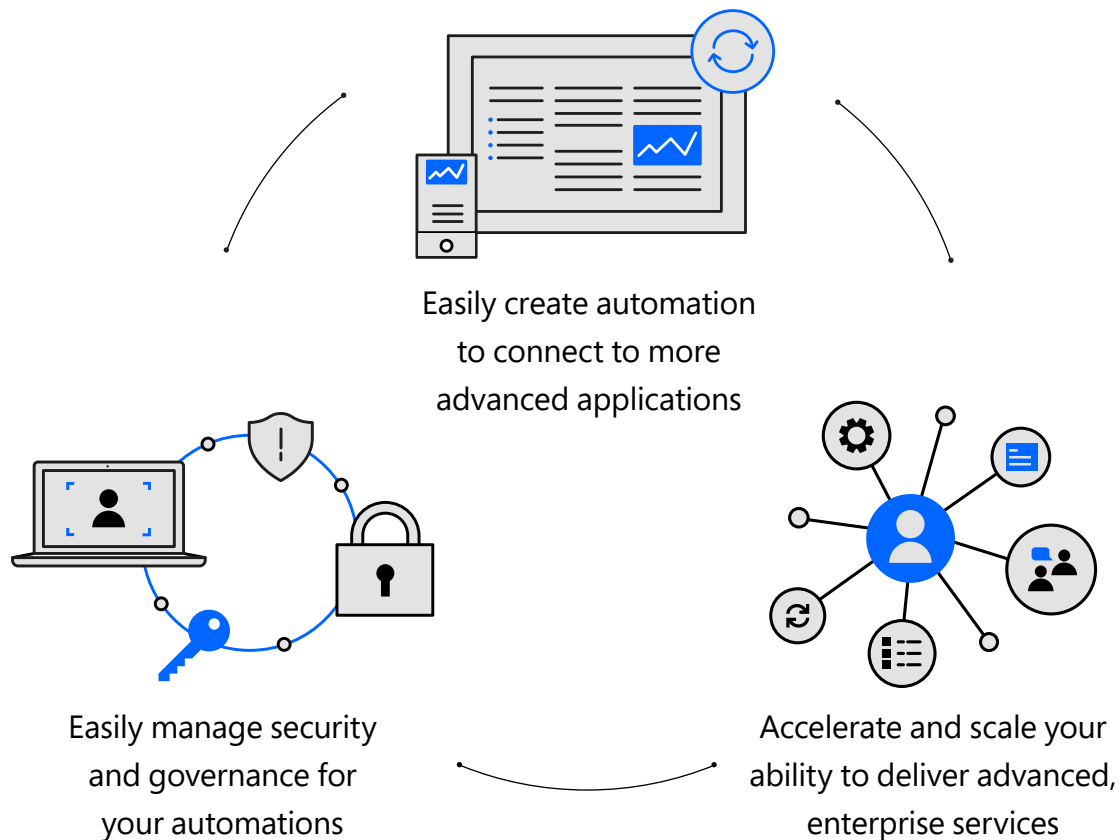
# The Developer's 6-Step Guide to Low-Code Automation



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# What is Power Automate?

Power Automate brings together UI- and API-based automation into one seamless, integrated offering, so you can automate legacy, on-premises software alongside SaaS applications. With Power Automate, you can also automate structured and unstructured data by integrating AI models that leverage capabilities such as forms processing, object detection, prediction, and text classification.



# Capabilities for enterprise developers

With Power Automate, you can:

[Build custom connectors](#) to your organization's data and web services.  
[Build Azure functions](#) to extend apps with custom server-side logic.  
[Embed automation directly](#) into your website to create integrated solutions, surfacing workflows or processes where users already do their work.

For this Developer Guide, we will build a custom connector, which is used to communicate with services when prebuilt connectors aren't available. A custom connector has its own triggers and actions.

## Prerequisites

- An environment that supports stable HTTP REST APIs for your service.
- Tools for exposing your service as an API.
- Supported authentication standards: OAuth 2.0 for specific services, Generic OAuth 2.0, basic authentication, and API key.

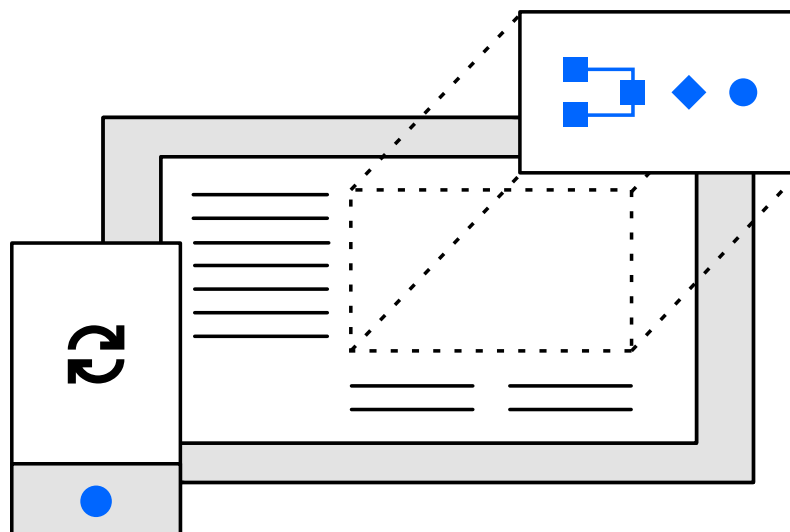
## Step 1

# Build your API

A custom connector is a wrapper around a REST API that allows Power Automate to communicate with that REST API. The first step, then, is to build a public (visible on the public Internet) or private (visible only to your network) API.

If you're creating and managing a public API, consider using [Azure Functions](#), [Azure Web Apps](#), [Azure API Management](#), or [Azure API Apps](#).

For private APIs, Microsoft offers on-premises data connectivity through an [on-premises data gateway](#).



## Step 2

# Secure your API

Microsoft recommends that you set up [Azure Active Directory authentication for your API](#) in the Azure portal. Alternatively, you can require and enforce authentication in your API's code using one of the following authentication methods:

- > [Generic OAuth 2.0](#)
- > OAuth 2.0 for specific services, such as Azure AD, Dropbox, GitHub, or Salesforce
- > [Basic authentication](#)
- > [API Key](#)



## Step 3

# Describe your API and define the custom connector

Describing your API allows Power Automate to communicate with it. You can describe your API using an [OpenAPI definition](#) (formerly known as a Swagger file) or a [Postman collection](#). While OpenAPI and Postman are different formats, both are language-agnostic, machine-readable documents that describe your API. You can generate these documents from various tools based on the language and platform used by your API. You can also describe your API from [scratch using the custom connector portal](#). Power Automate uses OpenAPI to define connectors.



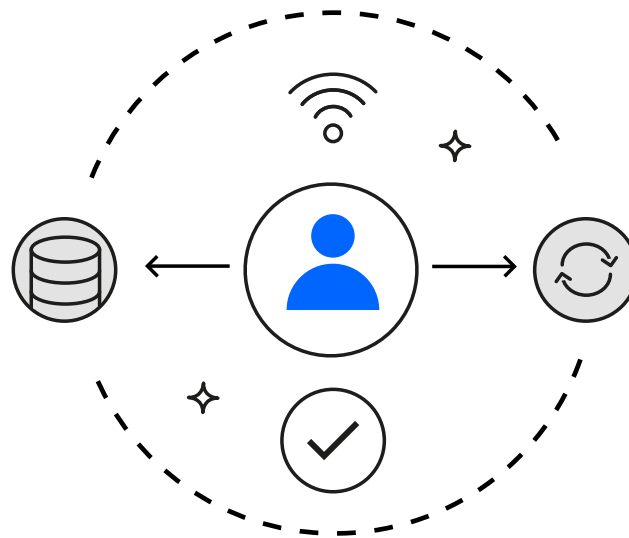
## Step 4

# Use your connector in Power Automate

Custom connectors are used the same way as Microsoft-managed connectors. You must create a connection to your API, then you can use that connection to call any operations you exposed in your custom connector.

You can use a custom connector from one of the following:

- > [A flow](#)
- > [A Power Apps app](#)
- > [An Azure Logic App](#)

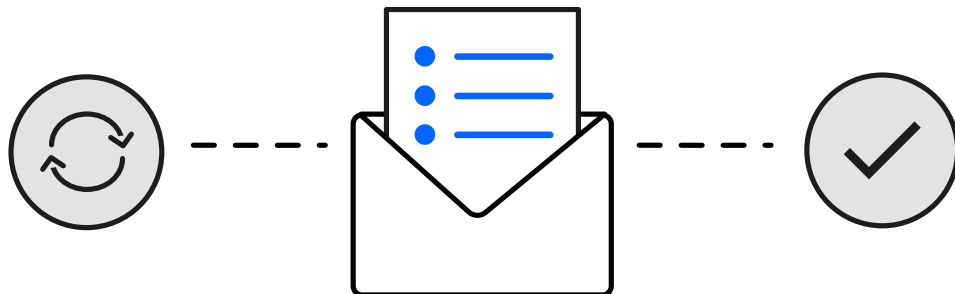




## Step 5

# Certify your connector

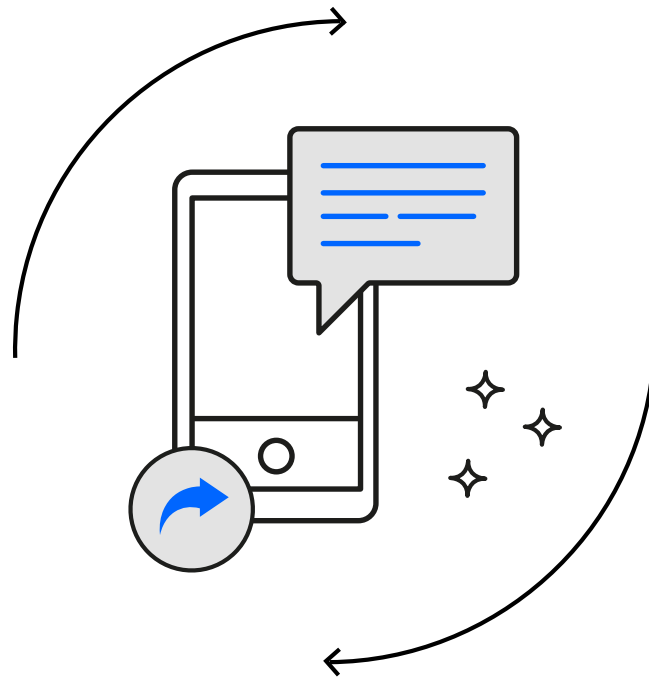
To share your connector with all users of Azure Logic Apps, Power Automate, and Power Apps, you must first [submit your connector](#) for Microsoft certification. Microsoft will review your connector, check for technical and content compliance, and validate functionality.



## Step 6

# Share your connector

If needed, you can [share your custom connectors](#) with other users in your organization.





# Conclusion

You have now built a custom connector in [Power Automate](#).

You can also use it in [Power Apps](#) or [Azure Logic Apps](#).

Peruse our collection of pre-built connectors.

Learn more about Power Automate.

Become a Power Automate expert with our tutorials.

Stay up to date with the Power Automate blog.

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