Power Platform Insights
April 2023

Microsoft
Power Platform

(At Least)

7 Ways to Put Your Low-code Training to Work for Your Enterprise

Have any questions you would like us to answer in future newsletters?

Send them to **lgreszler@hitachisolutions.com**

INTRODUCTION

Microsoft and partners like Hitachi Solutions often give customers the opportunity to engage and try out technology for free through training workshops called "in a day." They're meant to introduce you to the potential of any number of technologies, including the Power Platform, and allow you to experience first-hand how they work for your business. It's a great opportunity to take the first steps in understanding how to leverage innovation and solve for your business.

So you attended "in a day." What comes next?

If you attended an "in a day" event, you likely created your first low-code application, automation, dashboard, or chatbot. But what do you do now to become a real maker and make real, quick improvements for your business through low code? How can you make what you learned second nature and part of your muscle memory?

Hitachi Solutions Power Platform rapid solution delivery team would like to take this opportunity and invite you to better understand how to leverage the knowledge you gain from "in a day" and walk you through the next steps for better business impact.

Ready. Set. GO...

1. Use it or lose it

If you do not use and apply your new skill early and often, you may forget much of what you learned. It's no different with low-code application and automation development. You must quickly apply what you've learned by starting to build apps and automations. Choose a simple use case to start with and build functional apps or automations. Find problems in your day-to-day life that you can solve or simplify with Power Apps and Power Automate. Based on feedback on those apps and automations, make improvements to them. It helps if our customers come to the table with several use cases for their apps or automations to solve for their business.

2. Challenge yourself

With a platform as broad and deep as the Microsoft Power Platform, there are always many things you probably don't know. This can sometimes feel overwhelming, as you might think you will never become proficient. Challenge yourself to create more complex applications to deepen your understanding of those functionalities. Pick something you don't know and focus on learning how to do that thing.

For example, maybe your application is a simple form-based application. Challenge yourself to learn how to patch records rather than using a form and submit formulas. Add a new screen and use a patch formula and figure out how to make it work. Once you do that, then maybe move onto the next topic. The best makers out there maintain a list of items they don't know and look for opportunities to learn how to use these capabilities.

◎ Hitachi Solutions

3. Adopt a continuous improvement mindset

What you build will never be perfect, but you have to start somewhere. Too many makers are held back by perfectionism or a thought that what they build is not good enough. Start simple and then refine and iterate. We often tell our customers to approach their low-code journey with a "crawl, walk, run" philosophy. Solicit feedback from app users to identify pain points with the current application and get ideas for enhancements. Use this feedback to refine and improve the solution over time. It works!

4. Document your process

As you go through app development, document your work, including your processes, decisions, and outcomes. How did you decide what connectors to use, what type of app to build, what technologies to use? What was the outcome of this process, and how can the process be improved? By documenting your process, you can improve the process and come up with a repeatable workflow that you can follow when building apps and flows to save time and avoid making the same mistakes over and over.

For example, if you had a challenging situation where you were working with SharePoint and had to work around some delegation issues, document how you solved that so next time you or one of your colleagues experiences the same issue, you have a point of reference for what you did the last time and documented go-forward direction for solving it.

◎ **Hitachi Solutions**

5. Get involved in the Microsoft Power Platform community

It can be a great way to accelerate your learning by interacting with other people who also are learning the platform. Not only is this a great place to ask for help when you're stuck, but you can share information and answer questions other people are asking, as well.

Many of our resident MVPs found that by answering questions other people were asking in the Power Platform community, they had a similar experience to reference if they experienced that problem themselves. By finding an answer or researching to find an answer to the question others are asking, they learned how to do that thing or solve that type of problem in the process.

Earlier in this issue, we talked about documenting your process and what you've learned, and this documentation can be the seed of what can turn into blog posts and other community contributions. And before you know it, you might become an MVP yourself! You can find the Power Users community at **https://powerusers.microsoft.com.**

◎ Hitachi Solutions

6. Learn other skills

Mastering technical development alone is not enough to be a successful maker. To truly excel in creating applications and automations, you need to develop a range of skills beyond coding. Here are some essential skills that will better equip you as a Power Platform developer:
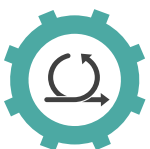
Source Business Process Discovery

To build effective applications, you must understand the business process that your application will support. This requires asking questions, discussing business processes, and documenting them accurately. By mastering this skill, you will be able to design applications that truly modernize existing processes.

Test Through User Experience

In a canvas app, the sky's the limit in terms of what you can create. But with that freedom comes the responsibility to create a great user experience. By studying UX, you can learn how to design applications that users will love and increase adoption rates.

Be Agile

Agile methodologies can help you build better applications that meet the needs of your users. By frequently testing and getting feedback, you can refine your work and align it with user needs. User story mapping is a useful tool to prioritize your work and stay organized.

Incorporate Conversational Design

Creating effective chatbots and virtual agents requires careful attention to conversational design. Poorly designed conversations can turn users off, while well-designed conversations can improve engagement and satisfaction. By studying conversational design for NLP, you can ensure your chatbots and virtual agents deliver the highest quality experience to your customers.

Hitachi Solutions

7. The adventure is in the journey

Building your first apps and flows is a huge first step. The Power Platform universe of opportunity will quickly open for customers solving for business this year and doing more with less. It is important to remember — it is a journey with many steps, and there is always more to learn. By challenging yourself to learn new skills and documenting your processes, you can continue to grow and excel in your role.

Remember, the adventure is in the journey, and by embracing the challenges and opportunities that come your way, you can become an accomplished and highly effective Power Platform developer.

Hitachi Solutions

Q&A with our Power BI Expert Aditi Iyer on What Comes After Dashboard in a Day (DIAD)

(and she is so cool, her initials are AI)

HS So I've attended DIAD, now what?

AI DIAD serves as an excellent starting point for developing an understanding of the potential benefits that low-code reporting can offer to your enterprise. It's common for individuals to view the workshop as their initial entry into this incredible realm. When beginning to use Power BI, numerous queries may arise regarding how to manage data, generate aggregations, or produce data visualizations, particularly if you have a business insights background in Excel.

From Excel to Power BI

Many people tend to view Power BI through the Excel lens, which means they're familiar with data presented in a tabular format. However, Power BI offers the ability to represent data in a visual format, making insights more accessible and understandable for different individuals or personas, ranging from senior executives to employees across the organization. Additionally, if needed, we can even delve into the finer details of Excel-level data.

AI

Putting into practice

Translating the knowledge obtained from DIAD training into practical applications can be challenging, particularly when working with customized data. Nonetheless, there are various approaches to augment the post-DIAD experience.

Come to us, and bring your questions

For every DIAD attendee, we offer a complimentary one-hour consultation that we encourage you to take advantage of. Furthermore, several one-hour consultations are available to eligible registrants. Our team comprises Microsoft-certified professionals and Microsoft-recognized Power BI solution architects.

"I used to do it this way, but now I can't. Now what?"

For numerous individuals, user experience can be a significant challenge. They may encounter difficulties while creating formulas or incorporating time intelligence into a report. However, Hitachi Solutions offer advanced Power BI training to tackle complex queries specific to your problem sets. Through various workshops, such as co-development sessions, we empower Power BI users to delve deeper and safely engage in hands-on training with their enterprise data. This approach enables users to acquire the necessary skills and functionality to utilize the application in real-time scenarios.

Build your analytics maturity model

Our approach meets you at your current stage in the analytical journey. We offer assistance in evaluating your data estate and business requirements while also addressing governance needs. Additionally, we aid in cultivating a data-driven culture by integrating self-service BI.

Serving in many different ways

Post-DIAD, we provide a range of services to our customers. One of these includes developing and implementing a Power BI roadmap strategy that encompasses governance principles to ensure core discipline while permitting edge flexibility by defining data boundaries and security measures. Moreover, we can assist in constructing proof of value analytical solutions to enhance comprehension of the architecture and data flow.

Don't Miss our Next Dashboard in a Day with Microsoft!

Why Hitachi Solutions?

Hitachi Solutions helps its customers successfully compete with the largest global enterprises using powerful, easy-to-use, and affordable industry solutions built on Microsoft cloud services.

Microsoft
Power Platform

Contact Hitachi Solutions today to get started!

Follow Us:

Hitachi Solutions

global.hitachi-solutions.com