

The Center of Excellence Starter Kit is retired. What to use now.

Running Power Platform governance natively - what the CoE Starter Kit did, where each capability lives in the Power Platform admin center today, and what is coming.

Prepared by **FutureAbility Pty Ltd** | Version 1.0 | Current as at 6 July 2026 | Audience: Power Platform administrators, IT and governance leads

Current as at 6 July 2026. The Power Platform admin center and its governance features are moving quickly - capabilities shift from preview to general availability, dates change, and at the time of writing Microsoft has not yet published its next release wave (2026 wave 2). Treat every status and date in this document as correct on this date only, and confirm against Microsoft Learn before you rely on it. Direct product statements are quoted from Microsoft Learn and referenced in section 8.

Purpose. This guide is for organisations that used - or planned to use - the Power Platform Center of Excellence (CoE) Starter Kit to govern their tenant. Microsoft has confirmed the kit is no longer actively maintained and has moved its core capabilities into the Power Platform admin center. This document sets out plainly what the kit did, where each of its most-used capabilities lives now, where genuine gaps remain, and what is on Microsoft's roadmap to close them. It is written to help you make an informed decision about how to run Power Platform governance from here.

1. What has changed

Microsoft has retired active development of the CoE Starter Kit. Every CoE Starter Kit page on Microsoft Learn now carries the same notice:

"The Power Platform CoE Starter Kit is no longer actively maintained. Its core capabilities are part of the Power Platform admin center. Issues are no longer reviewed or addressed. If you identify a potential security issue, please report it to the Microsoft Security Response Center."

On what this means, Microsoft is equally direct:

"The CoE Starter Kit remains available for existing and new deployments, but it will not be enhanced with new capabilities ... Organizations are encouraged to use the Power Platform admin center as the central experience for governance, monitoring, and insights."

In practice: the kit still installs and still runs, but it is now legacy. There are no more monthly releases, no bug fixes, and no new features. Only security vulnerabilities are accepted, and only through the Microsoft Security Response Center. Field reporting (Rencore, Intelogy and others) puts the end of monthly releases at February 2026 and Microsoft's confirmation that the kit is no longer maintained at around May 2026. Microsoft has not published a formal end-of-support date, so there is no hard deadline - but there is also no reason to build new governance on a tool that has stopped moving.

2. What the CoE Starter Kit did well

The kit shipped in three groups of components - **Core (admin)**, **Governance**, and **Nurture**. It did a great many things, but its reputation rested on a handful of bread-and-butter capabilities that administrators relied on every week. Those are the capabilities this guide focuses on, because they are what most teams actually mean when they say they “need the CoE”:

- **Tenant-wide inventory** of every app, flow, connector, environment and maker.
- **Orphaned and owner-less resource detection** - finding apps and flows whose owner has left.
- **Connector usage and audit** - which connectors are used, by whom, and where.
- **DLP management and impact analysis** - editing data policies and understanding what a policy change would break.
- **Archiving and cleaning up inactive resources** - identifying and retiring unused apps and flows.
- **Tenant-wide reporting** - the CoE Power BI dashboard, with history beyond the platform's own 28-day window.

The good news is that Microsoft has rebuilt most of this list as in-product experiences. The important news is that the fit is not one-for-one, and some of it depends on premium licensing. Sections 3 to 5 work through each capability.

3. Where each capability lives now

Microsoft's own transition guidance maps the CoE to four in-product experiences in the Power Platform admin center (PPAC):

“Today, you can find these core capabilities directly in the Microsoft Power Platform admin center through in-product experiences such as Inventory, Usage, Monitor, and Actions. These experiences provide real-time visibility into resources, usage, operational health, and governance insights in a centralized, enterprise-scale experience.”

The table below maps the bread-and-butter CoE capabilities to where they live today. **Status** shows whether the native capability is generally available (GA), in preview, or not yet present.

What the CoE Starter Kit did	Native home today	Status
Tenant-wide inventory of apps, flows, agents, environments, makers	PPAC Inventory - “a unified view of all agents, apps, and flows ... across their organization”, updated within 15 minutes, filterable by any attribute, exportable to Excel.	GA
Find resources owned by departing users (orphaned / owner-less)	PPAC Inventory surfaces “resources owned by departing users”; Actions recommends “apps without valid owners”. Reassign via Share or PowerShell / the Admin V2 connector.	GA
Find and retire inactive / unused resources	Actions flags “apps that haven’t been used in the last 60 days”; the Managed Environments weekly digest lists apps and flows “not launched in a while”.	GA (digest needs Managed Env.)

What the CoE Starter Kit did	Native home today	Status
Connector usage and audit (which connectors, where)	PPAC Inventory now includes a Connectors column capturing connectors and operations used by each resource.	Preview
DLP: create and manage data policies	PPAC Data policies - classify connectors Business / Non-business / Blocked, tenant and environment scope, connector action control, endpoint filtering, custom connectors, and data policies for agents and desktop flows.	GA
DLP impact analysis (what a policy change breaks)	No direct native equivalent. The CoE DLP Editor's impact analysis is not reproduced in PPAC; assess impact manually from Inventory connector data.	Gap
Tenant reporting / the CoE Power BI dashboard	PPAC Inventory and Usage in-product; for custom BI or long retention, self-service analytics export to Azure Data Lake .	Inventory GA; export Preview
Adoption and usage analytics	PPAC Usage page - top apps, flows and agents, adoption trends, and the makers behind the most-used resources.	Preview (GA Aug 2026)
Audit / activity history	Microsoft Purview activity logging for Power Apps, Power Automate, Power Pages, connectors, data policy and admin actions; SIEM integration available.	GA
Proactive sharing limits and maker welcome content	Managed Environments - sharing limits, maker welcome content, environment routing and group rules.	GA (premium)

The licensing line to watch. Inventory and data policies work on any tenant. But the parts administrators lean on most for day-to-day governance - the full detail and one-click remediation on the **Actions** page, the weekly digest, and sharing limits - are part of **Managed Environments**, a premium capability. Microsoft states the Actions page “is part of the advanced management features ... All the recommendations, affected resource details, and actions are available for the managed environments in your tenant”, while non-managed environments see only a summary. Budget for Managed Environments if proactive governance matters to you.

4. What native does not yet fully replace

Microsoft is candid that the move is not yet complete. On the comparison between the CoE Starter Kit and Managed Environments, Microsoft Learn states:

“The CoE Starter Kit offers capabilities that aren’t yet met with managed environments, such as bulk updating permissions, cleaning up abandoned resources, surveying makers, and calculating the ROI of ideas.”

Read alongside the mapping above, the practical gaps a governance team should plan around today are:

- **DLP impact analysis.** There is no native tool that tells you which existing apps and flows a new or changed data policy would affect. This has to be assessed manually from Inventory connector data before you enforce broadly.
- **Maker-driven compliance workflows.** The CoE's business-justification and compliance processes - asking makers to confirm ownership, purpose and risk - have no native equivalent.
- **Bulk permission changes and abandoned-resource clean-up** at scale, beyond the per-recommendation actions on the Actions page.
- **Connector detail.** The new connector inventory is in preview and exposes connector and operation IDs only - not display names or Standard / Premium tier. Model-driven and code apps report limited connector data.
- **Long-run and custom reporting.** Native analytics centre on a 28-day window. History and bespoke dashboards need the self-service analytics export to Azure Data Lake, which is in preview and requires a premium Dataverse licence.
- **Community and nurture, and ROI of ideas.** The CoE App Catalog, training-in-a-day, maker surveys and idea / ROI tracking are not part of the admin center.

5. What is coming

Microsoft's **2026 release wave 1** (April to September 2026) invests heavily in governance, framed as managed security, managed governance and managed operations. The items most relevant to the CoE gaps are below. Microsoft's standard caution applies to everything in a release plan: "projected functionality may not be released" and dates can move.

Coming capability	What it addresses	Status / date
Usage page reaches general availability	Reliable in-product adoption analytics - the native replacement for the CoE Power BI usage views.	Preview now; GA Aug 2026
Agentic Center of Enablement	An AI governance agent that continuously monitors the tenant to "detect risk, prioritize issues, and automate remediation plans" - aimed at the manual clean-up the CoE used to script.	Public preview Jul 2026
Near-real-time operational health	The Monitor experience detects operational degradations within one hour across Power Platform resources.	Preview Jun 2026
Inventory enriched with connector dependencies	Connector usage built into Inventory so you can "quickly assess impact when connectors have security issues or breaking changes".	Rolling out (preview)
Self-service analytics export to Data Lake	Export inventory and usage data to your own Azure Data Lake for custom Power BI and long-term retention - the path to CoE-style historical dashboards.	Preview
Move apps out of the default environment	Native bulk relocation of apps from the default environment into governed ones - a common CoE clean-up task.	Preview now; GA Sep 2026

The next wave is not yet published. As at 6 July 2026, Microsoft has not released its 2026 release wave 2 plan (October 2026 to March 2027). Anything beyond the items

above is not yet on the public roadmap - one more reason to treat this document as a point-in-time snapshot.

6. The FutureAbility view

The following are our recommendations, not Microsoft statements of fact. Your context may point elsewhere.

Do not stand up the retiring kit for a new tenant

For a new or low-maturity tenant, deliver governance natively in PPAC and Managed Environments. Installing a tool that has stopped receiving updates, purely to get inventory and DLP you already have in-product, adds a maintenance burden and drift risk for no lasting benefit.

Budget for Managed Environments if you want proactive control

The free-to-all layer - Inventory and data policies - gives you visibility and DLP. The controls most teams remember fondly from the CoE - proactive sharing limits, the weekly digest, and full remediation on the Actions page - sit behind Managed Environments. Decide early whether you are licensing for it, because several controls depend on it.

Bridge the real gaps deliberately

Where native still falls short - DLP impact analysis, bulk permission changes, maker compliance workflows, ROI of ideas - choose a deliberate bridge: a documented manual process off Inventory data, a single targeted CoE component kept with eyes open to its unsupported status, or a third-party governance tool. Do not reinstall the whole kit to fill one gap.

If you already run the CoE Starter Kit

Keep it while it works, but stop investing in customisations. Move your core governance - inventory, DLP, orphaned and inactive resources, reporting - onto the native experiences as they mature, and let the kit fall away rather than upgrading it. Watch the 2026 wave 1 features above; they close several of the remaining gaps this year.

7. How FutureAbility can help

Governance is the first pillar of our GIVE framework, and moving a tenant from the CoE Starter Kit to native governance is work we do. A short engagement typically covers: a baseline of your tenant from PPAC Inventory; a data policy design and a manual impact analysis before anything is enforced; an orphaned, inactive and oversharing clean-up run from Inventory and Actions; a Managed Environments decision with the licensing laid out; and a lightweight operating rhythm your team can run without us. The aim is a governed tenant your own people own - not a dependency on a tool, ours or Microsoft's.

8. Sources

All product statements above are quoted from Microsoft Learn, current as at 6 July 2026:

- CoE Starter Kit transition to Power Platform admin center - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/guidance/coe/starter-kit
- CoE Starter Kit overview (use alongside PPAC; remaining gaps) - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/guidance/coe/overview
- Power Platform inventory - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/power-platform-inventory
- Power Platform inventory schema (connector inventory, preview) - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/inventory-schema
- Actions / Power Platform Advisor - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/power-platform-advisor
- Managed Environments overview - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/managed-environment-overview
- Managed Environments usage insights and weekly digest - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/managed-environment-usage-insights
- Data policies and connector classification - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/dlp-connector-classification
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- 2026 release wave 1 - governance and administration - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/release-plan/2026wave1/power-platform-governance-administration/
- Self-service analytics export to Data Lake (preview) - learn.microsoft.com/power-platform/admin/self-service-analytics
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