

Copilot Studio vs. Microsoft Foundry

A high-level guide to choosing the right platform for building AI agents and solutions for GCC customers — and why it's often both.

Bottom line These platforms are **complementary, not competing**. Reach for **Copilot Studio** to build agents fast with low-code and extend Microsoft 365; reach for **Microsoft Foundry** to build custom, developer-led AI on your choice of models. Many government solutions use both together.

Two platforms, different strengths

Microsoft Copilot Studio

Low-code · SaaS

- **Build fast** — design, test, and publish conversational and task agents with a visual canvas and natural language.
- **Extends Microsoft 365** — surface agents in Copilot, Teams, SharePoint, and the web.
- **Connected** — 1,000+ prebuilt connectors and Power Platform integration reach into business systems.
- **Governed** — managed through the Power Platform admin center with DLP and managed environments.
- **Maker-friendly** — fast time-to-value for business teams and IT.

Microsoft Foundry

Pro-code · PaaS

- **Full control** — a unified Azure platform to build custom AI apps and agents, code-first.
- **Model choice** — pick from a broad catalog of models (including Azure OpenAI) with fine-tuning and evaluations.
- **Advanced orchestration** — multi-agent workflows via SDKs and a large tool catalog.
- **Enterprise-ready** — built-in tracing, observability, and responsible-AI guardrails.
- **Scales & publishes** — managed runtime; publish agents to Microsoft 365, Teams, or your own apps.

Lean toward Copilot Studio when...

- You want speed and low-code, maker- or business-led delivery.
- The need is a conversational or task agent — citizen self-service, employee help desk, FAQ.
- You're extending Microsoft 365 Copilot, Teams, or SharePoint.
- You want prebuilt connectors into existing business systems.

Lean toward Microsoft Foundry when...

- You need a custom, code-first AI application or agent.
- You want to select or fine-tune specific models for the use case.
- You need advanced orchestration, custom tools, and deep Azure integration.
- Developers or data scientists own the AI logic and lifecycle.

Learn more

[Copilot Studio overview](#) · [What is Microsoft Foundry](#) · [Choose an AI agent build path](#) · [Copilot Studio for US Government](#) · [Microsoft Foundry in Azure Government, when required](#)

Reference only. This high-level guidance reflects product positioning as of **July 13, 2026** and is for general planning. Platform capabilities, feature availability, and government-cloud support vary by tenant, environment (Commercial, GCC, GCC High, DoD), and Azure region, and are subject to change. This is not a statement of suitability for any specific workload or compliance obligation. Confirm the approved cloud boundary for your tenant and workload with your Microsoft account team or a Microsoft Certified Partner; the Microsoft Product Terms and official service documentation control.