Luware
Nimbus

# Logic Apps vs Power Automate

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# What's The Difference? Azure Logic Apps versus Microsoft Power Automate

If you want to use the Microsoft cloud, to create workflows or automate tasks across different services and systems for example, you can use either Microsoft **Power Automate** or **Azure Logic Apps. Both** are cloud-based workflow automation and integration services that provide connectors to hundreds of third-party applications. However, they differ in their pricing models, development environments, and capabilities. This white paper compares the two services in terms of cost, tools, and features to help you decide which one is best for your needs.

## 1 Microsoft Power Automate

Microsoft Power Automate is part of the Microsoft Power Platform. It is designed for business users who need to automate simple and common tasks without the help of developers. For example, a manager who needs to set up an approval process on a SharePoint document library.

The application offers an easy-to-use and mobile-friendly interface, hundreds of connectors to various applications and services, and the ability to create custom logic and actions using expressions and functions. Microsoft Power Automate supports both manual and event-driven triggers. Microsoft Power Automate is licensed on a per-user or per-flow basis.

## 2 Azure Logic Apps

Azure Logic Apps is designed for developers and IT professionals who need to build complex and custom integration systems, where enterprise-level Azure DevOps and security practices are needed. It provides scalability for organizations where workflows become more complex over time.

Azure Logic Apps provides a code-based and developer-friendly environment. It offers hundreds of connectors to various applications and services and supports advanced and customizable triggers, including manual and event-driven triggers. It also offers the ability to create custom logic and actions using expressions and functions. Azure Logic Apps has a variable and usage-based cost per action and connector.

Expand table

| Description | Power Automate | Logic Apps |
|---|---|---|
| Focus | End Users and Makers in Office 365 | IT Pros, Developers, Admins using Office 365 and Azure Services |
| Licensing Model* | Per-User License in Office 365 | Consumption-Based or Fixed Pricing Model via an Azure Subscription |
| Flow Creation | Web-Based Designer, Web and Mobile UI | Visual Studio, JSON Definition and Web-Based Designer |
| Restricting Connectors | Data Loss Prevention | Azure Policy |
| Error Handling | Flow Checker - providing a list of errors within the Flow | Save Failed - highlighting errors |
| Trigger Types | Automated, Instant, Scheduled, UI Flow, Business Process | HTTP (Automated), WebHook, Scheduled, HTTP Call (Manual) |

Figure 1: Graphic summarizing the main differences between Microsoft Power Automate and Azure Logic Apps

# 3 Initiating a Workflow

A major difference between Microsoft Power Automate and Azure Logic Apps is the way events are triggered, i.e. how a workflow is initiated. Azure Logic Apps offers slightly more options and flexibility in this regard. Meanwhile, Microsoft Power Automate offers more simplicity and convenience for end users.

In Microsoft Power Automate, a workflow can be initiated by manual and automatic triggers. For example, you can trigger a workflow in Power Automate by clicking a button in an application, receiving an email, or at a specific time of day. Azure Logic Apps provides more advanced and customizable automatic and manual triggers. In Azure Logic Apps, a flow can be triggered by HTTP requests, subscribing to a webhook, or a custom API connection (as described in this article).

# 4 Pricing

Microsoft Power Automate and Azure Logic Apps have different pricing models. Microsoft Power Automate is billed on a per-user licence basis. In contrast, Azure Logic Apps is billed on a per-use basis, charging only for the actions and connectors executed in each logic app run. As a result, Power Automate is more cost-effective for scenarios that involve frequent and simple flows with few users. Azure Logic Apps are a good option for scenarios that involve complex and infrequent workflows with many connectors.

# 5 Security

The two services have different security models. This is because Microsoft Power Automate and Azure Logic Apps use different integration models. Microsoft Power Automate uses a user-centric security model, where each user needs a licence and access rights to the connectors they use in their flows. Azure Logic Apps has a resource-centric security model, where each logic app is deployed as an Azure resource and inherits the Azure role-based access control (RBAC) policies and encryption keys of its resource group and subscription.

# 6 In Summary

Microsoft Power Automation and Azure Logic Apps are robust tools for workflow automation and integration. Choosing the right one depends on your specific needs. The table below provides a comparison to help you make an informed decision.

| | Power Automate | Logic Apps |
|---|---|---|
| **Users** | Office workers, business users, SharePoint administrators | Pro integrators and developers, IT pros |
| **Scenarios** | Self-service | Advanced integrations |
| **Design tool** | In-browser and mobile app, UI only | In-browser, Visual Studio Code, and Visual Studio with code view available |
| **Application lifecycle management (ALM)** | Power Platform provides tools that integrate with DevOps and GitHub Actions to let you build automated pipelines in the ALM cycle. | Azure DevOps: source control, testing, support, automation, and manageability in Azure Resource Manager |
| **Admin experience** | Manage Power Automate environments and data loss prevention (DLP) policies, track licensing: Admin center | Manage resource groups, connections, access management, and logging: Azure portal |
| **Security** | Microsoft 365 security audit logs, DLP, encryption at rest for sensitive data | Security assurance of Azure: Azure security, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, audit logs |

Figure 2: Table describing the key differences between the Microsoft Power Automate and Azure Logic Apps.

If you see value in both applications, you can use both applications for different needs. Unless there are security issues with using Microsoft Power Automate, you can use the Microsoft Power Automate HTTP Connector to run the Azure Logic Apps HTTP/Webhook. An example shows how a Microsoft Power Automate flow can be triggered from anywhere. In the same fashion, it is possible to build a Microsoft Power Automate flow that receives and responds to a Microsoft Power Automate event and then calls the API of your application.

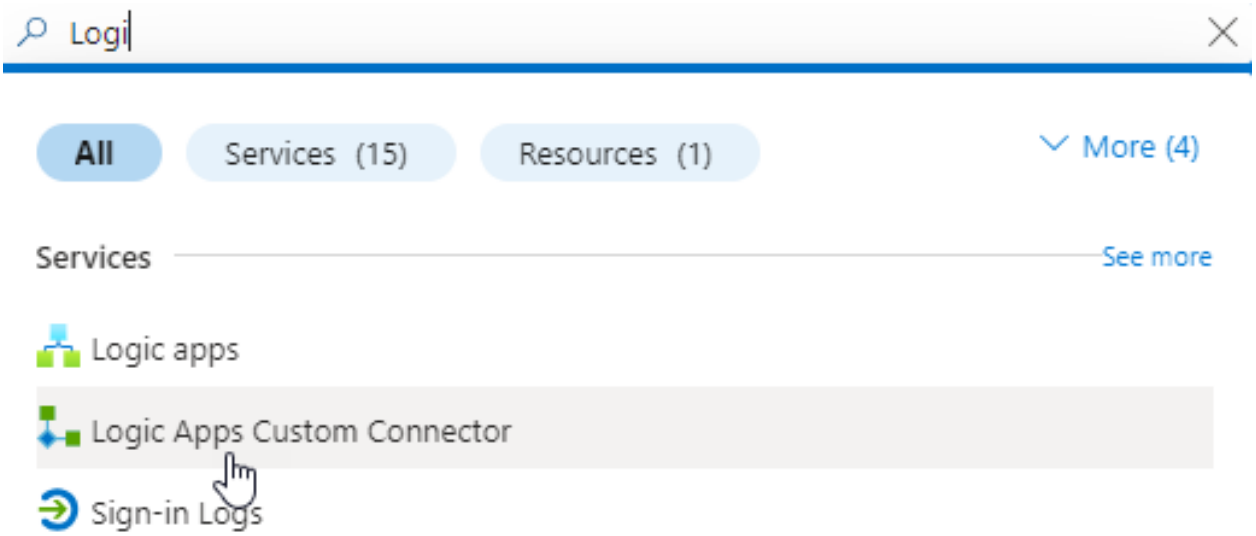
# 7 How To Add a Custom Microsoft Power Automate Connector to Azure Logic Apps

You can use the certified Luware Nimbus Power Automate connector or upload the customer one for the latest version. You don't need to register a customer connector for Luware Nimbus.

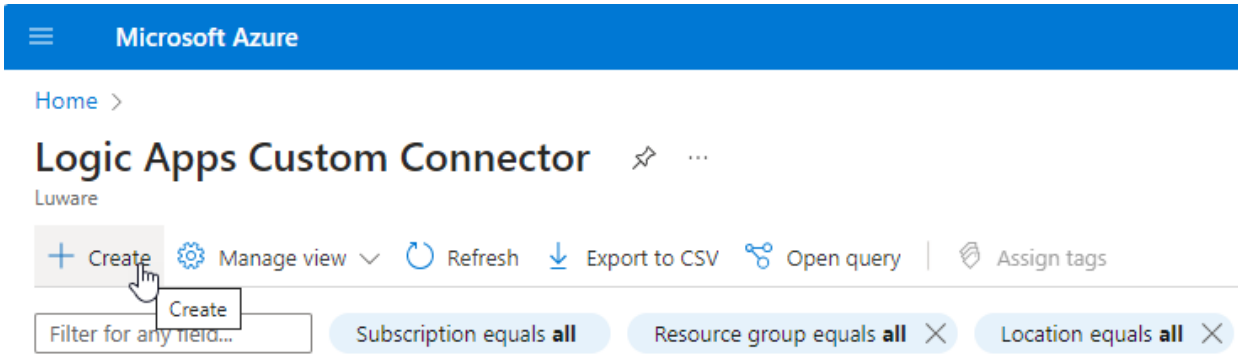
Download the newest custom Microsoft Power Automate Connector from the Admin Portal (see Resources Page). If you require support, you can also get in touch with your Customer Success Specialist, who will be happy to assist you.

Once you have downloaded the Connector, you can set up the custom Luware Nimbus Power Automate Connector by following these steps:

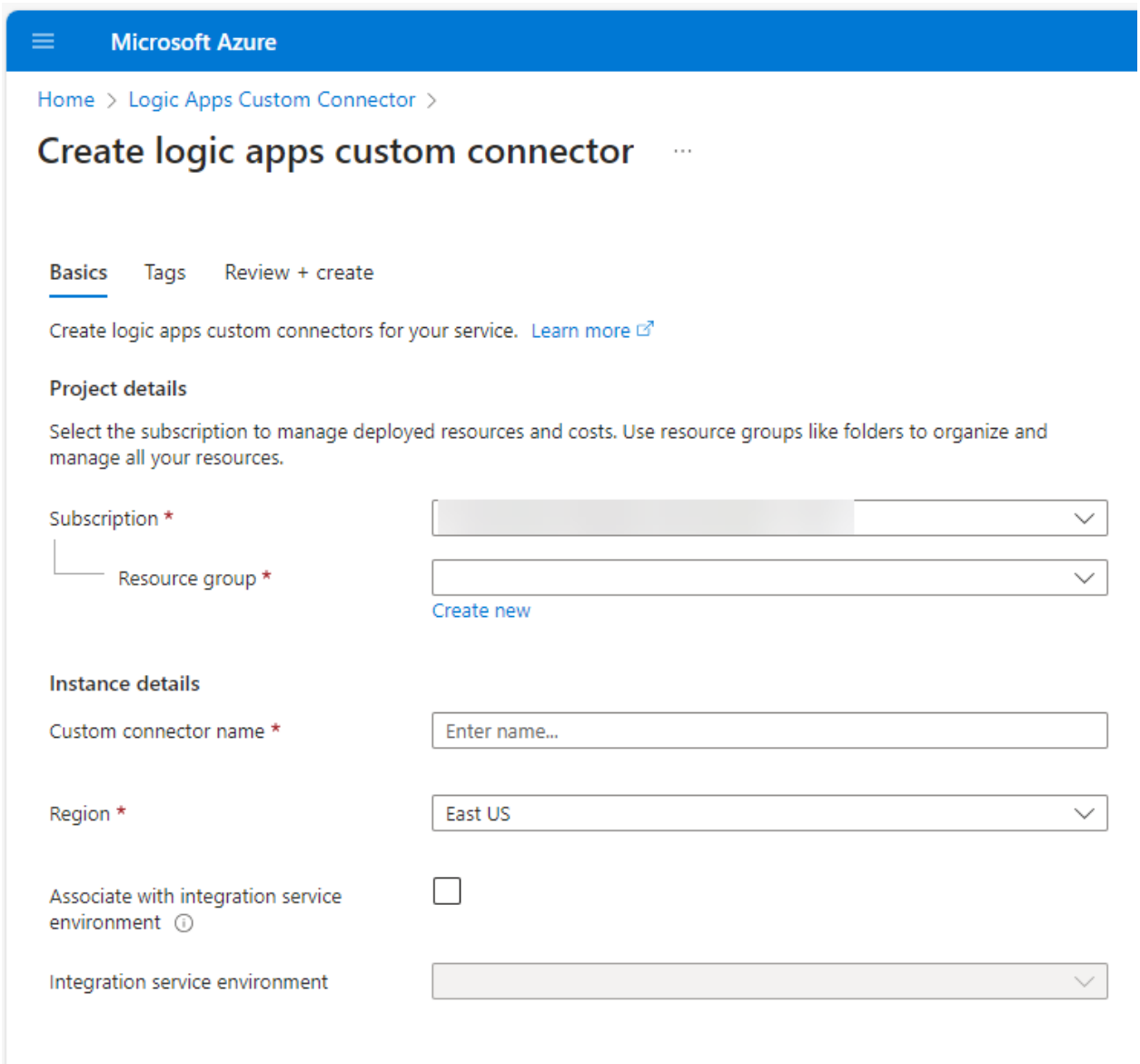
1. Go to the Azure Portal https://portal.azure.com/
2. Register a new application in Entra ID (you can skip this step if you have already done this for the Luware Nimbus Power Automate Connector)
3. Search for “Logic Apps Custom Connector”



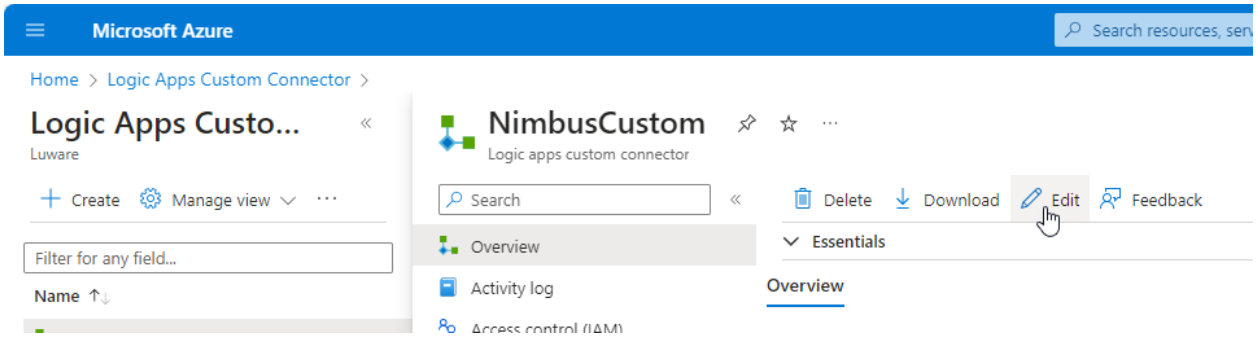

4. On the Logic App's Custom Connector page, click on “Create”



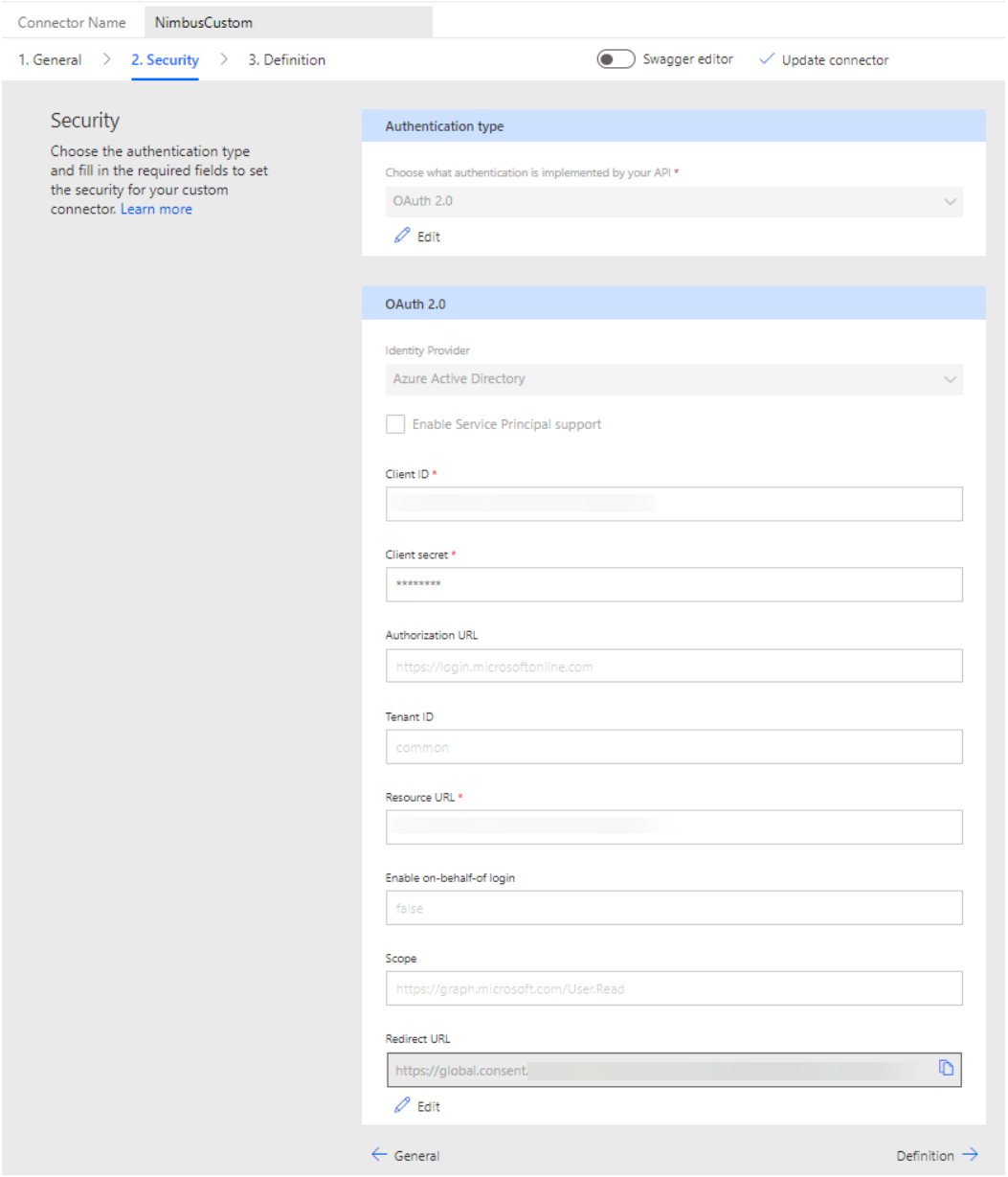

5. Select your Subscription, Resource Group, Custom Connector Name and Region




6. Click on Review + Create
7. On The Logic Apps “Custom Connector” page, select the Custom Connector you have just created

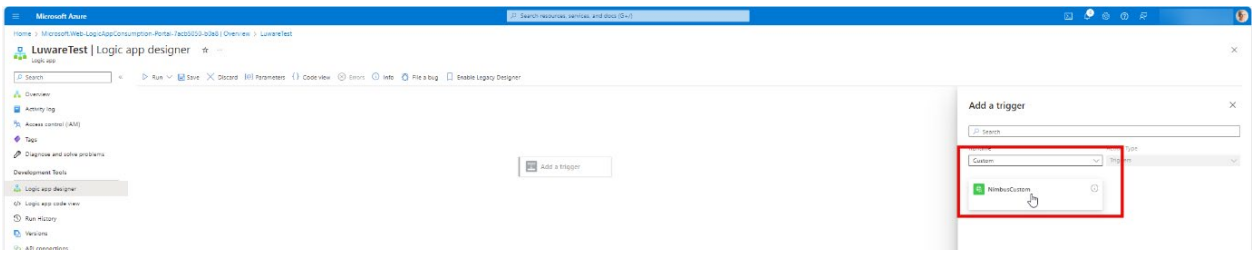



8. Upload the Luware Nimbus custom Power Automate Connector from the JSON file
9. On the next page, select
10. “OAuth 2.0” as “Authentication” which is implemented by the API
11. Select “Azure Active Directory” as “Identity Provider”
12. Input the information about the application you have already created (Client ID, Client Secret)
13. Use the Client ID as value for “Resource URL”




Create and copy the redirect URL in the Redirect URLs section of your Azure Entra ID Application registration

14. Once the Connector is updated, you can use it via the Azure Logic Apps (as a custom Connector)



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