TOPNOTCH TECHNOLOGY · BUILD-OPTION CHECKLIST

PowerApps, Power Pages or custom Azure?

Score your app or portal in five minutes and see which Microsoft build fits before you spend on licences or development.

How to use it: for each question, tick the one answer closest to your project. Then count the ticks in each column.

QUESTION	A	B	C
USERS			
1. Who signs in?	☐ Our own staff only	☐ Staff plus a limited number of external users	☐ Many customers, partners or agencies
2. How many users in two years? Plan for the number you expect, not launch day	☐ Under 100	☐ 100 to 1,000	☐ More than 1,000
DATA			
3. How many organisations use it?	☐ Just ours	☐ A handful	☐ Dozens, and growing
4. How separate must each one's data be?	☐ Shared lists are fine	☐ Role-based access is enough	☐ A hard boundary per organisation
ACCESS			
5. Where do people work?	☐ At a desk, always online	☐ On a phone browser, usually online	☐ In the field, often offline
6. How do new users join?	☐ We add them ourselves	☐ We invite external users	☐ Self-service sign-up, with billing
COMPLIANCE			
7. What security and audit do you need?	☐ Standard Microsoft 365 controls	☐ Audit logs, MFA and security roles	☐ Own hosting region, retention rules, full audit trail
8. Languages and regions?	☐ One language, one country	☐ Two languages, e.g. English and Arabic	☐ Several languages or regions
BUDGET AND TIMELINE			
9. When do you need a first version?	☐ Within 2 to 3 months	☐ In 4 to 5 months	☐ Around 6 months is fine
10. How would you rather pay?	☐ Use licences we already have	☐ A monthly fee per user	☐ Higher build cost, low cost per extra user
Your ticks	**A:** _____	**B:** _____	**C:** _____

Mostly A: PowerApps on SharePoint

Fastest and lowest cost, inside your Microsoft 365 tenant. Ideal for internal teams or a short pilot. 8 to 10 weeks.

Mostly B: Power Pages on Dataverse

A branded portal with a real database and security roles. Best for a limited number of external users. 4 to 5 months.

Mostly C: Custom app on Azure

Cost follows infrastructure, not headcount. Strongest data separation and offline mobile. About 6 months.

A mix of A and C? You may not have to choose. Run a short PowerApps pilot to put a working tool in front of users within weeks, while the Azure build progresses on the same data structure. And if you ticked C on question 2 or 4, plan for Azure even if most of your other answers are A or B.

Not sure where you land?
Tell us about your app or portal and we'll recommend the build that fits.

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