



presents

# **Building a Successful Request Management System in SharePoint and Office 365**



# Scott Restivo

President & CEO

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[crowcanyon.com](http://crowcanyon.com)

## Helping businesses succeed with Office 365 & SharePoint!



**BUSINESS  
APPLICATIONS**



**NITRO  
STUDIO™**



**CUSTOM  
SOLUTIONS**



## **BUSINESS APPLICATIONS**

- IT Help Desk
- Asset Management
- Customer Service
- Facilities Requests
- Equipment Tracking
- HR Requests
- Security Access Requests
- Onboarding
- Contract Renewals
- Document Management
- Marketing
- Purchasing Requests



## **Application Creation Platform for SharePoint & Office 365**

- Suite of enhancements to SharePoint and Office 365.
- Quick development of flexible, easily deployed applications.
- Build simple or complex applications that meet specific needs.



## **WEBINARS**

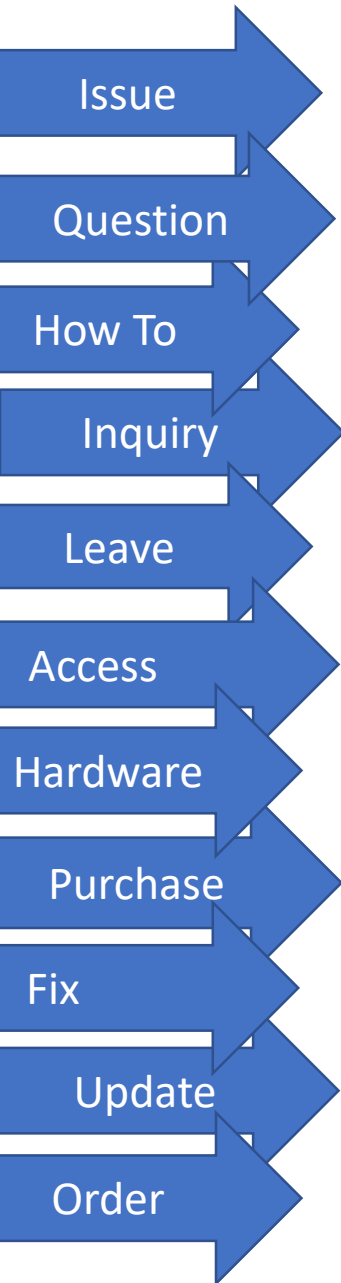
### **NITRO Forms and the Power Portal**

Wed. May 30, 11 am PDT / 2 pm EDT

### **NITRO Workflows and Custom Actions**

Thurs. May 31, 11 am PDT / 2 pm EDT

**<https://www.crowcanyon.com/webinars>**



## Request Management using SharePoint & Office 365

- **IT**
  - Trouble Tickets, Hardware Requests, Change Requests
  - Asset Maintenance, Inventory Tracking, Access requests
- **Facilities**
  - Fixes, Moves, Equipment management
- **Contract/Document Management**
  - Creation, Updates, Renewals
- **Human Resources**
  - Onboarding, Leave Requests, Benefit updates, Travel requests
- **Purchasing**
  - Requesting, ordering, receiving, deploying

... and on and on and on!

# Type of Request

- Technical Issue, Bug, Problem, Complaint
  - Needs immediate attention
- Information Request, How-to Question
  - Automation with KB, FAQs, Canned Responses
- Forms-based, Process-driven
  - Set of required information, resolved by pre-determined process



# Who is submitting request?

## INTERNAL

- Employee
- Staff
- Manager

## EXTERNAL

- Customer
- Client
- Member
- Student
- Partner



# How is request submitted?



Phone



Email



Web Form



SharePoint



Portal

# When is Request needed?

- Response Due
- Due Date
- Completion Date
- Priority
- Importance
- SLAs

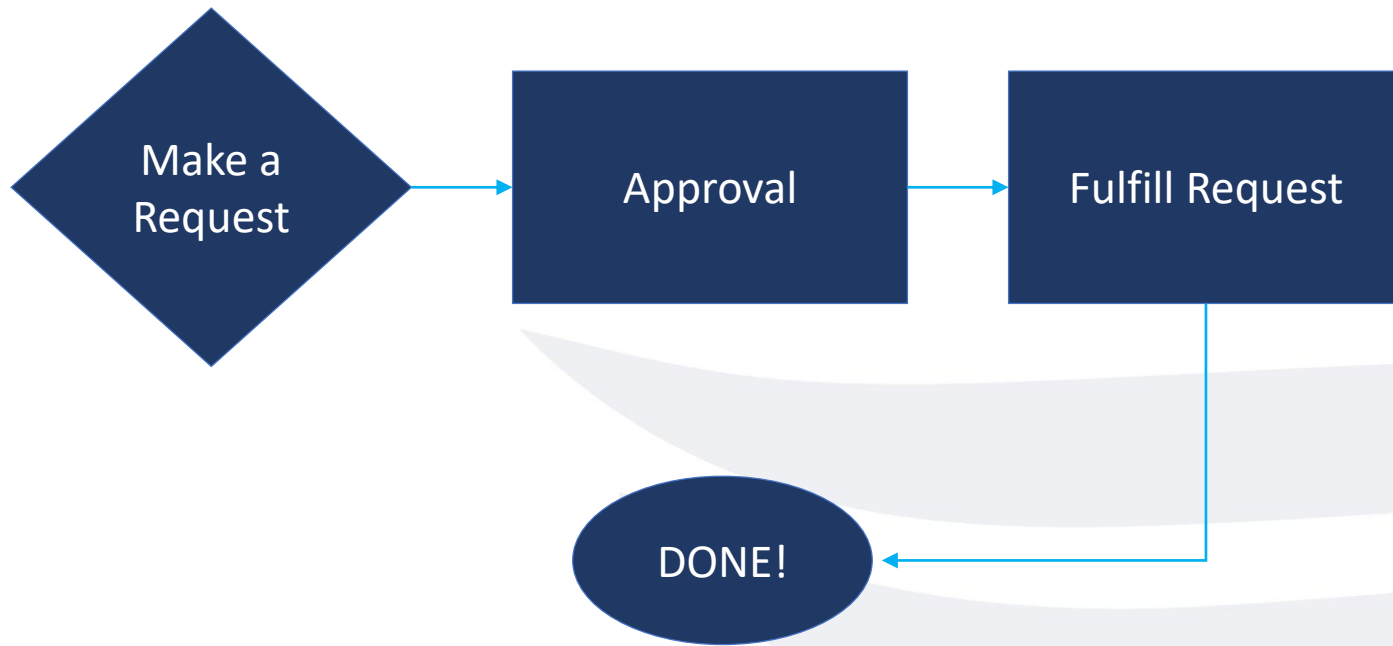


# Categorization of Request

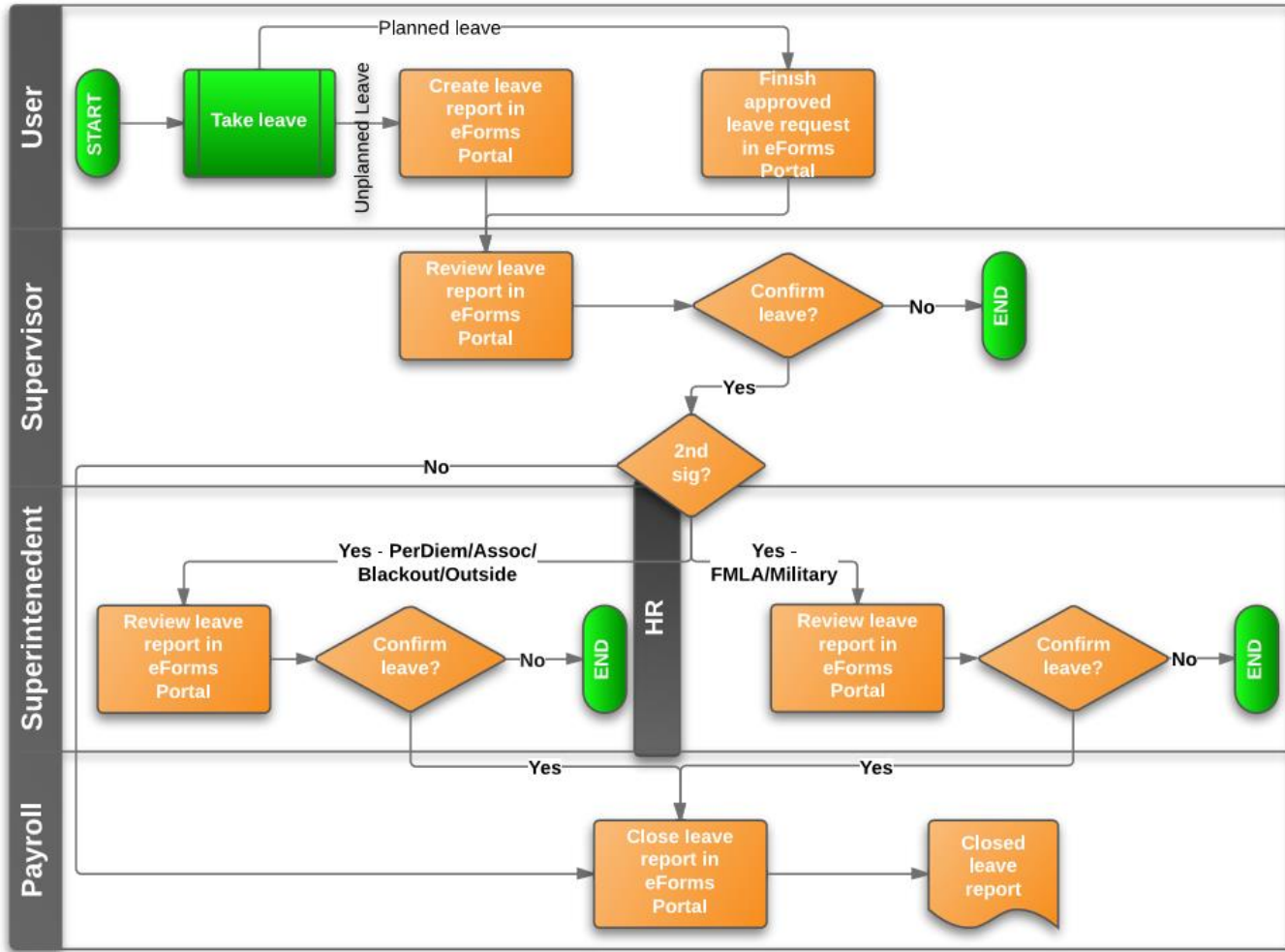
- By Issue: one, two, or three levels
  - Category, Type, Issue
- By Department
- By Location
- By Product
- By any other useful criteria!

- Type of Request
- Who is submitting Request?
- How is it submitted?
- When is it needed?
- Categorization of Request

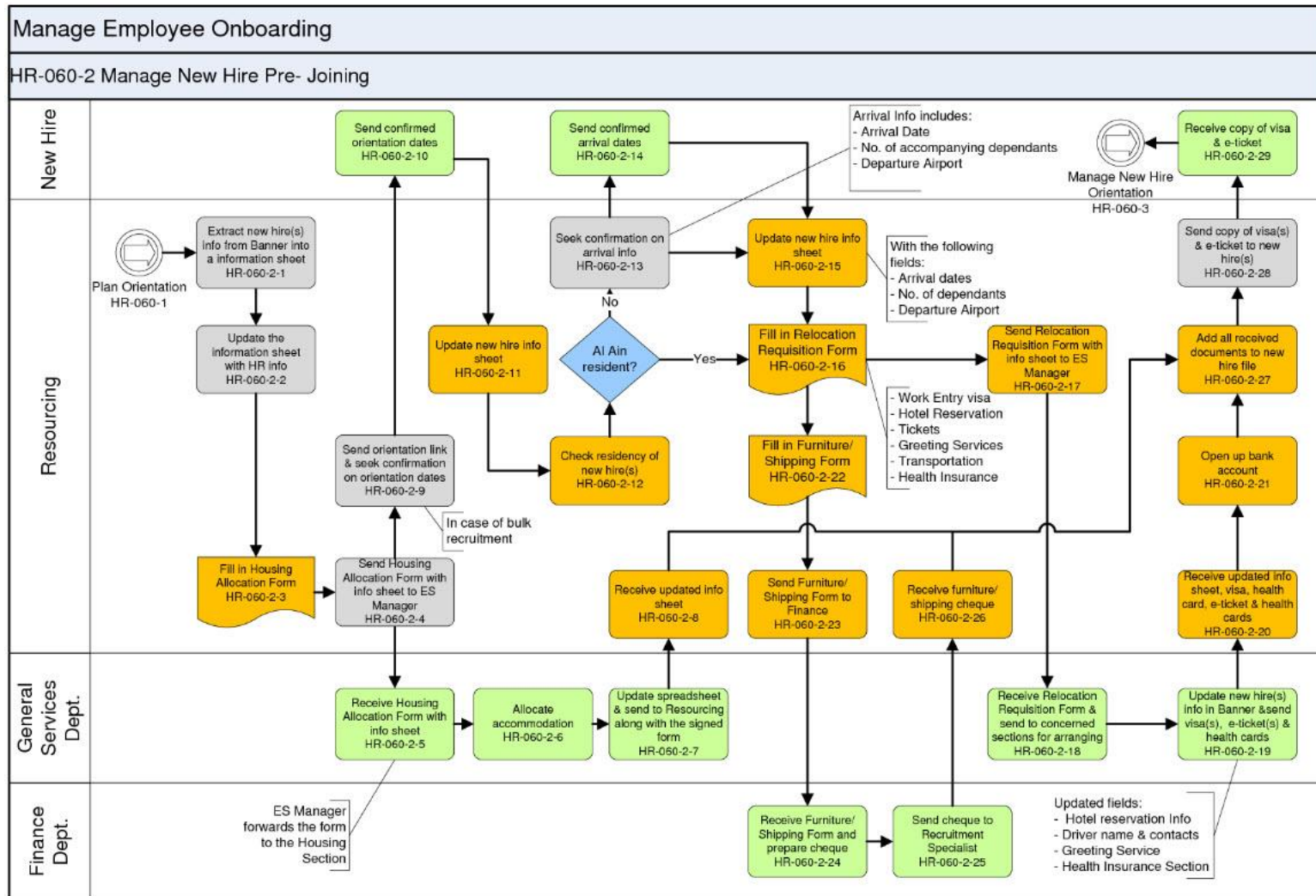
# Request Management—simple workflow



# Common workflow – Leave Request



# More Complex Workflow - Onboarding





# Some ways (other than SharePoint) to manage requests



## EMAIL/SPREADSHEETS

- Limited collaboration
- No tracking & reporting
- Lack of accountability
- Limited access & scalability



## LEGACY SYSTEMS

- Outdated technology
- Discontinued support



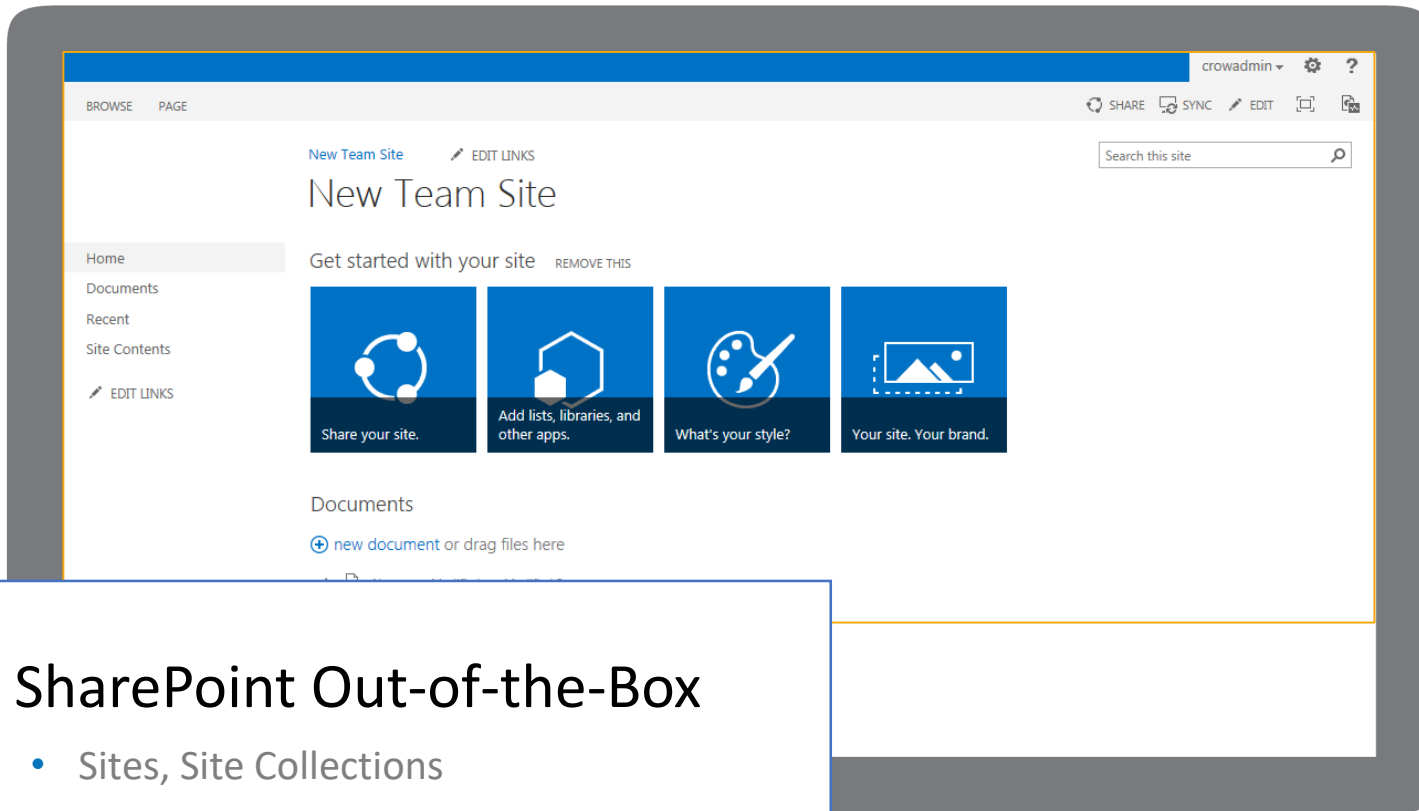
## PAPER FORMS

- Manual processing
- Non-searchable
- Hard to revise



## ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE

- Expensive
- Feature overkill
- Lack of customization



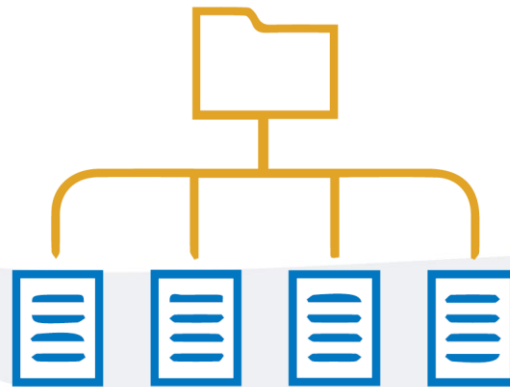
## SharePoint Out-of-the-Box

- Sites, Site Collections
- Lists & Libraries
- Permissions
- Views/Filters on lists
- Columns
- Integration with AD

# But SharePoint Needs More

What about:

- Forms?
- Workflows?
- Custom columns?
- Email sync?
- Reporting?
- Database integration?



# Custom Development using outside firm

- Means hiring company skilled in development and project management
- Usually involves RFP's, vendor selection, contract negotiation.
- Appropriate for specialized projects

## Concerns/Issues

- Finding reliable, known firm
- Keeping costs under control
- Keeping project on track
- Change management



## Third-Party Applications

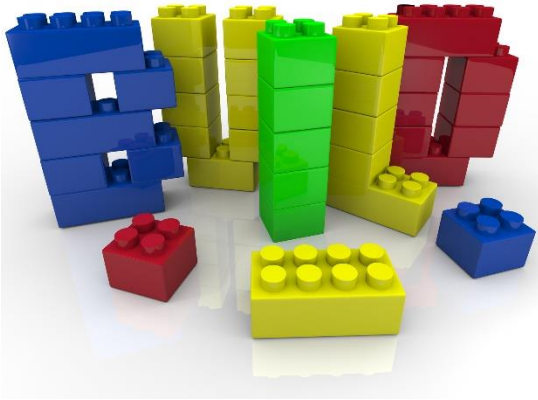
- Fully supported
- Regular upgrades
- QA / Tested
- Quick to implement
- “Battle-hardened” – mature, in use at multiple locations
- Configurable without coding using utilities built into the application



## Concerns/Issues

- Reliable, known vendor?
- Reasonable support/maintenance fees?
- Is there a suitable application out there?
- Time and effort of trials and selection

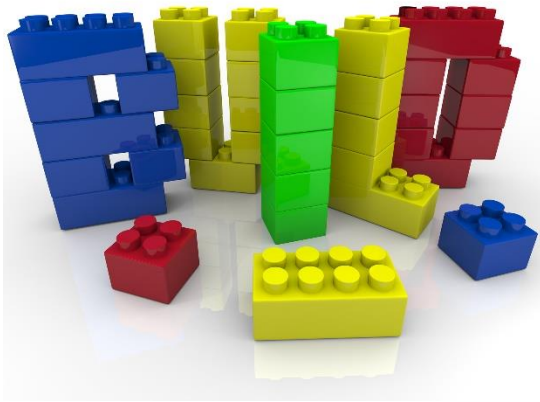
# Build-Your-Own using components/platforms



## SharePoint/Office 365 native tools

- Standard lists and libraries
- SharePoint Workflows
- SharePoint Designer
- Visual Studio
- InfoPath Forms
- Microsoft Flow/Power Apps

# Build-Your-Own using components/platforms



- Apps & Web Parts
  - available in Office Store and from vendors
- Platforms (Nintex, K2, NITRO Studio)

# Build-Your-Own using components/platforms

- SharePoint/Office 365 native capabilities
  - Standard lists and libraries
  - SharePoint Workflows
  - SharePoint Designer
  - Visual Studio
  - InfoPath Forms
  - Microsoft Flow/Power Apps
- Apps & Web Parts (available in Office Store and from vendors)
- Platforms (Nintex, K2, NITRO Studio)



## Concerns/Issues

- Need to know the tools and how to use them
- More important: need to know how to design and build an application.
- Costs in time and fees
- Often requires hiring a consultant or developer
- Support is an issue when that person or group moves on



# Three Pillars of Application Design

Crow Canyon's Approach



# Three Pillars of Application Design



UI/UX

*Engage & Empower  
Users*



Workflow & Business  
Processes

*Streamline & Automate  
Processes*



Reporting

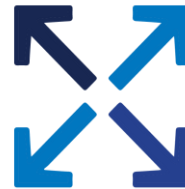
*Drive Continuous  
Improvement*

# Why is UI/UX important?



**DRIVE USER  
ADOPTION and  
ENGAGE USERS**

- Ease-of-use
- Simplicity
- Information at your fingertips
- Attractive visual elements



**POWER UP USER ADOPTION WITH:**

- Dynamic Forms
- Custom Columns
- Application Portals
- Configurable Workspaces
- Dashboards
- Branding
- Responsive Design

# UI drives Workflows and Reporting

Type of Request? Who is submitting it? How is it submitted? When is it needed? Categorization of Request?

Crucial to:

- Assign and route request
- Set priority and due date
- Determine if approvals are needed
- Set up sub-tasks, if needed
- Reporting

# Email

The screenshot shows an Outlook window titled "Printer needs Toner - Message (HTML)". The ribbon includes "File", "Message", "Insert", "Options", "Format Text", and "Review". The "Message" tab is active, showing options for "Paste", "Clipboard", "Basic Text", "Names", "Attach File", "Attach Item", "Signature", "Assign Policy", "Tags", "Office Add-ins", and "Customer Manager".

The email header shows:

- From:** scott.restivo@crowcanyon.com
- To:** **Support** (with a "Support" button icon)
- Cc:**
- Bcc:**
- Subject:** Printer needs Toner
- Attached:** TonerSpecs.txt (4 bytes)

The main body of the email contains the text: "The Printer in Room 203 is low on toner. Please replace the cartridge." Below the text is an image of a black HP printer. At the bottom, there is a signature block for Scott Restivo, Crow Canyon Software, with the phone number 707-746-5272 and the website [www.crowcanyon.com](http://www.crowcanyon.com).

## SharePoint Support Tickets

Please check our [Online Knowledge Base](#) before sending in a ticket.  
Thank you!

Name \*

Company \*

Phone \*

Email \*

Issue, Problem, Question \*

SUBMIT

Support Ticket

[Submit Ticket](#)

Email Support

[support@crowcanyon.com](mailto:support@crowcanyon.com)


Call Support


925 - 478- 3110

# SharePoint Form

## Tasks

Task Name \*

Start Date  

Due Date  

Assigned To

% Complete   %

Description

Predecessors

Priority

Task Status

# Tabbed SharePoint List Form

Tickets - Change Toner in Printers

VIEW

Edit Item Manage

Version History Shared With Delete Item

New Change Request Actions Create Problem

Log Time Search Problem Print

Email Assign Search Request Actions

Assign to someone else Self Assign Mark Resolved

Alert Me Workflows

Employee Staff Knowledge Base Time Tracking Related Items Work Log

Case Id	115
Reason for Request	1st Issue
Title	Change Toner in Printers
Incident Type	Technical Support
Category	Printing
Issue Type	Toner Low
Additional Information	
Description	
Requester	<input type="checkbox"/> System Account
Requester Email	
Requester Phone	
Requester Department	
Additional Contact	
Notify Additional Contact	
Approver	
Approval Status	Not Required
Queue	

Content Type: Item  
Version: 1.0  
Created at 9/26/2016 12:00 AM by  System Account  
Last modified at 9/26/2016 12:00 AM by  System Account

Close



# Tabbed SharePoint List Form

- Tabs / Sections
- Dynamic
- Tab permissions
- Column permissions
- Mandatory fields
- Field validation
- Custom fields
- Related Items
- Database Integration

Tickets - Change Toner in Printers

VIEW

Edit Item Manage

Version History Shared With Delete Item

New Change Request Actions Create Problem

Log Time Search Problem Print

Email Assign Assign Self Assign Search Request Mark Resolved

Alert Me Workflows

Employee Staff Knowledge Base Time Tracking Related Items Work Log

Case Id	115
Reason for Request	1st Issue
Title	Change Toner in Printers
Incident Type	Technical Support
Category	Printing
Issue Type	Toner Low
Additional Information	
Description	
Requester	<input type="checkbox"/> System Account
Requester Email	
Requester Phone	
Requester Department	
Additional Contact	
Notify Additional Contact	
Approver	
Approval Status	Not Required
Queue	

Content Type: Item  
Version: 1.0  
Created at 9/26/2016 12:00 AM by  System Account  
Last modified at 9/26/2016 12:00 AM by  System Account

Close

# Custom Form using Forms Designer tool

## Employee ↑

**Title\***   
Please enter title for the item

**Case Id**

**Category**  
Select Category... ▼

**Requester\***  
Admin Account x

**Issue Type**  
Select Issue Type... ▼ 🔍

**Requester Email**  
crowcanyon@crowcanyon365.com

**Category Owner**  
Enter a name or email address...












**Requester Phone**  
707 746-5272






**Additional Contact**  
Enter names or email addresses...


**Requester Department**  
Marketing

**Description**

(inherited font) ▼ (inherited size) ▼

**B** *I* U abc           

**A** ▼  ▼     **Format** ▼



**Additional Information**

# Good Forms



- Are Interactive
- Are Dynamic (show/hide fields)
- Validate inputs / Have required fields
- Pull information from other data sources
- Initiate workflows & business processes

# Custom Columns

- Cascaded Lookup
- Cross-site Lookup
- Color Choice
- Associated Items
- Discussion Column
- User Profile Info (AD)
- Database Connections

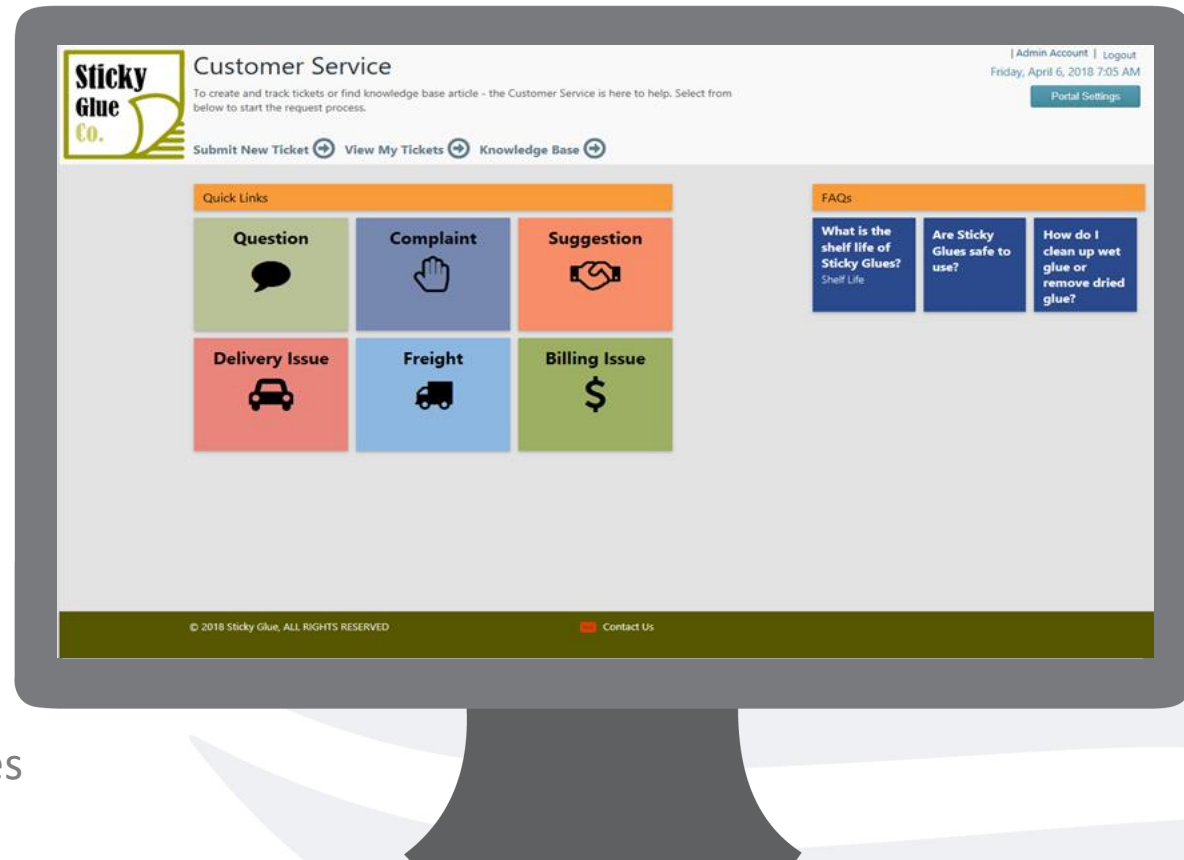
Column name:

The type of information in this column is:

- Single line of text
- Multiple lines of text
- Choice (menu to choose from)
- Number (1, 1.0, 100)
- Currency (\$, ¥, €)
- Date and Time
- Lookup (information already on this site)
- Yes/No (check box)
- Person or Group
- Hyperlink or Picture
- Calculated (calculation based on other columns)
- External Data
- Task Outcome
- Crow Canyon Cascaded Lookup
- Crow Canyon Discussion
- Crow Canyon Associated Items
- Crow Canyon Associated Items Summary
- Crow Canyon Color Choice

# Portals

- Submit or view requests
- Search FAQs
- Configurable
- Secure
- One or more sites
- For Customers or Employees
- Can drive self-service





# Customer Service

To create and track tickets or find knowledge base article - the Customer Service is here to help. Select from below to start the request process.

| [Admin Account](#) | [Logout](#)

Friday, April 6, 2018 7:05 AM

[Portal Settings](#)

[Submit New Ticket](#) [View My Tickets](#) [Knowledge Base](#)

### Quick Links

<b>Question</b> 	<b>Complaint</b> 	<b>Suggestion</b> 
<b>Delivery Issue</b> 	<b>Freight</b> 	<b>Billing Issue</b> 

### FAQs

<b>What is the shelf life of Sticky Glues?</b> Shelf Life	<b>Are Sticky Glues safe to use?</b>	<b>How do I clean up wet glue or remove dried glue?</b>
--	--------------------------------------	---

# Mobile / Responsive Design



- Growing use of mobile devices
- Flexible, anywhere access to data

# Three Pillars of Application Design



UI/UX



Workflow & Business  
Processes

*Streamline & Automate  
Processes*



Reporting



# Workflows, Workflows, Workflows

- Request Creation
  - Auto-reply, Auto-assign, Notify staff, Create Sub-tasks, Approvals
- Request Progression
  - Re-assign, Escalate, Update, Logging
  - Sub-tasks, Linked Items, Email History, Time Tracking
- Request Completion
  - Ask user to verify, Surveys

# Workflow functions

- Routing
- Approvals
- Alerts/Notifications
- Service Level Agreements
- Auto Assignment/Escalation
- Recurring Items - Tickets/Tasks
- Sub-tasks & linked Items
- Printing of lists or items
- Email synchronization
- Database integration

# What triggers a workflow?

- Item created
- Item modified
- Item deleted
- Date/Time field on Item
- Absolute time
- Manual kickoff  
(button on form or ribbon)
- Other actions can trigger workflow

## Could also be based on meeting certain conditions

Field(s) equals/not equals/contains/is greater or less than/begins with/etc.

Multiple Conditions may apply

What actions take place?  
In what order?  
Are they dependent on each other?

- Create Item
- Delete Item
- Update Item
- Send Email
- Print Item
- Run Web services
- Run Stored Procedures
- Update database
- Run another workflow

# For example:

When an Item is created:

If the Priority is “High” and the Category is “Network”:

Notify Director

Set Due Date to 4 hours

Assign to Team One

**TRIGGER:** When an Item is created:

**CONDITIONS:** If the Priority is “High” and the Category is “Network”:

**ACTIONS:**

Notify Director [Send Email action]

Set Due Date to 4 hours [Update Item action]

Assign to Team One [Update Item action]

-- Notify Team One [Another workflow kicked off by this action]

# Mapping out the process

**Important to understand the process and have it mapped out– before building the workflow.**



What business need(s) are you trying to solve?

What is the current work process -- highlights, pain points, bottlenecks?

- What key steps in the current process can be automated using SharePoint.
- What key pain points and bottlenecks can the SharePoint solution overcome?
- What “soul-crushing” work can be eliminated or automated?
- As a rough estimate, how much time can be shaved off the existing work process? This will help determine a return on investment (ROI).

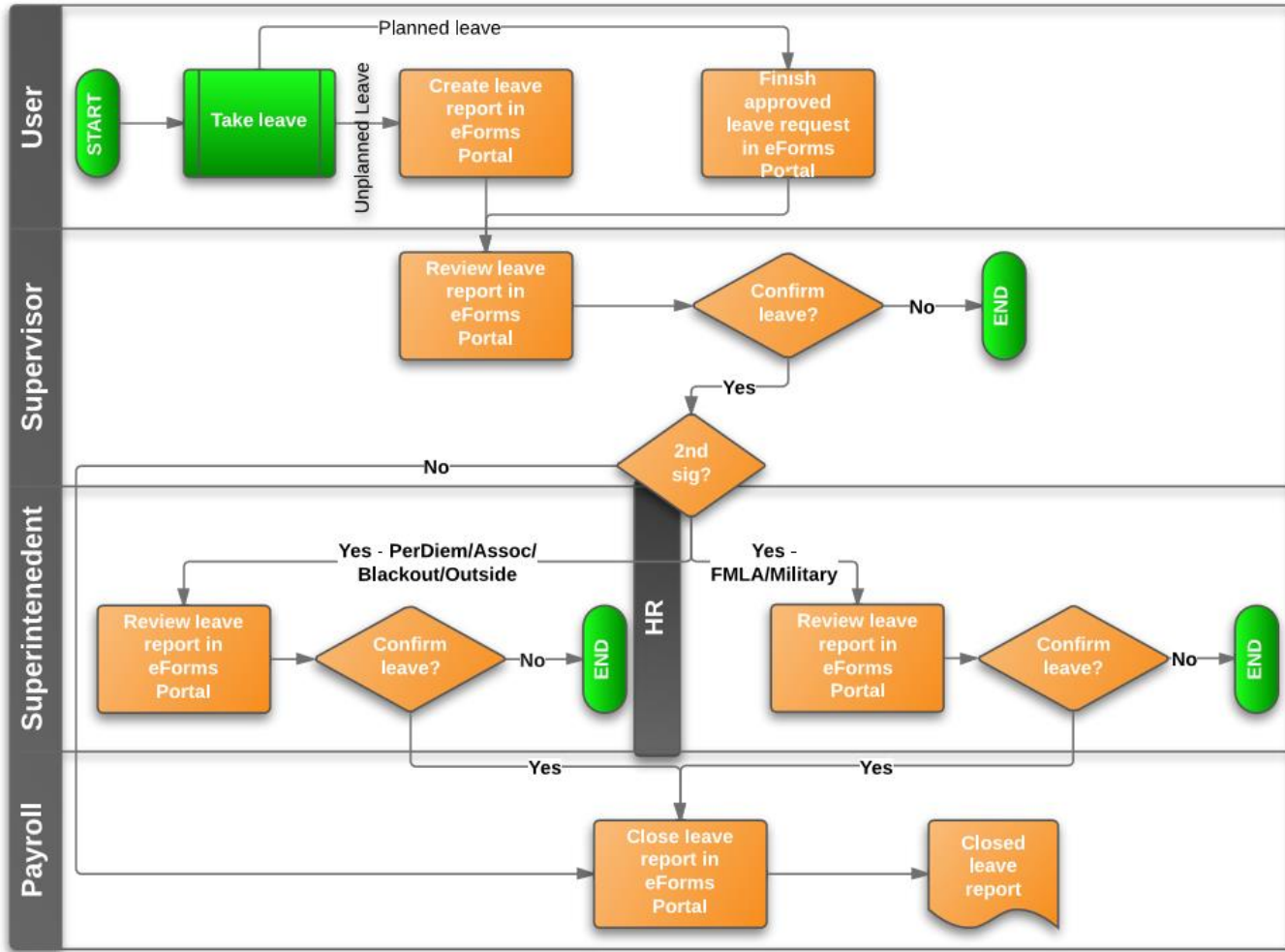
What would users/business owners like to see happen? Ideally, how should things work?

What improvements can SharePoint workflows/automation bring?

# Mapping out the process - *diagrams/presentations*

- Pen and paper
- Word or Excel
- Whiteboard for simple presentations
  
- **Mockups in the tools themselves**
  - Create some proof-of-concepts
  
- **Wireframes - for more elaborate workflows and for executive sign-off**
  - Microsoft Visio
  - Microsoft PowerPoint
  - Balsamiq (<http://www.balsamiq.com/>)
  - Many other workflow design tools

# Common workflow – Leave Request







## Configured Workflows

Show Workflows for Site:

[+ New Workflow](#)

Workflow Name	List Name	Event Type	Actions
Send mails/item creation	Send Mails	Item Added	
Send Mails/Item updated	Send Mails	Item Updated	
Process missed send mails list items	Send Mails	Timer Based	
Delete old send mails list items	Send Mails	Timer Based	
Update Ticket	Tickets	Item Added	
Notify Account Rep	Tickets	Item Added	

Page 1 of 1  items per page 1 - 6 of 6 items

# Three Pillars of Application Design



UI/UX



Workflow & Business  
Processes



Reporting

*Drive Continuous  
Improvement*

# Why are Reporting & Analytics important?

## Key business questions:

- Are we meeting our service level goals?
- Is the staff performing optimally?
- What are the most common issues?
- What is blocking better performance?
- How can we improve?

## Tools that help answer these questions:

- Report Center
- Dashboards
- Tiles & Dials
- Data Integrations (Excel, SSRS)
- Power BI

# Reporting & Analytics: *Continuous Cycle of Improvement*



Find root causes and fix them:

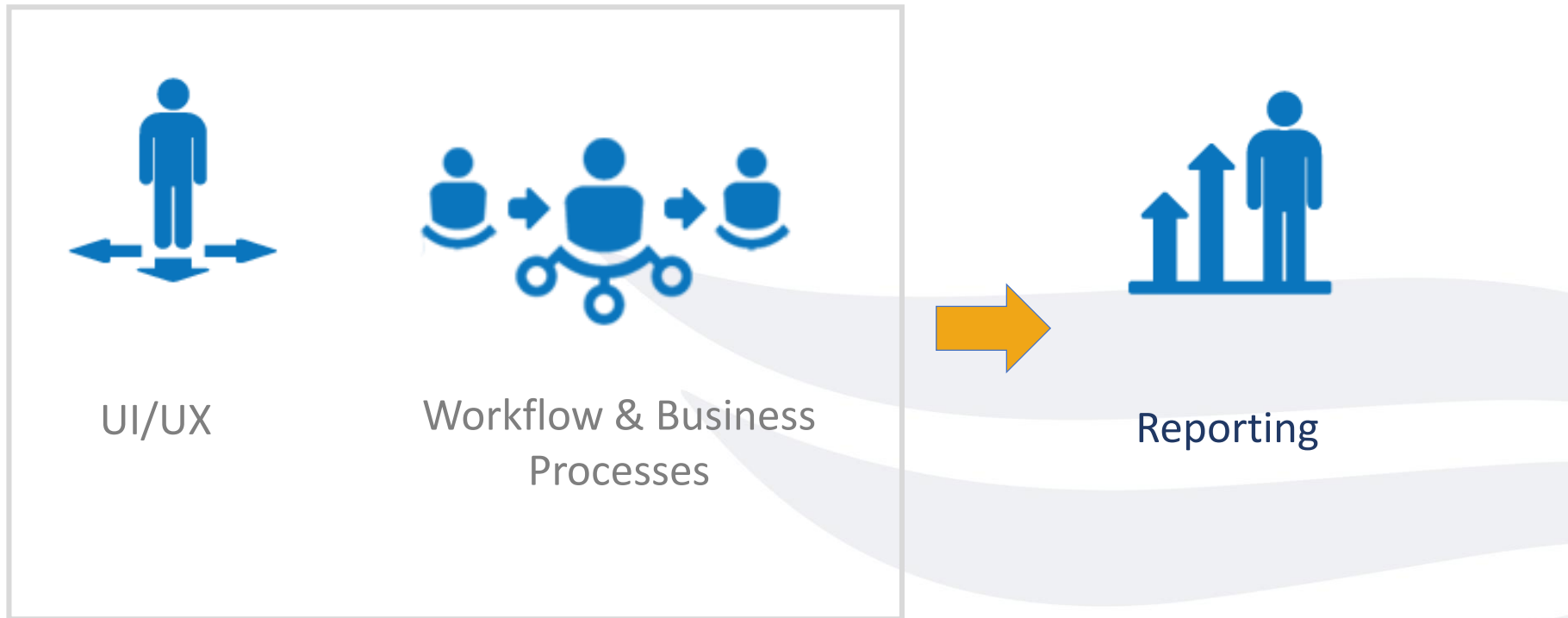
- Hardware
- Software
- Procedures
- People

Good Data = Good Reports



Good Reports = Good Decisions

# Three Pillars of Application Design



# Where does the data come from?

- Forms users or customers fill in
- Outside sources -- Active Directory, databases
- System events -- Time created, modified
- Worker-initiated events – reassign, escalate, closed
- Worker input – change fields, add to Log
- Surveys of users

*Be sure to gather the data points you need for reporting.*

# Classic Questions:

*who, what, when, where, how*

The tools we describe later can generate many, many types of reports. But these questions need to be asked first:

- WHO should be able to view them?
- WHAT reports do you need?
- WHEN are the reports needed?
- WHERE should they be viewed?
- HOW should they be displayed?



# TYPES OF REPORTS

- Immediate, real-time views
  - Dashboards
  - List Views
  - Configurable workspaces
- Historical views, trends
  - Charts – pie, line, bar, column, etc.
  - Tables
  - Graphs
  - Comparison

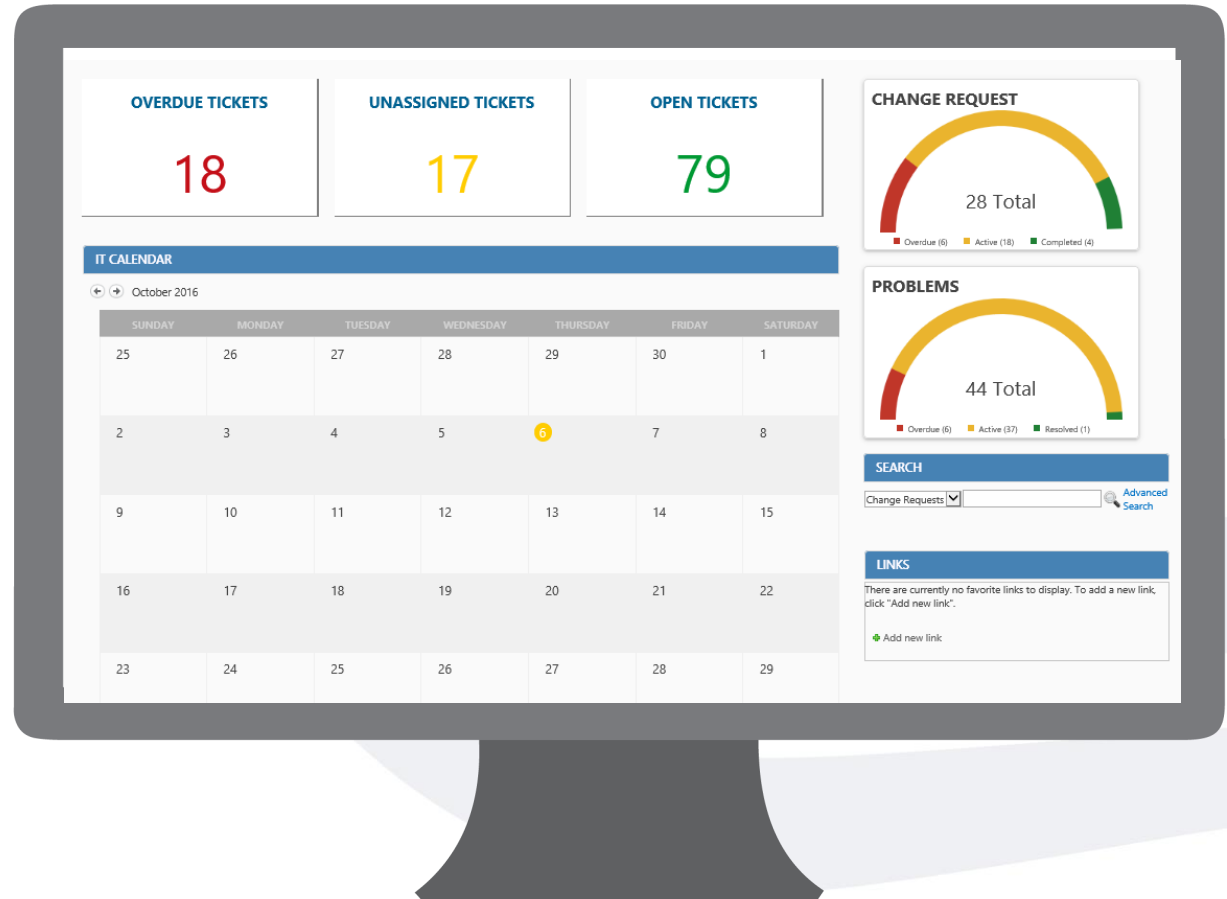
Service Desk Staff

Managers

# Dashboards

Current information  
shown graphically

- Visual displays
- Counters
- Gauges
- Meters
- Drill-down



# List Views

Features of SharePoint lists

- Filtering
- Grouping
- Sorting
- Choice of Views

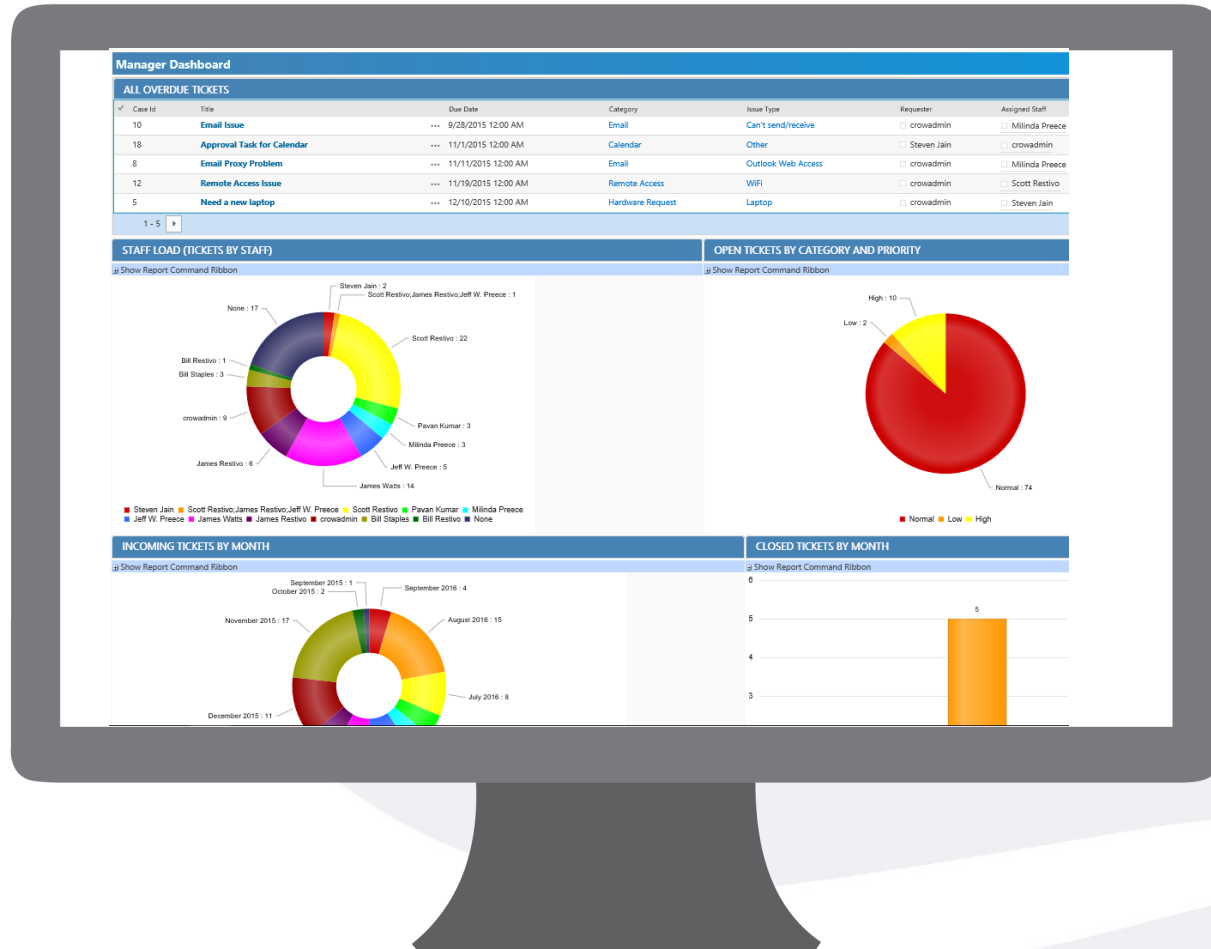
Enhancement of lists

- Highlighting
- Color Indicators
- Bolding

✓	📎	Case Id	Title	Request Status	Assigned Staff	Due Date	Priority
		113	<b>Software Update</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff W. Preece		Normal
		112	<b>Change Toner in Printers</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Restivo		Normal
		111	<b>Password problem</b>	... In Progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff W. Preece		High
		110	<b>Change Toner in Printers</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Restivo		Normal
	📎	106	<b>Can't connect to printer</b>	... Not Started			Normal
		105	<b>Can't use address book in emails</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> James Restivo		Normal
		104	<b>Change Toner in Printers</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Restivo		Normal
		103	<b>Laptop issue</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> James Restivo		Normal
	📎	102	<b>I can't connect to the network. Please help me.</b>	... Not Started			Normal
	📎	101	<b>Do you know who I am?!?!?!? Fix this NOW</b>	... Not Started			Normal
		100	<b>I Need Printer Ink</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> James Watts		Normal
		99	<b>Keyboard not working</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> James Watts	12/30/2016 12:00 AM	Normal
		98	<b>I need a laptop now!</b>	... In Progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Restivo <input type="checkbox"/> James Restivo <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff W. Preece	8/26/2016 2:33 PM	High
		96	<b>Change Toner in Printers</b>	... In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Restivo		Normal

# Configurable Workspaces

- Role-based
- Easy to configure
- Many web parts available
- Visual displays
- Pertinent information is readily available



Manage Reports

## Reports

Tasks by Status

My Open Tickets by Category/Priority

Incoming Tickets by Month

Assets by Vendor

**Assets by Department**

Assets by Status

Open Tickets by Staff

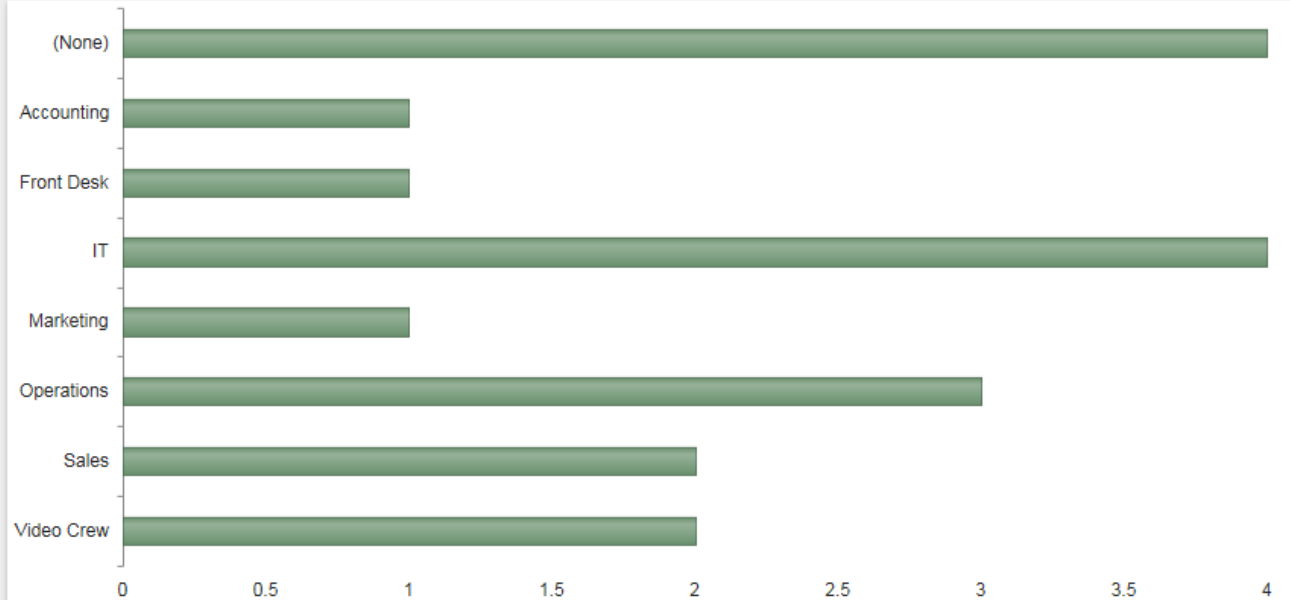
My Closed Tickets by Month

Tickets by Staff by Month

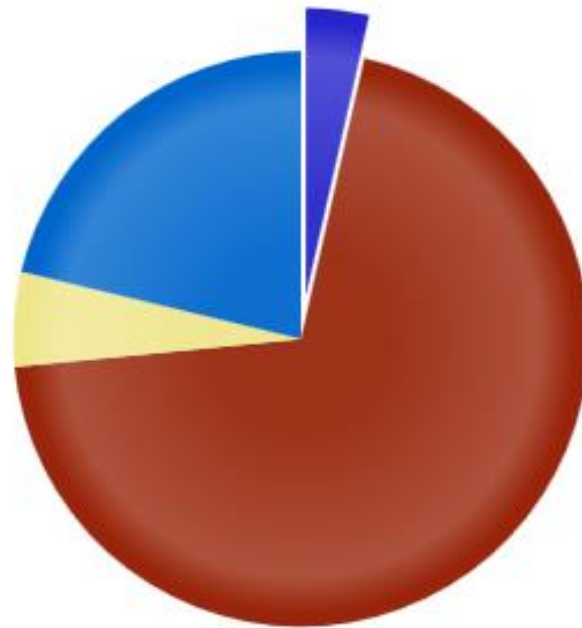
Tasks by Staff

Assets by Location

## Assets by Department



Example of a Report Center in Office 365



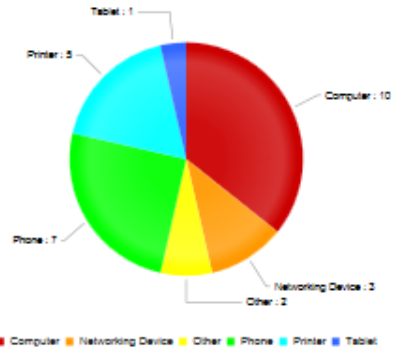
■ (None) ■ Admin Account ■ James Restivo ■ Pavan Kumar

Report on Important Stats

Example: Open tickets by staff

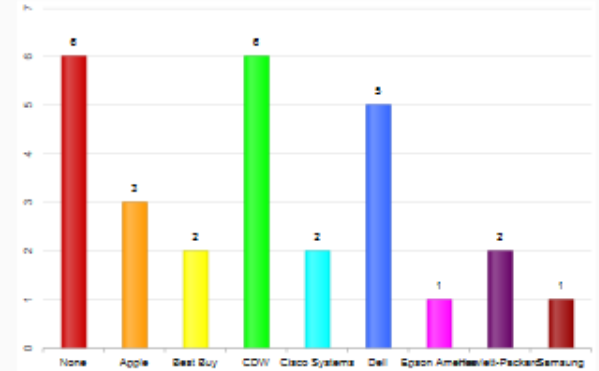
### ASSETS BY CATEGORY

Show Report Command Ribbon



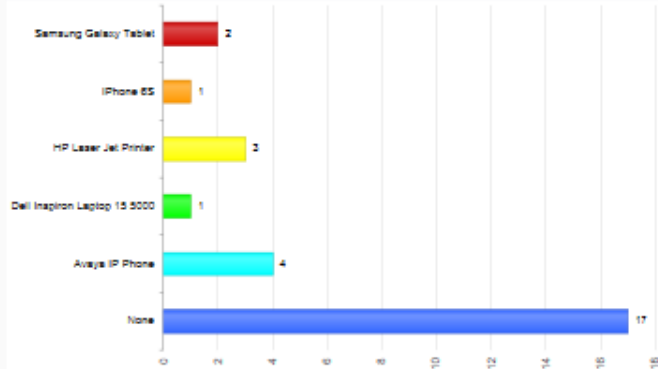
### ASSETS BY VENDOR

Show Report Command Ribbon



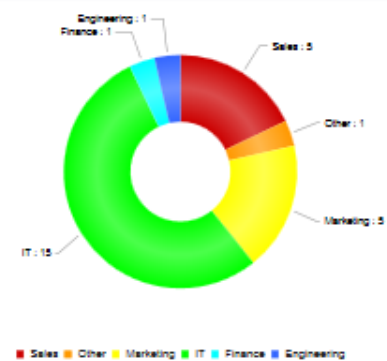
### ASSETS BY TYPE

Show Report Command Ribbon



### ASSETS BY DEPARTMENT

Show Report Command Ribbon



Dashboard pages bring visibility

## TABLE -- PRIORITY AND CATEGORY

Hide Report Command Ribbon








 Edit	 Schedule	 Delete	 PDF	 EXCEL	 Print	 Email	Select date time field to filter on <span>Created</span>
							<input type="radio"/> No Filter <input type="radio"/> Yesterday <input type="radio"/> Last Week <input type="radio"/> Last Month <input checked="" type="radio"/> Custom
			Start Date <input type="text"/>			End Date <input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Apply"/>
<b>Report</b>			<b>Send To</b>		<b>Date Filter</b>		

Table -- Priority and Category		Priority			
		High	Low	Normal	Total
Category	None	-	-	12	12
	Calendar	-	-	7	7
	Concierge Deskside Support Request	-	-	1	1
	Email	2	1	4	7
	Hardware Problem	2	-	4	6
	Hardware Request	1	-	2	3
	Internet	1	-	4	5
	Network	-	-	1	1
	Printing	-	-	1	1
	Remote Access	-	-	2	2
	Software	1	1	4	6
	System Access Request	-	-	2	2
	Telephone	-	-	1	1
	Web Site	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	

Tables



### OVERDUE TICKETS

15

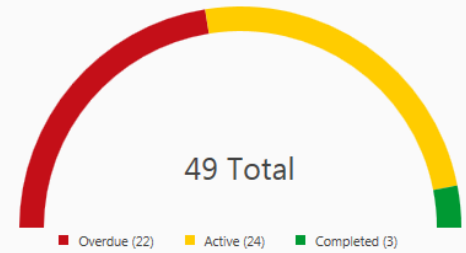
### UNASSIGNED TICKETS

4

### OPEN TICKETS

113

### TASKS



### TICKETS



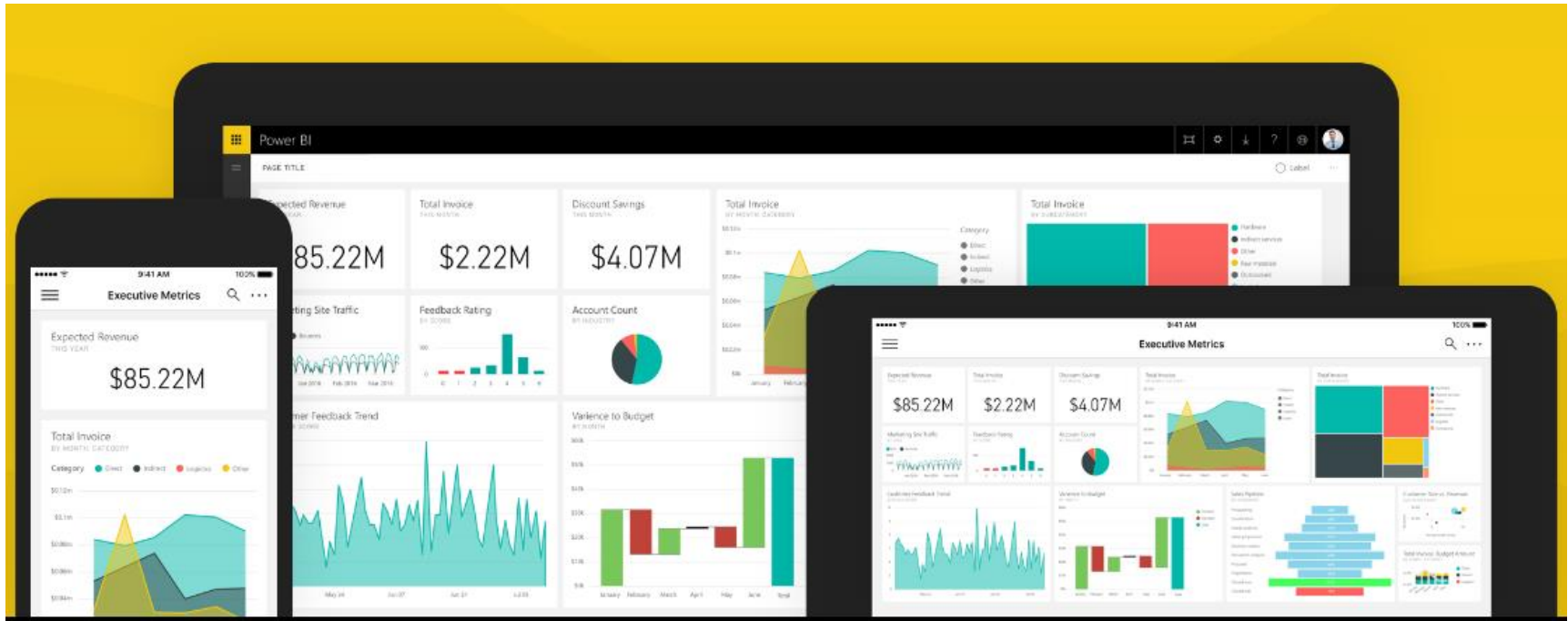
✓	Case Id	Title	Created	Due Date	Priority	Request Status	Requester
	691	test ticket	... 6 days ago			Unassigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar
	690	test ticket creation	... May 11			Unassigned	
	689	Laptop battery replacement	... April 26			Assigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar
	686	Attachment isn't working	... April 22			Assigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar
	684	Attachment isn't working	... April 20			Assigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar
	683	Attachment isn't working	... April 20			Assigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar
	682	Attachment isn't working	... April 20			Assigned	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavan Kumar

### LINKS



✓	Edit	URL	Notes
		<a href="#">Links to Technet Articles</a>	...

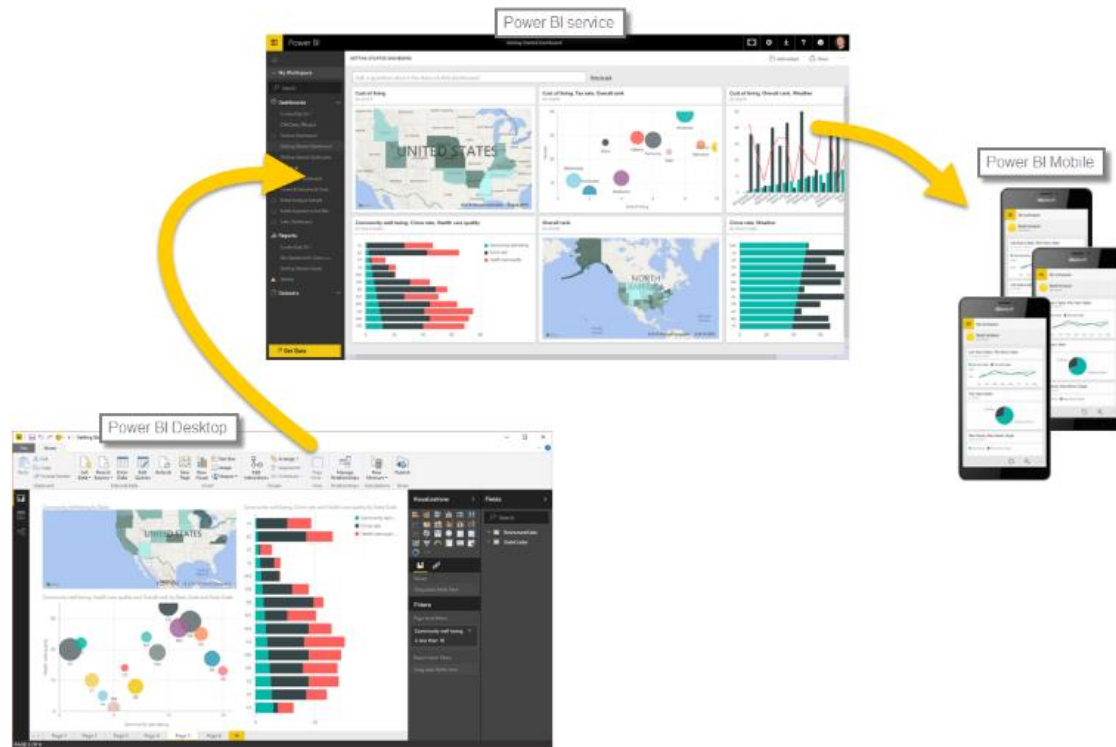
# Tiles & Dials



Power BI

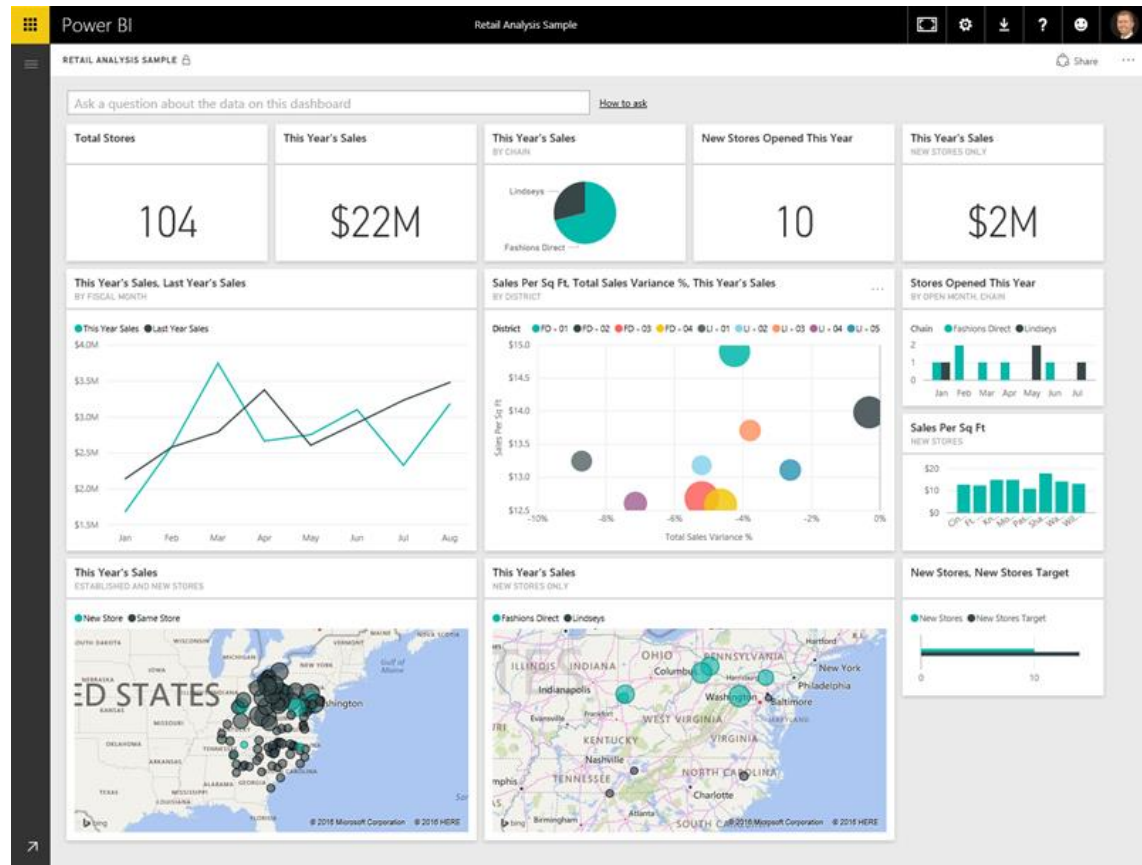
# Components of Power BI

- Power BI Desktop
- Power BI Service
- Power BI Mobile



# Building Blocks of Power BI

- Visualizations
- Datasets
- Reports
- Dashboards
- Tiles



# Three Pillars of Application Design



## UI/UX

- Forms Manager
- Dynamic Forms
- Custom Columns
- Employee & Customer Portals
- Configurable Workspaces
- Responsive Design
- Branding



## Workflow & Business Processes

- Workflow Manager
- Ticket Routing
- Alerts/Notifications
- Service Level Agreements
- Auto Assignment/Escalation
- Recurring Tickets/Tasks
- Sub-tasks & Linked Items
- Print Manager
- Email Synchronization
- Database Integration



## Reporting

- Report Center
- Dashboards
- Tiles & Dials
- Data Integration
- PowerBI

THANK YOU!  
Q & A

## Stay in Touch



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