AlfaPeople

Quick Guide

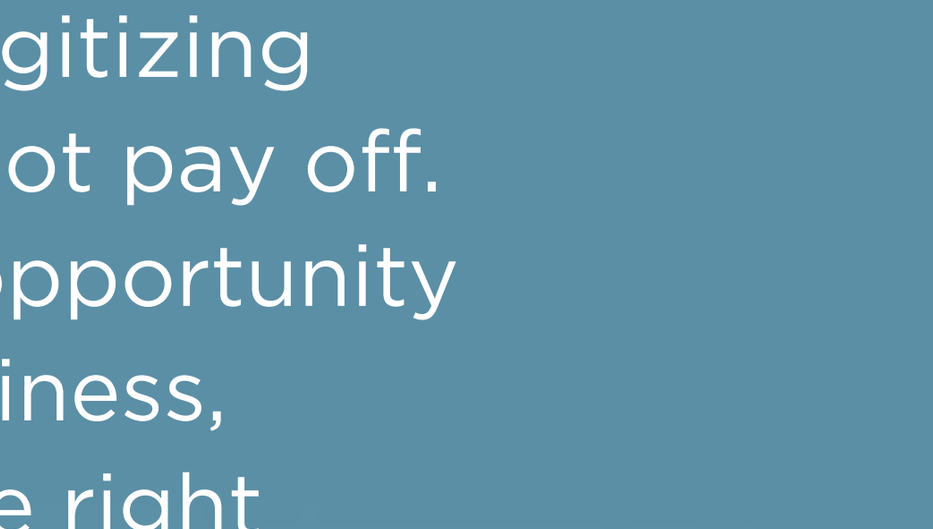
13 Tips When Considering Microsoft's Power Platform

A platform that **makes it easy** to develop apps?

That sounds fantastic - a platform that makes it SO easy to develop apps that **anyone** can do it!

Your next question might be, “Should I, or shouldn’t I try this?” Some people may answer yes as they see great opportunities available to them, while some may say no. Either way, there’s a lot to consider.

At AlfaPeople, we believe that the Power Platform represents an **opportunity to accelerate the company’s digital transformation**, including by digitizing processes that previously did not pay off. The Power Platform offers an opportunity for positive change in your business, especially if you approach it the right way.



That is precisely why we’ve written this Quick Guide.

01

What is Microsoft Power Platform?

Microsoft Power Platform is a suite of tools that allows anyone to develop applications, portals, chatbots and automate business processes with little to no code. In addition, Power Platform allows users to incorporate AI and sophisticated analytics into apps and workflow processes without having to be a data scientist.

It makes it very easy to integrate with Microsoft services like Office 365, Dynamics 365 and Azure as well as hundreds of third-party cloud services like SAP, Salesforce and Freshbooks to name a few. Microsoft Power Platform is the equalizer that allows a much greater portion of the population to participate in the digital transformation revolution.

Microsoft Power Platform consists of 4 parts:

Power BI

A Business Intelligence Solution that makes it easy for everyone to make decisions based on insight and real-time data.

Power Apps

Makes it easy to develop your own apps without having to code yourself.

Power Automate

Increases business productivity by automating processes, typically repetitive tasks and paper trails.

Power Virtual Agents

Build your own chatbot without code so you can participate in virtual collaborations with customers and employees, based on data and insights taken from other systems.

02

Now, even small IT projects can have a good business case

The IT department must always prioritize. There are limited resources which can make it difficult to decide what IT projects should be launched and which ones must wait or be rejected altogether. It is usually a business case that determines that. **How important is the project** – business or strategic – in terms of time and money? All of those decisions change with the Power Platform. Even small projects can turn into good business cases. What used to take weeks can now often be done in 1 or 2 days. **Productivity reaches a whole new level** when more processes can be digitized, going away from paper and slow manual procedures.

A Forrester report on the Power Platform states, “The Total Economic Impact™ of PowerApps found that **the average cost of developing an app dropped by a whopping 74% with Power Apps**”.



03

Citizen Developers – is this the road to chaos?



Those thoughts may well cause some nervous twitching. Fortunately, that is not what is happening with Power Apps. Experience says otherwise. According to the Forrester research and report, a typical company with several thousand employees will develop one new app per month on average.

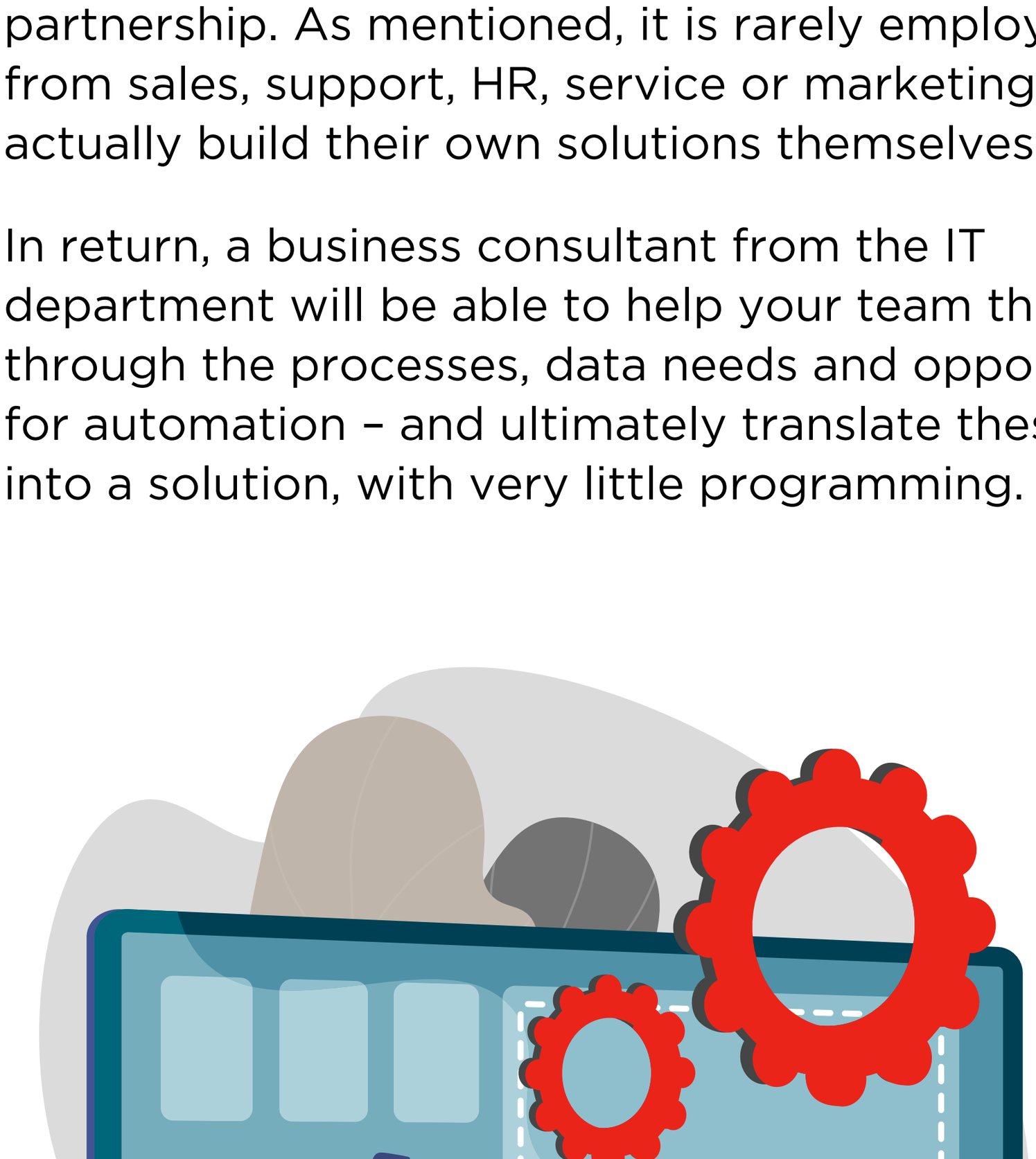
Even if everyone can, not everyone should or will develop apps by themselves. Contrary, it is better to be creative and collaborate as a team to propose new solutions so the probability that the app comes together is much greater.

04

Establishing a **Co-development partnership** between business and IT departments

With Power Platform, business consultants can collaborate with programmers to assist in business applications needs, establishing a co-development partnership. As mentioned, it is rarely employees from sales, support, HR, service or marketing who actually build their own solutions themselves.

In return, a business consultant from the IT department will be able to help your team think through the processes, data needs and opportunities for automation – and ultimately translate these ideas into a solution, with very little programming.



05

More yes' than no's because the business cases are good

The IT department does not want to be a stopgap for new ideas and innovation, but may have to say no on occasion. Developing new solutions goes so easily and quickly, it doesn't take much for the business case to be good.

06

Unleash creativity

When it becomes easier to develop new apps and the costs are small, then it’s time to unleash your creativity. Even if 3 out of 5 projects end up inadequate, the business case and pay-back on the ones that do succeed can be so large that it far exceeds the costs of the failed attempts.

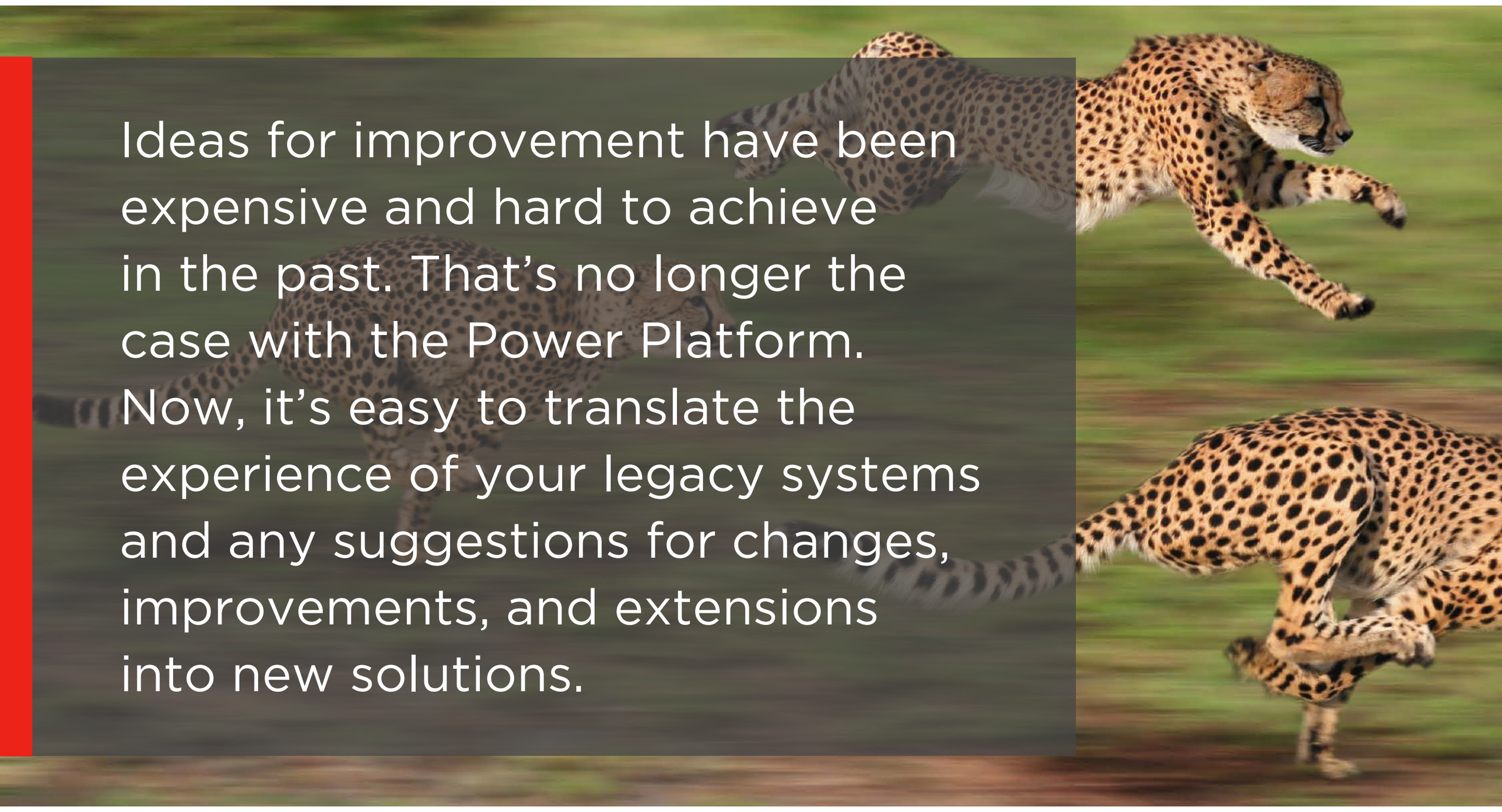


So, unleash your creativity!

07

Natural Selection – from Legacy to Power

Most companies have developed a lot of solutions and customizations over time – and have gained a lot of experience with them. Some things work well, while others don't work at all.



Ideas for improvement have been expensive and hard to achieve in the past. That's no longer the case with the Power Platform. Now, it's easy to translate the experience of your legacy systems and any suggestions for changes, improvements, and extensions into new solutions.

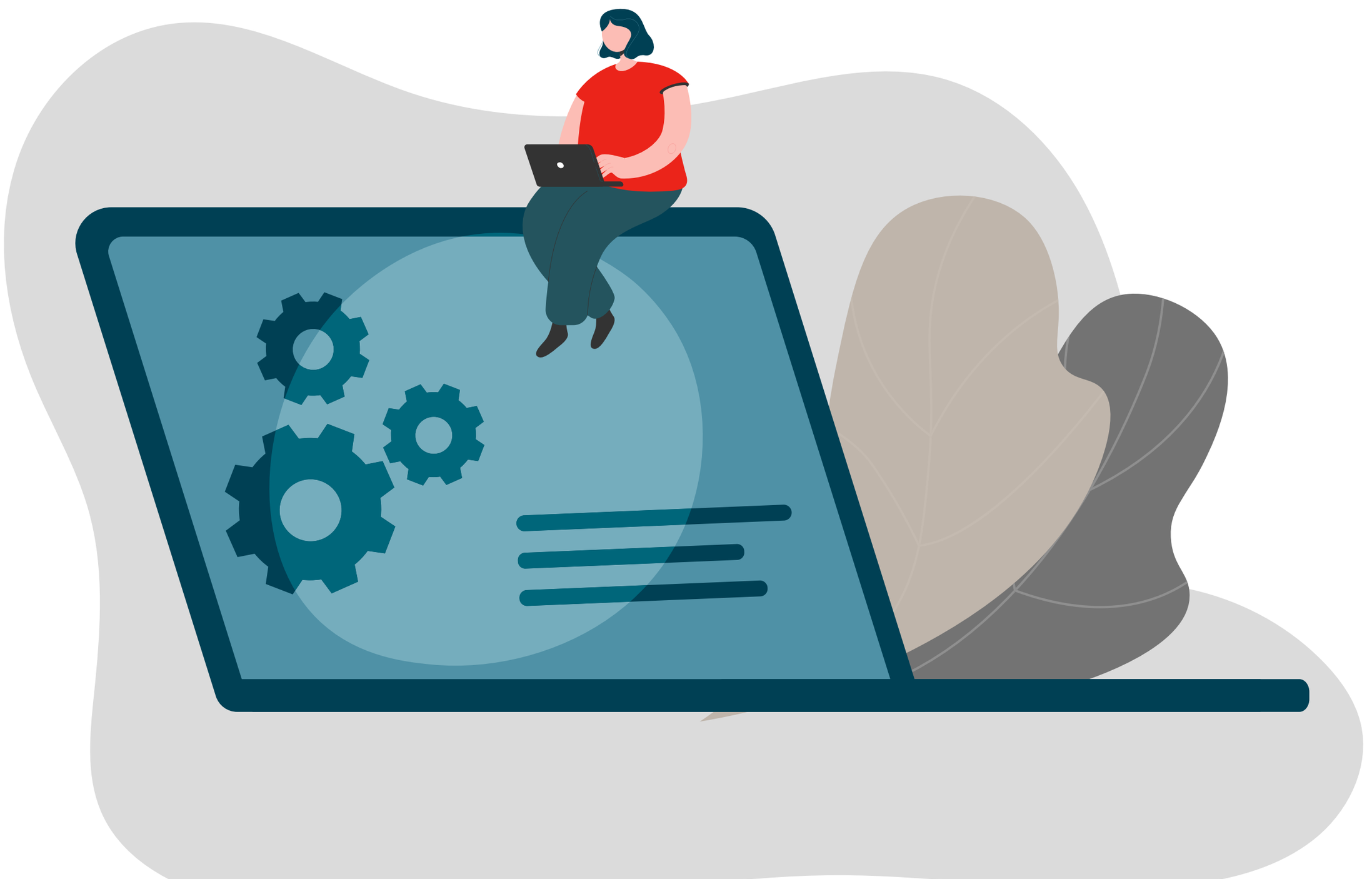
After development, if any of the new solutions that are not sitting well with the business needs, those app can easily be changed or scrapped. Overall, it is incredibly fast, easy, and inexpensive to consolidate legacy systems and experiences from the entire organization into new, well-functioning solutions.

With the Power Platform, it's easy to make changes, improvements, and extensions to new solutions.

08

Center of Excellence

Microsoft has anticipated the scenario that solutions may be developed with the same functionality, or unnecessary overlap. Microsoft has developed a **Center of Excellence Solution** for the Power Platform, enabling the IT department to easily keep an eye on the projects being developed and used.

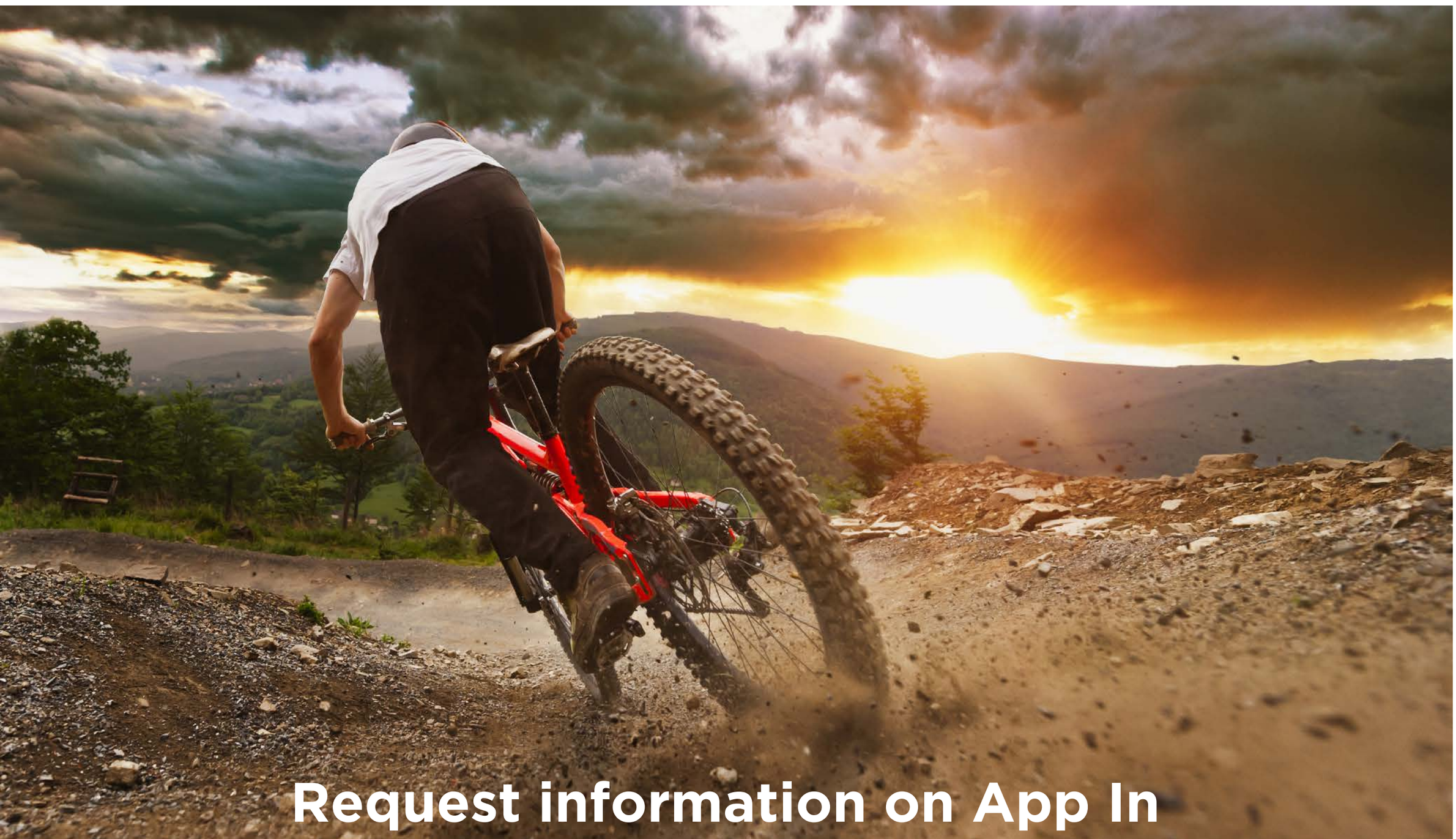


09

Good advice: Get some hands-on experience

The options are many and the best advice is to get some hands-on experience. Try it! Think of an app that could be interesting or fun to create – and then build it.

You'll find that the Power Platform is incredibly easy to work with and new ideas quickly emerge- along with the desire to try them out! In recognition of this, AlfaPeople offers an **App In A Day** workshop to test your ideas in the Power Platform.



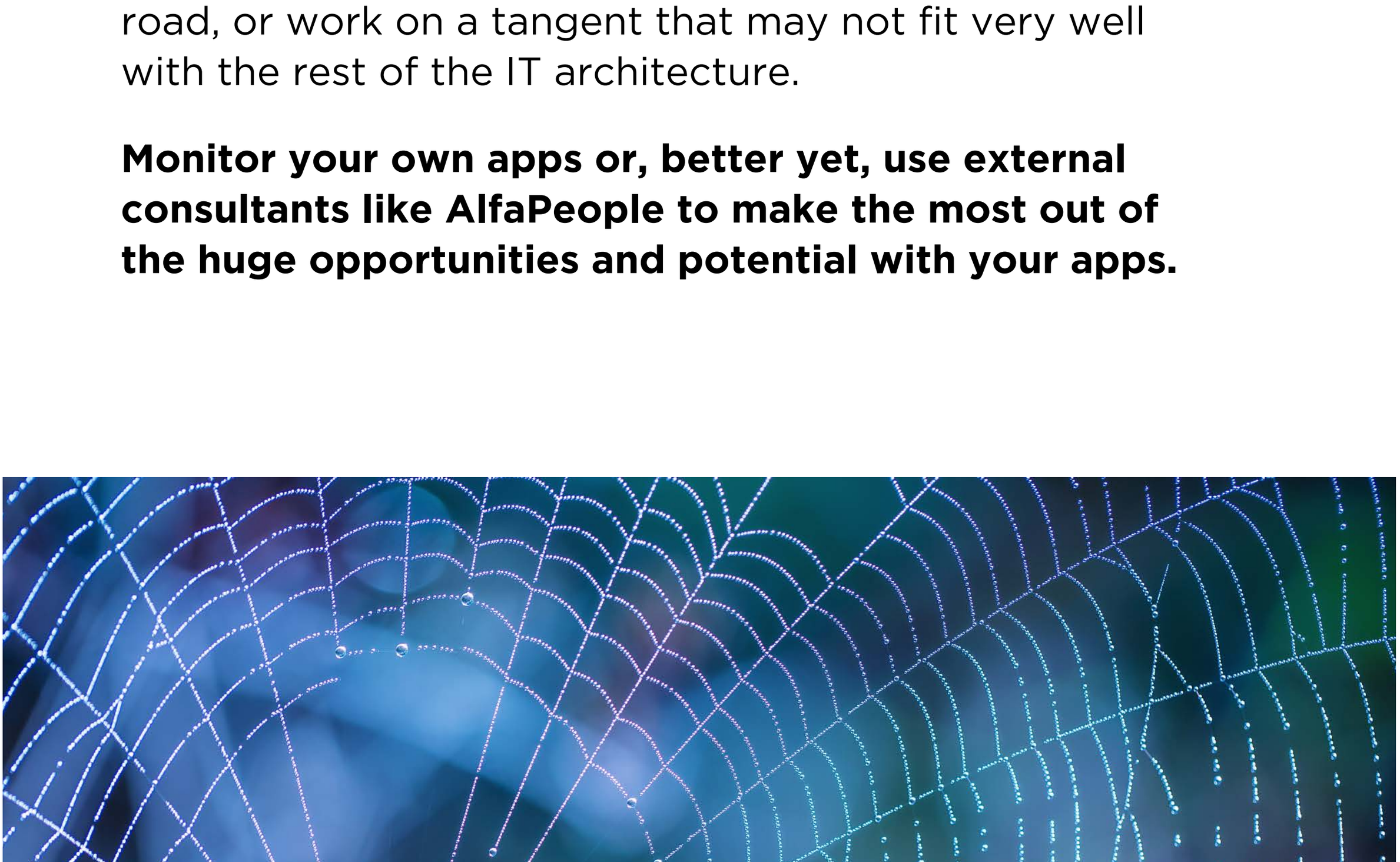
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Good advice:

Remember the IT Architecture

But! Because there's a "but", remember the IT architecture and how the systems should be connected. Otherwise, you and your colleagues may lose yourself in opportunities, run wild down a wrong road, or work on a tangent that may not fit very well with the rest of the IT architecture.

Monitor your own apps or, better yet, use external consultants like AlfaPeople to make the most out of the huge opportunities and potential with your apps.

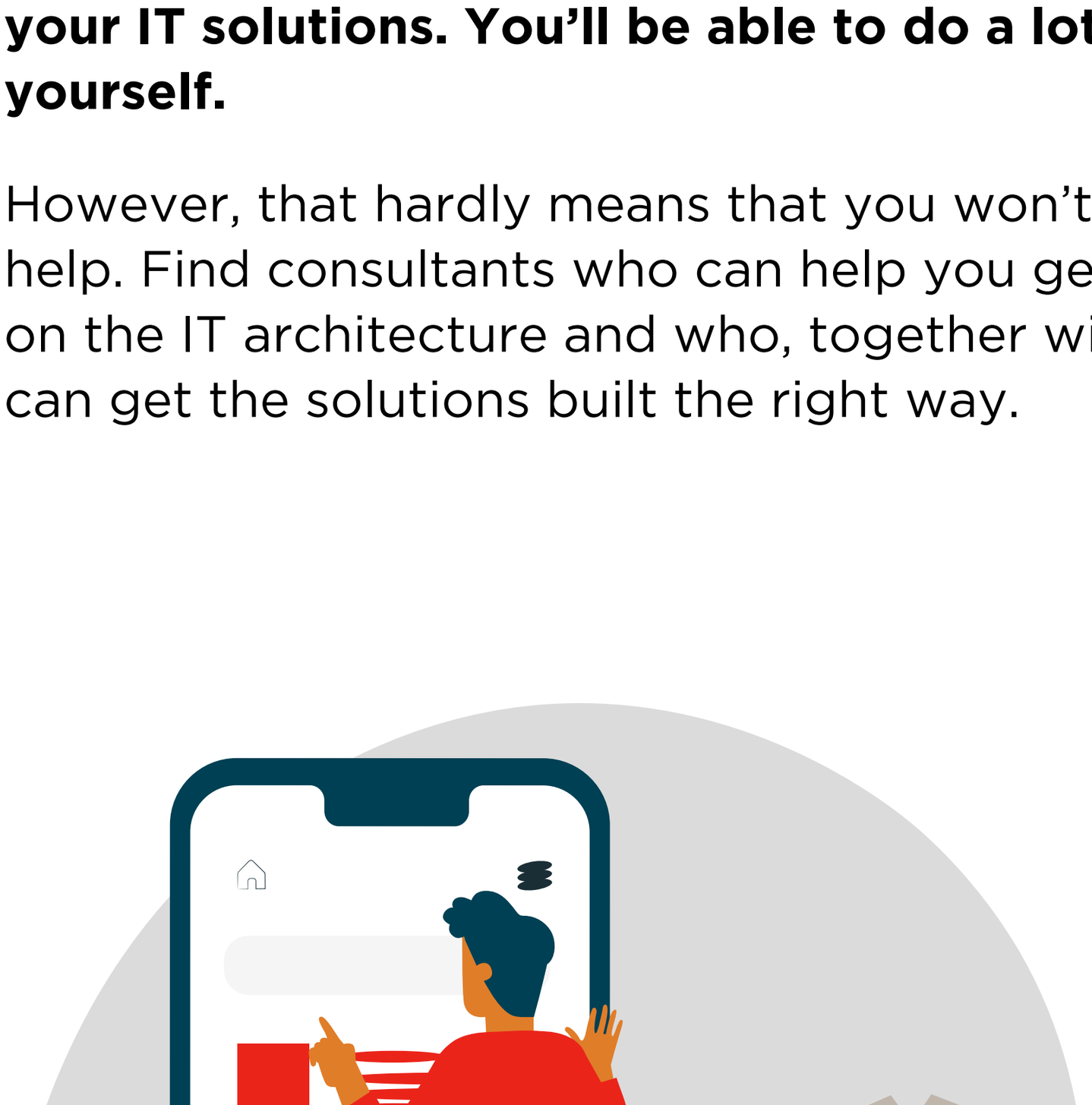


11

Co-creation and advisors - Use external consultants in a new way

Another consequence – and you will like it – is that you no longer must spend so much money on getting external consultants to code and develop your IT solutions. You'll be able to do a lot by yourself.

However, that hardly means that you won't need help. Find consultants who can help you get a handle on the IT architecture and who, together with you, can get the solutions built the right way.



12 Power Platform gets hundreds of changes a year. Let us be your innovation partner.

Microsoft is investing heavily in the Power Platform and will be offering a host of new features all the time. It also means that more and more 3rd party products will invest in offering and improving connectors on the platform. You can spend a long time trying to figure it all out, but don’t do that.

A trusted IT partner can make all the difference. AlfaPeople, for example, keeps an eye on the Power Platform and the relevant apps and connectors – and knows which features will benefit our customers the most.

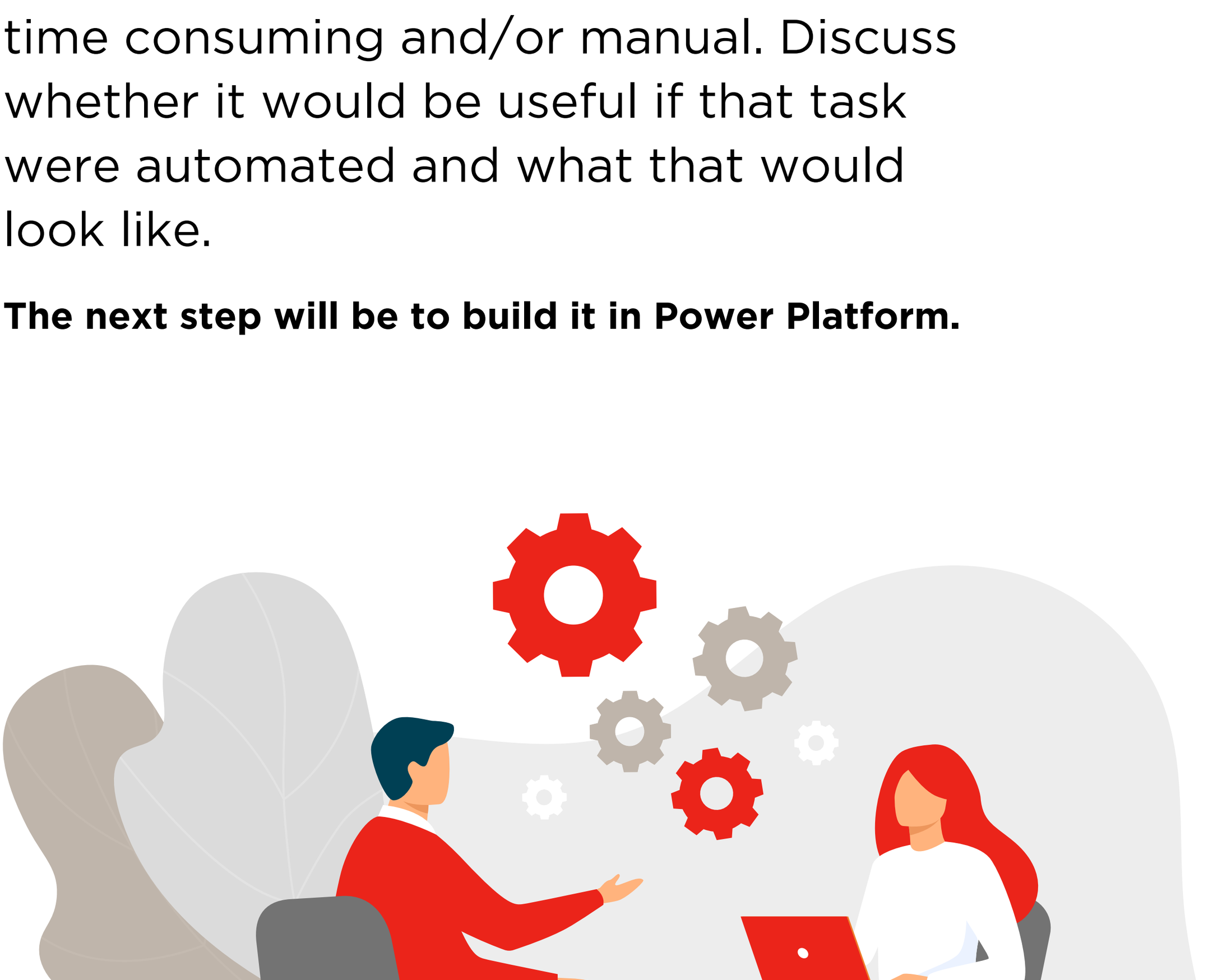


13

Workshop: 5 things you are tired of

How do you get started with the Power Platform? A good idea might be to gather colleagues from one or more of your business areas and ask them to identify 5 issues they are faced with that are time consuming and/or manual. Discuss whether it would be useful if that task were automated and what that would look like.

The next step will be to build it in Power Platform.



Take the first step: Design Thinking Workshop

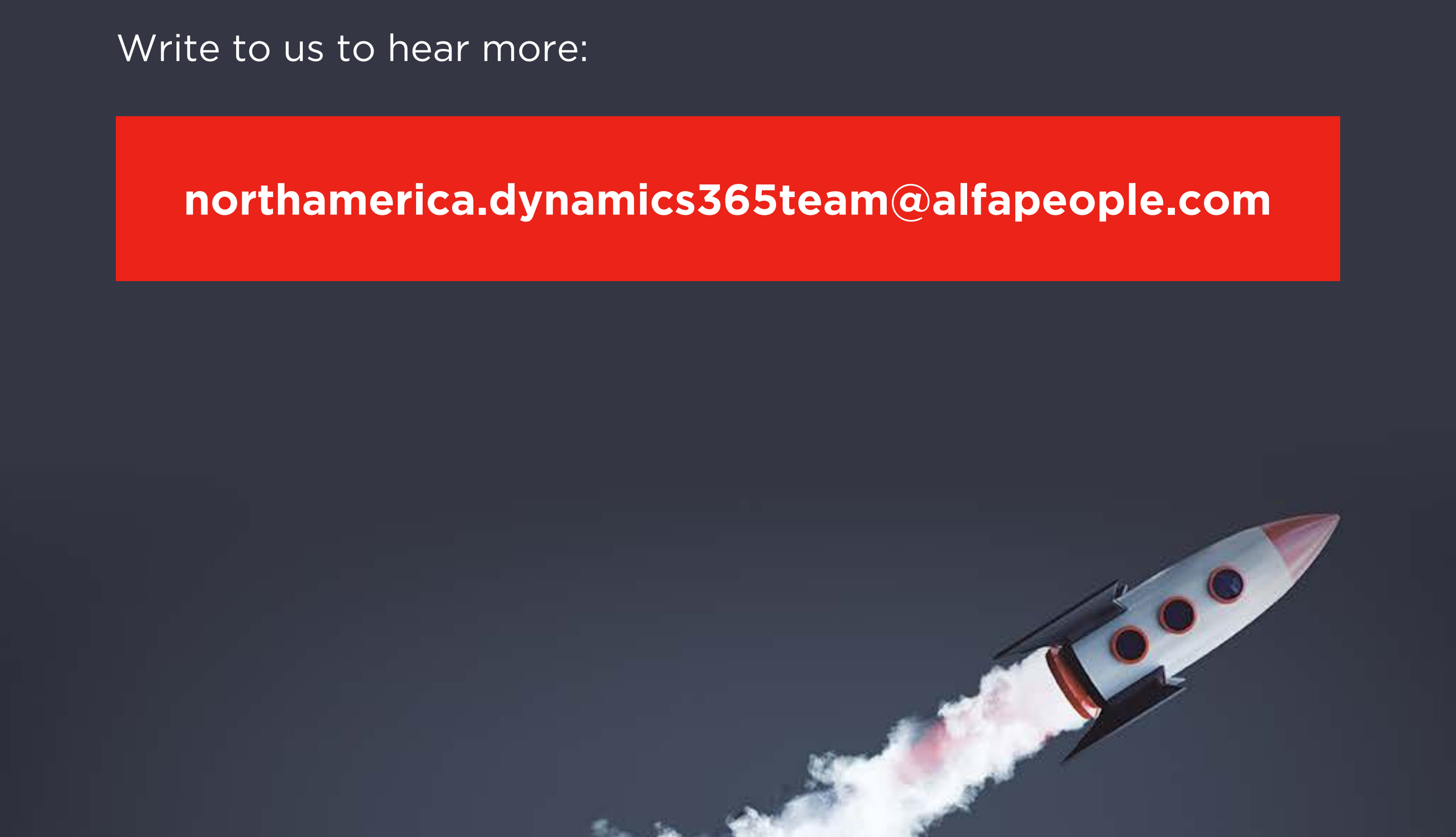
Get the best overview of the new opportunities and how you can benefit from them in our Design Thinking Workshop. AlfaPeople offers this 1-day workshop consisting of two parts:

1. An Introduction to Power Platform
2. A Brainstorming Session- our consultants will immediately make a technical qualification of your ideas and work out how the app can be achieved.

What are you waiting for?

Write to us to hear more:

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