#FABCONSQLCON2026

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Microsoft Fabric Essentials

No-Code to Pro-Code with Dataflows Gen2

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- Data and AI Innovator

Creospark

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What we do at Creospark.

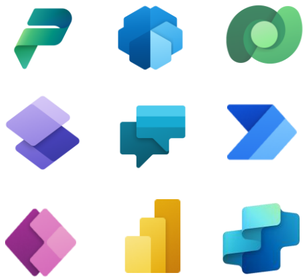
We're Microsoft 365 implementation experts passionate about technology in pursuit of the **ideal digital employee experience.**

Enterprise advisory | Enterprise integration | Migration

Consultation

Modern Work

Process Transformation



Secure Cloud

AI readiness, Training, Adoption, & change management

Managed Services

Davis, California

Toronto, Canada

Our roadmap

~10 min

Context & Tiers

Dataflows Gen2
No-code, low-code,
and pro-code

~30 min

Live Demos

Want to see this live?

~10 min

Governance

Certification, lineage, and
git integration

~10 min

Q&A

Open discussion and
resources

Dataflows in a nutshell

ETL engine born in Power BI, evolved through Azure Data Factory, now native to Microsoft Fabric

Great at

- Connecting to your data - 150+ built-in connectors
- Empowering citizen data engineers (no-code to pro-code)
- Visual data transformations via Power Query (M language)
- Deliver data directly into lakehouses & warehouses (v2)
- Scheduled & incremental refresh for repeatable ETL

Not designed for

- Real-time / streaming data ingestion
- Complex multi-step orchestration (use Pipelines)
- Heavy compute transformations on massive datasets
- Custom code-first workflows (use Notebooks / Spark)
- Direct API serving or reverse ETL back to sources

Why Dataflows Gen2?

The Problem

- Fragmented data prep across tools and teams
- Ungoverned pipelines with no lineage
- Skill-gap bottlenecks, ETL limited to devs
- Copy-paste queries with no reuse model

The Fabric Answer

- Unified data prep in one platform (OneLake)
- Built-in governance, lineage, and endorsement
- Multiple skill tiers: everyone can contribute
- Reusable, certified dataflows at scale

The capability spectrum

One platform, multiple build levels, power and insightful UI. Choose the tier that fits your skill and use case

NO-CODE

Business analysts, citizen data engineers

Visual editor, drag-and-drop transformations, connect, and publish

LOW-CODE

Power BI pros, experienced analysts

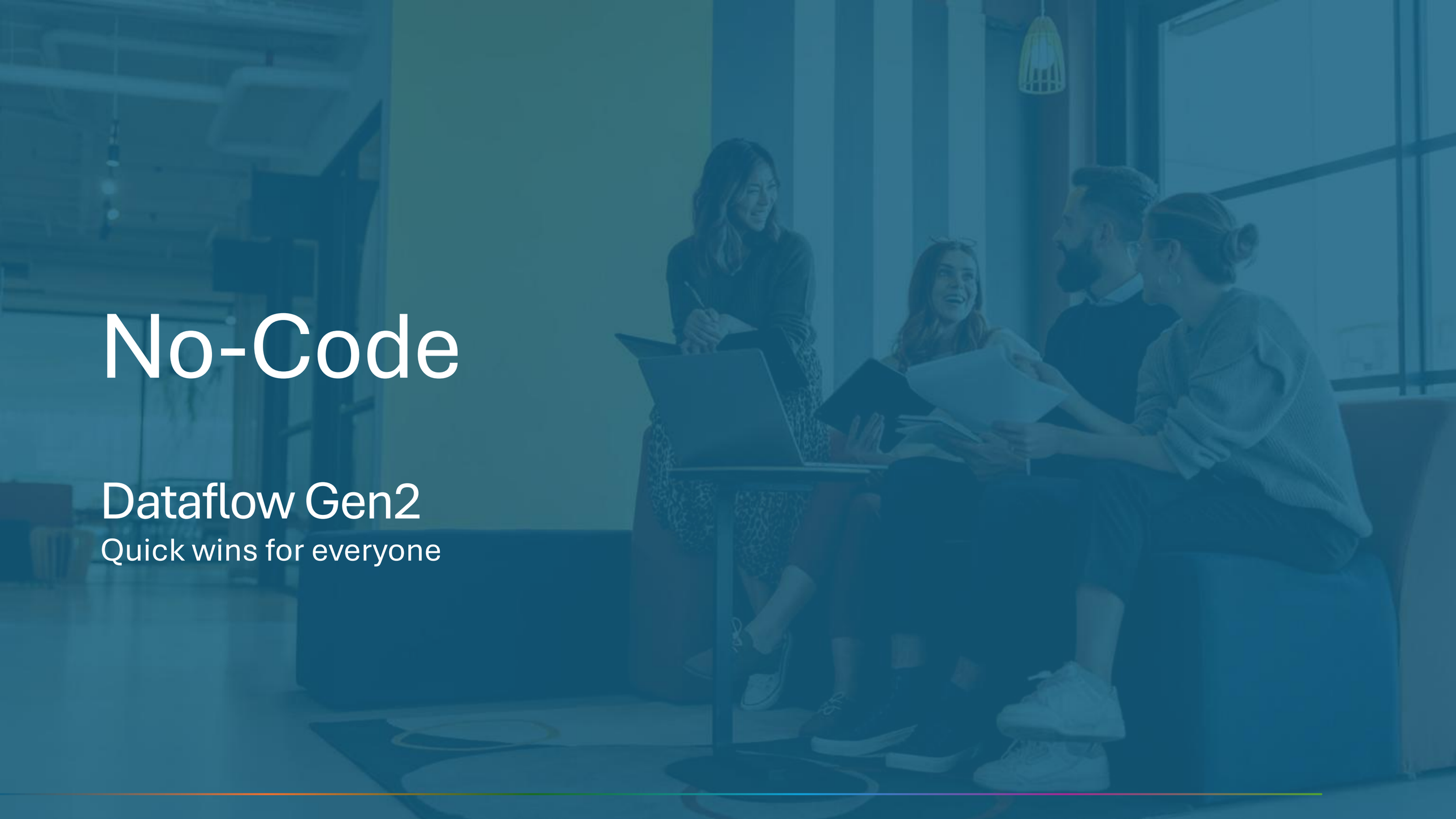
Power Query: custom columns, merge/append, parameters, conditional logic, combine drag-and-drop with some M Query

PRO-CODE

Data engineers, M language developers

Custom M functions, dynamic sources, API patterns, error handling, git integration

Git integration at all tiers



No-Code

Dataflow Gen2

Quick wins for everyone

No-code capabilities

Power Queries with everything you need to get started and zero M language required

Connect to Sources

400+ connectors: Data warehouses, Lakehouses, SQL, SharePoint, REST APIs, files

Shape & Transform

Visual editor: filter rows, remove columns, change types, split/merge data tables. Step through the transformation process

Publish to OneLake

Output lands directly in your Lakehouse, Warehouse, SQL DB, Azure SQL, SharePoint, Data Lake Gen2
Governed and discoverable

Monitor & Refresh

Scheduled refresh, run history, and basic lineage out of the box

DEMO

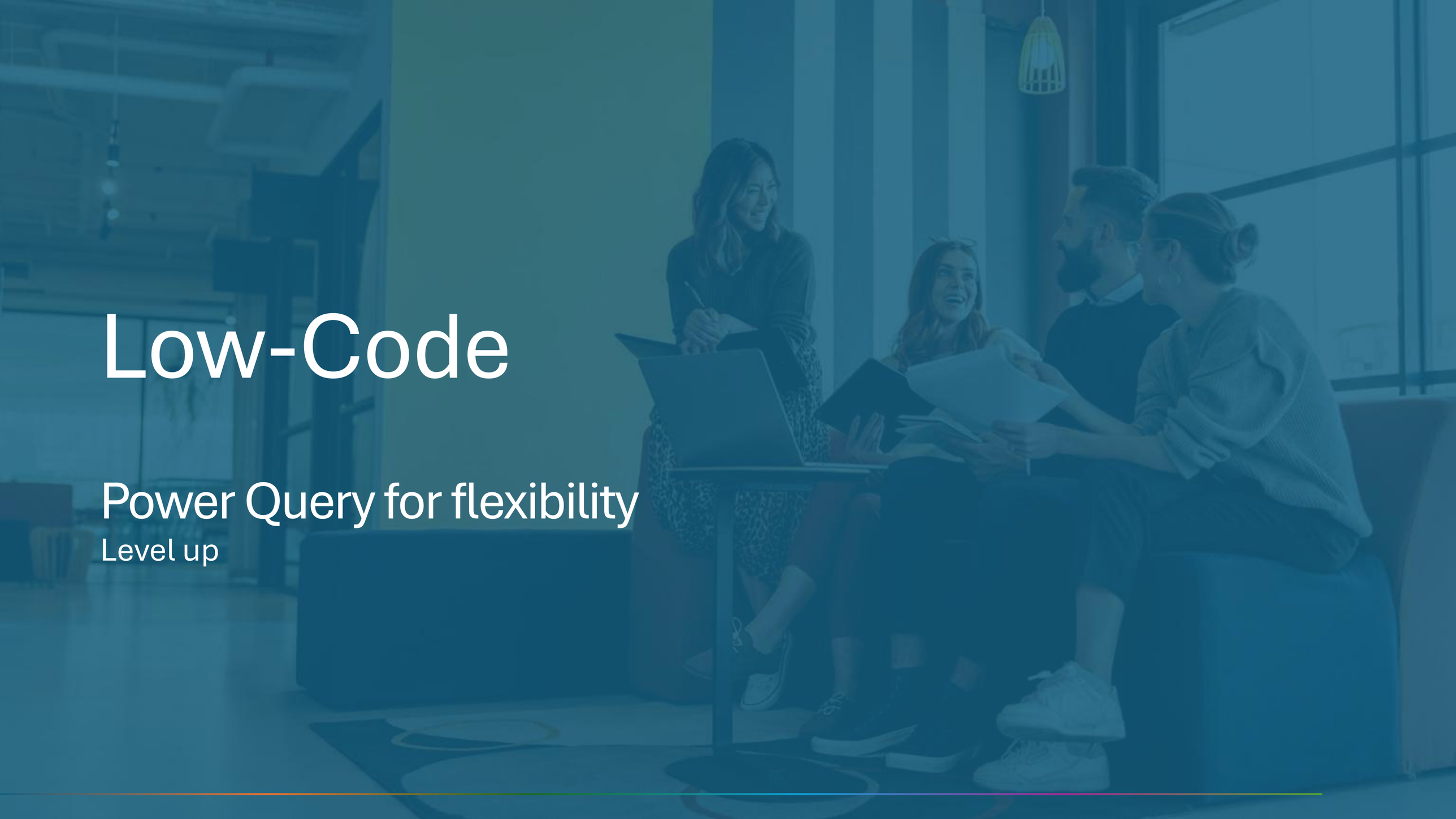
Building a Dataflow from scratch

Using only the visual editor. M code handled for us

WATCH FOR

- Connecting to data sources and navigating schemas
- Applying visual transformations: filter, rename, change type
- Configuring the output destination to a lakehouse table

Visual Editor



Low-Code

Power Query for flexibility

Level up

Power Query: Power BI (Gen1) vs Fabric (Gen2)

Dataflow Gen1 (Power BI)

- Power BI service only
- Output to Power BI datasets
- Limited data destinations
- No native lakehouse support
- Basic refresh scheduling
- No git integration (besides .pbix)

Dataflow Gen2 (Fabric)

- Fabric workspace => unified platform
- Cross-workspace access
- Native lakehouse & warehouse support
- Direct Lake Mode, Fast Copy, and Staging
- Advanced orchestration via pipelines
- Full git integration & CI/CD

Key low-code transformations

Custom Columns

Create calculated columns using the Power Query formula bar. Date math, string ops, conditional logic

Merge & Append

Join tables on keys (inner, left, full) or stack datasets together. The backbone of data modeling

Conditional Logic

If/then/else columns, replace values, error handling. Business rules applied visually

Parameters

Dynamic values for connection strings, file paths, or filter criteria. Build once, reuse everywhere

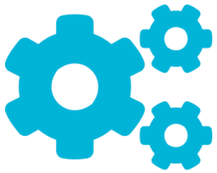
DEMO

Power Query transformations

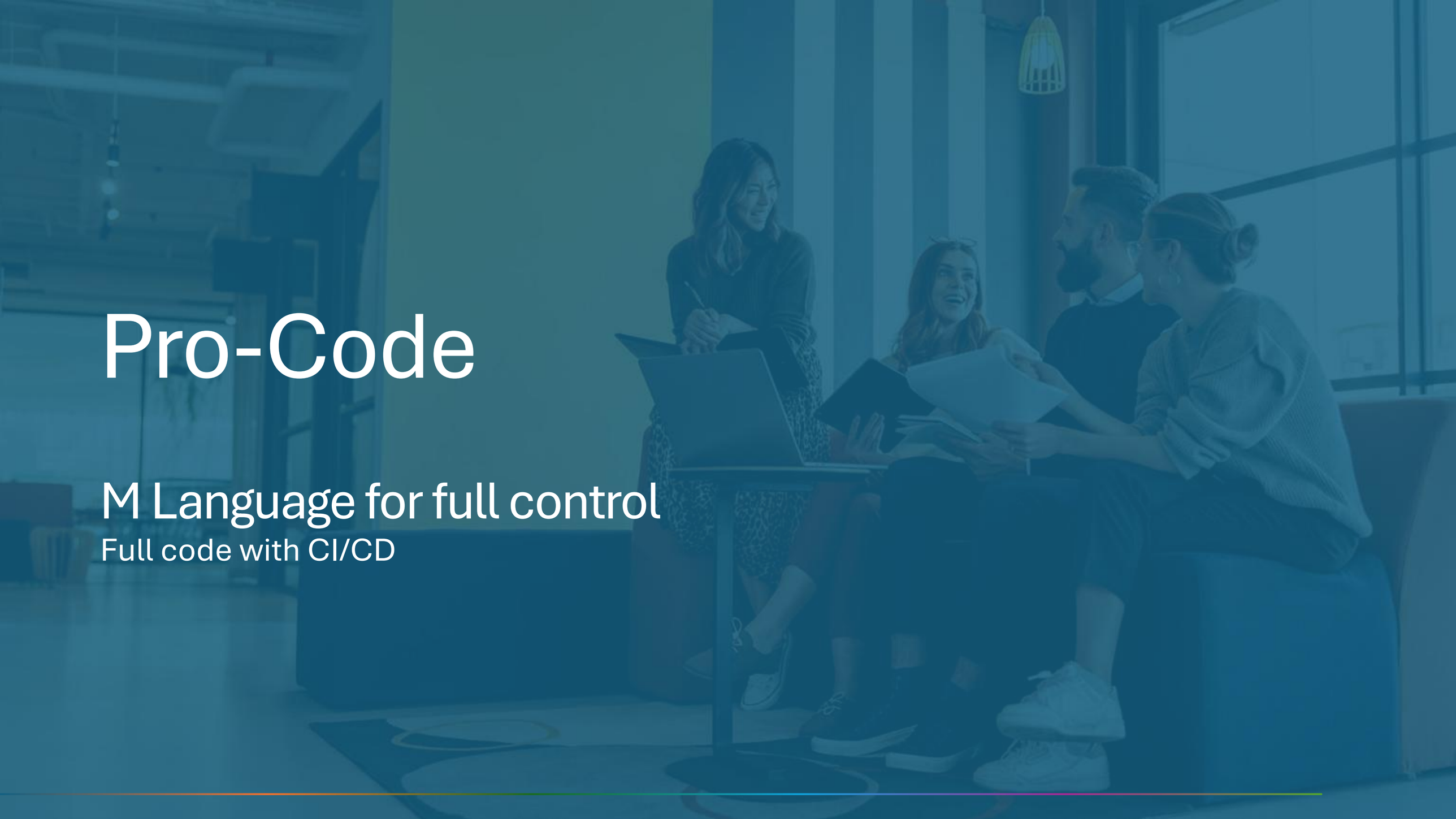
Parameters, merge, and reusable queries

WATCH FOR

- Creating and using parameters for dynamic source selection
- Merging two tables with a left outer join on a shared key
- Referencing queries to build a reusable transformation chain



Power Query



Pro-Code

M Language for full control

Full code with CI/CD

When to drop into M

~20%

of scenarios need custom M

but those are the high-value ones

Custom Functions

Reusable logic across queries and dataflows.

Dynamic Logic

Parameterized sources, conditional paths, runtime-generated queries

API Patterns

Pagination, OAuth flows, nested JSON flattening. Real-world integrations

Error Handling

Try/otherwise blocks, graceful fallbacks, data quality guardrails

M Language Essentials

```
// Custom function: Clean & validate a text column
let
    CleanText = (inputText as text) as text =>
    let
        trimmed = Text.Trim(inputText),
        cleaned = Text.Clean(trimmed),
        result  = if Text.Length(cleaned) > 0
                  then cleaned
                  else "N/A"
    in
        result,

    // Apply to a table column with error handling
    Source = Lakehouse.Contents(null),
    Applied = Table.TransformColumns(Source,
        {{"Name", each try CleanText(_) otherwise "ERROR"}})
in
    Applied
```

let expression

function syntax

error handling

query folding

DEMO

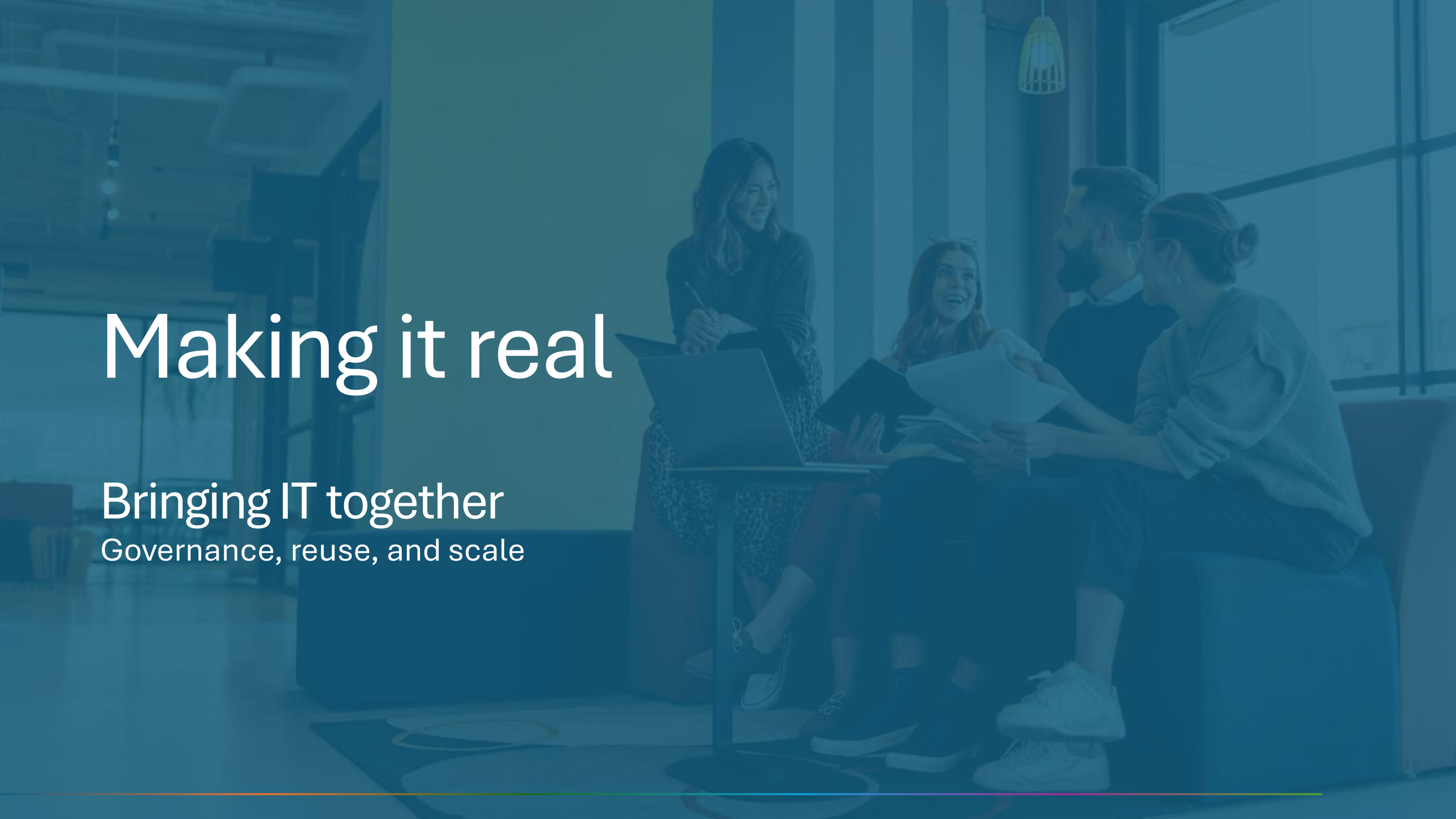
Custom M functions

Dynamic source paths, parameterized API's, error handling

WATCH FOR

- Writing a custom M function from scratch in the Advanced Editor
- Calling a REST API with pagination and dynamic URL construction
- Wrapping calls in try/otherwise for graceful error handling

```
let
  GetPage = (n) =>
    Json.Document(
      Web.Contents(
        url,
        [Query=
          [page=n]]
    )
in
  GetPage
```



Making it real

Bringing IT together

Governance, reuse, and scale

Governed, reusable data at scale

Certified Dataflows

Endorsement model lets you mark trusted, production-ready dataflows

Git Integration

Version control, branching, pull requests. Real CI/CD for data prep

Data Lineage

End-to-end visibility: source → transform → destination

OneLake Integration

Single storage layer. All outputs land in one governed lake

Endorsement Model

Promoted → Certified → track trust levels across your org

Scheduled Refresh

Automated pipelines with monitoring, alerts, and retry logic

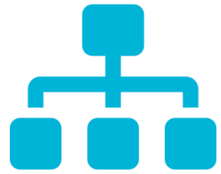
DEMO

Lineage and certified patterns

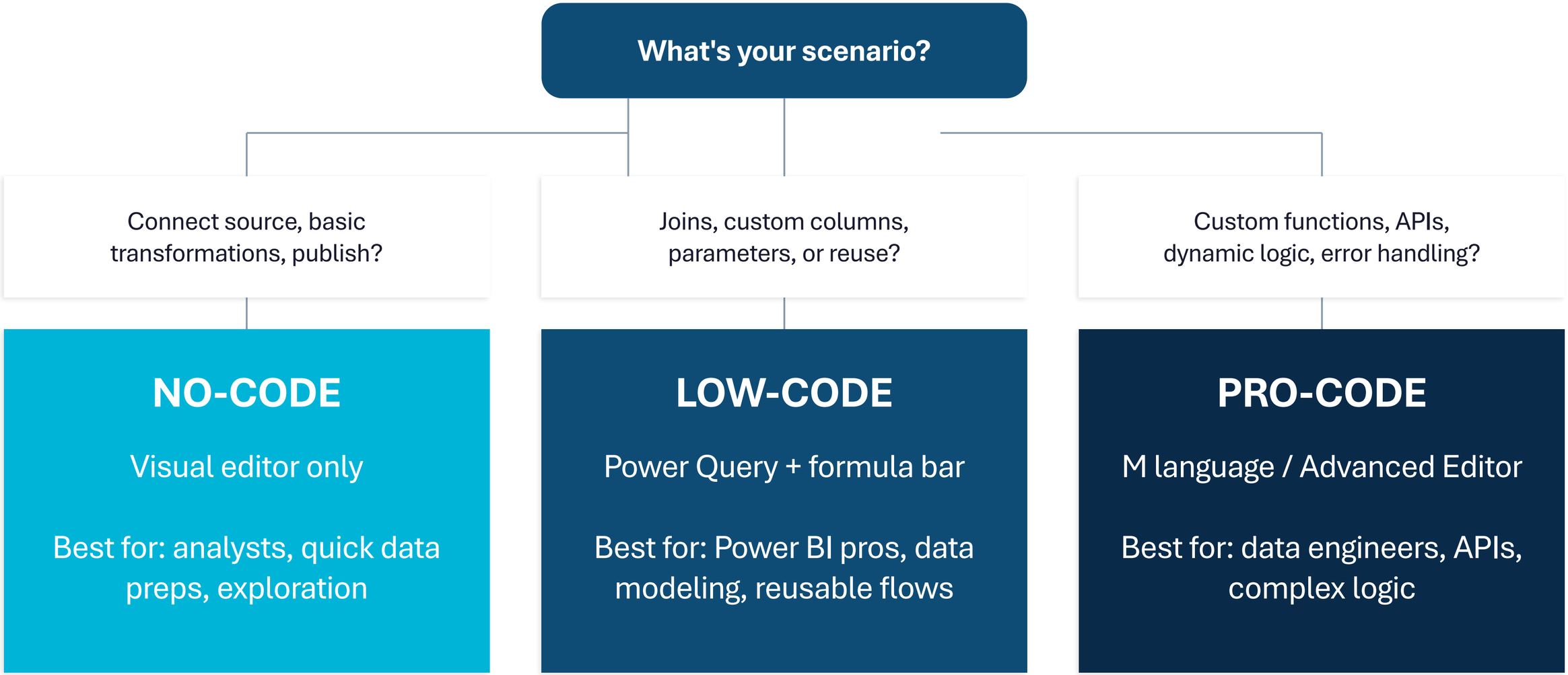
Governance in action

WATCH FOR

- Navigating the lineage view to trace data from source to report
- Endorsing a dataflow as Certified and viewing trust signals
- Connecting a dataflow to a git repo and viewing change history



What is right for you?



Remember: you can mix tiers in the same dataflow. Start no-code, drop into M only where needed

Key takeaways

1

One platform, many tiers of power

Dataflows Gen2 meets every skill level. No-code for quick wins, low-code for flexibility, pro-code for full control.

2

Power Query is your superpower in Fabric

The same PQ skills from Power BI translate directly, with dramatically more capable outputs and destinations.

3

Governance is built in, not bolted on

Certification, lineage, git integration, and OneLake make your data prep enterprise-ready from day one.

Resources

learn.microsoft.com/fabric/data-factory

learn.microsoft.com/powerquery-m

community.fabric.microsoft.com

github.com/microsoft/fabric-samples

Questions?

Thank you!

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The mic is all yours.
Influence the product roadmap.

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Share your feedback directly with our Fabric product group and researchers.

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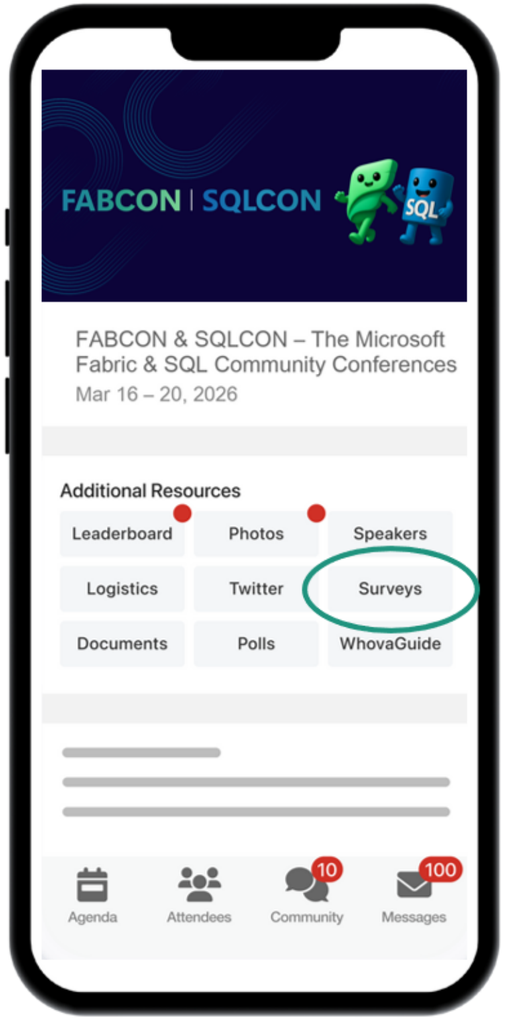

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