



TIP SHEET

4 Types of Environments Used in Application Lifecycle Management

Competitive advantage comes in two main varieties: comparative and differential. Comparative advantage is about efficiency. Can you do something at lower cost than your competitors can? Differential advantage means exactly that: Are you different? Is your company doing something no one else can do? Ideally, custom software is written to ensure a competitive advantage, given that, organizations with quality Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) will gain more advantage and be more competitive than those without.

ALM stands for application lifecycle management and includes governance, development, and maintenance. These days, the success of a company is directly related to how well it can produce the custom applications that create an advantage. Failed software projects are failed attempts to compete. The goal is to establish a consistent system for connection between software development teams and other departments and automate the process of development and distribution.

Four main types of environments used in ALM:

- 1 Sandbox:**
This is any non-production environment of Dataverse, which lets you securely store and manage data that's used by business applications. As it is separate from the production environment, it is a place to develop and test application changes with minimal risk.
- 2 Production:**
This is the environment where apps and other software are put into function for their planned use.
- 3 Developer:**
With the Microsoft Power Apps Developer Plan, users gain Power Apps premium functionality, Dataverse, and Power Automate. Specifically, this plan is intended to build and test with Power Apps, Power Automate, and Microsoft Dataverse as a single user environment, and therefore cannot manage or share production apps.
- 4 Default:**
Here, each tenant has its own default environment automatically created for each tenant and shared by all users in that tenant. The tenant identifies each user, and whenever a new user signs up for Power Apps, they're automatically assigned to the Maker role in this environment.