WEBCON®

WEBCON BPS
2019

Discover the endless possibilities
of the **digital transformation**

SHAREPOINT

END USER INTERFACE

WORKFLOWS

OFFICE APPS

MOBILE APPS

FORMS

WEBCON BPS
InstantChange™

DOCUMENTS

DATABASES

DESIGNER STUDIO

ACTIVE DIRECTORY

CONNECTIVITY

WEBSERVICES

RELEASE NOTES, COVERING THE NEW FUNCTIONALITIES
AND IMPROVEMENTS OF **WEBCON BPS 2019**

Every year, we work tirelessly to bring you a brand new version of **WEBCON BPS**. By continuously providing new functionalities and improving existing ones, we help you effectively manage business processes and build a competitive advantage in the era of the digital transformation.

Today, we can proudly say that there's never been a more revolutionary version of the platform than **WEBCON BPS 2019**. We've taken a quantum leap in advancing the platform since its introduction in 2006 and with these recent improvements, have positioned ourselves among the market leaders.

In WEBCON BPS 2019, we've **completely re-engineered integration with Office 365** for hybrid environments (on-prem, Azure and o365/SharePoint Online), support for SharePoint 2019, a SharePoint-less installation option and a B2B framework that enables you to embed parts of your applications into external systems.
Having end-users' growing expectations and needs in mind, we've created **WEBCON BPS Portal**: a **digital desktop** that brings together all key elements into one place with clearly structured navigation, **ultra-fast search, AI-based enhancements** and turbo-charged performance. All of this using a modern and intuitive interface, with **personalization** possibilities and a focus on employee productivity.

In addition to all this, WEBCON BPS 2019 introduces:
- **process flow analysis**
- an **improved export/import mechanism** with easy migration of add-ons created using the SDK package,
- **using REST technology** to expand the system's integration capabilities

When working on WEBCON BPS 2019, our goal was to provide our clients with the latest technological improvements, while ensuring **business continuity** for our clients.
It remains the same product, stably evolving to answer current and future business realities. This new version alongside our unique **InstantChange™ technology** will enable users to enhance their performance, speed up the development of their business process applications, and improve their change management capability.

We hope this version will further improve your ability to thrive on digital transformation, and inspire you to expand your digital strategy within your organization using the endless possibilities that WEBCON BPS 2019 has to offer.

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1. WEBCON BPS PORTAL - A REVOLUTION IN UI

WEBCON BPS is an agile and intuitive business process management platform capable of meeting nearly any company need. This unlimited flexibility means that our clients have already implemented hundreds of different and novel applications that they use every day. With such extensive usage, the need for accessible and consistent navigation within the SharePoint infrastructure becomes critical. This is why we designed our modern WEBCON BPS Portal presentation layer.

WEBCON BPS Portal is the central point of access to the system for end users, bringing together all the necessary information about applications deployed in your organization. Users will have instant access to reports, lists of tasks and documents, forms, a search engine, viewing suggestions, a summary of recent activities, and many other features directly within their reach. By gathering the above-mentioned elements into one place, with a clearly-structured navigation, users have access to everything they need without needing to switch between multiple sites and site collections in SharePoint.

1.1. HOME PAGE

The home page of WEBCON BPS Portal includes all the key elements you need to quickly review all that tasks that require your attention, run any process, or find some desired piece of information.
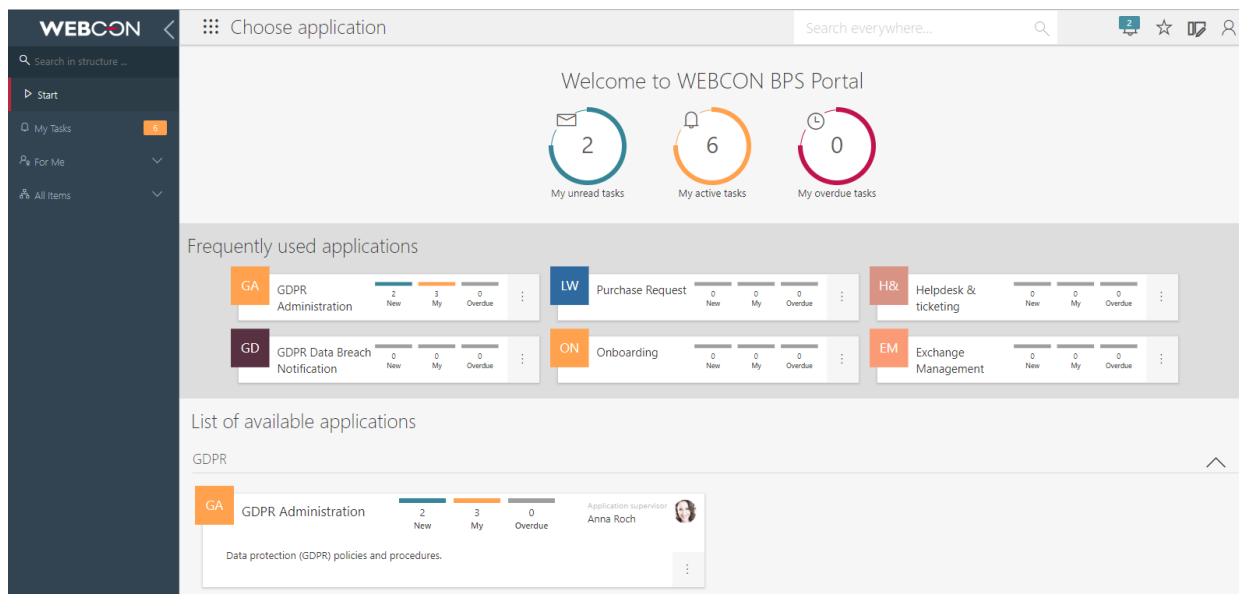
## 1.1.1. TRANSPARENT ACCESS TO TASKS

The task counter widget is displayed directly on the home page. The counter is presented in a friendly, graphical manner and divided into three categories:

- **New tasks** – indicates workflow elements not yet viewed by the user
- **All tasks** – displays the total number of all tasks assigned to the user
- **Overdue tasks** – shows tasks for which completion time has been exceeded
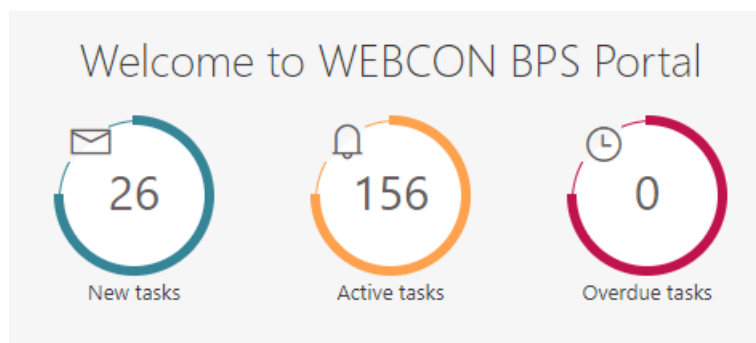
Clicking on any of these categories displays the corresponding list of tasks.

Additionally, you can display and filter the list of tasks from anywhere in WEBCON BPS Portal interface using the left side panel.
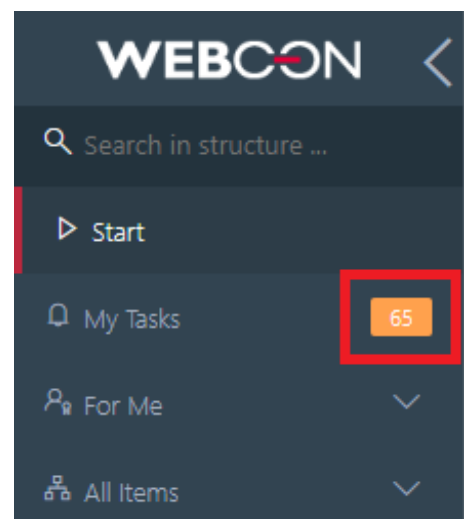
1.1.2. EASY ACCESS TO APPLICATIONS

WEBCON BPS Portal home page also displays the applications you have been given permissions to use.

The first visible element is the Frequently Used Applications section, which provides quick access to those applications where you perform the most activities.
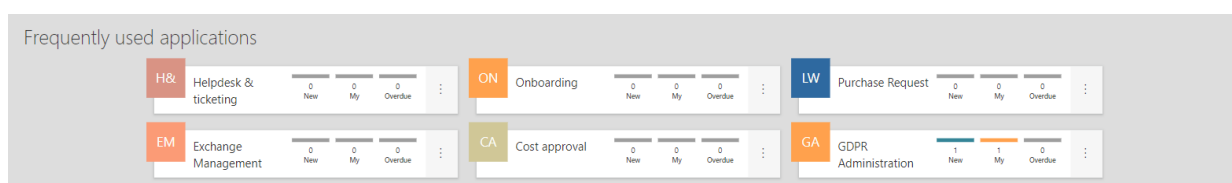

Below, there is a list of all available applications, which can be grouped into categories to further assist with navigation (HR applications, financial applications, etc.).
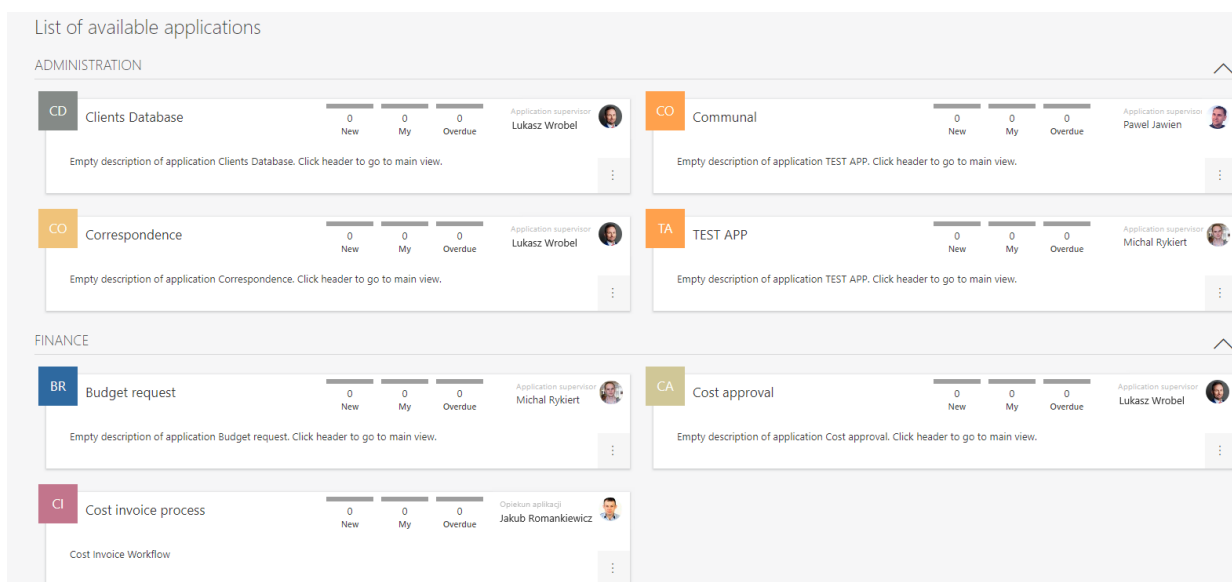
There is a separate task counter for each displayed application, which helps identify the number and type of tasks awaiting your attention.

Many WEBCON BPS users have hundreds of deployed applications, and the application search engine lets them quickly and easily find any of them.
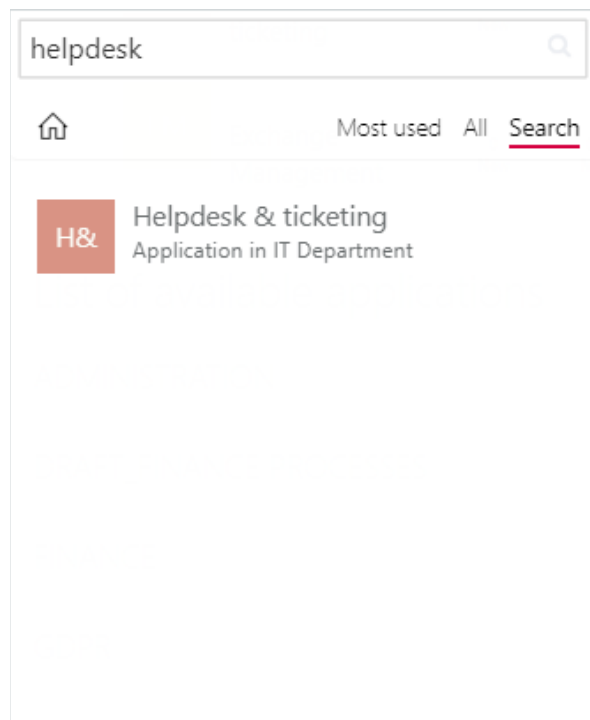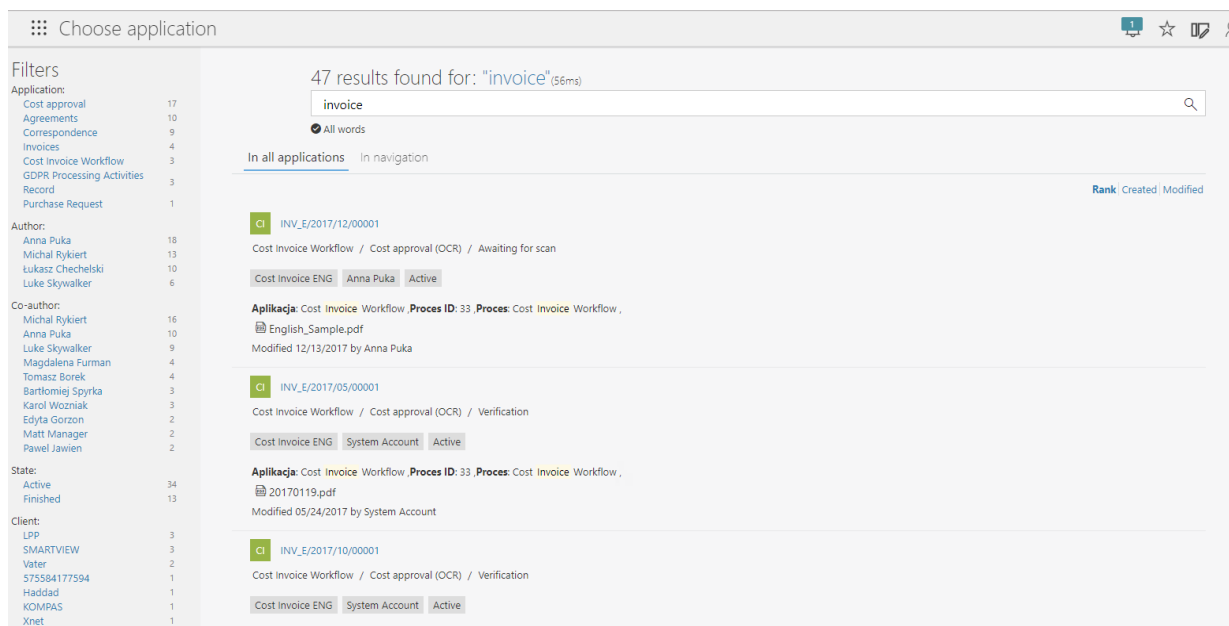
INSTANT SEARCH RESULTS

WEBCON BPS 2019 introduces a completely new search engine, allowing nearly instant search results, even when there are millions of records in the database.
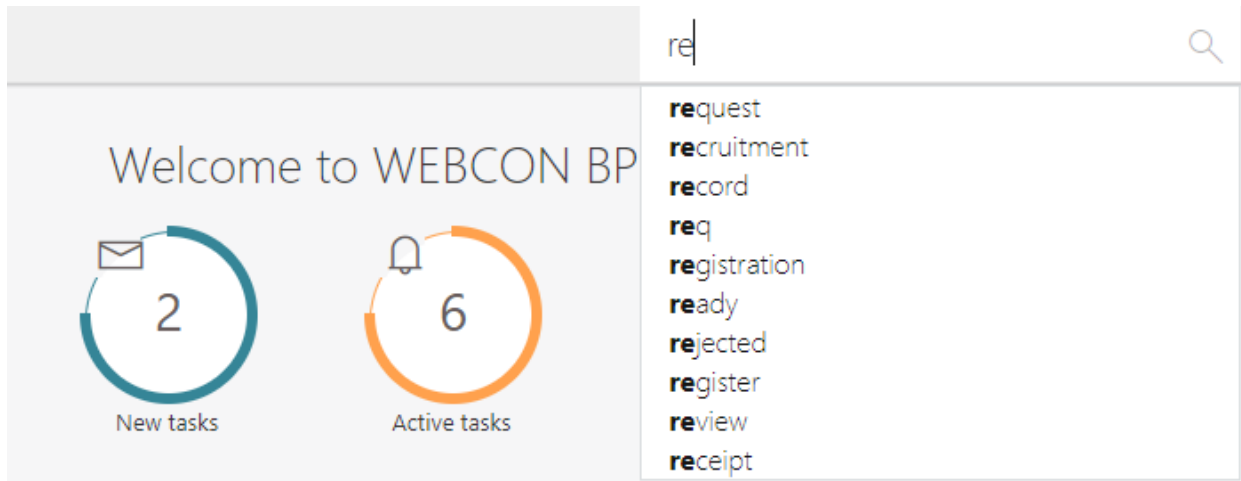
A search is initiated through the window in the upper bar of WEBCON BPS Portal interface. Results are returned as a list, which can then be easily narrowed down using contextually suggested filters, like application type, author, and year of creation. Importantly, you can view selected forms and any available attachments at this level.

The new search engine takes into consideration inflection, meaning the system will also display and suggest results containing words in different inflection forms (e.g. invoice, invoices, invoiced, etc). Inflection is taken into account for Polish, English, German, Spanish, French, Hungarian and Russian search results.

It takes into consideration the values of all attributes and columns in the lists of items, and attached text documents are searched as well. In addition to conventional text file formats like TXT, RTF, XML, HTML, SQL, the engine also searches Word documents (DOC, DOCX, DOCX, ODT), Excel documents (XLSX, XLSM, XLS), PDF files and email message files (EML, EMLX, MSG, OFT, MBOX, TNEF).

Our search engine uses an advanced data indexing mechanism based on the innovative Solr engine, to quickly provide relevant information to the user.

1.2. APPLICATION SITES

As part of WEBCON BPS Portal, each application deployed in the system (we define an application as a collection of logically interconnected business processes) is automatically assigned a dedicated site offering access to all relevant elements related to that specific application. Each site of this type has a unified structure and a set of the same elements, improving usability and limiting the need for multiple training sessions.

1.2.1 INFORMATIVE ELEMENTS

The first visible element of each application site is an editable panel with a description. This is where the application's administrator includes the characteristics of the application, specifying its intended use, objective and providing helpful tips for its use. Although seemingly trivial, this element allows end users to quickly become accustomed to working with any new application, while considerably limiting the need for intensive post-deployment support.

Another useful element is the task counter, which has been updated to display the information on the application currently being viewed.

A final informative element found in the top bar of each site identifies the care provider for a given application. By identifying the one person responsible for the maintenance of a given solution, an end user can quickly identify where to seek assistance, in case they have any questions or run into problems.
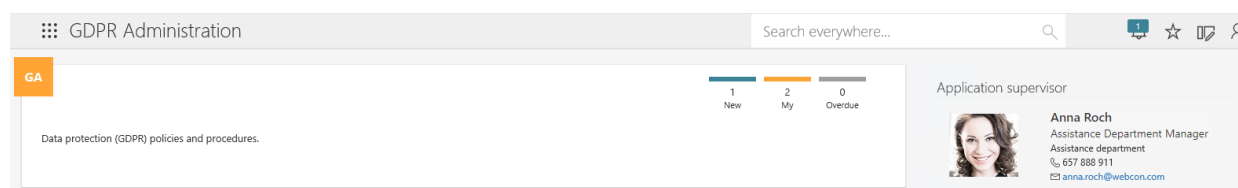
1.2.2 STARTING WORKFLOWS

Below the informative elements, there is a section for tiles that start new workflow instances. The functionality and available configuration options (like adding predefined starting parameters) should be familiar to those that used the Start workflow Web Part in previous versions of WEBCON BPS.
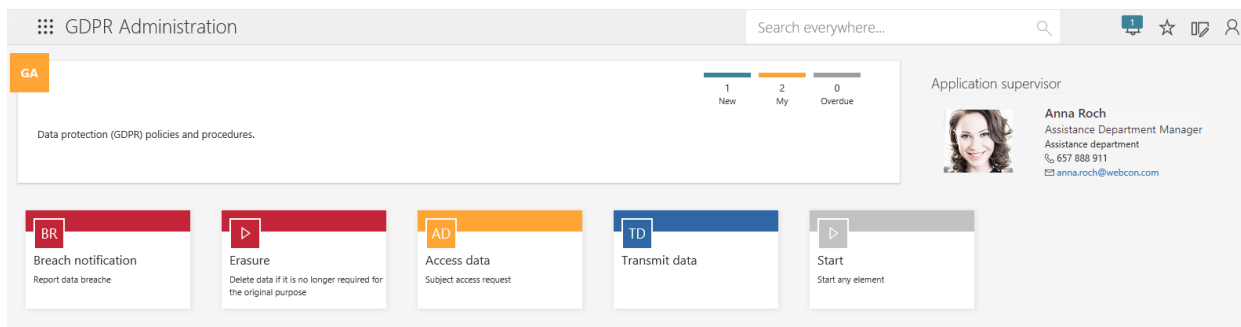
The configuration of these tiles is possible from WEBCON BPS Portal site, as well as directly through WEBCON BPS Designer Studio. You can conveniently manage all aspects of the application presentation and administer features of the site, without needing access to critical business process logic modification options.

1.2.3 DETAILED INFORMATION ON APPLICATION

The other two elements of each application site provide access to detailed information about all relevant processes ongoing inside an application.
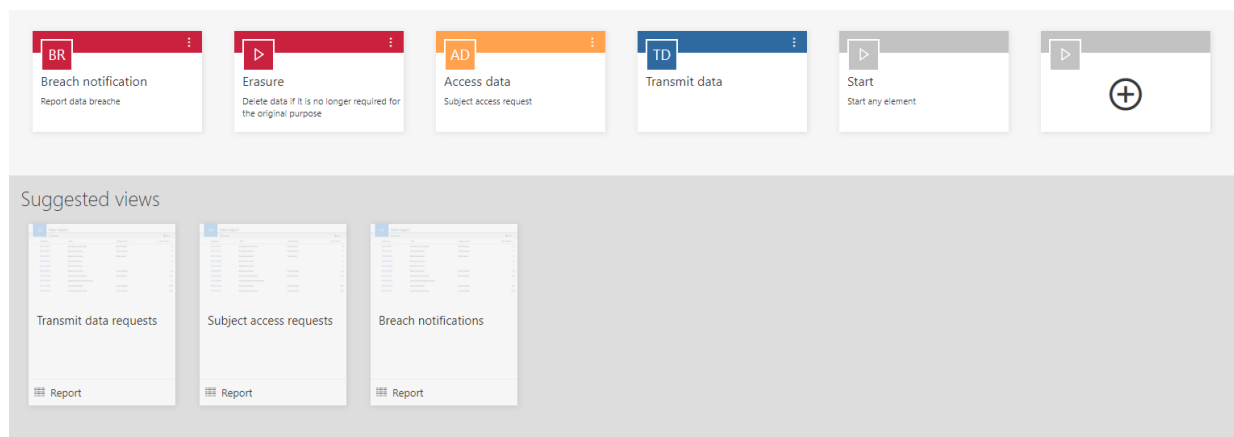
The first section is a convenient shortcut to the application's available dashboards, reports and views. These are suggested to the user based on relevance.

The second section shows the most recent activities inside the application, providing a comfortable "window" to display what operations were carried out recently. This is an especially useful view for management, since it shows the activities of subordinates, their operations, and results.
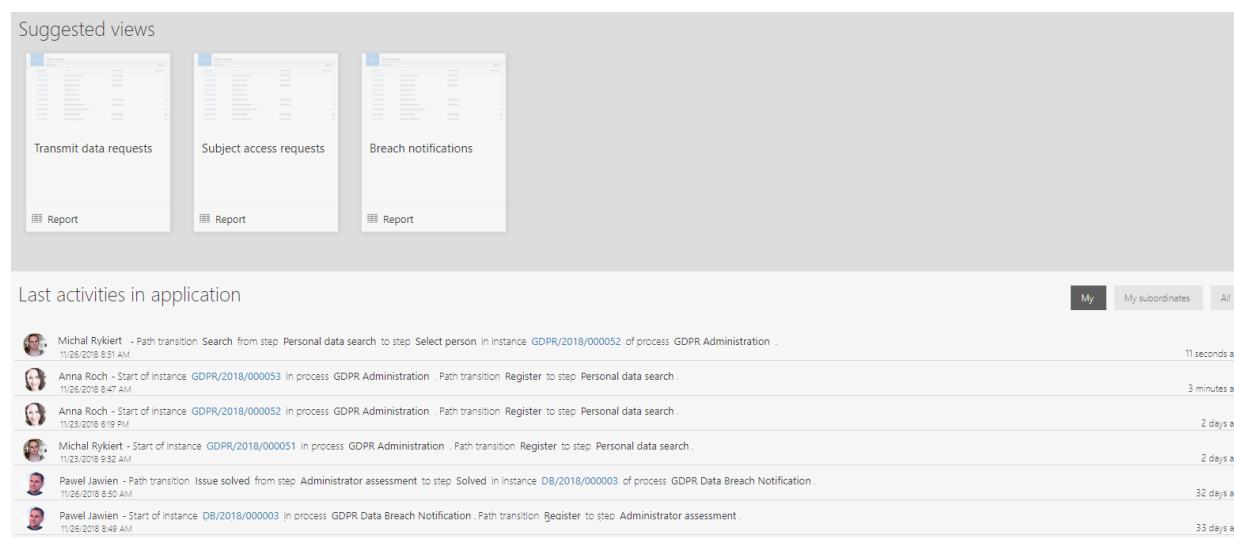
1.3. REPORTING AND PERSONALIZATION OF THE INTERFACE

The new WEBCON BPS interface offers a unified approach to the presentation layer for end users, but does not preclude the possibility to personalize many of its aspects. These include:

- **data presentation** layer,
- the possibility to provide **personalized dashboards**,
- custom **white labeling** for each organization.
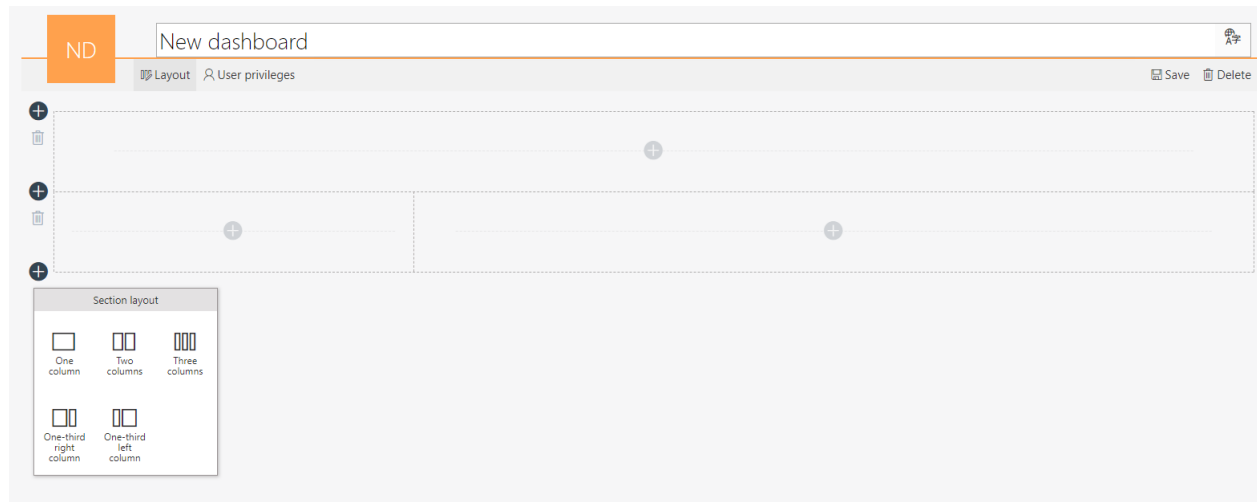
1.3.1. DASHBOARDS

WEBCON BPS Portal makes it possible to create dedicated dashboards, representing a "digital desktop" for each employee, gathering any elements that are necessary for them to work with a specific application.

Each user-created dashboard may consist of three types of elements:

- **elements available from WEBCON BPS Portal as standard** (e.g. task counter, report, starting tile),
- **static elements embedded by the user** (e.g. text or image),
- **dynamic elements embedded by the user** (e.g. YouTube video clip, Power BI report).
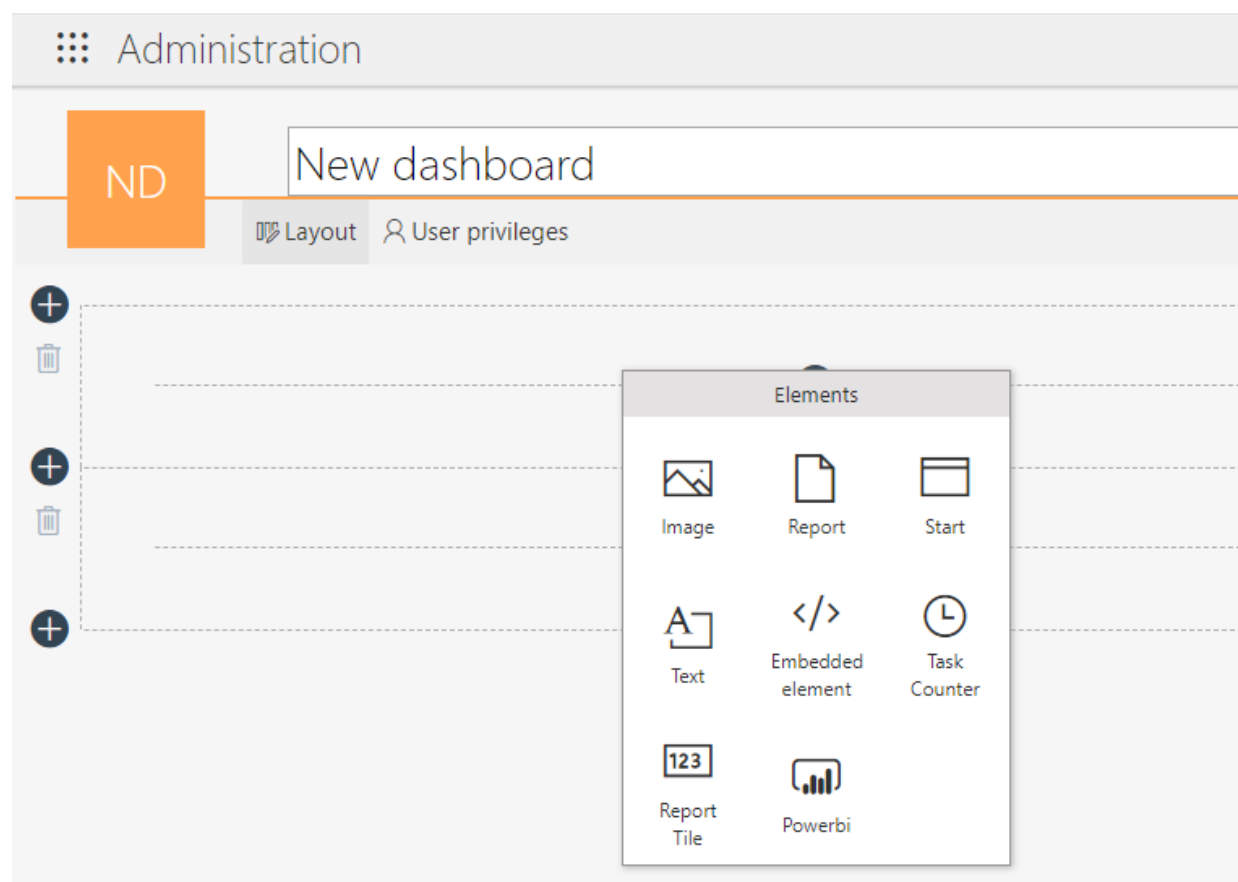
The dashboard structure can be conveniently modified using sections and columns, allowing for comfortable and flexible WYSIWYG embedding of desired elements. This approach requires no specialist knowledge from users (like HTML), letting non- -technical business users participate in designing dashboards.

Example of a dashboard including: a YouTube video, a task counter, two start tiles, and a report in the form of a list:

1.3.2. REPORTS AND VIEWS

WEBCON BPS 2019 represents a significant evolution in our approach to reporting information from the system. Don't worry, all the functionalities related to the creation of reports as lists (known as Web Part Show Workflow Elements) have been retained. Existing reports were only revised to match the style of modern SharePoint lists.

A completely new feature is the ability to provide individual views for any user. Users can decide what pieces of information are important to them, in what sequence they should be displayed, and whether they should be pre-filtered, sorted or not.

This approach allows application administrators to create default reports on which users can later create their own relevant views. All of this is included in a friendly drag & drop graphical interface.

Views can be saved per user (available to the user who created the view only) and as public items (available to all other users).

As a result, the time to delivery of business intelligence insights is greatly reduced, and the fact that application administrators do not need to be directly involved in the process allows them to dedicate their time to more useful tasks.

1.3.3. VISUAL IDENTIFICATION — WHITE LABELING

WEBCON BPS 2019 makes it is possible to change the logo and colors of individual graphic elements in WEBCON BPS Portal.
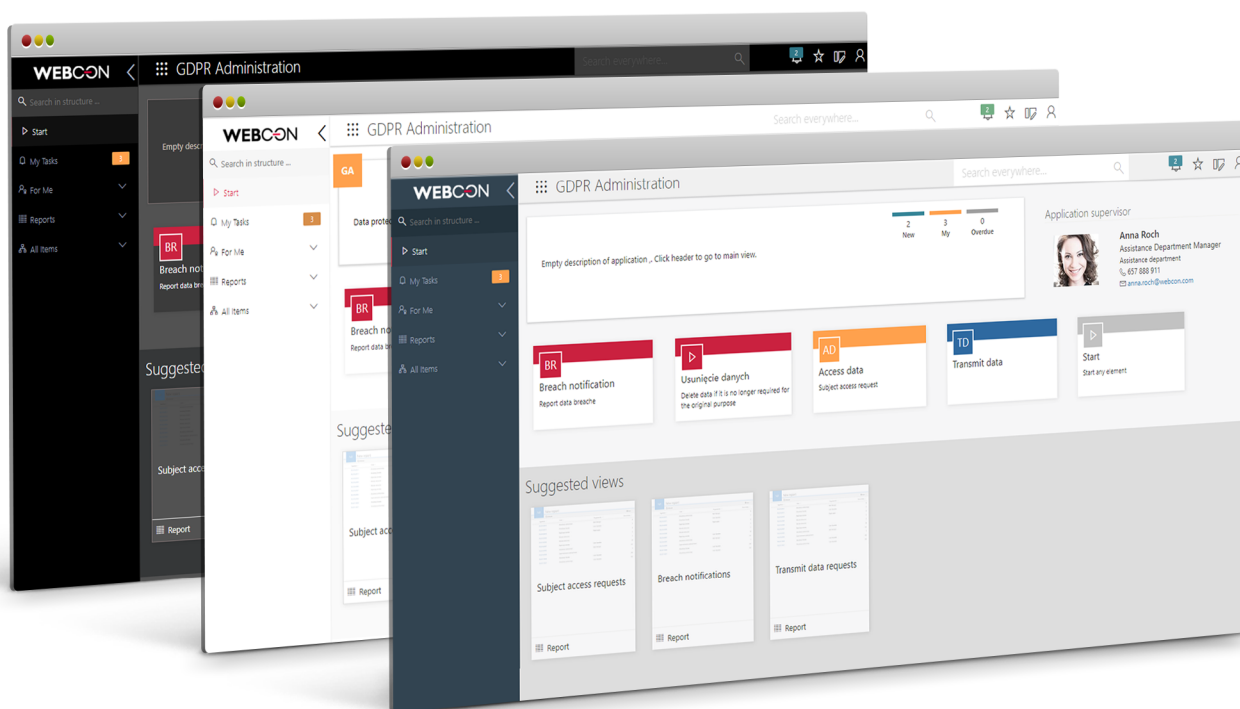
1.4. NEW FORM SCALING

With the release of WEBCON BPS Portal, significant modifications were also made to the form displayed as part of the new interface. The React technology used in the system has enabled it to be many times faster and ensures its full responsiveness. As a result, the form can be easily scaled to the size of any device: PC, tablet or smartphone. You can use the system your own way, (stationary or on the go, through the browser or application) and be certain that it's displayed optimally each time. However, even though we heavily upgraded the technology under the hood, we made sure that on the surface our forms retain the same familiar look and feel from previous versions.
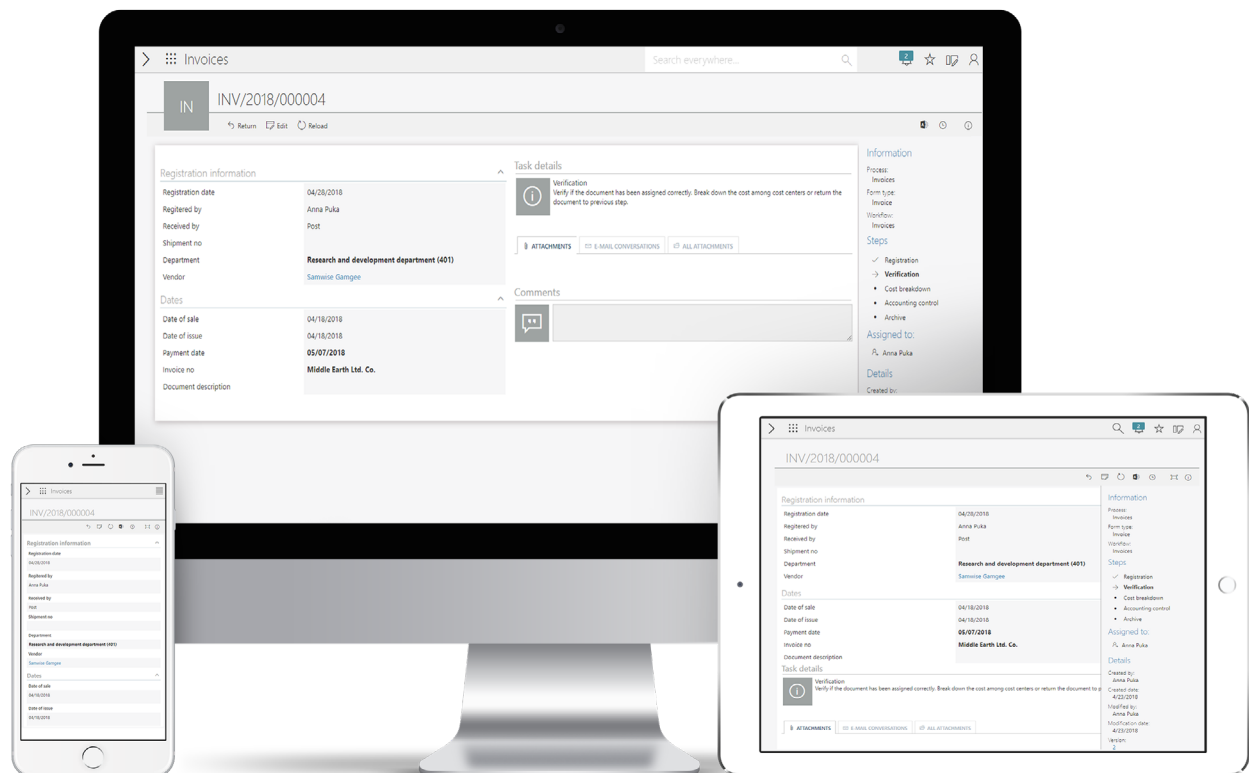
1.4.1. CONVENIENT ATTACHMENT PREVIEWS

The new form also means new options for previewing attachments. TXT, DOCX, PDF, PNG, JPG and XLSX files are displayed in a convenient pop-up window when clicking the file icon. Note that Word, Excel and email file formats, which would otherwise need to be opened in the relevant application, can now be displayed directly in the form.
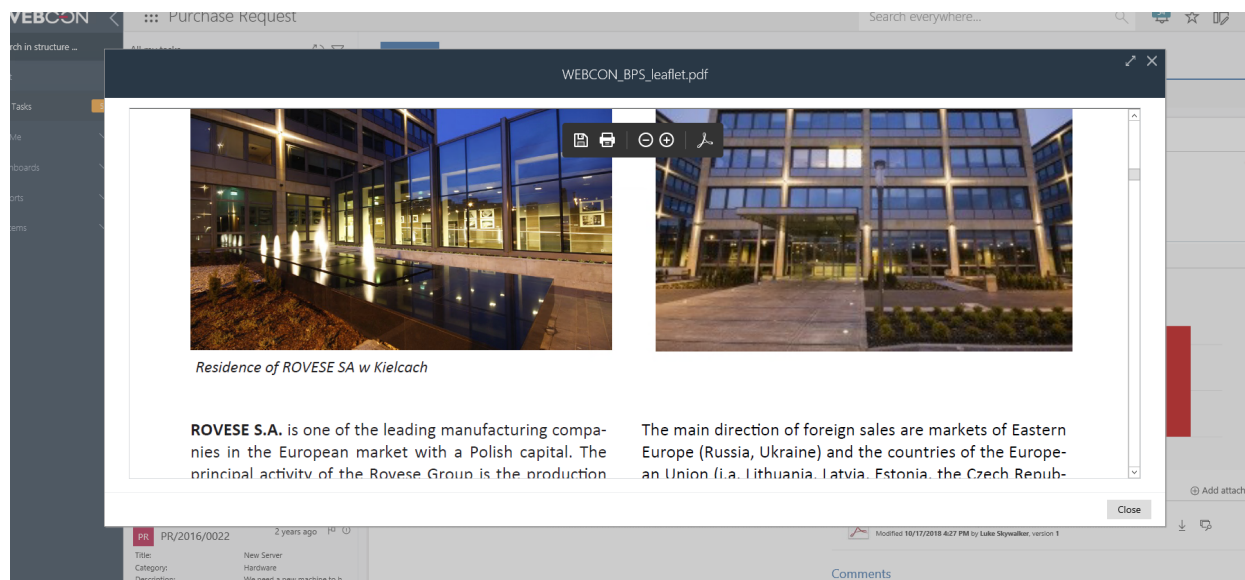
1.4.2. WORKFLOW INSTANCE HISTORY

The workflow element history functionality, which gathers information about everything that has happened since the workflow was run has also been visually updated to be even more transparent and accessible.

The newly updated instance history feature allows you to track changes more efficiently, and even perform a comprehensive audit. This is of particular importance to organizations which are subject to regular controls and must adhere to strict legal requirements.

2. **WEBCON BPS** EVERYWHERE

One of the key concepts driving the development of this revolutionary release was "WEBCON BPS everywhere". WEBCON BPS 2019 marks a major milestone for us in both our integration with and support for Microsoft SharePoint and Office365, as well as outside the Microsoft ecosystem through SharePoint-free installations and the ability to embed WEBCON BPS Portal elements in external systems.

2.1 WEBCON BPS WITHOUT SHAREPOINT

Undeniably, one of the most important developments in the 2019 version is that it can be installed as a standalone without SharePoint. As a result, you only need to have an IIS server and database server (MSSQL Server) to be able to use WEBCON BPS.

This offers a much lower entry threshold for those customers that do not have SharePoint but want to use WEBCON BPS and reduces both software licensing and hardware requirements and costs.

2.2 EXPANDED INTEGRATION WITH OFFICE 365

Since the beginning of Office 365, WEBCON BPS has been providing support for the cloud platform through ADFS integration, and the ability embed Web Parts that are familiar to users of the on-premises version.

However, our goal was to provide something more, in both the graphical and integration layers. The result is WEBCON BPS Portal, which can now be accessed as one of the full-screen applications available under Office 365. WEBCON BPS Portal interface follows design cues from other Microsoft solutions, helping users quickly get used to the way it looks and feels.
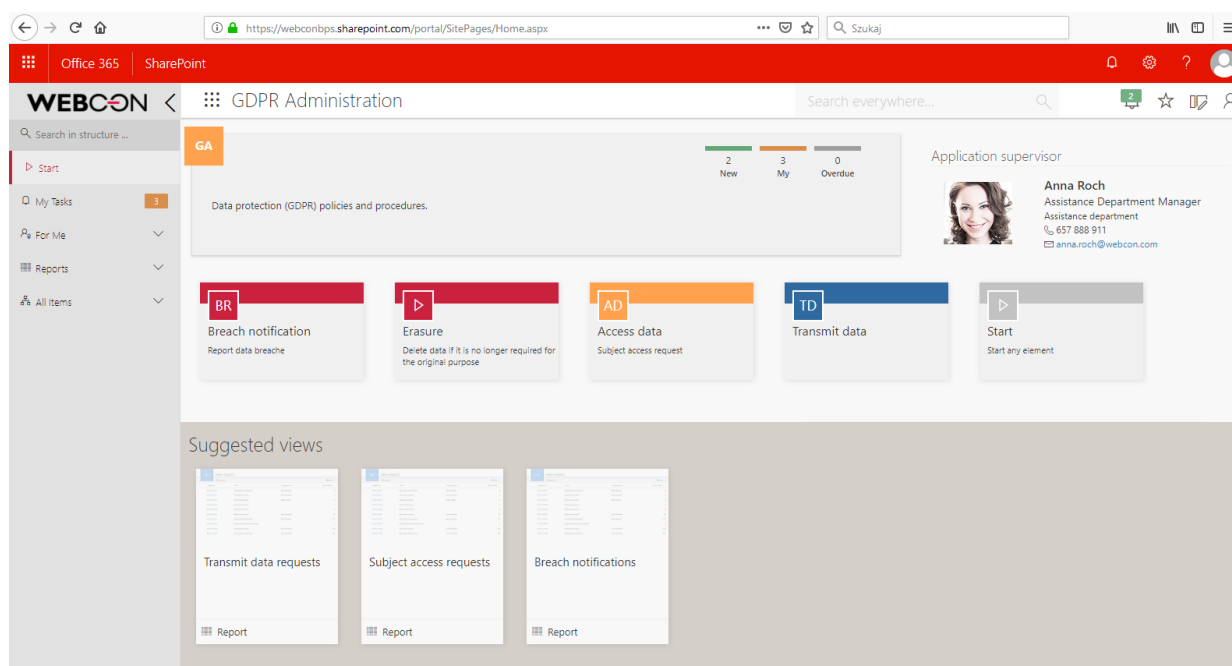
The technical aspects of the integration with Office 365 were also significantly improved. The integration is now considerably simpler due to the possibility of installing WEBCON BPS without SharePoint (as described above), and the introduction of an alternative option for integration with the Office 365 environment (in the Single--Sign-On model) using the Application Proxy.

2.3 EMBEDDING WEBCON BPS INTO EXTERNAL SYSTEMS AND PORTALS

WEBCON BPS Portal gives users the ability to embed elements like reports, dashboards, task counters and lists into external systems using a simple embed code, the same way YouTube video clips are embedded on websites.
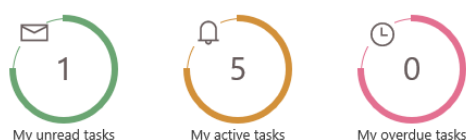
This creates countless business scenarios where WEBCON BPS elements become integral parts of existing systems (e.g. ERP, CRM), Intranet or web portals.

For example, a customer's intranet websites can display orders placed and processed by suppliers using WEBCON BPS. Reports can be used to track the status of an order or display other key information.
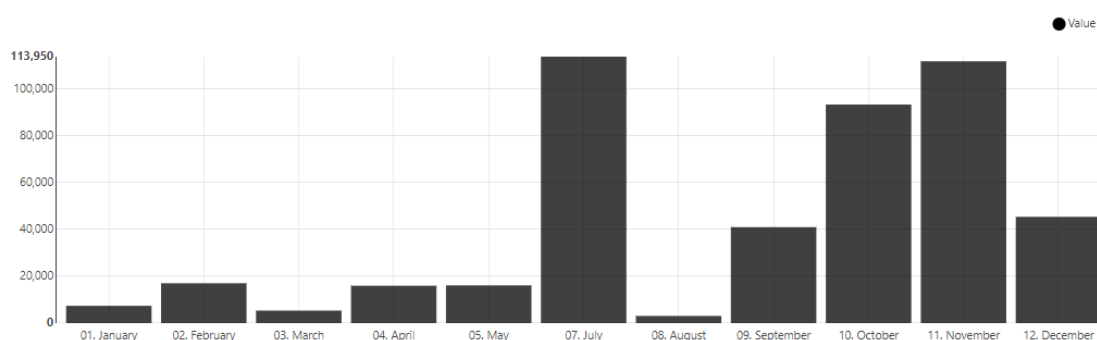
Purchase Request

Purchase Request center

Task counter

✉ 1	🔔 5	🕐 0
My unread tasks	My active tasks	My overdue tasks

All purchase requests value in time

↻ ODŚWIEŻ

● Value

01. January	02. February	03. March	04. April	05. May	07. July	08. August	09. September	10. October	11. November	12. December

2.4 WEBCON BPS FOR SHAREPOINT

All applications and interface elements (reports, task lists, running tiles, etc.) will be 100% compatible with the new version of the system. By using the Classic Interface, the number of visible modifications is negligible and users can continue to use the interface with which they are familiar. The available options are described below.
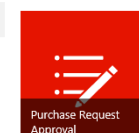
2.4.1. CLASSIC INTERFACE

All applications and interface elements (reports, task lists, running tiles, etc.) are 100% compatible with the new version of the system. When choosing the Classic Interface, the number of visible modifications is negligible and users can continue to use the interface with which they are familiar.
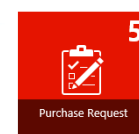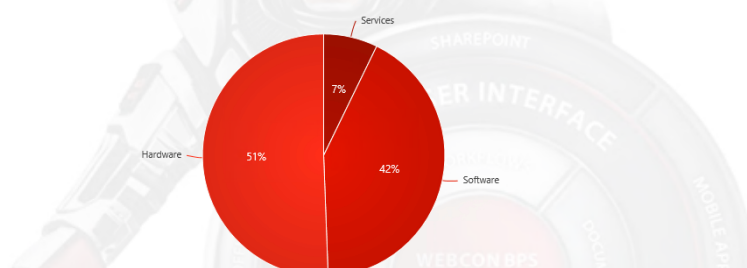
The classic interface is designed in particular for those customers who want WEB-CON BPS to be an integral part of their SharePoint platform. There is also the added benefit of peace of mind for existing users, who may be apprehensive to the idea of migrating to, and learning a new interface.

2.4.2. MODERN INTERFACE

All SharePoint installations also allow the use of the new WEBCON BPS Portal interface. This option is designed for those customers who want to provide their users with a modern interface, to unify their working spaces with regard to business processes, and reduce the time spent on administering collections of SharePoint sites.

A hybrid solution is also possible, for example by embedding WEBCON BPS Portal elements into existing SharePoint sites. In this case, users are provided with visually updated interface elements within their existing SharePoint structures.

3. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

This chapter describes other notable improvements and modifications implemented in WEBCON BPS 2019. The full list of changes and new functionalities will be available after the premiere.

3.1 PROCESS FLOW ANALYSIS

Process flow analysis has been implemented as a direct response to our users' suggestions. It allows the verification of the number of workflow instances created in a specified time interval, counts the number of entries into a specific step, and the number of times a transition path was used. The results are presented graphically using color codes to improve visibility and allow for quick analysis.
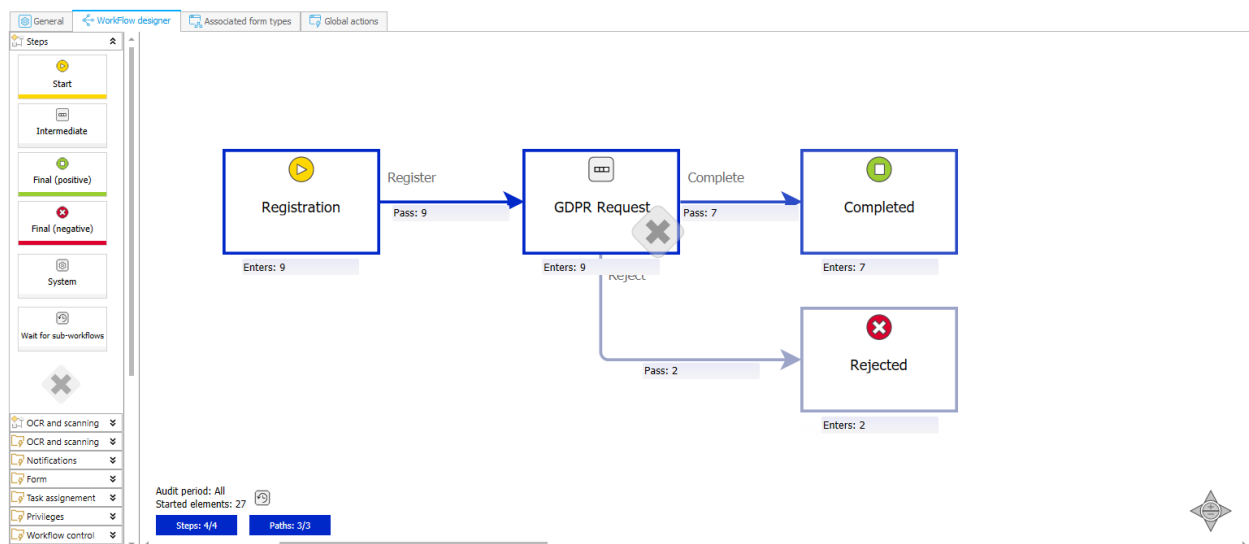
The process flow analysis is a very useful tool to use during testing, allowing theoretical assumptions to be confronted with their practical use. It is also a valuable tool used when optimizing an existing business process.

3.2 PROCESS TRANSFER IMPROVEMENTS

The export/import mechanism of WEBCON BPS has been a distinctive feature of our low-code platform for years. Thanks to its usefulness and simplicity of use, it has earned recognition from a broad range of experts responsible for the implementation of business applications.

We work diligently to ensure that the export/import functionality in WEBCON BPS is improved in each release. In addition to the existing ability to transfer business processes, workflow definitions, forms, business rules, data sources, and reports within a single file, you can now easily migrate add-ons created using the SDK package.

You can now choose which elements will be exported, not just configuration items, making application transfers simpler and reducing the number of manual operations in the DEV-TEST-PROD migration to a minimum.

3.3 REST API

WEBCON BPS 2019 enables you to use REST technology to further our integration capabilities. The new REST API provides full support for launching new workflow instances, tracking transitions between steps, and modifying the contents of a workflow instance.