Unified Data Governance with Microsoft Purview

A practical walkthrough of Purview's governance, compliance, and information protection capabilities.

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What is Microsoft Purview?

Microsoft Purview is Microsoft's unified platform for **data governance**, **compliance**, **risk**, and **security** across Microsoft 365, Azure, Microsoft Fabric, and external clouds.
Purview helps organizations:

- Discover and classify data across distributed environments
- Monitor compliance posture
- Enforce policies and reduce risk
- Manage sensitive data end-to-end

This project explores Purview's main components using real portal views.

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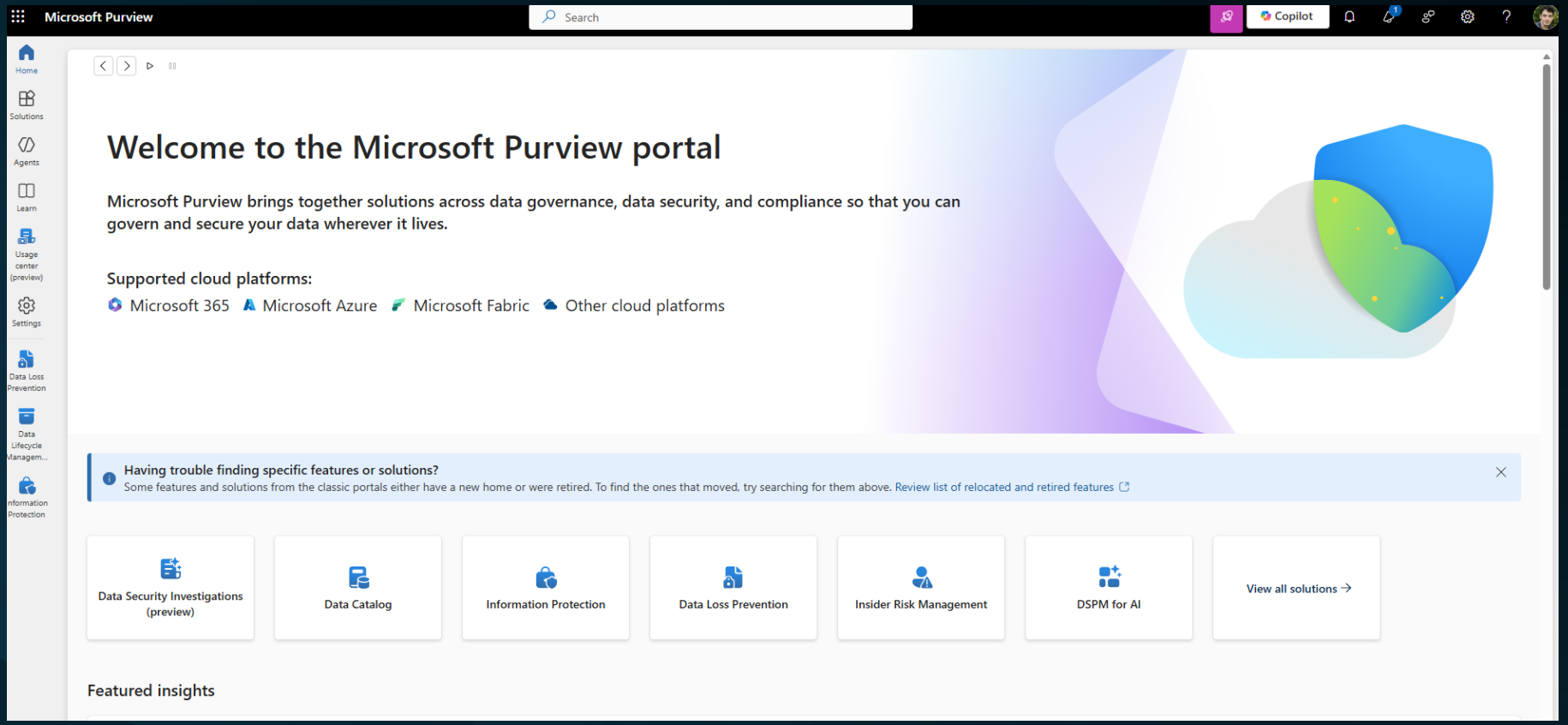
Purview Home — Unified Data Governance Entry Point

The Purview home page gives a centralized entry point into all governance and compliance solutions.
From here, organizations can access:



Data Catalog	**Data Loss Prevention**
Compliance Manager	**Insider Risk Management**
Information Protection	**Communication Compliance**
Data Lifecycle & Records Management	

Purview unifies Microsoft 365, Azure, Fabric, and third-party data sources for a consistent governance experience

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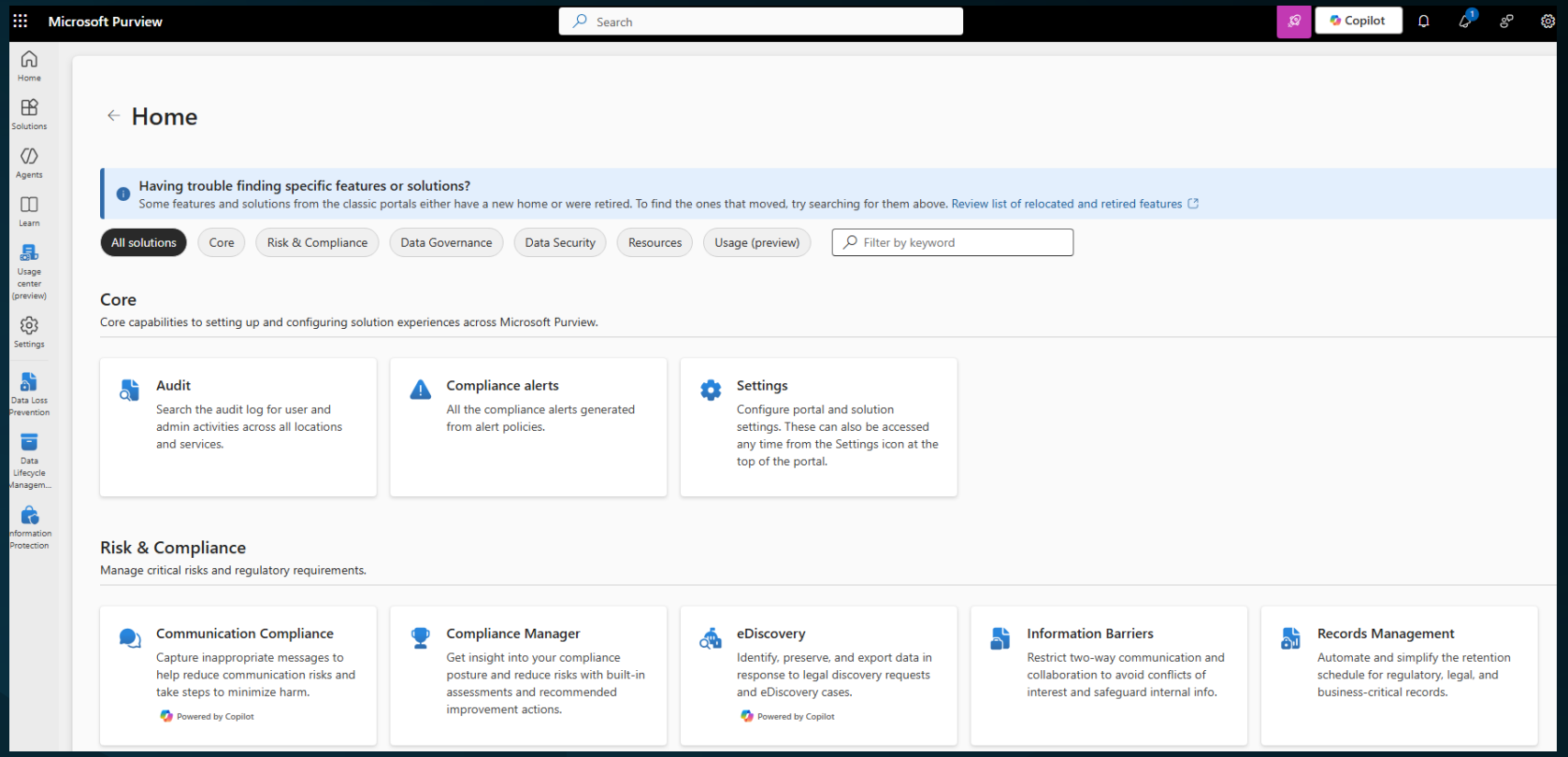
Purview Solutions Breakdown



These categories represent Purview's major governance and security domains:

Core

Services required to configure and operationalize Purview:

- Audit
- Compliance Alerts
- Portal Settings

Risk & Compliance

Tools for meeting legal, privacy, and regulatory requirements:

- Communication Compliance
- Compliance Manager
- eDiscovery
- Information Barriers
- Records Management

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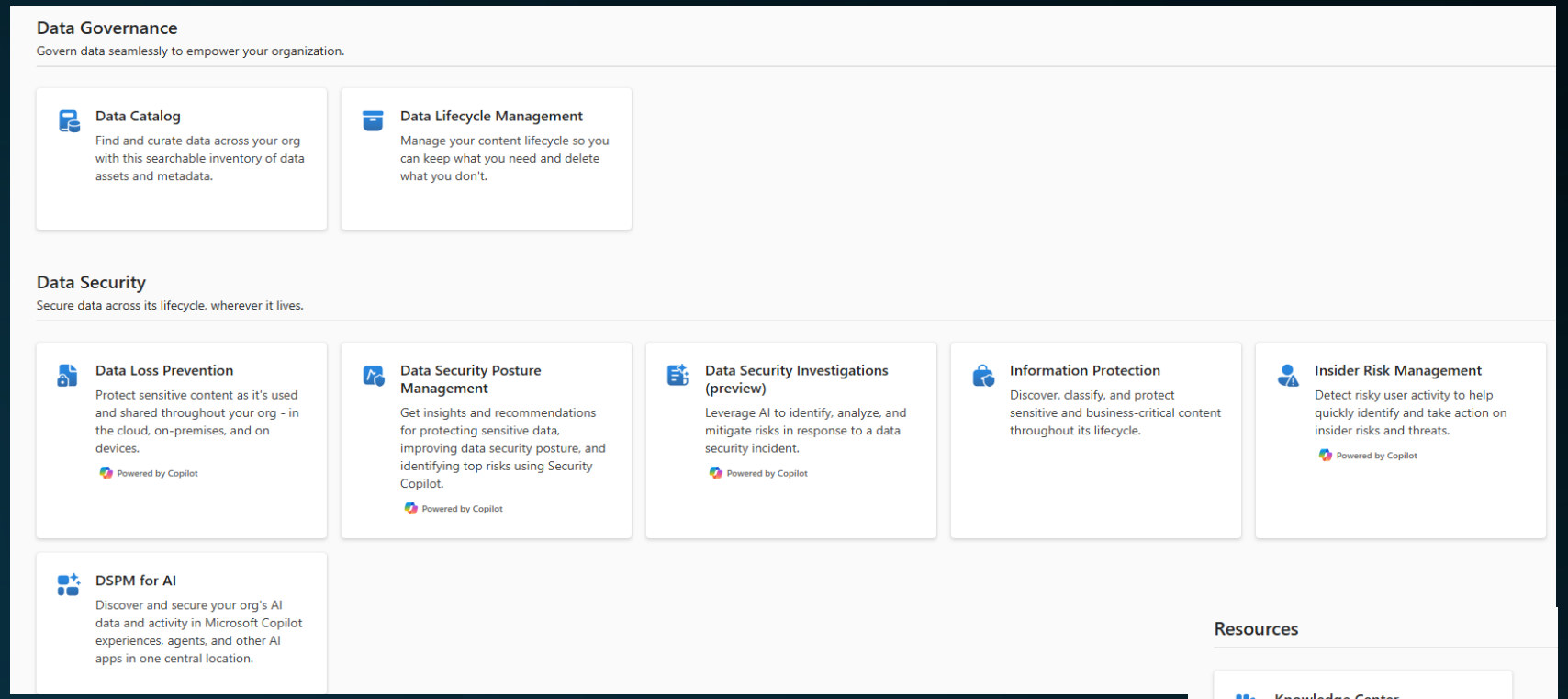

Data Governance

Ensures data quality, discoverability, consistency, and lifecycle:

- Data Catalog
- Data Lifecycle Management
- Governance Domains

Data Security

Protects sensitive content everywhere it lives:

- Data Loss Prevention
- Data Security Posture Management
- Information Protection
- Insider Risk Management

This layout is the foundation of Purview's governance model.

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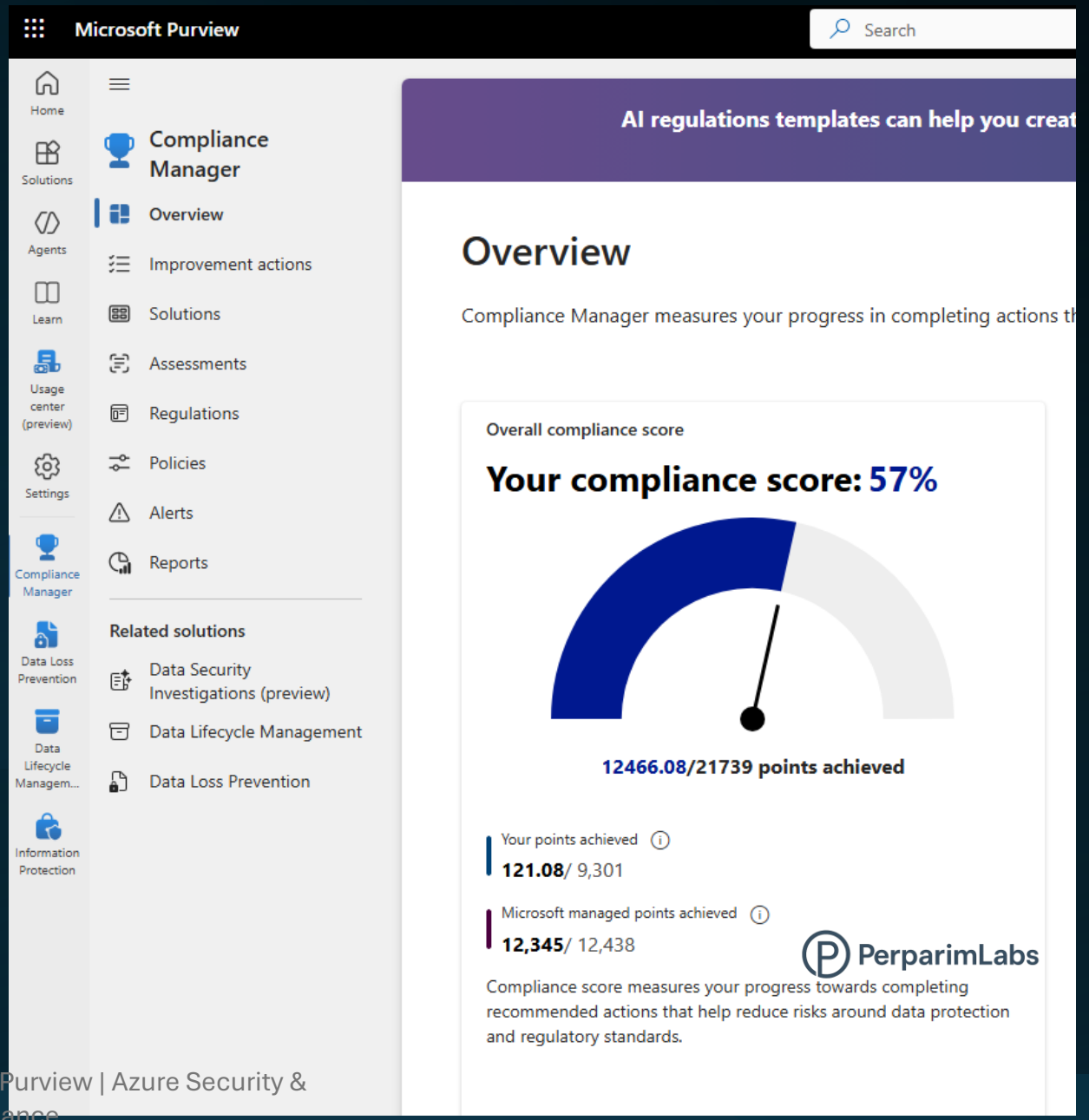
Compliance Manager — Centralized Compliance Score

Compliance Manager provides a **real-time score** showing how well your environment aligns with security and regulatory frameworks.

It delivers:

- A measurable **overall compliance score**
- Breakdown of Microsoft-managed vs. customer-managed controls
- Recommended improvement actions
- Framework-based assessments (GDPR, ISO, NIST, PCI, etc.)

Your score helps prioritize actions that most efficiently reduce organizational risk.



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Compliance Assessments — Track Framework Alignment

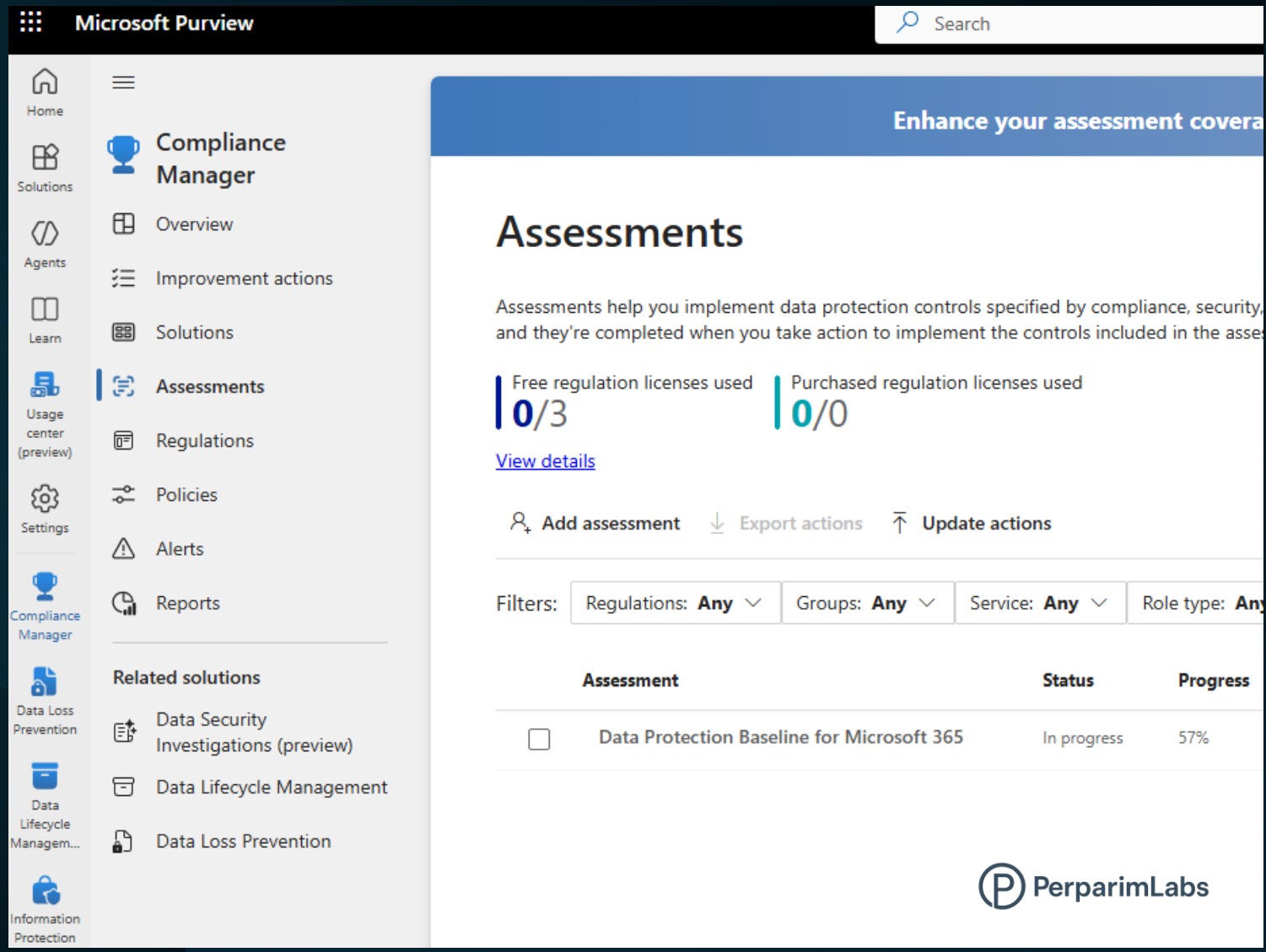
Assessments let organizations evaluate their posture against frameworks such as:

- **Microsoft 365 Data Protection Baseline**
- **ISO 27001**
- **NIST SP 800-53**
- **PCI DSS**
- **GDPR**

Each assessment contains:

- Required controls
- Implementation guidance
- Maturity scoring
- Automated testing (where possible)

Assessments scale compliance across multiple services and departments.



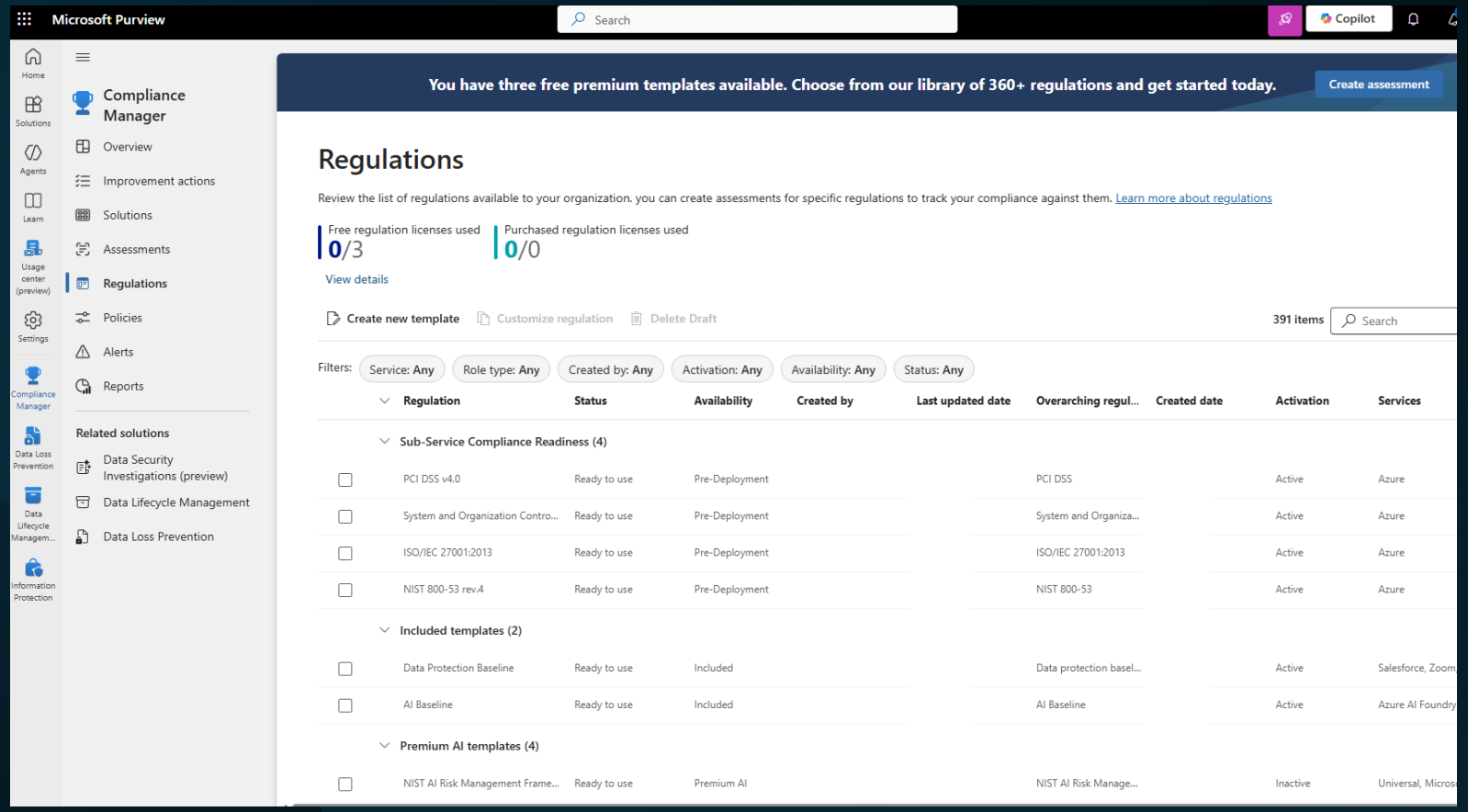
Regulations Library — 360+ Frameworks Available

Purview offers **hundreds of regulations** that organizations can activate depending on industry or geography.

Examples:

- ISO/IEC 27001
- SOC 2
- HIPAA
- NIST 800-53
- PCI DSS v4.0
- AI Risk Management frameworks
- Data Protection Baseline (Microsoft)

Each regulation contains templates to quickly align Purview assessments.



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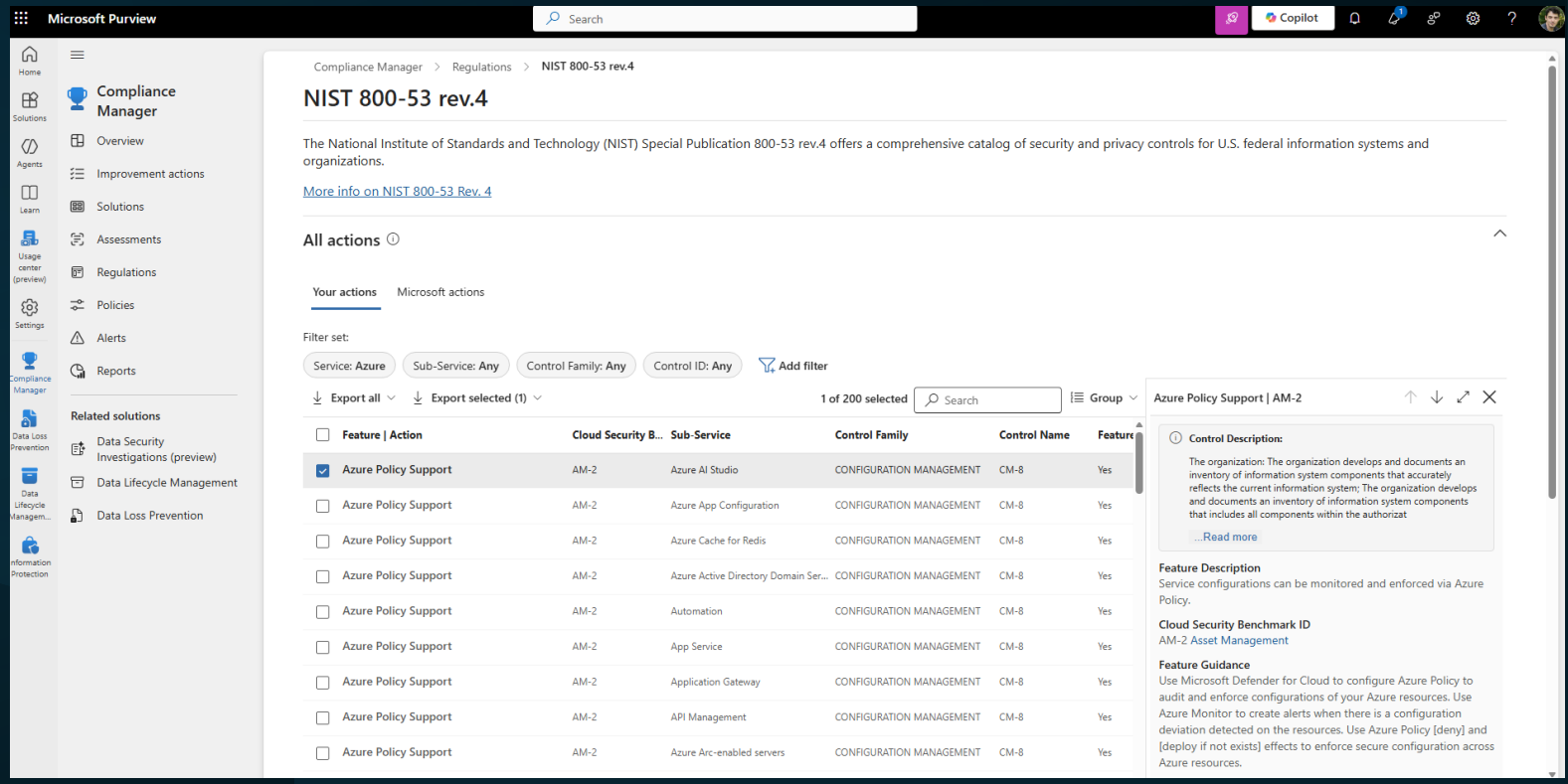
Regulation Details — Mapping Controls with Azure & M365

This view shows how Purview breaks a regulation into actionable pieces:

- **Control descriptions** (NIST CM-8, AC-2, etc.)
- **Azure Policy mappings**
- **Service-specific controls** (Azure, M365, Fabric)
- **Implementation guidance**
- **Monitoring capabilities**



This helps compliance teams understand which technologies satisfy which regulatory requirements.

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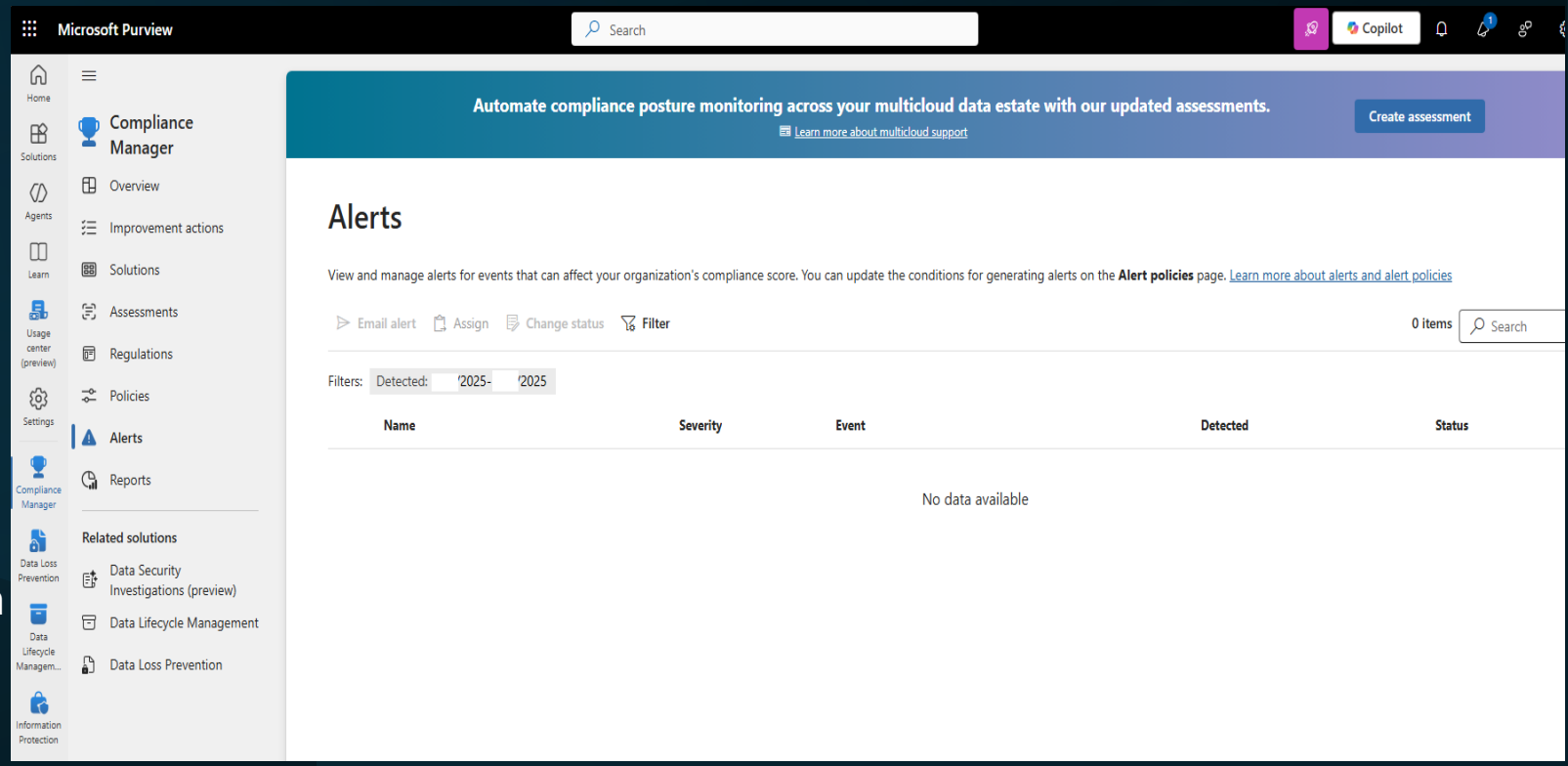
Compliance Alerts — Monitor Risk & Violations

Compliance Manager Alerts identify:

- Policy violations
- Compliance score-impacting events
- Changes in sensitive data posture
- Framework-specific control failures

Alerts help proactively address configuration drift and emerging compliance gaps.



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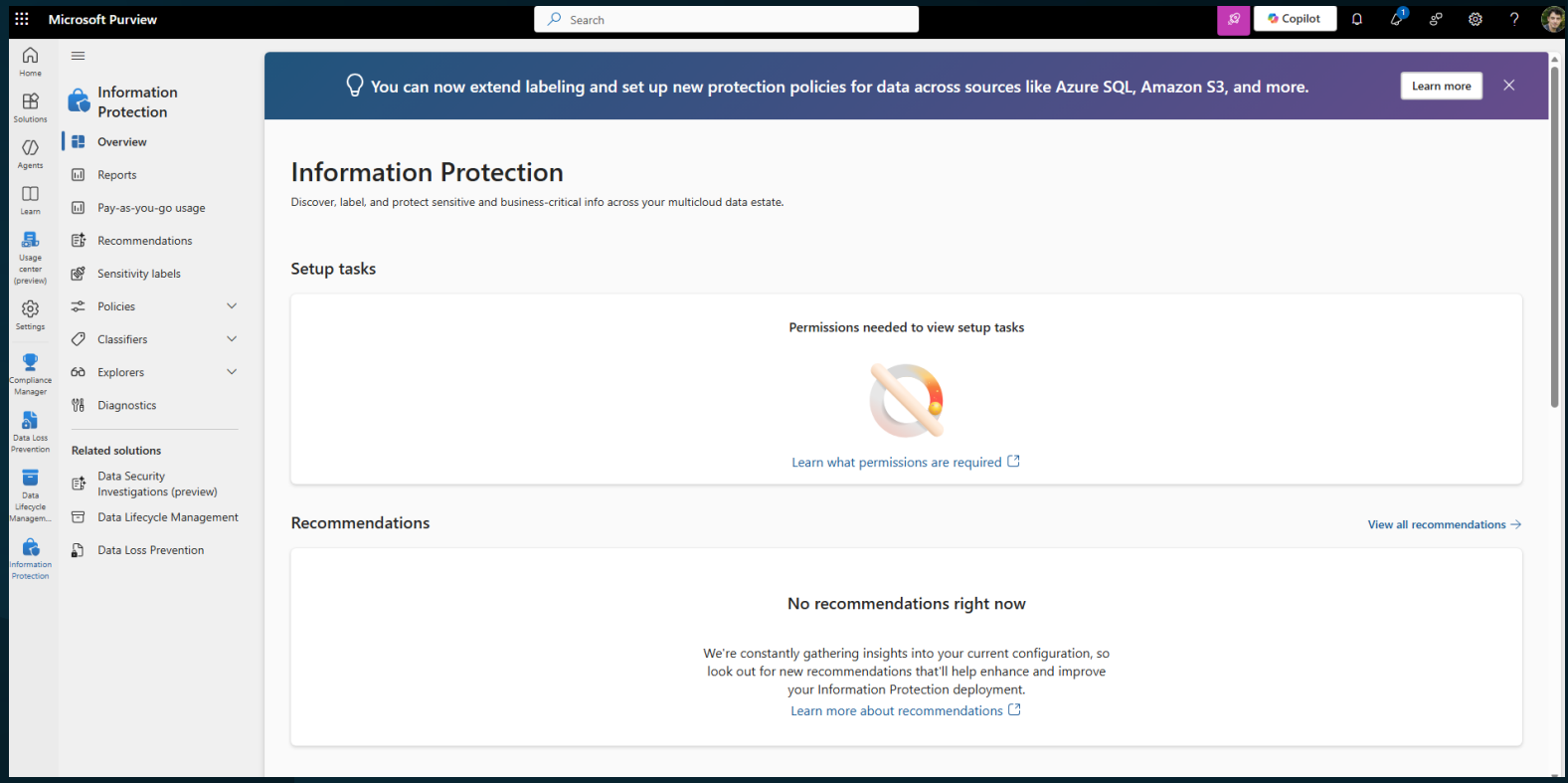
Information Protection — Label, Classify & Protect Data

Purview Information Protection enables:

- Sensitivity labels
- Auto-labeling rules
- Activity reporting
- Classification using built-in & custom classifiers
- Multicloud data protection (Azure SQL, AWS S3, Amazon RDS, etc.)



This is the heart of **data-centric security** in Purview.

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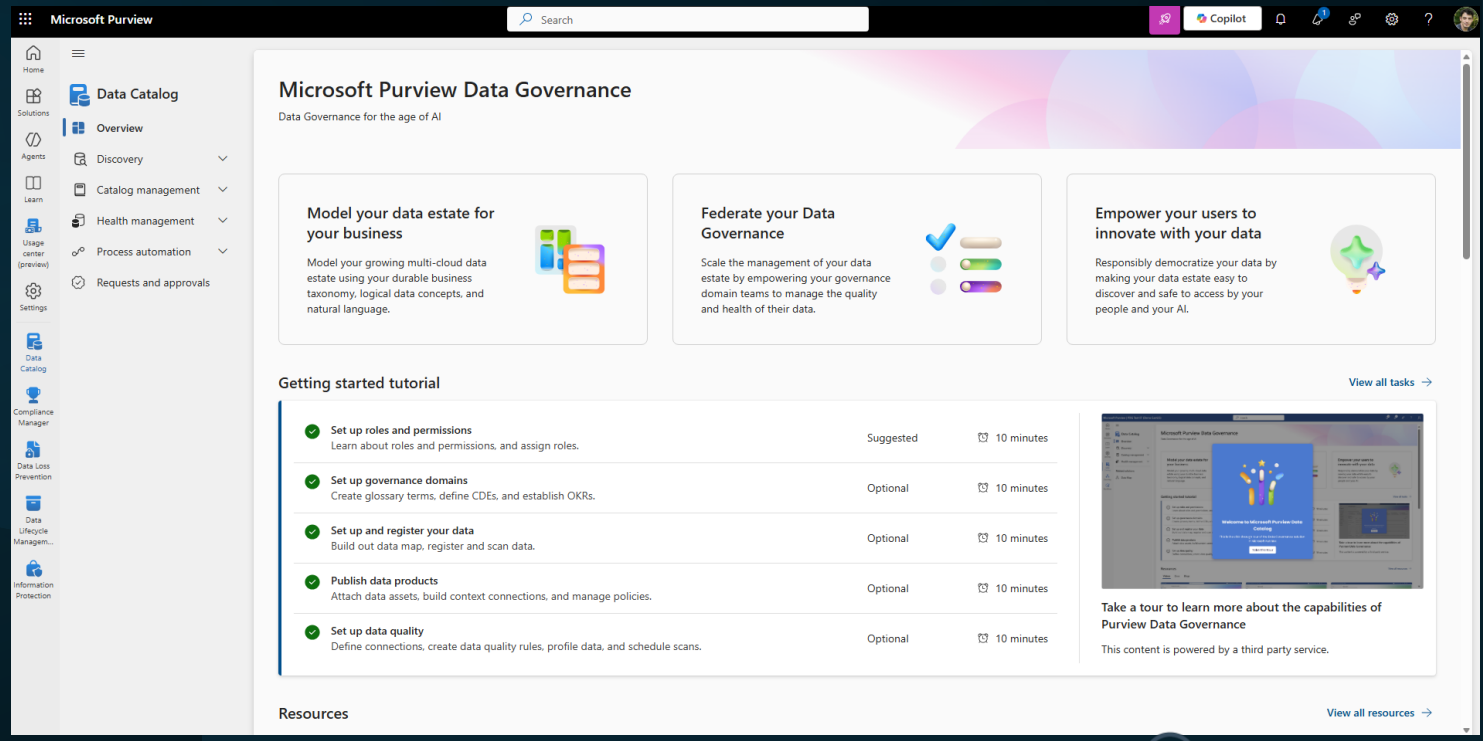
Data Catalog — Discover, Register & Govern Your Data Estate

The Data Catalog enables organizations to:

- Create a searchable inventory of all data assets
- Register data sources across on-prem, Azure, AWS, GCP, and Fabric
- Build glossary terms & business taxonomies
- Automate metadata scanning
- Publish data products for analytics & AI teams
- Improve data quality and collaboration

This is Purview's main **data governance engine**.



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Key Takeaways

- Microsoft Purview unifies governance, compliance, and security
- Compliance Manager helps you measure and improve regulatory alignment
- Information Protection provides end-to-end data security
- Data Catalog enables true enterprise data governance
- Purview integrates with Azure, Microsoft 365, Fabric, and third-party clouds

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