

PowerApps & Access for a Hospital Trust

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My background



- Started in mainframe/mini development (punched cards and green screens) – COBOL, Algol68R, Fortran
- Mid 80's – came the PC into business
- Used Windows since v2.x and Access developer since the 1st beta (this does not, necessarily, make me an expert!)
- 20+ years of IT Management whilst continuing to seriously “dabble” in code for internal needs
- Self-employed for 15 years now in 3 development areas:
 - Turn data into information – long term (pseudo-)agile/prototyping projects using SQL Server, Access, and Power Platform
 - Build new systems to replace poor or outmoded system
 - Take over maintenance of existing installations
- That's my excuse list finished 😊, so moving swiftly on

Demo development of a PowerApps app



- Hold on to your hats, this might be an interesting ride...
- It will certainly be fast! But please remember there is likely to be video of this afterwards, and I will help anyone wanting to deploy this for C-19 response
- I will use pre-existing SharePoint Lists for the data as creating this will be unnecessarily time consuming
- I'll allow PowerApps to default build a standard app
- And then modify it with cut and paste from another browser window
- Then run the Access management app

My Hints & tips (1/2)



- Keep it simple, don't try to outthink PowerApps, you'll lose!
- Use the documentation of functions online
- Connectivity in the field is key (collections can mitigate)
- Test systems become interesting. Name change of data source.
- Keep your iterations, release often.
- Don't exceed 500 rows, 2000 if you must
- Use separate lists if possible for simpler date (fewer distinct statements)
- Indexes, have ≥ 1 unique index, but watch out for Title
- KISS – make lists that compare with SQL Views you'd build in a SQL database
- It's so easy to link from Access, it's a breeze

Hints & tips (2/2)



- For implementation - multiple sign in to different tenants can be an issued – third party cookies on (private mode doesn't help – watch for KMSI)
- Edge seems better than Firefox, but I now use collections in Firefox when needed
- Think 3 forms – so much of what you can do with it:
 1. List of things to do – pick one
 2. See all the details of the one you picked
 3. Do it
- Keep the PowerApps app itself up to date
- Capitalisation – watch out, it's a Unix world in there!
- There are oodles of data connections from Microsoft. You can pretty much connect to anything (except Access), a fair bit “free”.

Summary & thoughts



- **Go for it** (or use someone who has 😊).
- You really should go to O365 if you are heading this way
- SQL Azure becomes a really good idea
- Note what you can do with Microsoft Partner Network:
 - Gives you O365
 - \$150 credit per month for Azure
 - Option to buy Access Pack and get most of your software needs

My Offer



1. If you want help deploying to a client in order to manage staff operating directly to combat Covid-19, I will provide 1 or 2 hours' help for you online with Teams or TeamViewer
2. If you want to help to deploy but not directly for the pandemic, then I will help for free – but I appreciate a donation to a UK charity (Help For Heroes)

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