

# Enhancing Expo Displayfile Guide

## Overview

This guide will show basic techniques to change the look and feel of Monarch Migrated application Pages, to make them more appealing.

During the description of the steps to apply the different techniques, the public repository in GitHub will be used:

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Reference public GitHub repository:

*<https://github.com/ASNA/SunFarm>*

The repository was created with a fresh new Monarch Migration. As enhancements were being applied, the required changes were committed, such that by using git History tooling, the changes may be seen in real code.

## Assumptions

Familiarity with the ASNA **Customer Sample IBMi program** is required. This program has been provided by ASNA as sample RPG/CL code in several products, with the names: M4CUST, M5CUST and/or IronMonger.

## Scope

This Guide shows how to Enhance the following Pages:

1. Customer Inquiry (Initial Page)
2. Customer Maintenance (Option “2”)

In addition, the Site has been branded to show the fictitious company “SunFarm” with its logo on all pages.

## What this Guide *is not*

1. This Guide is not an introduction to ASNA Core Foundation
2. This is not a Tutorial.
3. Cloning the repository is not enough. There are ASNA references (or source Projects) that need to be installed.

## Specifically, the goal is to transform: Customer Inquiry Page:

Enter

F3

PgUp

PgDn

contreras

M5 Customer Inquiry

11/05/20 17:08:15


Position to name:

2=Update 3=Display sales 5=Delivery Addresses 7=Create sales record 9=Print sales (Online) 10=Print sales (Batch) 11=Orders

Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
▼	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
▼	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
▼	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
▼	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
▼	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
▼	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
▼	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
▼	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
▼	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
▼	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
▼	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
▼	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
▼	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
▼	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

F3=Exit

To this modern look:



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### Customer Inquiry

Position to name:


Selection	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
<input type="checkbox"/>	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
<input type="checkbox"/>	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
<input type="checkbox"/>	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
<input type="checkbox"/>	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
<input type="checkbox"/>	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
<input type="checkbox"/>	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
<input type="checkbox"/>	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
<input type="checkbox"/>	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
<input type="checkbox"/>	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
<input type="checkbox"/>	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
<input type="checkbox"/>	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
<input type="checkbox"/>	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
<input type="checkbox"/>	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202
<input type="checkbox"/>	19300	Akzo Allyn Inc Co	Tucson, AZ 85713
<input type="checkbox"/>	80600	Akzo Of Maine	Sanford, ME 04073
<input type="checkbox"/>	59700	Akzo Sign Systems Co	Dalton, GA 30720
<input type="checkbox"/>	50500	Alamo Elias Board Overland	Greensboro, NC 27407
<input type="checkbox"/>	92000	Alexvale Danek Noble Incorporated Mfg	Pompano Beach, FL 33064
<input type="checkbox"/>	10100	Alexvale Investments Publishing	Rumford, RI 02916

SubmitExitPgUpPgDn

# Customer Maintenance Page:

Enter	contreras	M5 Customer Maintenance	11/05/20	17:52:40
F3				
Prompt		46000	Akzo Allyn Inc Co	
New				
Delete	Name:	<input type="text" value="Akzo Allyn Inc Co"/>		
Cancel	Address:	<input type="text" value="Bldg S. Belt 1x Bld 2226"/>		
		<input type="text"/>		
	City:	<input type="text" value="Tucson"/>		
	State/Zip:	<input type="text" value="AZ"/>	(F4)	<input type="text" value="85713"/>
	Fax:	<input type="text" value="602)251-3271"/>		
	Phone:	<input type="text" value="(602) 258-7898"/>		
	Status:	<input type="text"/>	(F4)	
	Contact Name:	<input type="text"/>		
	Contact eMail:	<input type="text"/>		
	Send Confirmation:	<input type="text"/>	(Y/N)	
	F4=Prompt      F6=New customer      F11=Remove customer      F12=Cancel			


To this page where more useful information is displayed



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### Customer Maintenance

Account number29400



Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

Salesperson

eMail

Phone

Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day

1313 N Rd 122 Prkwy Suite

BryanOH43506

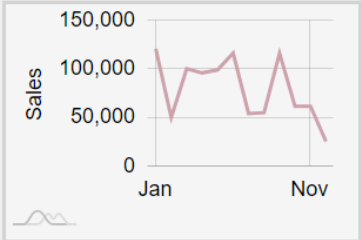
(419) 251-3060

Fax 419)682-0611

Send Confirmation

(Y/N)

Active



Sales

JanNov

**Last registered sales (Year 1997)**

960,992.57↓ +21.3%

Jan	121,174.32	Feb	50,489.49	Mar	100,567.71	Apr	96,354.00
May	99,382.42	Jun	116,623.63	Jul	54,574.63	Aug	55,472.98
Sep	116,586.43	Oct	61,889.79	Nov	62,112.07	Dec	25,765.10

**Last registered returns (Year 1997)**

131,644.38

Jan	16,950.64	Feb	6,806.59	Mar	13,552.22	Apr	13,089.60
May	13,158.84	Jun	16,079.07	Jul	7,643.46	Aug	7,341.96
Sep	16,092.86	Oct	8,439.19	Nov	8,820.75	Dec	3,669.20

Submit

Exit

Prompt

New Customer

Remove Customer

Back

## Data Files used

The IBMi data files were also migrated to a Microsoft SQL instance.

Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio has been used to show file definitions and query results.

The DataGate database in \$SunFarm\CustomerAppLogic\MyJob.cs named ***NancySQL*** points to a Microsoft SQL instance where the Data Files have been migrated.

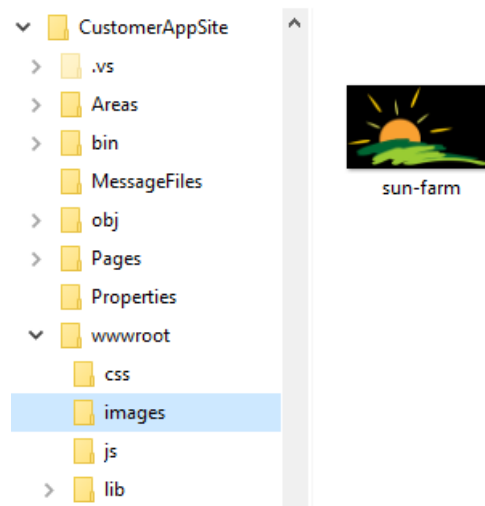
## Adding branding: SunFarm Logo as a heading on all pages.

The heading is produced by an image, text added with proper CSS and a solid background.



The file used is a PNG raster image as shown, with transparency. The name of the file is “sun-farm.png”

The place where static resources are placed is under the `wwwroot` folder:



Out of the box, the folder `wwwroot/css` already has a CSS file named `site.css`. It is empty.

Let's add some styles that will allow us to position and define the look of our logo elements





```

#logo-banner {
    height: auto;
    background-color: green;
}

#logo {
    padding-left: 1em;
}

#logo-text {
    display: inline-block;
    vertical-align: top;
    margin-left: -41px;
}

#logo-title {
    color: orange;
    font-size: xx-large;
    font-family: system-ui;
    font-weight: bolder;
}

#logo-subtitle {
    text-align: center;
    color: lightgreen;
    font-size: medium;
    opacity: 0.5;
}
1

```

The markup that we need is standard HTML which we will place in the file:

\$SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\\_ViewStart.cshtml.cshtml

This file shared with all the Pages in the View file structure.

```

@{
    Layout = "_Layout";
}

<div id="logo-banner">
    
    <div id="logo-text">
        <div id="logo-title">sunfarm</div>
        <div id="logo-subtitle">always fresh</div>
    </div>
</div>

```

The Application will show the branded heading on top of all pages, as shown below:

---

<sup>1</sup> Commit: "Logo resources".

Enter contreras M5 Customer Inquiry 11/05/20 18:55:53

F3 Position to name:

PgUp 2=Update 3=Display sales 5=Delivery Addresses 7=Create sales record 9=Print

PgDn sales (Online) 10=Print sales (Batch) 11=Orders

Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
▼	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
▼	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
▼	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
▼	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230

2

## Navigation menu (formerly DDS File Active Function Keys)

The two pages we are enhancing, are formed by records described by CUSTDSP Displayfile.

All Display files are described using Razor Page syntax, where ExpoTags runtime support augments with DDS-like tag-helpers.

The Expo tag-helper that represents the “*DDS File Active Function Keys*” is named **DdsFunctionKeys** (tag-helper).

The default markup for Monarch Migrated Displayfiles shows the **DdsFunctionKey** tag-helper without any attributes (at the top of each Displayfile, inside the **DdsFile** tag-helper):

```
<form id="MonarchForm" method="post">
  <DdsFile DisplayPageModel="Model">

    <DdsFunctionKeys />

    <main role="main" class="display-element-uninitialized">
      .
      .
      .
    </main>
  </DdsFile>
</form>
```

---

<sup>2</sup> Commit: “Branding all pages”

Let's change the **Location** attribute to the value "HorizontalBottom":

```
<DdsFunctionKeys Location="HorizontalBottom" />
```

The Navigation Menu looks much better at the bottom of the Page:

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contreras M5 Customer Inquiry 11/05/20 19:20:32

Position to name:

2=Update 3=Display sales 5=Delivery Addresses 7=Create sales record 9=Print sales (Online) 10=Print sales (Batch) 11=Orders

Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
▼	46000	B8 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
▼	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
▼	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
▼	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
▼	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
▼	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
▼	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
▼	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
▼	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
▼	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
▼	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
▼	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
▼	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
▼	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 46202

F3=Exit

Enter F3 PgUp PgDn

Instead of using aid key, you may want to use the mover vernacular form function key, something like: "Exit" equivalent to the **F3** aid key being pressed at the keyboard.

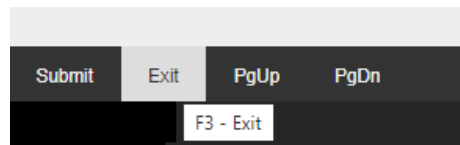
Note: experienced users may still use the **Fxx** key, if there is a physical keyboard that produces such key-code.

## Re-labeling the Menu Options

Expo Tag-helpers that represent options at the DDS File (*DdsFile*) level and DDS Records (*DdsRecord* & *DdsSubfileControl*) have, have an attribute called **KeyNames**, where we can override the default active key labels.

```
KeyNames="ENTER 'Submit'; F3 'Exit'; PageUp '◀ Page'; PageDown 'Next ▶';"
```

Where the value in single-quotes re-labels the text for the key name that precedes it. Instead of “ENTER” we show ‘Submit’; instead of “F3” we show ‘Exit’, etc.



Note: The labels for PgUp and PgDn should have been replaced. This bug has been reported to R&D.

## Color effects that worked on *green-screen* are displeasing on a modern *blue-screen* Browser Pages

DDS on the IBMi usually renders on a terminal with dark background. Text screen attributes such as REVERSE-IMAGE produced a subtle lighter green background which some considered pleasant on the eye to highlight text, such as record on a subfile.

REVERSE-IMAGE on a typically white/pale background Browser Page would produce a very heavy block on text when rendered.

As you can see on the off-the-shelf migration for “M5 Customer Inquiry” Page, the subfile records are rendered with a color that is displeasing to the eye.

The reverse-image display attribute DDS keyword **DSPATR(RI)** gets translated to **InvertFontColors=“\*True”** tag-helper attribute.

Removing such attribute produces a much pleasant output.

\$\SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\CUSTDSPF.cshtml  
Lines 51, 52 and 53:<sup>4</sup>

```
<div Row="8" RowSpan="@SFLC_SubfilePage * @SFLC_SubfileRowsPerRecord">
    @for (int rrn=0, row = 8; rrn < Model.SFLC.SFL1.Count; rrn++, row +=
    @SFLC_SubfileRowsPerRecord)
    {
        <DdsSubfileRecord RecordNumber="rrn" For="SFLC.SFL1">
            <div IsGridRow>
                <DdsCharField Col="2" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCOLOR" VisibleCondition="*False"
                VirtualRowCol="@row,2" tabIndex=1 />
                <DdsDecField Col="4" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL" VirtualRowCol="@row,4"
                EditCode="Z" ValuesText="'0','2','3','5','7','9','10','11'" tabIndex=2 />
                <DdsDecField Col="7+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCUSTNO" VirtualRowCol="@row,7"
                Color="Green : !61 , DarkBlue : 61" InvertFontColors="*True" EditCode="Z" Comment="CUSTOMER
                NUMBER" />
                <DdsCharField Col="14+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFNAME1" VirtualRowCol="@row,14"
                Color="Green : !61 , DarkBlue : 61" InvertFontColors="*True" />
                <DdsCharField Col="55+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCSZ" VirtualRowCol="@row,55"
                Color="Green : !61 , DarkBlue : 61" InvertFontColors="*True" Comment="CITY-STATE-ZIP" />
            </div>
        </DdsSubfileRecord>
    }
</div>
```

contreras M5 Customer Inquiry 11/06/20 10:04:00

Position to name:

2=Update 3=Display sales 5=Delivery Addresses 7=Create sales record 9=Print sales (Online) 10=Print sales (Batch) 11=Orders

Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
▼	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
▼	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
▼	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
▼	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
▼	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
▼	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
▼	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
▼	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
▼	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
▼	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
▼	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
▼	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
▼	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
▼	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

F3=Exit

Submit Exit PgUp PgDn

<sup>4</sup> Commit: "Remove Reverse-image on Subfile records"

# Removing Redundant green-screen typical Information

Terminal program Displays usually included information about system Date and Time. Often the username was also included in most pages.

Modern devices that provide Web Browsers have already a place for this information to be retrieved.

Other green-screen constants that provided assistance to the user, such as which aid keys were active, are now part of the “tooltip” information that is already part of the Navigation Menu.

Lastly, constants that listed available options, in this case for selection of records in the subfile, can be placed in a better place.

The next commit will:

1. Remove User, Date and Time fields.
2. Remove F3=Exit constant.
3. Move the constant “2=Update 3=Display sales ...” to the “SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL” field as Value-Text (or pull down selection option labels)

\$\SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\CUSTDSPF.cshtml

```
<div Row="1">
  <DdsConstant Col="2" Text="*USER" />
  <DdsConstant Col="31+1" Text="M5 Customer Inquiry" Color="DarkBlue" />
  <DdsConstant Col="64+1" Text="*DATE" />
  <DdsConstant Col="73+1" Text="*TIME" />
</div>

<div Row="4">
  <DdsConstant Col="3" Text="2=Update 3=Display sales 5=Delivery Addresses 7=Create sales record 9=Print" Color="Blue" />
</div>
<div Row="5">
  <DdsConstant Col="3" Text="sales (Online) 10=Print sales (Batch) 11=Orders" Color="Blue" />
</div>

<DdsRecord For="KEYS" KeyNames="ENTER 'Submit'; ">
  <div Row="23">
  <DdsConstant Col="3" Text="F3=Exit" Color="Blue" />
  </div>
</DdsRecord>
```

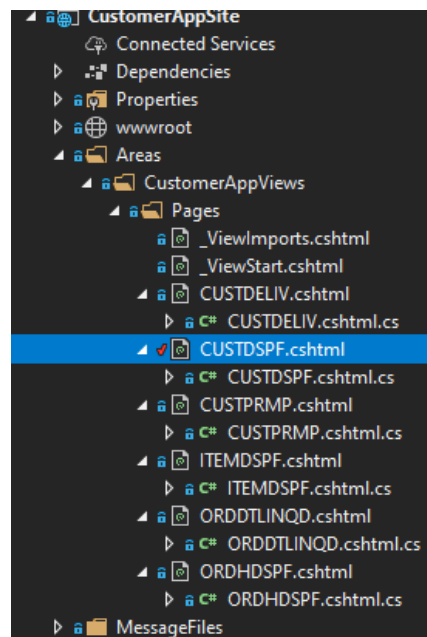
The Subfile field for the options, deserves further explanation.

We have two pieces of information:

1. The option code (char value), that is: <nothing>, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11.
2. The corresponding labels, such as: “Update” “Display sales” “Delivery Addresses” etc.

Each ASP Razor Page is defined by two files: the Markup file (extension .cshtml) and the corresponding Model file (extension .cshtml.cs).

For convenience, Visual Studio Solution Explorer, shows the Model file under the Markup file in the Website file structure:



Visual Studio intellisense, allows to jump back and forth, between symbols defined in the Markup and the Model. For example, positioning the cursor in the markup on top of `DdsDecField For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL"` and pressing F12, will take you to the Model's definition for the SFLC (Subfile record Controller) 's field SFLSEL (in blue):

```
public class SFL1_Model : SubfileRecordModel
{
    [Char(1, Protect = "True")]
    public string SFCOLOR { get; set; }

    [Values(typeof(Decimal), "00", "02", "03", "05", "07", "09", "10", "11")]
    [Dec(2, 0)]
    public decimal SFSEL { get; set; }

    [Dec(6, 0)]
    public decimal SFCUSTNO { get; private set; } // CUSTOMER NUMBER

    [Char(40)]
    public string SFNAME1 { get; private set; }

    [Char(25)]
    public string SFCSZ { get; private set; } // CITY-STATE-ZIP
}
```

Note that, in addition to C# decimal type, the field SFLSEL is decorated with Dec and Values attributes.

*Dec* attribute further defines the decimal as one with fixed precision and decimal positions. *Values* attributes define the valid values for the field. The position of the list of valid values is important, since it will be matched with the *ValuesText* tag-helper attribute.

Back on the Markup file: ...\\Areas\\CustomerAppViews\\Pages\\CUSTDSPF.cshtml

```

<DdsDecField Col="4"
  For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL"
  VirtualRowCol="@row,4"
  EditCode="Z"
  ValuesText="'0','2','3','5','7','9','10','11'"
  tabIndex=2
/>

```

Let's change ValuesText as follows:

```

<DdsDecField Col="4"
  For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL"
  VirtualRowCol="@row,4"
  EditCode="Z"
  ValuesText="' ','Update','Display sales','Delivery Addresses','Create sales
record','Printsales (Online)','Print sales (Batch)','Orders'"
  tabIndex=2
/>

```

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Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031

Now we need to push the rest of the fields to the right, to make it look nicer.

There are several ways to accomplish this. What we will use, is the trial-and-error technique.

---

<sup>5</sup> Commit: "Subfile selection options as pull-down options"



To avoid having to recalculate the column positions for the fields in the subfile, we can add a constant numeric value to each of the fields to the right: “SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCUSTNO”, “SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFNAME1” and “SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCSZ”.

Let’s add 10+ ... no, 15+ ... no 12+

The markup would look like this (for clarity I eliminated part of each line, replaced by ...):

```
<DdsSubfileRecord RecordNumber="rrn" For="SFLC.SFL1">
  <div IsGridRow>
    <DdsCharField Col="2" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCOLOR" ...
    <DdsDecField Col="4" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFSEL" ...
    <DdsDecField Col="12+7+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCUSTNO" ... Comment="CUSTOMER NUMBER" />
    <DdsCharField Col="12+14+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFNAME1" ... />
    <DdsCharField Col="12+55+1" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFCSZ" ... Comment="CITY-STATE-ZIP" />
  </div>
</DdsSubfileRecord>
```

As you change the markup, you may refresh the running page in the Browser, until it looks how you want it.

Note that the Col attribute tag-helper, already came with an expression. Cocoon Displayfile Migration Agent took advantage of the expression to indicate the **original** column value (from DDS and adjustments it had to do to prevent overlaps — due to HTML borders and padding—

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M5 Customer Inquiry

Position to name:

Sel	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
▼	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
▼	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
▼	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
Update	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
Display sales	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
Delivery Addresses	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
Create sales record	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
Printsales (Online)	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
Print sales (Batch)	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
Orders	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
▼	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
▼	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
▼	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

Submit Exit PgUp PgDn

Before we continue, let’s get rid of the vertical gap, between Position to name: (Row=2) and the headings of the Subfile (Row=7).

We accomplish this by changing Row=“7” to Row=“3” and Row=“8” to Row=“4”

## Stretching constant label's Text

If you had not noticed, the text on the constants is rendered with more white space between characters. Particularly noticeable is the subfile column heading “City / State / Zip”.

ASNA Expo DdsConstant tag-helper has an attribute called ***StretchConstantText*** which defaults to ***true***. That attribute can be overridden at the Record level.

That attribute exists to match better the constant text alignment that green-screen developers used, particularly when splitting words in multiple DDS constants, or when right justifying (manually) text on the screen.

The left image shows Stretching Off and the right Stretching On. Notice how the right page improves the label right-alignment.

Most likely, what the green-screen designer intended for this page was to night-align the constants such that the “:” aligned close to the edit boxes.

Let’s assume we want to reproduce the original designer intentions. We can make it very close to the intended alignment by:

1. Turning off the text-stretch feature.
2. Make sure the column span matches the original design.
3. Using a CSS style to align the text.

To turn off the text-stretch feature, all we have to do is add the attribute ***StretchConstantText=false*** to the record.

```
<DdsRecord For="CUSTREC" StretchConstantText=false KeyNames="ENTER 'Submit'; ...
```

Matching the column span is achieved by adding ColSpan attribute with the special value =“-1” indicating that we want exactly the length of the constant text to be used.

Lastly, we add a CSS class attribute to all the DdsConstant tag-helpers in the record set to “right-aligned-constant”:

```
<div Row="7">
  <DdsConstant Col="20" ColSpan="-1" class="right-aligned-constant" Text="Name:" />
  .
  .
  .
</div>
```

Where the style right-aligned-constant is the following simple CSS added to the \$ \SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\wwwroot\css\site.css file:

```
.right-aligned-constant {
    text-align: right;
}
```

The resulting screen is now:<sup>7</sup>

**sunfarm**  
always fresh

**Customer Maintenance**

46000 Allegiance York Center Canada Div

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Zip:  (F4)

Fax:

Phone:

Status:  (F4)

Contact Name:

Contact eMail:

Send Confirmation:  (Y/N)

Submit Exit Prompt New Customer Remove Customer Back

<sup>7</sup> Commit: “Right-aligned Original design”



For the Customer Inquiry (first page) we will reset the constant stretching effect, by adding StretchConstantText attribute:

```
<DdsSubfileControl For="SFLC"  
  StretchConstantText=false  
  KeyNames="ENTER 'Submit'; F3 'Exit'; PageUp '◀ Page'; PageDown 'Next ▶';"  
  SubfilePage="@SFLC_SubfilePage"  
  CueCurrentRecord=true ClickSetsCurrentRecord=true  
>
```

Almost complete:

Set	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43505
	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Falmont, MN 56031
	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

Page Title with standard HTML/CSS

We can add HTML/CSS when Grid alignment serves no purpose. For example, we want the Title of the page to show aligned to the Page's left and using standard CSS styles.

Add the following CSS style to file

```
$\SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\wwwroot\css\site.css
```

```
#page-title {  
    font-size: large;  
    padding-left: 4.0em;  
    padding-top: 1em;  
    font-weight: bold;  
}
```

And replace the following row / col constant definition in the CUSTDSP.chtml markup:

```
<div Row="1">  
    <DdsConstant Col="31+1" Text="M5 Customer Inquiry" Color="DarkBlue" />  
</div>
```

With this standard markup:

```
<div id="page-title">Customer Inquiry</div>
```

8

This may be particularly important when centering titles on a Page.

You may even use the Browser's developer tools to experiment with different styles:

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Customer Inquiry

Position to name:

Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, WY 82716
68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

Styles

Filter

element.style {

#page-title {

- font-size: large;
- padding-left: 4.0em;
- padding-top: 1em;
- font-weight: bold;
- text-align: center;

display: block;

Inherited from body

body {

- font-family: var(--body-1);
- font-size: var(--body-for);
- font-weight: var(--body-1);
- color: var(--body-text);
- background: var(--body-background);
- margin: 0;

Inherited from html

8 Commit: "Replacing Page Title"

# Grid Column Span Adjustment

Field's starting positions are very accurately identified on the page based on the original DDS row, col positions. But ending column positions are harder.

The default Font for Expo Displayfiles is of type **variable-pitch**, meaning that the width of characters varies according to the Font's designer's stroke used. Typically the letter "i" uses a lot less character width than an upper case "M".

Green-screen page designers used a Font that is of type fixed-pitch, meaning that the width of ALL characters is the same.

A green-screen label starting at column 5 with the constant "THIS CONSTANT" (thirteen characters) is guaranteed to end at column position 17. That is, the end-column position can be precisely computed by starting-position + field-length.

This no longer works on Browser fonts (even with those so-called *Monospaced*).

Monarch Cocoon Displayfile for Core Agent will use the length of the field of constant to compete the Grid column span (ending position), but with a fudge-factor to account for the use of Web fonts.

We can adjust that calculation on the field level.

Consider the column for SFNAME1 Subfile on the Customer Inquiry Page:

The screenshot shows the Sunfarm website header with the logo and tagline "always fresh". Below the header is the "Customer Inquiry" section. A table with columns "Sel", "Custno", and "Customer Name" displays a list of customers. A design tool overlay is visible, showing the "span" property for a selected field, with a value of 440 x 20.38. The table data is as follows:

Sel	Custno	Customer Name
	46000	
	85500	
	35300	
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales
	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc
	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day
	48100	Advertising Electric
	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd
	86400	Agency Way Loans
	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore
	99500	Aims College Corp Company
	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing
	25300	Aims Management Data
	17100	Akashic City Insurance

Notice how the field is defined as 40 characters, but most of the record's field value will likely not use the full 40.

We can override the column-span calculation by adding the tag-helper attribute ColSpan:

```
<DdsCharField Col="12+14+1" ColSpan="30" For="SFLC.SFL1[rrn].SFNAME1" VirtualRowCol="@row,14"
Color="Green : !61 , DarkBlue : 61" />
```

This way we can reduce Grid column positions and complete adjusting our elements on the Page to achieve the following look:

9

Selection	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
Update	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202

## When Changes on Razor Pages is not enough

There comes a time when to continue enhancing pages, it is necessary to change the Business Logic.

Since we have been able to compress the screen while aligning elements and eliminating redundant items, we are left with unused real-estate.

The Business Logic is writing fourteen records at a time, now we can fit at least twenty (a nice rounding number) or even more if the majority of users may have higher resolution devices.

Let's assume we want to increase the record count from fourteen to twenty.

<sup>9</sup> Commit: "Fourteen records subfile"



## Displaying Twenty records per page in the Subfile

Two changes are needed:

1. Write twenty records to the subfile in the Business Rules.
2. Expand the record count to show in the Razor Page's Subfile Controller

We will use blue color for the code that needs to be added. Red strikethrough for code that needs to be removed.

To change the Business Logic, we need to change the following class (program):

\$\SunFarm\CustomerAppLogic\CUSTINQ.cs

```
public partial class Custinq : ASNA.QSys.HostServices.Program
{
    const int SFLC_SubfilePage = 20;

    protected Indicator _INLR;
    .
    .
    .
    void LoadSfl() // Line 519
    {
        _IN[61] = '0'; //Start with green.
        _IN[90] = '1'; //Clear the subfile.
        CUSTDSPF.Write("SFLC", _IN.Array);
        _IN[76] = '0'; //Display records.
        _IN[90] = '0';
        sflrn = 0;
        _IN[77] = CUSTOMERL2.ReadNext(true) ? '0' : '1';
        //-----
        while (!(bool)_IN[77] && (sflrn < 14 SFLC_SubfilePage))
        {
            .
            .
            .

            //*****
            // Read Backwards for a PageDown
            //*****
            void ReadBack() // Line 558
            {
                _IN[76] = '0';
                _IN[77] = '0';
                X = 0;
                CUSTDSPF.ChainByRRN("SFL1", 1, _IN.Array); //Get the top name and
                CMNAME = SFNAME1; // number.
                CMCUSTNO = (decimal)SFCUSTNO;
                CUSTOMERL2.Chain(true, CMNAME, CMCUSTNO);
                _IN[76] = CUSTOMERL2.ReadPrevious(true) ? '0' : '1';
                while (!(bool)_IN[76] && (X < 14 SFLC_SubfilePage))
                {
                    /* EOF or full s/f. */
                    X += 1;
                    _IN[76] = CUSTOMERL2.ReadPrevious(true) ? '0' : '1';
                }
                if ((bool)_IN[76])
                    //Any records found?
                    CUSTOMERL2.Seek(SeekMode.SetLL, new string(char.MinValue, 40));
            }
        }
    }
}
```

There are two places in CUSTINQ where the hard-coded value 14 is used, representing the records to write to the subfile.

We define a constant, and use it instead so we can adjust that number to twenty.

To expand the number of records that need to be displayed in the Subfile controller, we need to affect two files:

1. **Model File:** `$(SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\CUSTDSPF.cshtml.cs`
2. **Markup File:** `$(SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\CUSTDSPF.cshtml`

In the Model file, we need to update the Subfile Controller's **Size** attribute:

```
[
    SubfileControl(ClearRecords : "90",
        FunctionKeys = "PageUp 51:!76;PageDown 50:!77",
        DisplayFields = "!90",
        DisplayRecords = "!90",
        Size = 14 20,
        IsExpandable = false,
        EraseFormats = "CUSTREC SALESREC"
    )
]
public class SFLC_Model : SubfileControlModel
```

In the Markup file, we just need to change the value of the variable that controls the page size:

```
@{
    int SFLC_SubfilePage = 14 20;
    int SFLC_SubfileRowsPerRecord = 1;
}
<DdsSubfileControl For="SFLC" StretchConstantText=false KeyNames ...
```

*Build the Business Logic Project (CustomerAppLogic) ...*  
*Build the Website (CustomerAppSite) ...*

If all goes well, twenty records per page should show in the Subfile:  
10

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### Customer Inquiry

Position to name:

Selection	Custno	Customer Name	City / State / Zip
	46000	38 Inc. Co Operations	Shreveport, LA 71101
	85500	3x Hinge League	San Francisco, CA 94105
	35300	3X Wholesale Phosphate	Miami, FL 33147
	100100	ACME Conduit Sales	San Antonio, TX 78230
	64000	Advantage Ranch Manufacturing Inc	Somersworth, TX 03878
Update	29400	Advertising Agricultural 2nd Day	Bryan, OH 43506
	48100	Advertising Electric	Gillette, A 82716
	68100	Advertising Murray Ltd	Palo Alto, CA 94303-0000
	86400	Agency Way Loans	Merryville, TN 37801-3748
	64700	Aims Analysis Group Singapore	Wilkes-barre, PA 18701
	99500	Aims College Corp Company	Fairmont, MN 56031
	82600	Aims Group Berry Compositing	New York, NY 10004
	25300	Aims Management Data	Orlando, FL 32832
	17100	Akashic City Insurance	Cleveland, OH 45202
	19300	Akzo Allyn Inc Co	Tucson, AZ 85713
	80600	Akzo Of Maine	Sanford, ME 04073
	59700	Akzo Sign Systems Co	Dalton, GA 30720
	50500	Alamo Elias Board Overland	Greensboro, NC 27407
	92000	Alexvale Danek Noble Incorporated Mfg	Pompano Beach, FL 33064
	10100	Alexvale Investments Publishing	Rumford, RI 02916

Submit Exit PgUp PgDn

10 Commit: "Customer Inquiry Twenty records per page"

# Enhancing Customer Maintenance Page

## Preparation

Let's apply the same techniques like que did for the Customer Inquiry Page.

Same Markup file, different Record.

```
$\SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\Areas\CustomerAppViews\Pages\CUSTDSPF.cshtml  
<DdsRecord For="CUSTREC"
```

1. Remove redundant Program Name, Date and Time
2. Improve KeyNames (Navigation Menu): 'Submit' 'Exit' 'Prompt' 'New Customer' 'Remove Customer' and 'Back'.
3. Reset StretchConstantText to false (record level)
4. Replace Page Title by standard HTML and CSS

11

**Customer Maintenance**

46000 Allegiance York Center Canada Div

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Zip:  (F4)

Fax:

Phone:

Status:

Contact Name:

Contact eMail:

Send Confirmation:  (Y/N)

Submit Exit Prompt New Customer Remove Customer Back

11 Commit: "Customer Maintenance Preparation"

## When fields and constants have different styles, the colon constant separator adds unnecessary visual clutter

The default Expo colors scheme uses a white box with no borders for the field and transparent background color for the text constants. That is enough visual separation for the two elements, making the use of the colon unnecessary.

## When numbers are used for non-numeric data, left alignment looks best

The read-only field **CUSTREC.SFCUSTNO** - customer number is rendered as a right align numeric field, but in this case it represents a code, which looks better left-aligned.

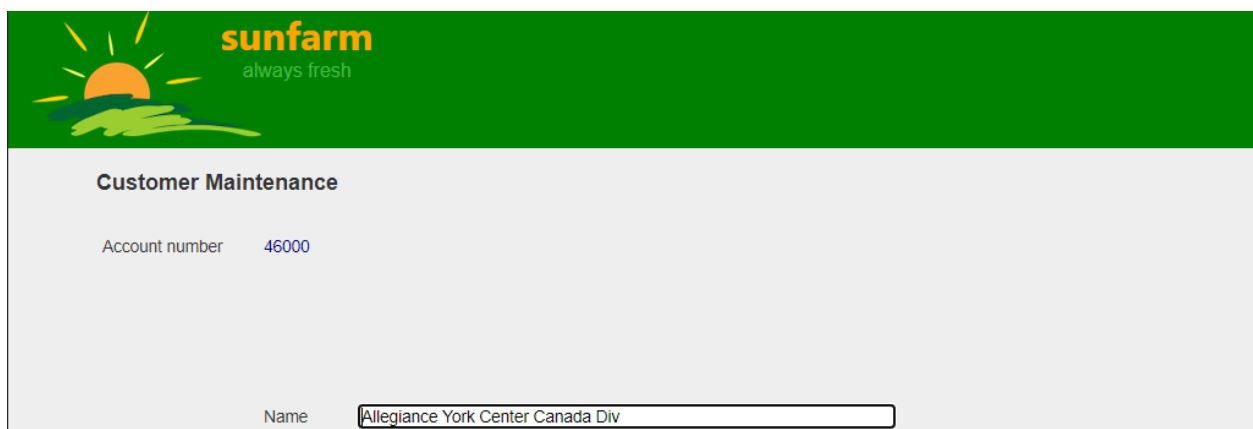
Just like we did for right-aligned-constant before let's define a CSS style for left-aligned-field

```
$\SunFarm\CustomerAppSite\wwwroot\css\site.css

.left-aligned-field {
    text-align: left;
}
```

Change the markup to show the Customer number data on row 2, aligned accordingly:  
<sup>12</sup>

```
<div Row="2">
  <DdsConstant Col="8" Text="Account number" />
  <DdsDecField class="left-aligned-field" Col="20" For="CUSTREC.SFCUSTNO"
    VirtualRowCol="5,27" Color="DarkBlue" EditCode="Z" Comment="CUSTOMER NUMBER" />
</div>
```



The screenshot shows a web application interface for Sunfarm. The header is green with the Sunfarm logo (a sun over hills) and the tagline 'always fresh'. Below the header, the page title is 'Customer Maintenance'. The form displays two fields: 'Account number' with the value '46000' and 'Name' with the value 'Allegiance York Center Canada Div'.

---

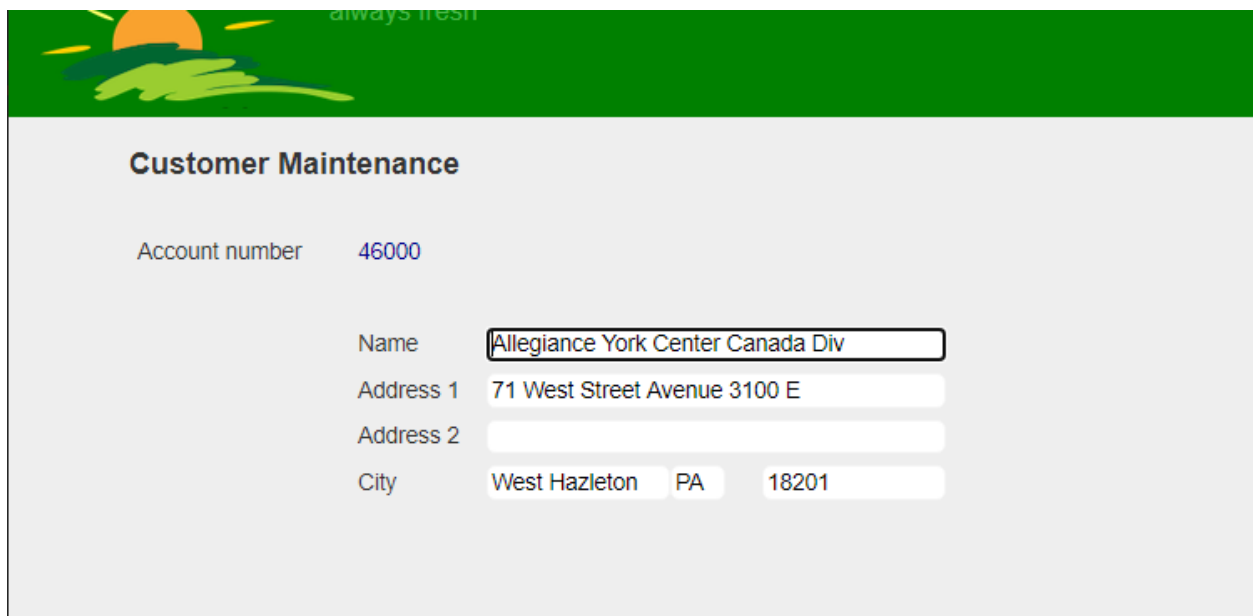
<sup>12</sup> Commit: "Left aligned decimal field"

## Input-capable fields with equal display width

The input box on Web pages distinctively shows a box with a particular background. Making fields of equal display width produces pleasing results. Expanding (or contracting) the display width using the ColSpan attribute does not violate the field length definition. The data entry will either stop at the limit (even when there is more visual space), or scroll horizontally when the visual width is smaller than the length of the data field.

Let's make CUSTREC.SFNAME, CUSTREC.SFADDR1 and CUSTREC.SFADDR2 column spans the same: 25 positions. On the next row, we can fit City, State and Zip code information. Also move the Rows for this data section to Rows: 4, 5, 6 and 7

13



Note how we are leaving an area on the left to add a photo for the Customer contact.

The new Markup is:

```
<div Row="4">
  <DdsConstant Col="20" Text="Name" />
  <DdsCharField Col="27" ColSpan="25" For="CUSTREC.SFNAME" Lower="true" ... PositionCursor="40"/>
</div>

<div Row="5">
  <DdsConstant Col="20" Text="Address 1" />
  <DdsCharField Col="27" ColSpan="25" For="CUSTREC.SFADDR1" Lower="true" ... PositionCursor="41"/>
</div>

<div Row="6">
  <DdsConstant Col="20" Text="Address 2" />
  <DdsCharField Col="27" ColSpan="25" For="CUSTREC.SFADDR2" Lower="true" ... />
</div>
```

---

<sup>13</sup> Commit: "Input capable field block"

```

<div Row="7">
  <DdsConstant Col="20" Text="City" />
  <DdsCharField Col="27" ColSpan="10" For="CUSTREC.SFCITY" Lower="true" ... PositionCursor="42"/>
  <DdsCharField Col="37" For="CUSTREC.SFSTATE" ... PositionCursor="43" tabIndex=6 />
  <DdsCharField Col="42" For="CUSTREC.SFPOSTCODE" VirtualRowCol="11,37" tabIndex=7 />
</div>

```

Notice also that we have given CUSTREC.SFCITY field a ColSpan of 10 - when the definition of the field is Char(30)-most US cities will fit in the width provided, but if they don't the field will horizontally scroll to allow for the 30 positions max field length.

(Since we removed the "F4" constant, we should add a push button to indicate that State is *promptable* -adding such element is outside the scope of this guide-).

## Move the rest of fields up and around the Customer Photo area

What used to be Rows 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 is now Rows 8, 9 and 10

14

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**Customer Maintenance**

Account number 46000

Name Allegiance York Center Canada Div

Address 1 71 West Street Avenue 3100 E

Address 2

City West Hazleton PA 18201

Salesperson

eMail

Phone (717) 624-0946 Fax (717) 397-4400 Send Confirmation ☐ (Y/N)

Submit Exit Prompt New Customer Remove Customer Back

Note that Y/N fields are old fashion. We will replace later for a checkbox.

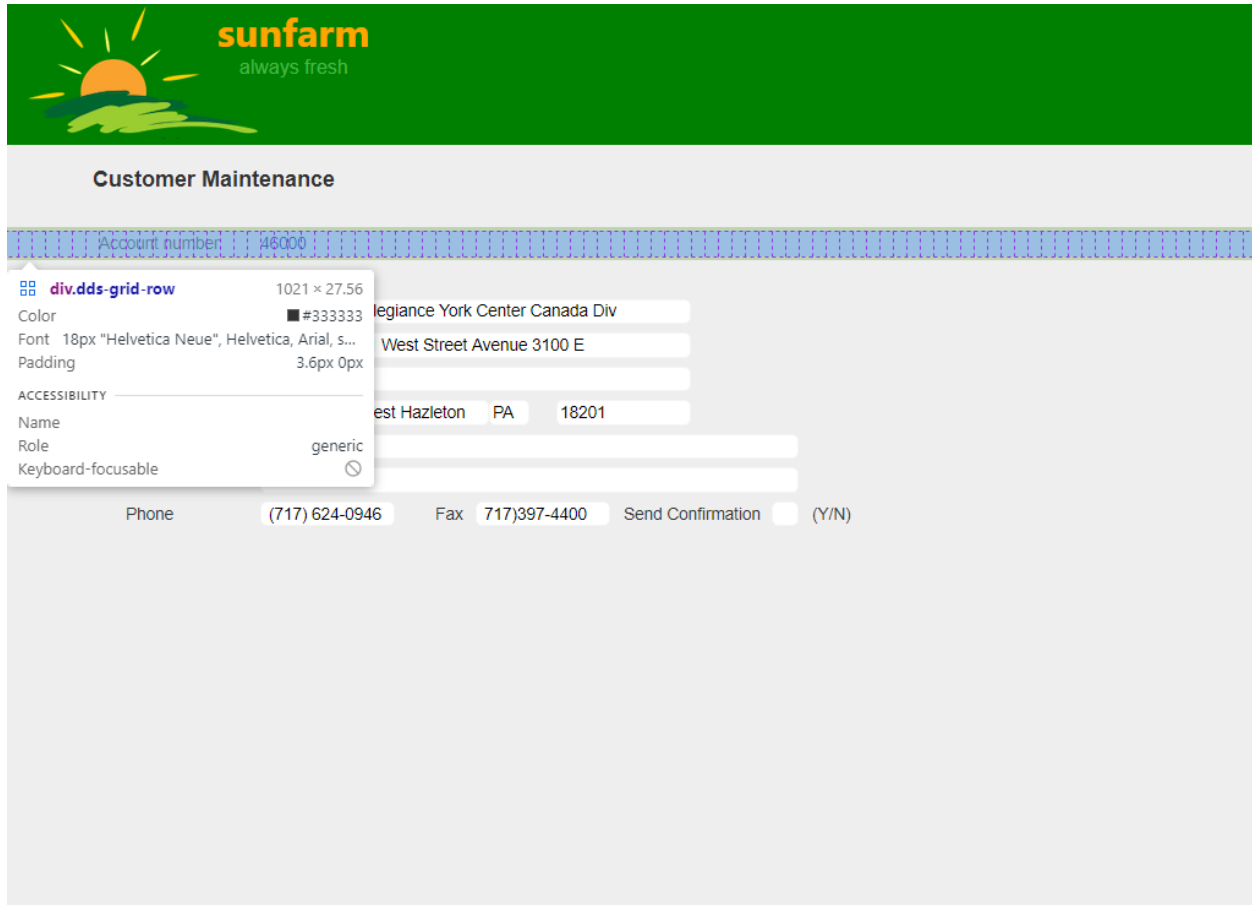
14 Commit: "Rest of fields up and around Customer photo area"

# Adding an Image to an Expo Displayfile Page

Expo Display pages are Microsoft Razor Pages where standard HTML elements may be used.

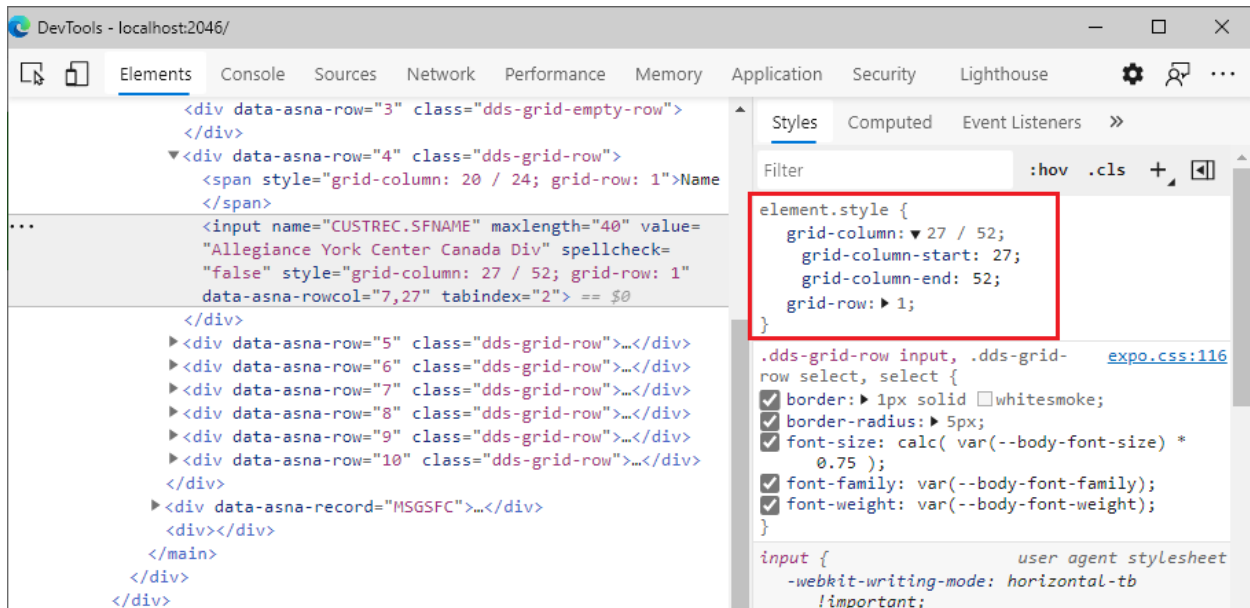
You may have noticed that we have been using **Row** attributes on a standard **div** element to indicate that the **div** container becomes a one-row **grid-display** element where we can position elements converting Col and ColSpan attributes to **grid-column** styles.

You may see this anatomy with the help of the Browser Developer tools:





And if you inspect one particular field, you will see how the grid starting column and ending column are translated to standard CSS styles.



## The vertical position flows freely

Each **div** that represents a green-screen row gets rendered with a **data-asna-row** custom attribute that has the value of the **Row** attribute in the markup. This attribute has two purposes:

1. Annotate in the rendered HTML the intended row in the markup.
2. When there are row gaps (skipping the continuously ascending numbering in the markup), after the page loads completely JavaScript will run to insert rows with the CSS style **dds-grid-empty-row** which basically uses vertical spacing to fill the gap.

Adding other HTML elements outside of this **div Row** containers is not only perfectly compatible, but encouraged. These standard elements will just push all elements down (allowing free vertical flow).

For convenience, it is also advisable to add standard elements **inside div Row** containers. Doing so, will make sure elements are positioned at "Row" vertical boundaries and starting at the top-left position specified by a new ExpoCol attribute (similar to the **Col** attribute on *DdsCharField*, *DdsConstant* and *DdsDecField* tag-helpers you have been using so far).

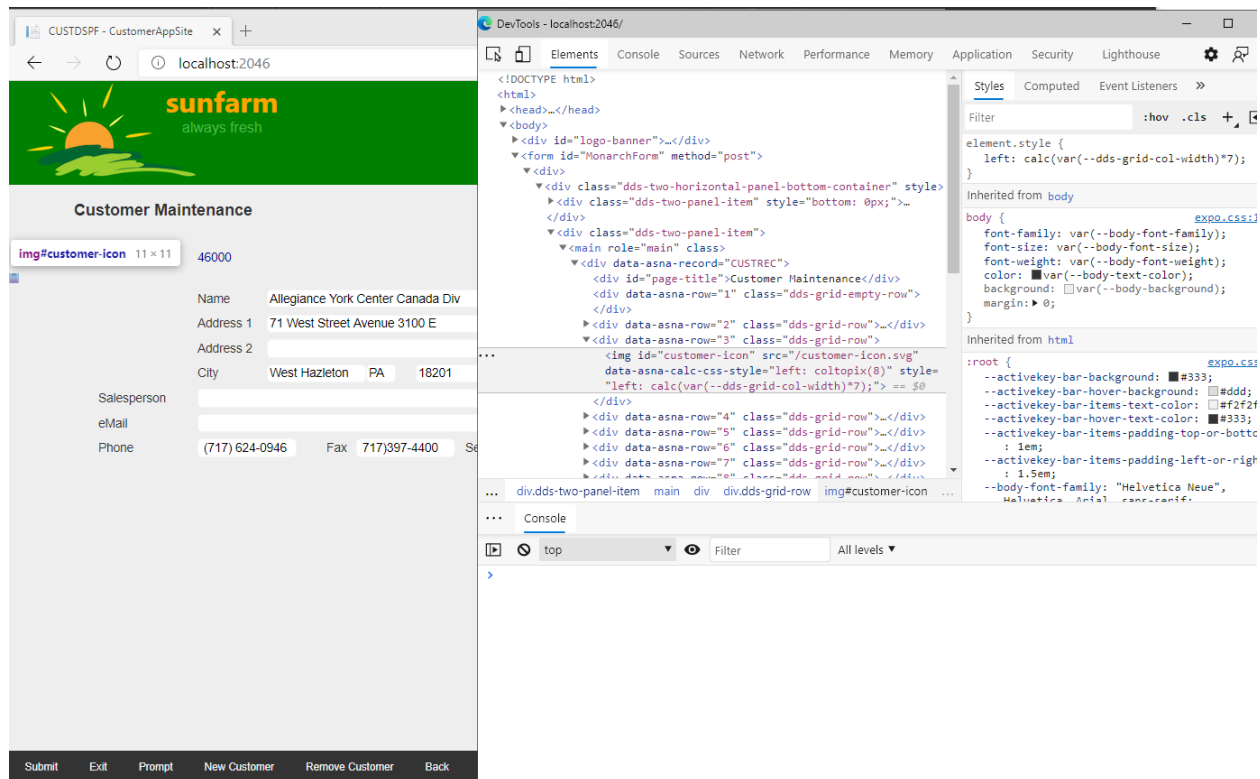
Let's add a Customer Photo placeholder on this page.

```

<div Row="3">
  
</div>


```

We have our image in the proper vertical position, but it has the wrong horizontal position, width and height.




We need to complete the position and dimensions of the image by adding the following CSS style to our site.css (in wwwroot/css folder as before):

```
#customer-icon {  
    position: relative;  
    width: 109px;  
    border-color: gray;  
    border-width: thin;  
    border-style: solid;  
    background-color: white;  
}
```



### Customer Maintenance

Account number 46000



Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

Salesperson

eMail


Phone  Fax  Send Confirmation ☐ (Y/N)

[Submit](#) [Exit](#) [Prompt](#) [New Customer](#) [Remove Customer](#) [Back](#)

Notice how Row="3" became as tall as the height of the image, pushing all the rest of the rows down. This may or not be what we intended.


If we prefer to not push the rest of rows down, we can change the position style from: “relative” to: “absolute”.

15



### Customer Maintenance

Account number 46000



Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

Salesperson

eMail

Phone  Fax  Send Confirmation ☐ (Y/N)

[Submit](#) [Exit](#) [Prompt](#) [New Customer](#) [Remove Customer](#) [Back](#)