Microsoft Power Apps and Azure

Hands-on Lab

October 2019

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Lab Overview and Objectives

Overview

Most enterprises have most of their core business data trapped in several silos (legacy databases and apps - Systems of Records). It is essential for digital transformation to break those data silos and make the information trapped in those systems available to employees and business teams as needed.

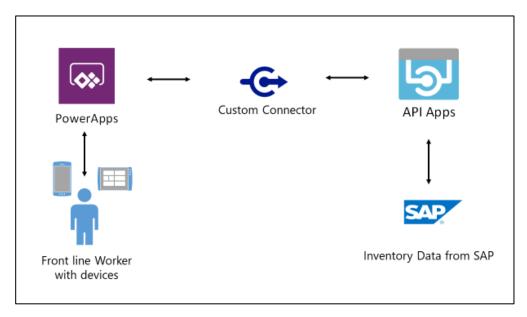
It is also important to modernize the user experience of the enterprise apps to drive productivity. Microsoft Power Apps along with Azure could be an effective way to bridge this gap, by enabling an RESTful API layer powered by Azure which could encapsulate and standardize the enterprise data for use with apps + Power Apps as the rapid application development user interface where business apps can be built with agility and in collaboration with the business.

Objectives

This lab has two key objectives:

- To demonstrate how the Microsoft Power Apps platform can help unlock the potential of untapped assets within an Enterprise (legacy APIs, data sources, processes) with a low code / no code approach.
- Learn to create a cross-platform application user experience using Microsoft Power Apps to consume these RESTful APIs through custom connectors

Main components of the lab



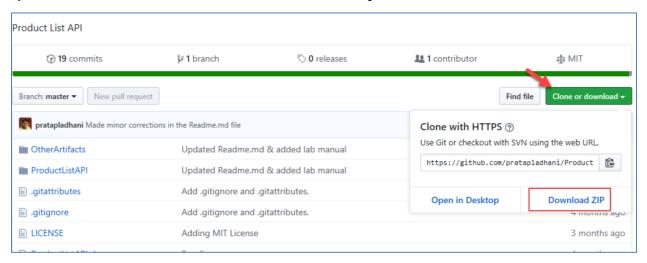
- **Microsoft Power Apps**: The end users consume the apps created from either a webbrowser or through the Power Apps mobile apps from iOS or Android
- **Custom Connectors:** Allow the use of RESTful API operations within Microsoft Power Apps
- **API Apps:** An Azure service which allows you to build and host web apps, mobile back ends, and RESTful APIs

Exercise 1 – Build the API App

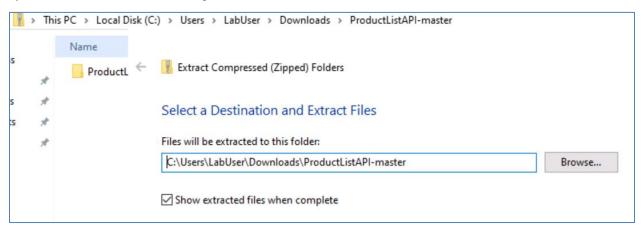
In this exercise, you will download a pre-built API app and test it locally before deploying it to Microsoft Azure

Task 1: Download from GitHub

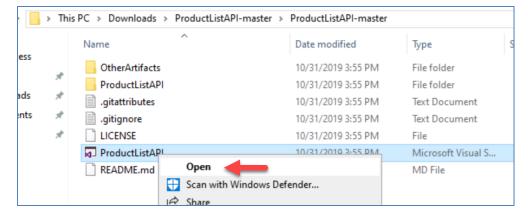
- 1) Navigate to https://github.com/pratapladhani/ProductListAPI
- 2) Click on the Clone or download and then Download Zip



3) Extract the contents of the zip file and remember the location



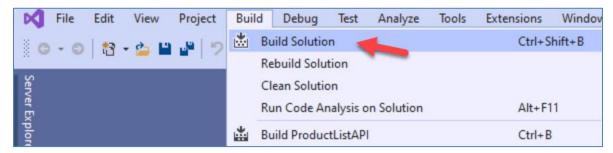
4) In the extracted folder, open the "ProductListAPI.sln" Solution file in Visual Studio.



- 5) Select Visual Studio 2019 and click OK
- 6) If you receive a security warning, click OK for both the projects as they load



7) Build the Solution.



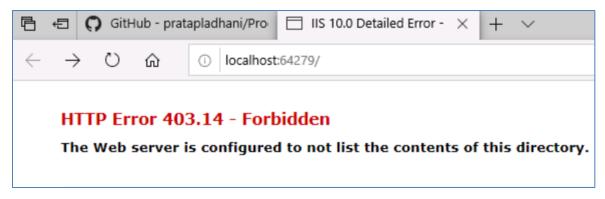
8) Confirm the success of the build and resolve any problems

Task 2: Test the API

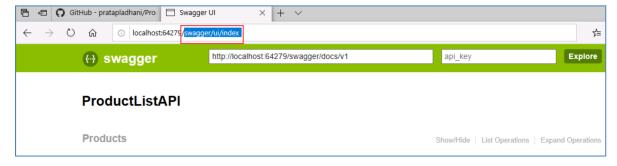
1) Click the IIS Express (Microsoft Edge) to launch the API app locally for testing



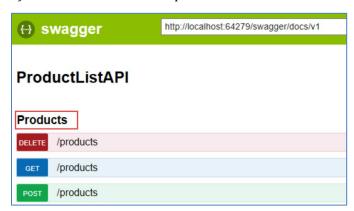
2) A new browser tab will open, and will initially show the following error, that is expected



3) Add /swagger/ui/index to the end of the URL and then you should see the following which is the Swagger API Explorer.



4) Click on **Products** to expand the list of actions available to test



5) Click on **GET** and it will expand and show you an example of what the API will return as a response. Click the **Try It out** to run the test

6) You should now see the response below the Try it out button and it will contain a list of all the products

```
Curl -X GET --header 'Accept: application/json' 'http://localhost:64279/products'

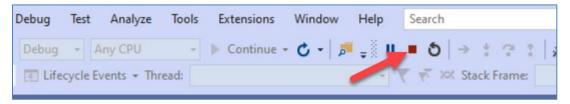
Request URL

http://localhost:64279/products

Response Body

[
{
    "Id": 0,
    "Name": "Widget 0",
    "CurrentInventory": 265,
    "Unit": "Units"
    },
    f
```

7) Your API app is working locally, next we will deploy it to Microsoft Azure – Click the Stop button to end the debug session



Exercise 2 – Deploy to Azure

In this exercise, you will deploy the API app to Microsoft Azure.

Note: You need an Azure Subscription for performing this step.

If you don't have an Azure Subscription, you have the following options:

- Use your monthly Azure credits included in various Visual Studio Subscriptions. Visit this link for more details: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/pricing/member-offers/credit-for-visual-studio-subscribers/.
- 2. Create a free Azure account from this URL: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/free/.
- 3. If your event team provided you a pre-provisioned resource-group or an Azure Pass use that for the lab.

Task 1: Configure the app service

- 1) Create a new Web App in Microsoft Azure to host your API app, by visiting this URL: https://portal.azure.com/#create/Microsoft.WebSite
- 2) Fill in the required information using the following
 - 1. **Subscription:** If you have multiple azure subscriptions, make sure you are using the right Azure Subscription.

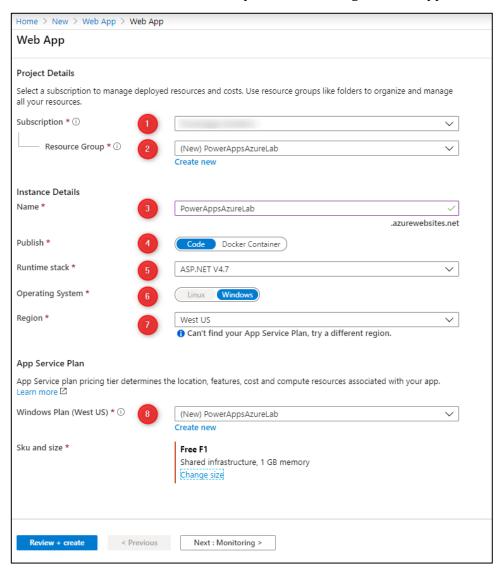
[If you are not seeing your subscription in the Subscription dropdown, chances are that you may be logged in on a different directory. You can switch the directory by selecting the Book and Filter icon on top of the Portal]



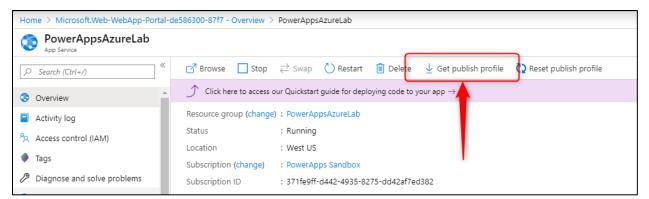
- 2. **Resource Group:** Select an existing Resource Group or create new one
- 3. Name: Provide a unique name for your WebApp. This will be part of the URL for your API
- 4. **Publish:** Code
- 5. Runtime Stack: ASP.NET V4.76. Operating System: Windows
- 7. **Region:** Select the Azure region near to you.
- 8. **App Service Plan:** Choose an existing or create a new App Service Plan

Note: You can choose a Free shared infrastructure plan as well for this lab

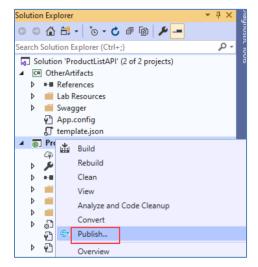
See the screenshot below for the options for creating the Web App



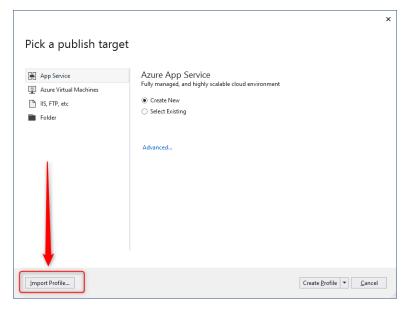
3) Wait for the deployment to complete and click the "Go to Resource" to browse to the newly created Web App. Click on the "Get publish profile" icon on the top of the service and save it locally on your machine.



4) In Solution Explorer, right click on the **ProductListAPI** project and select **Publish**.



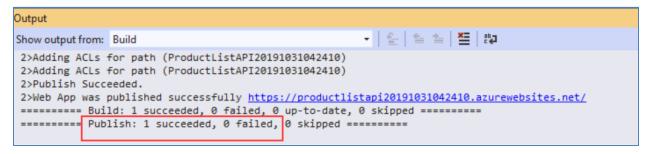
5) Select the **Import Profile** button and select the publish profile file that you had downloaded in the previous step



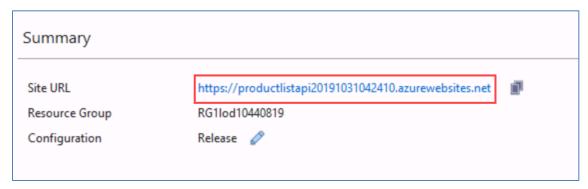
6) The App Service should now be ready to publish. Click the **Publish** button



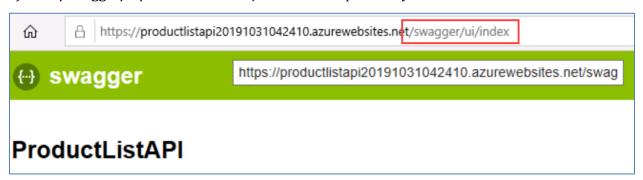
7) Confirm that the publish completed successfully



8) Click on the URL to your deployed site to launch it in the browser



9) Add /swagger/ui/index to the URL just like we did previously



- 10) You now have the same API deployed to Azure. You can repeat the test we did previously on Exercise 1: Task 2 running the GET on product list if you would like to double check it is working.
- 11) Leave the browser tab open as you will use it in the next exercise

Exercise 3 – Create the custom connector

In this exercise, you will create a Power Apps custom connector in PowerApps to use the APIs that we exposed in the previous exercise inside of a Canvas App. Read this article to learn more about Custom Connectors: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/connectors/.

Task 1: Save the Open API definition

1) In the Swagger Explorer on your deployed site, copy the URL for the Open API definition. Make sure you copy the whole URL, some of it is hidden.



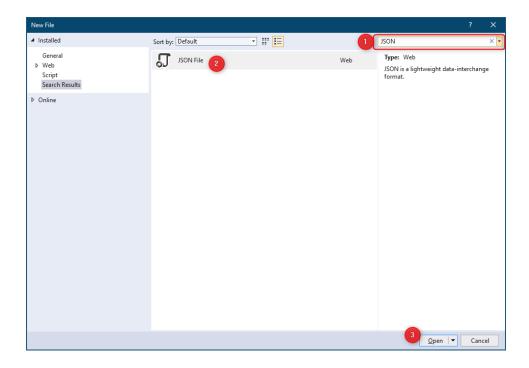
2) Paste that URL into the browser address bar and press enter. Your browser should load with the JSON which is the Open API/Swagger definition. We will need this saved to a file to import later.



3) Select all of the JSON and then right click and select Copy

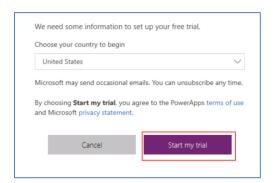


4) Create a new JSON file in Visual Studio and press CTRL + A & CTRL+V to replace all the content with the copied JSON definition from the previous step. **Save** the file in the local Documents folder as **ProductsOpenAPI.json**. Make sure to remember where you saved the file as you will need it in the next task..

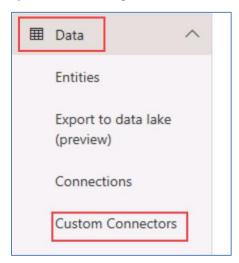


Task 2: Create the connector

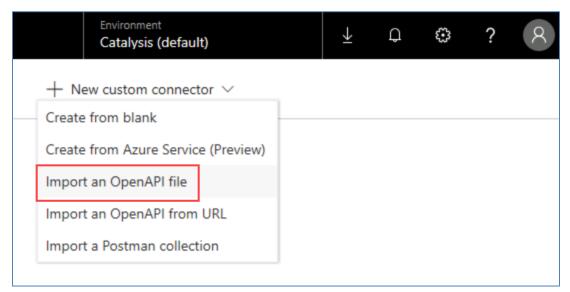
- 1) Navigate to https://make.powerapps.com
- 2) Log-in using the user credentials provided as part of your lab environment. Alternatively, you can also choose to use your own Organization credentials (Azure AD / Office 365 login).
- 3) If you don't have a PowerApps License, you will be prompted to start a trial Click Start my trial



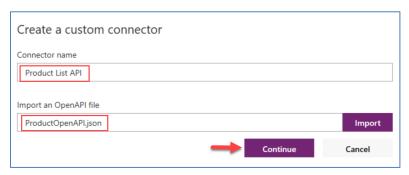
4) In the left navigation click **Data** to expand the menu and then click **Custom Connectors**



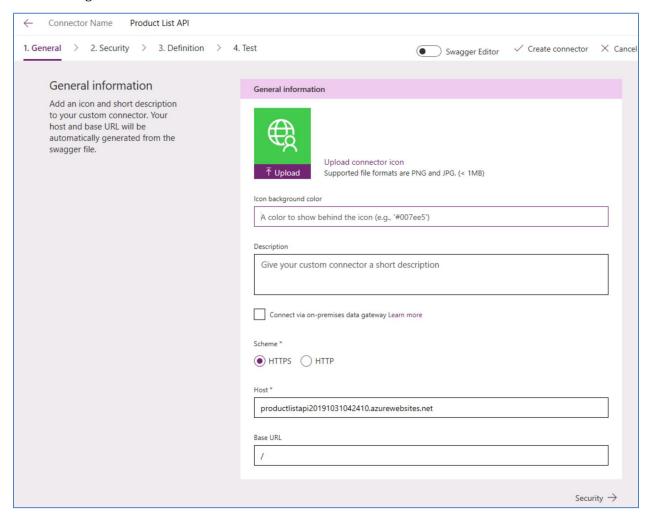
5) In the upper right corner click the **+ New custom connector** and select the **Import an OpenAPI file** option



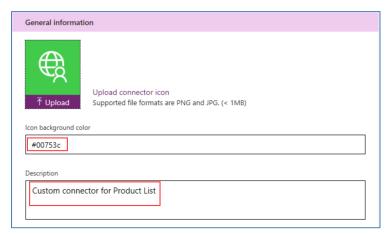
- 6) Input Product List API in the Connector Name field
- 7) In the Import an Open API File, click Import and browse to documents and select the ProductOpenAPI.json file you saved in the prior task
- 8) The information should look like the following and then click Continue



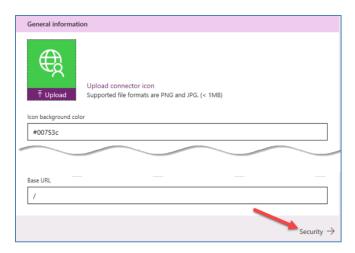
9) After the import completes the custom connector editor will load and should look like the following



- 10) Input #0075C in the Icon Background Color
- 11) Input Custom connector for Product List



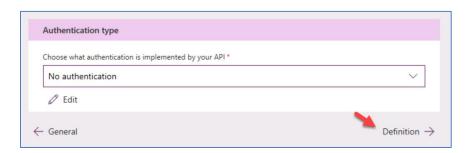
12) In the lower left corner of the General Information click Security to advance.



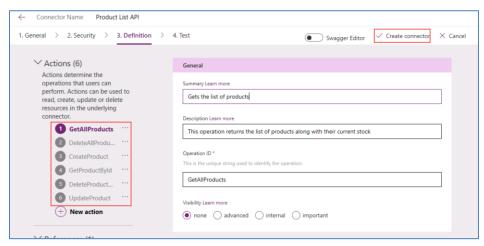
13) Review the list of authentication options, but leave it set at **No Authentication** and click **Definition** to advance.

Note: This is not advisable to use "No authentication" in Production APIs – we are skipping this only for saving time in this lab.

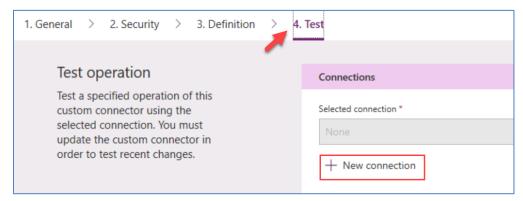
Refer to this article: <u>https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/connectors/custom-connectors/azure-active-directory-authentication</u> for the guidance for protecting the API endpoint with Azure AD.



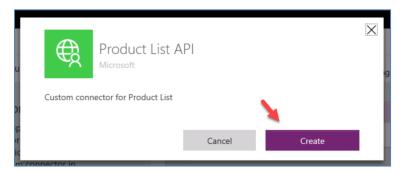
14) Review the connector definition, notice from the OpenAPI file imported it brought in 6 actions. After reviewing click **Create connector**



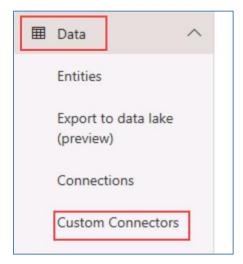
15) Click on the Test tab and then click +New Connection



16) Click Create



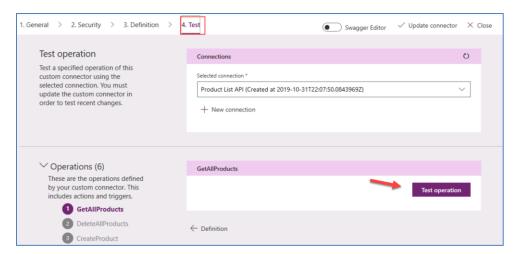
17) After clicking create, you will be navigated to your list of connections. Using the left navigation, navigate back to **Custom Connectors**



18) Select the custom connector you just created and click the edit icon



19) Change to the Test tab, and then click on the Test Operation for the **GetAllProducts** action



20) Confirm the Status is 200, and you should be able to review the Request and Response

```
Request
                Response
 Status
  (200)
 Headers
   "cache-control": "no-cache",
   "content-length": "305",
   "content-type": "application/json; charset=utf-8",
   "date": "Thu, 31 Oct 2019 22:13:20 GMT",
   "expires": "-1".
 Body
    "Name": "Widget 1",
    "CurrentInventory": 243,
    "Unit": "Units"
   },
     "ld": 2,
```

21) You have successfully configured the custom connector.

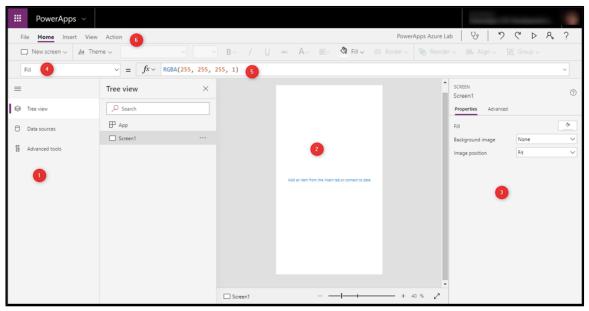
Exercise 4 – Create the canvas app

Power Apps Canvas Studio Layout

Power Apps Canvas Studio is available as a web application (http://make.powerapps.com) that you can use in any modern browser.

Power Apps Studio is designed to have a user interface familiar to users of the Office suite. It has three panes and a ribbon that make app creation feel **like building a slide deck in PowerPoint**. Formulas are entered within a function bar that is like Excel. Studio components:

- 1. **Left navigation bar**, which shows the Tree view, Data sources & Advanced tools
- 2. Middle pane, which contains the app screen you are working on
- 3. **Right-hand pane**, where you configure properties for controls, bind to data, create rules, and set additional advanced settings
- 4. **Property** drop-down list, where you select the property for the selected control that you want to configure
- 5. Formula bar, where you add formulas (like in Excel) that define the behavior of a selected control
- 6. Ribbon, where you perform common actions including customizing design elements

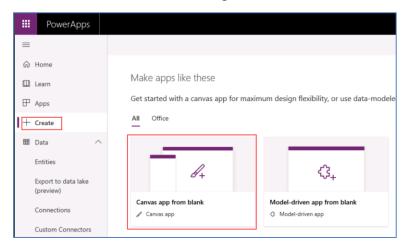


Locale-specific difference in formulas

Before you begin, please note that if your computer has its regional settings set to use the comma ',' for its decimal separator (like in much of Europe) your formulas will need to use a semicolon ';' instead of a comma ',' and 2 semicolons "; instead of a single semicolon "; in your formulas. For example:

Task 1: Create a Canvas App with Phone Layout

- 1. Navigate to http://make.powerapps.com
- 2. Select + Create in the left navigation and choose the Canvas app from blank template

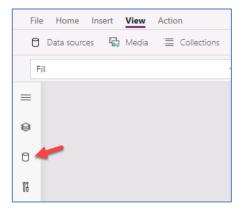


- 3. Input Product List as the App Name
- 4. Select Phone for the Format
- 5. Click Create to create the app

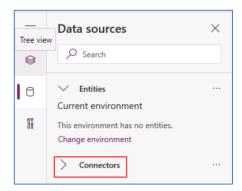


Task 2: Add your custom connector

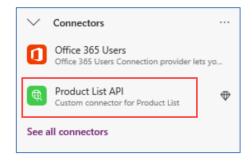
1. In the left tool bar click on the Data Source icon



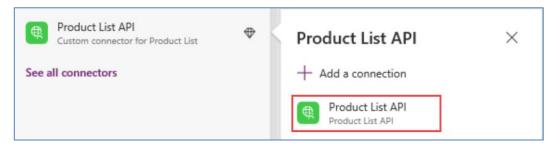
2. Click on > Connectors to expand the section



3. Click on the Product List API connector

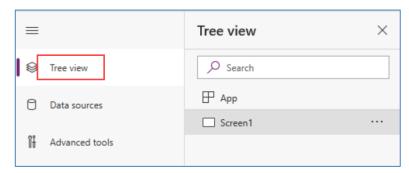


4. Then in the fly out click on Product List API again to associate the existing connection with your app

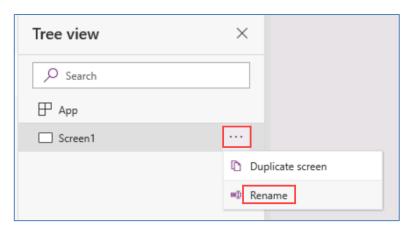


Task 3: Bind Data to the Gallery

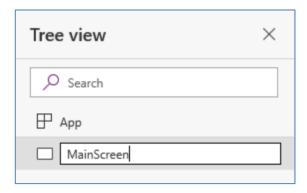
1. Change to Tree view to see the screens in the app



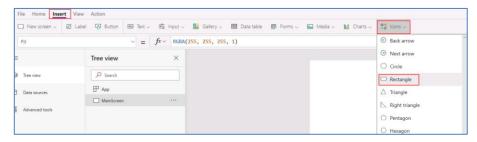
2. In the Tree view click ... next to Screen1 and Select Rename



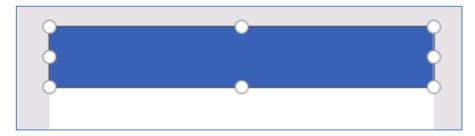
3. Rename Screen1 to MainScreen



4. Next, we are going to add a header, select Insert -> Icons and choose Rectangle



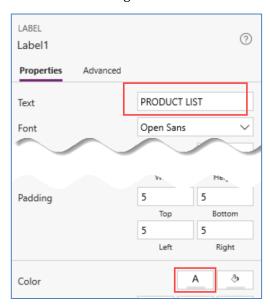
5. Drag the rectangle to the top of the screen and change the size to cover the whole top of the screen



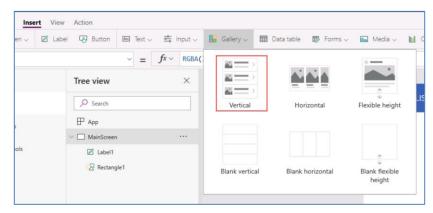
6. Select Insert -> Label and drag it up to be located in the header



7. With the label selected in the Properties panel on the right change Text to "PRODUCT LIST" and change Color to White



8. Insert a vertical Gallery Control



9. Move and adjust the size of the gallery you inserted to fit in the white space below the header.



10. Select **MainScreen** in the Tree View, In the property drop down select **OnVisible** and input the following formula. This action will call the GetAllProducts API on the OnVisible event of the Screen and save the response in a local collection called **colInventory**

ClearCollect(colInventory, ProductListAPI.GetAllProducts())

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

ClearCollect(colInventory; ProductListAPI.GetAllProducts())

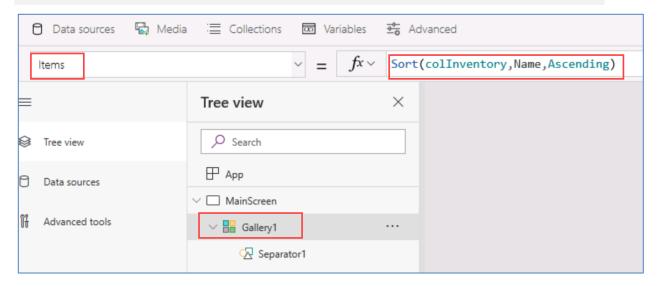


11. Select Gallery1=> Items property and type the following formula:

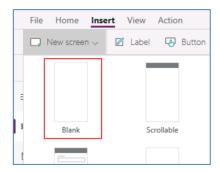
Sort(colInventory, Name, Ascending)

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

Sort(colInventory; Name, Ascending)



12. Create Screen2 that we will use as the detail screen later by selecting **Insert > New Screen** and then the **Blank** screen template

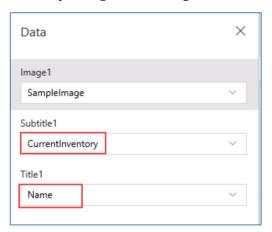


13. In the Tree View select MainScreen again. This will ensure the OnVisible function will be triggered for the MainScreen and the data is loaded to the collection. You should now see data from your API bound to your Gallery.

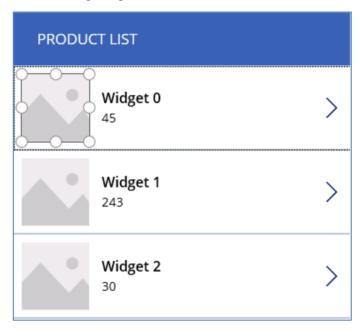
14. With Gallery1 still selected click on Edit Fields in the right Property panel



15. In the Data panel, Select Name for Title1, CurrentInventory for Subtitle1 and leave SampleImage for the Image1

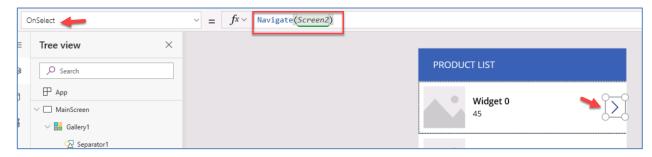


16. You should already start seeing data in the gallery and it should look something like the following image



17. Select the Detail icon on the first item in the gallery and input the following formula in the **OnSelect** property

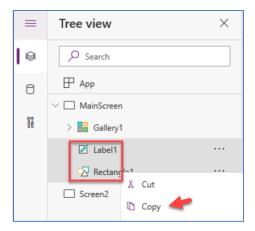
Navigate(Screen2)



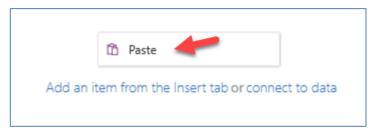
- 18. Save your app by clicking File -> Save and then clicking Save again in the lower right corner of the screen
- 19. Click the Back button to return to the app

Task 4: Create the Detail Screen to Edit and Delete Products

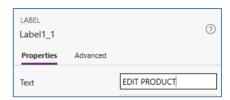
1. While holding the shift key, Select both Label1 and Rectangle1 from the Tree View inside the **MainScreen** group of controls and right-click Copy



- 2. Click on Screen2 in the Tree View to make Screen2 the active screen
- 3. Right click on the screen surface and select Paste



- 4. While the controls are still selected drag them both to the top of the screen
- 5. Click on the Title label in the header and change the text in the right property panel to Edit Product



6. Insert a Back icon in the left side of the header



7. If necessary, drag the back icon into position on the left side of the header

- 8. With the back icon selected, in the right property panel change the Color to White
- 9. With the back icon still selected, in the property list choose OnSelect and in the formula type

Back() OnSelect $\checkmark = fx \lor Back()$

10. Add Trash icon to the right side of the header to be a delete icon, change the color to white just like you did for the back icon

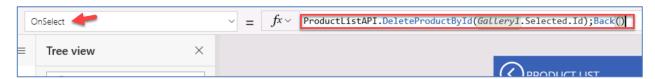


11. In the property selector above the Tree View choose **OnSelect** for icon2 and paste the following formula in the formula bar

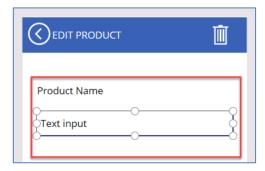
ProductListAPI.DeleteProductById(Gallery1.Selected.Id);Back()

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

ProductListAPI.DeleteProductById(Gallery1.Selected.Id);;Back()



- 12. Insert a label control and change the text to be "**Product Name**"
- 13. Insert a **TextInput** control right below Product Name label



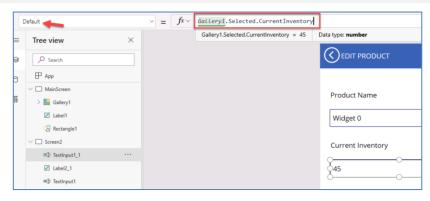
14. With the **TextInput** control still selected, set the behavior formula for the Default property as the following in the Formula Bar

Gallery1.Selected.Name



- 15. Below the last **TextInput** add a **Label** for "Current Inventory"
- 16. Add another **TextInput** control below the **label** and set the behavior formula for the Default property to:

Gallery1.Selected.CurrentInventory



- 17. Insert a Button Control at the bottom of the screen, change the label to Save
- 18. Set the OnSelect property formula for the button to be the following formula

```
Set(CurrentItem, {Name:TextInput1.Text,
CurrentInventory:Value(TextInput1_1.Text), Id:Gallery1.Selected.Id});
ProductListAPI.UpdateProduct(Gallery1.Selected.Id, CurrentItem);
```

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

```
Set(CurrentItem; {Name:TextInput1.Text;
CurrentInventory:Value(TextInput1_1.Text); Id:Gallery1.Selected.Id});;
ProductListAPI.UpdateProduct(Gallery1.Selected.Id; CurrentItem);;
```



19. Save the app, using File -> Save

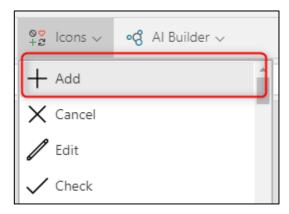
- 20. Click on the MainScreen in the Tree View to make it the active screen
- 21. Click the Play button to run the app in the upper right corner



- 22. Click on the Detail icon on one of the items to navigate to the detail page
- 23. Click the Delete button, you should return to the list with the item removed
- 24. Click on the Detail icon on another item
- 25. Change the values and click Save, then click the Back icon and review the revised value in the list

Task 4: Add functionality to Insert new Items

1. Select MainScreen and insert a Add "+" icon



- 2. If necessary, drag the Add icon into position on the right side of the header
- 3. With the Add icon selected, in the right property panel change the Color to White
- 4. With the Add icon still selected, in the property list choose OnSelect and in the formula type. We are setting the CurrentMode variable to "Add" and then navigating to the next screen.

Set(CurrentMode, "Add");Navigate(Screen2)

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

Set(CurrentMode; "Add");;Navigate(Screen2)

5. Select the greater than icon in the first cell of the Gallery



6. Update the formula for OnSelect as the following which will set the CurrentMode variable to "Edit" and then Navigate to Screen2, when we select that icon

Set(CurrentMode, "Edit"); Navigate(Screen2)

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

Set(CurrentMode; "Edit");; Navigate(Screen2)

7. On Screen2, we don't to show the delete icon, if the CurrentMode is "Add". Select Screen2 and select the Trash icon. Select the Visible property and set it to this formula

CurrentMode<>"Add"

- 8. We also want to modify the title of the page to "ADD PRODUCT" and the button text to "Add" if the screen is in Add mode. We also don't want the textboxes to show any values from the gallery, if in Add mode.
- 9. Select the label of the title of the Screen2 and write this formula in the Text Property

```
If(CurrentMode="Add", "ADD", "EDIT") & " PRODUCT"
```

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

```
If(CurrentMode="Add"; "ADD"; "EDIT") & " PRODUCT"
```

10. Select the Button on Screen2 and write this formula on the Text property

```
If(CurrentMode="Add", "Add", "Update")
```

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

```
If(CurrentMode="Add"; "Add"; "Update")
```

11. Select the first InputText for the Product Name, change the formula on the Default property to the following

```
If(CurrentMode="Add", "", Gallery1.Selected.Name)
```

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

```
If(CurrentMode="Add"; ""; Gallery1.Selected.Name)
```

12. Same way, select the second InputText for the Current Inventory, change the formula on the Default property to the following

```
If(CurrentMode="Add", "", Gallery1.Selected.CurrentInventory)

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

If(CurrentMode="Add"; ""; Gallery1.Selected.CurrentInventory)
```

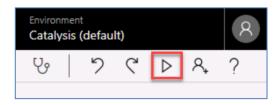
13. Also, we want to call the CreateProduct API instead of the UpdateProduct API if we are in Add mode. While the Button is selected, update the formula to the following for the OnSelect property

```
Set(CurrentItem, {Name:TextInput1.Text,
CurrentInventory:Value(TextInput1_1.Text), Id:Gallery1.Selected.Id});
If(CurrentMode="Add", ProductListAPI.CreateProduct(CurrentItem),
ProductListAPI.UpdateProduct(Gallery1.Selected.Id, CurrentItem));
```

Use the following formula if you use comma "," as a decimal separator

```
Set(CurrentItem, {Name:TextInput1.Text;
CurrentInventory:Value(TextInput1_1.Text); Id:Gallery1.Selected.Id});;
If(CurrentMode="Add"; ProductListAPI.CreateProduct(CurrentItem);
ProductListAPI.UpdateProduct(Gallery1.Selected.Id; CurrentItem));;
```

- 14. Click on the MainScreen in the Tree View to make it the active screen
- 15. Click the Play button to run the app in the upper right corner



- 16. Click on the Add icon on the top to navigate to the add page
- 17. Click the Delete button, you should return to the list with the item removed
- 18. Click on the Detail icon on another item
- 19. Change the values and click Save, then click the Back icon and review the revised value in the list

Task 5: [Optional] Run the same app on your phone (iOS or Android)

- 1. Download the PowerApps client app from the iOS or Android store or from the links below
 - iOS: https://aka.ms/powerappsios
 - Android: https://aka.ms/powerappsandroid
- 2. Login on the app using the same credentials used for this lab and run the app

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