

Developing SharePoint-hosted Add-ins



Agenda

- SharePoint Add-in Model
- SharePoint-hosted Add-in Architecture
- User Interface Design Techniques
- Developing App Parts
- Adding User Custom Actions



Pain Points with SharePoint Solutions

- Custom code runs inside SharePoint environment
 - This poses risks and compromises scalability
- Custom solutions are SharePoint version dependent
 - Server-side code has must be adapted for each new version
 - SharePoint solutions hard code version specific paths to resources
 - Makes it harder to migrate to new versions of SharePoint
- Permissions model based entirely on user identity
 - You cannot configure permissions for the solution itself
 - Impersonation solves the too-little-permissions problem
 - Impersonation causes too-many-permissions problem
- SharePoint solutions are hard to manage
 - lack effective support for distribution, installation and upgrade



What's in a Name?

- SharePoint 2013 introduced new development model
 - Originally introduced as "SharePoint App Model"
- In Q2 of 2015, Microsoft changed the name
 - "SharePoint Apps" renamed to "SharePoint Add-ins"
- Name change provides a potential source of confusion
 - "SharePoint App" and "SharePoint add-in" are the same thing
 - Visual Studio still calls them "SharePoint Apps"
 - SharePoint UI still calls them "SharePoint Apps"



SharePoint Add-in Model Overview

- SharePoint Add-in model based on these assumptions:
 - Add-ins supported in Office 365 and in on-prem farms
 - Add-ins code never runs in SharePoint host
 - Add-ins talks to SharePoint using Web services
 - Add-ins is authenticated and has established identity
 - Add-in has permissions apart from user permissions
 - Add-ins published deployed to app catalog
 - Published add-ins easier to find, install and upgrade



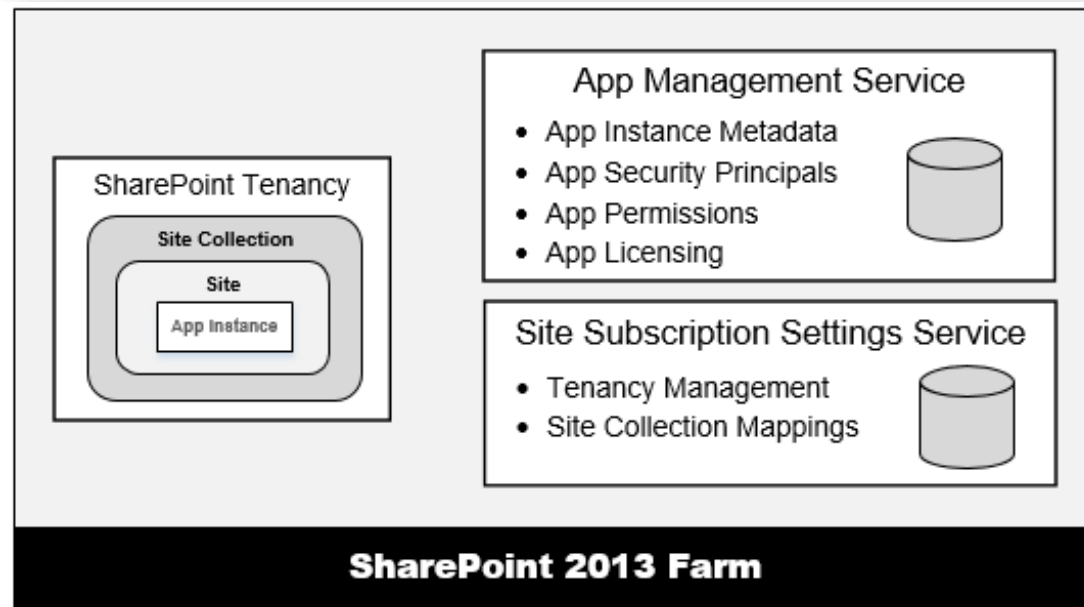
SharePoint Tenancies

- A tenancy is a set of site collections
 - Configured and administrated as a unit
 - Created with administrative site collection
 - A scope for provisioning new site collection
 - Central concept to site management in Office 365
 - A requirement for installing SharePoint Add-ins
- What about tenancies in on-premises farms?
 - Most farms do not have explicitly created tenancies
 - To add support for SharePoint Add-ins, on-premises farm are configured with a farm-wide default tenancy



Service Application Support for Add-ins

- Add-in support requires two service applications
 - App Management Service
 - Site Subscription Management Service

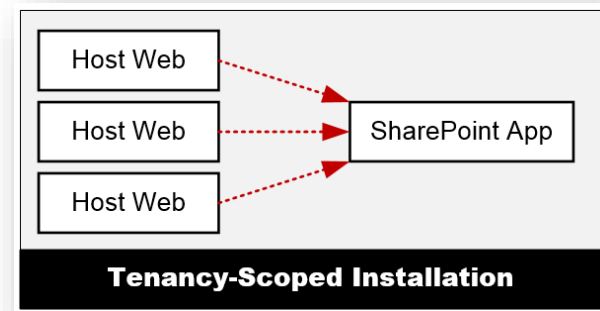
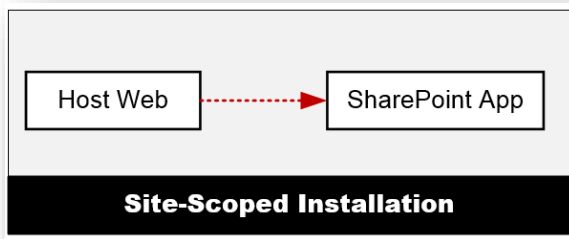


- These services must be created in on-premises farms to support Add-ins



Add-in Installation Scopes

- Site-scoped Installation
 - Add-in installed in specific SharePoint site which becomes **host web**
 - Add-in can be installed multiple times across site collections
 - Each installed instance of an Add-in gets its own app web

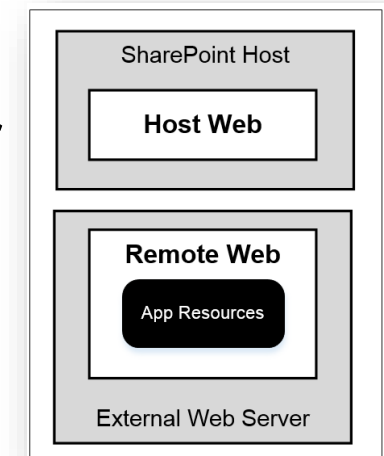
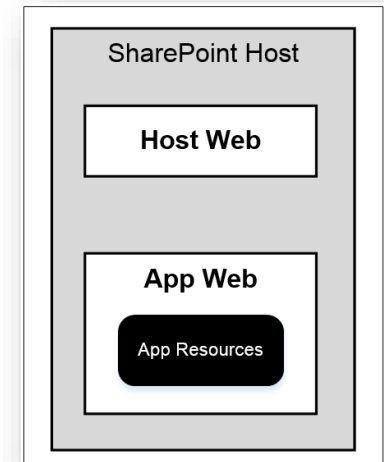


- Tenancy-scoped Installation
 - Provides centralized approach to Add-in deployment & management
 - Requires Add-in to first be installed in an app catalog site
 - Once installed, the Add-in is then configured for use multiple sites
 - Tenancy install scoped to web application in on-premises farms



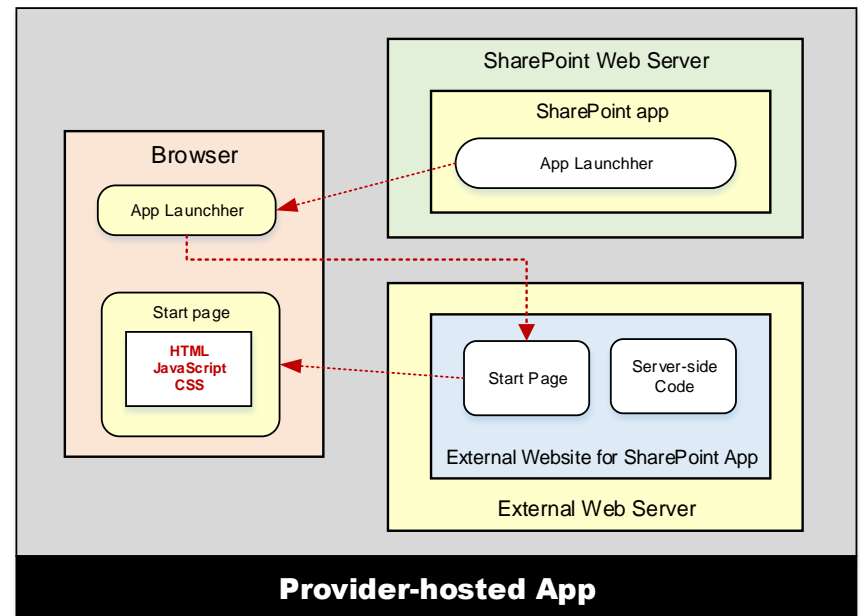
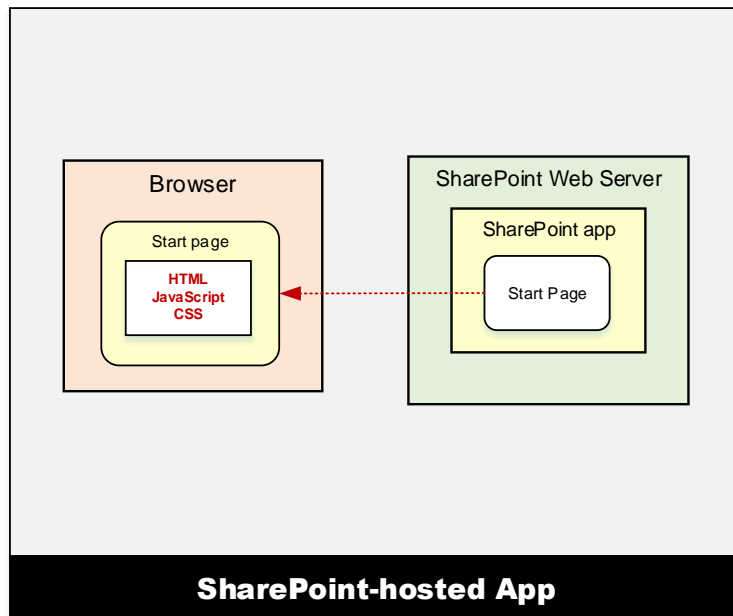
Hosting Options for SharePoint Add-in

- SharePoint-Hosted Add-ins
 - Add-in resources added to SharePoint host
 - Stored in child site known as **app web**
 - Add-in can have client-side code
 - Add-in cannot have server-side code
- Provider-Hosted Add-ins
 - Add-in resources deployed on remote server
 - Remote site known as **remote web**
 - Add-in can have client-side code
 - Add-in can have server-side code



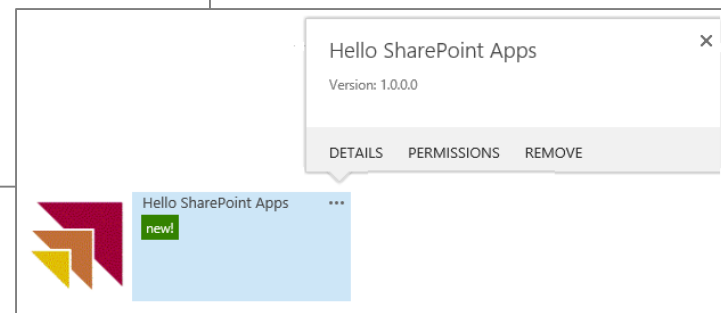
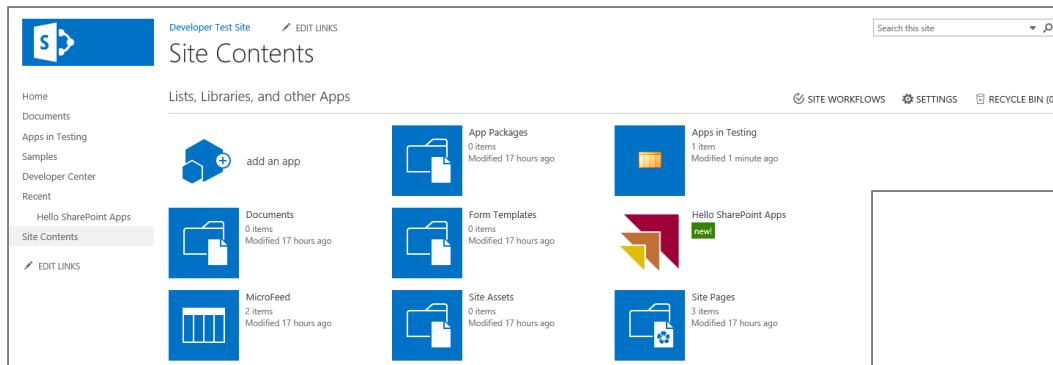
Add-in Start Page

- Every Add-in requires a start page
 - Start page provides entry point into Add-in
 - SharePoint adds app launcher to Site Contents in host web
 - SharePoint-Hosted Add-in start page hosted by SharePoint
 - Provider-Hosted Add-in start page hosted in remote web



User Experience with SharePoint Add-ins

- Users launch Add-in from tile on Site Contents
 - Add-ins grouped together with list & libraries
 - Add-in tile provides fly-out menu
 - Clicking on app tile redirects user to Add-in's start page



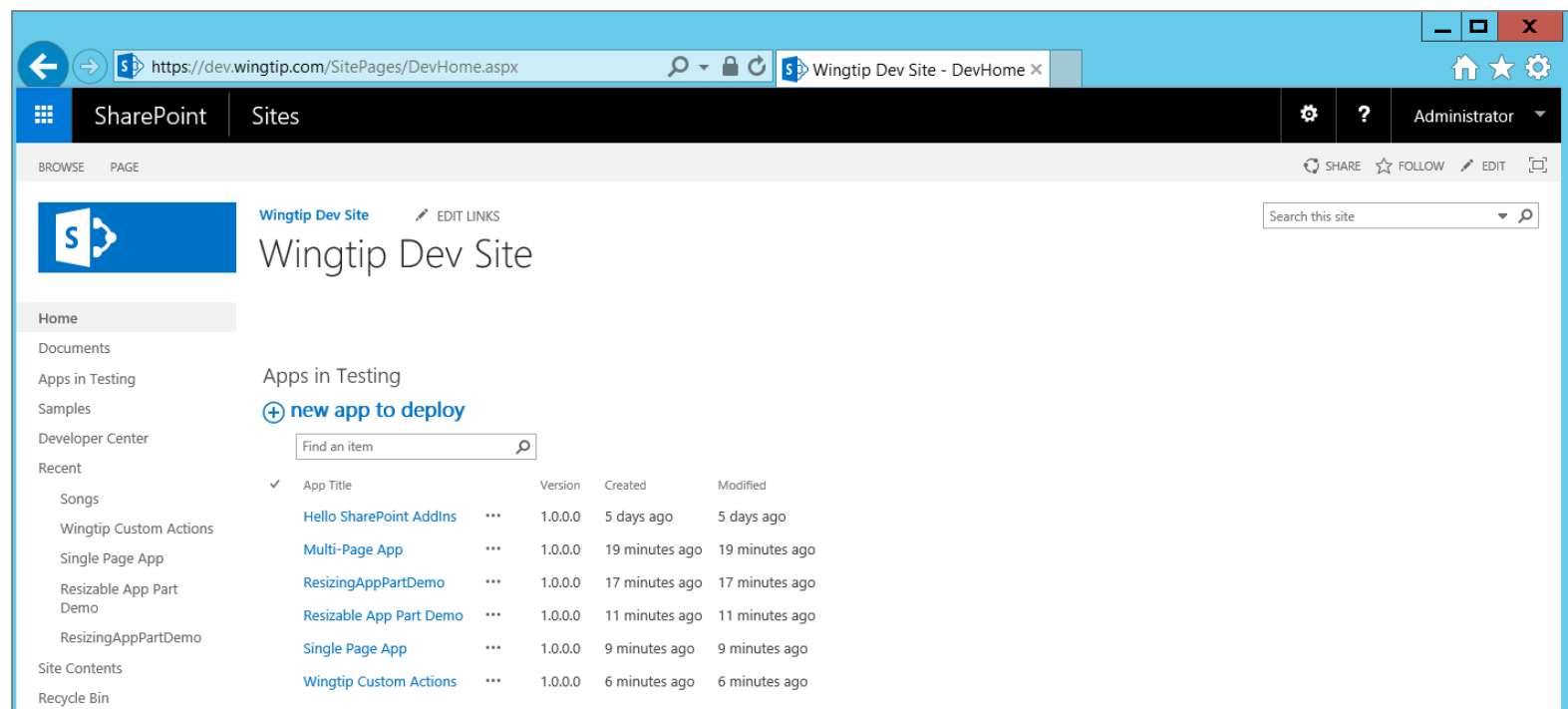


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Working with Add-ins from the Business User Perspective

Developer Sites

- Helpful in the development of SharePoint add-ins
 - Tracks a list of add-ins under development
 - Allows for remote deployment when using Visual Studio debugger





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Creating a Developer Site

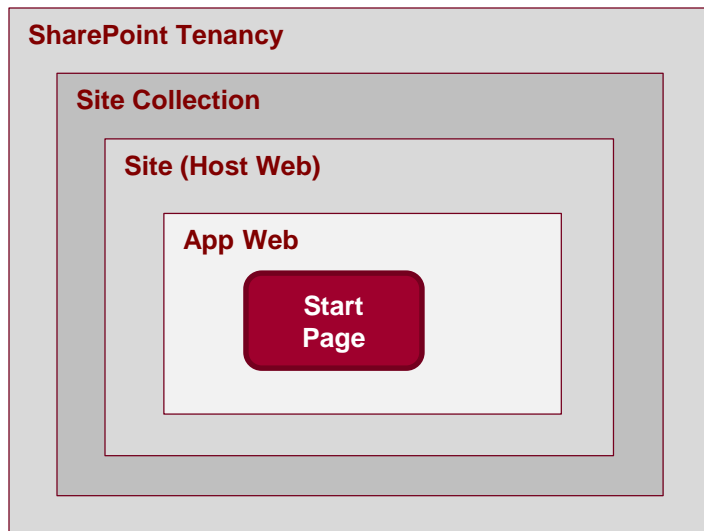
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 - Developing Add-in Parts
 - Adding User Custom Actions



SharePoint-hosted Add-in Architecture

- SharePoint-hosted Add-in fundamentals
 - SharePoint host creates app web during installation
 - Add-in start page & resources are added into app web
 - All add-in logic must be written in client-side JavaScript
 - Add-in authentication happens behind the scenes



App Web

- App web is created during add-in installation
 - App web created as child to site where Add-in is installed
- SharePoint-Hosted add-ins must create app web
 - Add-in requires home for start page & related resources
 - Add-in can add other SharePoint elements (e.g. lists)
- Provider-hosted Add-ins *can* create app web
 - Provider-hosted add-in doesn't get an app web by default
 - Provider-hosted add-in can create app web if needed



App Web Hosting Domain

- App web pages served out of isolated domain
 - Isolates JavaScript code on app web pages
 - Allows SharePoint to authenticate callbacks from add-in

```
https://wingtiptenant-f4c0ba5547a0ad.wingtip.com/MyLittleAddIn
```

- URL to app web made up of 4 parts
 - **Tenancy name:** wingtiptenant
 - **APPUIID:** f4c0ba5547a0ad
 - **App web hosting domain:** wingtip.com
 - **App name:** MyLittleAddin



Start Page URL

- Dynamic tokens used in start page URL
 - SharePoint-Hosted add-ins use **~appWebUrl** token
`~appweburl/Pages/Default.aspx`
 - All Add-ins should use **{StandardTokens}** token
`~appweburl/Pages/Default.aspx?{StandardTokens}`



{StandardTokens}

- **Start Page URL contains {StandardTokens}**
 - **Dynamic placeholder for querystring parameters**

| Parameter | Purpose |
|------------------------|--|
| SPHostUrl | URL back to host web |
| SPAppWebUrl | URL to app web |
| SPLanguage | Language in use (e.g. en-US) |
| SPClientTag | Client cache control number for the current website. |
| SPProductNumber | Version of SharePoint (e.g. 15.0.4433.1011) |



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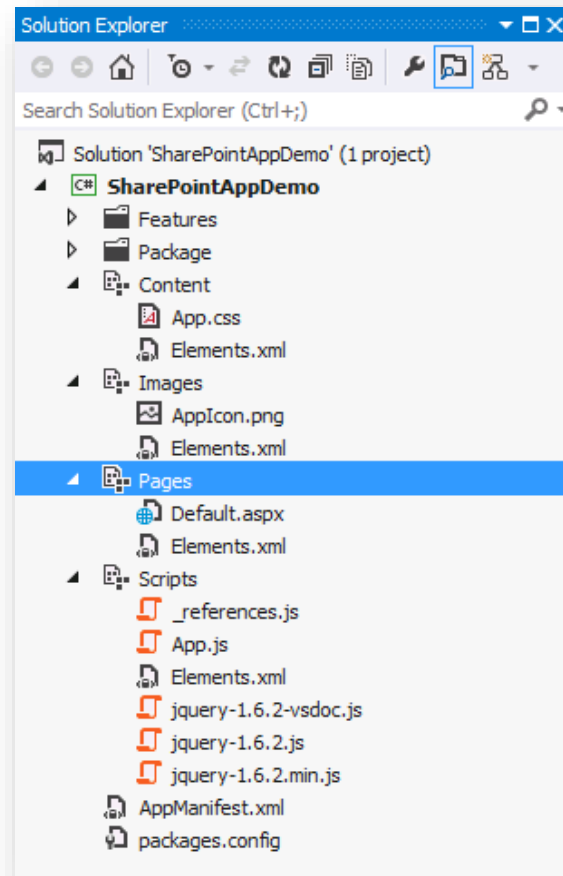
SharePoint Add-in User Interface Design

- Start page (required)
 - Represents user entry point into Add-in
 - Can be implemented with .aspx file or .htm file
- App part
 - External page (e.g. from app web) surfaced in host web
 - Displayed on host web pages using iFrame
- User custom action
 - URL-based command surfaced in host web
 - Used to create ECB commands and ribbon controls



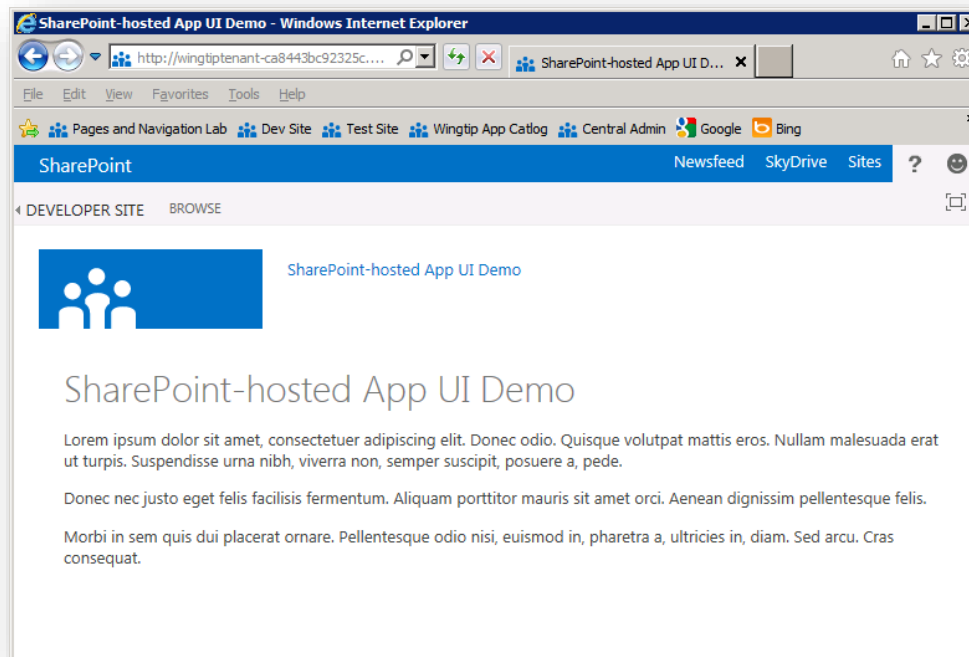
Modules in a SharePoint-Hosted Add-in

- Visual Studio adds Modules to each new project
 1. Content
 2. Images
 3. Pages
 4. Scripts



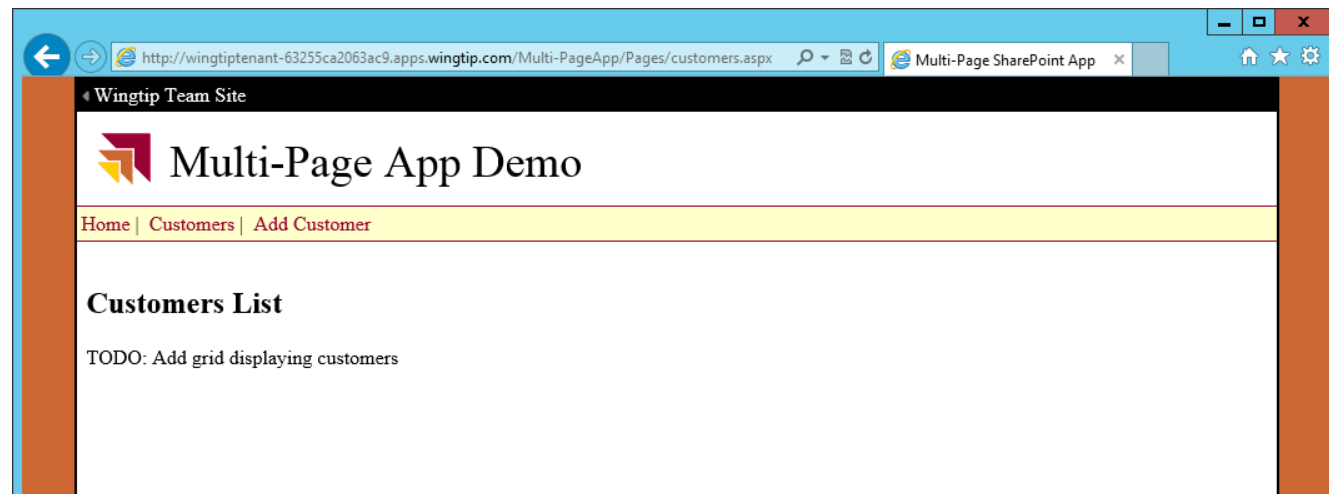
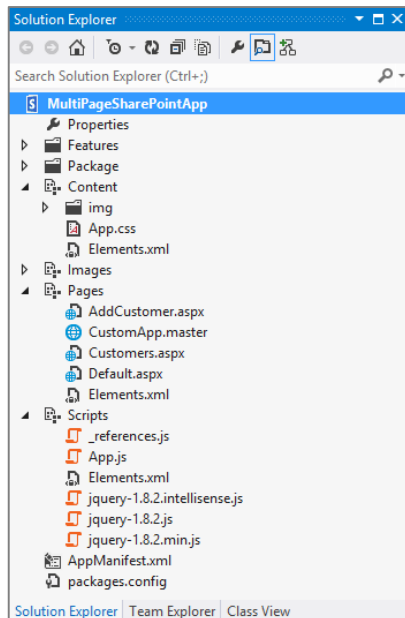
App.master

- App web uses `app.master` by default
 - Gives Add-in SharePoint look and feel
 - Provides Add-in with required link back to host web
 - Does not have Site Actions menu or top link bar



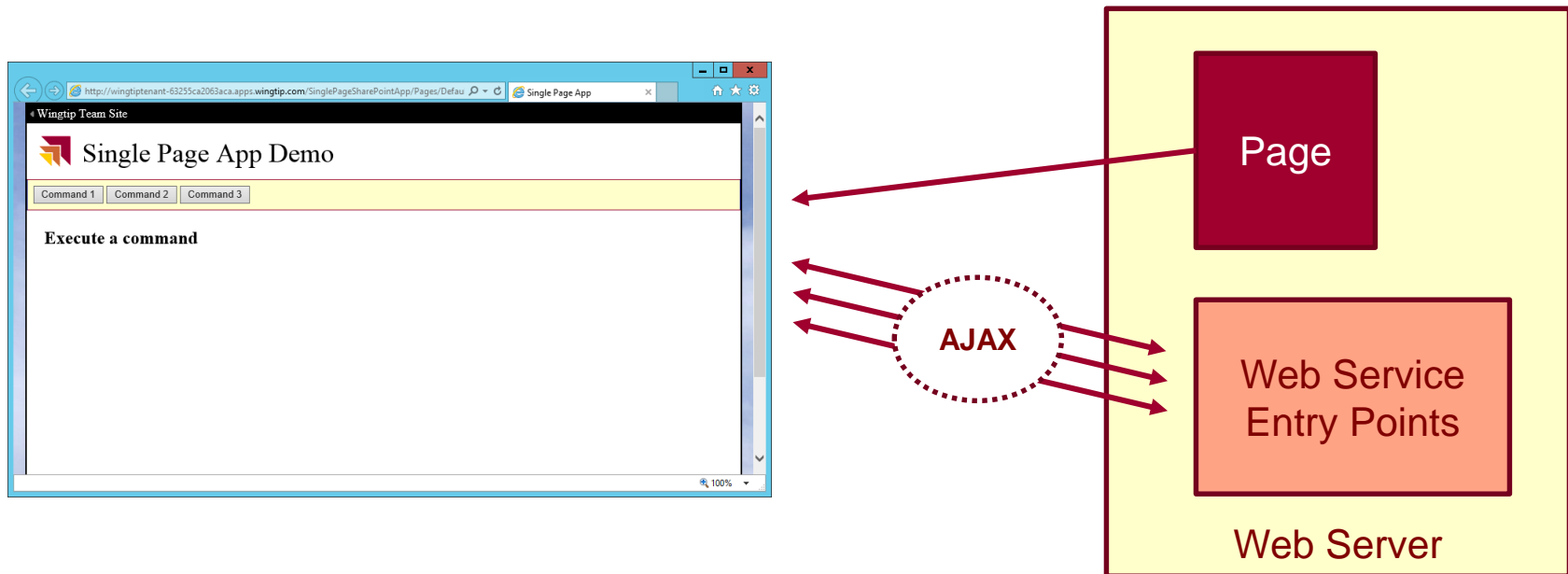
Multi-page Add-in with Custom Master Page

- Multiple pages can use same master page
 - Link to host web can be added to master page
 - Navigation can be added to master page
 - **Issue:** query string parameters only sent to start page



The Single Page App Model

- Benefits of single page app
 - Request data posted to start page is always there
 - JavaScript variables do not unload/reload
 - App makes AJAX calls and uses client-side JavaScript
 - Design leads to better and more fluid user experience





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Creating a Single Page App

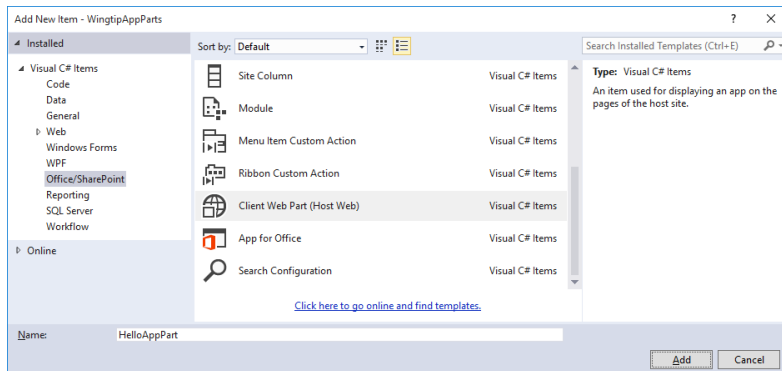
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Adding Add-in Parts to a Project

- Add new item based on Client Web Part project item



- App part requires ClientWebPart definition in element.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<Elements xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/sharepoint/">
  <ClientWebPart
    Name="HelloAppPart"
    Title="Hello App Part"
    Description="A simple little app part"
    Defaultwidth="600"
    DefaultHeight="200">
    <Content Type="html" Src="~appWebUrl/Pages/HelloAppPart.htm?{StandardTokens}" />
    <Properties></Properties>
  </ClientWebPart>
</Elements>
```



Add-in Parts with Custom Properties

- Add-in part can define custom properties
 - Property defined using Property element
 - Property value sent to add-in part using query string

```
<ClientWebPart Name="BetterAppPart"
  Title="Better App Part"
  Description="A really nice app part"
  DefaultWidth="600"
  DefaultHeight="200">

  <Content Type="html" Src="~appWebUrl/Pages/BetterAppPart.aspx?BackgroundColor=_BackgroundColor_&Camp;He

  <Properties>
    <Property
      Name="BackgroundColor"
      WebDisplayName="Add Background Color"
      Type="boolean"
      DefaultValue="false"
      WebCategory="Custom Wingtip Properties"
      RequiresDesignerPermission="true" >
    </Property>
    <Property
      Name="HeaderColor"
      WebDisplayName="Header Color"
      Type="enum"
      DefaultValue="Black"
      WebCategory="Custom Wingtip Properties"
      RequiresDesignerPermission="true" >
      <EnumItems>
        <EnumItem WebDisplayName="Black" Value="Black"/>
        <EnumItem WebDisplayName="Blue" Value="Blue"/>
        <EnumItem WebDisplayName="Green" Value="Green"/>
      </EnumItems>
    </Property>
  </Properties>
</ClientWebPart>
```



Resizing Add-in Parts

- Add-in part displayed in host web using inside iFrame
 - IFrame given initial width and height
 - Dynamic resizing often required to avoid scrollbars
 - Resizing add-in part requires postMessage call to host

```
function resizeAppPart() {  
  
    var pageWidth = $("#appPartContainer").width() + 20;  
    var pageHeight = $("#appPartContainer").height() + 20;  
  
    var SPHostUrl = getQueryStringParameter("SPHostUrl");  
    var senderId = getQueryStringParameter("SenderId");  
    var message = "<message senderId=" + senderId + ">" +  
                  "resize(" + pageWidth + ", " + pageHeight + ")" +  
                  "</message>";  
  
    parent.postMessage(message, SPHostUrl);  
  
}
```





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Developing Add-in Parts

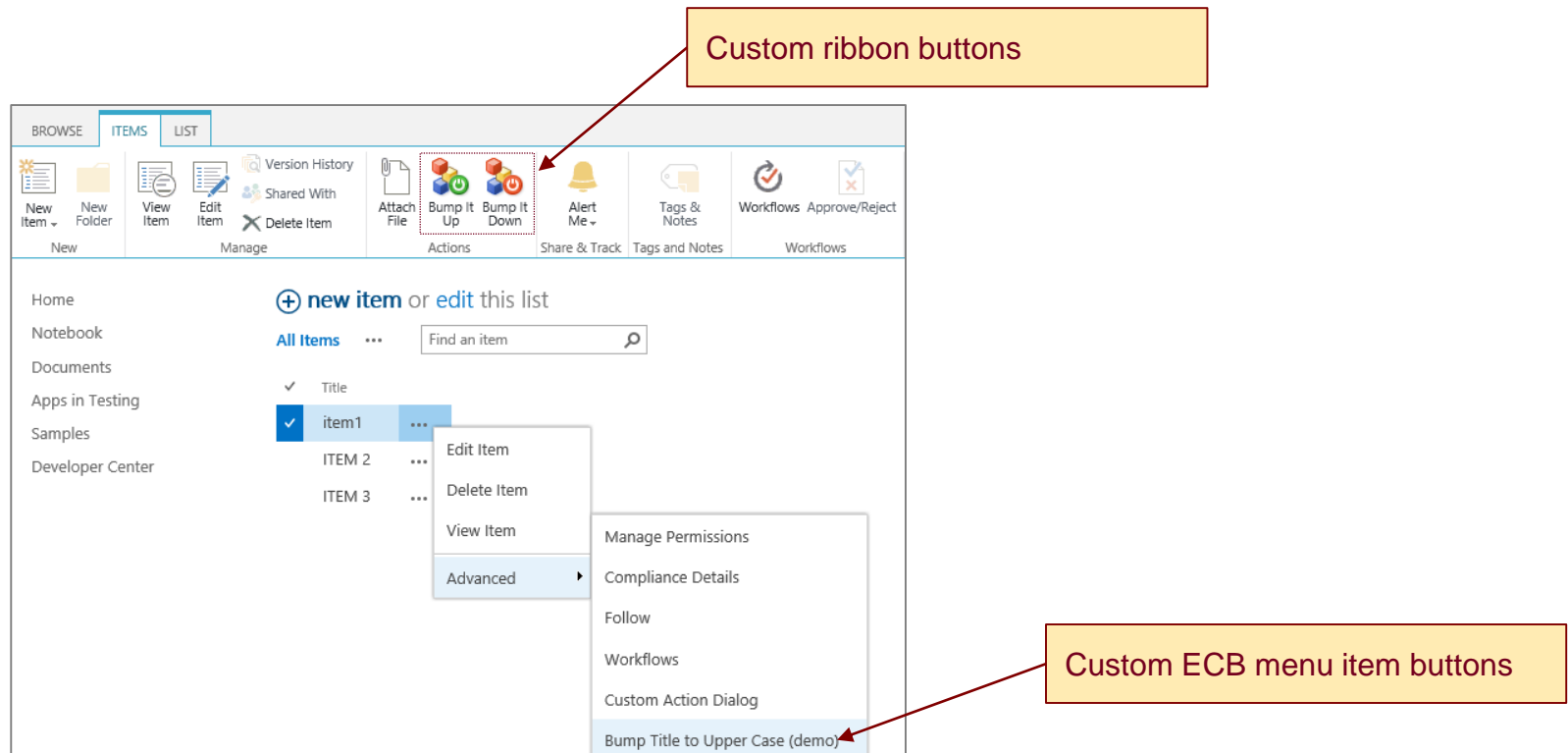
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Creating User Custom Actions

- User custom actions used to add commands to host web
 - Custom action can create ECB menu items and ribbon buttons



Creating User Custom Actions

- User custom actions used to add menu items to host web
 - Custom action can create ECB menu items and ribbon buttons
 - Created using declarative CustomAction element
 - UrlAction links to page in app web or remote web
 - UrlAction Url attribute cannot contain any JavaScript code
 - HostWebDialog attribute displays page in modal dialog in host web

```
<Elements xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/sharepoint/">
  <CustomAction
    Id="c06090cd-229a-4271-968c-1c67a976d267.TitleBumper"
    RegistrationType="List"
    RegistrationId="100"
    Location="EditControlBlock"
    Sequence="10001"
    Title="Bump Title to Upper Case (demo)"
    HostWebDialog="TRUE"
    HostWebDialogwidth="500"
    HostWebDialogHeight="280" >

    <UrlAction
      Url="~appWebUrl/Pages/TitleBumper.aspx?{StandardTokens}&SPListItemId={ItemId}&SPListId={ListId}" />

  </CustomAction>
</Elements>
```

URL Tokens for User Custom Actions

- Certain tokens must be used with certain actions
 - Token use changes between ECB actions and Ribbon actions

| Token | Purpose |
|-------------------|--|
| {AppWebUrl} | URL of the app web in an app for SharePoint |
| {HostLogoUrl} | Logo for the host web of an app for SharePoint |
| {HostTitle} | Title of the host web of an app for SharePoint |
| {HostUrl} | URL of the host web of an app for SharePoint |
| {ItemId} | Integer-based ID of item in a list or library (ECB menu actions only) |
| {SelectedItemId} | Array of item IDs in a list or library (Ribbon menu actions only) |
| {ItemUrl} | URL of target item being acted upon (ECB menu actions only) |
| {SelectedItemUrl} | URL array of target items being acted upon (Ribbon menu actions only) |
| {Language} | current language/culture of the host web of an app for SharePoint |
| {ListId} | ID of the current list (a GUID). |
| {RecurrenceId} | Recurrence index of a recurring event |
| {Site} | URL of the current website |
| {SiteCollection} | URL of the parent site of the current website |
| {SiteUrl} | URL of the current website |





DEMO

Adding User Custom Actions

Summary

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