# **Getting Started with Power Apps**

Lab Time: 60 minutes

Lab Folder: C:\Student\Modules\08\_PowerPlatform\Lab

Lab Overview: This lab covers how to get up and running with the Power Platform by creating a new Microsoft 365 tenant with trial subscriptions to Office 365, Power Apps, Flow, Power BI and SharePoint Online. The act of creating and configuring this new Microsoft 365 tenant will yield an isolated testing and development environment for building and testing the apps and components you can build with Power Apps and Flow. One valuable aspect of creating your own new Microsoft 365 tenant is that you will have Global tenant administrative permissions allowing you to create multiple Microsoft 365 user accounts for testing your apps and flows in isolation from any other existing Microsoft 365 tenant.

## Exercise 1: Create a Canvas App using the Start From Data Template

In this exercise you will create a new app using Start from Data template.

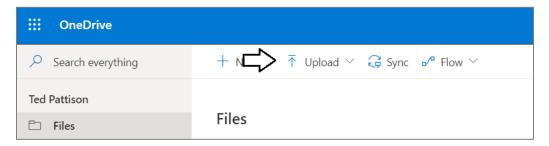
- 1. Upload the Excel workbook named **Expenses.xlsx** to OneDrive for Business.
  - a) Using Windows Explorer, verify that there is an Excel workbook file named Expenses.xlsx located at the following path.

#### C:\Student\Modules\08\_PowerPlatform\Lab\Expenses.xlsx

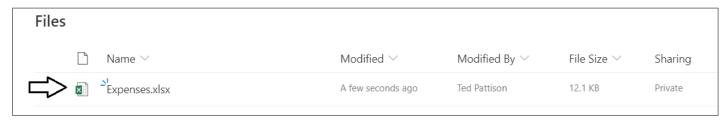
b) Drop down the Microsoft 365 app launcher menu and select **OneDrive** to navigate to your **Files** collection.



c) Click the **Upload** button and then select **Expenses.xlsx** to upload this file to OneDrive for Business.

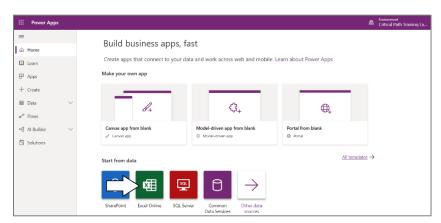


d) Verify that **Expenses.xlsx** has been uploaded to your **Files** folder.

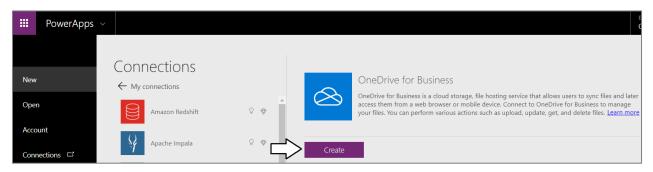


Next, you will create a new Canvas app in Power Apps Studio that will read and write to the **Expenses** table in this Excel workbook.

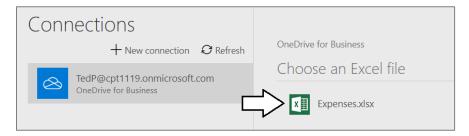
- 2. Create the new app using the data in the **Expenses.xlsx** workbook.
  - a) Navigate back to the **Home** page of the Power Apps portal at <a href="https://make.powerapps.com">https://make.powerapps.com</a>.
  - b) Click on the Excel Online tile in the Start from data section to begin the process of creating the new app.



c) Click the Create button to create a new connection using the OneDrive for Business connector.



d) When prompted to Choose an Excel file on the Connections page, click the Excel workbook file named Expenses.xlsx.

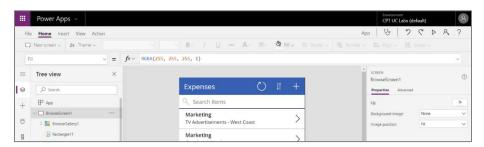


e) When prompted to Choose a table on the Connections page, select the Expenses table and then click Connect.



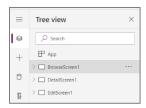
f) Wait while Power Apps Studio generates the starting point for your app.

- g) If you are presented with the Welcome to Power Apps Studio dialog, click Skip.
- h) Once Power Apps Studio has created the new app, it should appear as the one in the following screenshot.

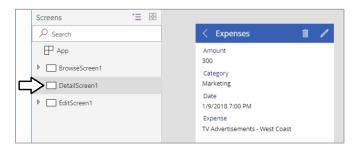


The new app has been created with three different screens. The browse screen shows many expenses at one time. The detail screen and the edit screen are both designed to display only one expense at a time.

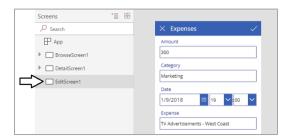
Collapse the Tree View nodes for the screens named BrowserScreen1, DetailScreen1 and EditScreen1.



j) Click on **DetailScreen1** in the left navigation to inspect the detail form.



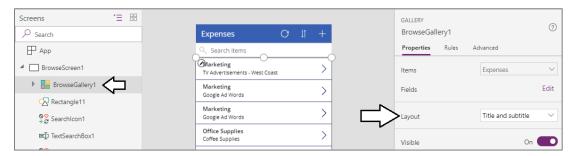
k) Click on **EditScreen1** in the left navigation to inspect the edit form.



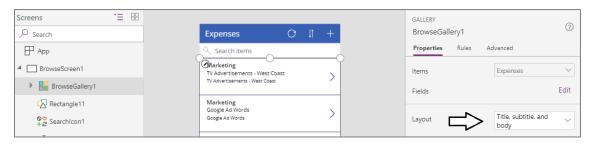
I) Click on BrowseScreen1 and expand its node in the left navigation.



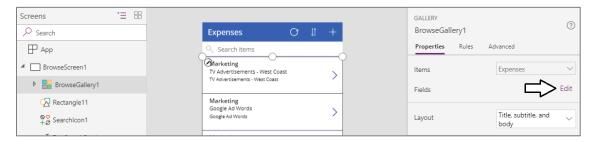
- m) Click the BrowserGallery1 control and then locate the Layout section in the Properties pane on the right.
- n) You should see that the BrowseGallery1 control currently has a Layout setting of Title and subtitle.



o) Update the Layout setting for BrowseGallery1 to a value of Title, subtitle and body.

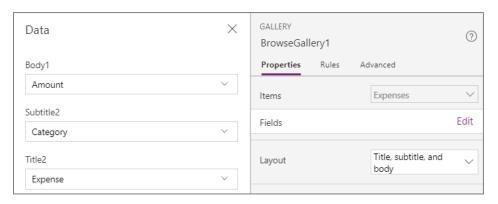


p) Click on the **Edit** link for the **Fields** property to Display the Data pane.

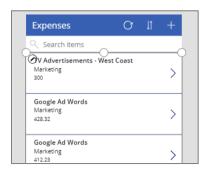


You should now see the Data pane allow you to map fields to items in the gallery template for BrowseGallery1.

- q) Set Body1 to the Amount field.
- r) Set Subtitle1 to the Category field.
- s) Set Title1 to the Expense field.



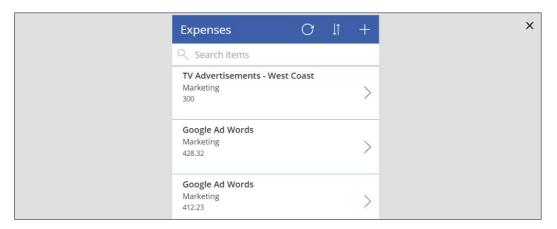
- t) Close the Data pane by clicking the x in the top right corner.
- u) The browse screen should now display its fields ordered by **Expense**, **Category** and **Amount**.



- 3. Test the app by starting it up and testing the search functionality.
  - a) Click the Start button with the arrow icon to launch the app for testing.



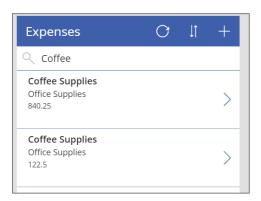
b) The app should start and appear as shown in the following screenshot.



c) Test search functionality by typing the word "Cleaning" in the search box.



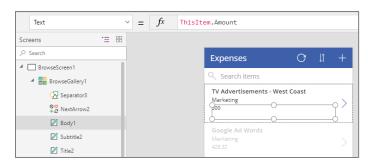
d) Try a different search by typing the word "Coffee" into the search box.



e) Once you have tested the search functionality, stop the app by clicking the button with the **X** icon at the top right.



- 4. Configure the formatting of the expense **Amount** field.
  - a) Select the textbox named **Body1** which displays the **Amount** field for each expense. You should be able to see that the **Text** value of this textbox currently configured with a formula which is **Thisltem.Amount**.



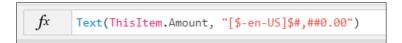
b) Update the **Text** property of the **Body1** textbox with the following formula.

## Text(ThisItem.Amount, "\$#,##0.00")

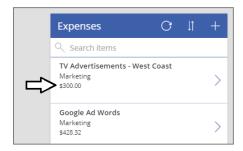
c) When you update the formula, it will initially match the following screenshot.



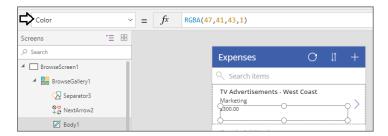
d) Note that after you update the formula, Power Apps Studio will automatically update the formula to include [\$-en-US].



e) The **Amount** field should now display its value with currency formatting.



- 5. Configure the Color property of Body1 to display Amount values in red when they are \$500 or greater.
  - a) With the Body1 control selected, use the property drop down to display the Color property.



b) Update the Color property for Body1 with the following formula.

## If(ThisItem.Amount<500, Black, Red)</pre>

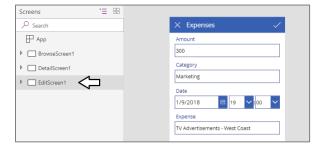
c) The formula bar should match the following screenshot.



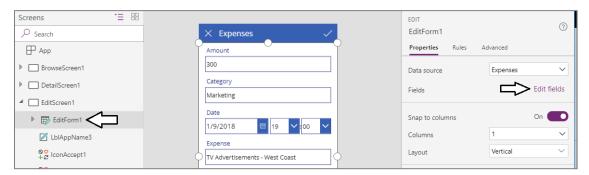
d) You should now see that **Amount** values of \$500 or greater are displayed with a red font.



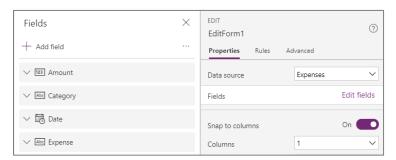
- 6. Modify the edit screen to streamline data entry for new expenses.
  - a) Using the left navigation, move to the edit screen.



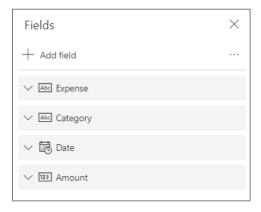
b) Display the Data pane so you can see the Fields collection of the edit form. At this point, the fields are sorted alphabetically.



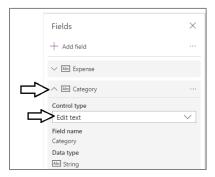
c) Using the mouse, rearrange the fields by moving Expense to the top followed by Category, Date and then Amount.



d) The edit screen should now display its fields using the new sort order.



- 7. Update the data card for the Category field to provide a dropdown list with allowed values.
  - a) Drop down the menu with the abc icon to the right of the Category field.



b) Select a control type of Allowed Values.



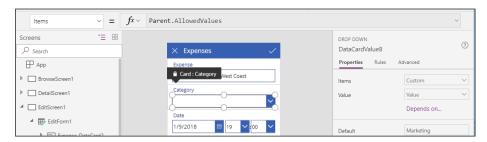
c) Close the Fields pane.



d) The control which displays the **Category** field should change to a dropdown menu.



e) Select the dropdown menu and examine the **Items** property in the formula bar.



You will notice that the formula bar is read-only for the Items property because the data card is locked by default.

f) In the Advanced pane, click the Unlock to change properties button.

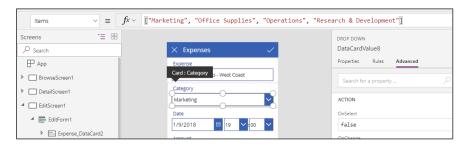


Note that the user interface experience might seem a bit strange when you click the **Unlock to change properties** button. At first it seems like nothing is happening. However, after a few seconds you should see that he **Items** property become editable.

g) Update the **Items** property of the dropdown list with the following formula.

## ["Marketing", "Office Supplies", "Operations", "Research & Development"]

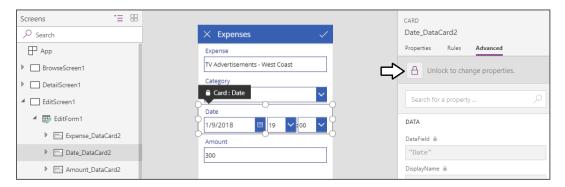
h) The formula bar should match the following screenshot.



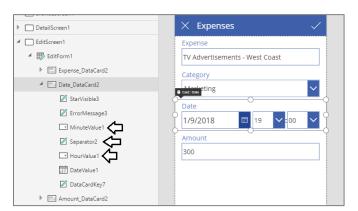
i) If you start the app, you should be able to test the dropdown list and verify that it provides four allowed values.



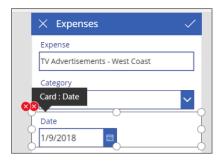
- 8. Update the data card for the **Date** field to make it a date-only.
  - a) Select the data card for the Date field.
  - b) In the Advanced pane, click the Unlock to change properties button for the data card for the Date field.



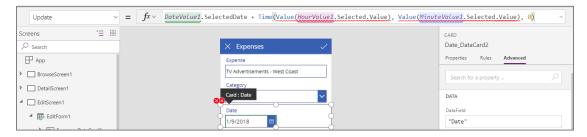
c) Using the left navigation, select and delete the controls named MinuteValue1, Seperator2 and HourValue1.



- d) After deleting MinuteValue1 and HourValue1, you will notice formula errors due to referencing deleted controls.
- e) Click on the red error icon with to the left.



f) At this point, you should see the formula for the **Update** property in the formula bar.



g) Replace the existing Update formula with the following formula to remove references to HourValue1 and MinuteValue1.

#### DateValue1.SelectedDate

h) The formula for the **Update** property of the data card should now appear as the formula shown in the following screenshot.



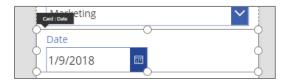
- i) Click on the one remaining red error icon to display the other formula error.
- j) You should see the Y property of ErrorMessage3 contains references to the deleted control named HourValue1.



k) Replace the existing formula for the Y property with a value of 0 as shown in the following screenshot.



I) At this point, you should no longer see any error indicators.



m) Select he DateValue1 control and examine its Width property.



n) You should see that the formula of the Width property has the following value.

#### (Parent.Width - 60) / 2

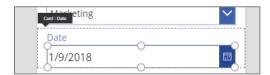
o) Update the formula of the Width property to the following formula.

### Parent.Width - 60

p) Your formula bar should match the following screenshot.



q) The DateValue1 control should expand to the same width of the other input controls on the edit screen.



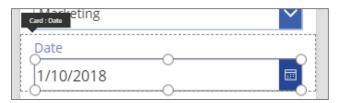
- 9. Update the **DataTimeZone** property of **DateValue1**.
  - a) Inspect the DateTimeZone property of the DateValue1 control. Its current value should be Local.



b) Update the DataTimeZone property to a value of DataTimeZone.UTC as shown in the following screenshot.

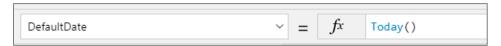


c) All the dates displayed on the edit screen should now move ahead by one day and display their proper value.

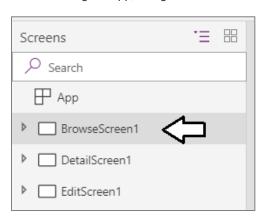


The problem with date values in the Local format is that they are offset by the difference between Greenwich Mean Time and your local time zone. For example, if you are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), the date of **January 10, 2018** is displayed with a 5-hour offset which is **January 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM**. By setting the **DataTimeZone** property to **UTC**, you are effectively removing the offset and the dates are displayed more accurately.

- 10. Configure the current day as the default value for **DateValue1**.
  - a) Make sure the DateValue1 control is selected.
  - b) Inspect the **DefaultDate** property value for **DateValue1**.
  - c) Update the **DefaultDate** property using the **Today()** function as shown in the following screenshot.



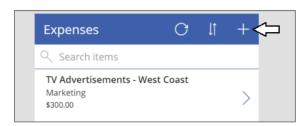
- 11. Test out the app by starting it and adding a new expense.
  - a) Before starting the app, navigate to the screen named **BrowseScreen1**.



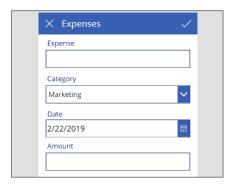
b) Click the Start button with the arrow icon to launch the app for testing.



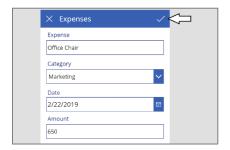
c) When the browse screen appears, click to button with the + icon to add a new expense.



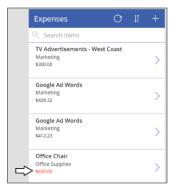
d) You should now see the edit form into which you can enter a new expense.



e) Fill in the edit form for the new expense using the data shown in the following screenshot and then click the button with the checkmark icon in the upper right to save your work.



f) Once you have saved the new expense, you should be able to see it in the browse screen.



- 12. Save the app to the cloud.
  - a) Drop down the File menu and click the App settings link.
  - b) Name the app Expense Tracker and assign a color, icon and description as shown in the following screenshot.



c) Click the Save link in the left navigation and then click the Save button in the lower, right-hand side of the screen.



d) You should be able to confirm that your app has been saved.



- 13. Examine the details of the new app.
  - a) Return the Power Apps portal at <a href="https://web.powerapps.com">https://web.powerapps.com</a> and click the Apps link.
  - b) Locate and the new app named Expense Tracker.



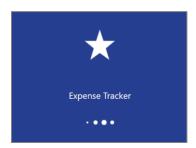
c) Click on the ellipse (...) dropdown menu to the right of Expense Tracker app and select Details.



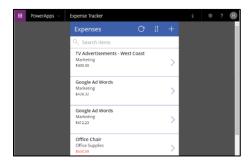
d) On the app **Details** page, locate the **Web link** and click on it to launch the app.



e) The app should start up when you click that Web link.



f) The app should now start up in the usual run mode for end users.



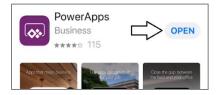
# **Exercise 2: Test the Expense Tracker Application From a Mobile Device**

In this exercise you will create begin by installing the native Power Apps app on your mobile device. If you have already installed the Power Apps app pn your mobile device, you can skip step 1 and move to step 2 of this exercise. If you do not have a mobile device that supports the Power Apps native app, you can skip the entire exercise and move on to Exercise 5.

- 1. Install the Power Apps native app on your mobile phone. This lab assumes you have a mobile phone which supports the Power Apps native app which include iPhones, Android phones and Windows 10 phones.
  - a) Navigate to the App Store for your mobile device and search for Power Apps.
  - b) Locate and installed the Power Apps app on your mobile device.



c) Once the Power Apps app has been installed, open it.



d) You should now see the app welcome screen..



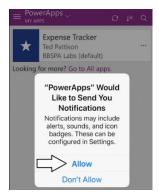
- 2. Sign into the Power Apps native app using the primary user account for the tenant you created at the start of this lab.
  - a) Launch the Power Apps native app if it is not already running.
  - b) Enter the user name (i.e. email address) of the primary user account for your new Microsoft 365 tenant.
  - c) Click the purple button with the arrow to begin the sign in process.



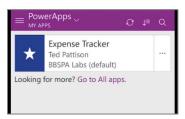
d) When prompted, enter your password and click Sign in.



e) If it's the first time you have run this app, you will be prompted to allow the app to send you notifications. Click **Allow**.



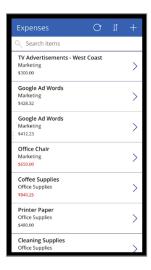
f) Once you have logged in, you should be able to see the Expense Track canvas app in the list of apps.



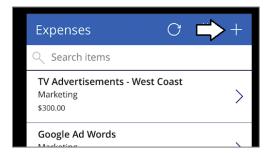
- 3. Open the Expense Tracker canvas app on your mobile device.
  - a) Touch the Expense Tracker app in the apps list to launch it.
  - b) You should see that app starting up.



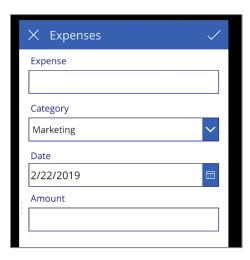
c) When the app opens, you should be able to view existing expenses.



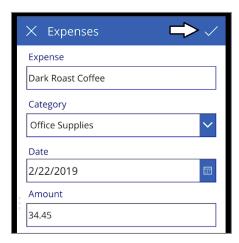
- 4. Use the mobile app to enter a new expense.
  - a) Touch the button with the + sign to add a new expense.



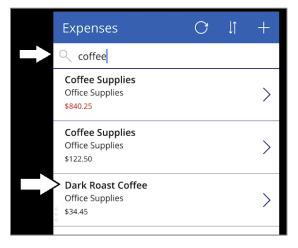
b) You should now see the screen for adding a new expense.



c) Add new expense data as shown in the following screenshot and touch the button with the checkmark to save your changes.



d) Once the expense has been saved, search for coffee and verify you can see the new expense.



The purpose of this exercise is to ensure you can test canvas apps on your mobile device. Once you have successfully added a new expense, you can close the app on your mobile device.and move ahead to the next exercise.

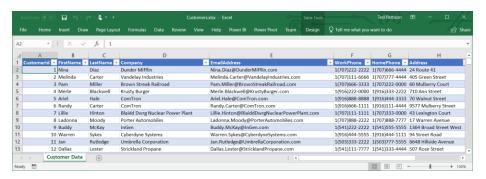
# **Exercise 3: Create a Canvas App using the Start from Blank Template**

In this exercise you will create a new canvas app using **Canvas app from blank** template. This will give you experience creating the data binding for a canvas app without having to resort to using the **Start from data** template. In this lab you will also learn how to use the **Filter** function and the **Sort** function to manipulate data in a table. By the end, you will also work through the problems associated with a data source such as a table in an Excel workbook that does not support delegation.

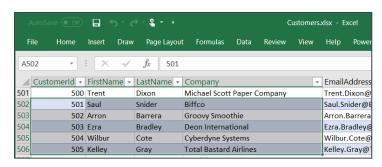
- 1. Inspect the Excel workbook named Cusrtomers.xlsx located in the Student folder.
  - a) Using Windows Explorer, verify that there is an Excel workbook file named **Expenses.xlsx** located at the following path.

#### C:\Student\Modules\08\_PowerPlatform\Lab\Customers.xlsx

b) If you have Excel installed, open up this workbook and inspect what's inside.



Scroll down until you reach the rows with the Customerld starting with 500.

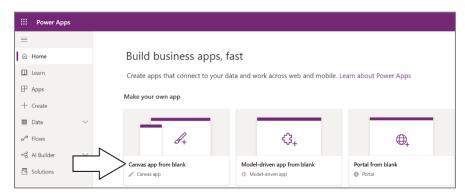


A key learning point in this exercise is gain an understanding about the behavior of data sources that do not support delegation. When a connector does not support delegation, it will only return a maximum of 500 records by default. Therefore, you will not see any customer records with a **CustomerId** over 500. Later in this lab you will search for customers with the last name "Barrera". What you will see later in this exercise is that you will not be able to find this customer with the default canvas app settings which limits the tables it returns to a maximum of 500 records.

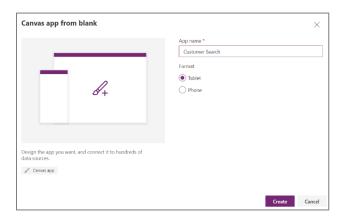
- d) Close the Excel workbook named Customers.xlsx without saving any changes and then close Microsoft Excel.
- 2. Upload the Excel workbook named Customers.xlsx to OneDrive for Business.
  - a) Drop down the Microsoft 365 app launcher menu and select OneDrive to navigate to your Files collection.
  - b) Click the **Upload** button and then select **Customers.xlsx** to upload this file to OneDrive for Business.
  - c) Verify that **Customers.xlsx** has been uploaded to your **Files** folder.



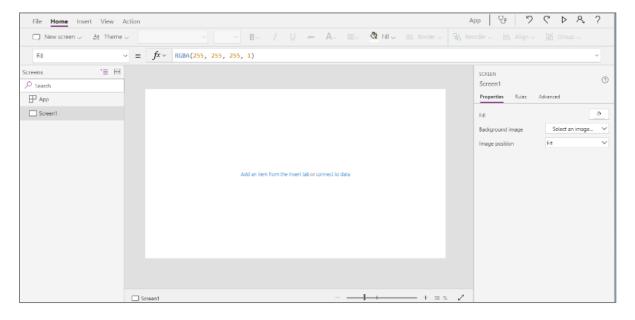
- 3. Create a new canvas app using the **Canvas app from blank** data template.
  - a) Navigate to the Power Apps portal at <a href="https://make.powerapps.com">https://make.powerapps.com</a>
  - b) Create a new canvas app by clicking the Canvas app from blank button.



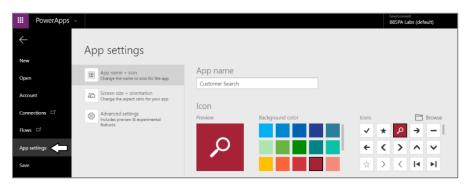
- c) When prompted with the Canvas app from blank dialog, enter an **App name** of **Customer Search**.
- d) Make sure to select a Format of the Tablet and then click Create.



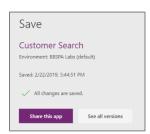
e) After a few seconds, you should see your new canvas app in Power Apps Studio.



- 4. Configure the App settings and save your new app.
  - a) Click the File menu and then click App settings.
  - b) Make sure the App name is set to Customer Search.
  - c) Select an icon and color of your choosing as shown in the following screenshot.



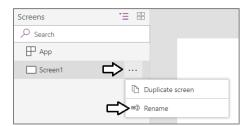
d) Click Save in the left navigation and then click the Save button in the bottom right corner of the Power Apps Studio window.



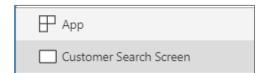
e) Click the back arrow at the top left corner of Power Apps Studio to return to the canvas app in edit mode.



- 5. Update the name of **Screen1** to **Customer Search Screen**.
  - a) Drop down the ellipse menu (...) for **Screen1** and select he **Rename** command.



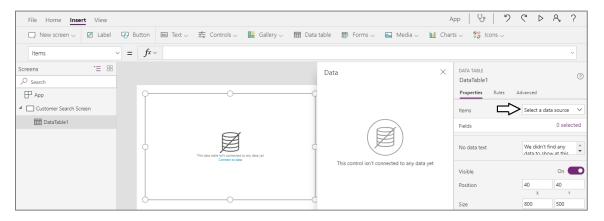
b) Rename the screen to Customer Search Screen.



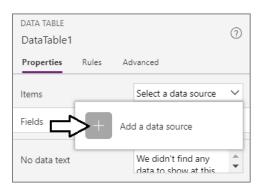
- 6. Add a new **Data table** control to display customer data.
  - a) Navigate to the **Insert** tab in the ribbon.
  - b) Click the Data table button to add a new Data table control to Customer Search Screen.



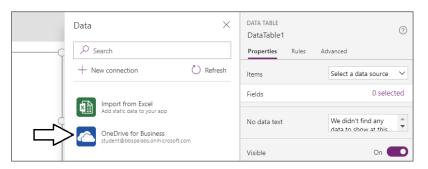
- c) Once the Data table control has been added, inspect its properties in the Properties pan on the right.
- d) Locate the Items property which has a dropdown menu with the caption Select a data source.



e) Drop down the menu for the Items property and select Add a data source to display the Data pane.

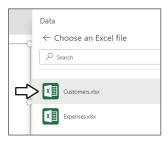


f) When the **Data** pane appears, select the connection named **OneDrive for Business**.



The OneDrive for Business connection should automatically appear because you created it when building the Expense Tracker app.

- g) The Data pane should prompt you to Choose an Excel file and display the Excel workbooks at your OneDrive root library.
- h) Select the Excel workbook named Customers.xslx.

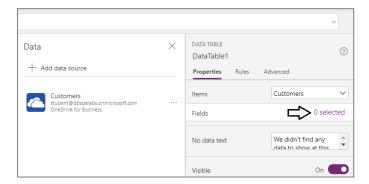


When prompted to Choose a table, select the Customers table and then click Connect.

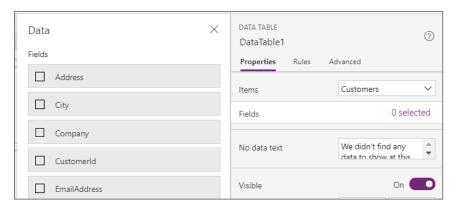


At this point, you have bound the Customers table to the Data table control but you have not selected any fields to display.

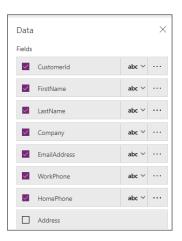
- j) Inspect the **Items** property and the **Fields** property of the Data table control.
- k) You should be able to verify that Items property has a value of Customers and the Fields property shows 0 selected.



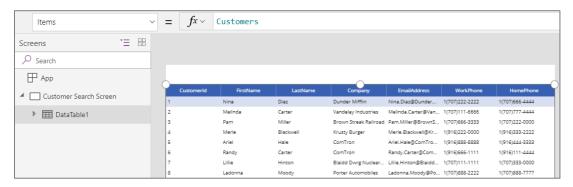
I) Click the link for the Fields property with the caption 0 selected to display the Fields list in the Data pane.



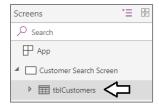
m) Select the fields CustomerId, FirstName, LastName, Company, EmailAddress, WorkPhone and HomePhone.



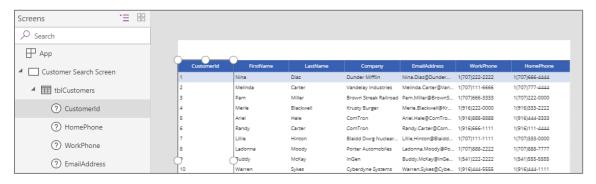
- n) You should now see those fields appear in the Data table control.
- o) Using the mouse, resize the Data table to take up and entire height and width of the screen.
- p) Move the top of the Data table down leaving a small amount of empty space at the top as shown in the following screenshot.



q) Rename the Data table control to tblCustomers.



r) Select the CustomerId column and then look at this selection in the property pane on the right.

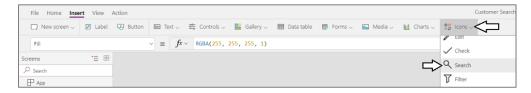


s) Set the Width property of the CustomerId column to 50 and set the Can grow property to Off.

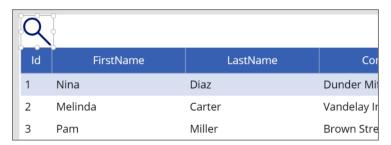


#### 7. Add a search box

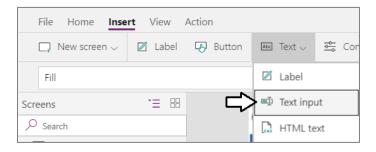
a) Add a search icon onto the **Customer Search Screen**. and rename it to **icoSearch**.



b) Position icoSearch in the upper, left as shown in the following screenshot.



c) Add a Text input control to the Customer Search Screen and rename it to txtSearchInput.



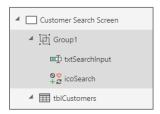
d) Set the **Default** property of **txtSearchInput** to "A".



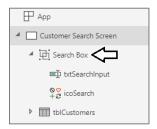
e) Select icoSearch and txtSearchInput together at the same time and group them using the Group > Group command.



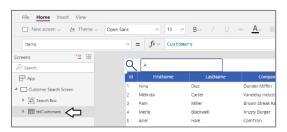
f) You should have created a new group named **Group1**.



g) Rename Group1 to Search Box.



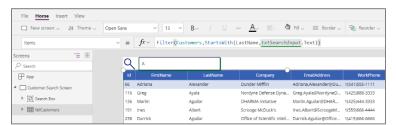
- 8. Add filtering and sorting behavior.
  - a) Inspect the Items property of tblCustomers which should currently have a value of Customers.



b) Modify the value for the **Items** property of **tblCustomers** using the following expression to add filtering behavior.

# Filter( Customers, StartsWith(LastName, txtSearchInput.Text))

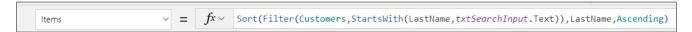
c) The items displayed by **tblCustomers** should now only include customers whose last name starts with "A".



d) Modify the value for the **Items** property of **tblCustomers** using the following expression to add sorting behavior.

#### Sort(Filter(Customers,StartsWith(LastName,txtSearchInput.Text)),LastName,Ascending)

e) Your formula bar should match the following screenshot.



f) Experiment with formula formatting by dropping down the formula bar vertically and clicking the Format text button.



g) You should see that Power Apps Studio is able to format expressions to make them more readable.

```
Sort
|
| Filter(
| Customers, |
| StartsWith(
| LastName, |
| txtSearchInput. Text
| )
| Format text | Remove formatting
```

- 9. Test out the filter functionality
  - a) Start the app and try running a search using a search input string of "Bar". You should see the following results.

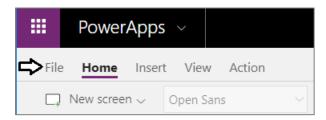


b) Search for "Barr" to find customers with the last name Barrera. Note that you cannot find any customers with this last name.



You are only searching through the first 500 records because of the way delegation works in Power Apps. You will never find any records that exist after the first 500. The key point is that you can get into trouble if you don't understand how delegation works.

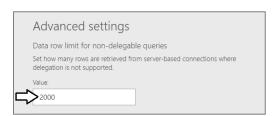
- 10. Configure the **Customer Search** app to discover records beyond the first 500 record limitation.
  - a) Navigate to Backstage area in Power Apps Studio by clicking the File menu.



- b) Click App settings in the left navigations and then click Advanced settings.
- c) The Data row limit for non-delegable queries setting should have the default value of 500.



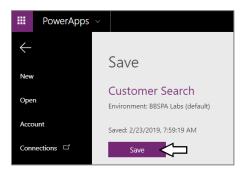
d) Modify the value for the **Data row limit for non-delegable queries** setting to the maximum value of **2000**.



- e) Click File to leave the Backstage area.
- f) Start up the app and run a search for Barrera.
- g) You should now find Barrera because you are looking through all the records in the underlying Excel table.



h) Quit the app from running and then save your changes to the app.



#### 11. Student challenge (if you have time)

a) Resize the columns in the Data table to make the data more readable.



Congratulations. You have now completed this lab.