AL Demo Application – Code Explanation

This demo Business Central application demonstrates enum-based navigation using AL code objects, including tables, pages, enums, codeunits, and supporting artifacts like reports, permission sets, and tests.

Table: Demo Entity (50140)

The Demo Entity table is a custom table that stores records with three main fields: an ID (Integer), Name (Text[100]), and Category, which is an enum type based on the custom enum Page Navigation Enum. This table acts as a driver for dynamic navigation, where each record represents a user-friendly option for navigating to a specific page in the system.

Enum: Page Navigation Enum (50140)

This enum defines a fixed list of page categories used in the navigation handler. It includes the following values: Customer, Vendor, Item, Sales, and Finance. Each value represents a specific area in Business Central. For example, if a user selects "Customer" from the enum, the system will navigate to the Customer page. The enum is marked as Extensible = true, allowing other developers to extend it in the future.

Codeunit: My Custom Nav Handler (50140)

This codeunit contains a single method called NavigateToPage, which takes an enum value as a parameter. Using a case statement, it maps each enum value to the appropriate page by calling Page.Run. For example, if the user selects enumValue::Customer, the system runs the page identified as "Customer Page". This centralized navigation logic makes it easier to manage and scale page routing.

Page Extension: CustomerListExt (50140)

This page extension modifies the standard "Customer List" page by adding a new action under the Processing group called "Open Main Menu". When clicked, this action opens the Customer Ext page (50143), which allows the user to interact with the navigation UI and choose a destination based on the enum.

Card Page: Customer Ext (50143)

This is a custom card page that lets users select a name and a navigation category using the Demo Entity table. It contains multiple actions in the processing area. The main action is GoToPage, which uses the My Custom Nav Handler codeunit to open the relevant page based on the Category enum selected. Additional direct actions are also provided for quickly accessing each of the pages, such as OpenFinancePage, OpenVendorPage, etc., for flexibility and demonstration purposes.

List Pages: Customer Page (50140), Finance Page (50141), Item Page (50142), Sales Page (50144), Vendor Page (50145)

These pages are standard or slightly customized list pages displaying data from their respective source tables like Customer, G/L Entry, Item, Sales Header, and Vendor. They show key fields and in some cases include drill-down or subpage functionality. For example, the Customer Page also includes sales orders and a "Send Email" action using the email codeunit.

Report: Demo Report (50140)

This report is a basic example of Business Central reporting using AL. It loops through customers and displays their names. The request page includes a boolean toggle called ShowCustomers, which could be used to filter or control the output.

Permission Set: Demo Access (50140)

This permission set grants the required access for users to interact with the demo features. It allows full read, insert, modify, and delete access to the Demo Entity table and read-only access to the standard tables used in the pages, such as Customer, Vendor, Item, Sales Header, and G/L Entry.

Test Codeunit: Demo Test (50142)

This codeunit contains a single test method called TestNavigationHandler. It verifies that the NavigateToPage method works by calling it with enum::"Page Navigation Enum"::Customer and displaying a message. This serves as a simple test to validate that page navigation logic doesn't break during deployment or changes.