Build your first PowerPoint task pane add-in with Visual Studio

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In this article, you'll walk through the process of building a PowerPoint task pane add-in.

Prerequisites

- Visual Studio 2019 or later with the **Office/SharePoint development** workload installed.

  > ⓘ Note
  >
  > If you've previously installed Visual Studio, use the Visual Studio Installer to ensure that the **Office/SharePoint development** workload is installed.

- Office connected to a Microsoft 365 subscription (including Office on the web).

Create the add-in project

1. In Visual Studio, choose **Create a new project**.
2. Using the search box, enter **add-in**. Choose **PowerPoint Web Add-in**, then select **Next**.
3. Name your project and select **Create**.
4. In the **Create Office Add-in** dialog window, choose **Add new functionalities to PowerPoint**, and then choose **Finish** to create the project.
5. Visual Studio creates a solution and its two projects appear in **Solution Explorer**. The **Home.html** file opens in Visual Studio.

Explore the Visual Studio solution

When you've completed the wizard, Visual Studio creates a solution that contains two projects.

Expand table

Project	Description
Add-in project	Contains only an XML-formatted add-in only manifest file, which contains all the settings that describe your add-in. These settings help the Office application determine when your add-in should be activated and where the add-in should appear. Visual Studio generates the contents of this file for you so that you can run the project and use your add-in immediately. Change these settings any time by modifying the XML file.
Web application project	Contains the content pages of your add-in, including all the files and file references that you need to develop Office-aware HTML and JavaScript pages. While you develop your add-in, Visual Studio hosts the web application on your local IIS server. When you're ready to publish the add-in, you'll need to deploy this web application project to a web server.

Update the code

1. **Home.html** specifies the HTML that will be rendered in the add-in's task pane. In **Home.html**, replace the `<body>` element with the following markup and save the file.

   HTML

   ```html
   <body class="ms-font-m ms-welcome">
       <div id="content-header">
           <div class="padding">
               <h1>Welcome</h1>
           </div>
       </div>
       <div id="content-main">
           <div class="padding">
               <p>Select a slide and then choose the buttons to below to add
   content to it.</p>
               <br />
               <h3>Try it out</h3>
               <button class="ms-Button" id="insert-image">Insert Image</button>
               <br/><br/>
               <button class="ms-Button" id="insert-text">Insert Text</button>
           </div>
       </div>
   </body>
   ```

2. Open the file **Home.js** in the root of the web application project. This file specifies the script for the add-in. Replace the entire contents with the following code and save the file.

   JavaScript

   ```javascript
   'use strict';

   (function () {
   ```

```
    Office.onReady(function() {
        // Office is ready
        $(document).ready(function () {
            // The document is ready
            $('#insert-image').on("click", insertImage);
            $('#insert-text').on("click", insertText);
        });
    });

    function insertImage() {

Office.context.document.setSelectedDataAsync(getImageAsBase64String(), {
            coercionType: Office.CoercionType.Image,
            imageLeft: 50,
            imageTop: 50,
            imageWidth: 400
        },
            function (asyncResult) {
                if (asyncResult.status === Office.AsyncResultStatus.Failed) {
                    console.log(asyncResult.error.message);
                }
            });
    }

    function insertText() {
        Office.context.document.setSelectedDataAsync("Hello World!",
            function (asyncResult) {
                if (asyncResult.status === Office.AsyncResultStatus.Failed) {
                    console.log(asyncResult.error.message);
                }
            });
    }

    function getImageAsBase64String() {
        return
'iVBORw0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAAAZAAAAEFCAIAAABCdiZrAAAACXBIWXMAAAsSAAALEgHS3X78AAAb
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```

```
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```
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  }

})();
```

3. Open the file **Home.css** in the root of the web application project. This file specifies the custom styles for the add-in. Replace the entire contents with the following code and save the file.

css

```css
#content-header {
    background: #2a8dd4;
    color: #fff;
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    left: 0;
    width: 100%;
    height: 80px;
    overflow: hidden;
}

#content-main {
    background: #fff;
    position: fixed;
    top: 80px;
    left: 0;
    right: 0;
    bottom: 0;
    overflow: auto;
}

.padding {
    padding: 15px;
}
```

Update the manifest

1. Open the add-in only manifest file in the add-in project. This file defines the add-in's settings and capabilities.

2. The `ProviderName` element has a placeholder value. Replace it with your name.

3. The `DefaultValue` attribute of the `DisplayName` element has a placeholder. Replace it with **My Office Add-in**.

4. The `DefaultValue` attribute of the `Description` element has a placeholder. Replace it with **A task pane add-in for PowerPoint**.

5. Save the file.

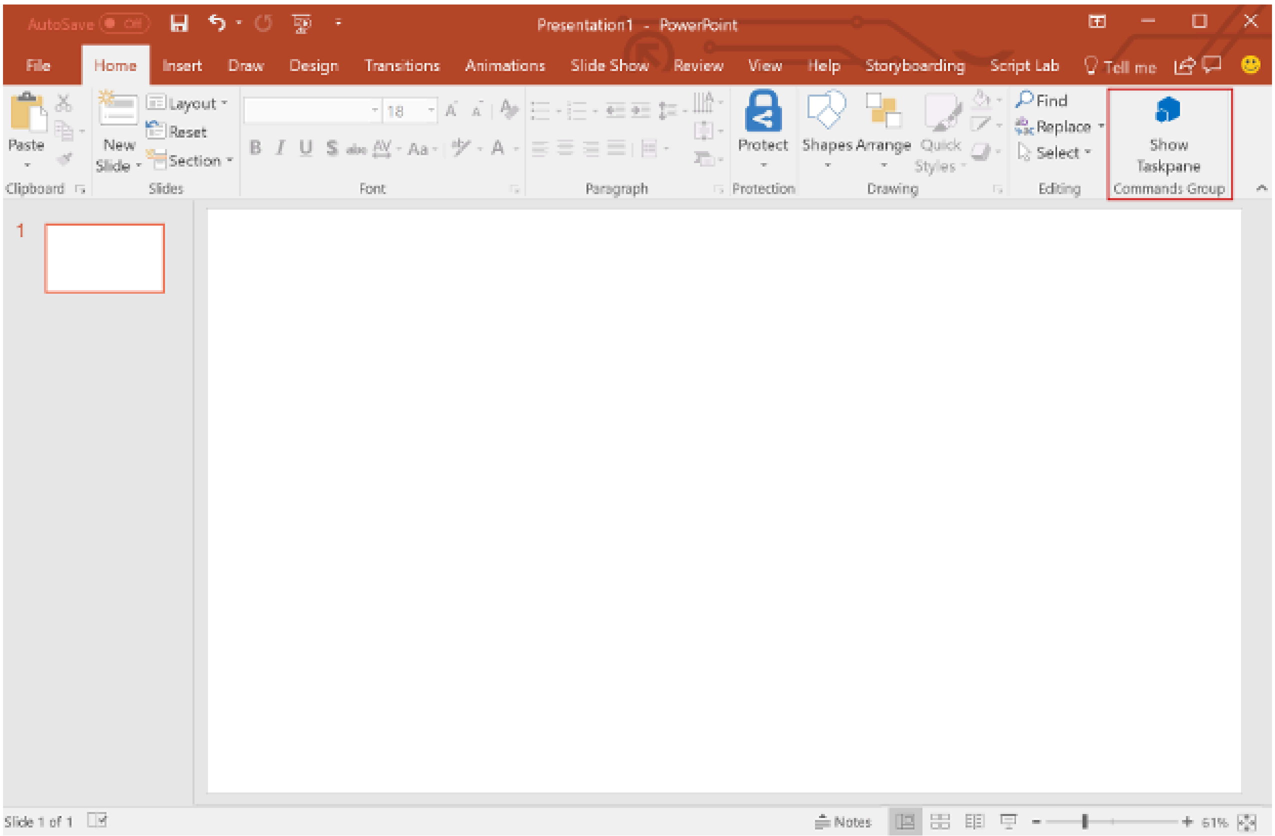
XML

```
...
<ProviderName>John Doe</ProviderName>
<DefaultLocale>en-US</DefaultLocale>
<!-- The display name of your add-in. Used on the store and various places of
the Office UI such as the add-ins dialog. -->
<DisplayName DefaultValue="My Office Add-in" />
<Description DefaultValue="A task pane add-in for PowerPoint"/>
...
```

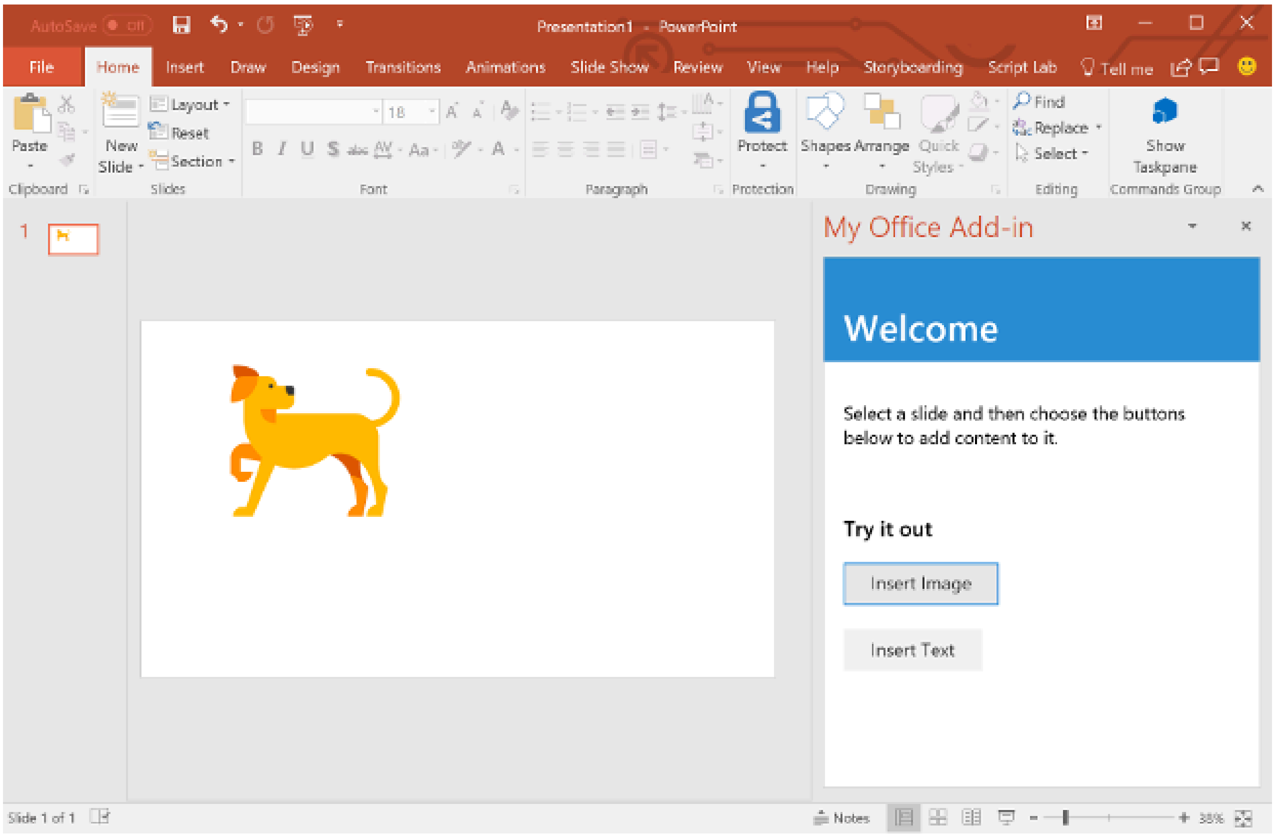
Try it out

1. Using Visual Studio, test the newly created PowerPoint add-in by pressing F5 or choosing the **Start** button to launch PowerPoint with the **Show Taskpane** add-in button displayed on the ribbon. The add-in will be hosted locally on IIS.

2. In PowerPoint, insert a new blank slide, choose the **Home** tab, and then choose the **Show Taskpane** button on the ribbon to open the add-in task pane.

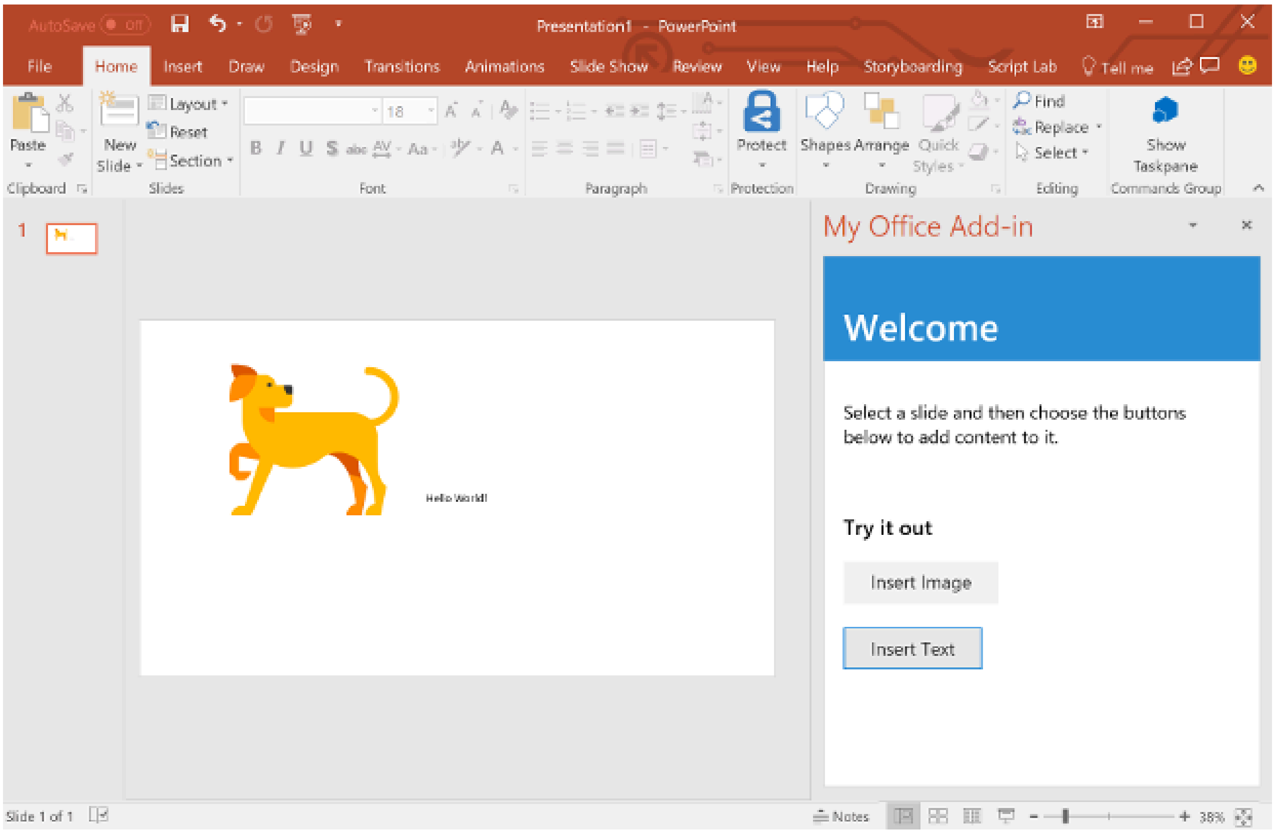


3. In the task pane, choose the **Insert Image** button to add an image to the selected slide.



Select a slide and then choose the buttons below to add content to it.

4. In the task pane, choose the **Insert Text** button to add text to the selected slide.



Select a slide and then choose the buttons below to add content to it.

ⓘ **Note**

To see the `console.log` output, you'll need a separate set of developer tools for a JavaScript console. To learn more about F12 tools and the Microsoft Edge DevTools, visit

Debug add-ins using developer tools for Internet Explorer, Debug add-ins using developer tools for Edge Legacy, or Debug add-ins using developer tools in Microsoft Edge (Chromium-based).

Next steps

Congratulations, you've successfully created a PowerPoint task pane add-in! Next, learn more about the capabilities of a PowerPoint add-in and build a more complex add-in by following along with the PowerPoint add-in tutorial.

Troubleshooting

- Ensure your environment is ready for Office development by following the instructions in Set up your development environment.

- Some of the sample code uses ES6 JavaScript. This isn't compatible with older versions of Office that use the Trident (Internet Explorer 11) browser engine. For information on how to support those platforms in your add-in, see Support older Microsoft webviews and Office versions. If you don't already have a Microsoft 365 subscription to use for development, you might qualify for a Microsoft 365 E5 developer subscription through the Microsoft 365 Developer Program; for details, see the FAQ. Alternatively, you can sign up for a 1-month free trial or purchase a Microsoft 365 plan.

- If your add-in shows an error (for example, "This add-in could not be started. Close this dialog to ignore the problem or click "Restart" to try again.") when you press F5 or choose **Debug** > **Start Debugging** in Visual Studio, see Debug Office Add-ins in Visual Studio for other debugging options.

Code samples

- PowerPoint "Hello world" add-in: Learn how to build a simple Office Add-in with only a manifest, HTML web page, and a logo.

See also

- Office Add-ins platform overview
- Develop Office Add-ins
- Publish your add-in using Visual Studio

Build your first PowerPoint content add-in

Article • 08/27/2024

In this article, you'll walk through the process of building a PowerPoint content add-in using Visual Studio.

Prerequisites

- Visual Studio 2019 or later with the **Office/SharePoint development** workload installed.

  > ⓘ **Note**
  >
  > If you've previously installed Visual Studio, use the Visual Studio Installer to ensure that the **Office/SharePoint development** workload is installed.

- Office connected to a Microsoft 365 subscription (including Office on the web).

Create the add-in project

1. In Visual Studio, choose **Create a new project**.

2. Using the search box, enter **add-in**. Choose **PowerPoint Web Add-in**, then select **Next**.

3. Name your project and select **Create**.

4. In the **Create Office Add-in** dialog window, choose **Insert content into PowerPoint slides**, and then choose **Finish** to create the project.

5. Visual Studio creates a solution and its two projects appear in **Solution Explorer**. The **Home.html** file opens in Visual Studio.

Explore the Visual Studio solution

When you've completed the wizard, Visual Studio creates a solution that contains two projects.

Expand table

Project	Description
Add-in project	Contains only an XML-formatted add-in only manifest file, which contains all the settings that describe your add-in. These settings help the Office application determine when your add-in should be activated and where the add-in should appear. Visual Studio generates the contents of this file for you so that you can run the project and use your add-in immediately. Change these settings any time by modifying the XML file.
Web application project	Contains the content pages of your add-in, including all the files and file references that you need to develop Office-aware HTML and JavaScript pages. While you develop your add-in, Visual Studio hosts the web application on your local IIS server. When you're ready to publish the add-in, you'll need to deploy this web application project to a web server.

Update the code

1. **Home.html** specifies the HTML that will be rendered in the add-in's task pane. In **Home.html**, find the `<p>` element that contains the text "This example will read the current document selection." and the `<button>` element where the `id` is "get-data-from-selection". Replace these entire elements with the following markup then save the file.

HTML

```html
<p class="ms-font-m-plus">This example will get some details about the current slide.</p>

<button class="Button Button--primary" id="get-data-from-selection">
    <span class="Button-icon"><i class="ms-Icon ms-Icon--plus"></i>
</span>
    <span class="Button-label">Get slide details</span>
    <span class="Button-description">Gets and displays the current slide's details.</span>
</button>
```

2. Open the file **Home.js** in the root of the web application project. This file specifies the script for the add-in. Find the `getDataFromSelection` function and replace the entire function with the following code then save the file.

JavaScript

```javascript
// Gets some details about the current slide and displays them in a notification.
```

```
function getDataFromSelection() {
    if (Office.context.document.getSelectedDataAsync) {

Office.context.document.getSelectedDataAsync(Office.CoercionType.SlideR
ange,
            function (result) {
                if (result.status ===
Office.AsyncResultStatus.Succeeded) {
                    showNotification('Some slide details are:', '"' +
JSON.stringify(result.value) + '"');
                } else {
                    showNotification('Error:', result.error.message);
                }
            }
        );
    } else {
        app.showNotification('Error:', 'Reading selection data is not
supported by this host application.');
    }
}
```

Update the manifest

1. Open the add-in only manifest file in the add-in project. This file defines the add-in's settings and capabilities.

2. The `ProviderName` element has a placeholder value. Replace it with your name.

3. The `DefaultValue` attribute of the `DisplayName` element has a placeholder. Replace it with **My Office Add-in**.

4. The `DefaultValue` attribute of the `Description` element has a placeholder. Replace it with **A content add-in for PowerPoint.**.

5. Save the file. The updated lines should look like the following code sample.

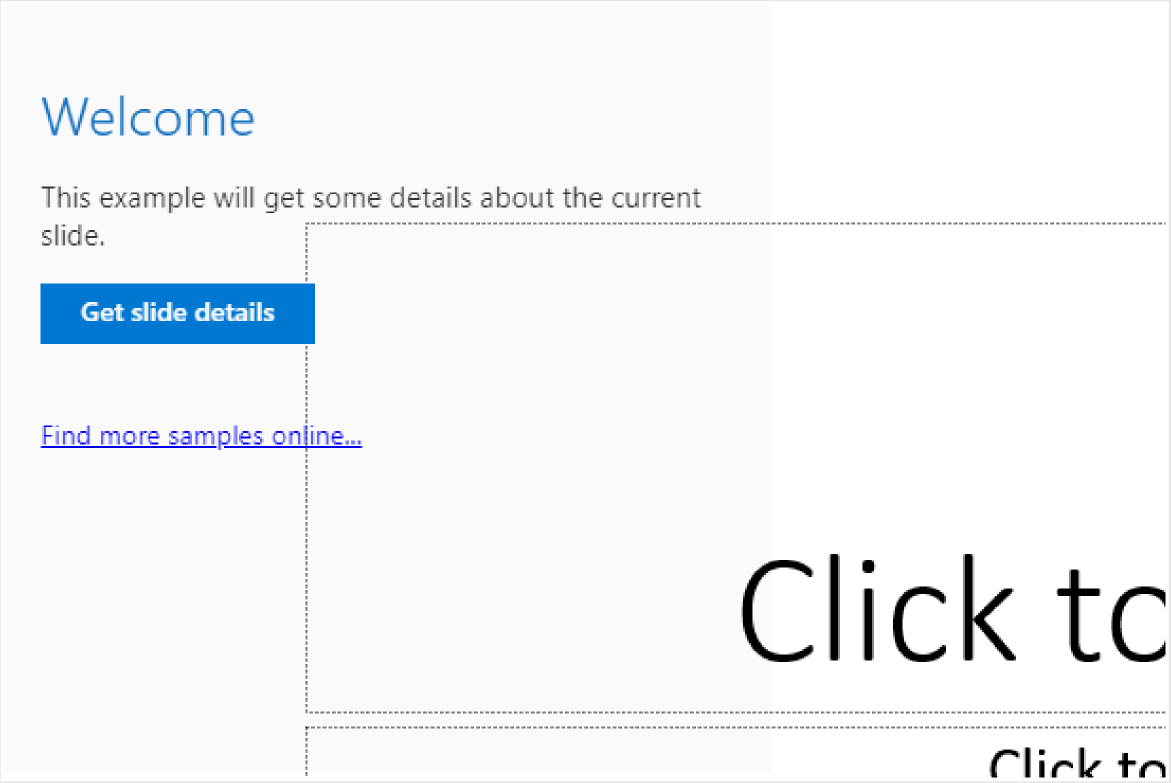
XML

```xml
...
<ProviderName>John Doe</ProviderName>
<DefaultLocale>en-US</DefaultLocale>
<!-- The display name of your add-in. Used on the store and various
places of the Office UI such as the add-ins dialog. -->
<DisplayName DefaultValue="My Office Add-in" />
<Description DefaultValue="A content add-in for PowerPoint."/>
...
```

Try it out

1. Using Visual Studio, test the newly created PowerPoint add-in by pressing `F5` or choosing the **Start** button to launch PowerPoint with the content add-in displayed over the slide.

2. In PowerPoint, choose the **Get slide details** button in the content add-in to get details about the current slide.



Welcome

This example will get some details about the current slide.

> ⓘ **Note**
>
> To see the `console.log` output, you'll need a separate set of developer tools for a JavaScript console. To learn more about F12 tools and the Microsoft Edge DevTools, visit Debug add-ins using developer tools for Internet Explorer, Debug add-ins using developer tools for Edge Legacy, or Debug add-ins using developer tools in Microsoft Edge (Chromium-based).

Next steps

Congratulations, you've successfully created a PowerPoint content add-in! Next, learn more about developing Office Add-ins with Visual Studio.

Troubleshooting

- Ensure your environment is ready for Office development by following the instructions in Set up your development environment.

- Some of the sample code uses ES6 JavaScript. This isn't compatible with older versions of Office that use the Trident (Internet Explorer 11) browser engine. For information on how to support those platforms in your add-in, see Support older Microsoft webviews and Office versions. If you don't already have a Microsoft 365 subscription to use for development, you might qualify for a Microsoft 365 E5 developer subscription through the Microsoft 365 Developer Program; for details, see the FAQ. Alternatively, you can sign up for a 1-month free trial or purchase a Microsoft 365 plan.

- If your add-in shows an error (for example, "This add-in could not be started. Close this dialog to ignore the problem or click "Restart" to try again.") when you press F5 or choose **Debug** > **Start Debugging** in Visual Studio, see Debug Office Add-ins in Visual Studio for other debugging options.

See also

- Office Add-ins platform overview
- Develop Office Add-ins
- Using Visual Studio Code to publish