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# SharePoint 2013: Accessing external list with REST

This documentation is preliminary and is subject to change.

Summary:

## Description of the Accessing external list with REST sample

This project will show how to use Visual Studio 2012 and SharePoint development tools in Visual Studio 2012 to create an app for SharePoint using Business Connectivity Services (BCS) to expose complex data from an external system.

The main objectives for this sample are:

* Set up and use the simulated, self-hosted OData service to provide data that the auto-generation tools in Visual Studio 2012 can use to create external content types
* Create a new app for SharePoint
* Create an external content type that describes data from the self-hosted OData service.
* Create an external list to display the data
* Create a custom user interface within the home.aspx page of the app.
* Modify the JavaScript to wire BCS data manipulation functions to the new user interface elements.
* Edit the style sheet to modify the look and feel of the app.

This sample will use the Employee data entity to display a “Contact card” for each employee. The code will use REST calls via the client object model to retrieve a list of employees. The code will then enumerate through the return result set and create a new html div on the home page for each employee listed.

## Prerequisites

This sample requires the following;

* Completion of steps in **SharePoint 2013: Create external list based on app scoped external content type**
* SharePoint 2013 Preview
* Visual Studio 2012
* Internet Information Services (IIS)

## Key components of the sample

The SampleBCSApp.zip file includes the following

* Visual Studio project files
* Local OData service (CannedDataService)

## Configure the sample

In order to run the samples included in this project, you will need to do the following:

* Extract the SampleBCSApp.zip file to your hard drive.
* Start the simulated OData service. This service is hosted by a local instance of IIS. It simply attaches to a port in IIS and provides an OData endpoint that you will use in your app
* Open the Visual Studio project files

## Build the sample

Follow these steps to build the sample.

* Click F5

## Run and test the sample

When you run the app, you will see a contact card on the home.aspx page for each entry in the data service.

## Troubleshooting

If you cannot get the “Canned” data service to work, make sure that all the files are in the same folder on your hard drive.

## Change log

First release.

## Related content

* [External content types in SharePoint 2013](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/11d7adb5-5388-4517-ae03-beb7be1c6981)
* [Using OData sources with Business Connectivity Services in SharePoint 2013](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/7a87e5bf-4428-4055-b113-7665a93e7326)
* [Setting up a SharePoint 2013 development environment for apps](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/b0878c12-27c9-4eea-ae3b-7e79e5a8838d)
* <http://www.odata.org>