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# SharePoint 2013: Create a mobile app in SharePoint 2013 that contains data from an external data source

This documentation is preliminary and is subject to change.

Summary:  Create a simple mobile app in SharePoint 2013 Preview that contains data from an external data source by using Business Connectivity Services and an external list.

SharePoint 2013 Preview enables you to build mobile applications that can access external data from databases, enterprise applications, and Web 2.0 services by using Business Connectivity Services (BCS). You can also provide complete interaction with the external data, including write-back capabilities from your mobile device. You do this by creating apps that connect to external lists, which are a special type of lists in SharePoint that are based on external content types and contain data from an external system. The new Windows Phone SharePoint List Application template in Microsoft Visual Studio Express 2010 enables you to quickly and easily create apps for the Windows Phone that connect to external lists. For example, you can build a Windows Phone app that brings the product catalog for an inventory list in SharePoint to the phone for the sales people. This topic shows how to create a Windows Phone app that displays external data from the Northwind sample database by connecting to an external list in SharePoint. Note that, in this example, the external list connects to the Northwind database by using a custom OData service; however, you can connect directly to databases and to any external system that is supported by BCS. With the new SharePoint List Application template in Visual Studio, you can create a mobile app that can access an external list on a SharePoint site. This article provides a step-by-step procedure that begins with uploading an external Business Data Connectivity (BDC) service model and ends with testing your new mobile app.

## Description of the sample

This code sample creates a mobile app that is connected to a SharePoint external list. This sample project also contains the Northwind BDMC model. You can use the Northwind BDMC model to create external lists.

## Prerequisites

This sample requires the following:

* Visual Studio 2010 Express with the new SharePoint templates
* An SharePoint 2013 Preview installation with administrative privileges

## Key components of the sample

The sample contains the following:

* BDC\_MobileApp project, which contains the App.xaml.cs file and Northwind\_oData.bdmc model
* App.xaml.cs file, which is autogenerated by the Windows Phone SharePoint List Application template. The App.xaml file represents the overall Windows Phone app. The associated code-behind file, App.xaml.cs, includes procedural code to handle life-cycle events for the app. App.xaml.cs contains references to SharePoint Server and the list title.
* Northwind\_oData.bdmc model, which can be used as a database model to create an external list on SharePoint Server.

## Configure the sample

Follow these steps to configure the sample.

1. In the App.xaml.cs file of the BDC\_MobileApp solution, change the URL http://localhost to the URL of the home page of your SharePoint website.
2. Update the <List Title> element in the App.xaml.cs file of the BDC\_MobileApp solution with the title of the external list created in SharePoint Server.

## Run and test the sample

* Choose the F5 key to build and run the app.

## Troubleshooting

The following table lists common configuration and environment errors that prevent the sample from running or deploying properly and how to solve them.

| Problem | Solution |
| --- | --- |
| While running the SharePoint List Wizard from Visual Studio 2010 Express, an error may occur if developer does not have sufficient privilege on SharePoint site. | Give sufficient privilege to the user account with which developer is running the wizard. |
| Form-based authentication error. | Form-based authentication is not enabled by default. To enable basic form-based authentication for the web application, follow these steps.   1. Navigate to Central Administration ensure you have admin rights on server. 2. Under Application Management, choose Manage Web Applications. 3. Choose your web application (on which you have your SharePoint site, which you are accessing from your mobile app). 4. From the ribbon, choose Authentication Providers. 5. In the Authentication Provider dialog box, choose Default to edit the authentication. 6. In the Edit Authentication Model window under Claims Authentication Types, choose Basic Authentication. |

## Change log

| Version | Date |
| --- | --- |
| First version | July 16, 2012 |

## Related content

* **How to: Create a mobile app in SharePoint 2013 that contains data from an external data source**
* **How to: Create a Windows Phone SharePoint 2013 list app**
* **Overview of Windows Phone SharePoint 2013 application templates in Visual Studio**