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# SharePoint 2013: Create multiple external lists with associations

This documentation is preliminary and is subject to change.

Summary:  This sample will demonstrate how to create an external content type using multiple associated entities, and display that data in multiple external lists.

## Description of the Create multiple external lists with associations 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 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 associates two data entities
* Create external lists that will display the external data, and can be navigated to see the relational data represented by the external content type.

This sample will use two data entities: Employee and SimpleCustomer. The Employee contains information about individual employees in an organization. In the case of this scenario, it is required that the app be able to show which customers are responsible for which customers. This scenario would be similar to customers that are serviced by a specified salesperson.

By describing the association to BCS, and using the external lists that will surface that data, this sample will allow you to click on each individual employee in the list and be able to see the customers that are associated with them.

## 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
* SharePoint development tools in 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 project files in Visual Studio

## Build the sample

Follow these steps to build the sample.

* Click F5

## Run and test the sample

After the app is deployed, you can view the records of Employees and be able to also list the Customers associated with them.

* Click on the ellipsis in the Employees list to see the see a custom action Customers for Employee. This will show you the customers associated with a particular employee.

## 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>