Reza & Ismail

Microsoft recently released an update to the Microsoft Office suite that extended UI customization capabilities to Mac OS; previously this was only available on PCs. Now Mac users can code add-ins for Word, PowerPoint, and Excel to customize their experience with specially designed functionalities. These functionalities can range from simple macros to integrating cognitive API’s. The add-ins can provide access to web apps, data visualization capabilities, and Watson features including the tone analyzer and language translator.

I deployed a skeleton version of an add-in that demonstrates the newly available UI customization capabilities. The UI elements I added are simple buttons that can automate internal functions or facilitate interactions between the Office suite and 3rd party applications.

I have attached a document with screenshots of the add-in skeleton and would like to spend the next month developing a beta version focused on PowerPoint users. I would begin with an evaluation of the current products on the market followed by conducting interviews with resources who have demonstrated strong skills in PowerPoint. After developing an initial list of potential functionalities, I will identify and build a subset with the greatest value potential. At the end of a month we can evaluate progress and potentially begin the next iteration.