

Microsoft presents: What's new on GitHub and how is the code contribution model evolving?

Jesper Schulz-Wedde (Microsoft)
Tobias Fenster (4PS & Microsoft
MVP)



First Business Central Application GitHub repository is created

First real contribution to the System

The Business Central ALApp contribution portal goes live

The Cronus License is opened up as a developer license



05/2018



05/2019



06/2019



11/2023

01/2021



07/2022



09/2022



04/2023

The 1st true Business Central
open-source GitHub
Repository goes live!

The first modules of the System Application are added to the repository

CI is introduced on the ALAppExtensions repository

AL-Go for GitHub is introduced on ALAppExtensions

Welcome BCApps – but what's different?



New location: GitHub.com/microsoft/BCApps

1

It's the only and true repository for the code on it (not a copy)

All developers (incl. Microsoft) will develop on this repository only

Consequently, all discussions and code reviews will be visible

The build system must be open too, and on par with the previous internal one



It's based on the main branch, not the release branch

All latest developments are visible – *before* the release

Consequently, collaboration on new features start with the creation of the development branch, not the product release

Consequently, platform for main branch is now publicly available outside of the insider program

Open Source is more than writing code!



It's about
collaborating &
reviewing



It's about learning from others



It's about teaching others



It's about ensuring quality



It's a requirement

Don't be scared! Learning and teaching is fun 🎉

Jump into reviews & discussions

You and the product quality can only benefit!

Enough with the talking, let's see what reviewing looks like in real life!

[AL Rest Client by ajkauffmann · Pull Request #24803](#)

Why?



Make the product better, strengthen BC ecosystem



Solve (annoying) things only once



Build a relation with MS engineers



Attract and keep the best devs



It's fun!



Our experience



Bert Verbeek
Technical Solution Architect & Microsoft MVP

When we find an **error** in standard BC it is very easy and quick to do it by ourself because we know the issue and have the code. So no hassle to create support tickets etc. And in the next minor we already have the fix we have implemented through the open source project!

We saw the benefits of a **new feature** (batch posting transfer orders) for our end users. So we created the feature and test automation. In the next major release our end users can already take benefit of it!



Our experience



Simon Fischer
Senior Developer

Working together with Microsoft on basic functionalities showed me that we all struggle with limited resources and that we should bundle them to **achieve more together**.

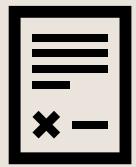
It felt wrong to keep such a basic functionality (Azure Blob Storage integration for BC) to myself, knowing that others will have to do the same things **over and over again** - instead of spending time on the actual solution.

The community feedback was very rewarding and it showed me, that there is a will to collaborate more. I hope that the contribution will **encourage others** to do the same.

Challenges



Where is the limit in sharing?
(Key) intellectual property, size/time,
priorities



How can we legally allow it?
Employee contract

DEMO

The screenshot shows a multi-instance session of Visual Studio Code (VS Code) running on a Windows host. There are three visible windows:

- Top Window:** Shows a file tree with a connection to "COSMO AI PACA PRF/VIFW". The status bar indicates "File: C:\Users\... [SSH: 4.245.26.203]".
- Middle Window:** Shows a file tree with a connection to "EXPI ORFR". The status bar indicates "File: C:\Users\... [SSH: 4.245.26.203]".
- Bottom Window:** Shows a file tree with a connection to "SQL SERVER". The status bar indicates "File: C:\Users\... [SSH: 4.245.26.203]".

The "SQL SERVER" window displays a "CONNECTIONS" tree view with the following structure:

- localhost\SQLEXPRESS, <default> (sa)
- Databases
 - System Databases
 - CRONUS
- Tables
 - dbo.\$ndo\$cachesync
 - dbo.\$ndo\$dbproperty
 - dbo.\$ndo\$inplacepublishingbaseline
 - dbo.\$ndo\$inplacepublishingstate
 - dbo.\$ndo\$inplacepublishingstatus
 - dbo.\$ndo\$inplacepublishingworkloads
 - dbo.\$ndo\$taskscheduling
 - dbo.\$ndo\$tenants
 - dbo.Add-in
 - dbo.Application Dependency
 - dbo.Application Object Metadata
 - dbo.Application Resource
 - dbo.Chart
 - dbo.Configuration Package File
 - dbo.Debugger Breakpoint
 - dbo.Debugger Watch
 - dbo.Entitlement
 - dbo.Entitlement Set
 - dbo.Inplace Installed Application

The right side of the image shows the "mssql" extension details page in the VS Code Marketplace:

- Title:** SQL Server (mssql) v1.21.0
- Provider:** Microsoft | [microsoft.com](#) | 6,150,814
- Description:** Develop Microsoft SQL Server, Azure SQL Database...
- Status:** Installed | [Uninstall](#) | [Settings](#)
- Note:** This extension is enabled in the Remote Extension Host because it prefers to run there. [Learn More](#)
- Links:** [Azure Pipelines](#) succeeded | [chat on gitter](#)
- Categories:** Programming Languages, Azure
- Extension Resources:** Marketplace Repository License Microsoft
- More Info:** [View on Marketplace](#)

The "mssql" extension is described as "mssql for Visual Studio Code" and provides a rich set of functionalities for developing Microsoft SQL Server, Azure SQL Database, and SQL Data Warehouse.

COSMO Alpaca is free for base app contributions! (for 20h / month)

If you decide to further use it, COSMO will get in touch.
After an agreement, the price will be 0,90 € / hour





Docs are Open Source too!

Examples: which contributions have we seen for 2023 wave 2?

1. Improve Extensibility: [Add Procedure to Delete E-Mail Accounts](#)
2. API Wrapper: [Generic Microsoft Graph API Wrapper](#)
3. Issue which cannot be addressed through customization:
[WordMergeDataItem](#)
4. Small bug, general improvement: [Lock Labels that don't need a translation](#)
5. Fix Test instabilities: [Fix test instabilities in SCM Manufacturing](#)
6. Larger feature in Base App: [Explode BOM in transfers](#)

GitHub Contributions for 2023 Wave 2

GitHub Contributions for 2023 Wave 2



Merged Pull Requests

Top 4 contributors for 2023 Wave 2

- 1 Kilian Seizinger** (prisma informatik GmbH): **22 PRs**
- 2 Alexander Drogan** (KPMG): **14 PRs**
- 3 Tomas Kapitan** (Fusion5 - Business Solutions): **13 PRs**
- 4 Miljan Milosavljevic** (Singhammer IT Consulting AG): **8 PRs**

MERCI

TACK

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KIITOS

MULȚUMESC

DANKE

DANK U

GRACIAS

감사합니다

شکرأً

DZIĘKUJĘ

OBRIGADO

TAKK

TEŞEKKÜRLER

ευχαριστώ

ধন্যবাদ

AČIŪ

Thank you!!!

நன்றி

תודה

多謝晒

PALDIES

ДЯКУЮ

ĎAKUJEM

متشكرم

TERIMA KASIH

TAK

HVALA

DANKE

DĚKUJI

谢谢

CÁM ƠN

DANKON

GRAZIE

KÖSZÖNÖM

БЛАГОДАРЯ

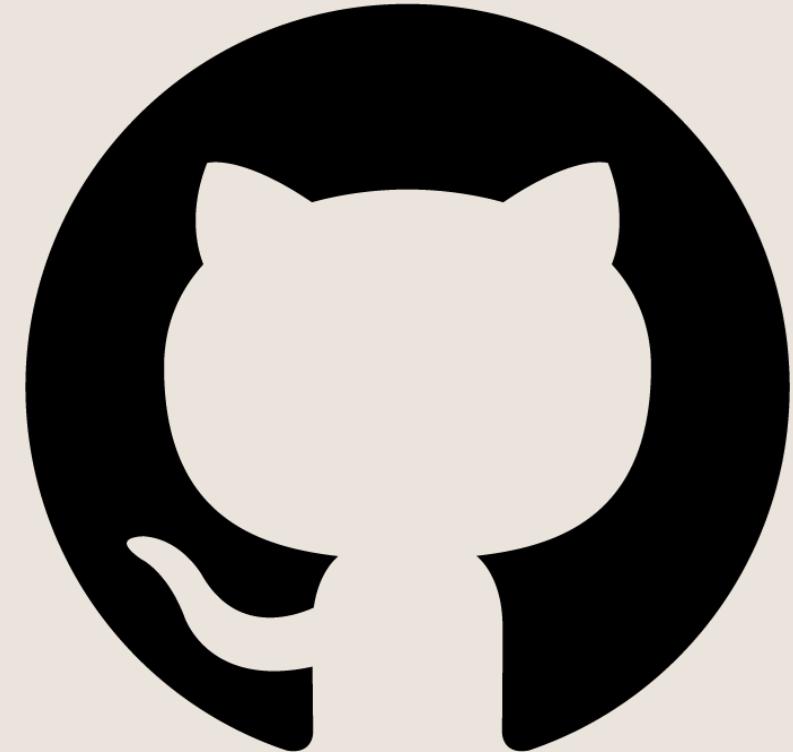
ありがとうございます

How do I participate or request change?

Everything you need to know is
on GitHub!

github.com/Microsoft/BCApps

Pilot: /BusinessCentralApps



General Business Central resources

Learn more!



Have a question?

aka.ms/BCYammer



Join the conversation

@MSDyn365BC



Looking for resources?

aka.ms/BCAll



Follow on LinkedIn

aka.ms/BCLinkedIn



Submit your ideas

aka.ms/BCIdeas



Join the office hours

aka.ms/BCOfficeHours

Give us Feedback!

and help us improve!

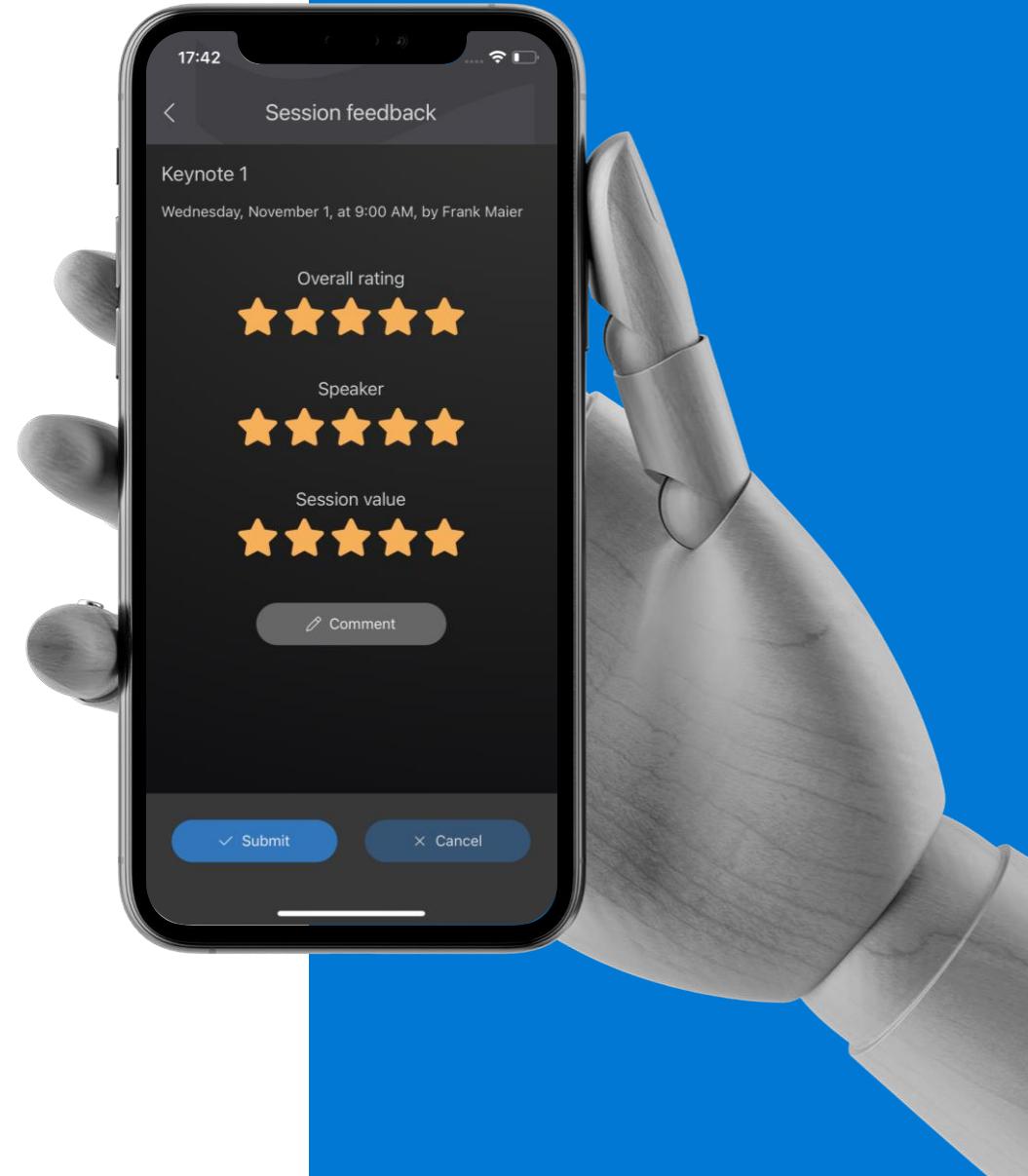
Please rate my session in the Conference App!

and leave a constructive comment.

Win a 100€ gift card

one ticket for every session feedback!

Thank you !



Thank you

