

## YOUR DEVICE, YOUR APP, ANY DATA: THE STRENGTH OF POWERAPPS

### What Is PowerApps?

Released in 2015, PowerApps is an application in Office 365 that allows your non-technical staff to build simple mobile apps. Publishable in mere minutes, these apps can connect to, view, or even edit online data sources, such as staff directories stored in Excel, inventory in Dynamics365, or a table in SharePoint.

## HOW CAN POWERAPPS HELP MY COMPANY?

Whether we're talking about applications, cameras, or cars, almost all popular technologies evolved their user interfaces from awkward and complex beginnings into more user-friendly versions, more palatable by the mass market. One of the latest technologies to bring this evolutionary jump to market is Microsoft's PowerApps.

### PowerApps lets regular users build mobile apps without code

PowerApps is part of Office365. Upon login to Office365, PowerApps displays users a drag-and-drop interface, complete with the features one would expect from a modern mobile app (e.g. contact lists, notifications, charts, basic forms).



*A sample of the applications and services PowerApps can draw data from*

Because Office365 is cloud-based, the user can connect these features to the information stored in their system's cloud, easily drawing data from Dynamics 365, Flow, SharePoint, or other Office365 tool. Secure APIs can pull data from websites, such as Salesforce or public government sites, to trigger custom functions or display information.

### Build your mobile app in minutes with Microsoft templates

By dragging-and-dropping simple forms, users can build basic apps in minutes, or use more complex flows from Microsoft's library of PowerApp templates. The result is that common mobile app features can easily "programmed" into a custom application, and shared to OS, Android, or Windows device via download or email.

## PowerApps Features

For clients and users:

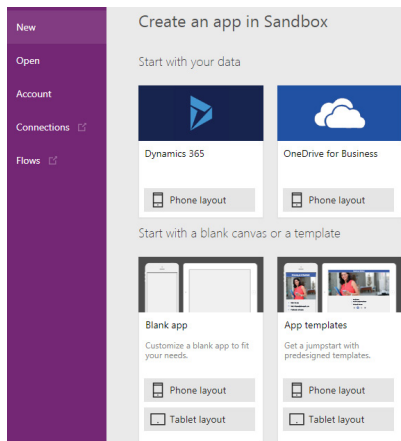
- Mobile-first UI
- Simplified programming
- Easy to download and update new apps from the cloud
- Works offline via the cache and save option

For employees and staff:

- Trigger workflows from outside systems, such as SharePoint.
- Rapid development; simple flows and connections can be built by non-technical staff in minutes.
- Built-in connections with hundreds of cloud systems
- Individuals can own personal processes with minimal coding

For managers and developers:

- Easy distribution of new apps to users via Azure App Service
- Powerful custom integrations
- Rapid-fire iterative coding to test new features, flows, or UI



## SIERRA SYSTEMS' EXPERTISE

The strength of PowerApps is also its greatest liability. The simplified user interface helps new users by only displaying a intentionally limited number of options. This increases initial uptake, but stops advanced business concepts cold. Any custom data source is unreachable, and intermediate functions require highly-advanced programming skills.

At Sierra Systems, we view every project as a long-term solution. Our experts review IT development from a business standpoint, assigning specialized talent to deliver the plans, code, testing, and maintenance needed. By cooperatively designing and building code that works, our experts can help you heighten PowerApps' abilities. By coding from the core C#, our teams unleash the full potential of your mobile Office365 investment.

### Internal Apps

One of PowerApps' greatest functions is its integration with Office365's security. However, this competitive advantage of PowerApps as an internal tool is often overlooked. As part of Office365, PowerApps automatically inherits the security of the user's Office365 accounts - a user's security protocols, permissions and roles are synced upon log-in, and maintained by Microsoft's standards. This is a task no other mobile app could easily do, yet PowerApps provides for free.

By simply controlling distribution, one mobile PowerApp process can be provided to outside clients, while internal staff can securely access a more-closely integrated version, knowing the internal data remains safely in the hands of your governance policies. Staff can then perform or review the automated workflows of the app, without requiring additional security checks or updates.

### External Apps

Connecting to existing systems is the next jump in data collaboration. Processes that harvest information from users, public sector data, or even crowd sources gain unique insight at with relatively low overhead.

APIs connect PowerApps programs to outside sources. Different levels of security can be added as needed, such as Swagger, documenting and mapping all the resources associated with an API connection. Alternatively, Sierra Systems can expose your APIs to outside systems to foster new connections.

## POWERAPPS

The advantage of PowerApps is its low-code flexibility. The competitive advantage with Sierra Systems is the heightened flexibility of PowerApps' business processes.

Sierra Systems can help unlock PowerApps, and incorporate GPS, camera feeds, stock prices, and thousands of other feeds - as well as traditional systems, such as Excel, Dynamics, or SharePoint - into your business solution.

### Learn more

To learn more about Sierra Systems' solutions contact us at:

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