BUILDING NO CODE

SHAREPOINT SOLUTIONS

ULTIMATEFORMS

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BUILDING A SHAREPOINT SOLUTION

Starting a Form

Every SharePoint solution begins with a form. It must be easy to create forms that look great without doing any programming. Lightweight forms tools are easiest but are limited to basic abilities. Business solutions have custom requirements that demand a powerful form building platform. **Lightweight form tools can only work for simple scenarios.**

Power Apps is a sophisticated form building platform provided as part of the Microsoft 365 platform. While this toolkit can allow for complicated functionality, **Power Apps demands a developer skillset and extensive custom programming**. Development of Power Apps forms is time consuming and frustrating to those who are not already experts with its technology.

Ultimate Forms allows users to create forms without writing custom code. Forms are built quickly using a drag-and-drop interface. Configuration settings are applied through dropdowns and pop-up windows. It's easy to build forms yet robust capabilities to handle custom functionality are also included.

Adding Dynamic Functionality

Every business solution requires custom functionality. In forms, we need rules to streamline processes and conditionally show and hide sections. Forms should adapt according to user role and to the current stage in a business process. Rules are applied extensively to allow forms to adapt to changing situations.

A good example is a simple IT support request. The first field in the form should be "Requester". It should default to the person creating the request. Here is how that rule would be set up in these two different platforms:

```
If(Form1.Mode = New,{
    '@odata.type':"#Microsoft.Azure.Connectors.SharePoint.SPListExpandedUser",
    Claims:Concatenate("i:0#.f|membership|",User().Email),
    DisplayName:User().FullName,
    Email:User().Email
    },
ThisItem.Creator)
```
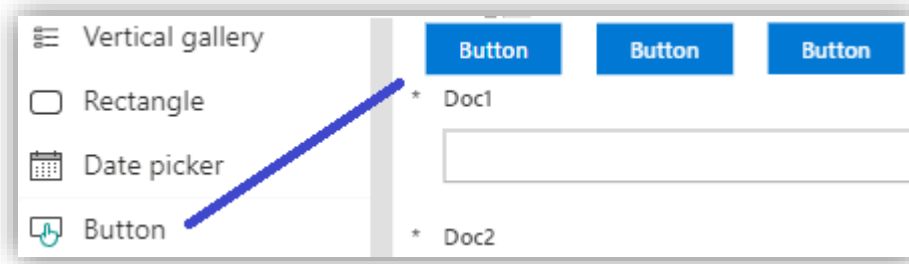
Default to Current User Rule in Power Apps
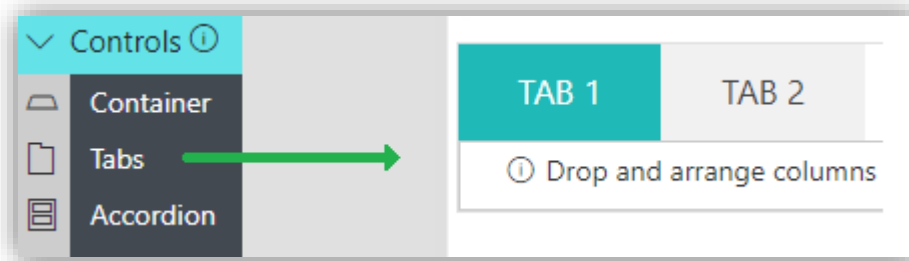
```
[Current user]
```

Default to Current User Rule in Ultimate Forms

Power Apps requires custom programming and Ultimate Forms requires only a simple reference.

Another thing often required in forms is to divide the interface into sections using tab controls. This allows for a better experience by allowing sections to be viewed one a time instead of all on one long page. Creating this kind of interface is possible on both platforms but must be built from scratch using buttons in Power Apps.

Building tab functionality using buttons as a work around in Power Apps

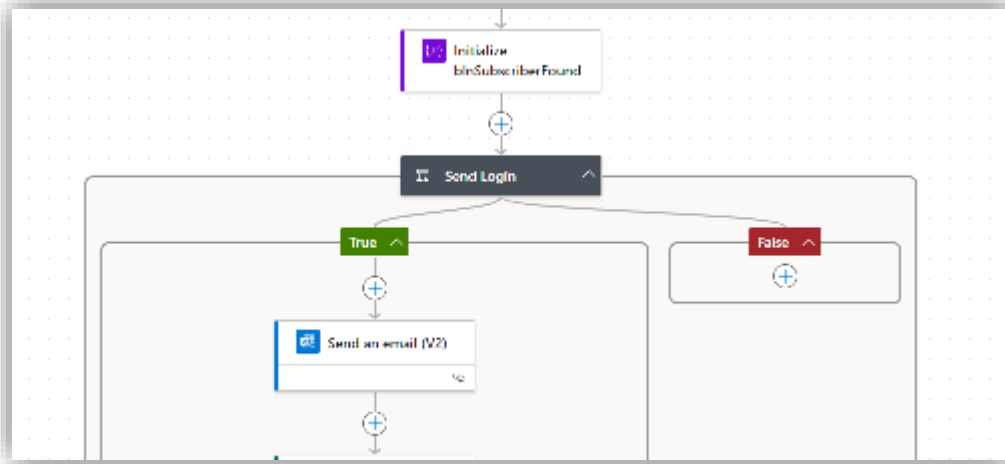*Drag and drop the Tabs control to the form in Ultimate Forms*

Looking at these examples, it becomes clear why Ultimate Forms provides faster form building.

Building Automation

Once the form is created, business processes are made to handle workflow scenarios. This includes setting up email notifications and processes that must happen based on trigger conditions. Ultimate Forms provides actions which can be defined directly in SharePoint. Email alert rules are simple to define and easy to understand.

On the other hand, Power Apps handles form design, but adding automation requires another developer related platform in Power Automate.

Once again, the process is different when comparing options. Ultimate Forms requires no code. Power Automate is developer oriented and requires extensive training to use nested code statements. Ultimate Forms provides an interface which is faster to learn and easier to understand.

Power Automate Developer Oriented Workflow interface

Ultimate Forms Actions with no code required

Completing the Solution

A complete solution requires more than these steps. Custom print templates are another example of a key functionality often required. Power Apps and SharePoint provide no built-in printing capabilities. Templates can be loaded via Power Automate with extensive custom coding and a Power Automate Premium license. In Ultimate Forms, Print Template tools are provided in SharePoint which allow building print output with a basic Microsoft Word document. Print templates can be created automatically using Ultimate Forms actions sending a PDF via email or to a document library.

Conclusion

Organizations need to have the ability to create solutions in SharePoint without hiring developers and using custom programming. There may be a need for hundreds of forms to handle the processes going on in an organization. A fast and flexible set of tools is required. Eliminating the need to do custom programming means anyone can start building solutions right away.

Ultimate Forms provides the best opportunity to save time and money when building SharePoint Solutions.