Power Apps

Sample manual - first two chapters



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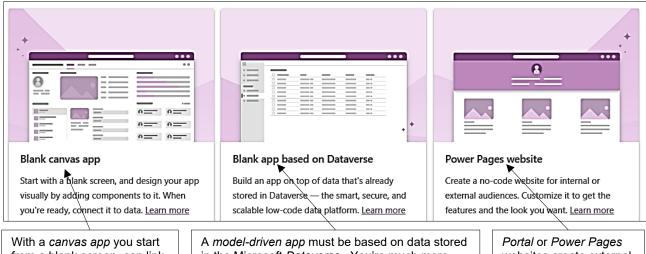
CHAPTER 1 - GETTING STARTED

1.1 Getting Started

This chapter explains how to begin your Power Apps journey, and what you can expect see along the way.

The 3 Types of App

When you're creating apps in Power Apps you have a choice of 3 main types:



With a canvas app you start from a blank screen, can link to any types of data source and have free rein to get your app to do whatever you want.

A *model-driven app* must be based on data stored in the Microsoft *Dataverse*. You're much more restricted in what you can do, and many of the forms are created for you based on the structure of the model to which you're connecting.

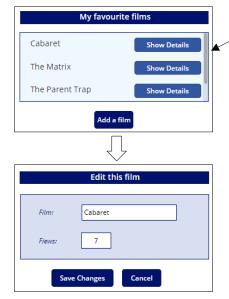
Portal or Power Pages websites create external websites that securely interact with data stored in the Dataverse.



This course will only show you how to create canvas apps, which is what most Power Apps developers will be looking to work with.

Some Examples of Canvas Apps

Here are two simple apps that you could create using Power Apps:



This app lets you list out your favourite films, change their details and even add new films. The films could be stored in a cloud-based Excel workbook, a SQL Server database linked by a gateway, a SharePoint list or any other data source accessible from the cloud.

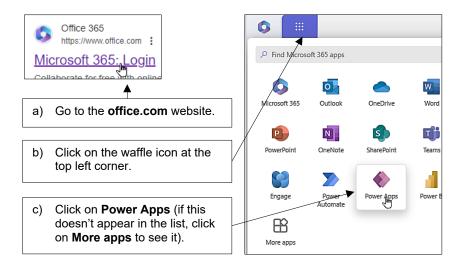


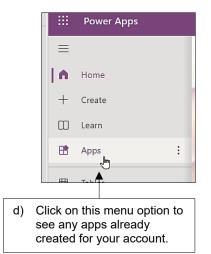
This very simple app uses a five-star rating control, one of many such gizmos that make Power Apps apps such a pleasure to design and use. Clicking on the button takes you to a second screen giving your vote:



Getting Started

To use Power Apps you'll need to have a Microsoft 365 account. You can then log on to Power Apps as follows (this is one of many ways):

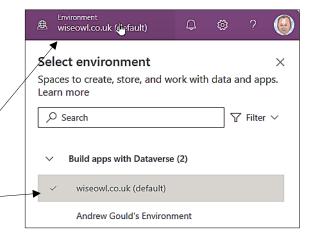




Choosing your Environment

The first thing you should do is to decide whether you are creating apps just for yourself, or for your organisation or group:

- Click on your current environment at the top right of Power Apps.
- b) Choose whether you want to create an app for your own personal use, or to share with other users in your group or company.





It is a non-trivial task to move an app from one environment to another, so it's worth making the correct decision about the home for your apps one of the first things that you do!

1.2 **Getting Help**

Here are the sources of help which Wise Owl found most useful when learning Power Apps.

The Microsoft Website

Yes, really! Microsoft have put a O Search Power Apps lot of effort into providing tutorials on using Power Apps (the one on Overview | edit forms is especially good): 6 Home Experience level: All Content ∨ Create Overview Courses Community Learn Click on this tab on the left-hand \Box side of the Power Apps home 8 Guided learning See all page. Apps < > \blacksquare Tables Flows Solutions Click on the help topic that you Customize a canvas app in Power Apps

- More

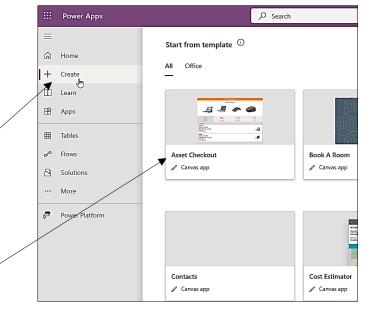
Opening Template Apps

want to see.

There are a number of sophisticated prebuilt apps that you can open and inspect:

Click on this button on the left side of the Power Apps home page, and choose to create an app.

Scroll down to see the apps already created for you to use, and choose one you like the look of! At the time of writing there are 30 to choose from.



6 units



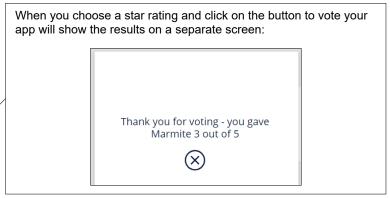
And finally, an honourable mention to Shane Young. There are many tutorials on Power Apps online, but Shane's were the ones we found most useful (plus he's engaging company, even if you will learn more about his dog than you want to!).

CHAPTER 2 - CREATING APPS

2.1 Our Simple Starter App

This chapter (and the next two) will show you how to create the following app:





This app will contain two screens:

Screen	Name we'll use	Notes
Marmite - love it or hate it? ★★★☆☆ Vote now	scrVoteForm	This is the voting screen, where we record whether we like Marmite (the author doesn't).
Thank you for voting - you gave Marmite 3 out of 5	scrResults	This is the results screen, reflecting back our preferences.



Note that we'll (mostly) use Modified Hungarian Notation to name things in our app (a fancy way of saying that the first 3 letters of the thing's name denote what sort of a thing it is — so **scr** for **Screen**, for example).

2.2 **Working with Apps**

Creating Apps

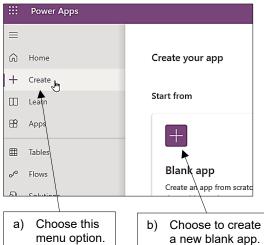
Assuming that you're in Power Apps, here's how to create a new app from the home screen.

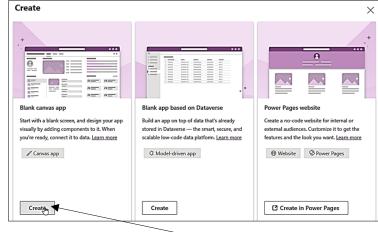


You can also create an app using the New app button from the Apps menu. This gives menu options which do the same thing, albeit formatted differently for some reason.



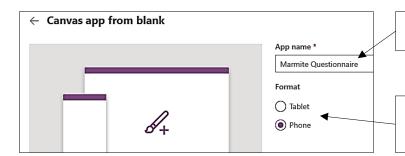
Choose to create an app:





menu option.

Choose to create a canvas app (you can also see a good description of model-driven and portal apps here).



Give your new app a name (we've called this one Marmite questionnaire).

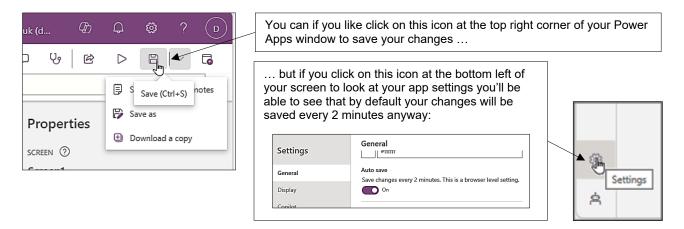
Decide whether to create a tablet or phone app (note that you can't change this later).



If you're not sure it's probably better to create a tablet app, since Power Apps will usually do a good job of shrinking a tablet app to display sensibly on a phone. Some people create two different versions of their apps (one for viewing on a tablet and one for viewing on a phone).

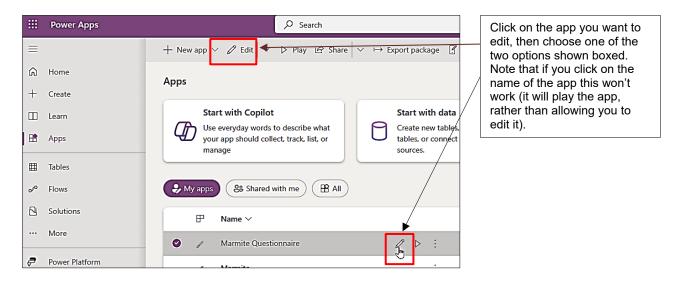
Saving Apps

Although you can save your app, because you're working in Office 365 you don't have to:



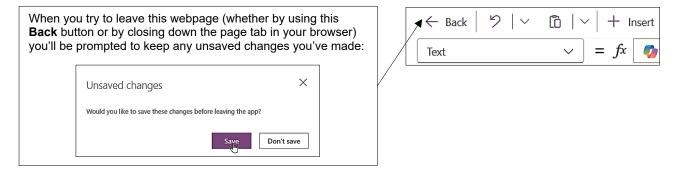
Opening Apps

Once you've created one or more apps, here's how to open each:



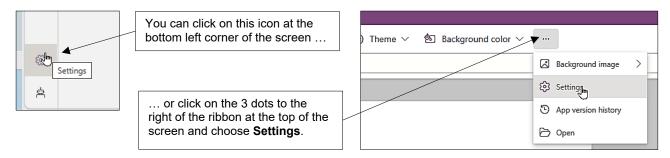
Closing Apps

The easiest way to close an app is often to use the **Back** button, since this will normally take you back to the Power Apps home page:

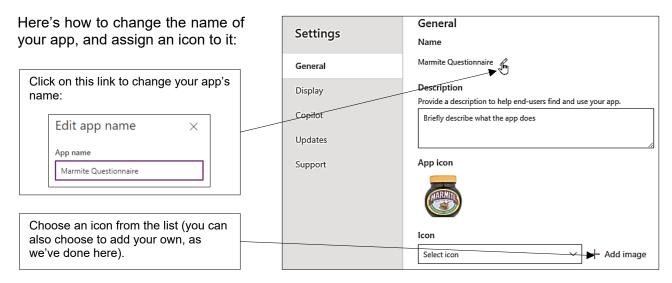


2.3 App Settings

When you create an app you can give it a name and an icon and choose whether you want to view it in portrait or landscape mode. Here are 2 ways to access these *settings*:

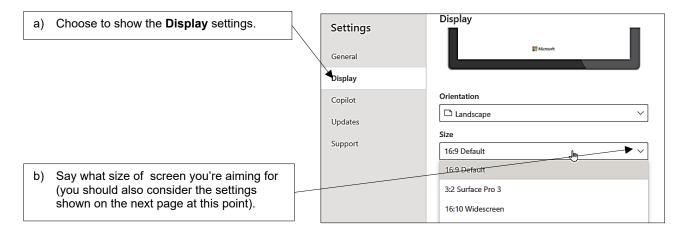


Changing the Name and Icon



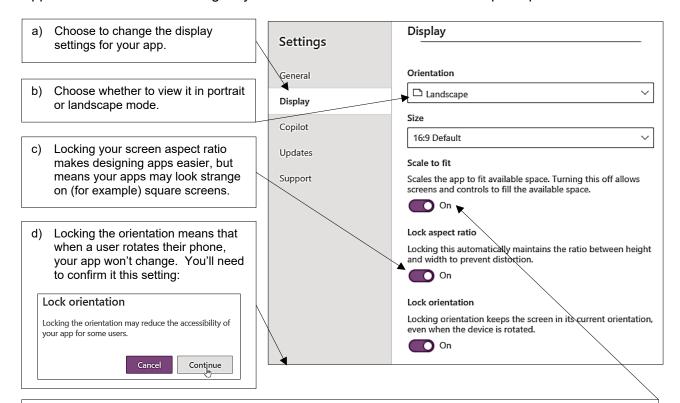
Setting Screen Size (Tablet Apps Only)

If you're building a tablet app, you can say how big your target screen is:



Changing and Locking Orientation

Apps are much easier to design if you can fix their view to either landscape or portrait:



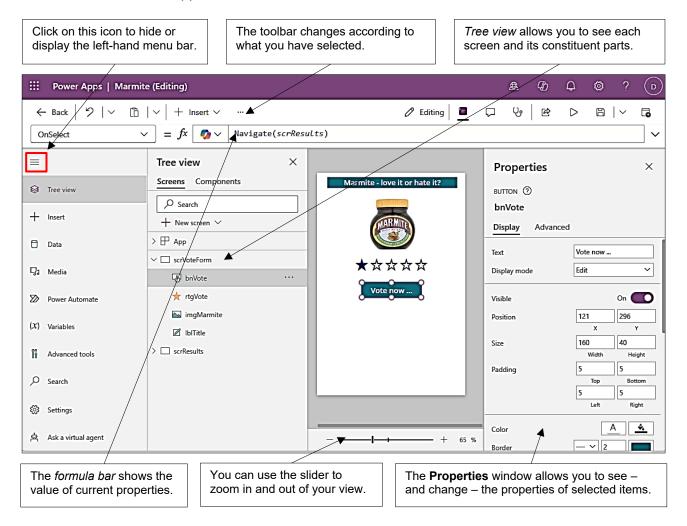
e) Suppose you are designing a phone app, and a user runs it on their large laptop screen. What should happen? If you have **Scale to fit** turned **On** (as here), Power Apps will increase the size of all of your controls to fill the screen, which will probably look strange; if you have it turned off, Power Apps will use responsive layout to redraw controls on the screen according to its size. This will give better results, but will mean that you have to consider responsive screen layout throughout your app design.



For an easy life, turn all of the options on (as shown above). To design a professional app, you should probably turn all 3 options off and build responsive design into every screen of your app (no small undertaking), as described in a separate chapter later in this courseware.

2.4 The Power Apps Screen

Here's how the Power Apps screen looks:

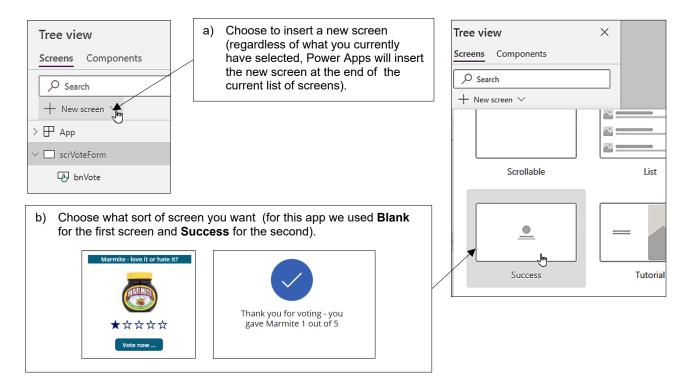


2.5 Working with Screens

You need to create a separate *screen* for each page of your app (our Marmite app has two screens).

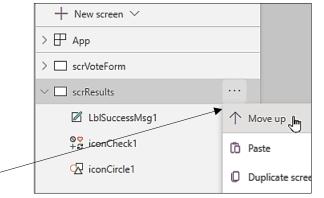
Adding (and Moving) Screens

To add a screen:

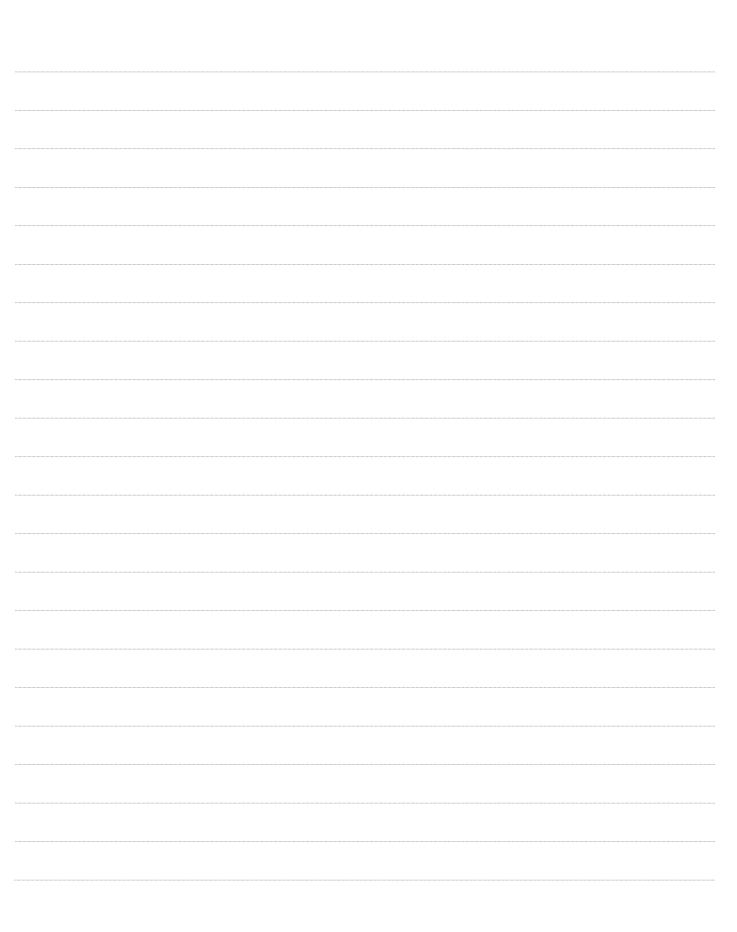


Moving Screens

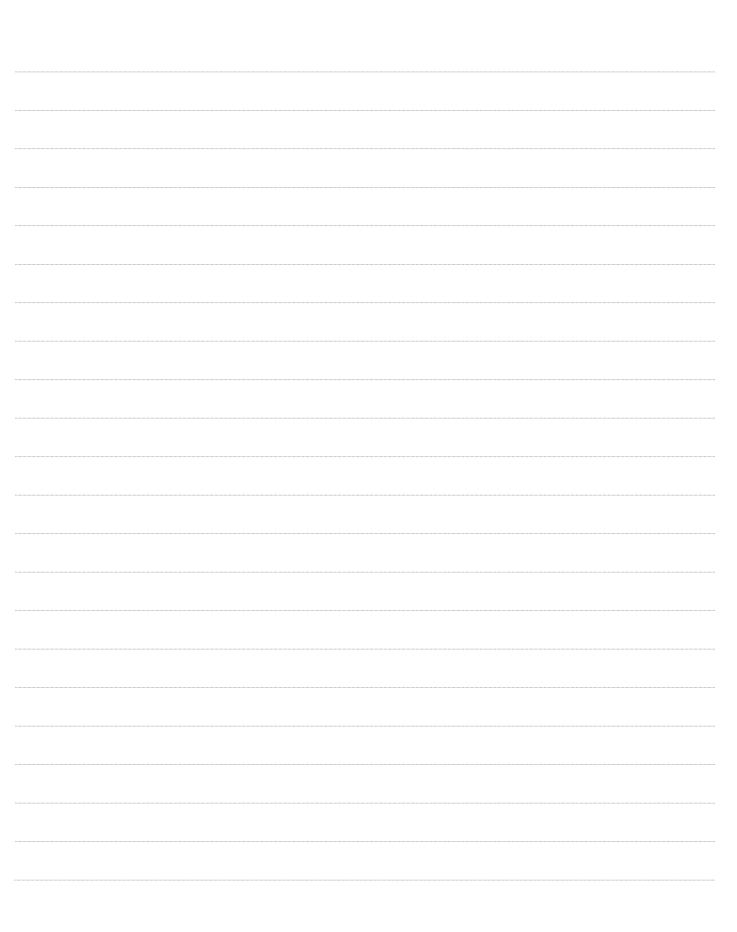
Remarkably, you can't drag and drop screens to change their order, so instead use this menu:



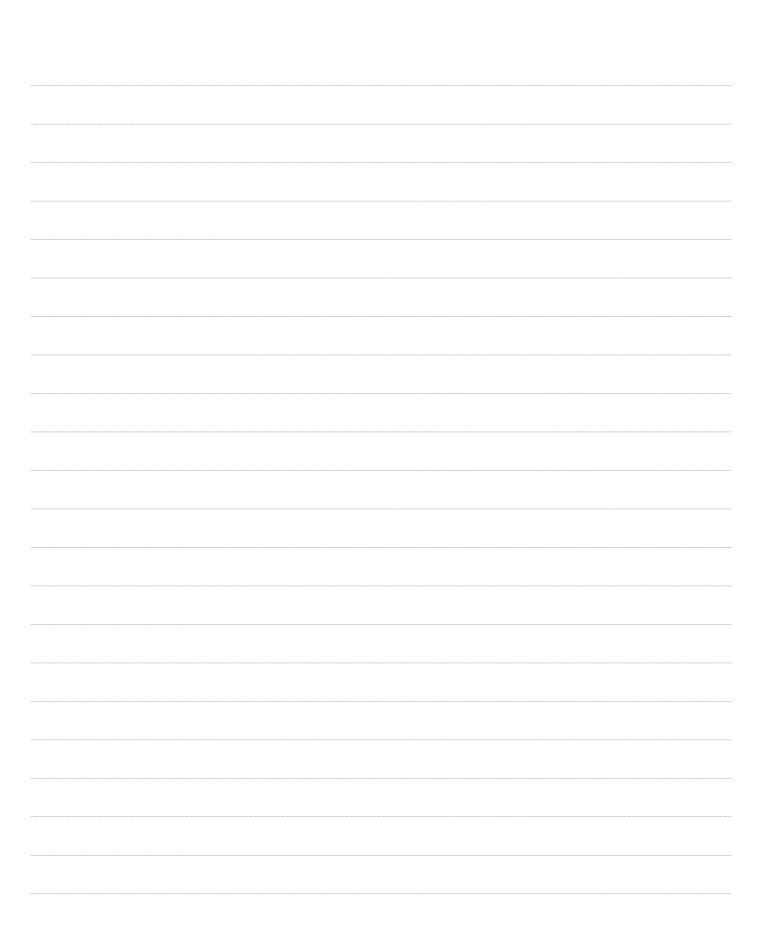
Click on these 3 dots to move this screen up (or down) the list.



























What we do!

		Basic training	Advanced training	Systems / consultancy
	Microsoft Excel			
e	VBA macros	2	2	
Office	Office Scripts			
	Microsoft Access			
etc	Power BI and DAX			
Power BI, etc	Power Apps			
Pow	Power Automate (both)			
	SQL			
ver	Reporting Services			
SQL Server	Report Builder			
SQL	Integration Services			
	Analysis Services			
	Visual C#	2	2	
ing	VB programming			
Coding	MySQL	2		
	Python	2	2	



