



Exploring Microsoft Power Apps for creating a stakeholder analysis definition capture tool

By Quincy Kaka

MSD (UK) Limited, London, UK

(13th Nov 2024)

Agenda

1. Introduction to Power Apps.
2. Canvas Application Design.
3. Personal Experience.
4. Concluding Remarks.

How it all began.

Development Business Case

Why?

- Need for metadata capture tool to guide definition and delivery of clinical trial data analyses.

What?

- Connect to database environment with read/write access for users outside the company.
- Populate and update database tables with user inputs.

How?

- Two weeks to explore Microsoft Power Apps as a viable long-term platform.

What is Microsoft Power Apps?

The Power Platform

Empowering You to develop low-code development solutions.



The low code platform that spans Microsoft 365, Azure, Dynamics 365, and standalone apps.



Power BI
Business analytics



Power Apps
App development



Power Automate
Process automation



Power Pages
External-facing websites



Data connectors



AI Builder

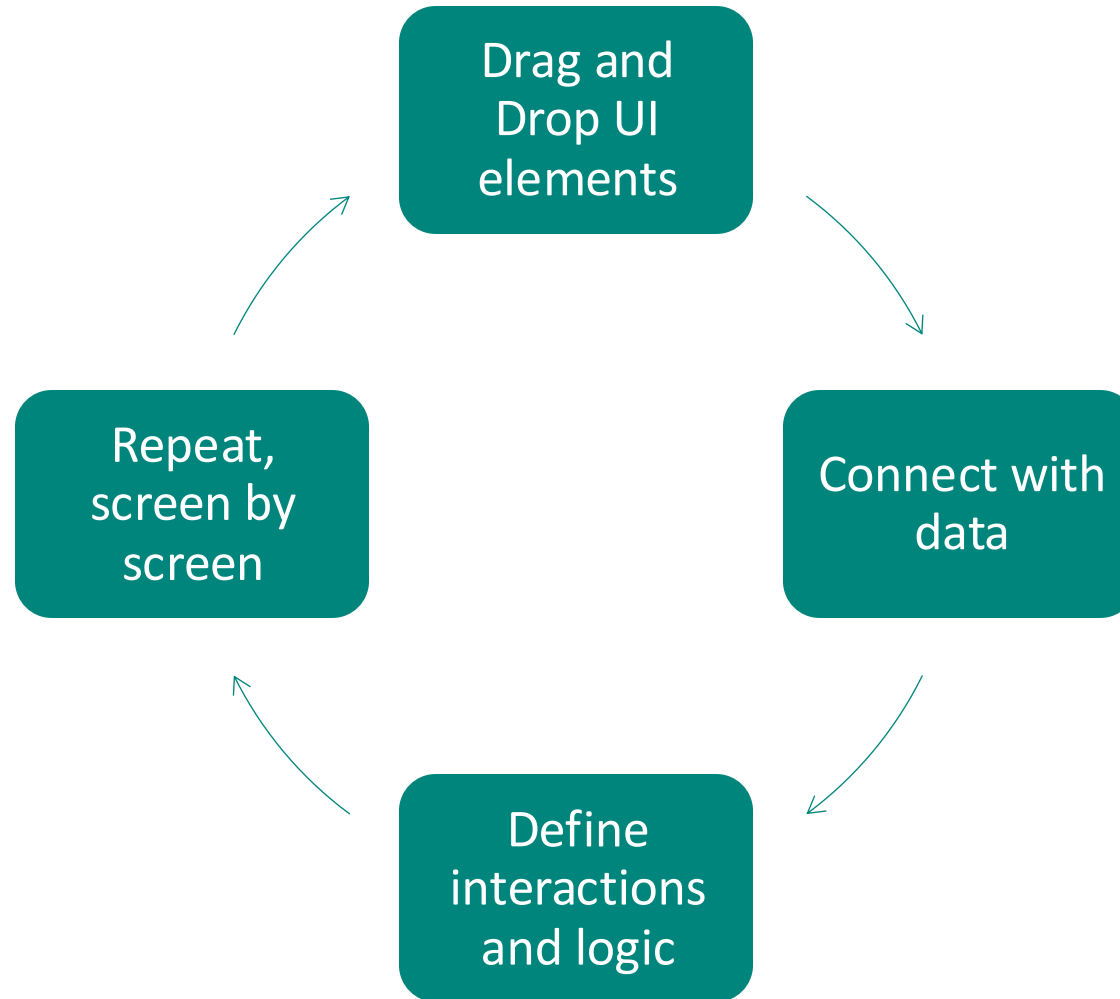


Dataverse

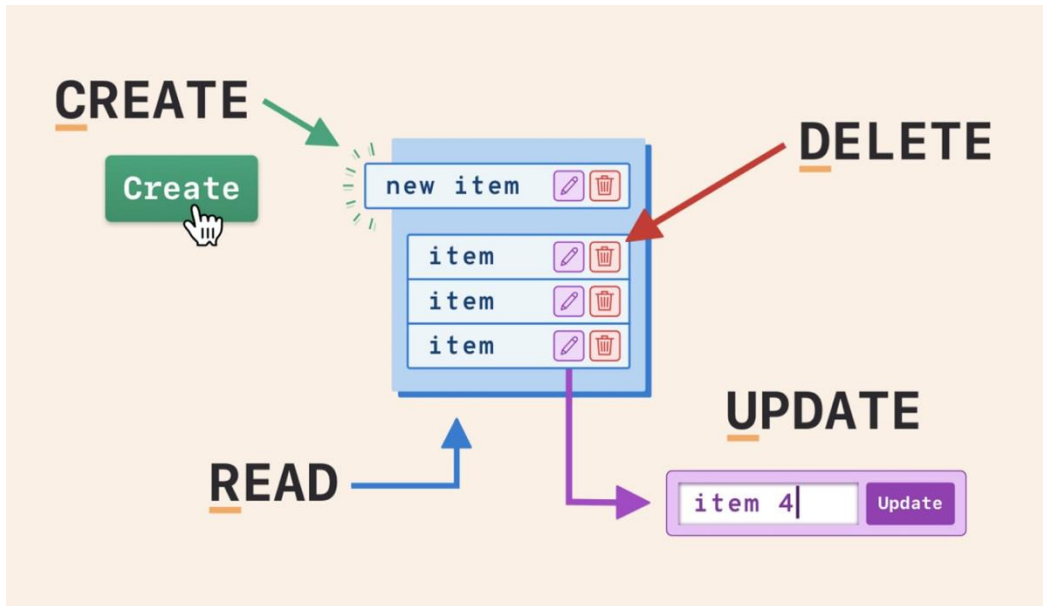
Types of Power Apps Applications

Category	Model-driven apps	Canvas apps
Data platform	Dataverse only	Dataverse + many others using connectors
Design experience	No-code component focused design	Manipulation of control properties using Power Fx expressions
UI control	Limited, predominantly customization	Full control
App consistency	High – differs predominantly based on the tables and views chosen	Often low, given the significant control the designers have of the user experience
Responsive & Navigation	Automatically responsive	Only where designed and applied using Power Fx formulas

Canvas Applications – Workflow

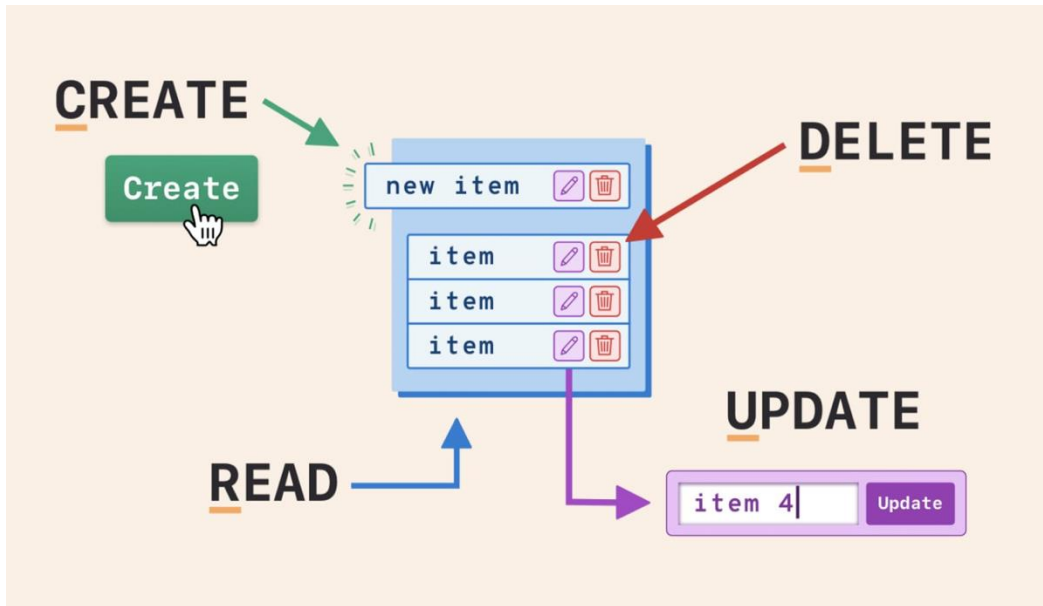


Canvas Applications – Create, Read, Update, Delete



Service Desk				
11 All tickets	1 New ticket	5 In progress	2 Closed	3 On hold
All tickets	Ticket ID: 7 Created by: Naomi Cobb Priority: Low Created date: 03/12/2016			
New tickets	Need monitor for new hire The new project mgr is still missing a monitor and a docking station			
Tickets in progress	Assigned to: Chris K			
Tickets on hold	Ticket ID: 11 Created by: Ginger Maynard Priority: Normal Created date: 04/08/2016			
Tickets closed	Need a projector & speakers How do I get a projector set up in the main lobby?			
Tickets older than 3 days	Assigned to: None			
Tickets opened today				
Tickets closed today				

Canvas Applications - Create, Read, Update, Delete



< Ticket details

Ticket ID
7

Created date
03/12/2016

Closed date
04/14/2016

Created by
Naomi Cobb

Subject
Need monitor for new hire

Description
The new project mgr is still missing a monitor and a docking station

Internal comments
UPS tracking says it will be arriving today before 3pm.

Ticket status Closed >

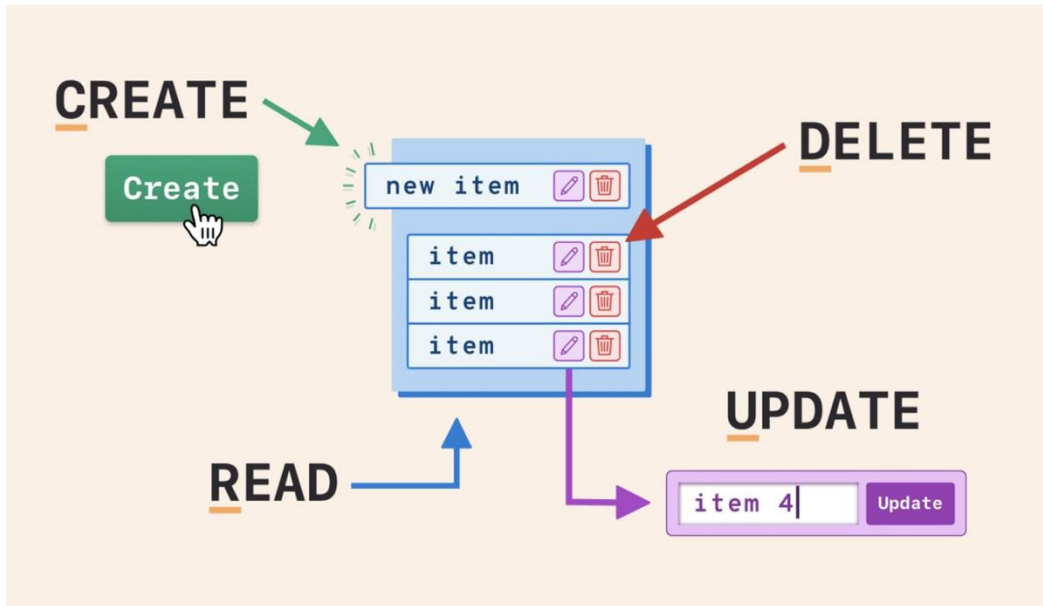
Assigned to Chris K >

Area IT >

Priority Low >

Save

Canvas Applications - Create, Read, Update, Delete



The screenshot shows a "Create new ticket" form with a purple header and footer. The header contains a back arrow and the title "Create new ticket". The footer contains a "Create ticket" button.

The form displays summary statistics at the top:

- 11 All tickets
- 1 New ticket
- 5 In progress
- 2 Closed
- 3 On hold

The form fields are:

- Created by * (text input)
- Subject * (text input)
- Priority * (dropdown menu with "Select a priority" option)
- Area * (dropdown menu with "Select an area" option)
- Description * (text area)

Canvas Application – Database Integration



Dataverse

Power Platform built-in database

Secure cloud-based storage solution

Assign role-based access to users

Version Control

Rich metadata

What was it like to develop Power Apps?

The Pros – Utilising Power Platform

Dataverse

- Simple and easy integration with the app.
- Fast and dynamic.
- Unique record ID generation
- Version tracking at record level highly powerful.

Platform

- Capacity to create multiple environments



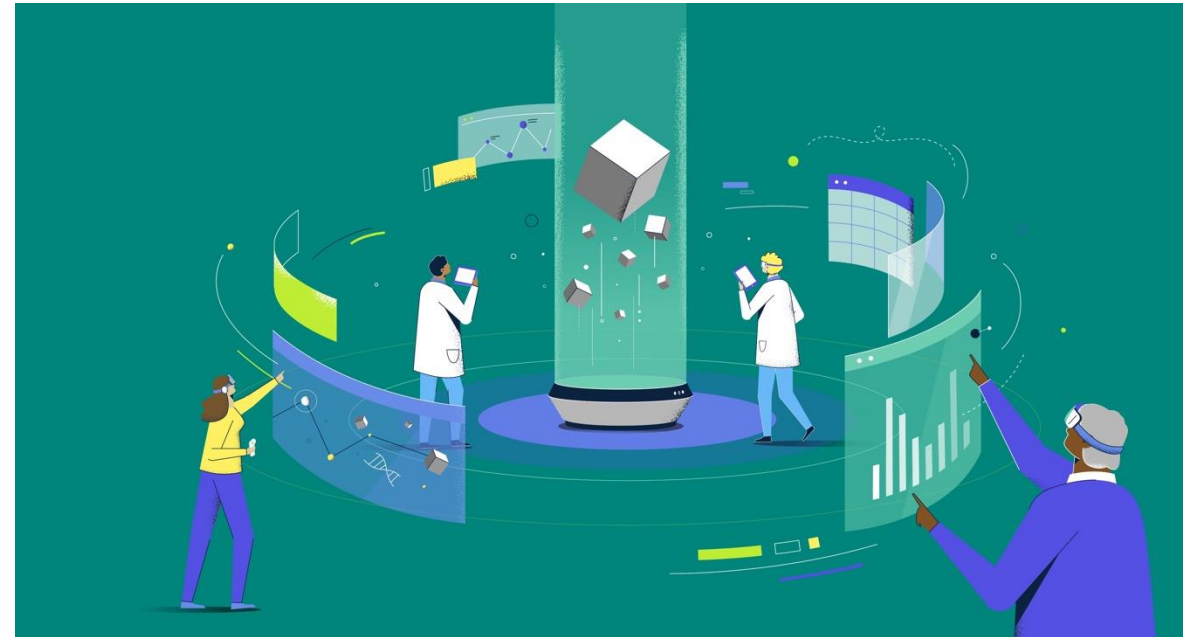
The Pros – Learning Curve

- Low-code language Power Fx.
- Abundance of learning tools, from Microsoft to YouTube.
- Support from Power Platform Community and third party sources like Stack Overflow.
- Working proof of concept demo created in 2 weeks.



The Con – Dealing with complexity

- Customisability can be limiting.
- Highly complex processes, logic and UI design.
- One developer at a time!



To sum it all up.

Final Recommendations

Utilise Dataverse.

- A powerful database.
- Use extends beyond Power Apps.

Take advantage of the ability to host multiple environments.

- Can create development and production areas.
- Access individually configured.

Power Apps recommended to augment project management.

- Helping teams create and maintain their own data sources.
- Provide dynamic web-hosted overviews of projects and various performance metrics through dashboards.
- Rapid deployment through ease of user adoption.



Thank you, any questions?

quincy.kaka@msd.com

Copyright © 2024 Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.