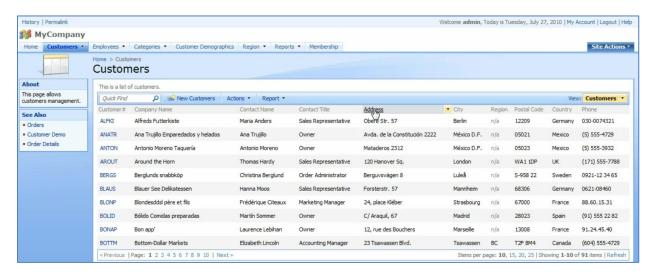


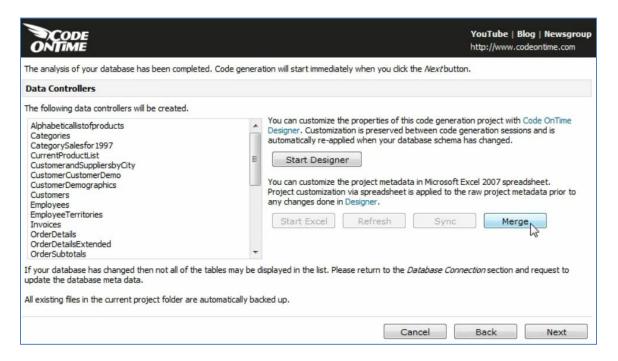
USING EXCEL TO BUILD ASP.NET/AJAX APPLICATIONS

Using Excel to Build ASP.NET/AJAX Apps

Shown below is the baseline application that needs to be modified. In the grid view of *Customers*, you can see *Contact Name* and *Contact Title* fields. It would be nice if the *Phone* field were placed closer to these fields, so that end users can more easily figure out which number to call. Let's move *Phone* field where the *Address* field currently is, and insert *Fax* field next to it. *Fax* field is available for each record, but is not present in grid view. The *Region* field is empty for a lot of records, so let's get rid of it.

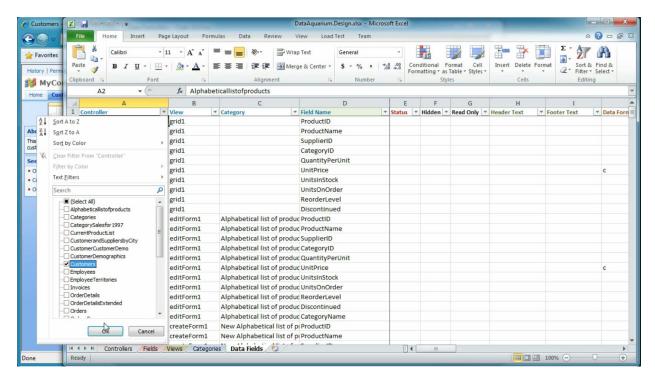


Run *Code On Time Generator*, select the project name, and press the *Skip* button. You will arrive at a list of data controllers. Click on *Merge* and confirm to create a new *Excel* spreadsheet with data from the application.

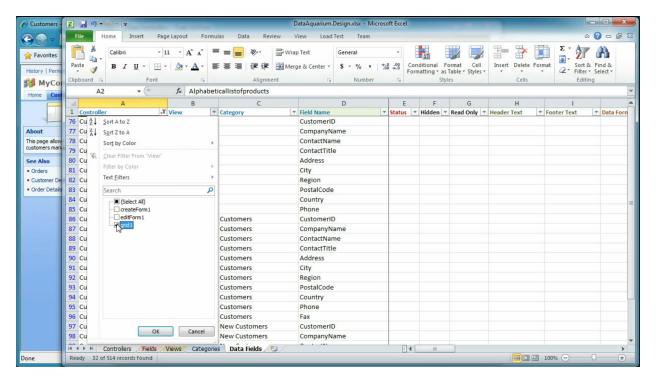


(Note: If your Excel spreadsheet comes up with no data, you will need to install *Microsoft Access Database Engine 2010 Redistributable* at http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=c06b8369-60dd-4b64-a44b-84b371ede16d&displaylang=en)

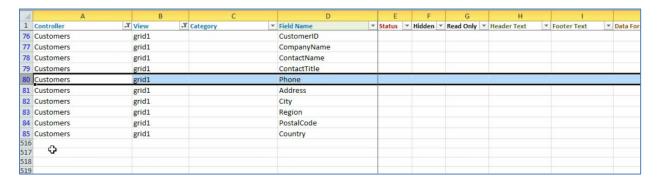
There are several sheets, displayed at the bottom of the screen, that allow you to change various aspects of your application, including *Controllers*, *Fields*, *Views*, *Categories*, and *Data Fields*. Navigate to the *Data Fields* sheet. Filter the data fields to those that belong to the *Customers* data controller.



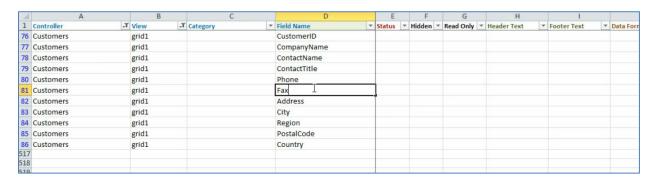
Next, limit the fields to only those that belong to the view of *grid1*.



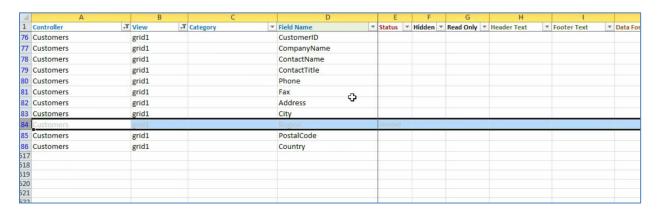
We will make several changes to this view. Right click on the *Phone* row and press *Cut*. On the *Address* field, right click and press *Insert Paste Row*. This will relocate the *Phone* row into *Address*'s position.



Right click on *Address* and press *Insert Blank Row*. Press *Ctrl + D* to duplicate *Phone* row into the new row. Rename the *Field Name* to "Fax". There is an actual field in the database with this name, which can be confirmed by going to *Fields* sheet and filtering down to show only fields that belong to *Customers* controller.

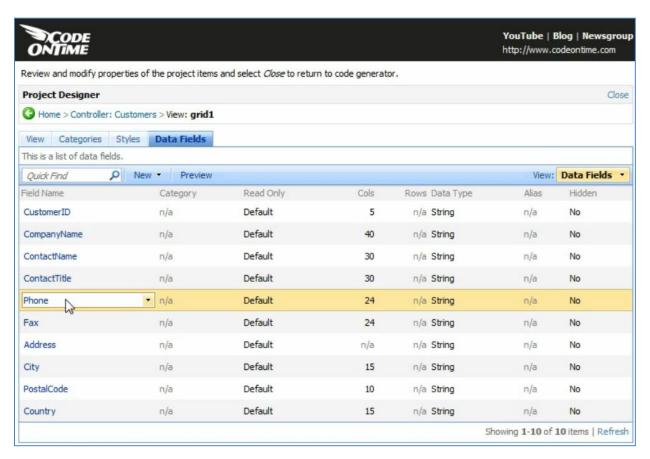


The last step will involve removing the *Region* field from *grid1*. You can choose to delete the row from the spreadsheet altogether. Alternatively, you can type "deleted" in the *Status* column to delete the row from the view. You can also change the color of the *Region* row for better visual identification.

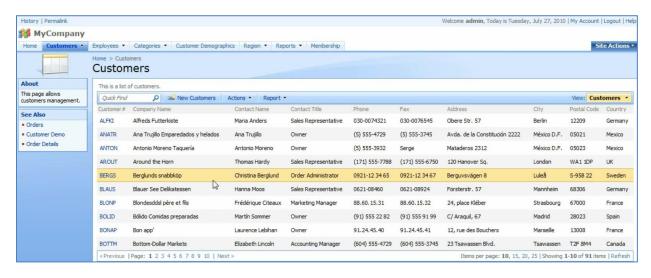


Save the spreadsheet, go back to *Code On Time Generator*, and press the *Sync* button. The spreadsheet will become the foundation for your project settings.

You can confirm your changes by going into the *Designer*. Click on the *Start Designer* button. Navigate to the *Customers* controller, and switch to *Views* tab. Click on the "grid1" View. Switch to the *Data Fields* tab. You will notice that the new data field layout will be active in this list, displaying *Phone* after *Contact Title*, and not having *Region* in the list.

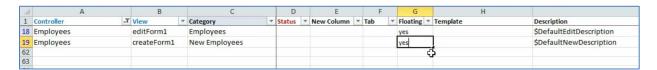


Close the *Designer*, and generate the application by pressing *Next*. When generation finishes, a web page will appear with the modified application. Navigate to the *Customers* screen.



You can see that the columns should now be in the correct order, *Contact Name*, *Contact Title*, *Phone*, and *Fax*. *Regions* column is no longer displayed.

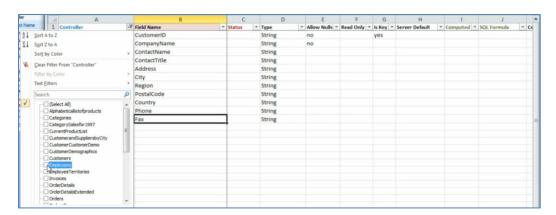
Next, let's modify the *Employees* screen. If you select an employee, you can see the fields listed from top to bottom. It would be better if these fields were presented in a more compact way. Switch back to the *Designer Spreadsheet*, and navigate to the *Categories* sheet. Filter the *Controller* column to only view categories from *Employees*. You will get two rows, *Employees* and *New Employees*. Change the *Floating* column to "Yes".



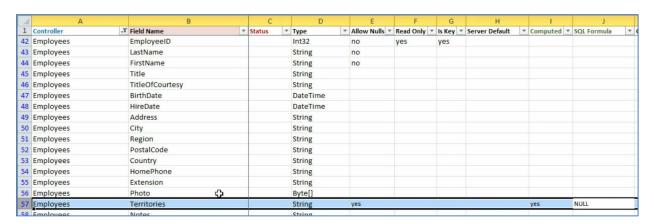
Go back to *Code On Time Generator*, and press *Sync*. Then press *Next* to regenerate the application. Once the generator finishes, navigate to the *Employees* page. *Employee* record is now more compact, and fields flow from left to right in the page.



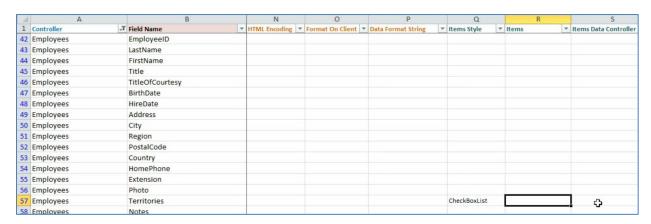
Employee Territories list is displayed as details of the selected employee. Let's put the territories on the employees detail view as a checkbox list. To do this, switch to the *Designer Spreadsheet*. Navigate to the *Fields* sheet, and filter *Controller* to "Employees".



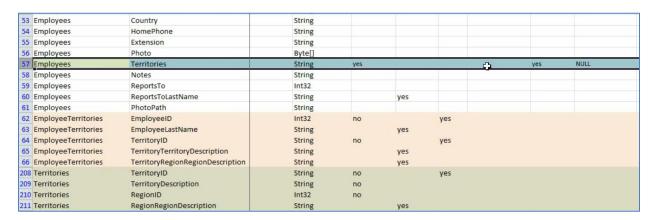
Right click on the *Notes* field, and press *Insert Row*. For the new row, set controller to *Employees*. The *Field Name* will be "Territories". The *Type* is "String". Type "Yes" under *Allow Nulls*. Set *Computed* to "yes". Under *SQL Formula*, type "NULL".



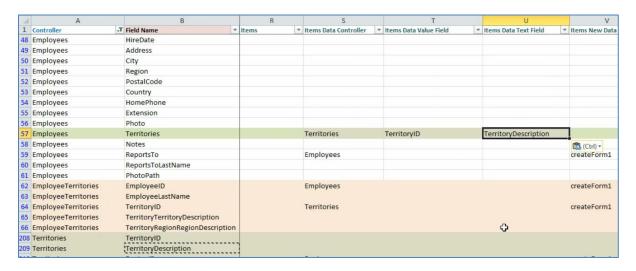
Label will be "Territories". Items Style will be "CheckBoxList".



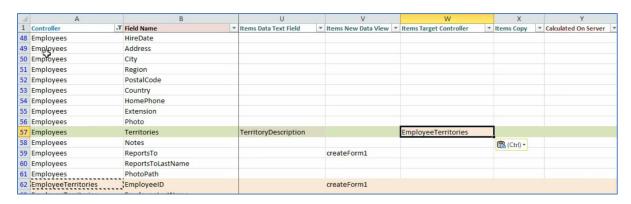
However, here we need to reference some information. Change the filter on the *Controller* column to include *EmployeeTerritories* and *Territories*. *EmployeeTerritories* is a junction table which links *Employees* and *Territories*. To make editing data easier, you can change the color of the rows of different tables. This will help us understand what's going on.



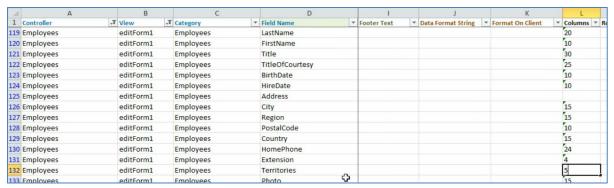
For the field *Items Data Controller*, insert "Territories". *Items Data Value Field* will be "TerritoryID". *Items Data Text* field will be "TerritoryDescription".



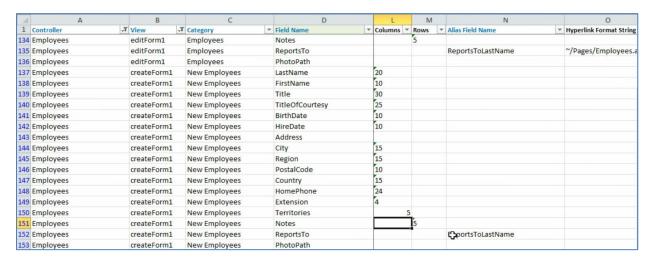
The last field is *Items Target Controller*. The value will be the name of the junction table, "EmployeeTerritories".



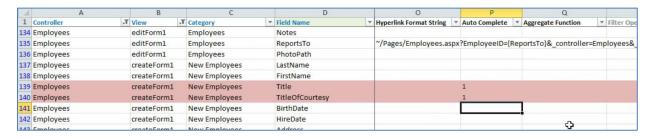
Next, go to the *Data Fields* sheet. Filter *Controller* column to only display those fields from *Employees*. Filter the *View* column to display only *createForm1* and *editForm1*. On the *Photo* row of *editForm1*, right click and press *Insert Row*. Press *Ctrl + D* to duplicate the above row onto the new row. For *Field Name*, write "Territories". Change the number of *Columns* to "5", so that there will be five columns of checkboxes.



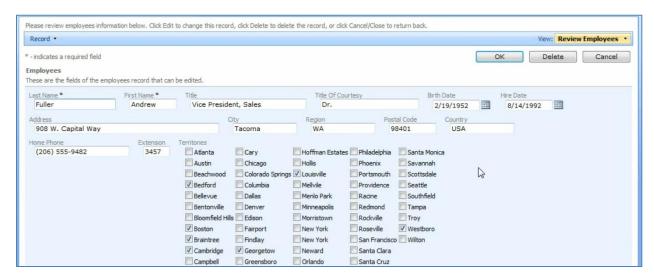
We will also have to create a new row under *createForm1*. Insert a row above the *Notes* field of *createForm1* view, and duplicate the above row by pressing *Ctrl + D*. Change the *Field Name* to "Territories", and change *Column* to "5".



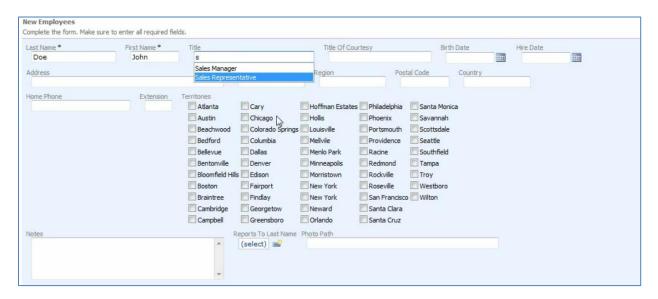
Let's make a few more changes to the fields *Title* and *TitleofCourtesy*. These fields will benefit from auto completion in the application. Go to the *Auto Complete* column and type in "1" for each of the fields.



Save the spreadsheet, go back to the *Generator* and press *Sync*, and regenerate the application. Navigate to the *Employees* page. By selecting an employee, you can see a list of associated territories. If you start editing, a five column list of checkboxes will appear.



Also, if you create a new employee, and start typing in a title or title of courtesy, you can see the auto completion at work.



These are just some of the great features you can implement using *Code On Time Generator*. Go to http://www.codeontime.com/Tutorials.aspx to learn more.