



Sprinkle a little UI Magic on your apps



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<https://isladogs.co.uk/ui-magic>



Theme Aware Forms

- Automatically update forms in line with current Office UI theme
- Detect Office theme using VBA
 - Stored in registry but 'read-only'
- Apply theme colours to forms when opened (or theme changed):
 - Office Accent Colour
 - Back Colour (primary / secondary)
 - Text Colour (primary / secondary)
 - Border Colour
 - Datasheet Alternate Row Colour
- Allow for exceptions
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/create-theme-aware-forms>



Office Theme

Personalised Popup Forms

- Popup forms are top level windows (independent of Access UI)
- Allows additional customisation not possible with standard forms:
 - Using **Windows Settings | Personalisation | Colours** (Win 10 /11)
 - Title bar background & border colours
 - Using **DwmSetWindowAttribute** API (Win 11 only)
 - Title bar background & text colours
 - Title bar backdrop style (including translucent)
 - Title bar dark mode
 - Border colour (or none)
 - Corner style (rounded / square)
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/personalised-popup-forms>



Popup Form Positioning (OMIT)

- Popup forms open on the monitor where they were last saved.
- Can cause problems for end users with form being 'off-screen'
 - e.g. last save on secondary monitor but app opened on single monitor setup
- Solution - specify startup position
 - Always open on primary (or sole monitor)
OR
 - Always open on monitor containing Access application window
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/open-popup-set-location>



Popup Positioning

Move and Resize Borderless Forms

Use one line of code to do each of the following:

- Move borderless form using mouse down events

DragFormWindow Me

- Resize borderless form by using mouse down events near border

ResizeFormWindow Me, resizedir

- Move application window with mouse down / move form

AppWindowSelect and ***AppWindowMove***

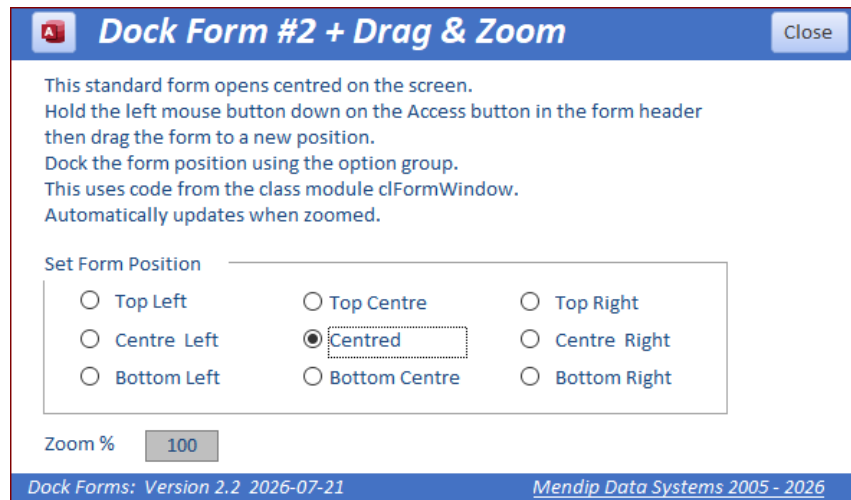
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/move-resize-borderless-form>



Move/Resize
Borderless Forms

Dock Forms to the Access Window

- Precisely position forms anywhere on screen
- Works for both standard and popup forms
- Works with the zoom feature



Dock Form #2 + Drag & Zoom [Close]

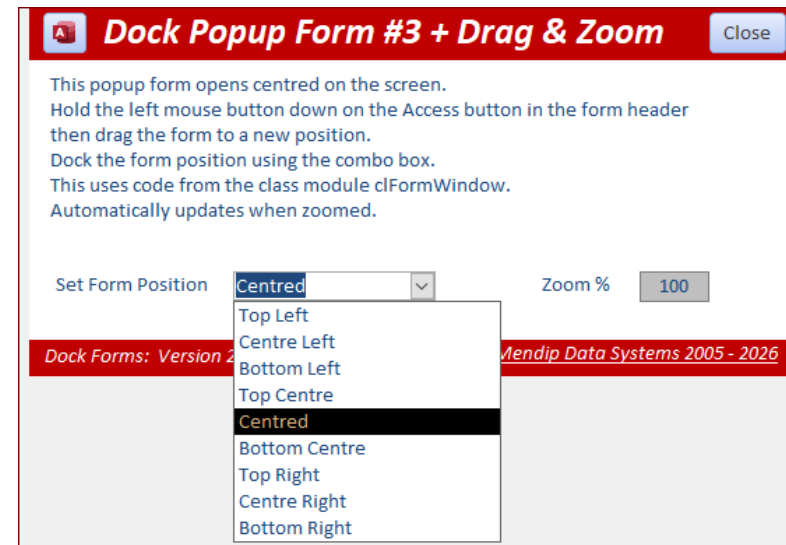
This standard form opens centred on the screen.
Hold the left mouse button down on the Access button in the form header
then drag the form to a new position.
Dock the form position using the option group.
This uses code from the class module clFormWindow.
Automatically updates when zoomed.

Set Form Position

☐ Top Left	☐ Top Centre	☐ Top Right
☐ Centre Left	☒ Centred	☐ Centre Right
☐ Bottom Left	☐ Bottom Centre	☐ Bottom Right

Zoom %

Dock Forms: Version 2.2 2026-07-21 Mendip Data Systems 2005 - 2026



Dock Popup Form #3 + Drag & Zoom [Close]

This popup form opens centred on the screen.
Hold the left mouse button down on the Access button in the form header
then drag the form to a new position.
Dock the form position using the combo box.
This uses code from the class module clFormWindow.
Automatically updates when zoomed.

Set Form Position Zoom %

Dock Forms: Version 2.2 2026-07-21 Mendip Data Systems 2005 - 2026

Dropdown menu options: Centred, Top Left, Centre Left, Bottom Left, Top Centre, Centred, Bottom Centre, Top Right, Centre Right, Bottom Right.

- <https://www.isladogs.co.uk/dock-forms-2>



Fluent UI Message Boxes with Timeout

- Use Access Expression Service to create 3 styles of MsgBox
 - New style Fluent UI MsgBox (Access 365 CC or faster)
 - Old style MsgBox with bold first line
 - Standard MsgBox
- MsgBoxT function with optional timeout
 - MsgBoxT (Prompt, *[Buttons]*, *[Title]*, *[HelpFile]*, *[Context]*, *[Timeout]*)
- Function supports:
 - Unicode text, links (online / local)
 - Ease of Access features (larger text size / high contrast)
 - Adapts to Office theme colours (Fluent UI only)
- Replace standard VBA MsgBox without breaking existing code
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/new-style-msgbox-timeout>



MsgBox Timeout

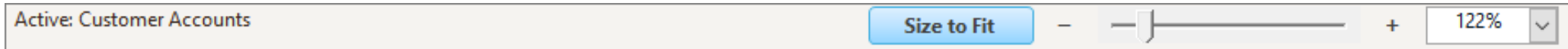
Zoom & Reposition Message Boxes

- Standard message boxes & input boxes:
 - are always centred on screen
 - cannot be zoomed (other than using Windows scaling)
- MsgBoxPZ / InputBoxPZ functions overcome both limitations
 - Place at any specified position on screen
 - Select any zoom value from 10% to 1000%
- Can replace MsgBox/InputBox functions without rewriting existing code
- Project jointly developed by Xevi Battle & Colin Riddington
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/msgbox-position-zoom>
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/inputbox-position-zoom>



Zoom Reposition MsgBox

Introducing Zoom++



- All features of built-in Access Zoom feature PLUS ...
 - Supports zooming with all standard form types: 10% to 1000%
 - Adds status bar zoom slider for popup forms
 - Adds combo box zoom selector to status bar
 - Identifies the currently active form
 - Supports many ActiveX controls e.g. Treeview
 - Each individual form can open with its own default zoom
 - Supports zoom in layout view
 - Currently works with 32-bit Access (2010 onwards) / 64-bit (2019 onwards)
- Project led by Xevi Batlle assisted by Gemini/Antigravity AI
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/zoom++>



Zoom++ DEMO

Highlight Your Class

- Customisable row highlighting using reusable class module code
 - Select highlight mode: alternate row/current row/both/none
 - Select highlight colours

- Minimal form code:

```
Public owecRowHighlight As wecRowHighlight

Private Sub Form_Open(Cancel As Integer)
    Set owecRowHighlight = New wecRowHighlight
    Set owecRowHighlight.Form = Me
End Sub
```

- Class code by Eric Blomquist
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/highlight-row-class>

The screenshot shows a VBA form titled "Countries" with a "Close" button. It contains a table with the following data:

Country	TelCode	Abbr	Sort
United States	1	US	1
United Kingdom	44	UK	2
Canada	1	CA	3
Albania	355	AL	10
Australia	61	AUS	10
Austria	43	AT	10
Belgium	32	B	10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	387	BA	10
Bulgaria	359	BG	10
Cayman Islands	1 345	KY	10
China	86	CN	10
Croatia	385	HR	10
Cyprus	357	CY	10

Below the table, there are three dropdown menus for configuration:

- Highlight Target: Both
- Alternate Row Back Color: Light Orange
- Current Row Back Color: Light red

At the bottom, there is a text box labeled "Country ID" with the value "30". A small note at the bottom of the form reads "Highlight row class code by Eric Blomquist".



Highlight Class

Supercharge Your Continuous Forms

- Add datasheet functionality to continuous forms

- Hide/restore/move/resize columns

<https://isladogs.co.uk/move-resize-selected-columns-2>



Hide/Restore/Move/Resize Columns

- Freeze columns

<https://isladogs.co.uk/freeze-columns-continuous-forms-3>



Freeze Columns

- Paint Me Transparent

<https://isladogs.co.uk/paint-me-transparent>



Paint Me Transparent

Links to all articles

Links to all articles mentioned in this presentation

- Sprinkle a little UI Magic on your Apps

<https://isladogs.co.uk/ui-magic>

PLUS

Additional items not covered today

- You can REALLY do all that with forms?

<https://isladogs.co.uk/add-features-forms>

Questions?

