

DataPoint

by PresentationPoint

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1. Introduction

DataPoint(/software/datapoint/)

is PresentationPoint's flagship product to display up-to-date information on your slides. Connect to any data source and start using its data on your PowerPoint shapes like text boxes, tables, pictures, charts and more.

2. System Requirements

Microsoft Office 2010 and up. Does not work with the free Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer application.

.NET Framework 4.5. Read full specifications here(<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/get-started/system-requirements>)

Supported Client Operating Systems:

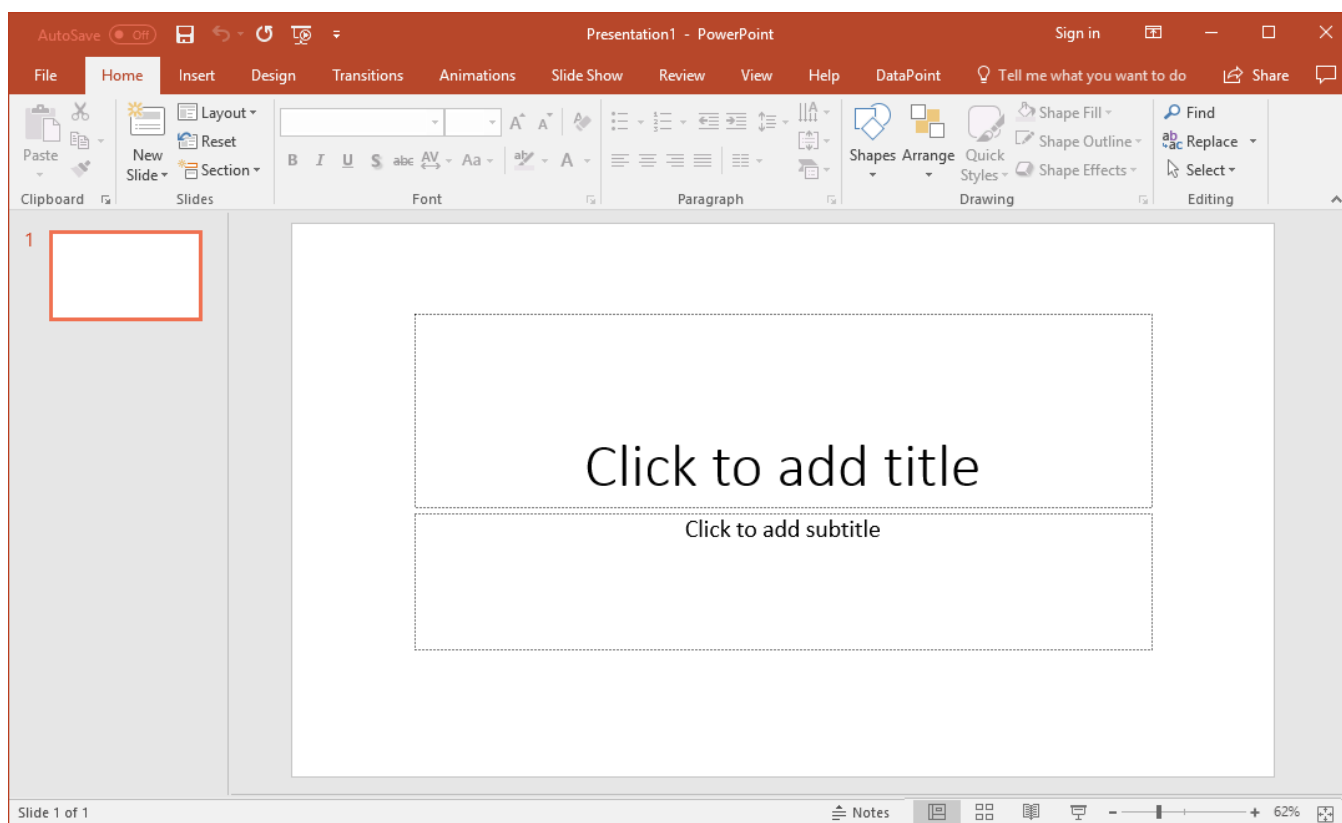
- Windows Vista SP2
- Windows 7 SP1
- Windows 8
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 10

Supported Server Operating Systems:

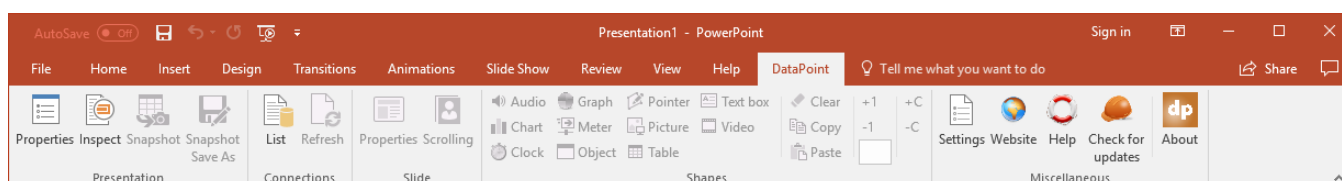
- Windows Server 2008 SP2
- Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1
- Windows Server 2012
- Windows Server 2012 R2
- Windows Server 2016
- Windows Server, version 1709

3. Getting started with DataPoint

After installation, a new menu option with the name DataPoint is available in your PowerPoint ribbon.



Click DataPoint to open the DataPoint ribbon or menu for more options.



Look closely at the DataPoint ribbon and you will see a few groups of buttons.

Presentation Group

This group represents a few buttons directly related to this presentation. You can change some specific properties of the presentation, such as if you want to enable or disable data caching. Or you can inspect your presentation, or generate new snapshot presentations.

Connections group

This is one of the two most important groups on the DataPoint menu. Typically, you start here when you want to create a dynamic or data-driven presentation. Here, you set up the data connections that you want to use in your presentation. Or you can initiate a manual refresh of the connections.

Slide group

In this group, you will find buttons directly linked or related to the current slide. You can enable data scrolling for this slide, or just hide a slide when there is no data.

Shapes group

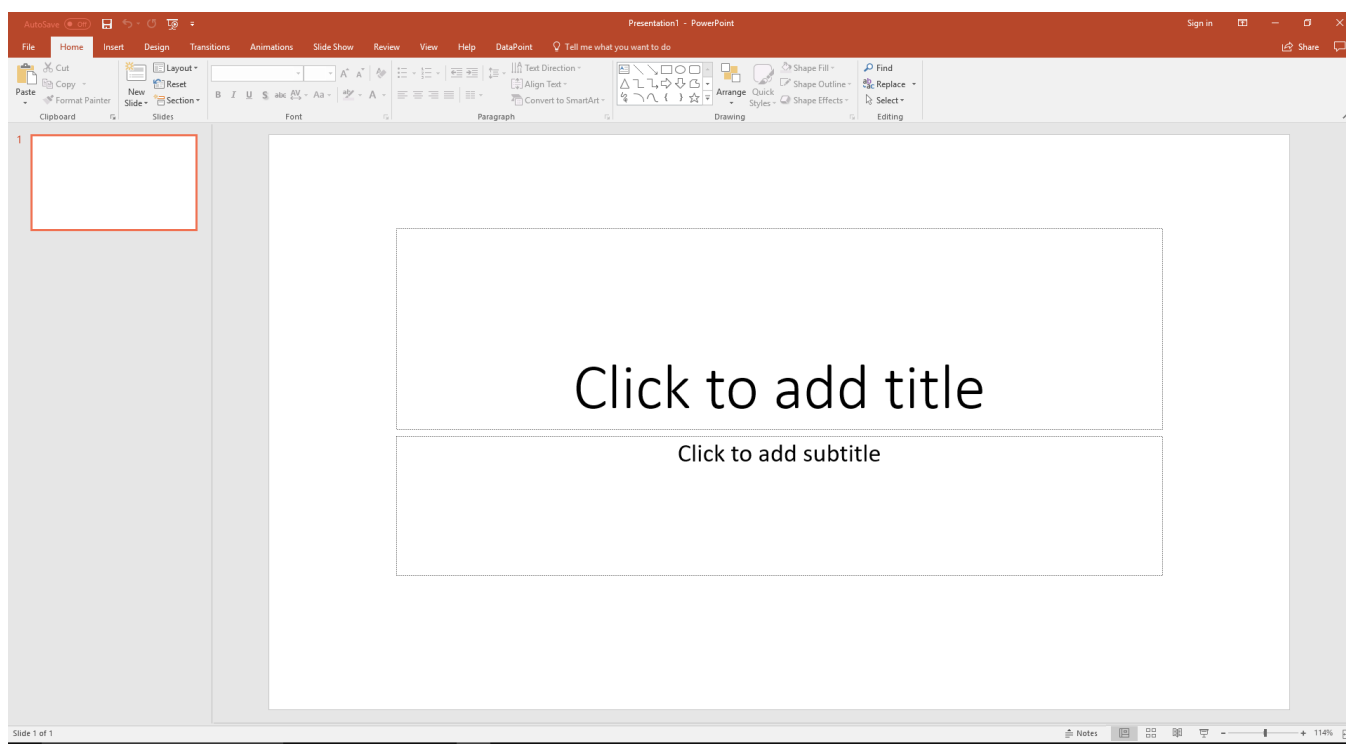
This is the most important and most used group of the DataPoint ribbon. First, you set up data connections for your presentation, then you link your PowerPoint shape on your slide to a given data connection. Note that most controls of the shapes group are enabled based on what type of shape you have selected. When you have no data connections set up, you can't make a text box dynamic. Once you have at least one data connection, then you can do certain things; for instance, insert a table, select that table, and go into DataPoint's table linking properties.

Miscellaneous group

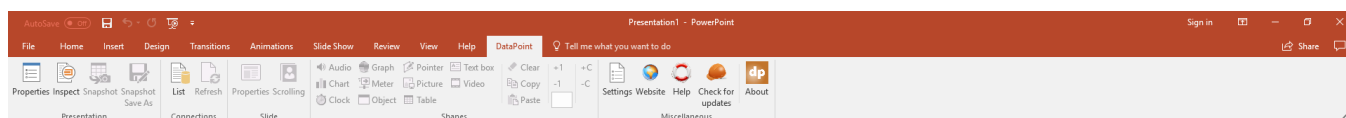
Every application has a group where you will find all other buttons and functionalities that did not fit in the previous groups. Here, you can check out the version of DataPoint, the status of the trial or license, check for updates, and so on.

4. Connections

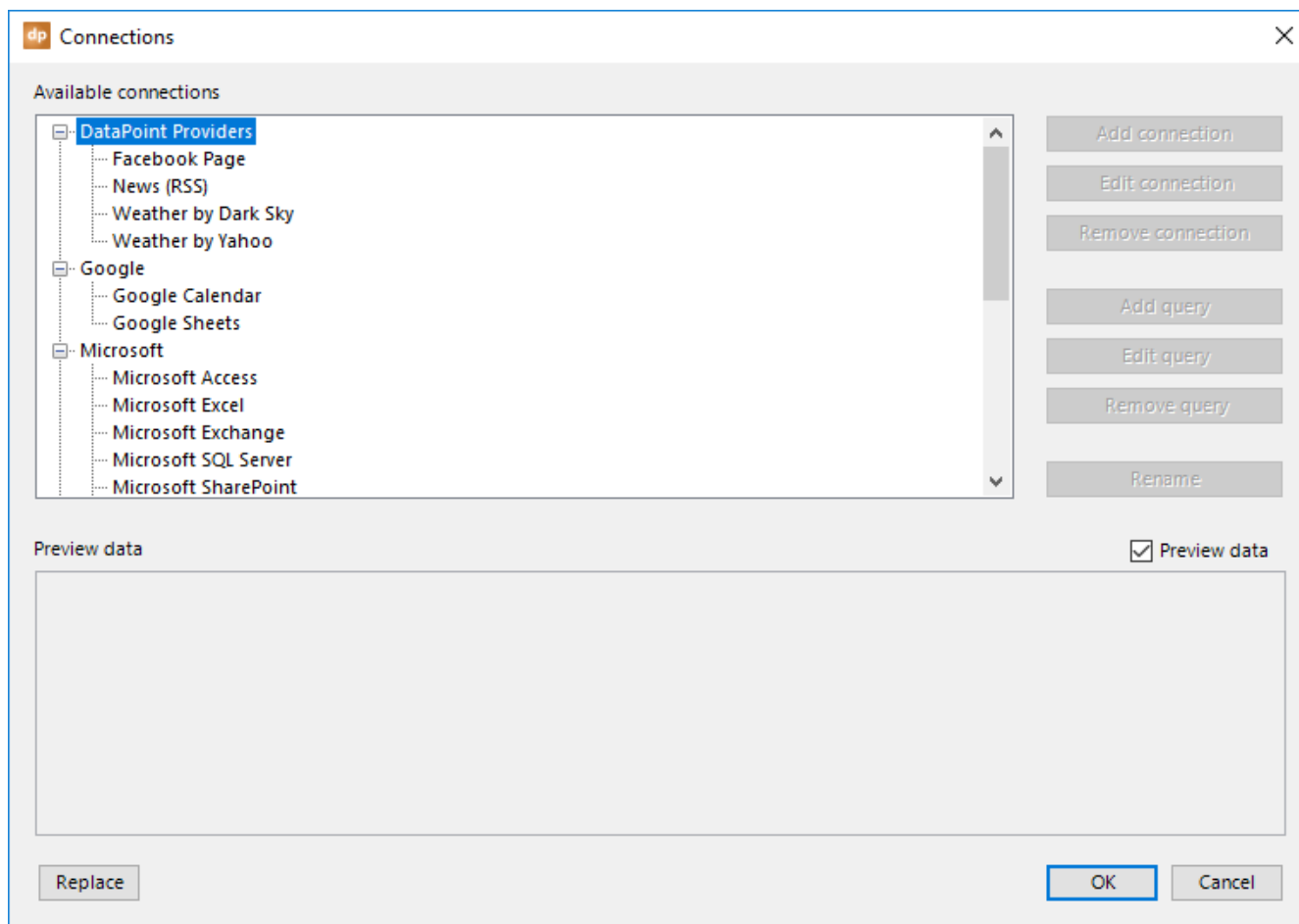
Start your Microsoft PowerPoint application and start with a new presentation.



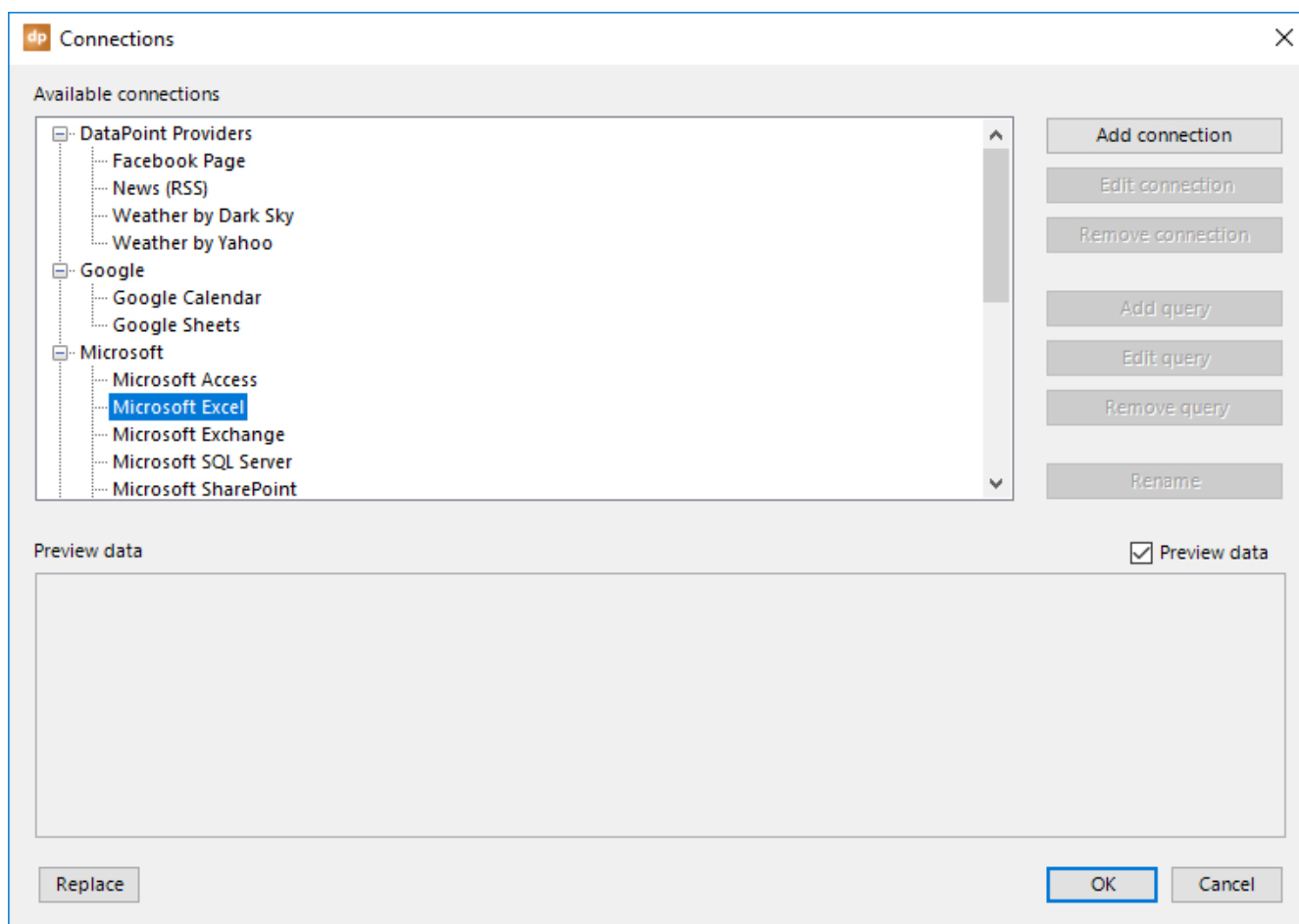
Click to open the **DataPoint** tab.



At the connections group, click the **List** button to open the data connections.



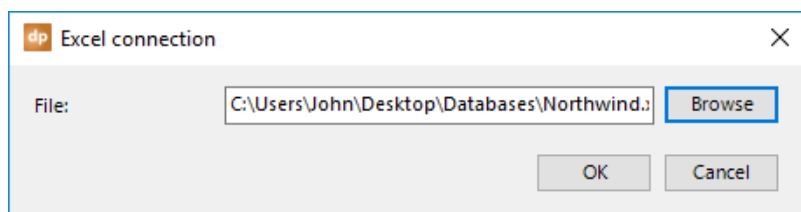
This opens a form where you can manage all of the data connections of this presentation. On the left side, you will see a large list of data providers that you can choose from. Each type of database, or each type of technology, has a specific data provider in DataPoint. If you want to link and show information from a Microsoft Excel file, then you select the Microsoft Excel node from the Microsoft group here.



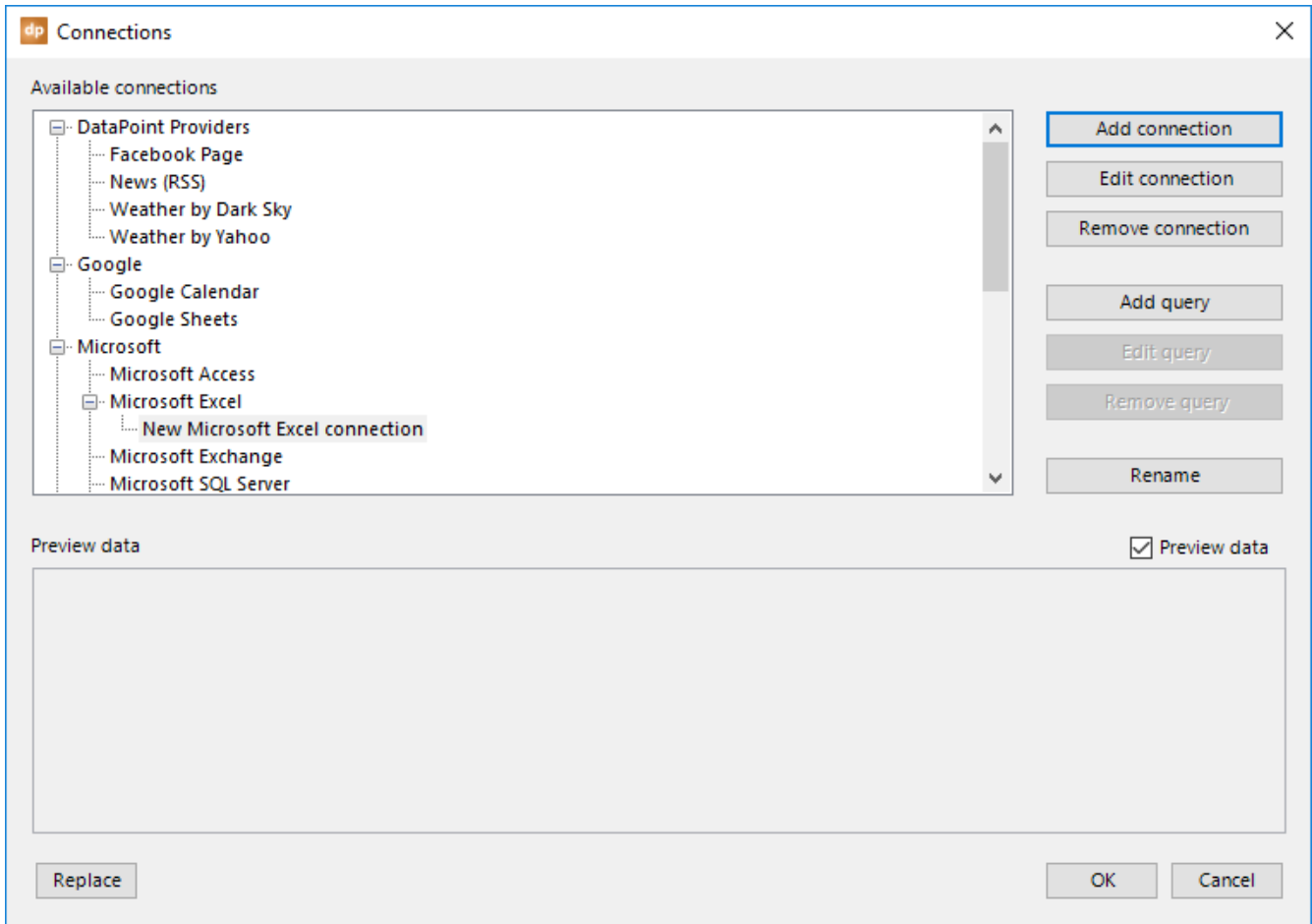
After the selection of a data provider, you will see that some buttons are enabled. After selecting the Microsoft Excel data provider, you can see that you can add a connection. Basically, you have three groups of buttons on the right. The first three buttons are related to connections: add connection, edit connection, and remove connection. Then, you have a second group with buttons related to queries. And finally, a rename button.

Note that most of the data providers will have a connection and then one or more queries. Think of it as a connection to a database with your username and password. And then, underneath the connection, you will have one or more queries pointing to tables, views, or custom SQL statements. Whether a connection and query level, or only a query level, exist depends on the chosen data provider. For instance, with an RSS feed, you only have a query level.

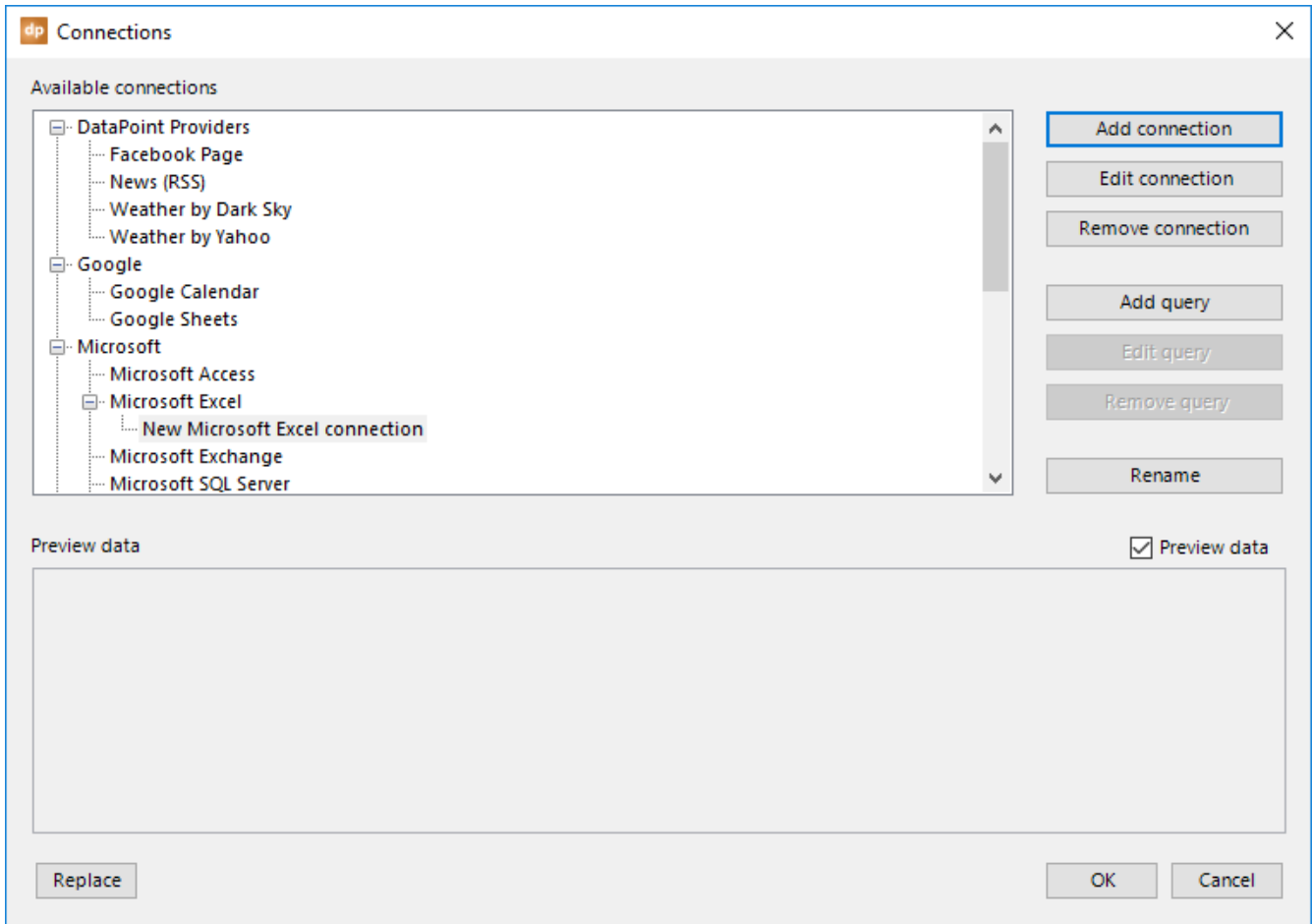
A connection for the Microsoft Excel data provider is basically a link to the physical Excel file that you want to use.



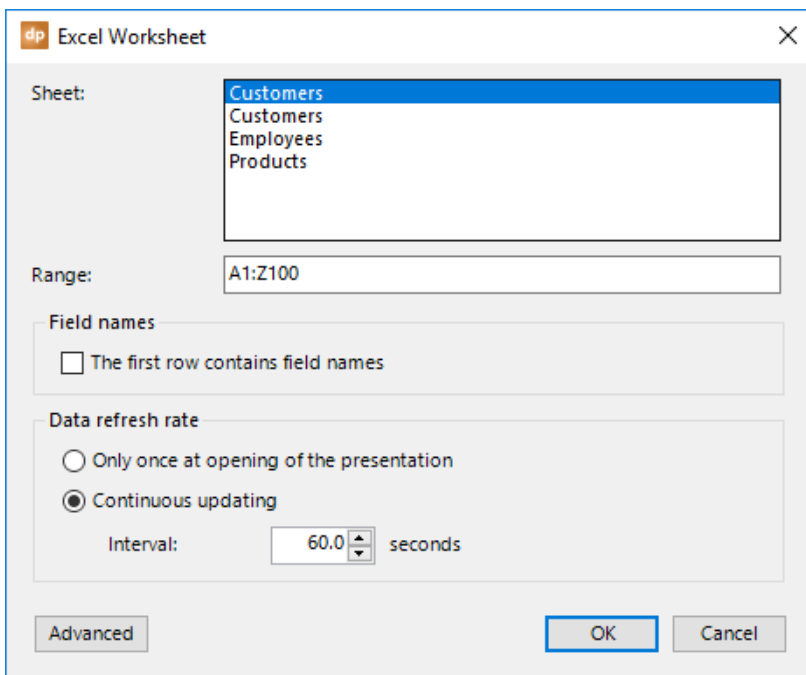
After the selection of the file, you will have a data connection. Then, you will see that you can add a query.



Click the **Add query** button and this form will be opened.



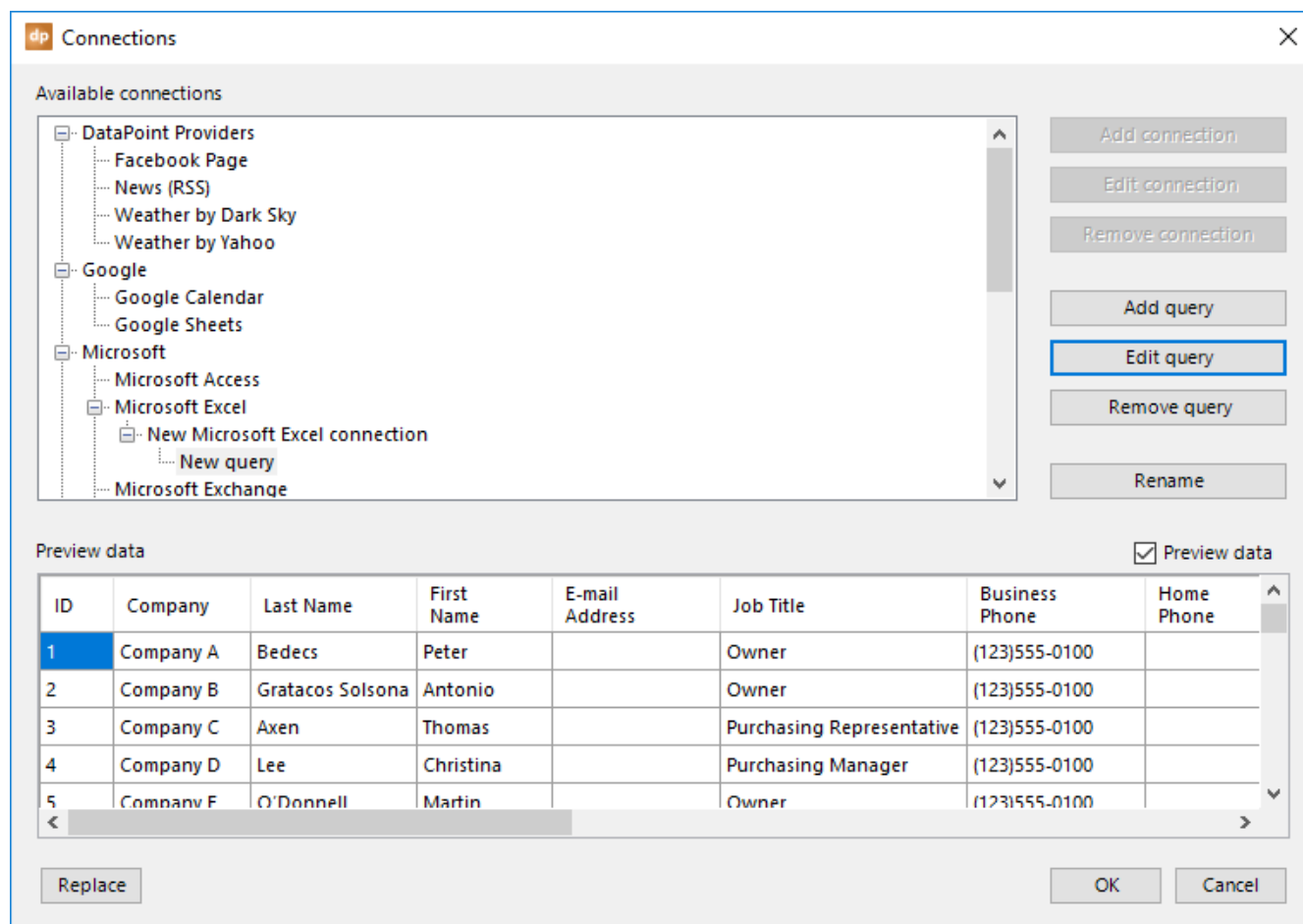
Within the Excel file, this level will give you some more options on what data should be read. For this Excel data provider specifically, you can choose which data sheet and what data range you want to use.



For every query, you will be able to specify how crucial your data is, which is very important for DataPoint. For hot data, you use a very low data refresh rate, maybe every 0.1 seconds. Or for less critical information, you can

refresh the data every 5 minutes, or maybe only once at opening time. It all depends on your data and your display needs.

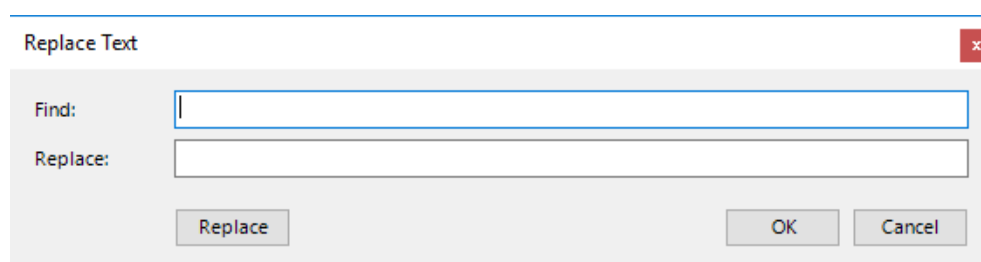
When you are done with setting up the connection and query, you will see a preview of the data in the preview area.



Uncheck the **Preview data** checkbox in the event that you don't need the data to show up here. It will work faster.

It would be a good idea to rename every connection and query, and to use a more meaningful name. You will see the benefits later on when you are assigning text boxes to data connections, for example. To rename a given connection or query, simply select the node from the tree and hit the **Rename** button. Or, just click on the text of the node again to enter the text editing mode.

Finally, you have the replace button. If you want to do a mass find-and-replace on your drive letter, or a folder maybe, then use this button.



Specify the string to find and set the replacement text for each occurrence. Click the **Replace** button to execute your text replacements.

Refresh button.

The refresh button in the connection group will requery all of the data connections and refresh all of the shapes linked. This button is only needed in design mode. Note that when you are designing the presentation, automatic requerying of the data connections is disabled. This will give you better performance and no interference when you are designing your presentation. So, if you would like to see an update, or when you are expecting a data update, just click the **Refresh** button.

When you start the slide show, all internal timers to refresh data connections are active and working. During the slide show, DataPoint will look at the refresh options that you have specified, and refresh or requery the data connection accordingly.

Caching.

Our data caching technology is very powerful. If you have less critical information, like RSS feeds, or maybe information that takes a very long time to get into your database, then you could really benefit by caching the data.

Caching means that the data results of a data connection are written as a local temporary file on your hard disk. If you have set a data connection to refresh every 15 minutes, and you stop a presentation after a few minutes and restart it again a few seconds later, then DataPoint is clever enough to determine that a refresh of the data in the database or data provider is not needed. It can start with the locally stored cache file, which still holds accurate information. When you restart the slide show after a longer wait than your refresh rate, then and only then will a new physical refresh from the data provider be requested.

Now, we will go into specific details about each data provider.

4.1. Facebook connections

Use the Facebook data provider in order to display some general information on a page or company — name of the company, address, telephone number, numbers of likes and checkins, etc.

Select the **Facebook Page** data provider and click the **Add query** button.

dp Facebook Page

Facebook URL: Find

Data refresh rate

Interval: seconds

Use proxy

Use proxy server

Server:

Port:

Username:

Password:

Advanced Reactivate OK Cancel

Next, click the **Find** button to locate a specific Facebook page.

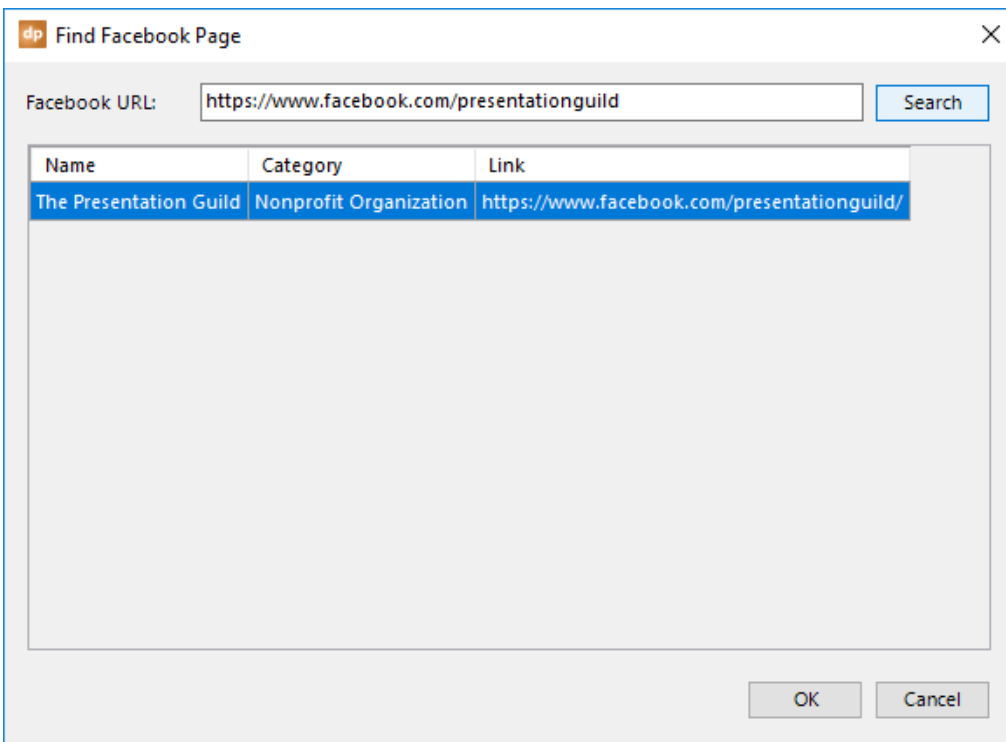
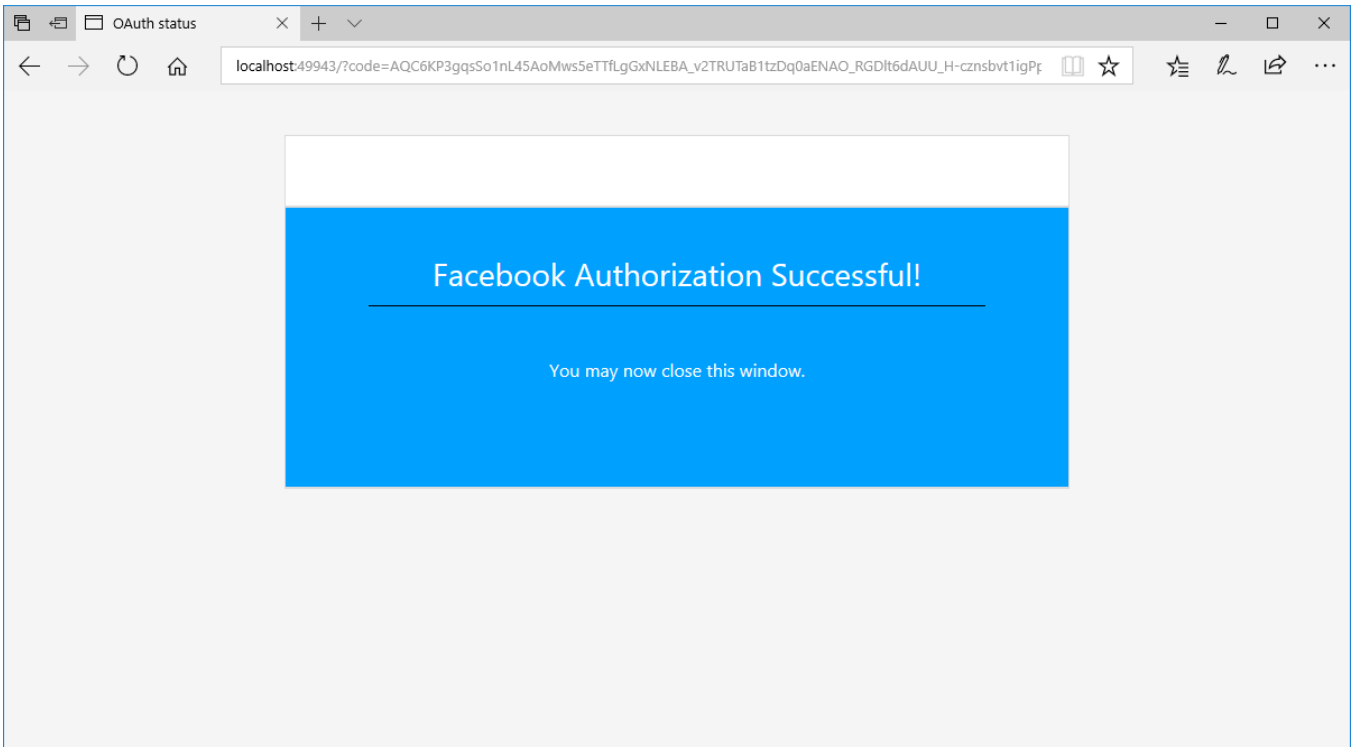
dp Find Facebook Page

Facebook URL: Search

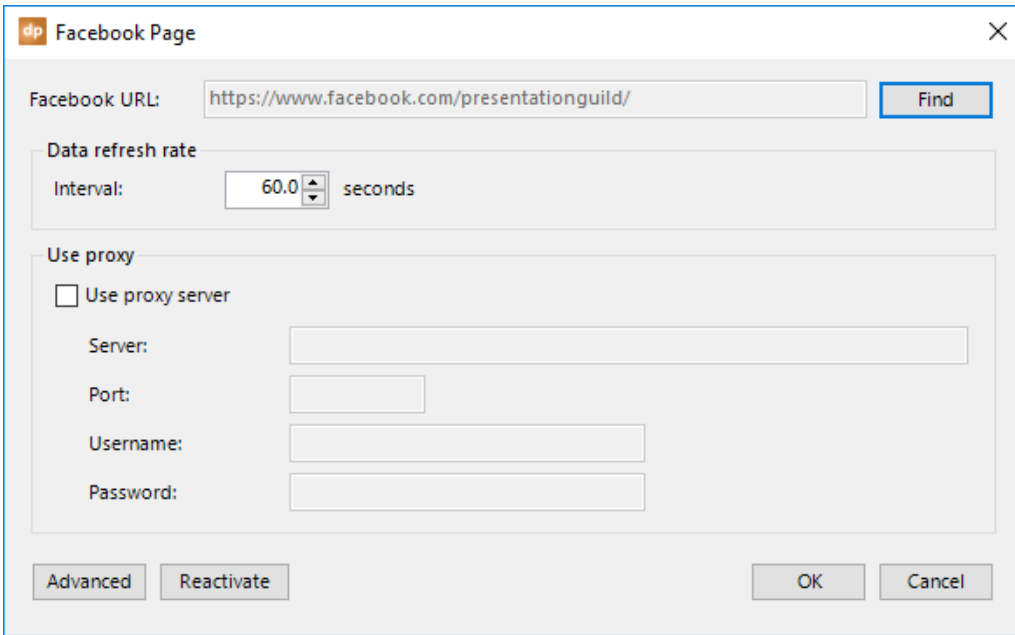
OK Cancel

Here, you will enter your search terms to find a given page or company. Enter one or more search terms and click the **Search** button.

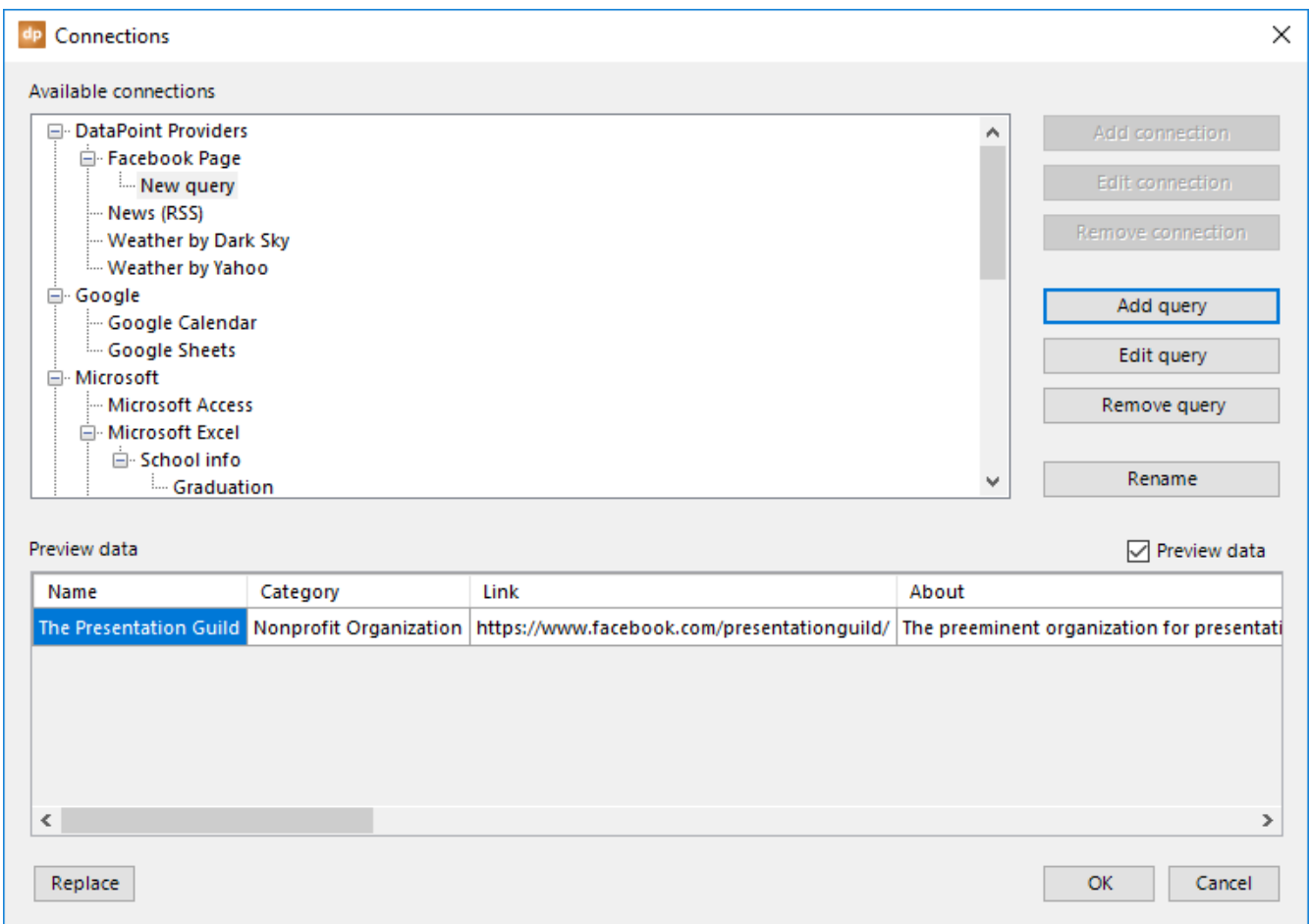
When you execute this for the first time, a browser page will be opened where Facebook asks you if you grant DataPoint access to your Facebook account.



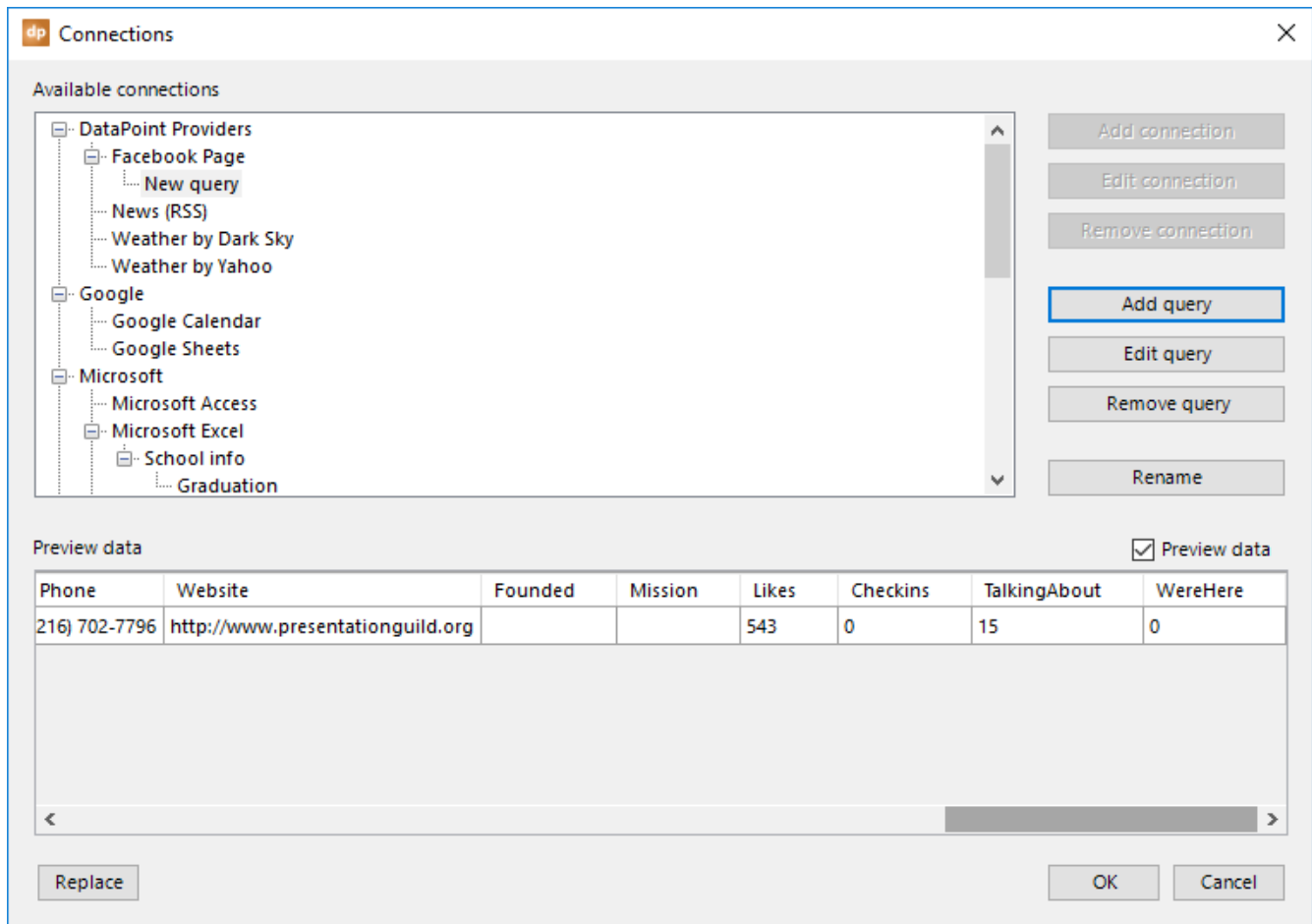
Select the page that you want to monitor and click **OK** to close this selection.



With these default settings, DataPoint will requery the Facebook information every 60 seconds. You can always change this interval based on your requirements.

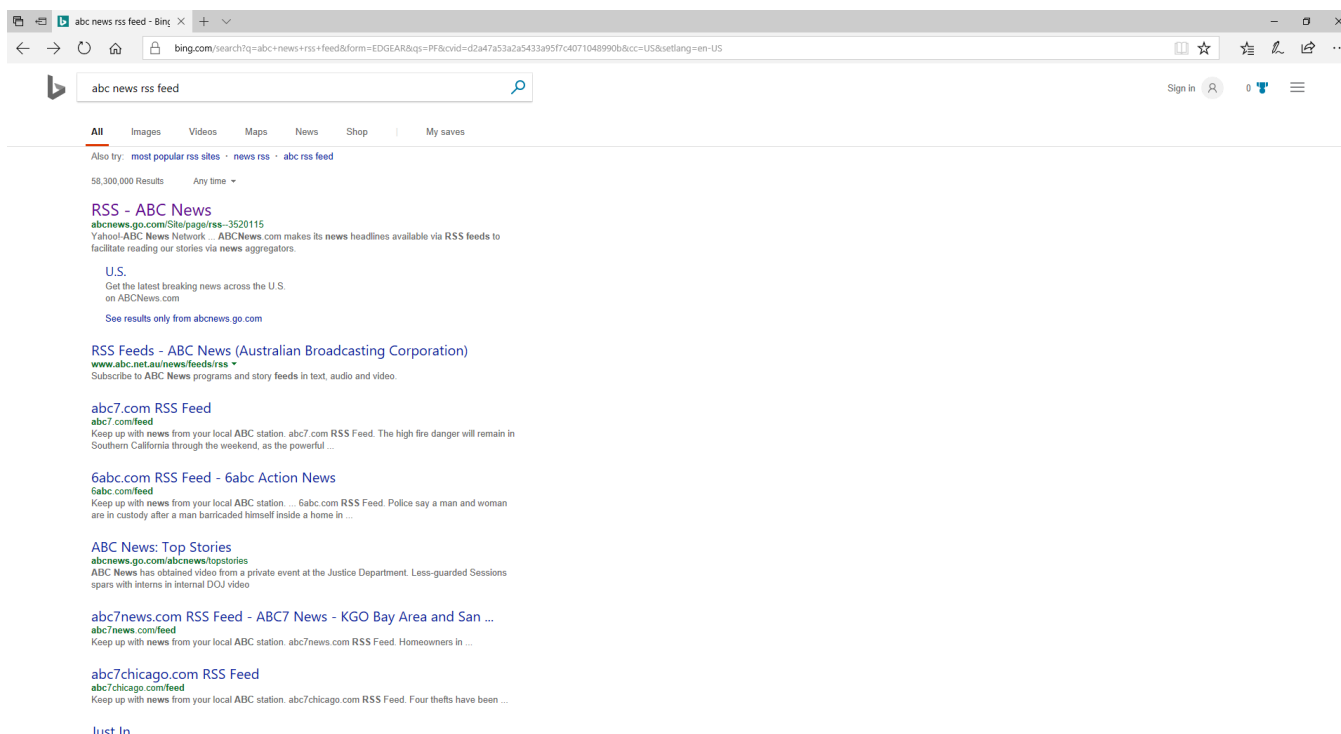


Finally, you will get a preview of the data returned by this page. Typically, people want to show the number of likes, checkins, talking about, and were here figures.

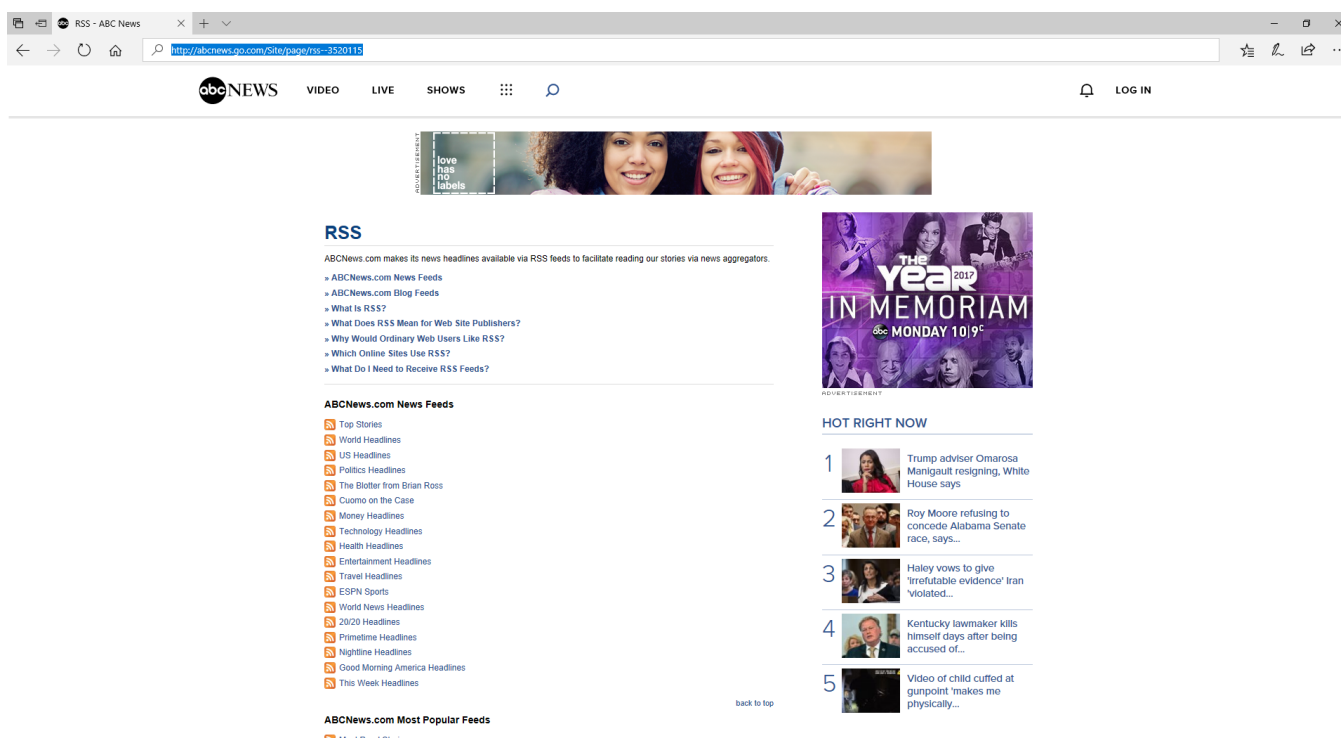


4.2. RSS news connections

To display real-time news on your slide, you need to know the RSS feed URL of the newspaper that you want to use. For example, search the internet for 'ABC News RSS feed.'



When you open the page found, most often you will find yourself on a page that lists the various feeds that they are providing.



Select whatever category you want to display. We will use the travel headlines for this document. The URL at the time of writing is

<http://abcnews.go.com/abcnews/travelheadlines>

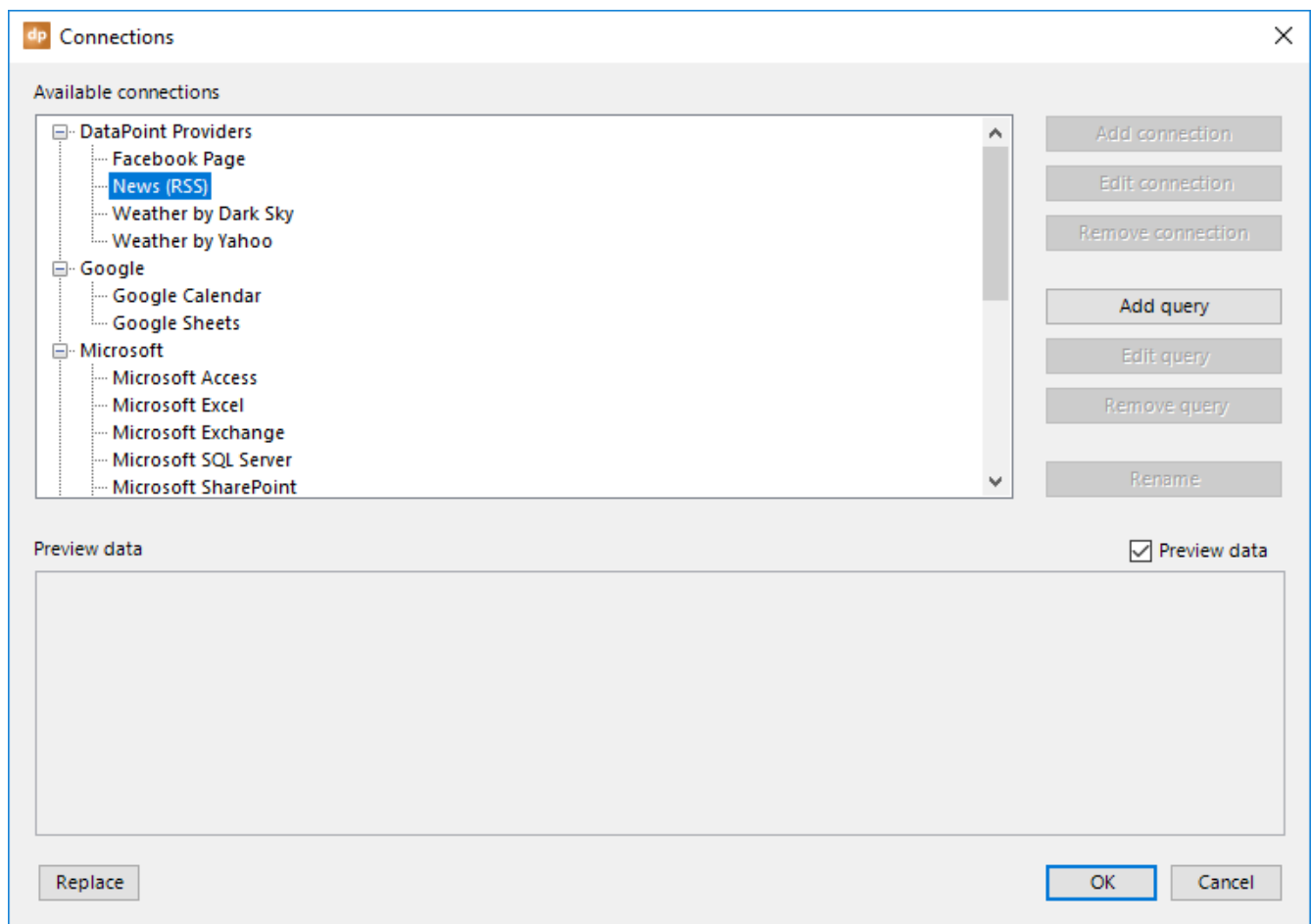
. This might change, so always keep that in mind. Open the RSS feed link and it typically looks like this:

```

<?xml version="1.0"?>
<rss xmlns:abcnews="http://abcnews.com/content/" xmlns:media="http://search.yahoo.com/mrss/" version="2.0">
  <channel>
    <title>ABC News: Travel</title>
    <link>http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/</link>
    <description/>
    <image>
      <title>ABC News: Travel</title>
      <url>http://a.abcnews.com/images/site/abcnews_google_rss_logo.png</url>
      <link>http://abcnews.go.com/Travel/</link>
    </image>
    <item>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="288" width="384" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_4x3_384.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="108" width="144" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_4x3_144.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="288" width="384" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_4x3_384.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="135" width="240" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_16x9_240.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="456" width="608" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_4x3_608.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="ABCNews.com" height="558" width="992" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/171212_vod_orig_crusesMIX_16x9_992.jpg"/>
      <media:keywords>1</media:keywords>
    <title>
      <![CDATA[
        Best luxury cruises for 2017
      ]]>
    </title>
    <link>
      <![CDATA[
        http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/best-luxury-cruises-2017/story?id=51740514
      ]]>
    </link>
    <guid>
      <![CDATA[
        http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/best-luxury-cruises-2017/story?id=51740514
      ]]>
    </guid>
    <pubDate>Tue, 12 Dec 2017 17:31:49 -0500</pubDate>
    <description>
      <![CDATA[
        Cruise critic names the tops in 14 categories.
      ]]>
    </description>
    <category>Lifestyle</category>
  </item>
  <item>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="288" width="384" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_4x3t_384.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="108" width="144" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_4x3t_144.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="288" width="384" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_4x3t_384.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="135" width="240" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_16x9t_240.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="456" width="608" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_4x3_608.jpg"/>
      <media:thumbnail credit="Jeff Greenberg/UTG via Getty Images" height="558" width="992" url="http://a.abcnews.com/images/Lifestyle/australia-gty-02-jpo-171201_16x9_992.jpg"/>
      <media:keywords>2</media:keywords>
    <title>
      <![CDATA[
        What to see and what to skip in Australia
      ]]>
    </title>
    <link>
      <![CDATA[
        http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/skip-australia/story?id=51515380
      ]]>
    </link>
  </item>
</rss>

```

The URL is what we need in DataPoint. Go to the connections and select the News (RSS) data provider.



Click the **Add query** button.

The image shows a dialog box titled "News" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The "RSS URL" field is highlighted with a blue border and contains the text "http://abcnews.go.com/abcnews/travelheadlines". Below this are three checkboxes: "Use articles with pictures only" (unchecked), "Remove unexisting pictures" (unchecked), and "Download images locally as temporary files" (checked). The "Data refresh rate" section has a label "Data refresh rate" and an "Interval:" field with a spinner box set to "300.0" and the unit "seconds". The "Use proxy" section is titled "Use proxy" and has a checkbox "Use proxy server" which is unchecked. Below this are four input fields labeled "Server:", "Port:", "Username:", and "Password:". At the bottom left is an "Advanced" button, and at the bottom right are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

Paste the RSS URL at the top.

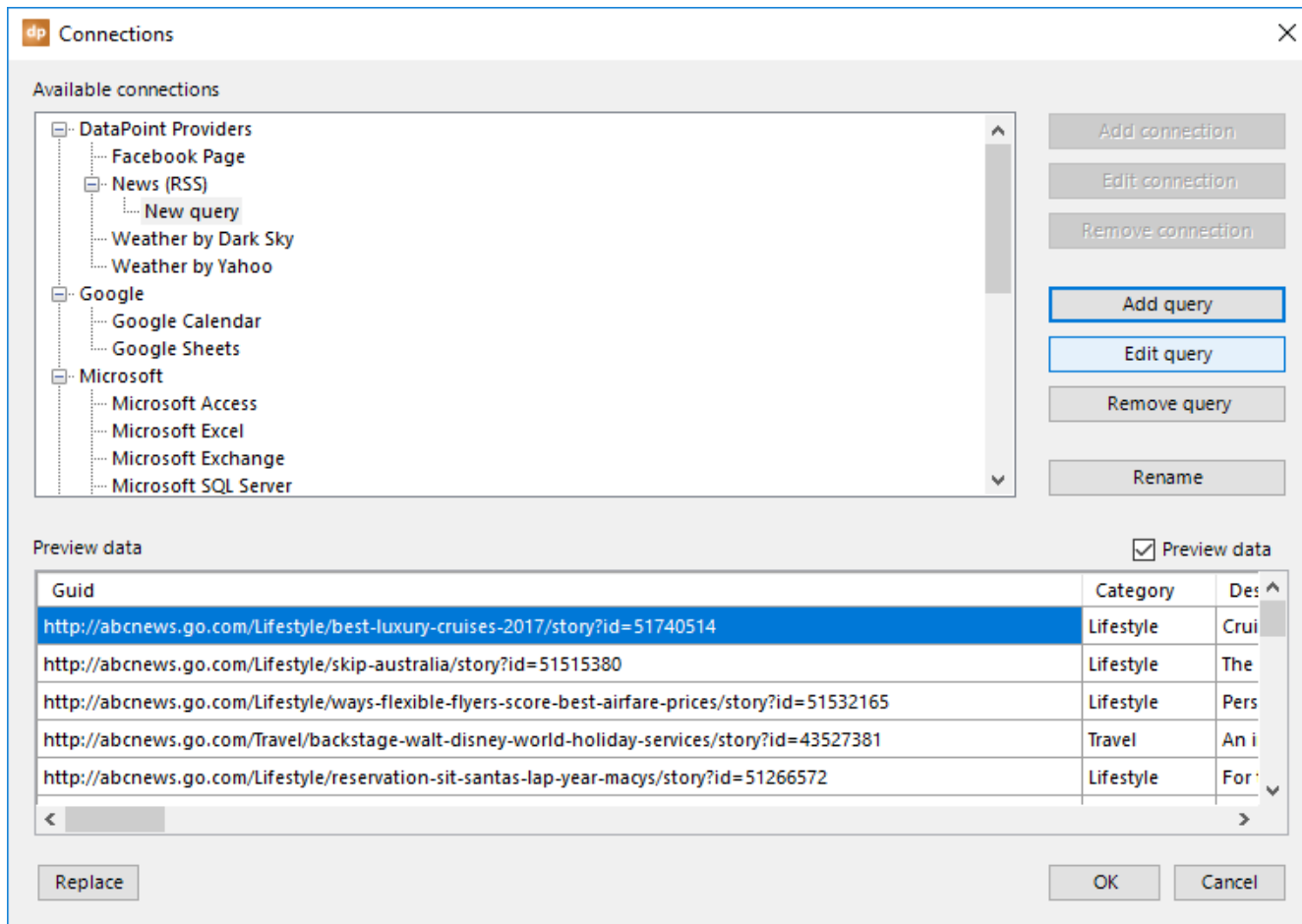
Typically, a good news feed comes with a title, a description with more information, and a featured image that is associated with the news article. If you want a very visual slide with images, then you can check the option **Use articles with pictures only**. Articles without a specified image will be deleted automatically from the news feed.

In some cases, you might see an image URL, but when you use that URL in a browser, it might be missing. This is a typical 404 browser error. To remove feeds with incorrect or broken links, just check the **Remove unexisting pictures** option.

By default, all images will have a HTTP or HTTPS address. If you want to display that directly, it will work, but also cause internet traffic and be much slower than a local image. Therefore, you can instruct the RSS news provider to pre-download the internet images and store them as local temporary files. The news data provider will also take care of cleaning up the temporary files on your system.

A refresh rate determines how often you want to check the RSS feed for updates. Typically, a 5-minute interval (or 300 seconds) is sufficient.

In addition, when your company network is protected and secured by a firewall, you might have to enter your firewall credentials to access the internet. Check this out with your network administrator.

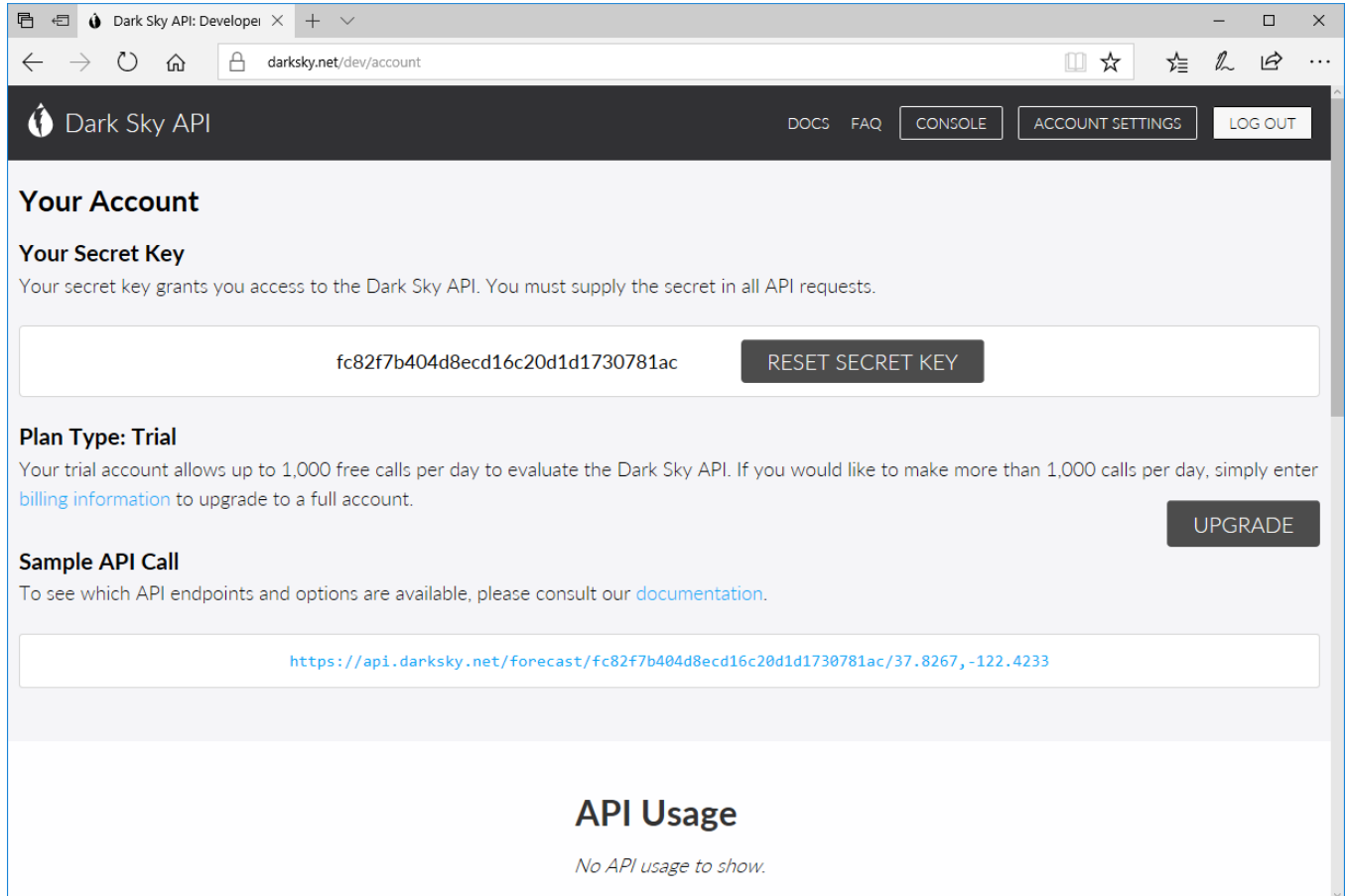


4.3. Weather by Dark Sky connections

Weather information is omnipresent on information screens. With DataPoint, you can choose to collect local weather information and forecasts via the Dark Sky API provider.

To add a Dark Sky weather feed, select the **Weather by Dark Sky** data provider and click the **Add query** button.

In order to connect to the Dark Sky weather API, you need to sign up at <https://darksky.net/dev>(<https://darksky.net/dev>)
. Once completed, you get a secret key that you have to use in all of your communications.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `darksky.net/dev/account`. The page header includes the Dark Sky API logo and navigation links for `DOCS`, `FAQ`, `CONSOLE`, `ACCOUNT SETTINGS`, and `LOG OUT`. The main content area is titled **Your Account** and contains the following sections:

- Your Secret Key**: A text box displays the secret key `fc82f7b404d8ecd16c20d1d1730781ac` next to a `RESET SECRET KEY` button. Below this, a note states: "Your secret key grants you access to the Dark Sky API. You must supply the secret in all API requests."
- Plan Type: Trial**: A note explains that the trial account allows up to 1,000 free calls per day. A link for [billing information](#) is provided to upgrade to a full account. An `UPGRADE` button is located to the right.
- Sample API Call**: A note directs users to consult the [documentation](#). Below this, a text box shows a sample API call: `https://api.darksky.net/forecast/fc82f7b404d8ecd16c20d1d1730781ac/37.8267,-122.4233`.
- API Usage**: A section titled **API Usage** with the text *No API usage to show.*

There's no need to use the key listed here, as it has already been reset. But copy and paste the secret key on the data provider form.

The screenshot shows a configuration window titled "Weather by Dark Sky". It includes the following fields and options:

- API Key: `fc82f7b404d8ecd16c20d1d1730781ad`
- Latitude: [Empty text box] <https://darksky.net/dev/>
- Longitude: [Empty text box] <http://www.latlong.net/>
- Include data: Currently, Hourly, Daily
- Scale: Fahrenheit (°F), Celsius (°C)
- Language: English (dropdown menu)
- Icon set: icon set 1 (dropdown menu)
- Data refresh rate: Interval: 900.0 seconds
- Use proxy: Use proxy server
 - Server: [Empty text box]
 - Port: [Empty text box]
 - Username: [Empty text box]
 - Password: [Empty text box]

Buttons: Advanced, OK, Cancel

To specify the location, you need to input the latitude and longitude of your location. Visit <https://www.latlong.net/> to translate a city into latitude and longitude coordinates.

Enter the name of the city and the state or country, and copy over the latitude and longitude values.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.latlong.net/>. The page title is "Get Latitude and Longitude". Below the title, there is a search form with a "Place Name" input field containing "New York" and a "Find" button. Below the search form, there are two input fields for "Latitude" (40.712775) and "Longitude" (-74.005973). There are also social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Google+, and Twitter. To the right of the search form is a Chrome advertisement with the text "Secure web browsing, by Google." and a "GET CHROME NOW" button. Below the search form is a satellite map of New York City with a red pin at the coordinates (40.712775, -74.005973). The map shows various landmarks and streets, including Battery Park, City Hall, and the New York City Police Department.

And the form looks like this:

Weather by Dark Sky

API Key:

Latitude: <https://darksky.net/dev/>

Longitude: <http://www.latlong.net/>

Include data: Currently
 Hourly
 Daily

Scale: Fahrenheit (°F) Celsius (°C)

Language:

Icon set:

Data refresh rate
Interval: seconds

Use proxy
 Use proxy server

Server:

Port:

Username:

Password:

Advanced OK Cancel

Note that you need to enter the latitude and longitude with a dot (and no comma)!

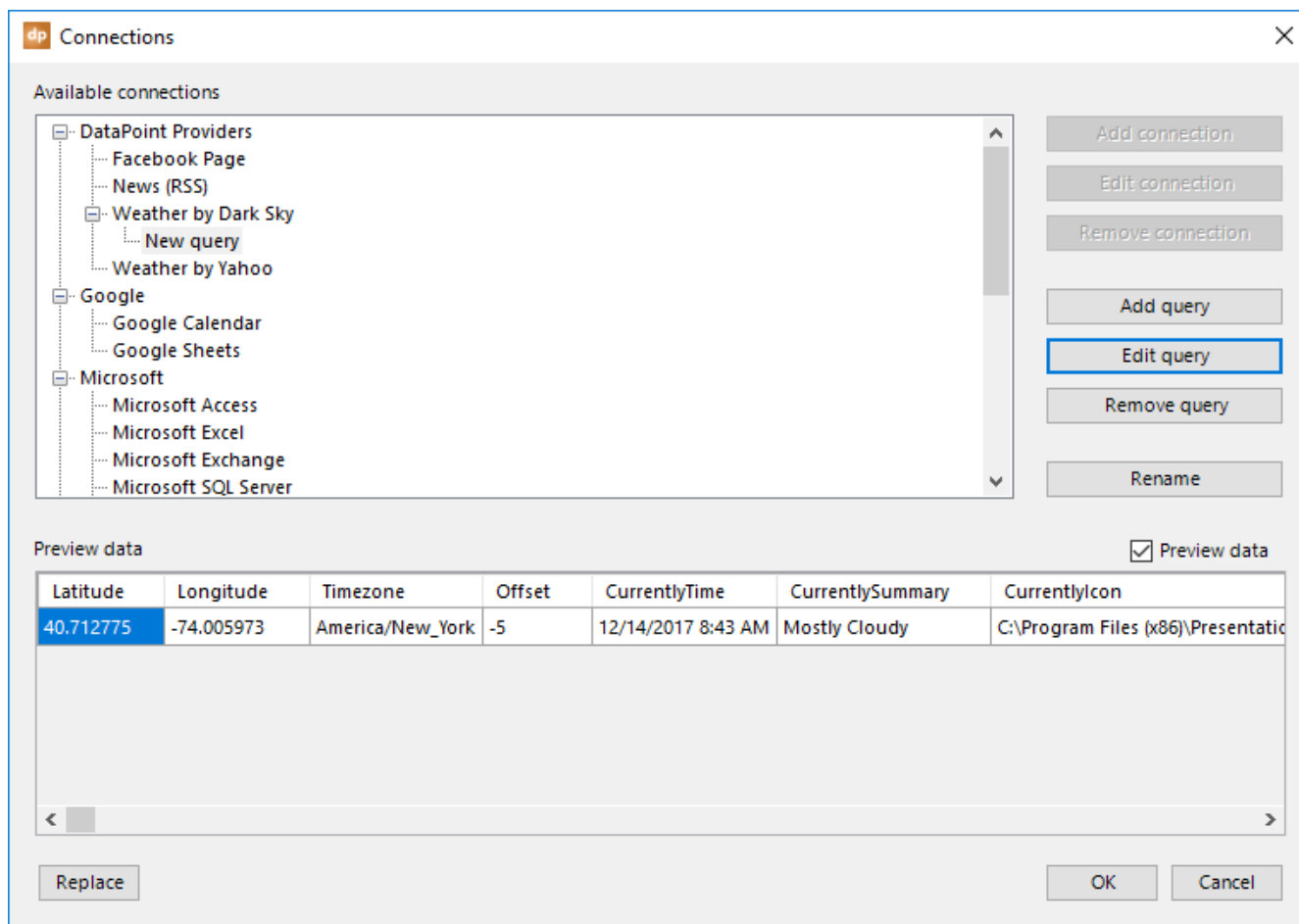
Check **Currently** to include the current weather observation data; **Hourly** for the prognoses every hour; and **Daily** for the weather forecasts for the coming days. Typically for weather slides, current and daily are selected.

Choose to use **Fahrenheit** or **Celsius** as the unit for temperature values.

If needed, you can add an icon set to the icon set listing. Maybe you don't want to use our default weather icons and you want to use your own set of icons in the same color as your company logo. That is possible. Go to the folder C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Standard edition\weather icons\2 and duplicate the existing folder named **icon set 1**. Name the duplicate folder something like "icon set 2" and change the icon files as you like. Now, when you reopen the data provider, you will see an additional icon set listed there.

A refresh rate determines how often you want to check the weather API for updates. Typically, a 15-minute interval (or 900 seconds) is sufficient.

In addition, when your company network is protected and secured by a firewall, you might have to enter your firewall credentials to access the internet. Check this out with your network administrator.



The columns returned from the weather API are typically:

- Latitude
- Longitude
- Timezone
- Offset
- CurrentlyTime
- CurrentlySummary
- CurrentlyIcon: this is the weather icon that can be used as a dynamic picture
- CurrentlyPrecipIntensity
- CurrentlyPrecipProbability
- CurrentlyTemperature
- CurrentlyApparentTemperature
- CurrentlyDewPoint
- CurrentlyHumidity
- CurrentlyWindSpeed
- CurrentlyWindBearing
- CurrentlyCloudCover
- CurrentlyPressure
- CurrentlyOzone

And then for each day, you will get a block of information. The 0x will vary, using 00 for today, 01 for tomorrow, 02 for the day after tomorrow, etc.

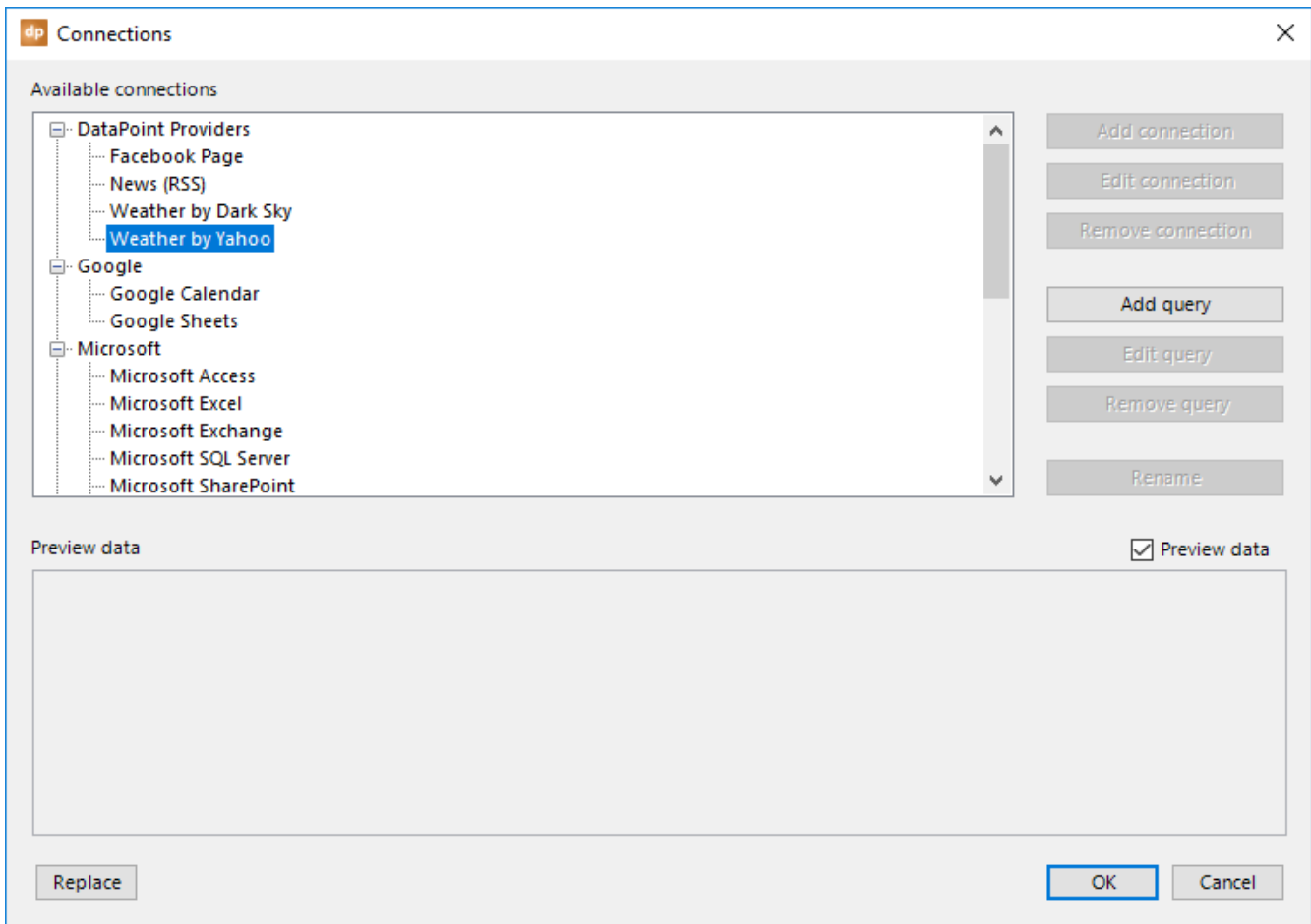
- Daily0xTime
- Daily0xSummary

- Daily0xIcon: this is the weather icon that can be used as a dynamic picture
- Daily0xSunriseTime
- Daily0xSunsetTime
- Daily0xMoonPhase
- Daily0xPrecipIntensity
- Daily0xPrecipIntensityMax
- Daily0xPrecipProbability
- Daily0xTemperatureMin
- Daily0xTemperatureMinTime
- Daily0xTemperatureMax
- Daily0xTemperatureMaxTime
- Daily0xApparentTemperatureMin
- Daily0xApparentTemperatureMinTime
- Daily0xApparentTemperatureMax
- Daily0xApparentTemperatureMaxTime
- Daily0xDewPoint
- Daily0xHumidity
- Daily0xWindSpeed
- Daily0xWindBearing
- Daily0xCloudCover
- Daily0xPressure
- Daily0xOzone

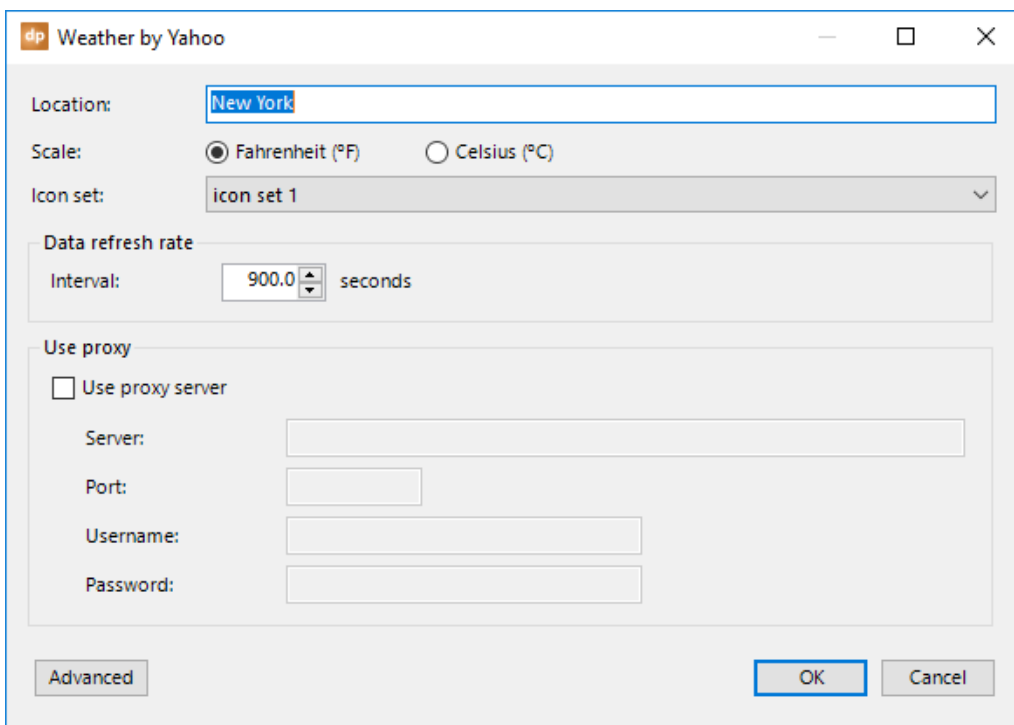
For a full description of all of these field, please consult the Dark Sky API documentation.

4.4. Weather by Yahoo connections

DataPoint can perfectly show real-time weather from the Yahoo weather engine. To set up a connection to the weather API, click the **List** button in the **Connections** group, select the **Weather by Yahoo** node, and click the **Add query** button.



Enter the name of the city, and optionally, the state or country, to make it unique.



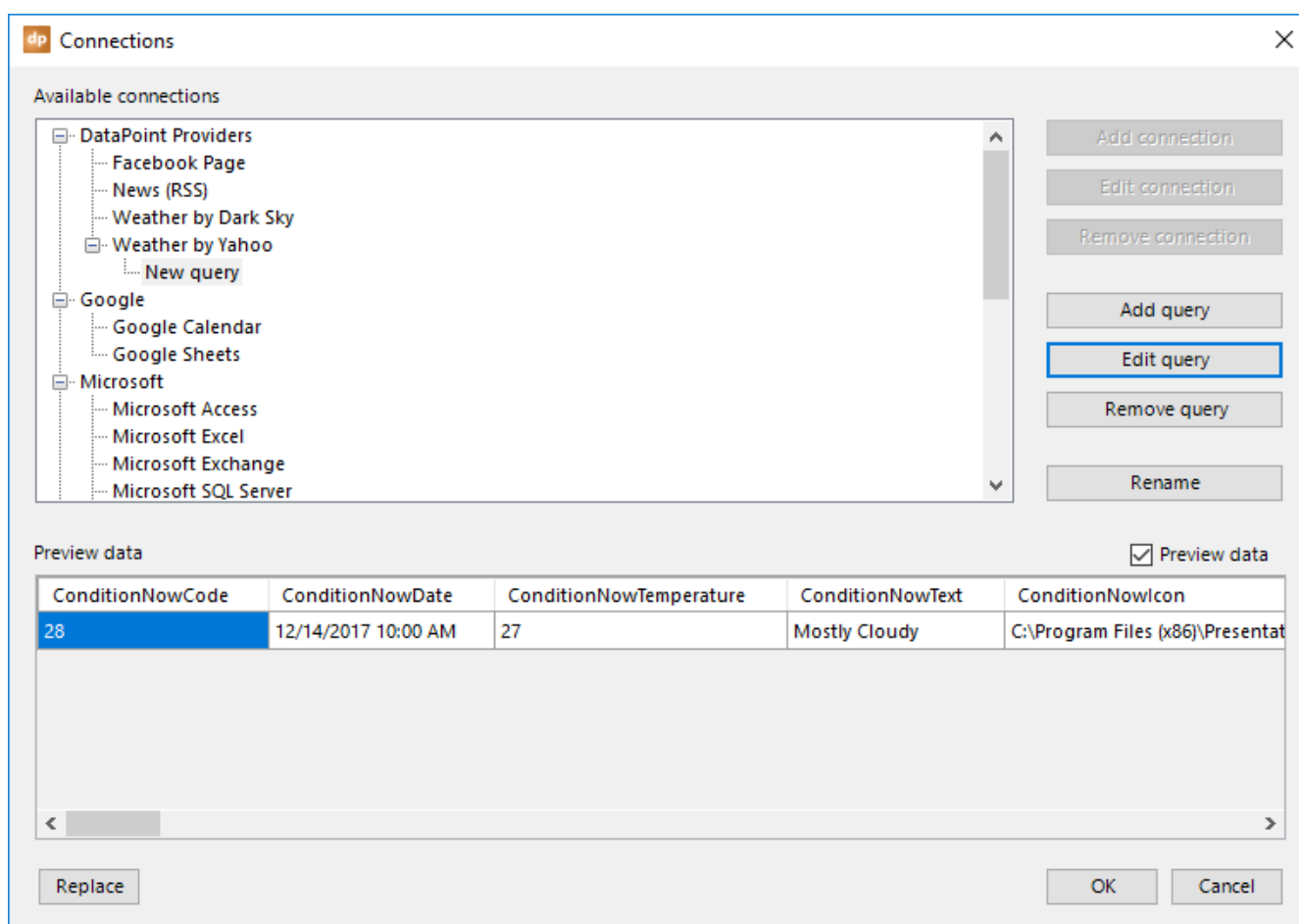
Choose to use **Fahrenheit** or **Celsius** as the unit for temperature values.

Select the icon set that you want to use. By default, the Yahoo weather feed in DataPoint comes with two icon sets. Icon set 1 with white weather icons and icon set 2 with black weather icons.

If needed, you can add an additional icon set to the icon set listing. Maybe you don't want to use our default weather icons and you want to use your own set of icons in the same color as your company logo. That is possible. Go to the folder `C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Standard edition\weather icons\1` and duplicate the existing folder named **icon set 1**. Name the duplicate folder something like "icon set 3" and change the icon files as you would like to see them. Now, when you reopen the data provider, you will see an additional icon set listed there.

A refresh rate determines how often you want to check the weather API for updates. Typically, a 15-minute interval (or 900 seconds) is sufficient.

In addition, when your company network is protected and secured by a firewall, you might have to enter your firewall credentials to access the internet. Check this out with your network administrator.



The columns returned from the weather API are typically:

- ConditionNowCode: internal Yahoo weather type
- ConditionNowDate
- ConditionNowTemperature: current temperature measured
- ConditionNowText: current weather condition in text
- ConditionNowIcon: this is the weather icon that can be used as a dynamic picture

And then for each day, you will get a block of information. The Dx will vary, using D0 for today, D1 for tomorrow, D2 for the day after tomorrow, etc. They go from D0 to D4, in total.

- ConditionDxCode: internal Yahoo weather type
- ConditionDxDate: full date
- ConditionDxDay: abbreviated day, like Sun, Mon, Tue, etc.
- ConditionDxLow: lowest temperature
- ConditionDxHigh: highest temperature
- ConditionDxText: predicted general weather condition in text
- ConditionDxIcon: this is the weather icon that can be used as a dynamic picture

And some more information:

- LocationCity
- LocationCountry
- LocationRegion
- UnitsDistance
- UnitsPressure
- UnitsSpeed
- UnitsTemperature
- WindChill
- WindDirection
- WindSpeed
- AtmosphereHumidity
- AtmospherePressure
- AtmosphereRising
- AtmosphereVisibility
- AstronomySunrise
- AstronomySunset

For a full description of all of these field, please consult the Yahoo weather API documentation.

Normally, all days (abbreviated days) and weather condition texts are translated by DataPoint into your local language. For example, "Sun" (for Sunday) becomes "So" in German or "Zo" in Dutch. And the text "Thunderstorms" is translated "Gewitter" in German, or "Onweer" in Dutch.

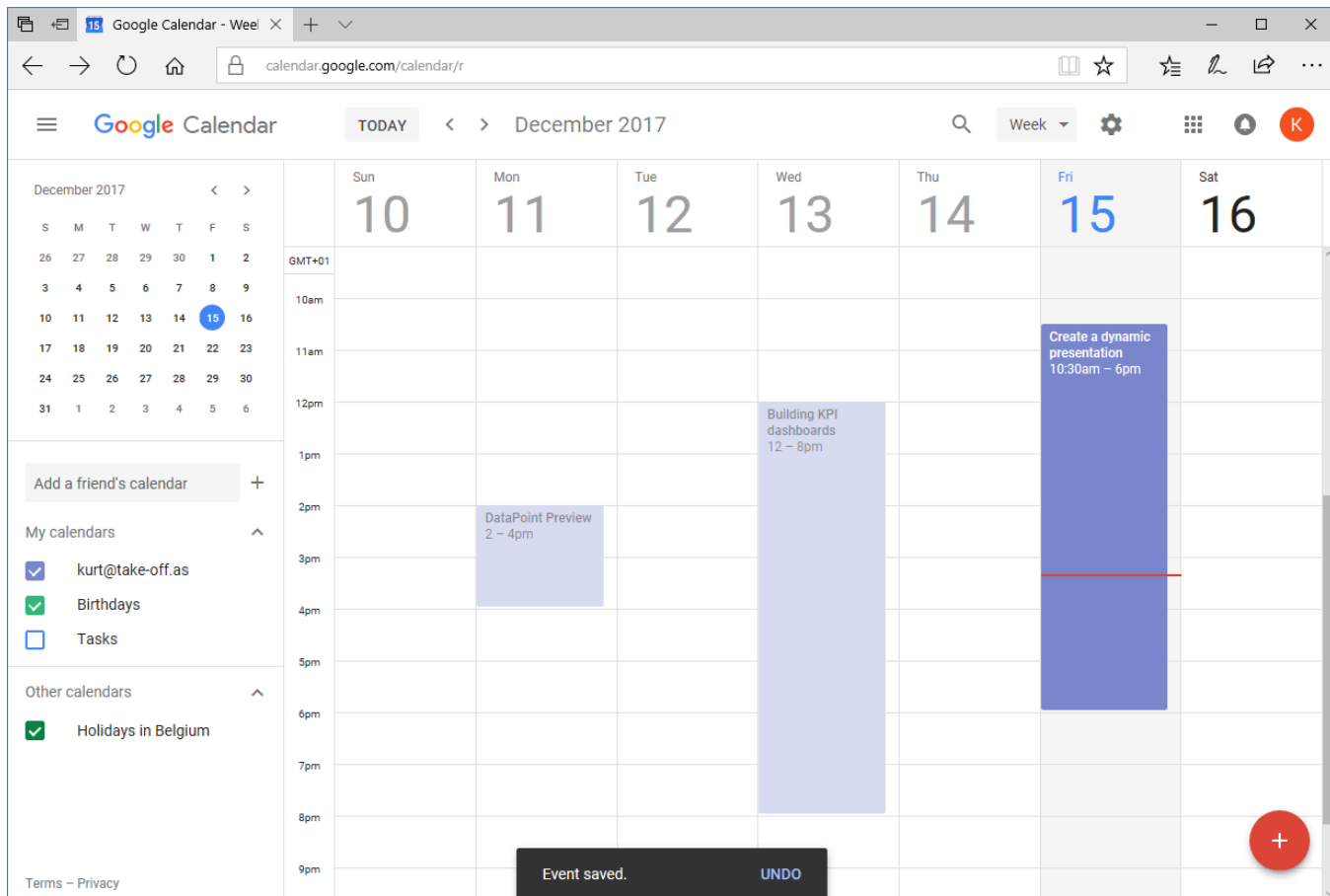
DataPoint translates these texts based on the language that you have set with the region & language options on your control panel. If the texts are not translated automatically into your language, it probably means that your language is not covered yet. Contact us if you are willing to translate the English weather conditions into your language.

4.5. Google Calendar connections

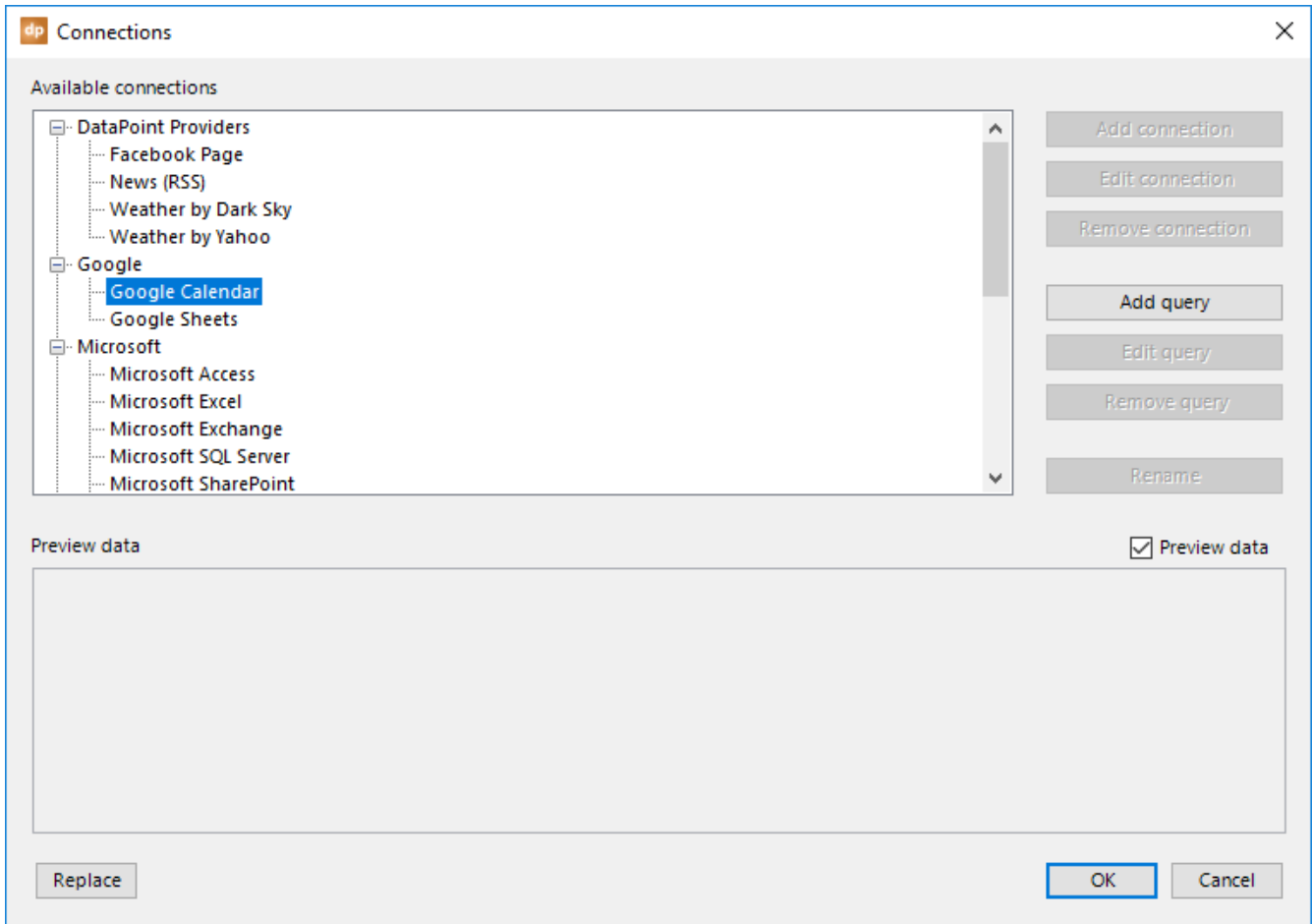
Google Calendar is a great webservice that you can use to maintain your calendars. The advantage of this is that you can use your computer, as well as your smartphone, to consult and edit your appointments when you are on the road.

Why not use Google Calendar as a data feed for the messages or appointments on your information screens?

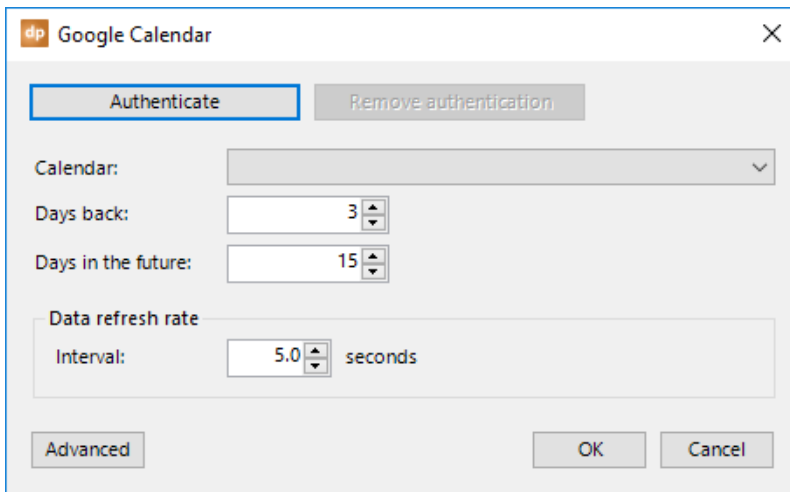
A typical Google Calendar web interface looks like this.



To start with a Google Calendar feed in your presentation, click the **List** button in the **Connections** group and select the **Google Calendar** node from the list of data providers. Then click the **Add query** button.

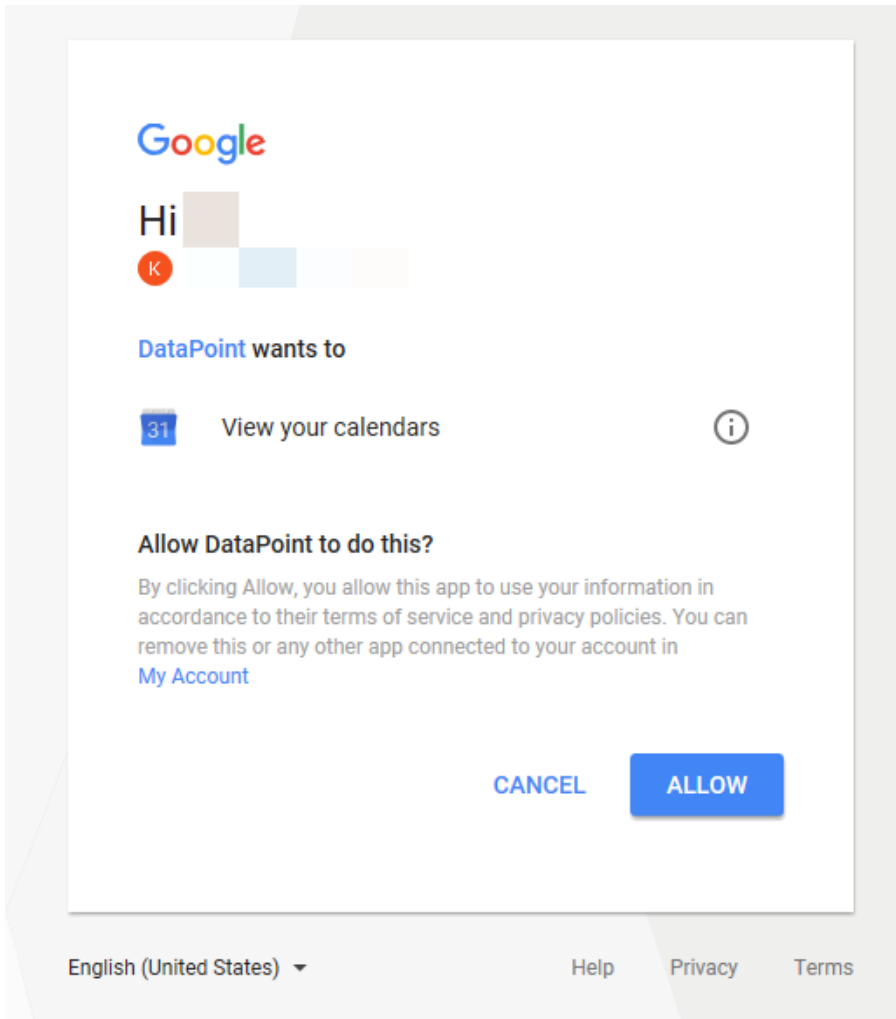


For this first time, click the **Authenticate** button.

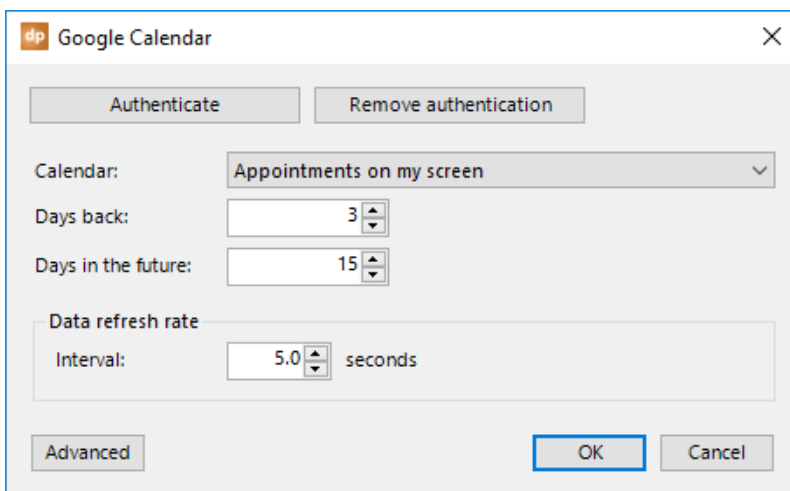


It will open a page in your web browser where you can log on to your Google Calendar account with your email address and password.

After that, Google will ask your permission to share your calendar with DataPoint.



After granting this permission, you can go back to PowerPoint and choose which calendar you want to read out from the calendar list.

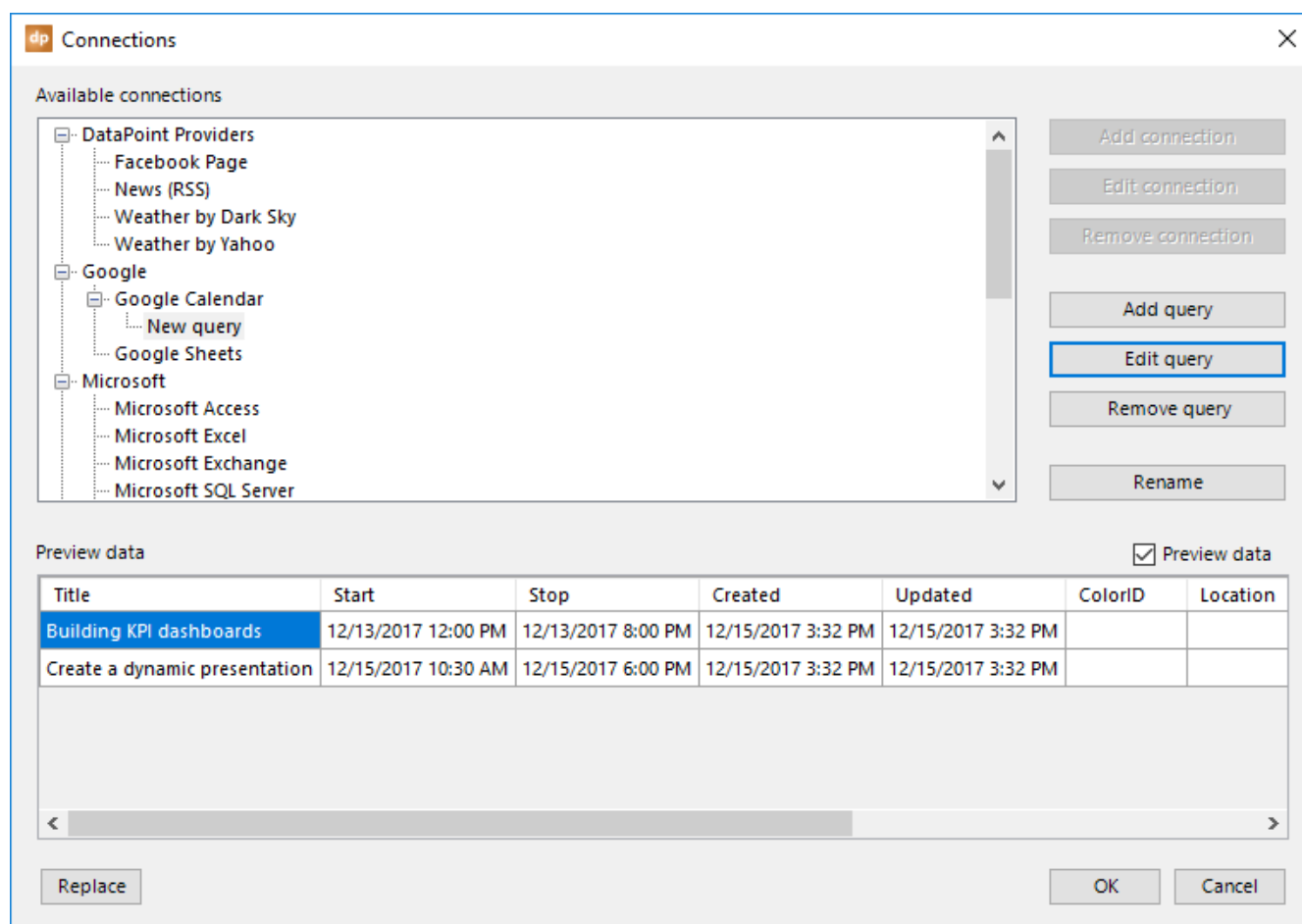


As an option, you can change the time period of the meetings that you want to select; for example, you can skip appointments that are older than yesterday and look only 15 days into the future.

A refresh rate determines how often you want to check for calendar updates. Change this number to fit your needs.

You can use the Remove authentication button if you want to disconnect DataPoint's access to your Google Calendar.

Click **OK** to close.

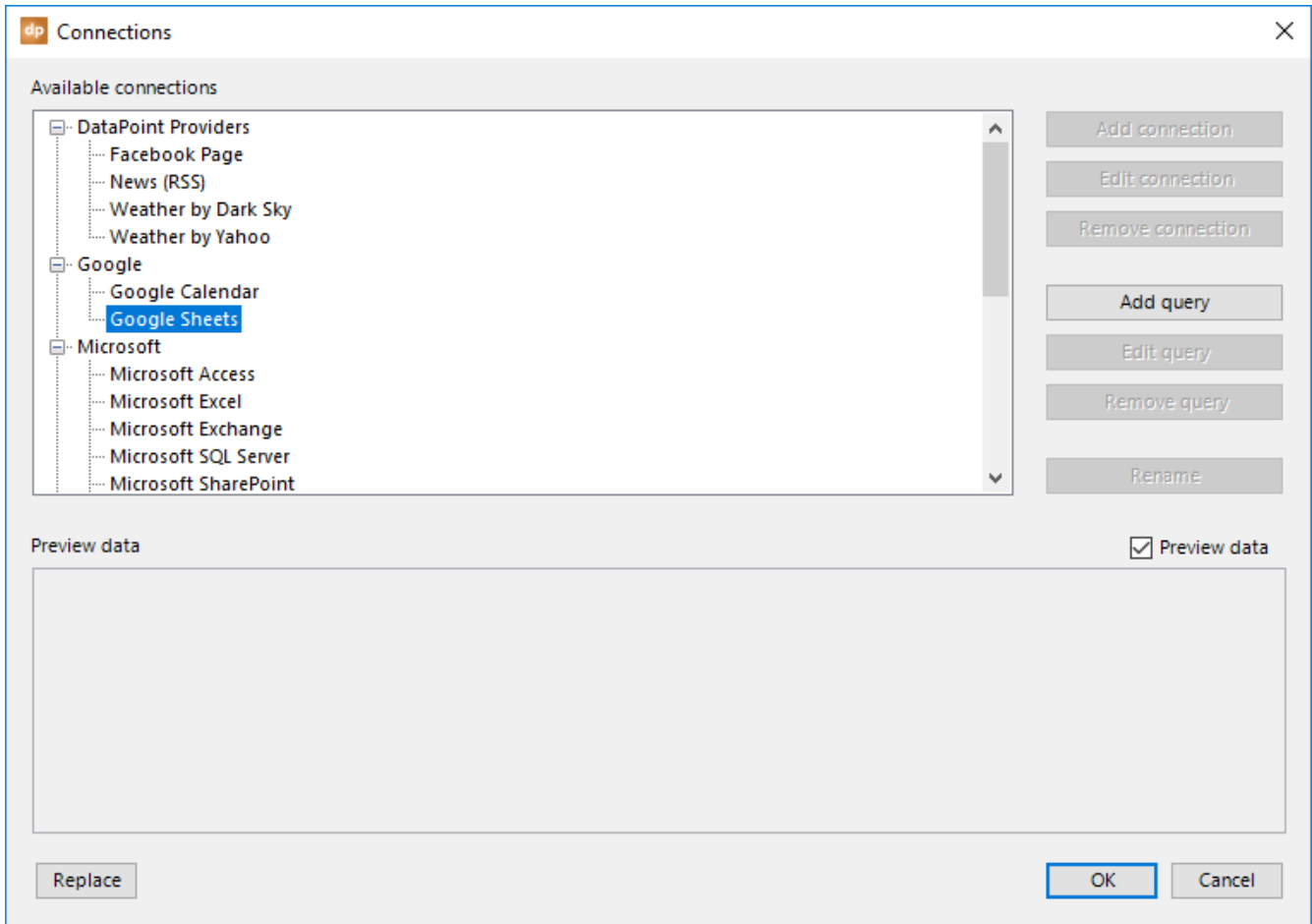


The Google Calendar events are now synchronized to your presentation.

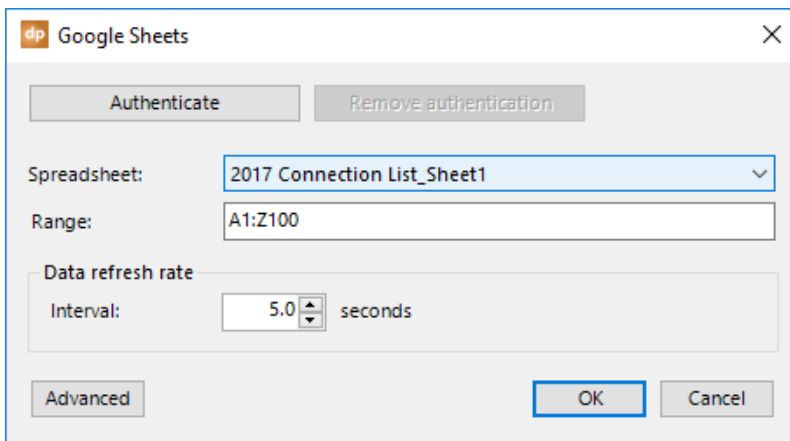
4.6. Google Sheets connections

Google Sheets is a web-based spreadsheet that you can use in the cloud. DataPoint can read off the data from your sheets in real-time and you can display this information on your screen with live updates.

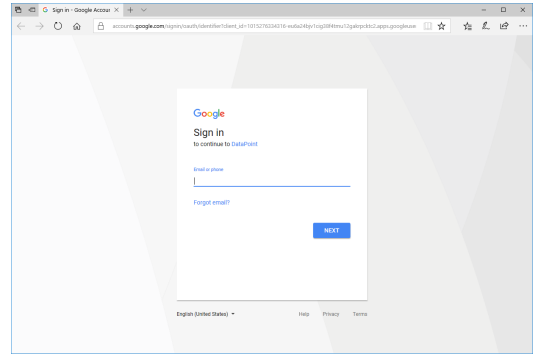
Click the **List** button of the **Connections** group, select the **Google Sheets** data provider, and click the **Add query** button.



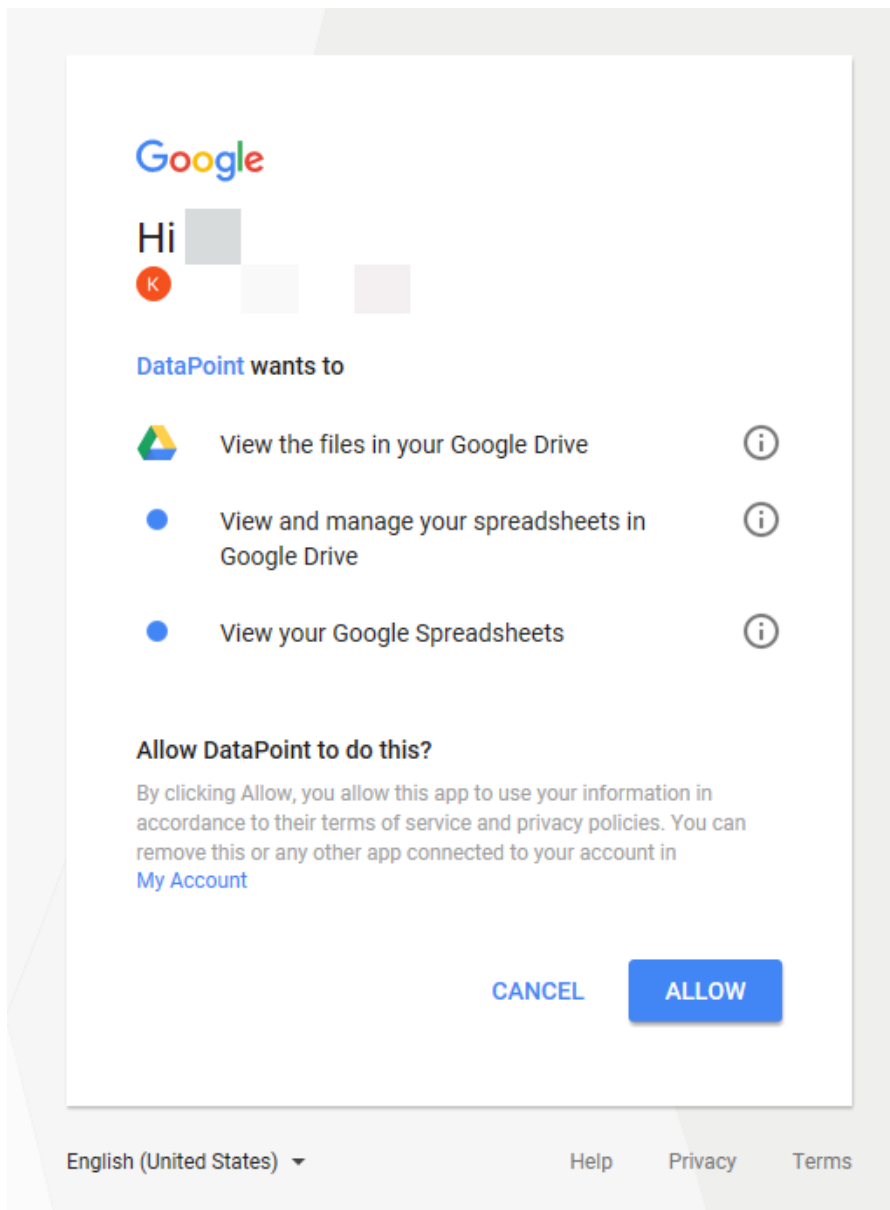
Click the **Authenticate** button in order to log on to Google services and files.



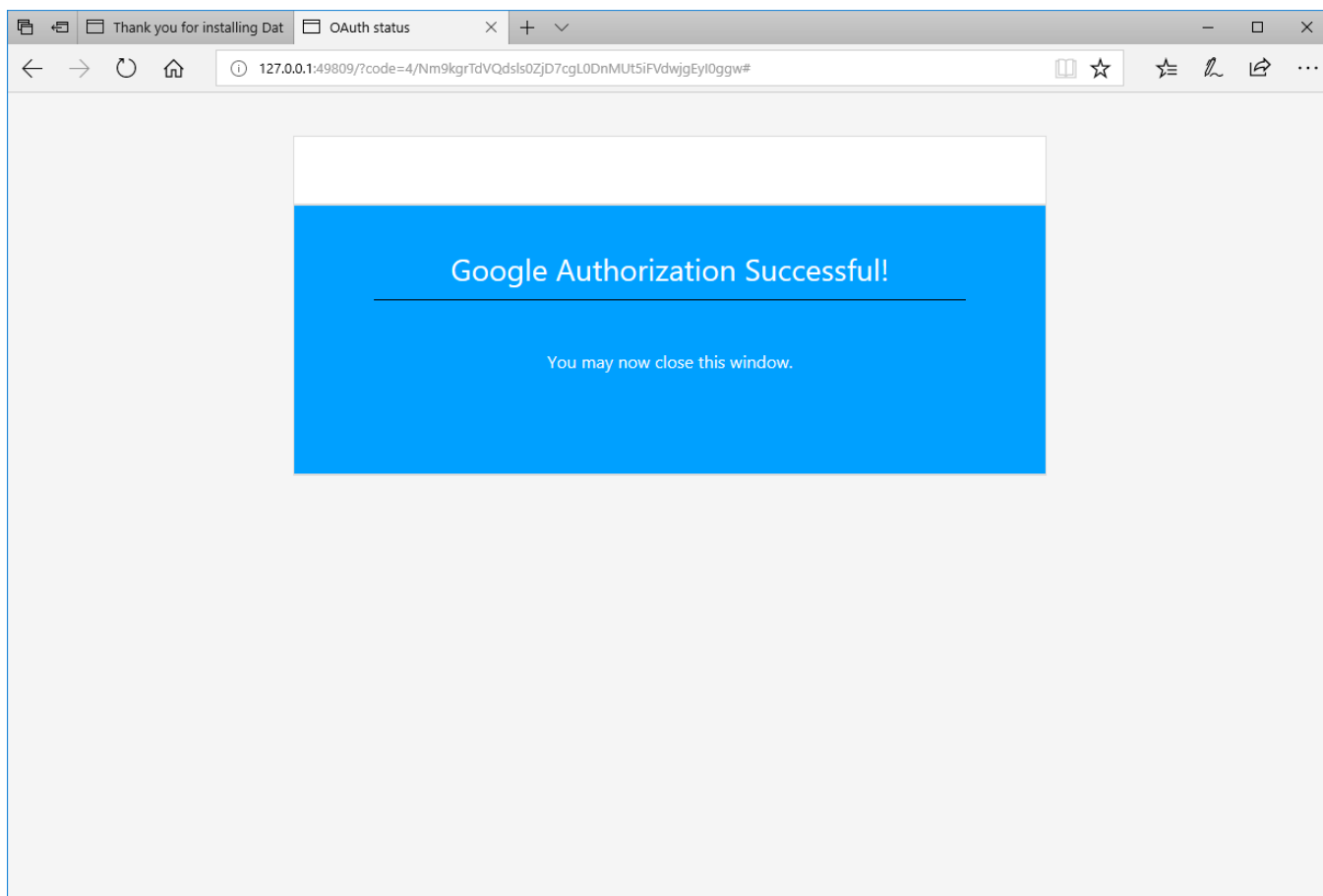
Log on with the email address and password of your Google account.



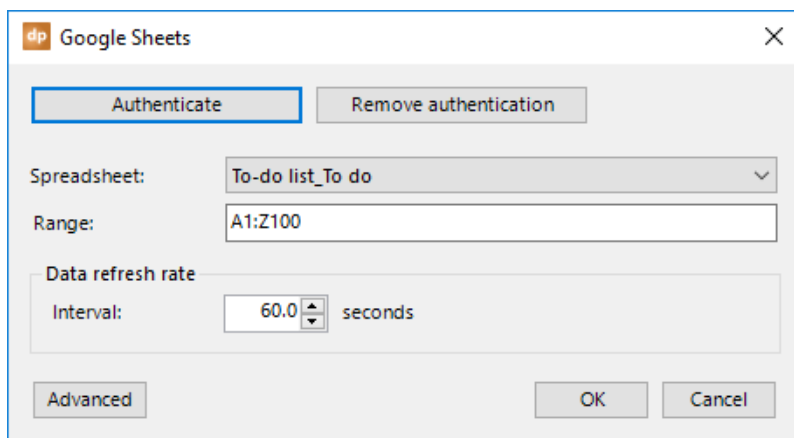
It will ask your permission to allow DataPoint to access your Google Sheets data and files.



Click **Allow**.



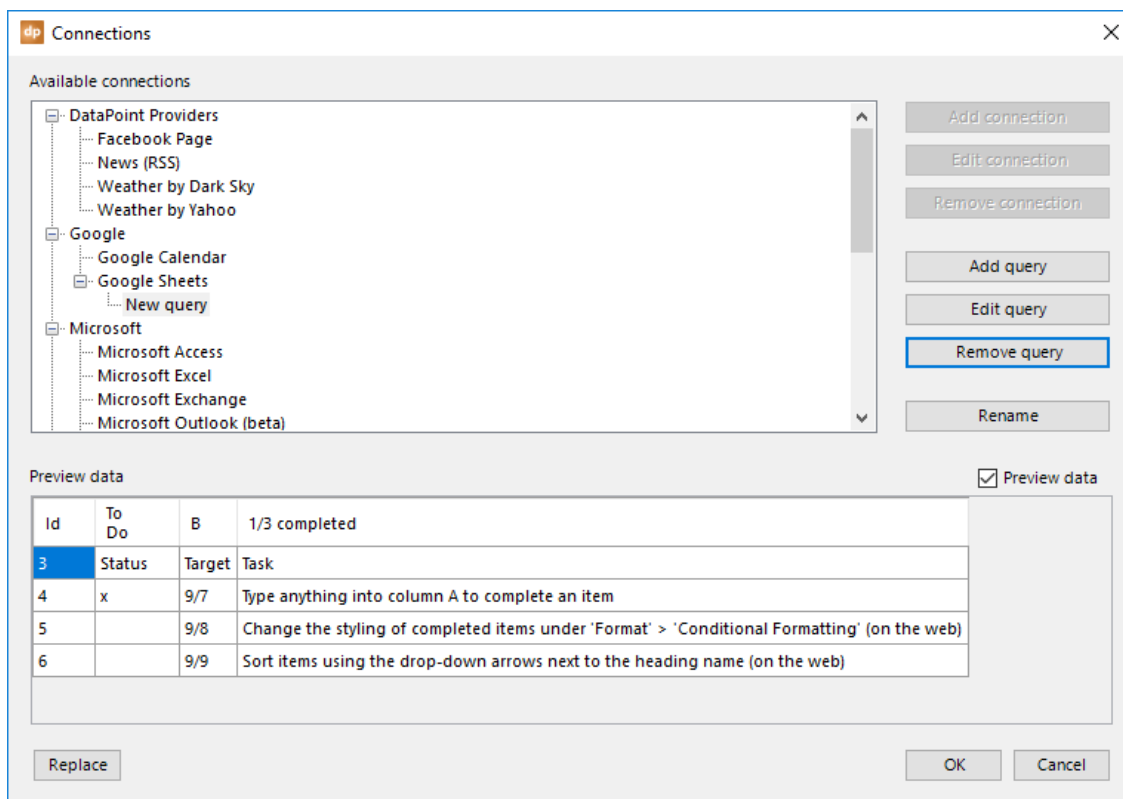
Next, you can select the **spreadsheet** that you want to use. The name of the spreadsheet is basically a combination of the spreadsheet name itself and the sheet name.



Further options include the maximum import range of the data that you want to read. A1:Z100 reads all cells from row 1 of column A to row 100 of column Z. Set Z100 to e.g. Z600 if you have more than 100 potential data rows. Make your base selection large enough to avoid data lost later on. Empty rows at the end will be removed from the data table.

A refresh rate determines how often you want to check for calendar updates. Change this number to fit your needs.

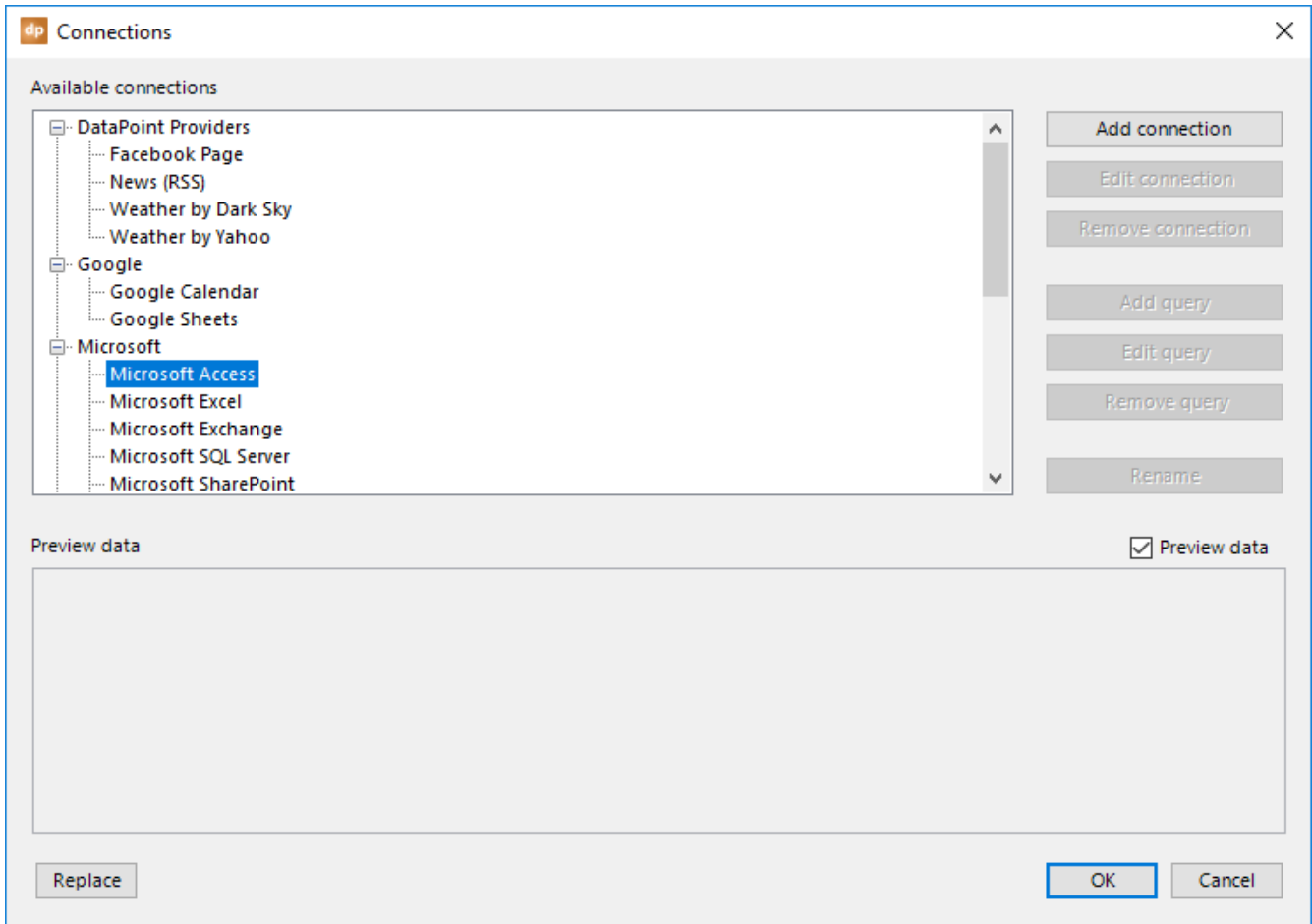
Click **OK** to close.



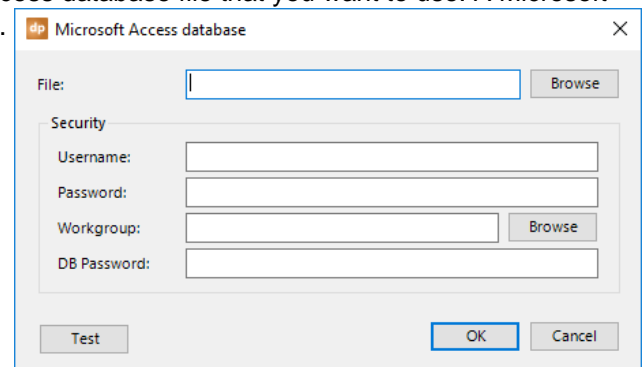
4.7. Microsoft Access connections

A simple Microsoft Access database is so often used by companies and sports clubs. Everyone has it and it is less complex to configure than the larger, relational database systems. Very often, you will see that what starts as a simple database to quickly store some information can grow into a very large database of files with many objects. But, that is not a problem. DataPoint can perfectly handle such a database.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Microsoft Access** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the physical database file. So, click the **Add connection** button.



Type in or use the **Browse** button to select the Microsoft Access database file that you want to use. A Microsoft Access database file will have the extension .mdb or .accdb.



Additionally, you can set the workgroup file and log on information when your database is protected by user access rights.

Microsoft Access database

File: C:\Users\John\Desktop\Databases\northwind.i

Security

Username:

Password:

Workgroup:

DB Password:

Click **OK** to close.

A new data connection under the Microsoft Access data provider is added. As of now, you can add queries to this connection. Click the **Add query** button.

Connections

Available connections

- [-] DataPoint Providers
 - Facebook Page
 - News (RSS)
 - Weather by Dark Sky
 - Weather by Yahoo
- [-] Google
 - Google Calendar
 - Google Sheets
- [-] Microsoft
 - [-] Microsoft Access
 - New Microsoft Access connection**
 - Microsoft Excel
 - Microsoft Exchange
 - Microsoft SQL Server

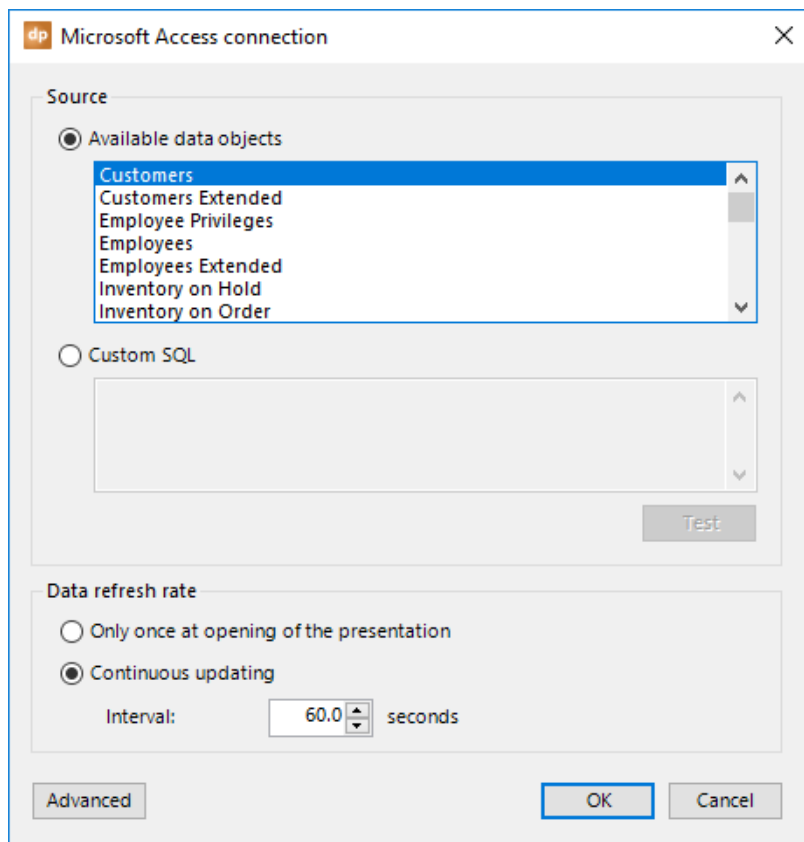
Preview data Preview data

On the next form, you will choose between two options.

First, you will see a list of available data objects that could be found in the database. Typically for Microsoft Access, these are tables and queries defined in your database.

Second, you can type in your own custom SQL statement. This is usually done when you want to filter the rows or

columns of a given existing data object, or when no query is available yet to fit your needs. When you have entered your own SQL statement, you can always validate the correct syntax by clicking on the **Test** button.

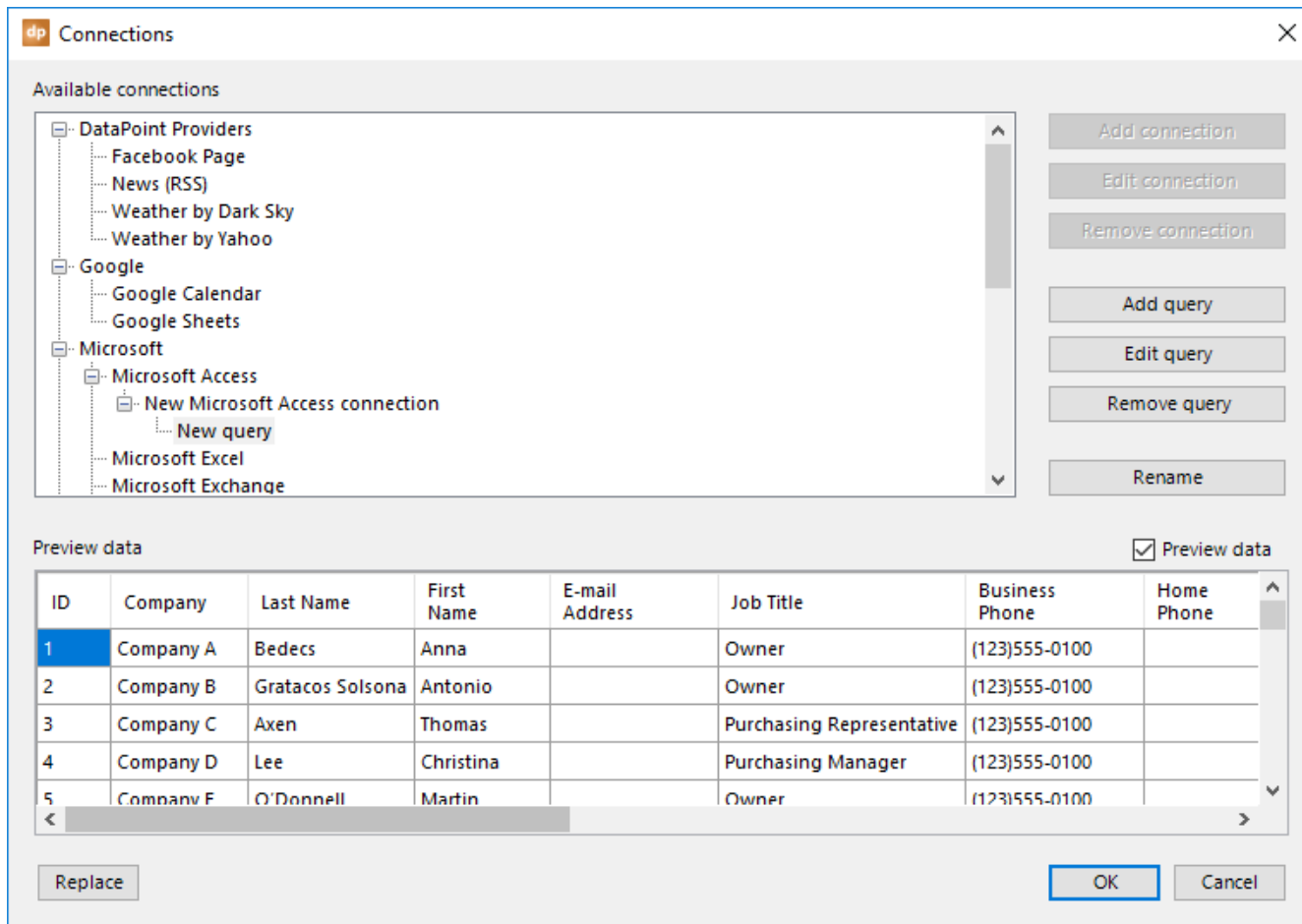


To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, but not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer starts when you begin the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or, use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

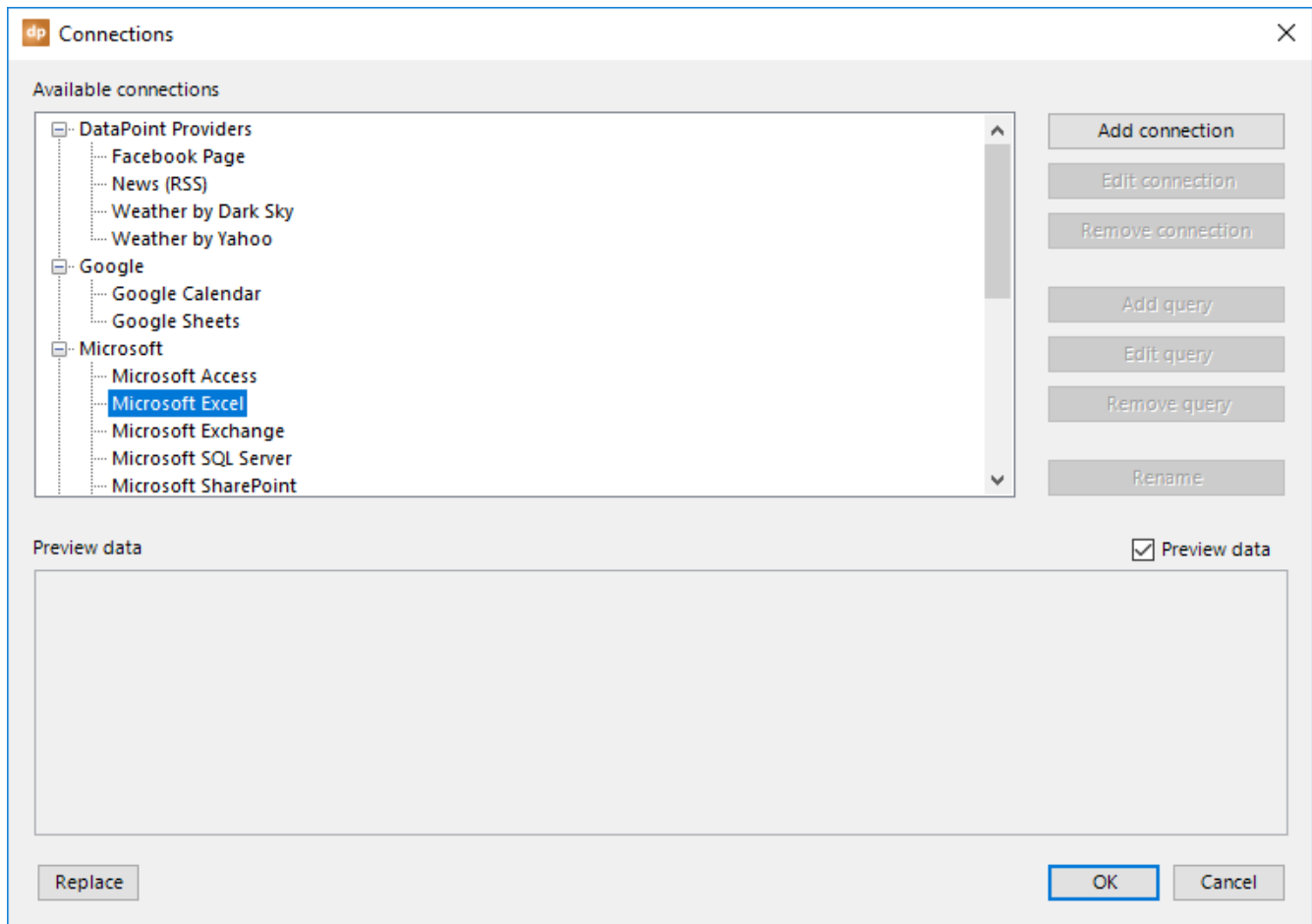
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



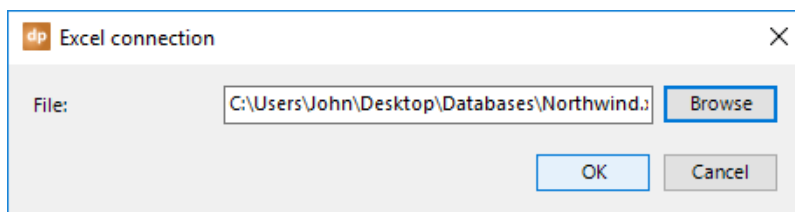
4.8. Microsoft Excel connections

A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet is used even more than a Microsoft Access database. Theoretical, it is not a database at all, but it comes close. A spreadsheet is very similar to a database since it uses a grid of rows and columns, and looks like a database table. Unlike plain text in a Microsoft Word document, this data is structured.

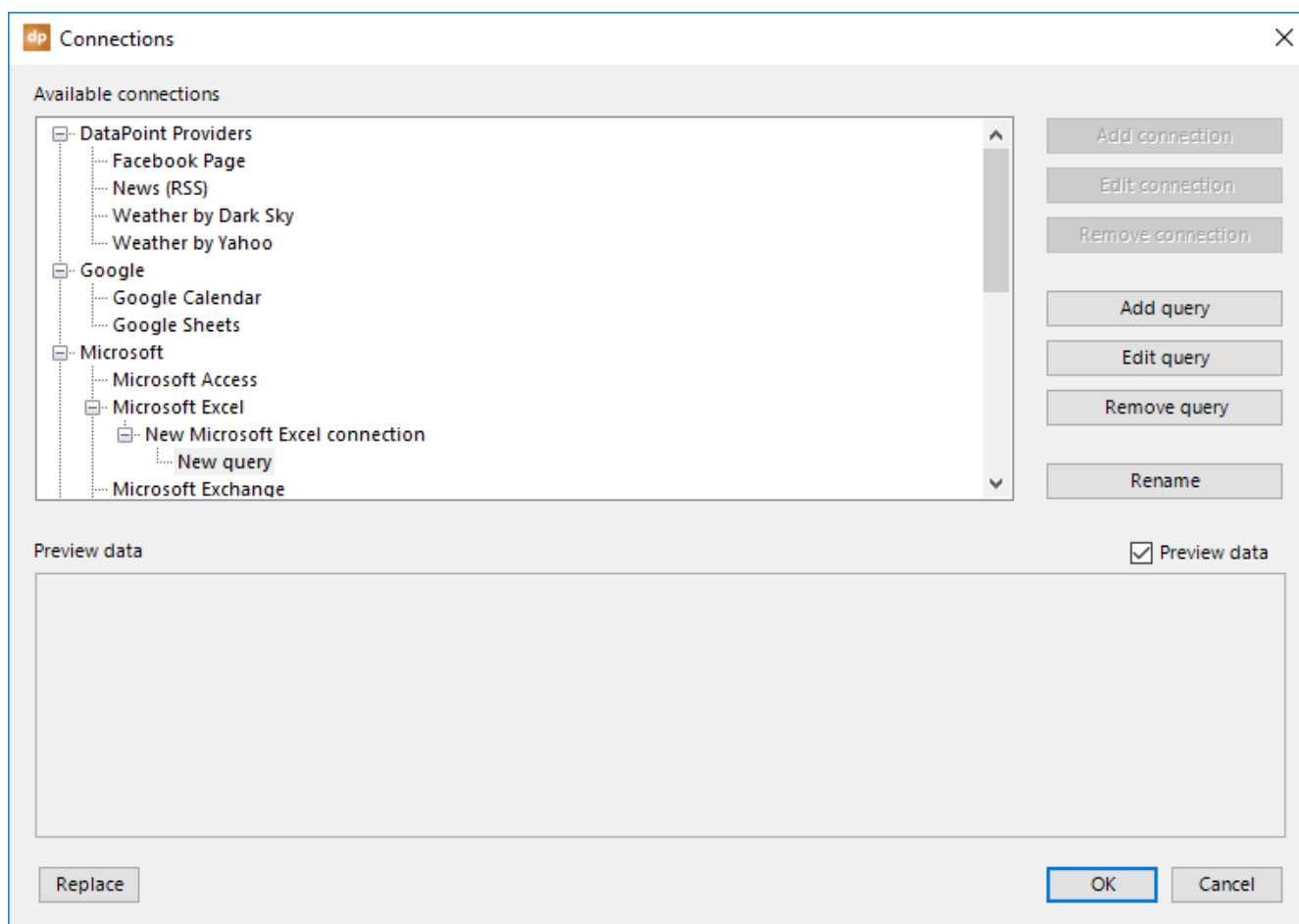
Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Microsoft Excel** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the physical database file. Click the **Add connection** button.



It's very simple now. Use the **Browse** button and select the Microsoft Excel file that you want to work with.



Back at the connections, you can see that the Microsoft Excel file connection is added to the Microsoft Excel data provider. Next, click the **Add query** button.



You can now see a list of sheets. These correspond to the names of the sheets that you have in your Excel file. By default, they are named Sheet1, Sheet2, etc., but it is much better to give each of the sheets in your Excel document a decent name.

21	20	Company	LI	George	Purchasin	(123)555-0100
22	21	Company	Tham	Bernard	Accountin	(123)555-0100
23	22	Company	Ramos	Luciana	Purchasin	(123)555-0100
24	23	Company	Entin	Michael	Purchasin	(123)555-0100

Customers Employees Products (+)

Ready

Select the sheet that you want to use in this presentation.

The range is a typical Microsoft Excel notation. The value A1:Z100 will consider all cells of row 1 and column A until row 100 of column Z. If you have more data, such as more data rows, then extend this import range. If you see 800 data rows, and 5 data columns in your data, then adjust the range to A1:E1000.

Note that empty data rows at the end of your data are ignored as if they were not there.

The dialog box is titled "Excel Worksheet" and contains the following settings:

- Sheet:** A list box with "Customers" selected, and other options "Customers", "Employees", and "Products".
- Range:** A text box containing "A1:Z100".
- Field names:** A checkbox labeled "The first row contains field names" which is currently unchecked.
- Data refresh rate:** Two radio buttons: "Only once at opening of the presentation" (unchecked) and "Continuous updating" (checked). Below the radio buttons is an "Interval:" text box with a spinner set to "60.0" and the unit "seconds".
- Buttons at the bottom: "Advanced", "OK", and "Cancel".

By default, once they are imported, the columns are named F1, F2, F3, etc. There is an option to indicate that the first row of your range is holding the column names. Check this option if you have unique column names in the first row.

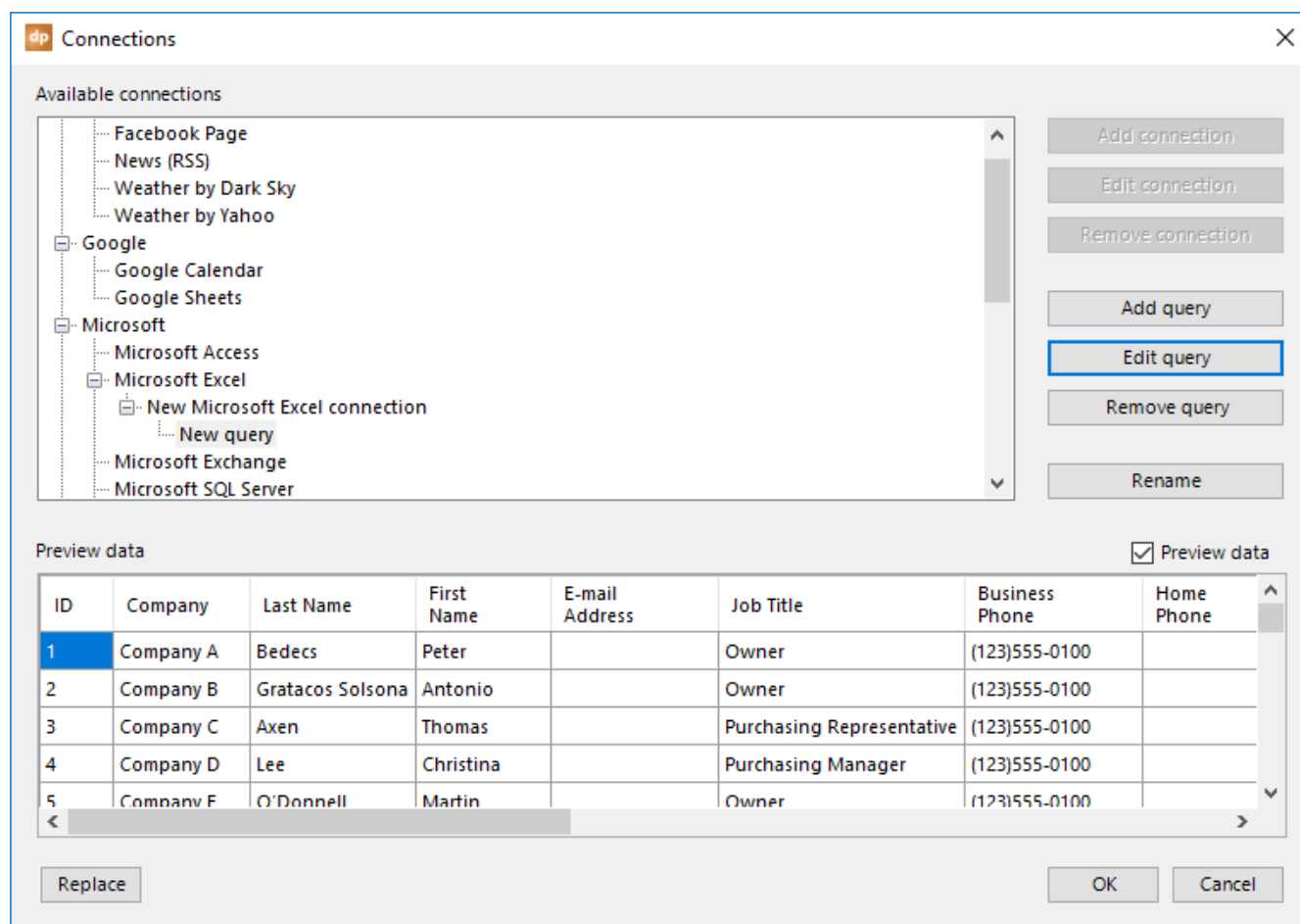
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	ID	Company	Last Name	First Name	E-mail Ad	Job Title	Business F	Home Ph	Mobile Ph	Fax Numb	Address	City	State/Pro	ZIP/Postal	Country/R
2	1	Company	Bedecs	Peter		Owner	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 1st Str	Seattle	WA	99999	USA
3	2	Company	Gratacos	S Antonio		Owner	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 2nd St	Boston	MA	99999	USA
4	3	Company	Axen	Thomas		Purchasin	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 3rd St	Los Angel	CA	99999	USA
5	4	Company	Lee	Christina		Purchasin	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 4th St	New York	NY	99999	USA
6	5	Company	O'Donnell	Martin		Owner	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 5th St	Minneapc	MN	99999	USA
7	6	Company	Pérez-Ola	Francisco		Purchasin	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 6th St	Milwauke	WI	99999	USA
8	7	Company	Xie	Ming-Yang		Owner	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 7th St	Boise	ID	99999	USA
9	8	Company	Andersen	Elizabeth		Purchasin	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 8th St	Portland	OR	99999	USA
10	9	Company	Mortense	Sven		Purchasin	(123)555-0100			(123)555-0100	123 9th St	Salt Lake	UT	99999	USA

To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, but not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.

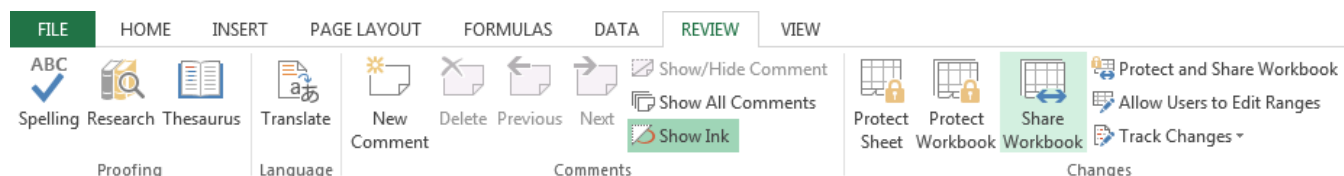


Very important notice for Excel connections!

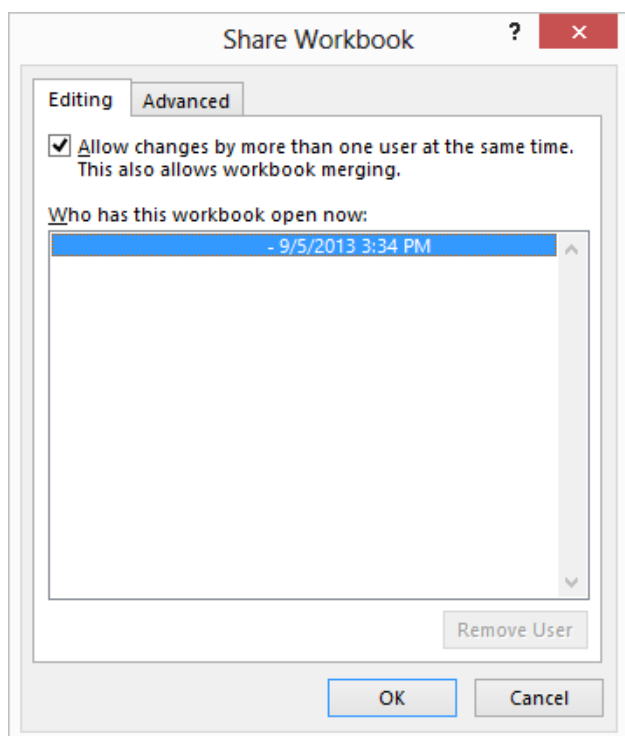
By design, a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet is a great tool to store and organize data. But, there is one big difference with a database: it is not really designed to work with multiple users on the same document at the same time.

Notice that when you are displaying Excel data on an information screen, you have your Excel file open and DataPoint will open the file as well on the display computer; so you already have two users on the same file. This might result in conflicts or warning messages that someone has the file open already.

But, there is a solution to this, too. Open your Microsoft Excel file and go to the **Review** tab, then click the **Share Workbook** button.



Check the option **Allow changes by more than one user at the same time** and hit **OK** to close.



Next, save the file, and as of now, multiple users can access the Excel file at the same time.

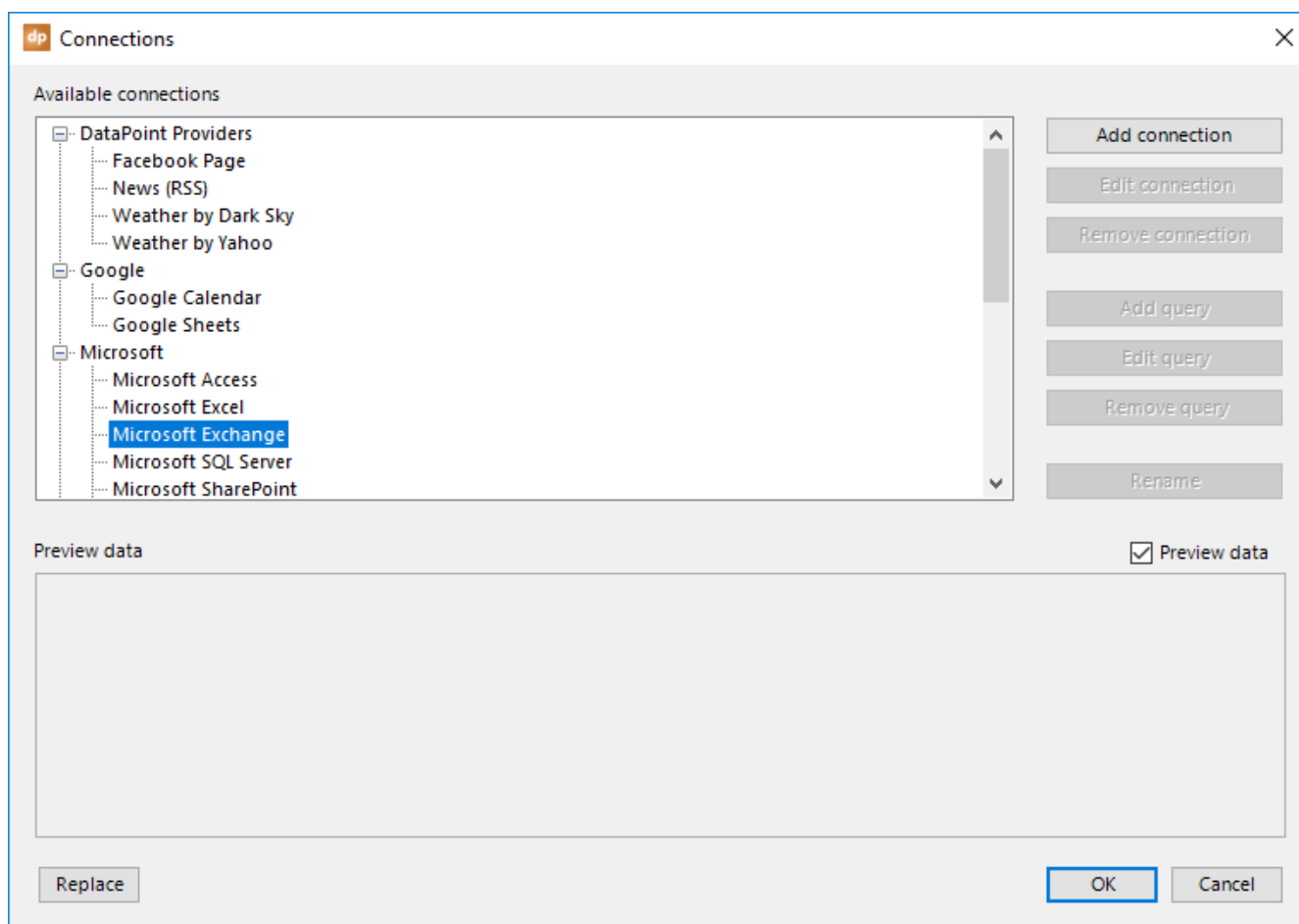
4.9. Microsoft Exchange connections

With the addition of the Microsoft Exchange data provider to DataPoint, you can now connect and display information from Microsoft Exchange. The calendars are probably the most often used, but you can do more with mail, contacts, tasks, etc.

Imagine that you can use your smartphone to send an e-mail to, say, `screen22@yourcompany.com(mailto:screen22@yourcompany.com)`, and then the subject of that e-mail is displayed on your screen. Sure, that is very possible to do with DataPoint.

Or build a meeting room display system at your office, where you display the meetings of the day.

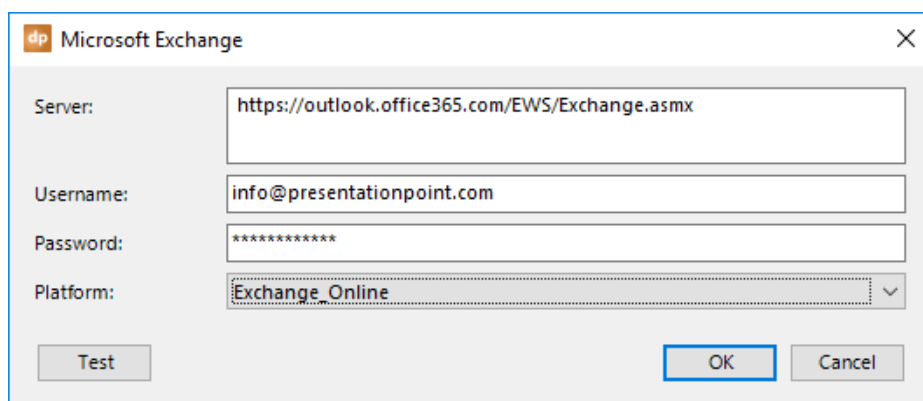
Click **DataPoint** from the PowerPoint ribbon and click the **List** button in the **Connections** group. Select the **Microsoft Exchange** data provider, and click the **Add connection** button.



Log on to your Exchange server by entering the server address, username, and password. Use the machine name if you have Microsoft Exchange server running locally on your network. Or, if you have Hosted Exchange, use the URL

<https://outlook.office365.com/EWS/Exchange.asmx>(<https://outlook.office365.com/EWS/Exchange.asmx>)

When you are not using Hosted Exchange but a local Exchange installation, then for the server, use the Exchange Web Services URL like www.PresentationPoint.com/EWS/Exchange.asmx



For the platform, choose the version or edition of your Microsoft Exchange server. Choose **Exchange Online** for Hosted Exchange.

Use the **Test** button to check your connectivity and credentials, and then **OK** to confirm.

On the connections overview form, you have a new connection selected. Click the **Add query** button and the form below opens.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Microsoft Exchange connection". It has a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog is divided into several sections:

- Source:**
 - Available data objects: A list box containing "Calendar", "Contacts", "DeletedItems", "Drafts", "Folders", "Inbox", and "JunkEmail". "Calendar" is selected and highlighted in blue.
 - Custom SQL: An empty text area with a vertical scrollbar and a "Test" button to its right.
- Data refresh rate:**
 - Only once at opening of the presentation
 - Continuous updating: Below this is an "Interval:" label, a spin box containing "60.0", and the word "seconds".

At the bottom of the dialog are three buttons: "Advanced" (disabled), "OK" (active), and "Cancel" (disabled).

Identify where your data is coming from. You can choose between a list of available data objects or you can write your own custom SQL statement.

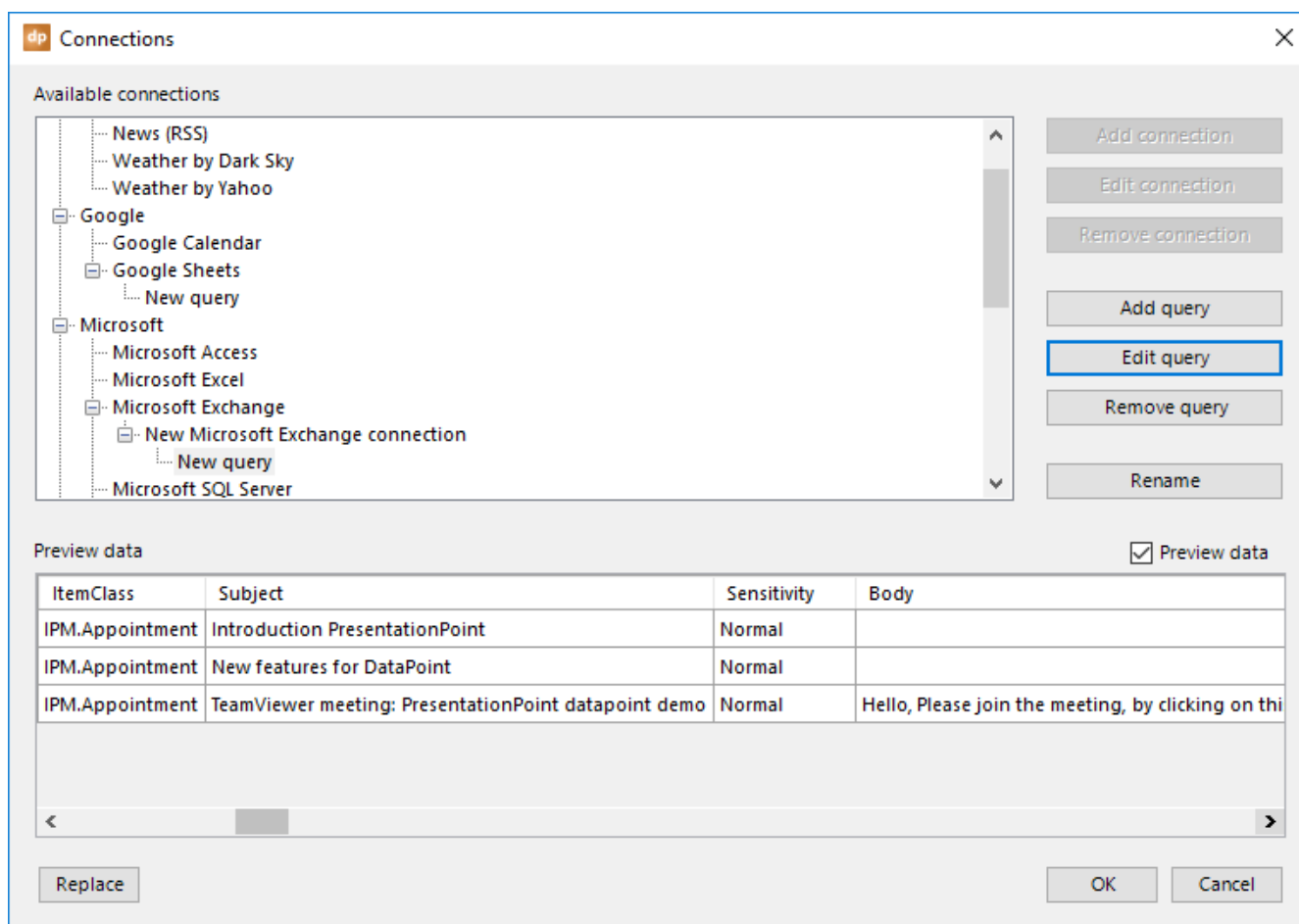
On the list of available data objects, you will find the typical Exchange folders, like calendar, contacts, inbox, and so on.

You can write your own custom SQL statement when you want to filter out data that is at the server already. A custom SQL statement is really the best option for performance. Instead of including all of the data in your calendar folder and all of the past and future events, you could write a custom SQL statement to only get the appointments for today or this week.

To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.



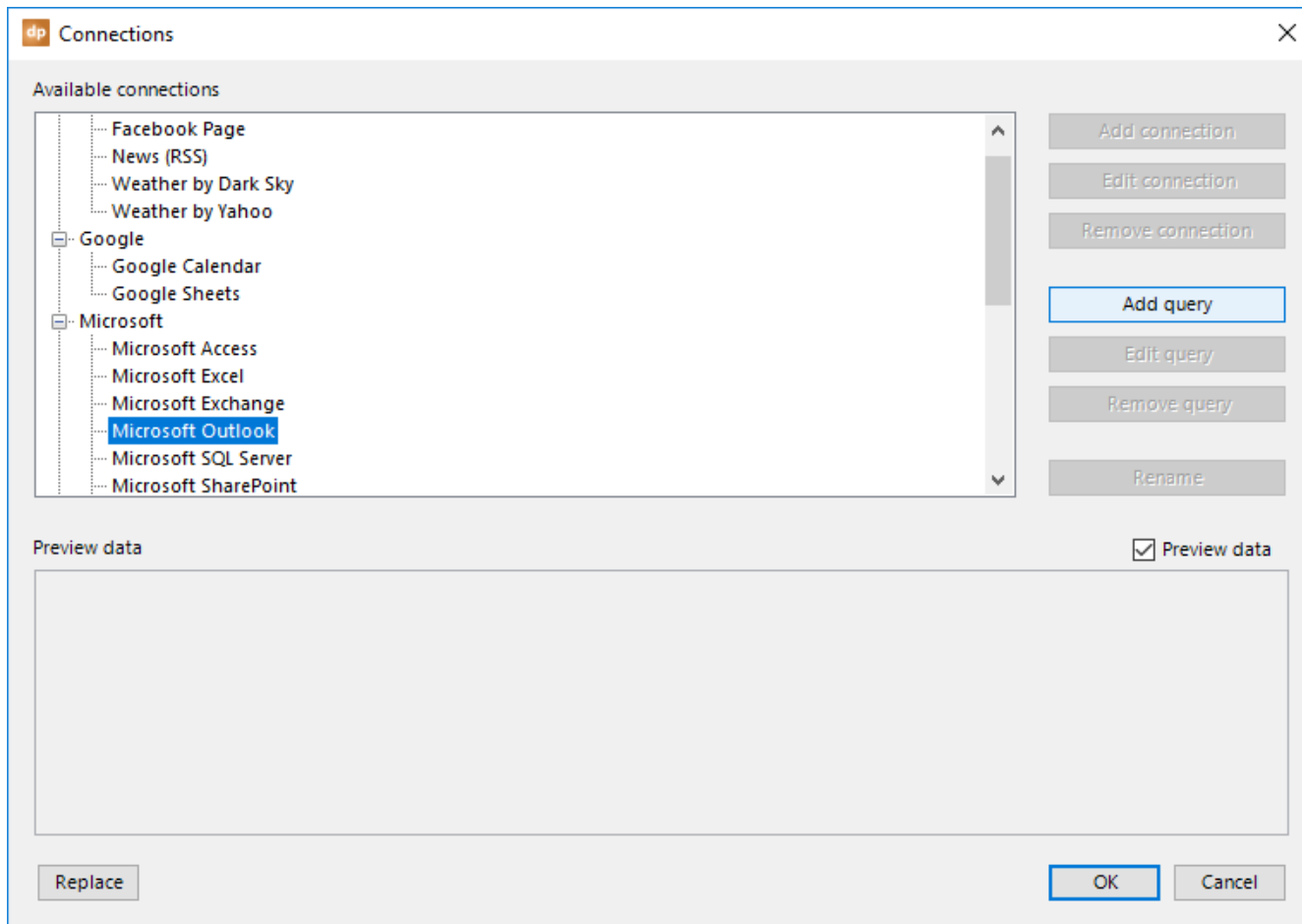
To access public and other folders, you might have to configure Exchange Impersonation. More info at <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/office/bb204095%28v=exchg.140%29.aspx?f=255&MSPPErr=-2147217396>(<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/office/bb204095%28v=exchg.140%29.aspx?f=255&MSPPErr=-2147217396>)

4.10. Microsoft Outlook connections

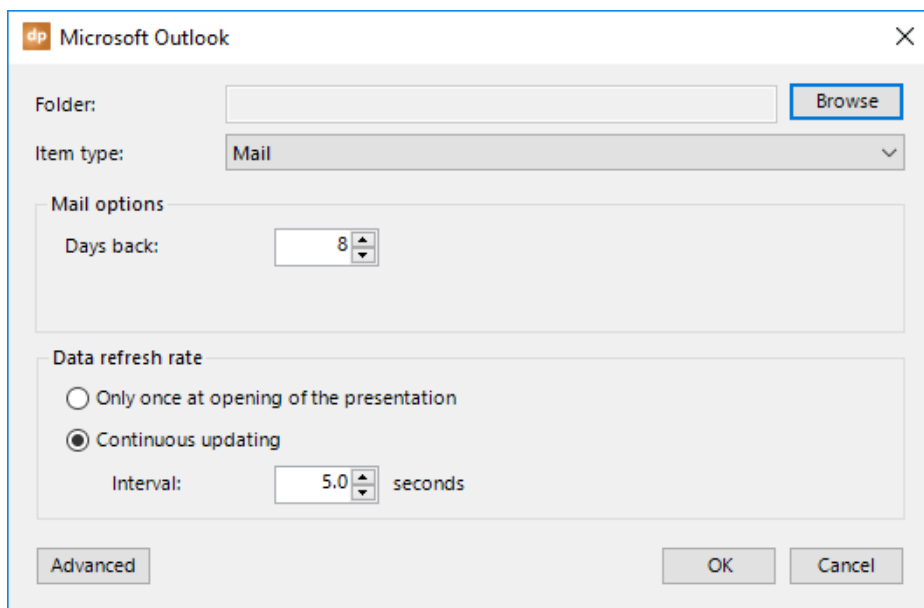
Next to the Microsoft Exchange data provider, you can use the Microsoft Outlook data provider for mailboxes that might not be connected to a Microsoft Exchange server.

A mailbox can be used to display the last announcements coming in as a mail message, a task or maybe a note. Or display time related messages via appointments.

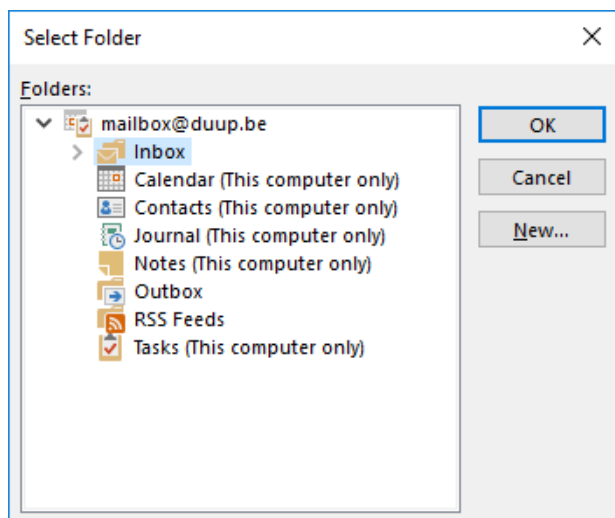
Click **DataPoint** from the PowerPoint ribbon and click the **List** button in the **Connections** group. Select the **Microsoft Outlook** data provider, and click the **Add query** button.



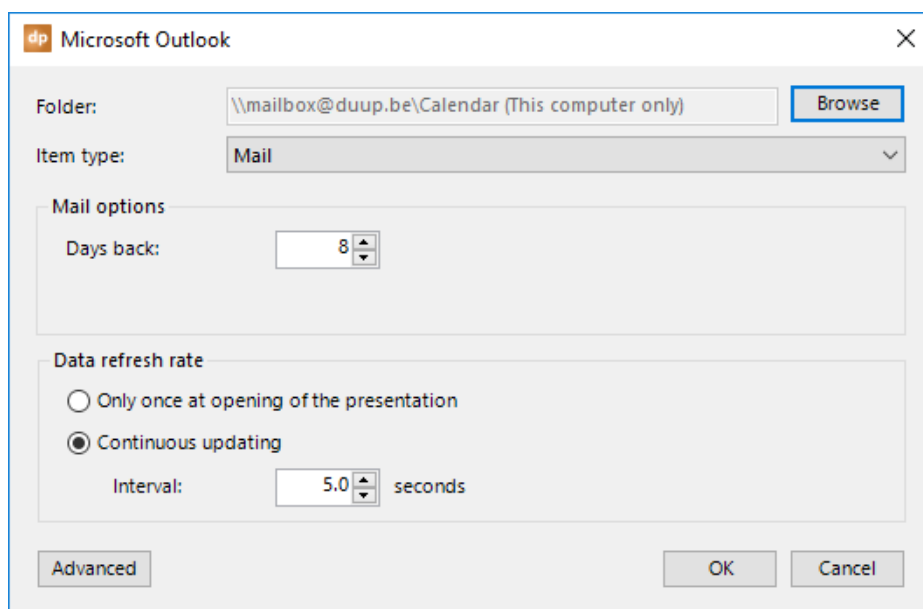
First click the **Browse** button to select the folder where you are reading out the items. An item in Microsoft Outlook corresponds to a mail type like mail, task, note, appointment etc.



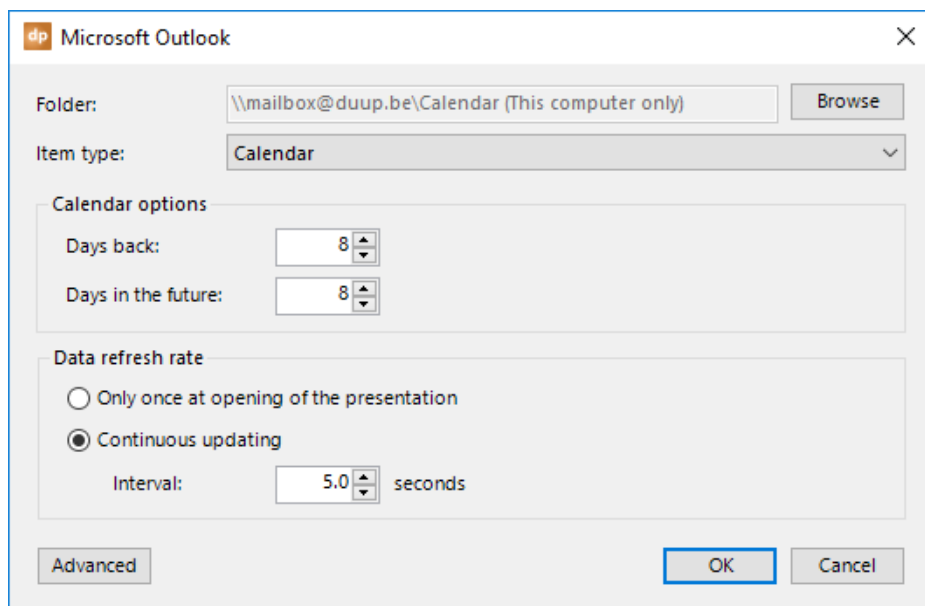
This will open a dialogue where you select the folder that you want to use. On some occasions you have to go back to your Microsoft Outlook application when this dialog form is not visible after pressing the Browse button. Or use Alt-Tab to get to it.



Select the folder of your choice and click the **OK** button.



Change the **item type** to **Calendar** because we are dealing with an appointment or calendar folder.

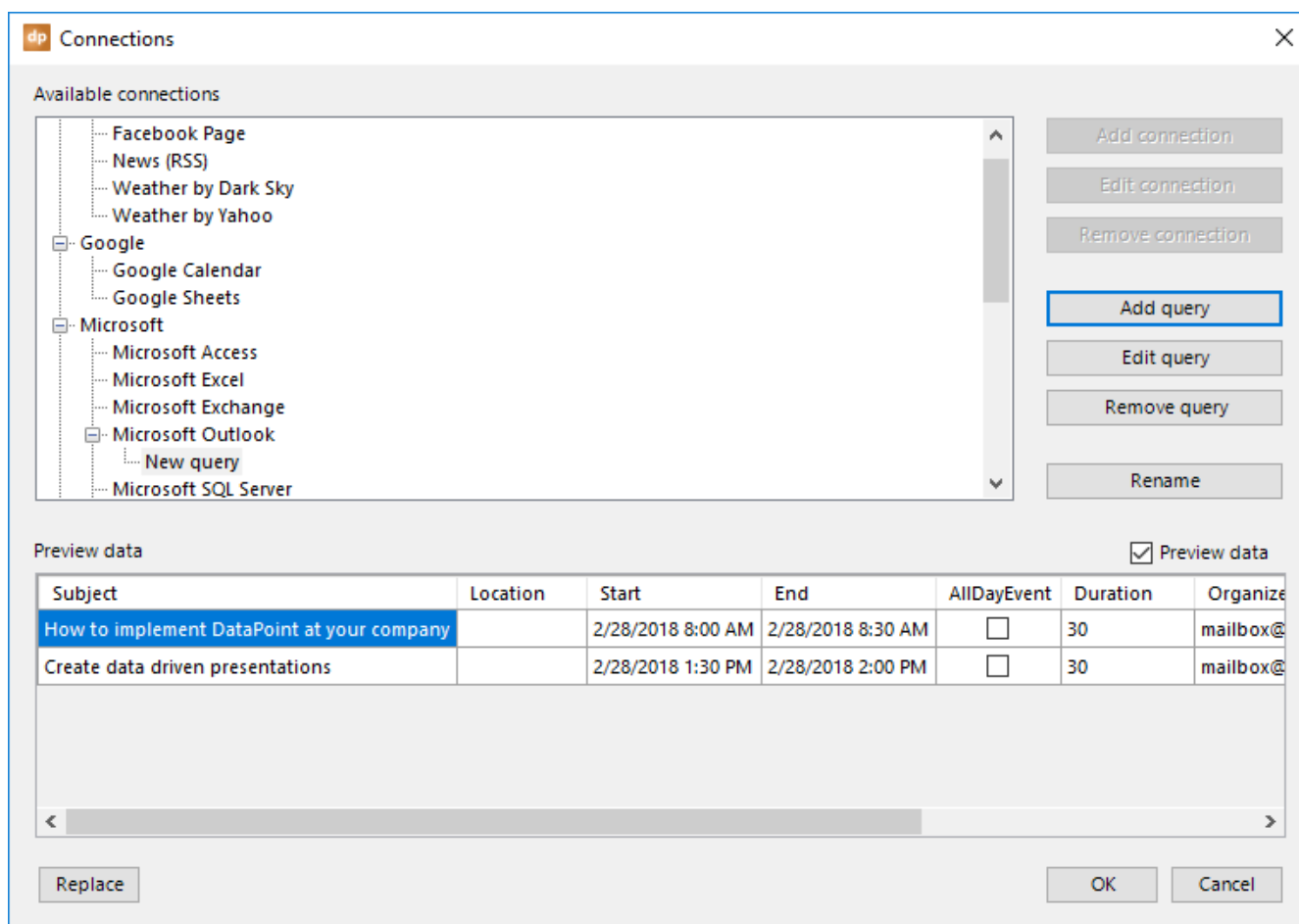


In the calendar options, you can set how many days to go in the past and how many days to look ahead in your calendar. This option will lower your result set or data set.

To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics and for the real-time information screens.

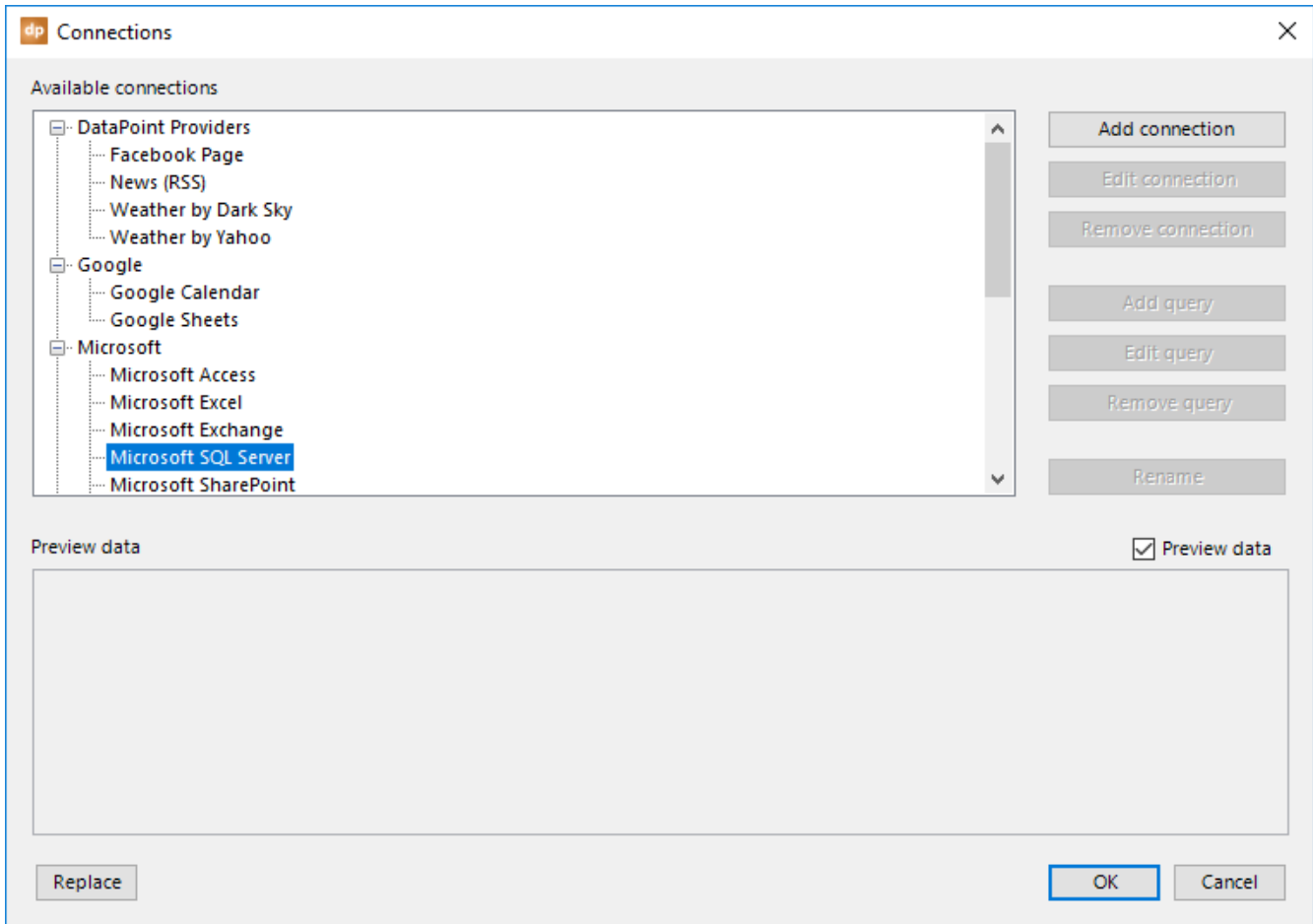
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.



4.11. Microsoft SQL Server connections

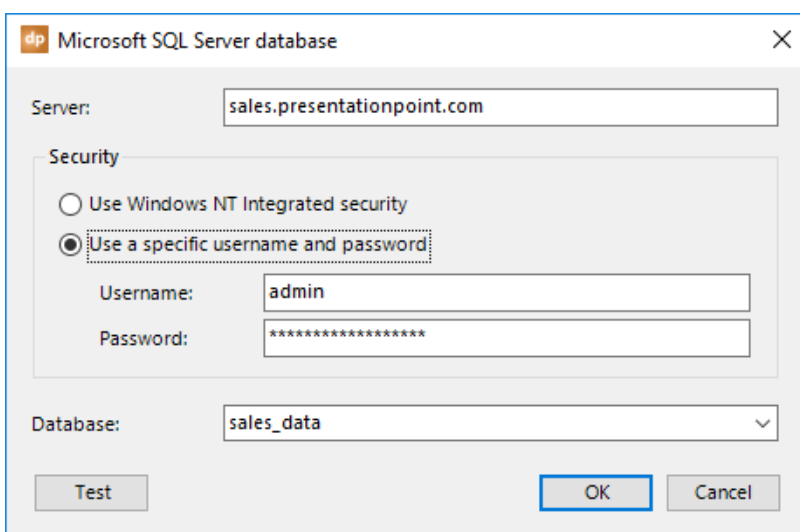
The Microsoft SQL Server is probably the most used professional database system around. With the DataPoint data provider for the Microsoft SQL Server, you can connect to the server and then add one or more queries to this connection.

Click **DataPoint** from the PowerPoint ribbon and click the **List** button in the **Connections** group. Select the **Microsoft SQL Server** data provider, and click the **Add connection** button.



On the connection form, enter the server name or IP address. To log on to the server, you have the typical two options to use Windows NT integrated security or a specific username and password.

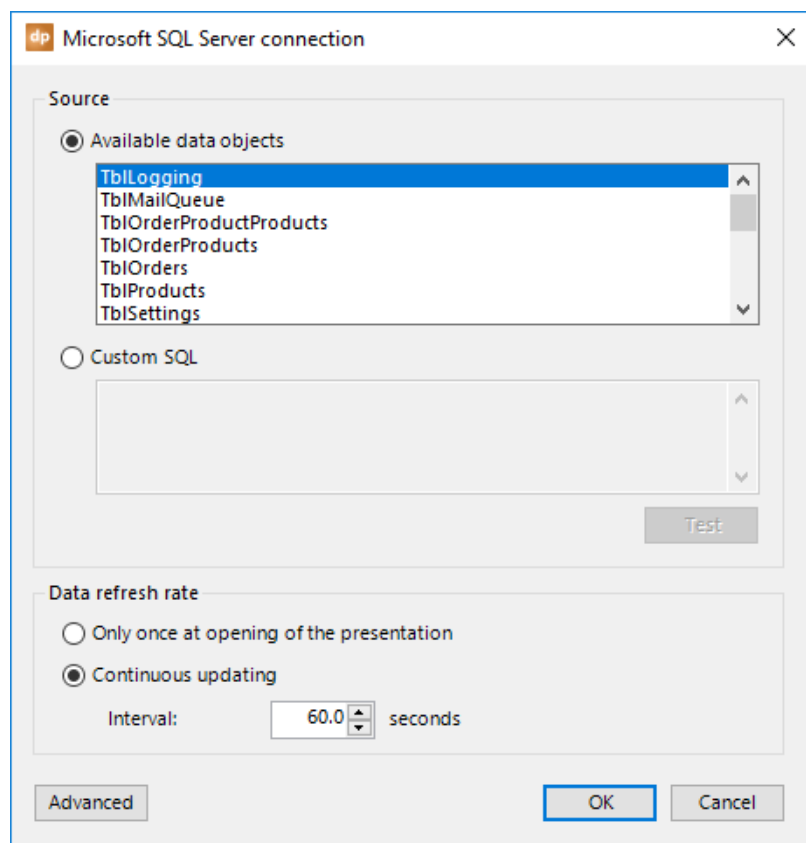
Finally, set the name of the database that you want to use, unless you want to use the default database assigned to the user.



Hit **OK** to close. Now, back on the connection form, you still have the connection node selected. Next, click the **Add query** button.

Just like with the other databases, you have two options for where the information is coming from. First of all, there is a list with all data objects that are available at the server. Typically, this is a combination of tables and views of your SQL server.

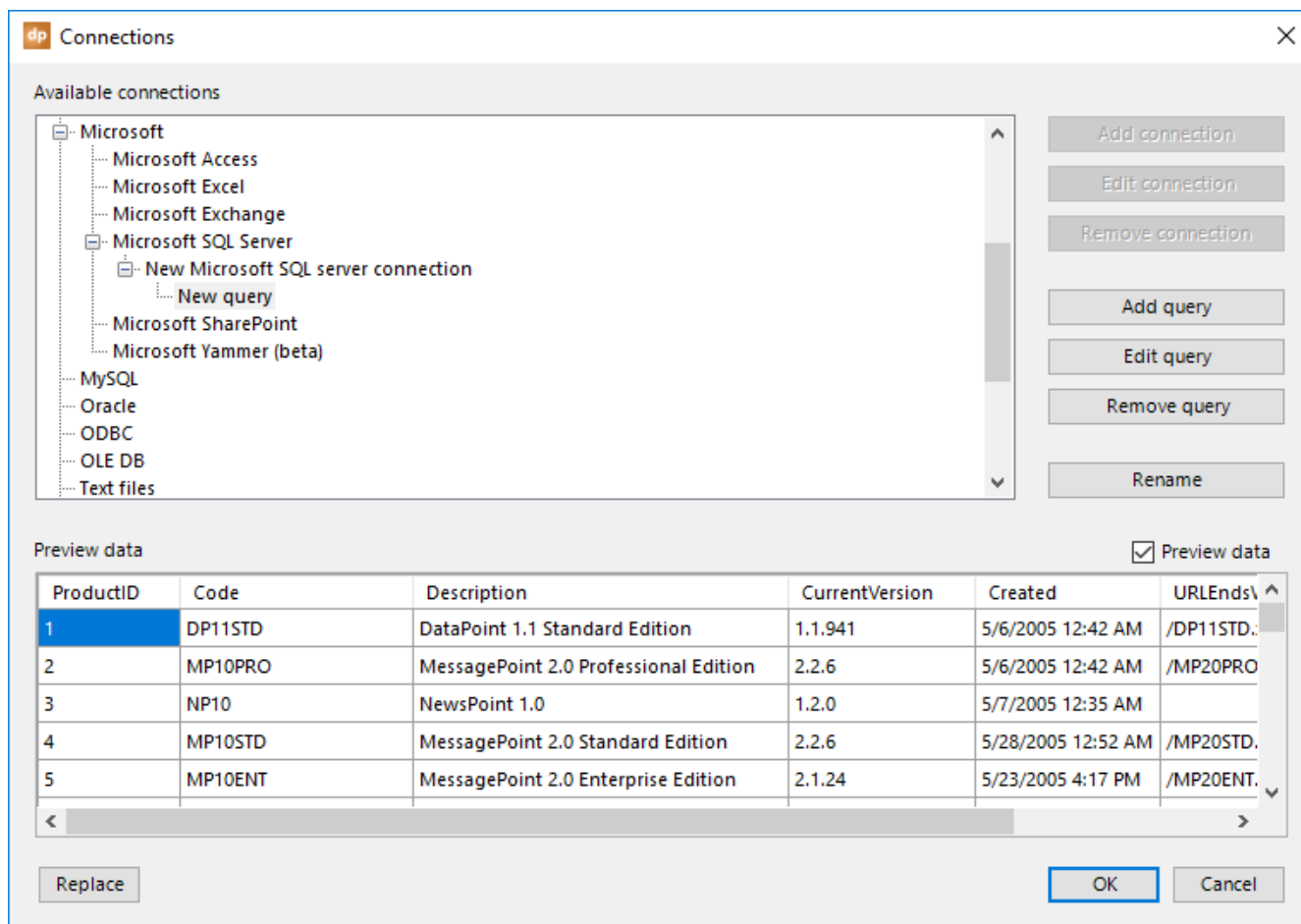
Second, you can write your own custom SQL statement if you are familiar with them. Custom SQL is always better, as you can limit the number of columns and rows to a minimum while still meeting your needs.



To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

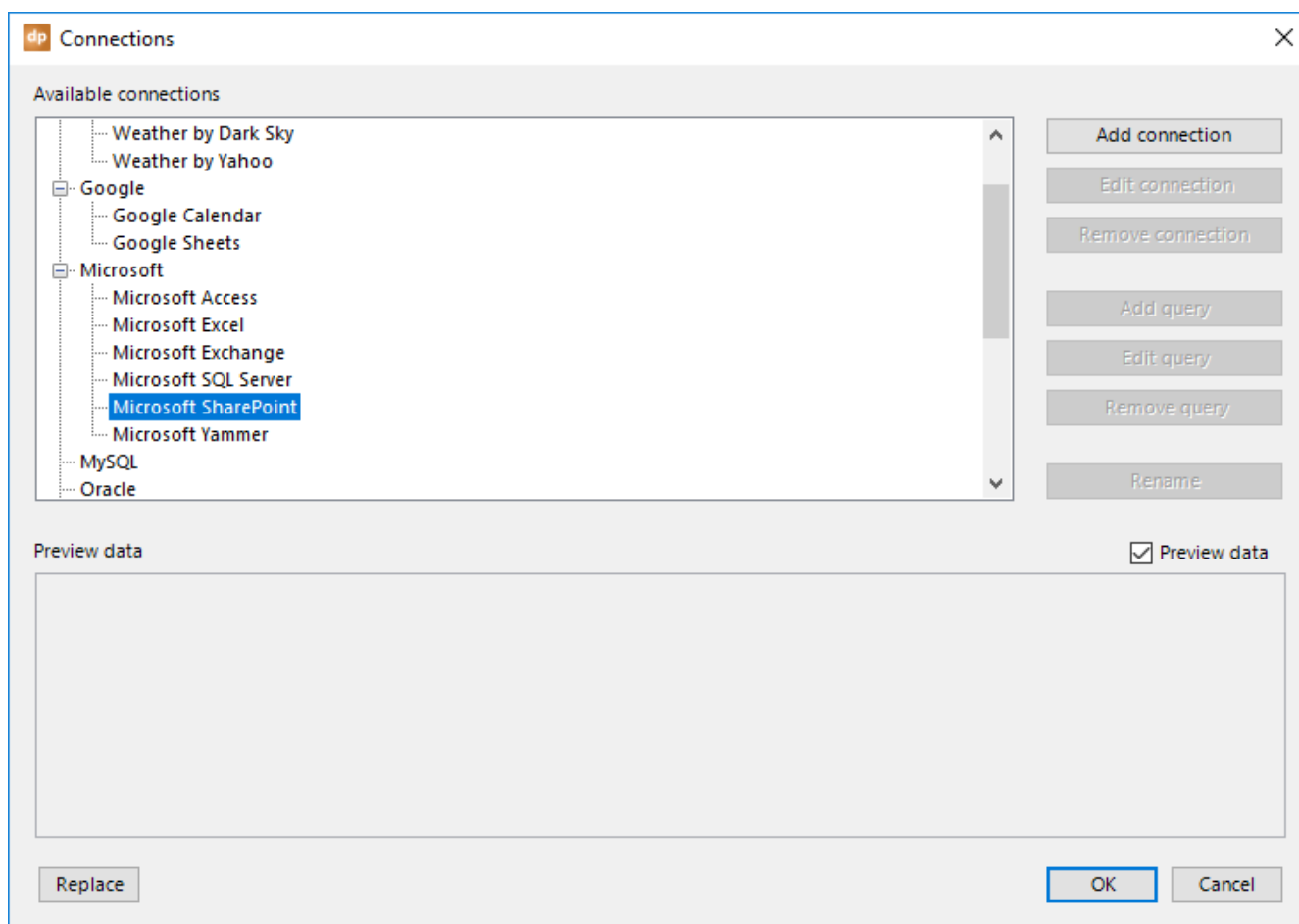
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer starts when you begin the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.



4.12. Microsoft SharePoint connections

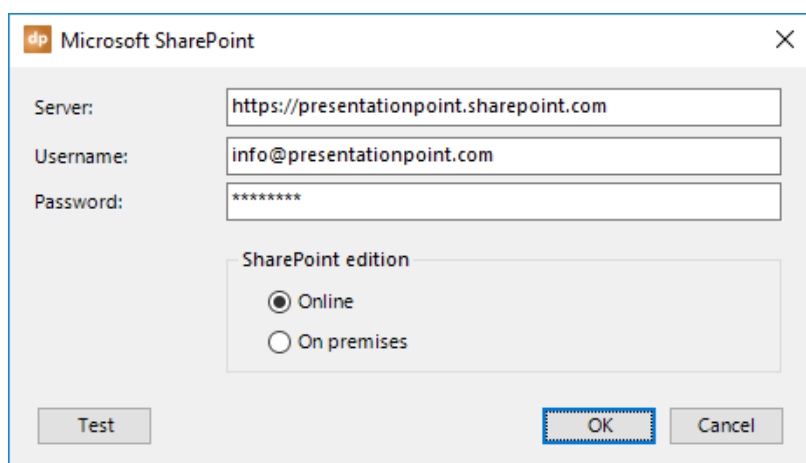
Use DataPoint to connect to your Microsoft SharePoint site and start displaying live data from SharePoint lists.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Microsoft SharePoint** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the SharePoint server and then identify what lists to use.

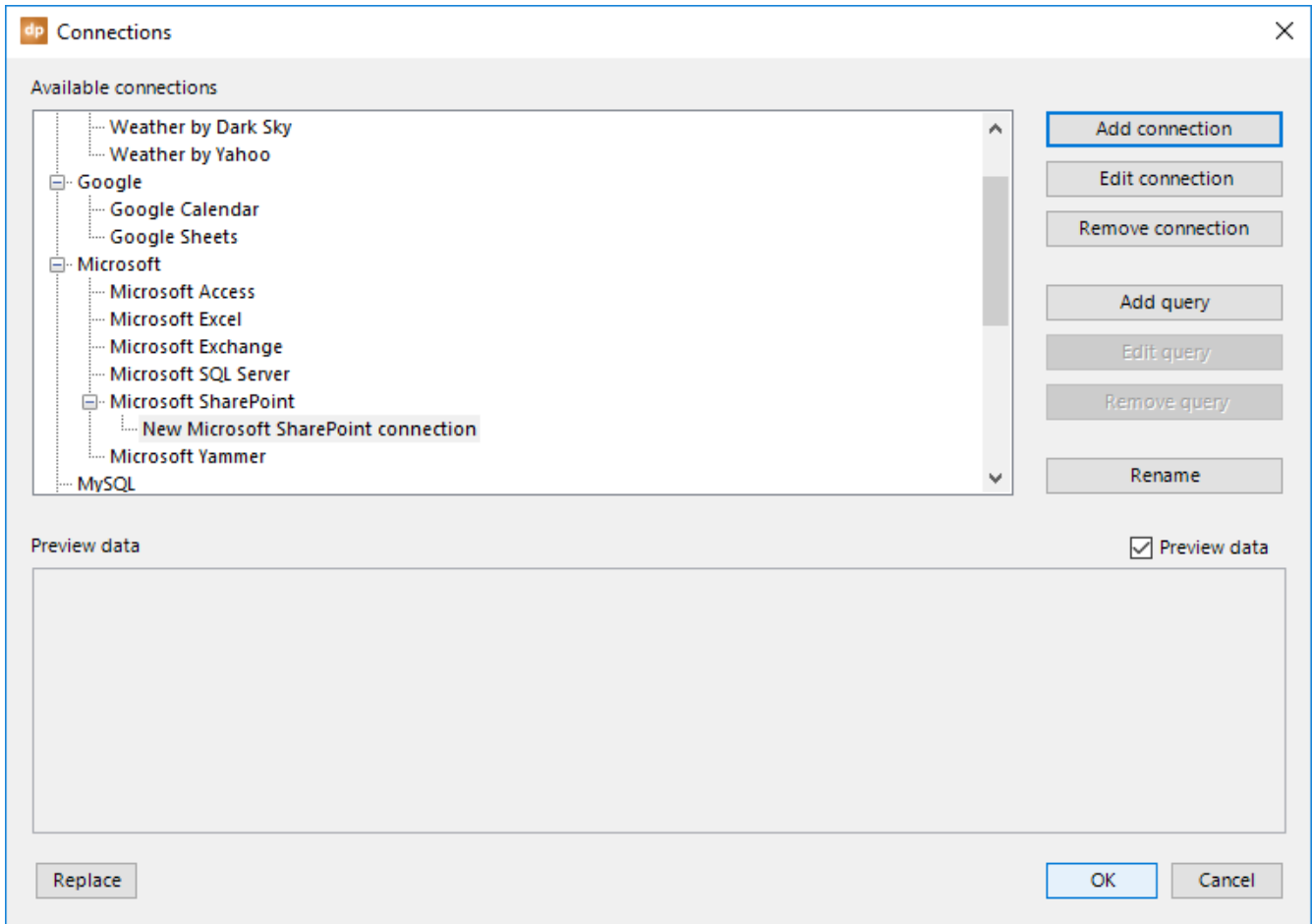


Enter the server name, your username, and password to access your Microsoft SharePoint website. You may want to consider not using a personal account for general display purposes on various public displays. In that case, it might be better to create a specific user for this purpose, so as to avoid using personal access.

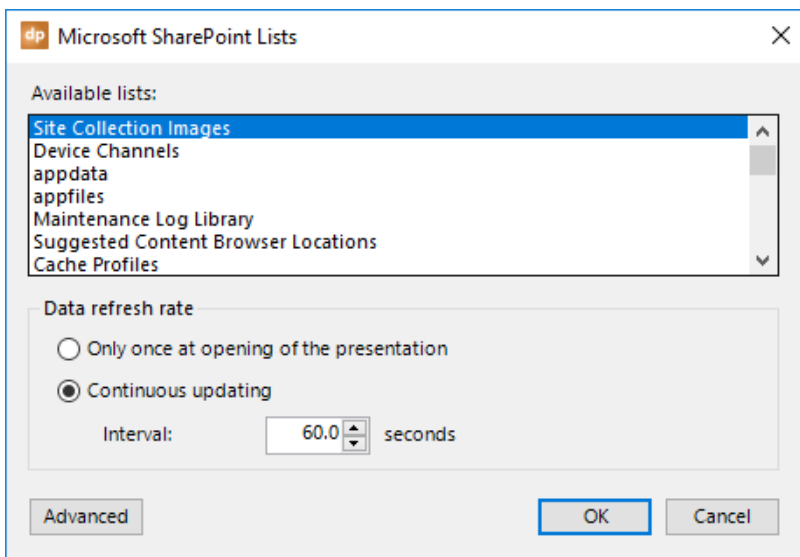
With the SharePoint edition option, you can indicate whether the SharePoint server is online (as Hosted SharePoint) or running on a local server in your company network.



On the connections again, you can see that the Microsoft SharePoint connection is added to the Microsoft SharePoint data provider. Next, click the **Add query** button.



After that, you get a Microsoft SharePoint property form where you can choose which SharePoint list you want to use in this presentation.



To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

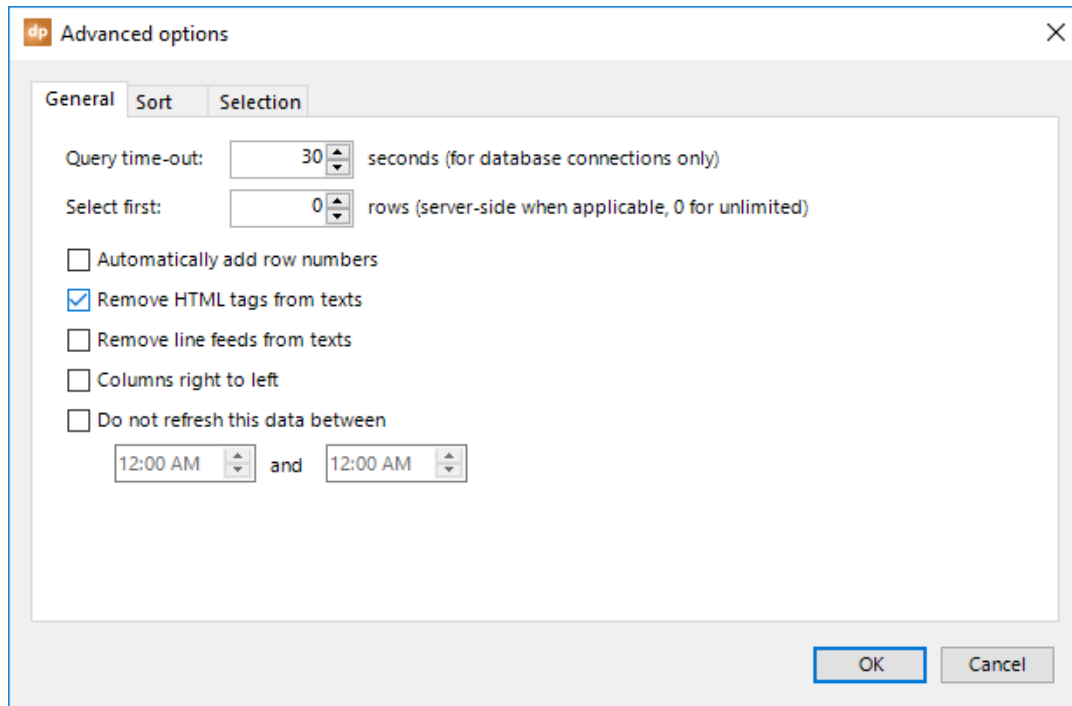
You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer starts when you begin the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

HTML formatting

SharePoint posts or lists are typically formatted with HTML tags, similar to a website. PowerPoint cannot display HTML tags. So, in order to avoid texts like `New Employee`, we will have to strip HTML tags from the texts.

Click the **Advanced** button and check the option **Remove HTML tags from texts**.

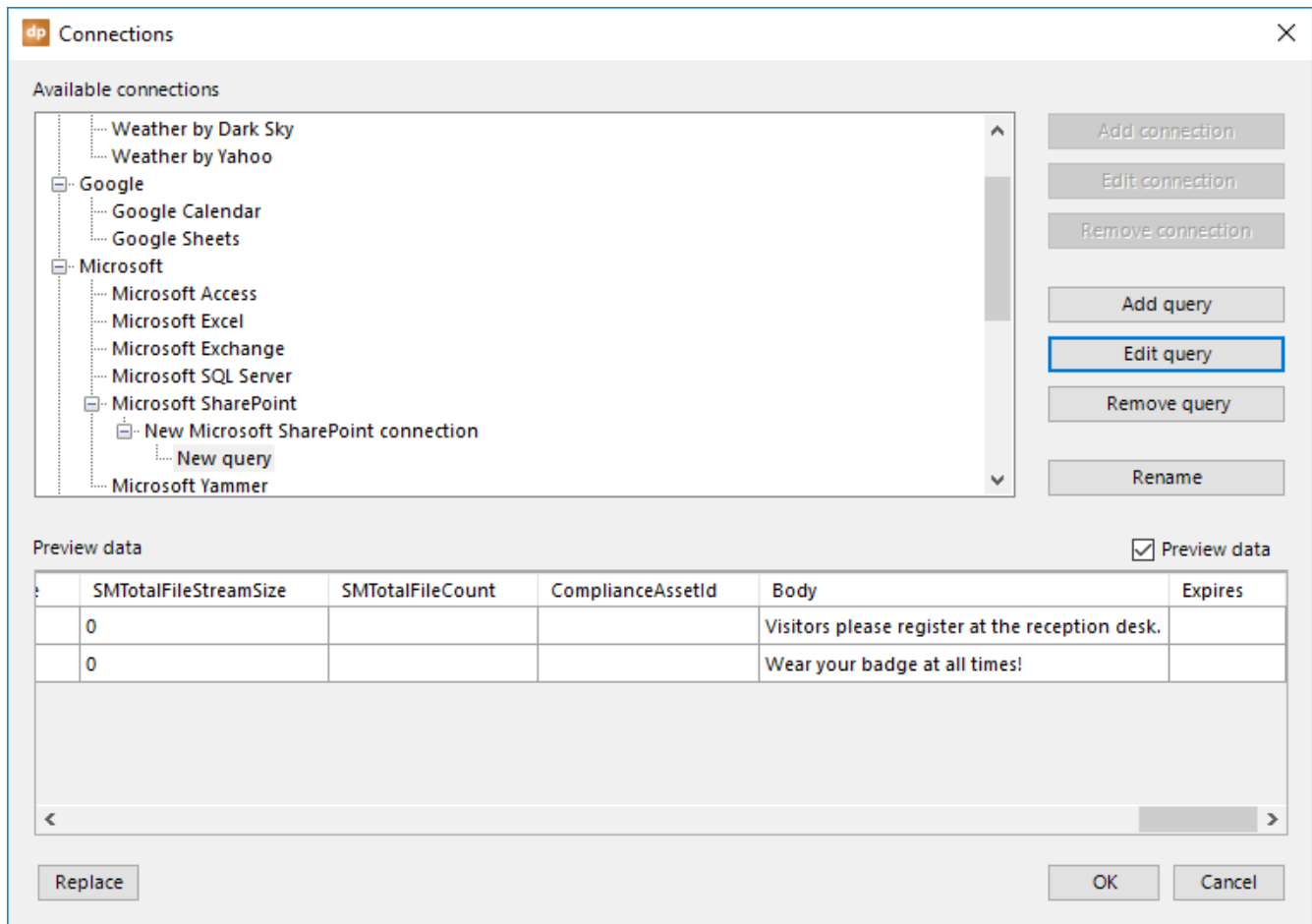


The screenshot shows the 'Advanced options' dialog box with the following settings:

- Query time-out: 30 seconds (for database connections only)
- Select first: 0 rows (server-side when applicable, 0 for unlimited)
- Automatically add row numbers
- Remove HTML tags from texts
- Remove line feeds from texts
- Columns right to left
- Do not refresh this data between 12:00 AM and 12:00 AM

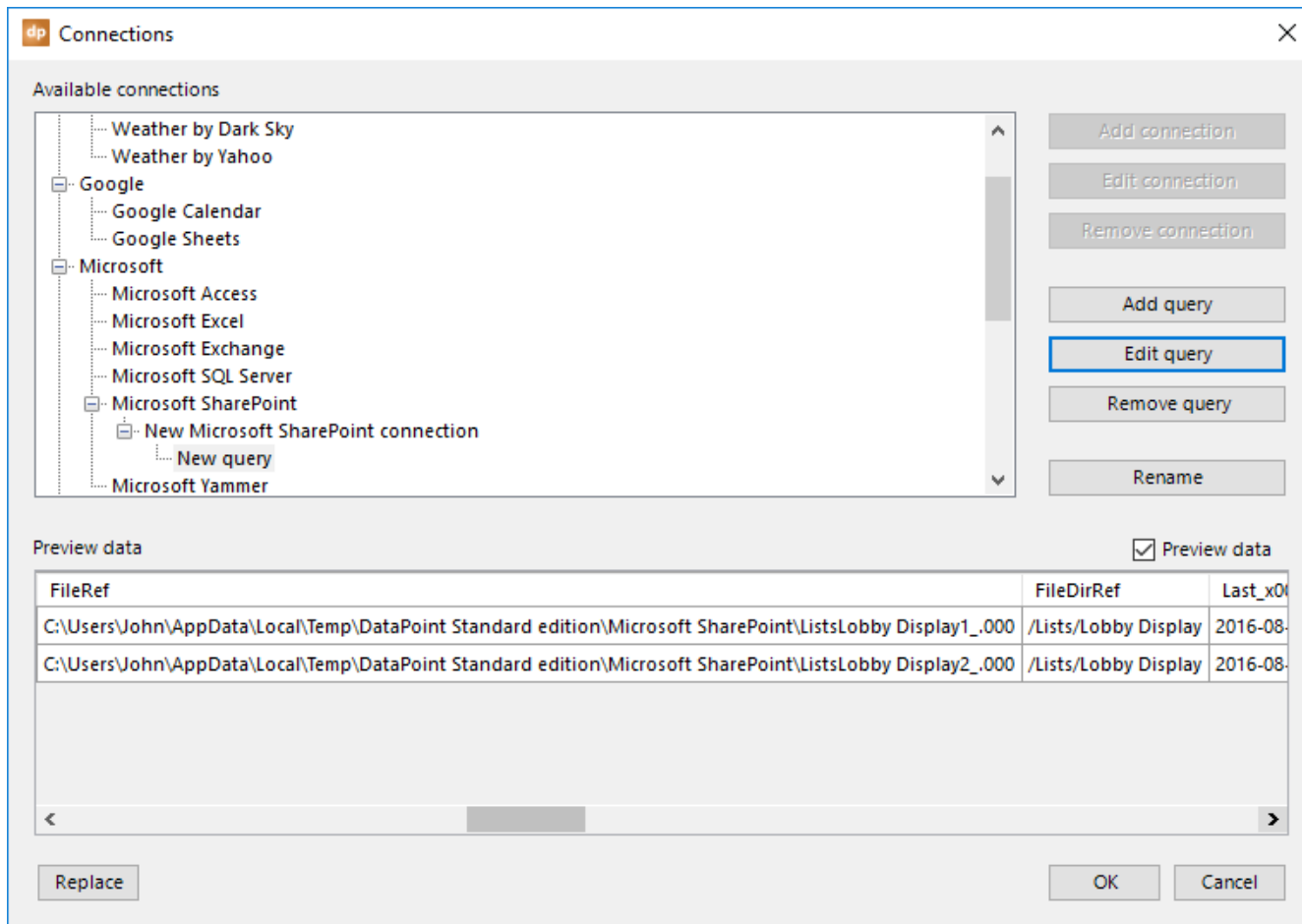
The 'OK' button is highlighted with a blue border.

Click **OK** to close the Advanced form. Then, click **OK** again to close the query information, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



There are a lot of columns with information for a SharePoint row. Typically, you will use the Body columns for displaying.

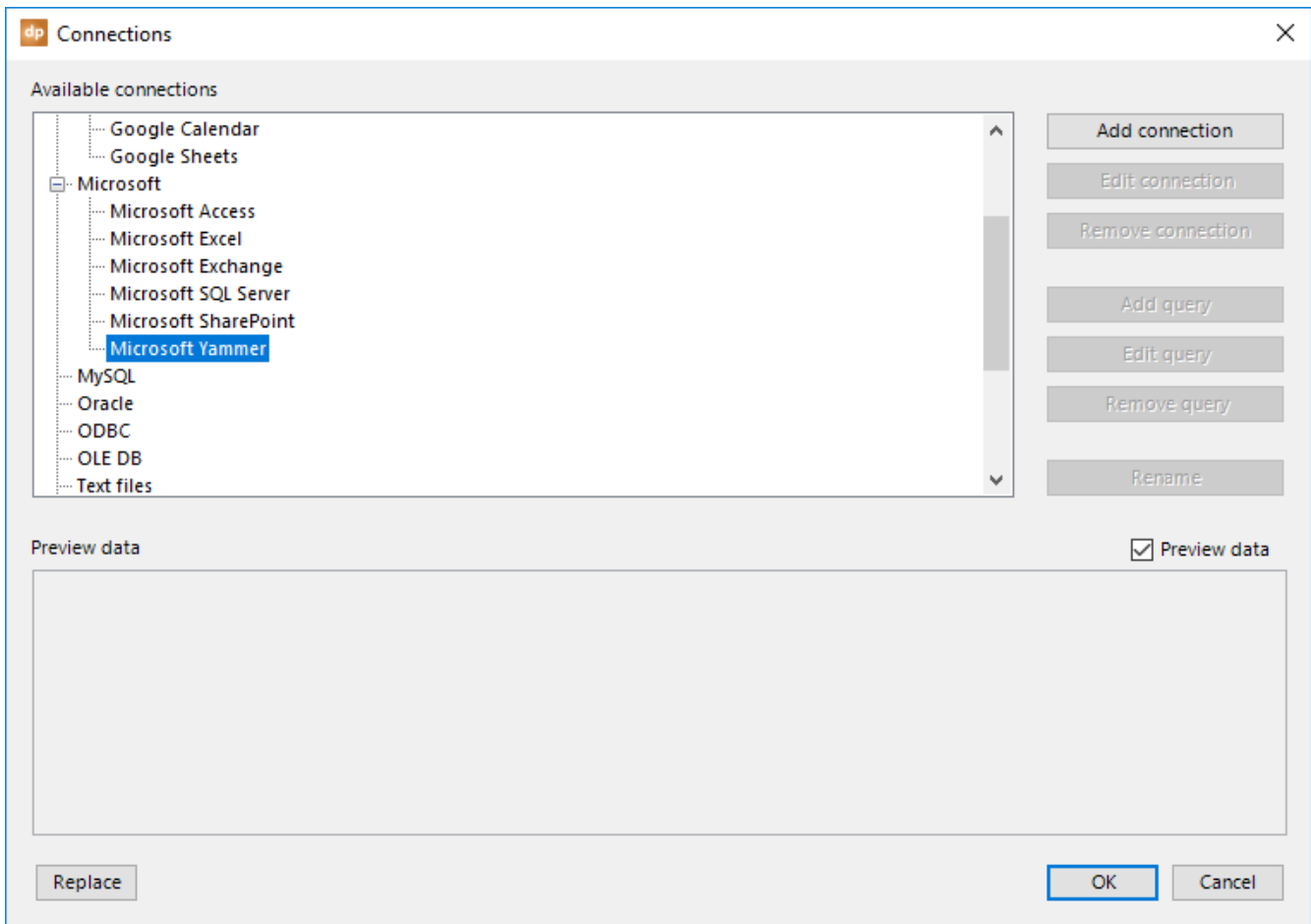
Image references used in the lists (<http://...>) are downloaded as temporary files for easier usage. Look at this FileRef column.



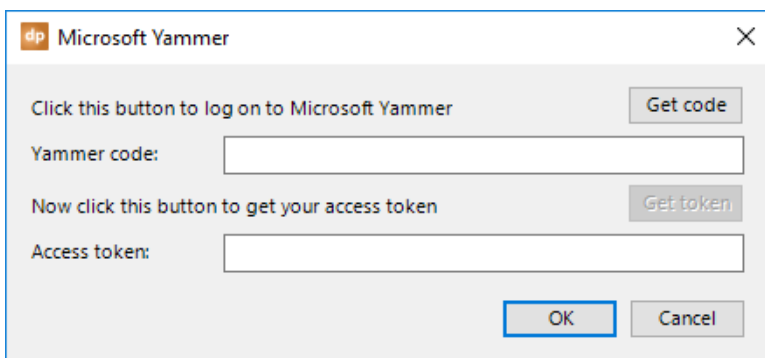
4.13. Microsoft Yammer connections

You can let DataPoint connect to your Microsoft Yammer network and display Yammer messages and discussions in real-time.

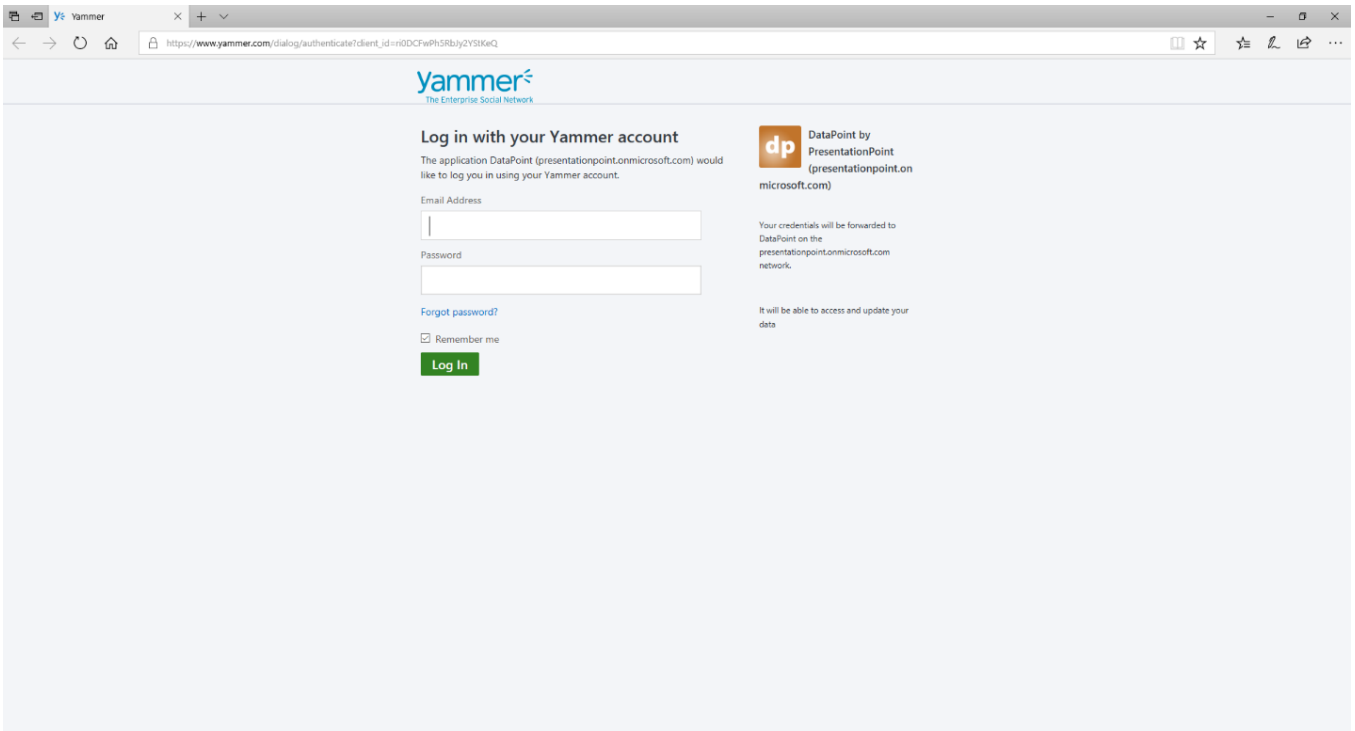
Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Microsoft Yammer** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the Yammer network and then identify what to use.



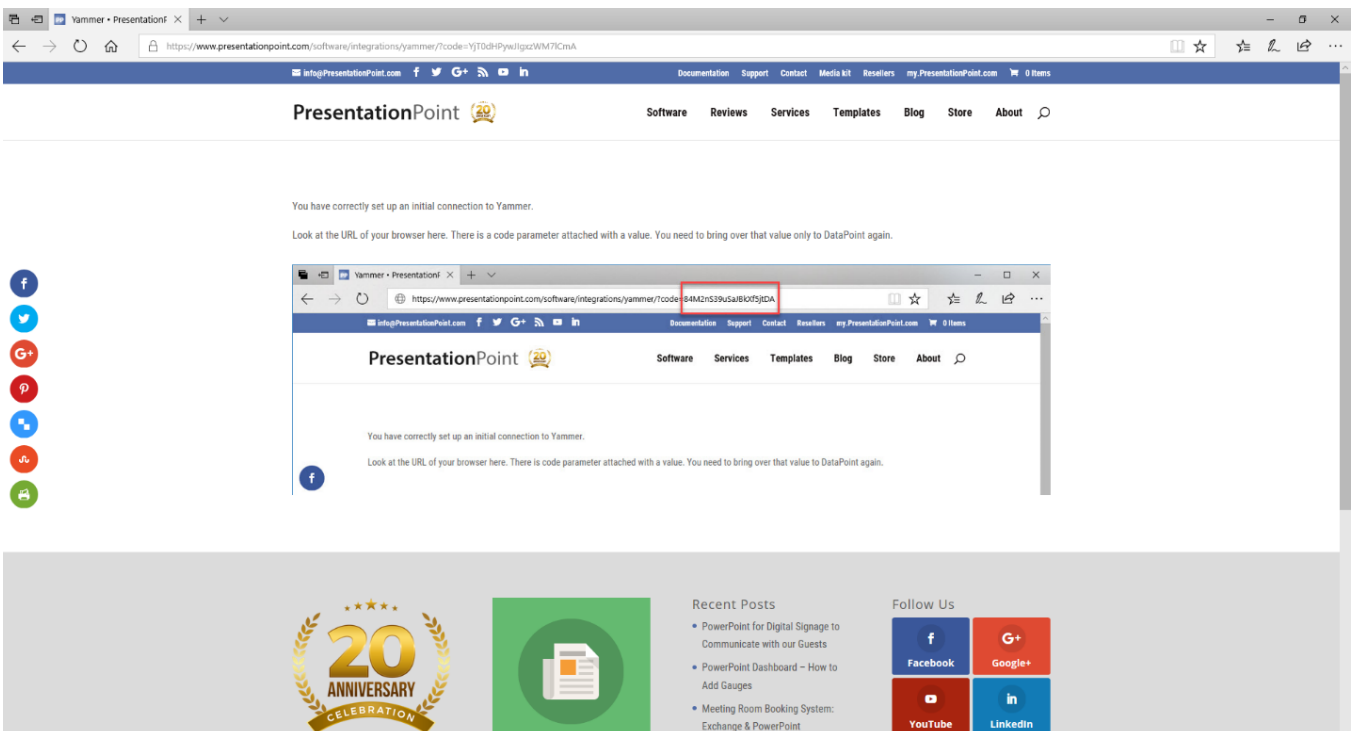
To establish our data connection to the Microsoft Yammer network, click the **Get code** button.



This will open a browser that will ask you to log on to your Microsoft Yammer account.



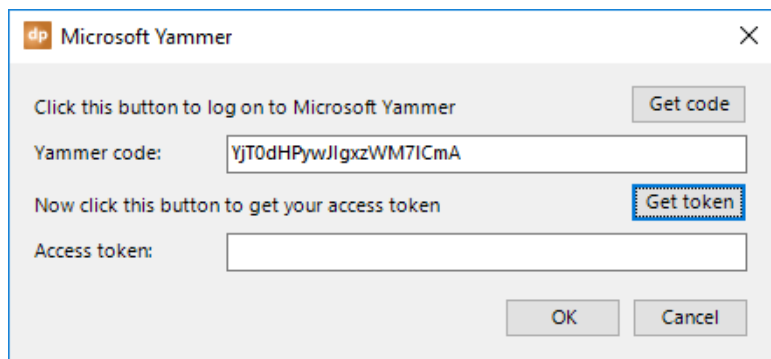
After logging in, you will be redirected to a page at www.PresentationPoint.com(<http://www.PresentationPoint.com>) — like what you see below.



Look at the page's URL: <https://www.presentationpoint.com/software/integrations/yammer/?code=YJT0dHPywlJgxzWM71CmA>(<https://www.presentationpoint.com/software/integrations/yammer/?code=YJT0dHPywlJgxzWM71CmA>)

You need to select the value of the code variable, like YjT0dHPywjlgxzWM7ICmA from the screenshot. Copy that list of characters to your clipboard and go back to DataPoint in PowerPoint.

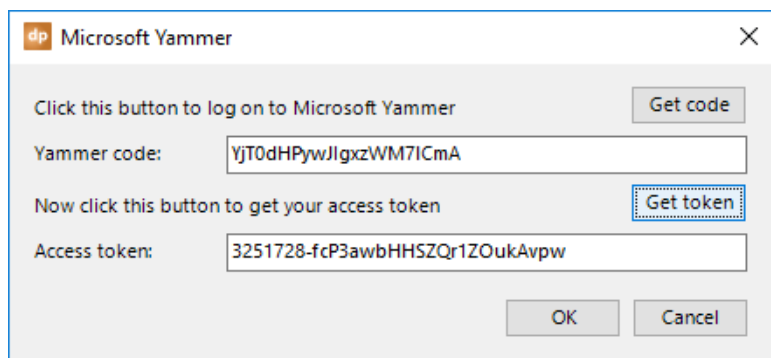
In the Yammer code text box, paste this code and click the **Get token** button.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Microsoft Yammer" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains the following elements:

- A button labeled "Get code" in the top right.
- A text field labeled "Yammer code:" containing the value "YjT0dHPywjlgxzWM7ICmA".
- A button labeled "Get token" in the middle right, which is highlighted with a blue dashed border.
- A text field labeled "Access token:" which is currently empty.
- Buttons labeled "OK" and "Cancel" at the bottom.

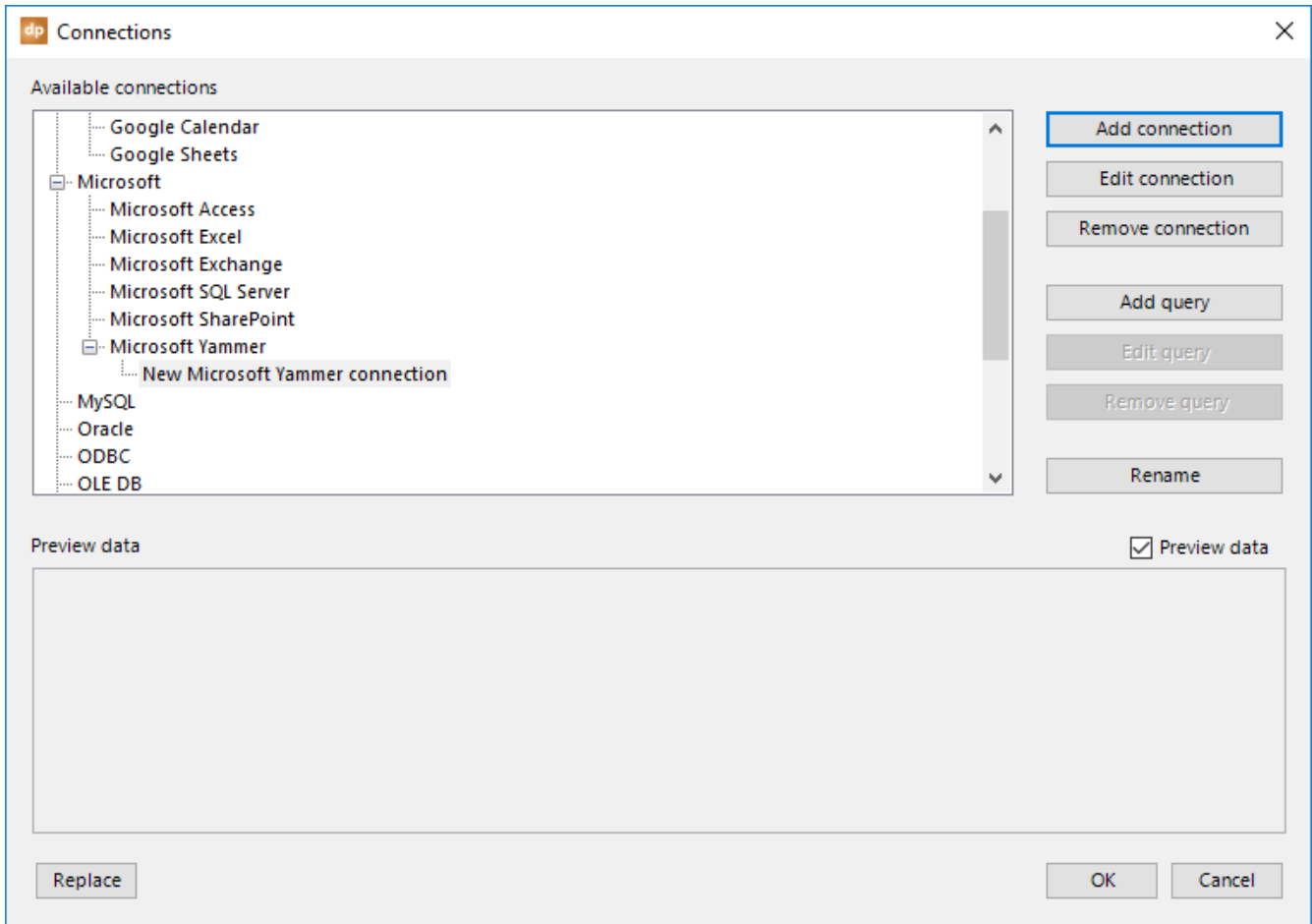
That generates your access token to access your Yammer messages.



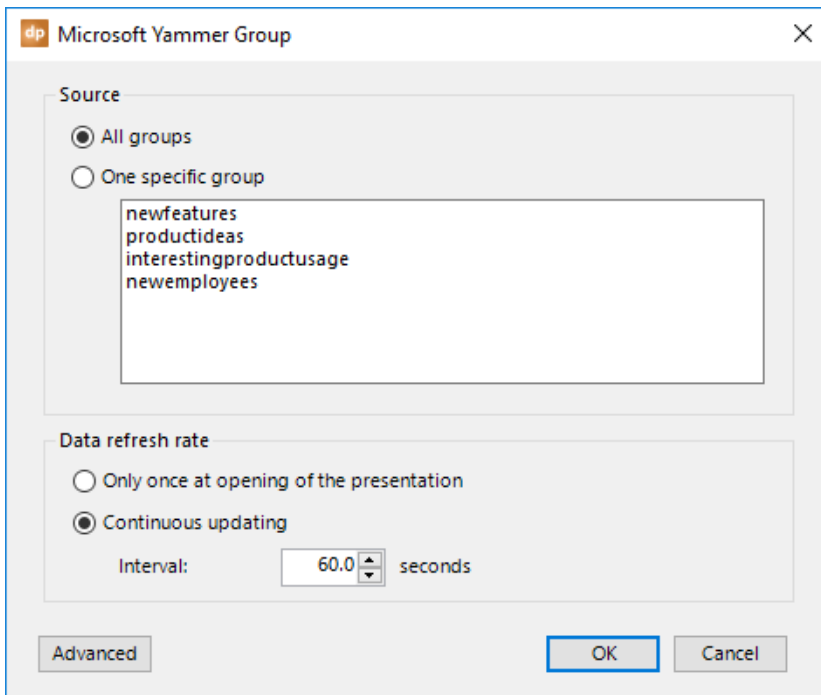
The screenshot shows the same "Microsoft Yammer" dialog box as above, but with the "Access token:" field now populated with the value "3251728-fcP3awbHHSZQr1ZOukAvpw". The "Get token" button remains highlighted with a blue dashed border.

Click **OK** to save.

Back on the connections overview form, we have established a connection to the Yammer network. Next, click the **Add query** button.



This will open a new form where you can choose from which group to retrieve the messages.



Choose to read out all of the messages from all groups or choose one specific group.

To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

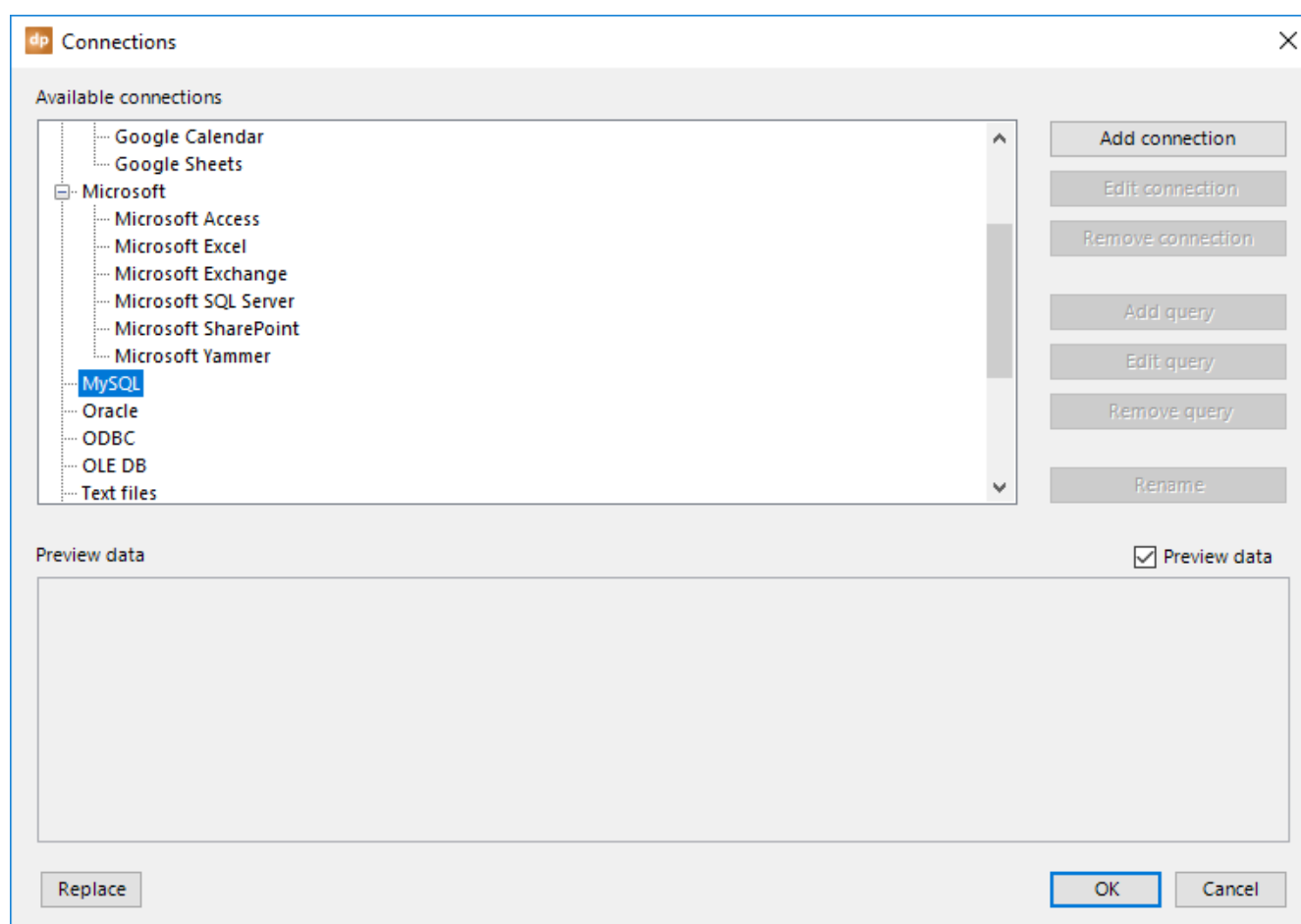
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer starts when you begin the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close and start using the Yammer data on your slides. Note that pictures used in your Yammer messages are made available as local temporary images.

4.14. MySQL connections

MySQL is, next to Microsoft SQL Server, a great database system, and it is free, too. You can connect your presentation to a MySQL database and display live information through the DataPoint MySQL data provider.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **MySQL** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the database. Click the **Add connection** button.



Establish a connection with the MySQL server by specifying your server, username, password, and database. As an option, you can change the port number. Click **OK** to add the connection to the presentation.

MySQL

Server: support.presentationpoint.com

Username: admin

Password: *****

Database: troubletickets

Port: 3306

Test OK Cancel

Back at the connections, you will find this connection for the MySQL data provider. Next, click the **Add query** button.

Typically for DataPoint's data connections, you get a list of available data objects that you can choose from, or you can write your own custom SQL statement.

MySQL connection

Source

Available data objects

tblcounter
tblcounterhistory

Custom SQL

Test

Data refresh rate

Only once at opening of the presentation

Continuous updating

Interval: 60.0 seconds

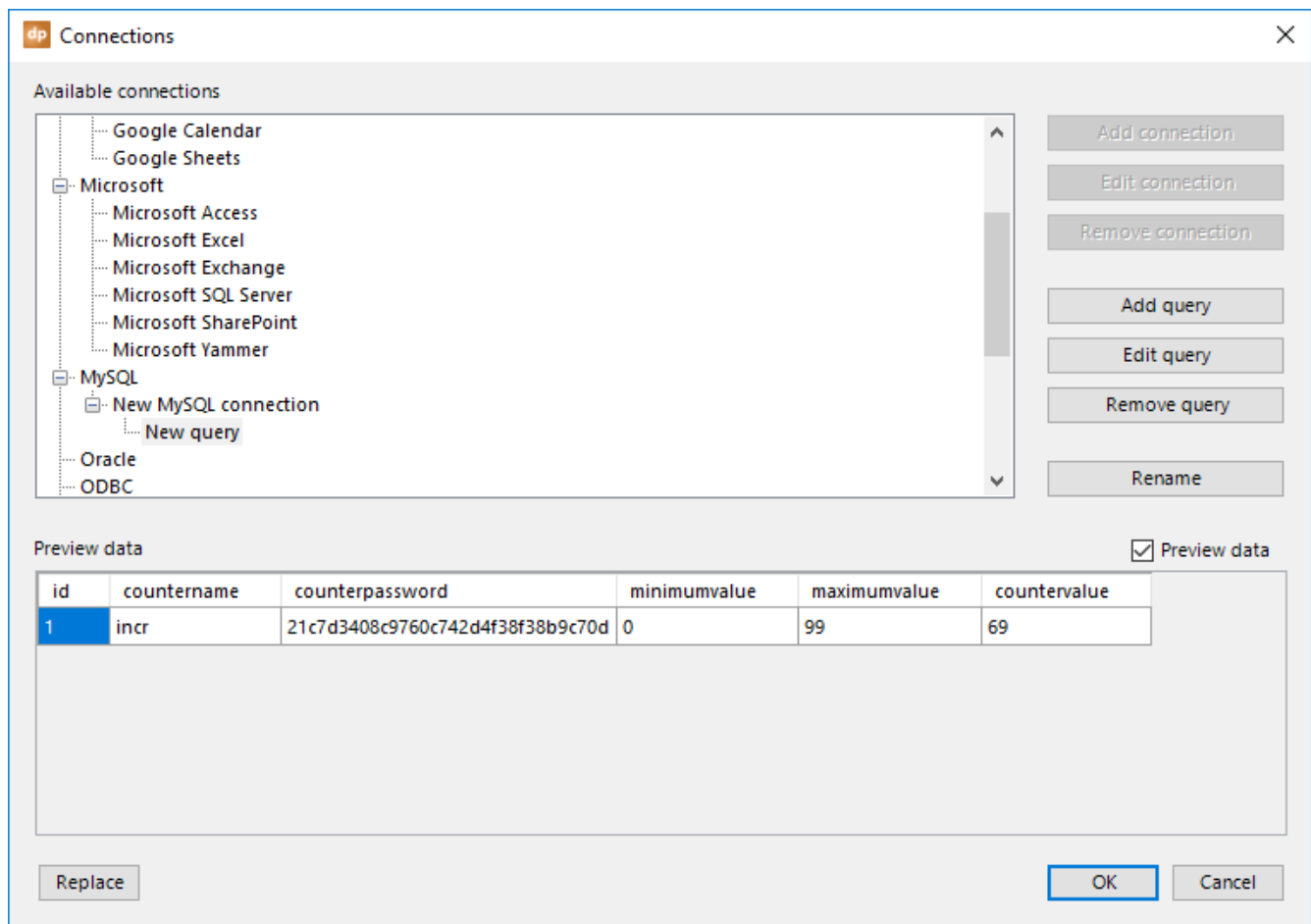
Advanced OK Cancel

To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

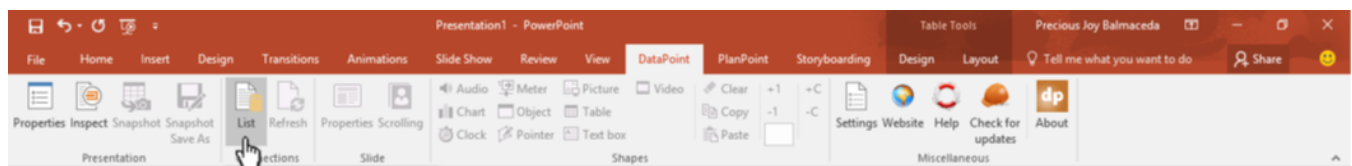
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer starts when you begin the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.

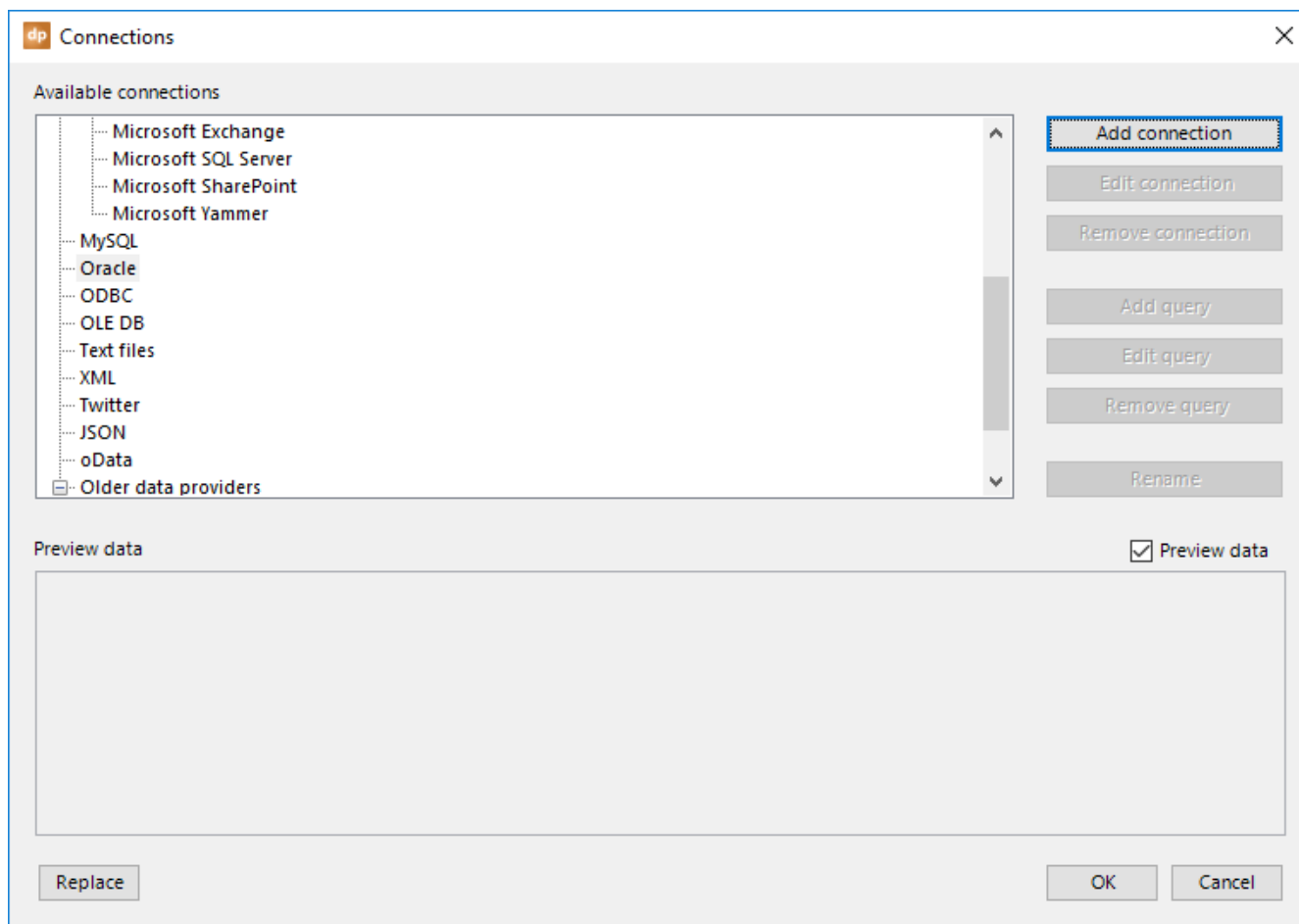


4.15. ORACLE connections

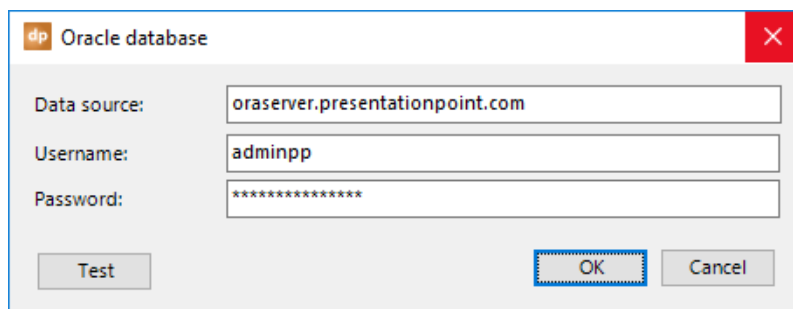
Click the **List** button in the **Connections** group.



Click on the **Oracle** node and choose **Add connection** from the popup menu.

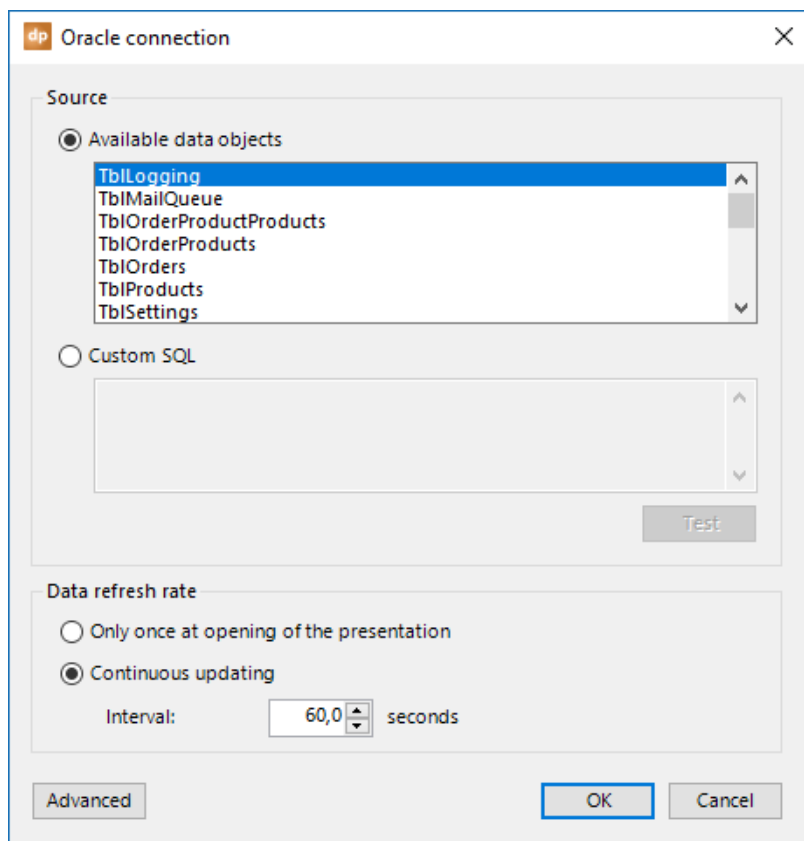


Enter the name of the server and your log on credentials.



Click **OK** to apply the changes and your new Oracle connection is now visible at the **Oracle** node.

Next, click the **Add query** button. You will be presented with a list of tables and views that were found in the database, as well as an option to write your own SQL statement.



To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

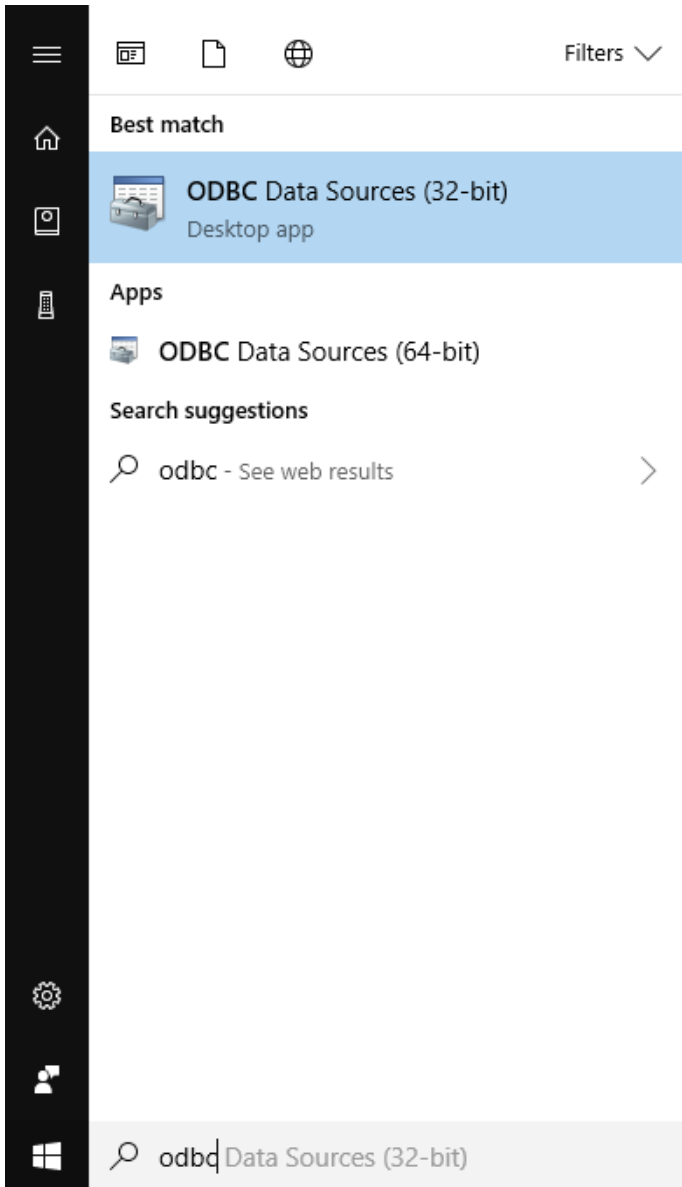
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.

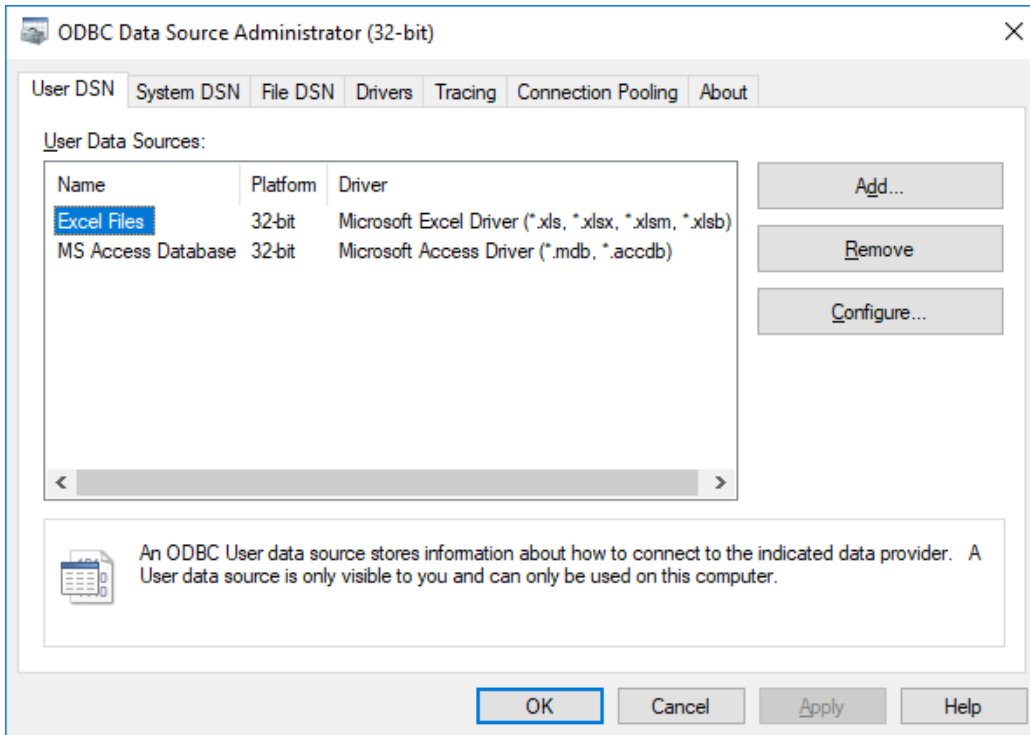
4.16. ODBC connections

Though it may seem less attractive or old-fashioned compared to XML and databases, there is also the ODBC data provider. ODBC stands for Open Database Connectivity and is a standard application programming interface (API) for communicating with databases.

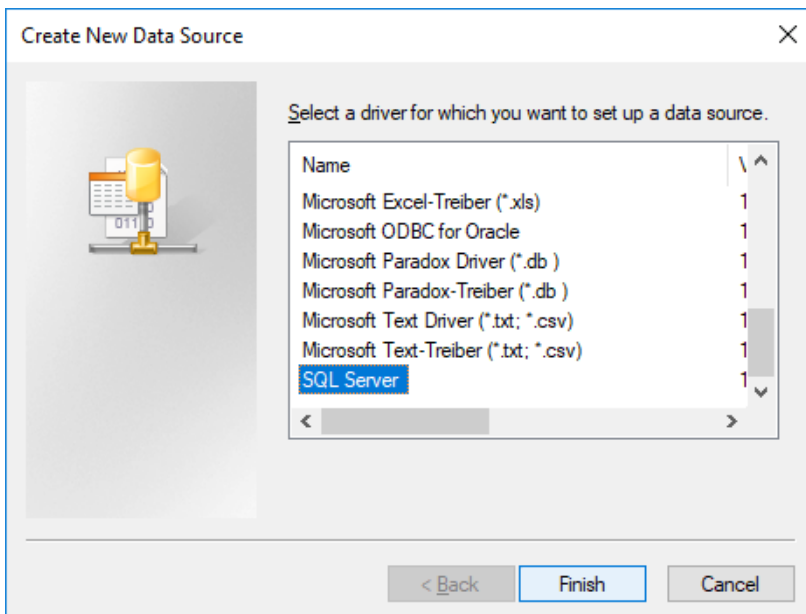
It starts with an ODBC data source, which is using a specific driver and is defined on your system. To set up ODBC data sources, search and open the ODBC Data Sources, 32 or 64 bits.



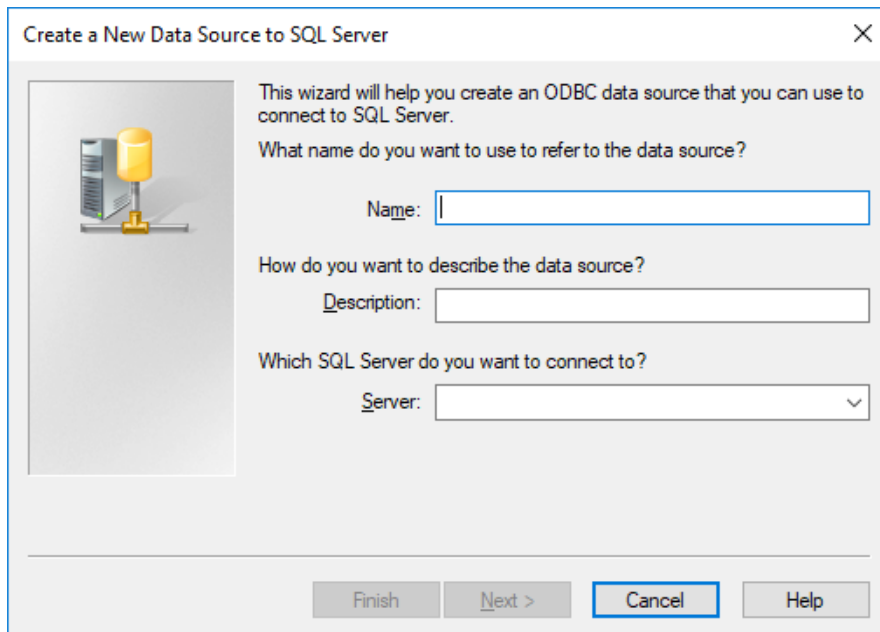
This is how it looks:



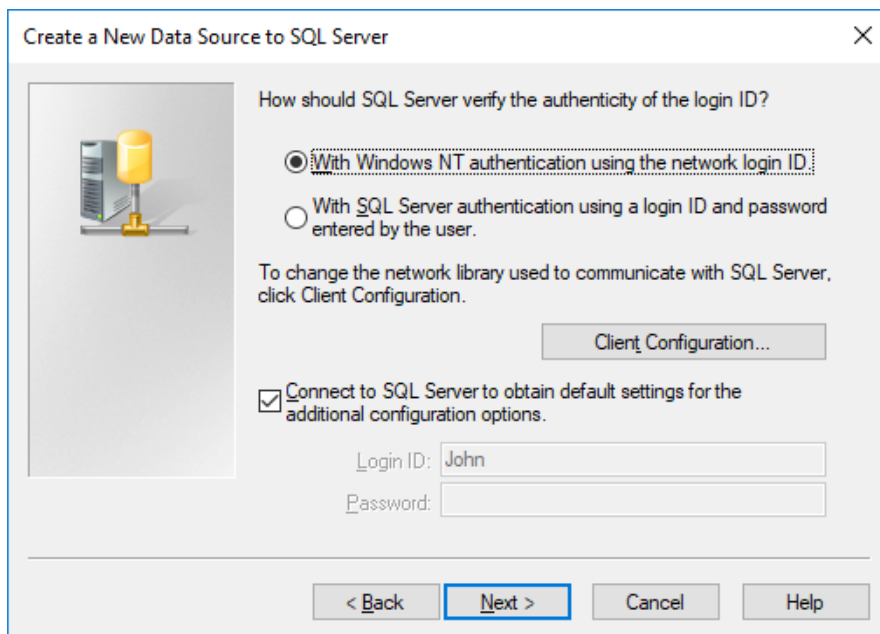
To add a new ODBC data source for yourself, click the **Add...** button.



Select the driver that you want to use (consult your database documentation) and click **Finish**. This will open a new form, which is where you first set the name, a description, and the server address.



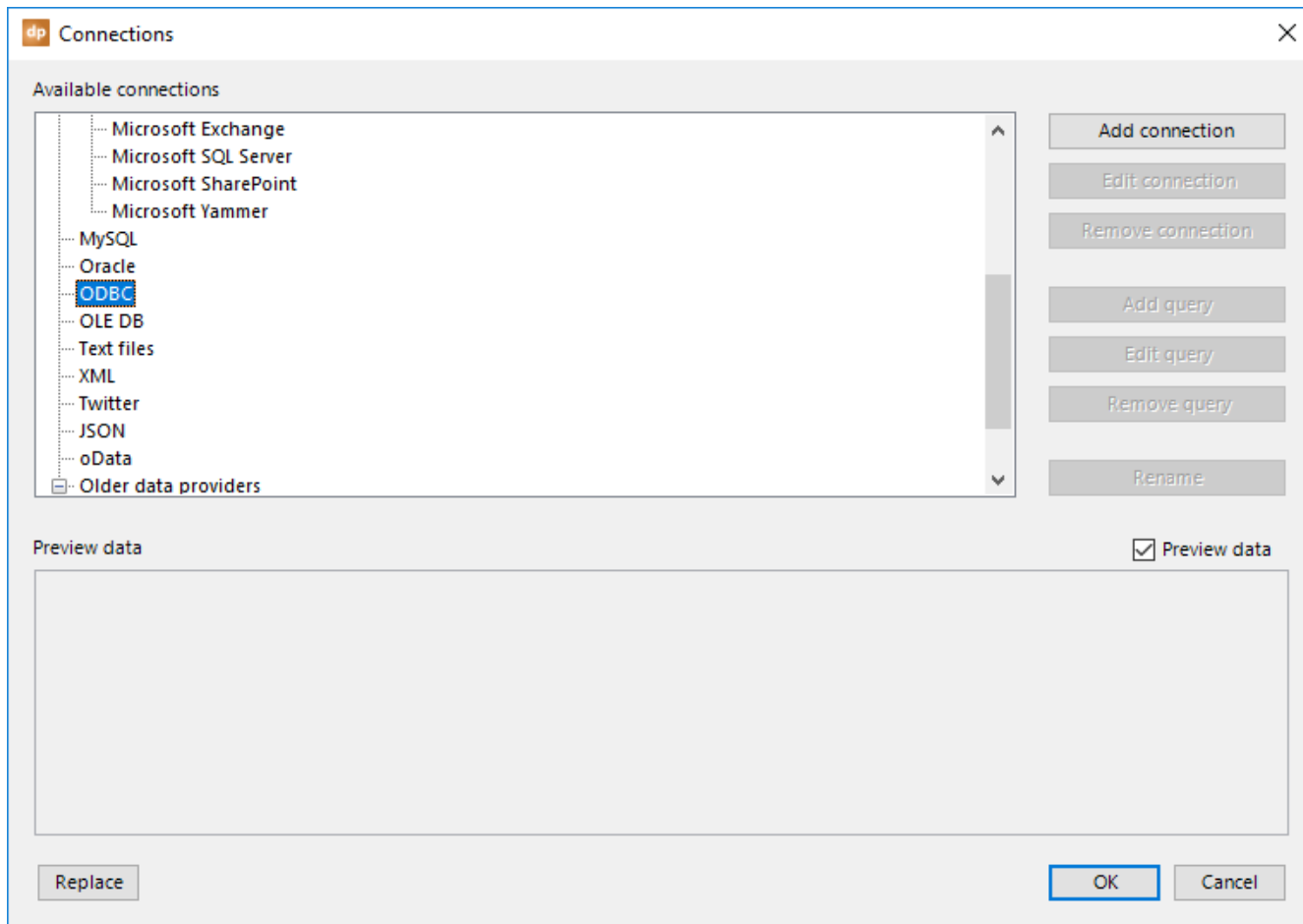
Click **Next** and you will get some more options.



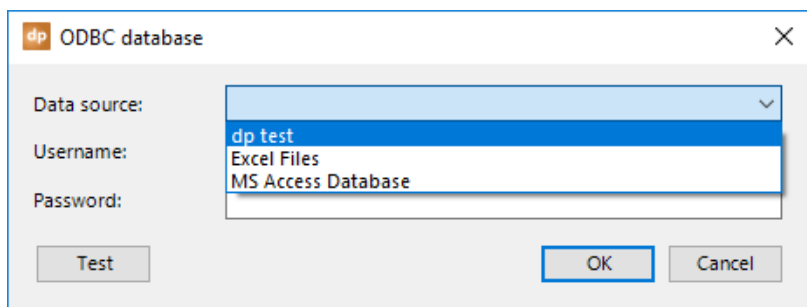
The data that is asked in the wizard completely depends on the ODBC driver that you are using. What you see here and in previous screenshots does not reflect what other drivers might ask. This is all driver-dependent.

Finally, a new ODBC data source is added to your computer and can be used by DataPoint.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **ODBC** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the ODBC data source. Click the **Add connection** button.

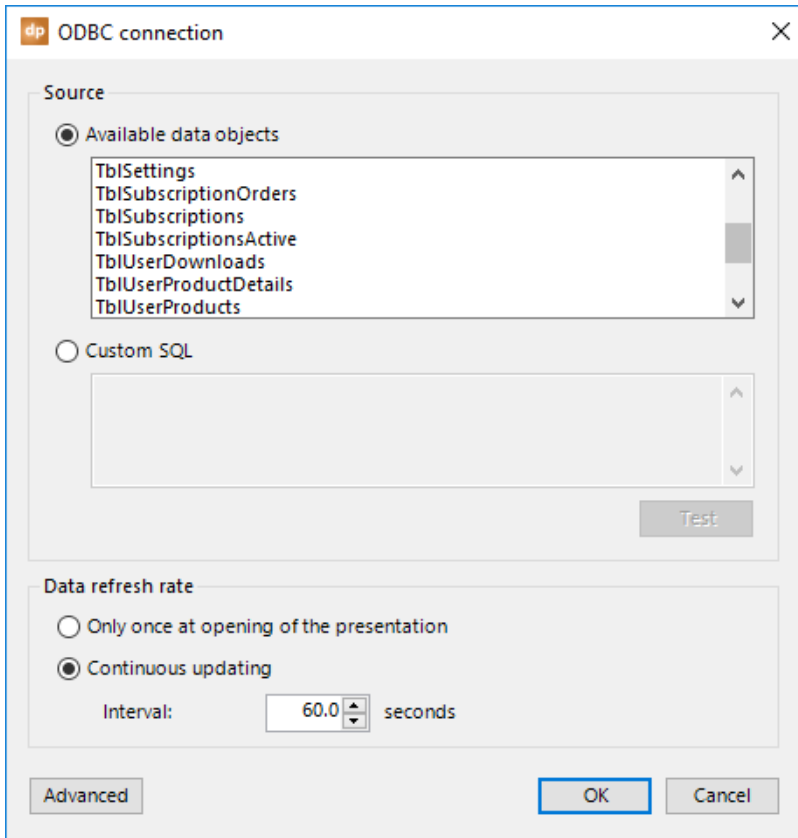


On the form, select the data source from the list and enter the username and password in order to connect. Click **OK** to close.



Back at the connections, you will find this connection at the ODBC data provider. Next, click the **Add query** button.

Typically for DataPoint's data connections, you get a list of available data objects that you can choose from, or you can write your own custom SQL statement.

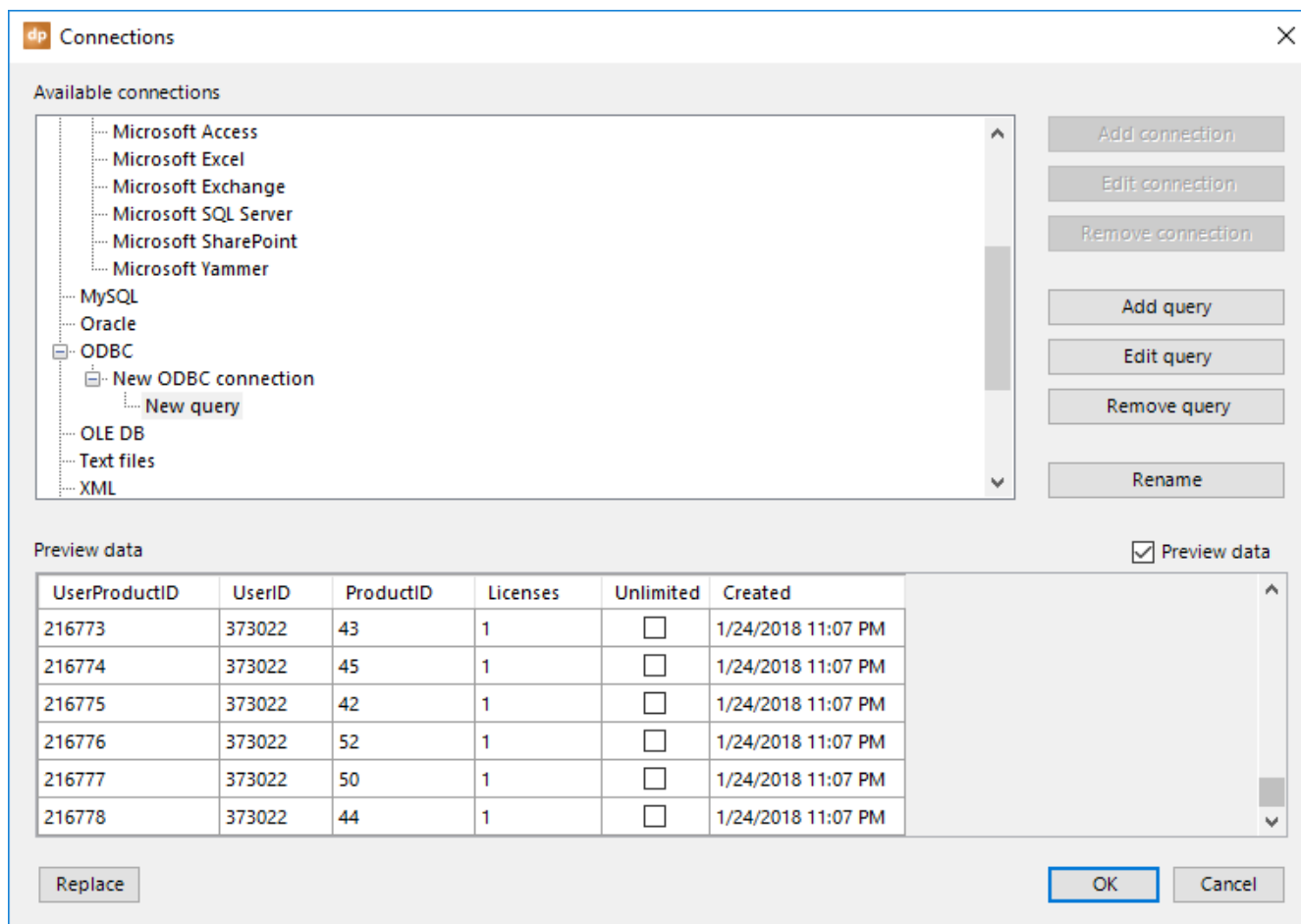


To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

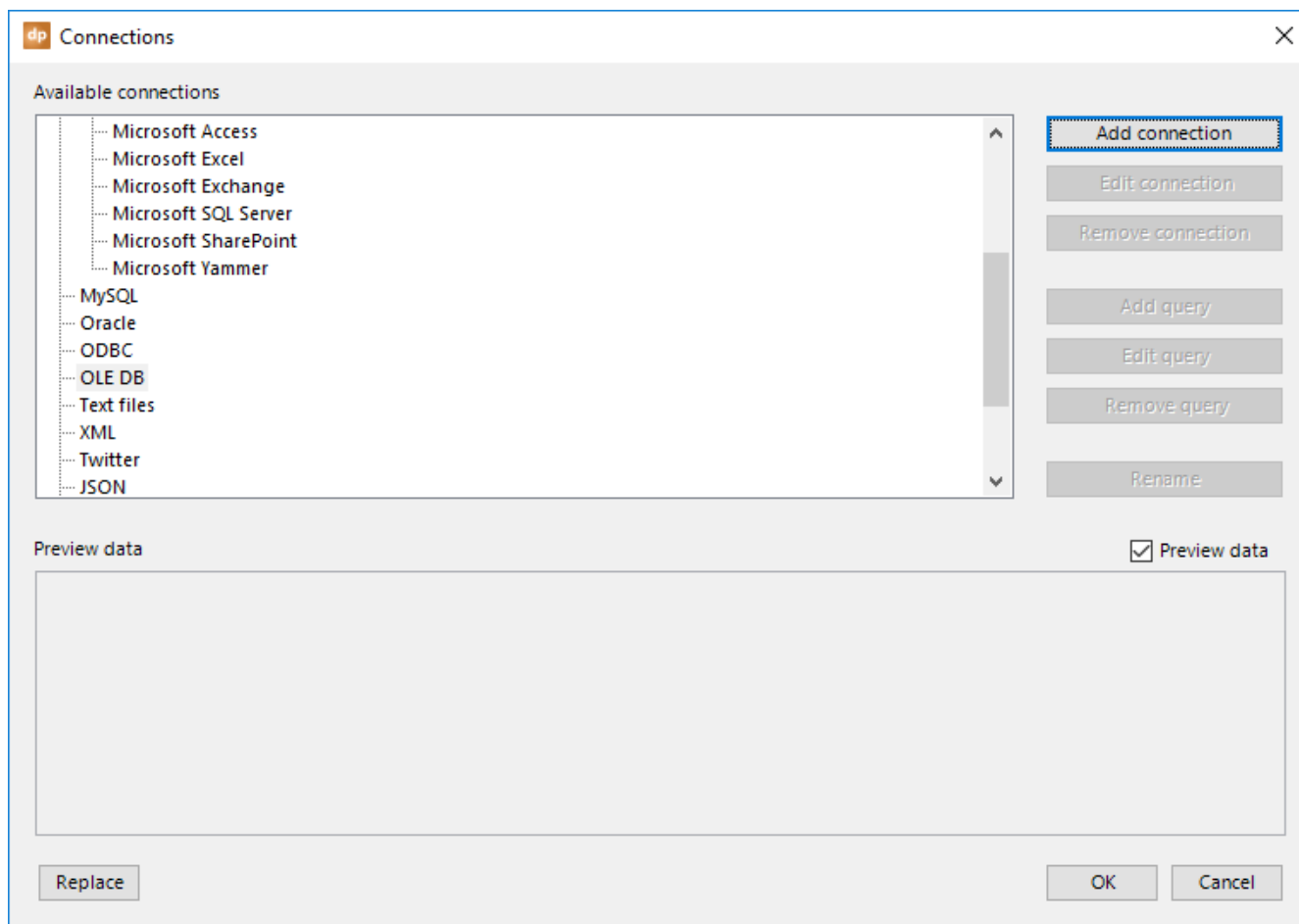
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



4.17. OLE DB connections

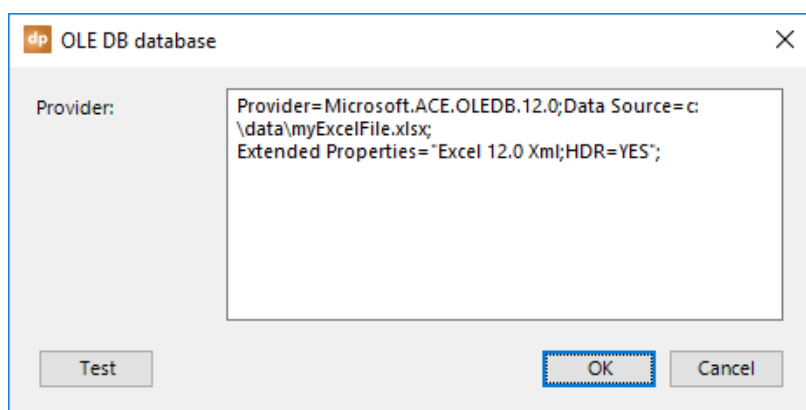
Next to ODBC, we have a data provider for OLE DB. OLE DB stands for Object Linking and Embedding, Database. It is an API designed by Microsoft to access a variety of data sources in a standardized manner.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **OLE DB** data provider. First, we need to add a connection to the OLE DB data source. Click the **Add connection** button.



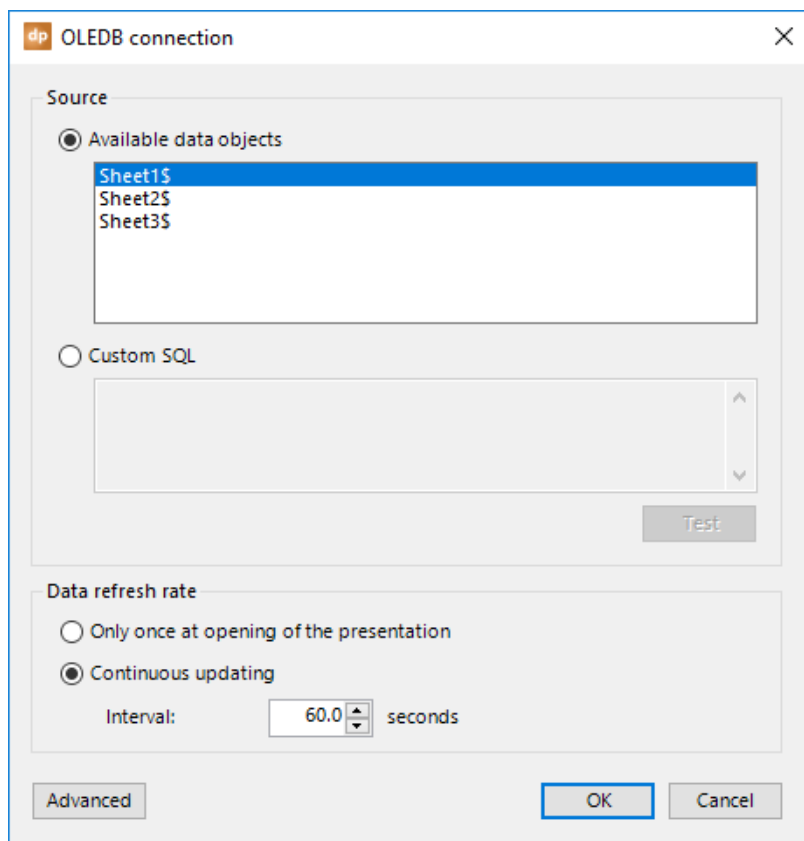
Next, type in or paste the OLE DB specific connection string. The content and parameters of the OLE DB data source that you are going to access are very specific to the source that you access. Check out the OLE DB connection string specifications for more info.

Here, at this screenshot, we will be connecting to a Microsoft Excel file.



Back at the connections, you will find this connection at the OLE DB data provider. Next, click the **Add query** button.

Typically for DataPoint's data connections, you get a list of available data objects that you can choose from, or you can write your own custom SQL statement.

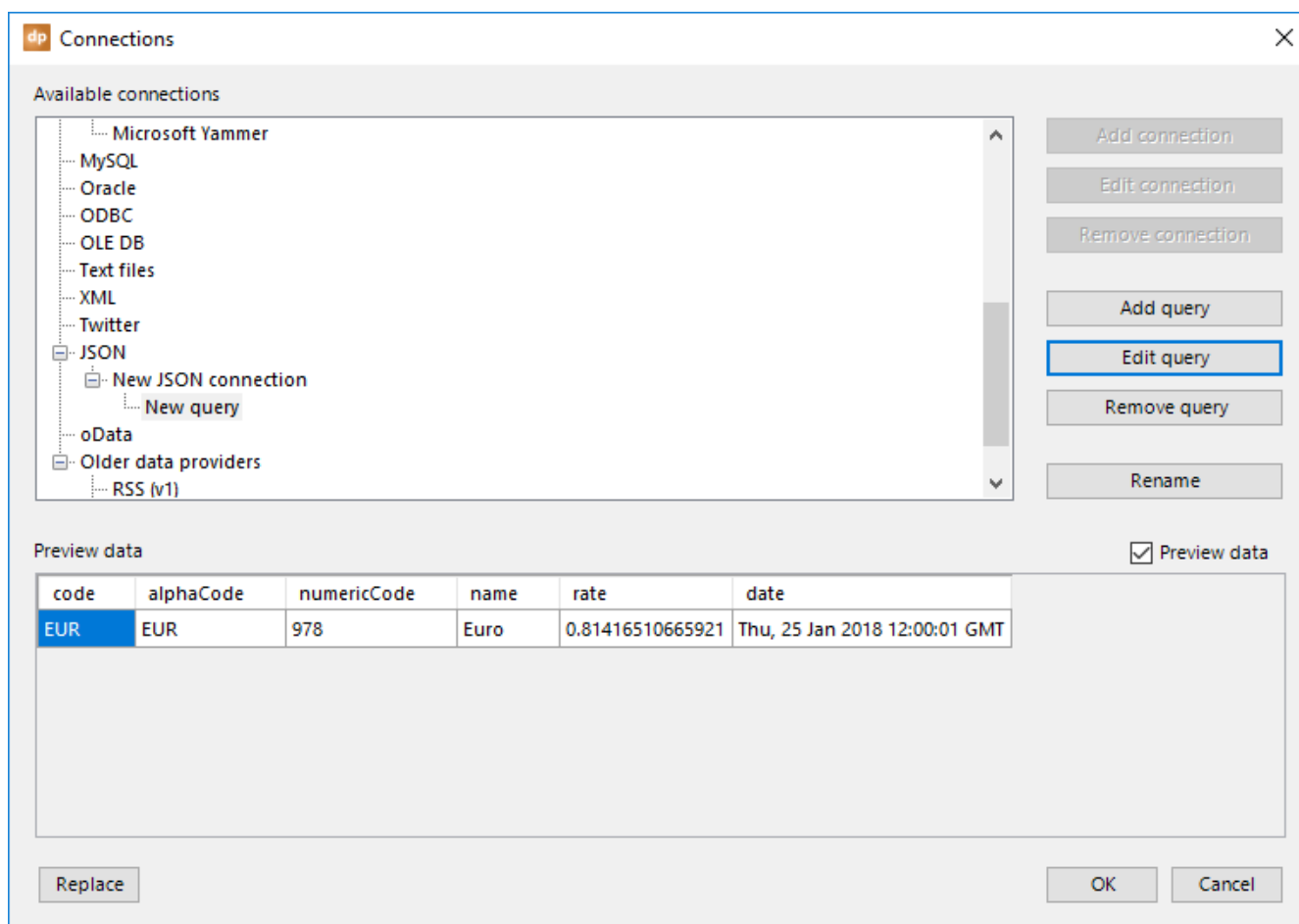


To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

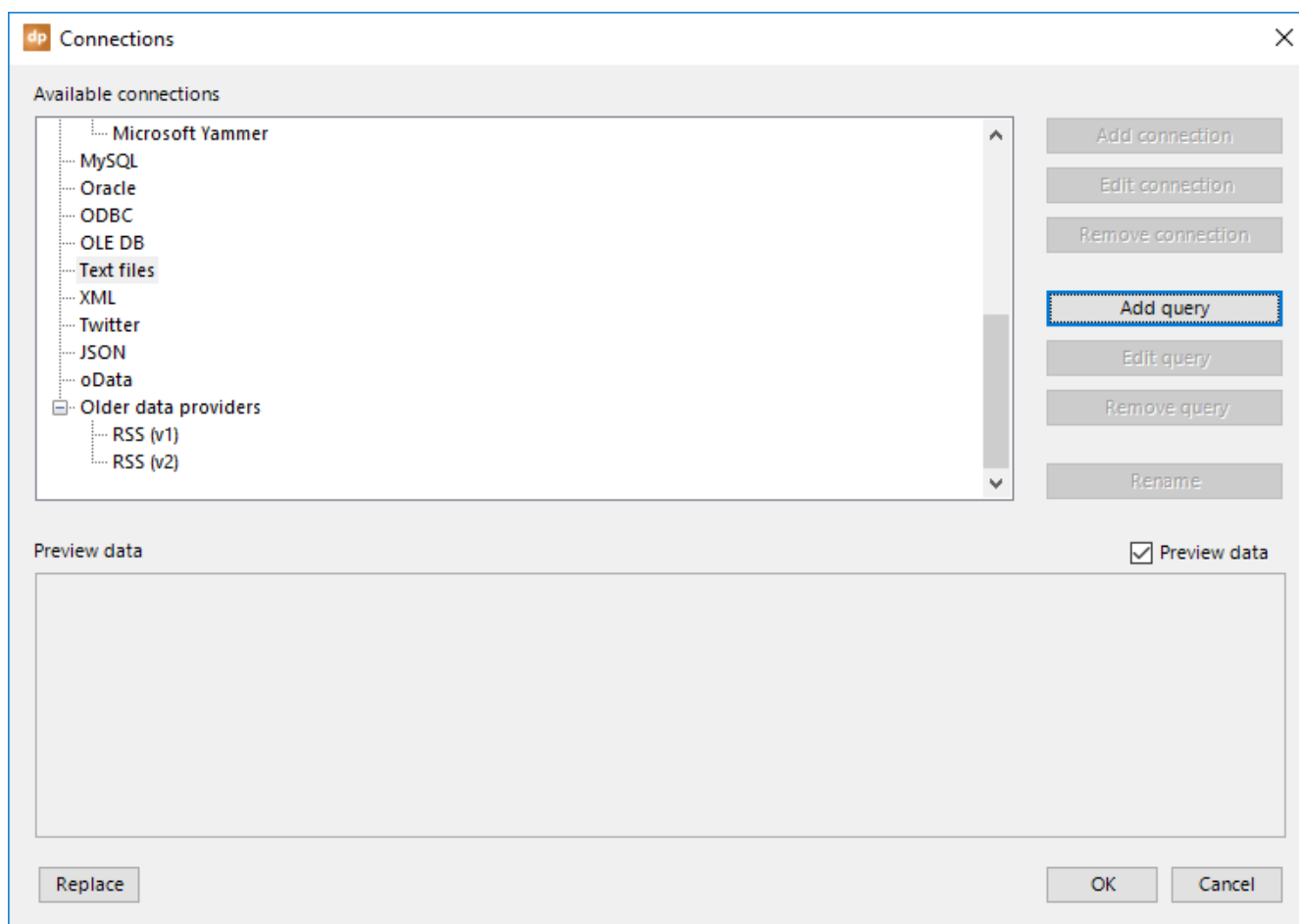
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



4.18. Text File connections

Text files are the most simplistic databases possible—a document with data, no indexes, no validations, and no querying. The big advantage of using text files is that every database, system, and application can export information to text files. And no additional software, like a database engine, is needed. It will work everywhere, across every platform.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Text files** data provider. We start by adding a link to the data file. Click the **Add query** button.

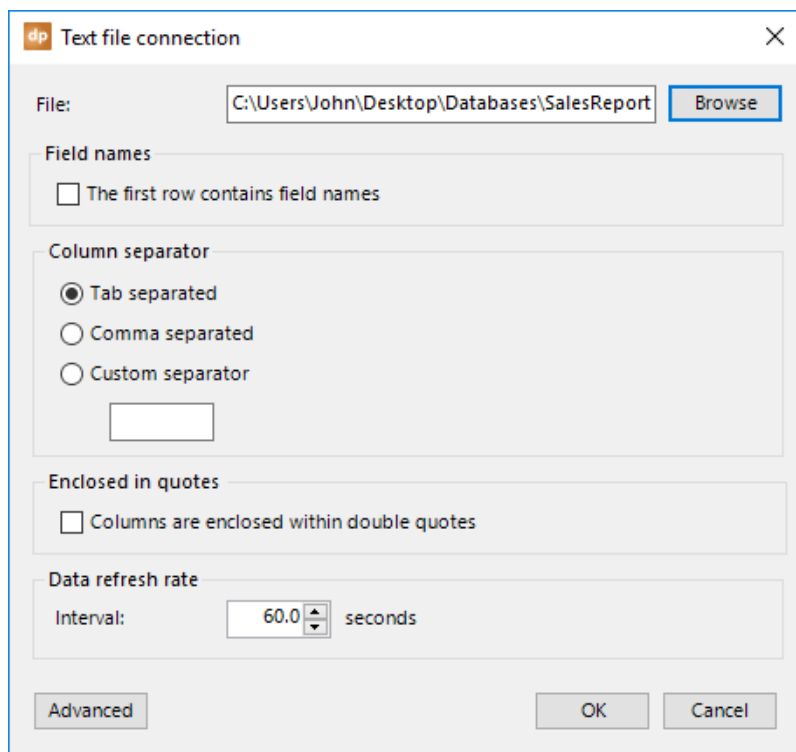


Click the **Browse** button. Navigate to your file and select it.

Sometimes, you will find column names in the first row of the file. If so, check the **The first row contains field names** option, as this will be much easier to read later on. When checked, the column of your data table will take over the column names of your file. When this option is not checked, default column names like F1, F2, F3, etc. will be used.

When using a data file with multiple data columns, there is a column separator or character used to separate the different columns. For text files, this is typically tab or comma characters. A text file where the columns are separated by commas is also frequently called a comma separated value file, or CSV file. Check the **Tab** or **Comma** separated option, or select the **Custom** separator and set its value.

With some text files, string values are enclosed by double quotes, like this: "DataPoint is a great product." In that case, check the option **Columns are enclosed within double quotes**.

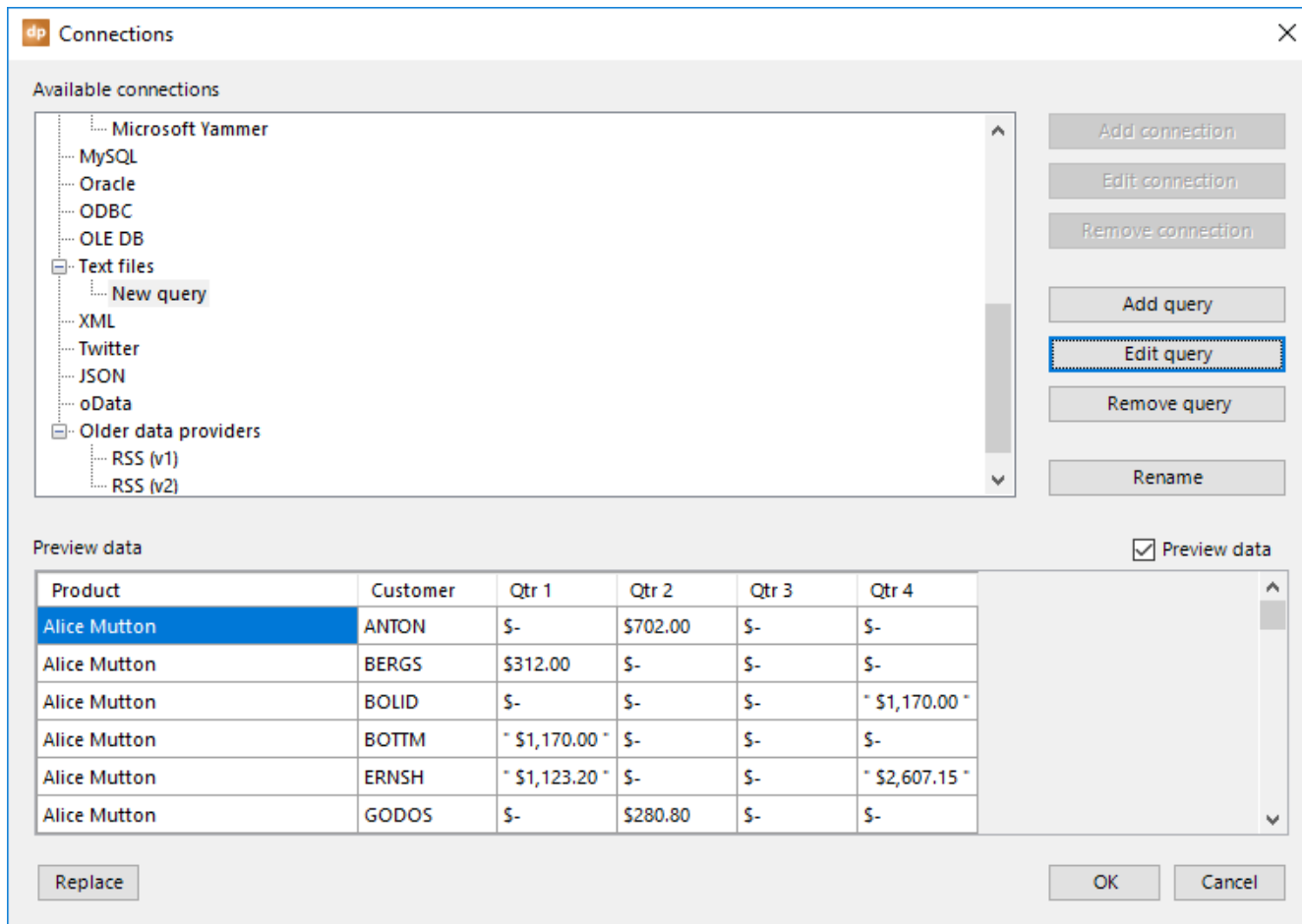


To refresh the data, you have two options here.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

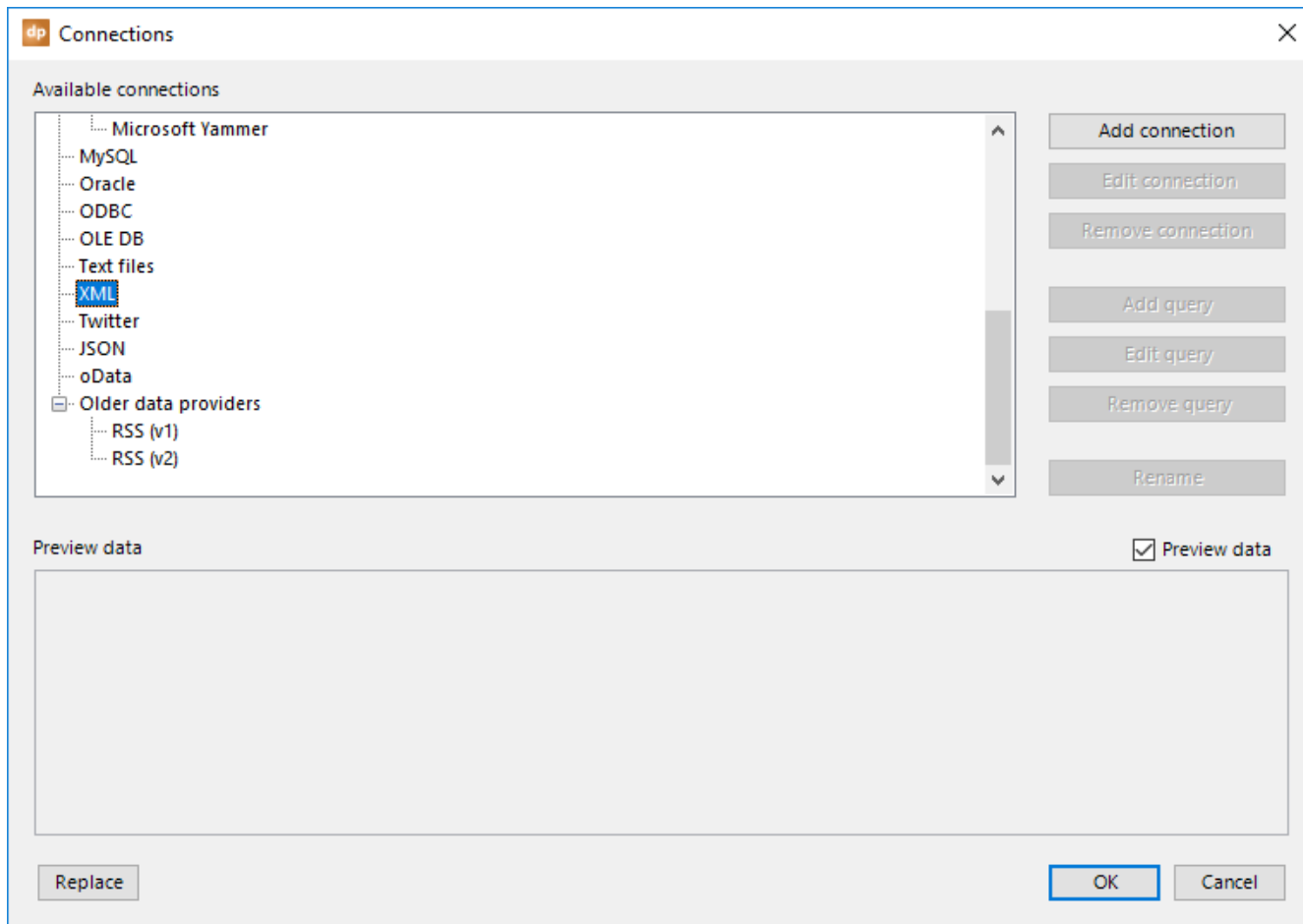
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



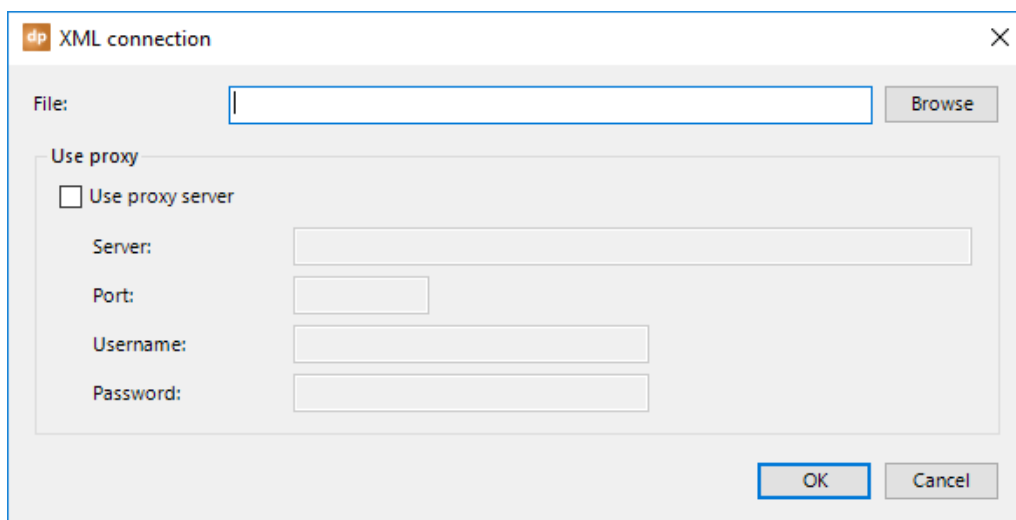
4.19. XML connections

XML files are more like text files, but with some structural information included. XML is great for cross-database communication via flat files.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Text files** data provider. We start by adding a link to the data file. Click the **Add connection** button.

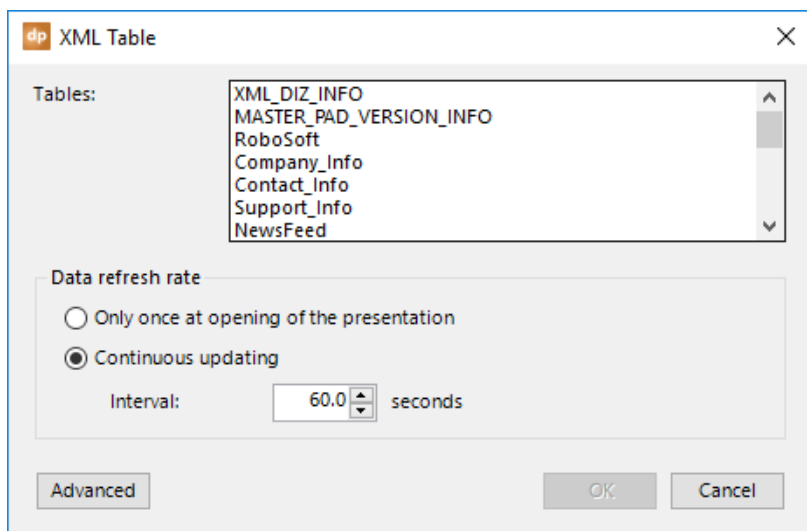


Click the **Browse** button. Navigate to your file and select it. For XML files from a webserver or website, enter the HTTP or HTTPS address here. As an option, you can enable the use of a proxy server and set the proxy information. Check the correct values with your network administrator. Click **OK** to close.



This connection to the XML file will be saved at the XML node. With this connection selected, click the **Add query** button to open more information about the XML file.

You get to see a list of available tables of the XML file, depending on what file you are using. Select the tables that you want to use to get your information for DataPoint.

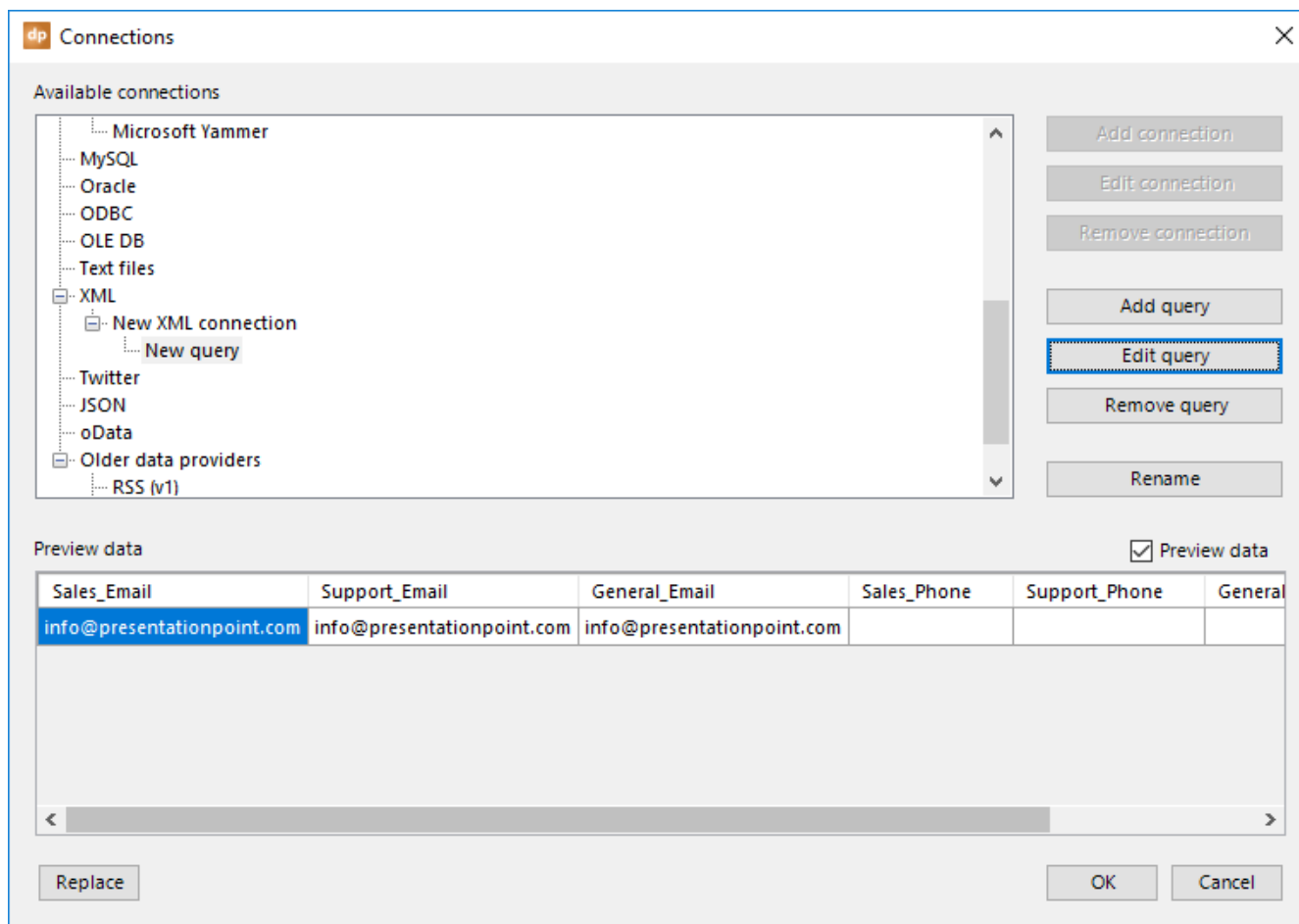


To refresh the data, you have two options.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.

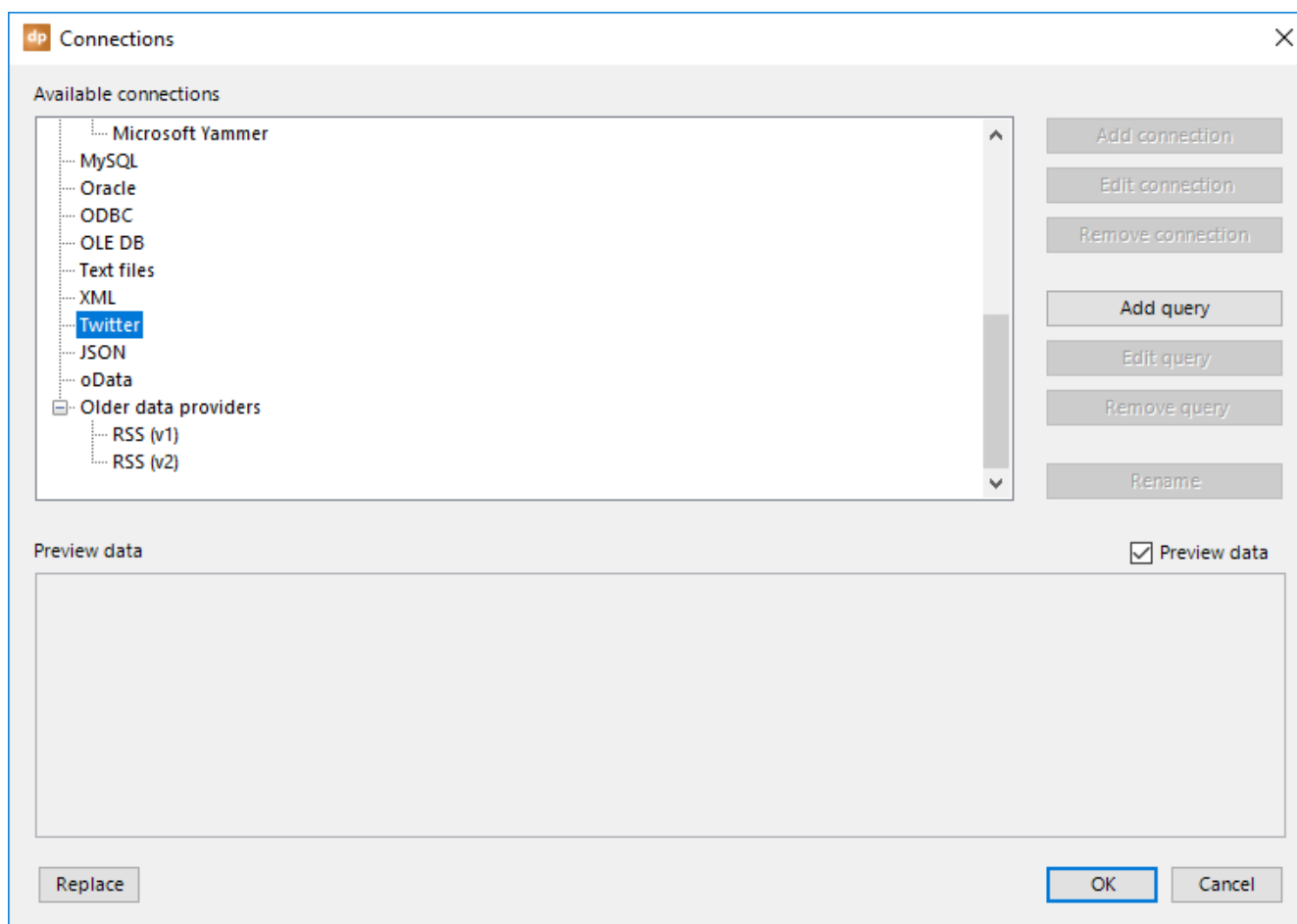


4.20. TWITTER connections

Twitter is a social media network that allows you to send out short messages with keywords, known as hashtags, and images. A message on Twitter is called a Tweet. You can subscribe to certain persons or companies and receive all related tweets in your newsfeed.

With DataPoint, you can show given tweets in real-time.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Twitter** data provider. Click the **Add query** button.



At the **Selection** pane, you can choose which Tweets to display. First, you can show all Tweets from your Twitter news feed as if you were using your Twitter app. Secondly, you can choose to display all Tweets of a given username, e.g. **@Microsoft**. And finally, you can enter a search term or keyword like **#powerpoint** or just **powerpoint**.

Sometimes a single Tweet is retweeted multiple times by different users. By default, we exclude retweets. If you still want to show retweets, then uncheck the option **Exclude retweets**.

You can also show the profile image of the person that Twittered. When the option **Download user profile images** is checked, then DataPoint will download the user profile image as a local temporary image file. You will find a column named **UserProfileImage** at the data table for this purpose.

Another great option is the **Download featured images** option. When checked, the featured image of the Tweet or the primary or featured image of the article mentioned in the Tweet, is made locally available for you to show on your slides. You will find that image at the column **FeaturedImage**.

You will find the content of the Tweet at the column named **Text**. This might contain a URL that points to the article that you use in your Tweet. If you want to show the Tweet's content without that URL, then use the column **TextWithoutURLs**.

By default, only the first 25 Tweets are returned. You can change that parameter via the **Advanced** button.

dp Twitter

Selection

Everything from my Twitter news feed

Tweets from this user:

Tweets with this search term:

#powerpoint

Exclude retweets

Download user profile images

Download featured images

Data refresh rate

Only once at opening of the presentation

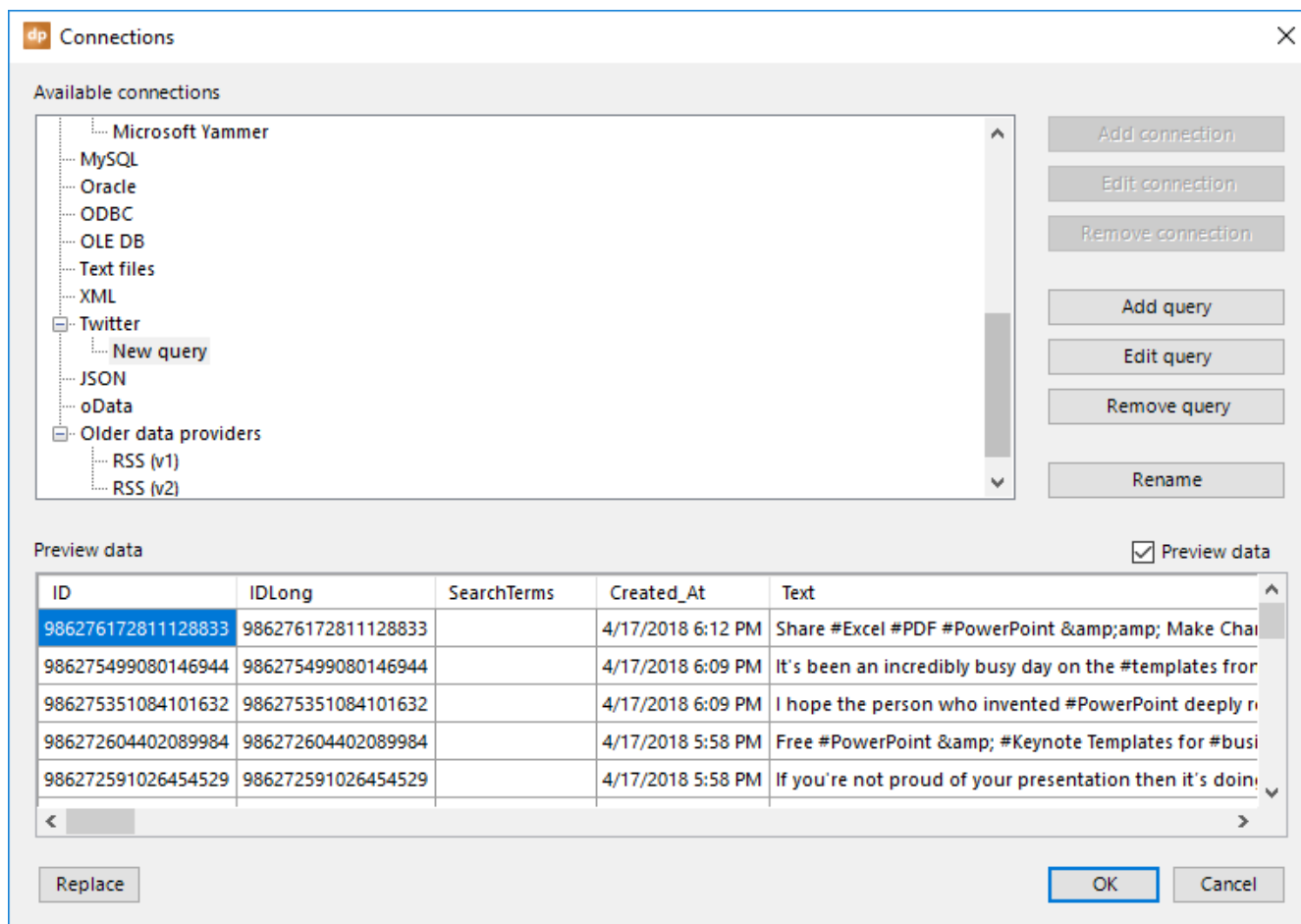
Continuous updating

Interval: 900.0 seconds

Advanced OK Cancel

Set the Data refresh rate to fit your needs. When you want to display a continuous number of Tweets for a life event, lower the interval, for instance, to every 1 or 5 seconds. When it is less critical, then set it to, say, 300 for every 5-minute refresh.

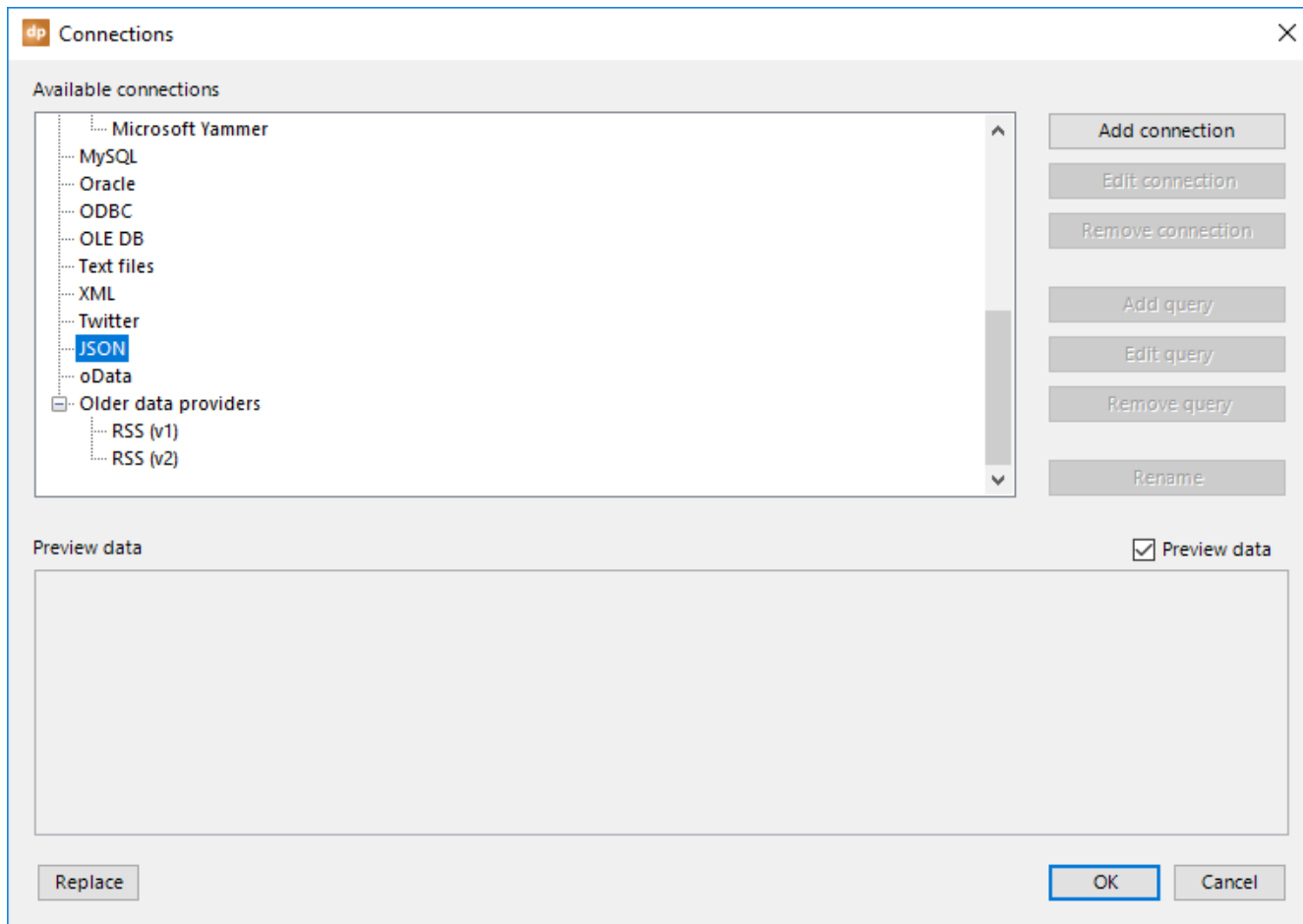
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



4.21. JSON connections

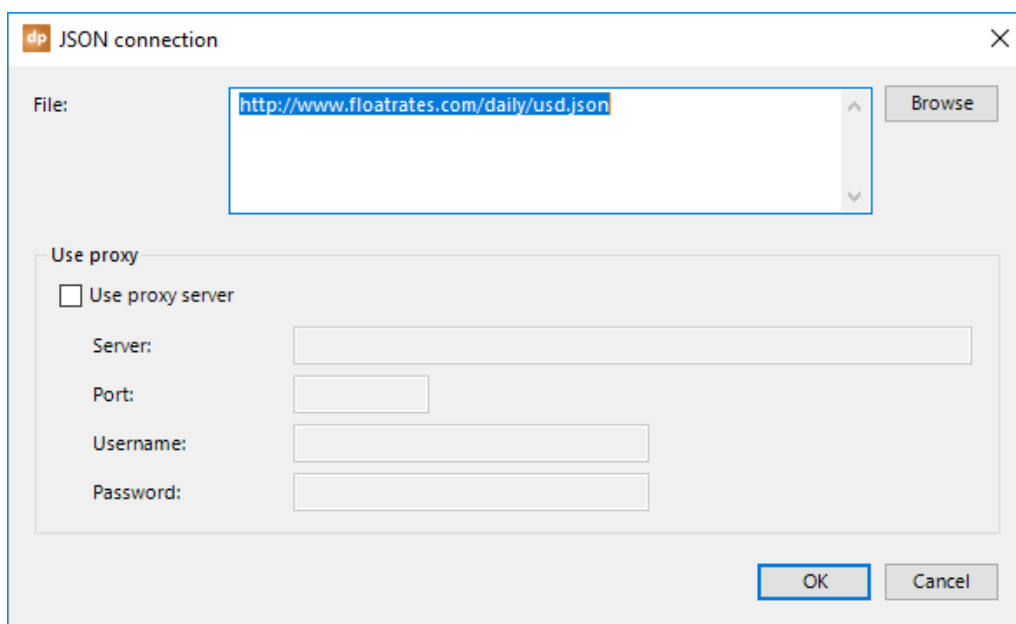
JSON is a more modern object notation protocol, like XML, and stands for JavaScript Object Notation. It is an open standard for storing and exchanging data between systems.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **JSON** data provider. Click the **Add connection** button.



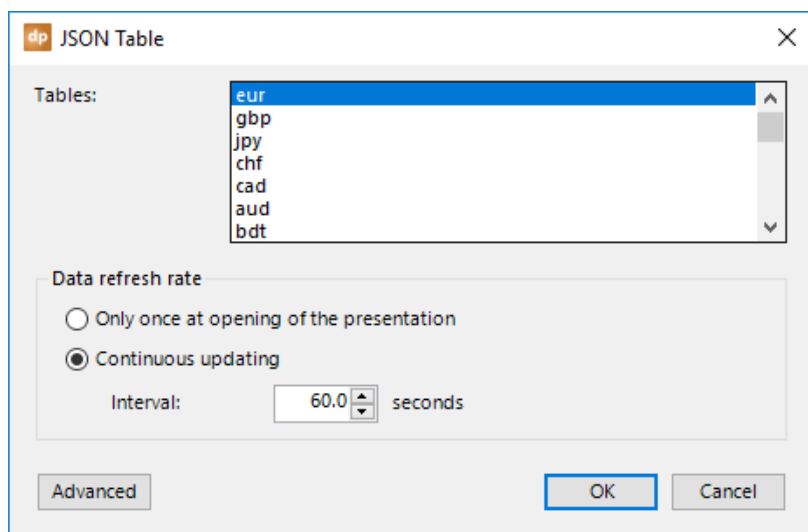
Click the Browse button. Navigate and select the JSON file that you want to use. Mostly, the JSON will come from a webserver or website. In that case, just enter the HTTP or HTTPS URL that identifies this file on a website.

In addition, you can enable the use of a proxy server and set the proxy information. Check the correct values with your network administrator. Click **OK** to close.



This connection is added to the JSON node on the connections form. With this connection selected, click the **Add query** button.

Select a **table** from the list of tables that you want to use on your DataPoint presentations.

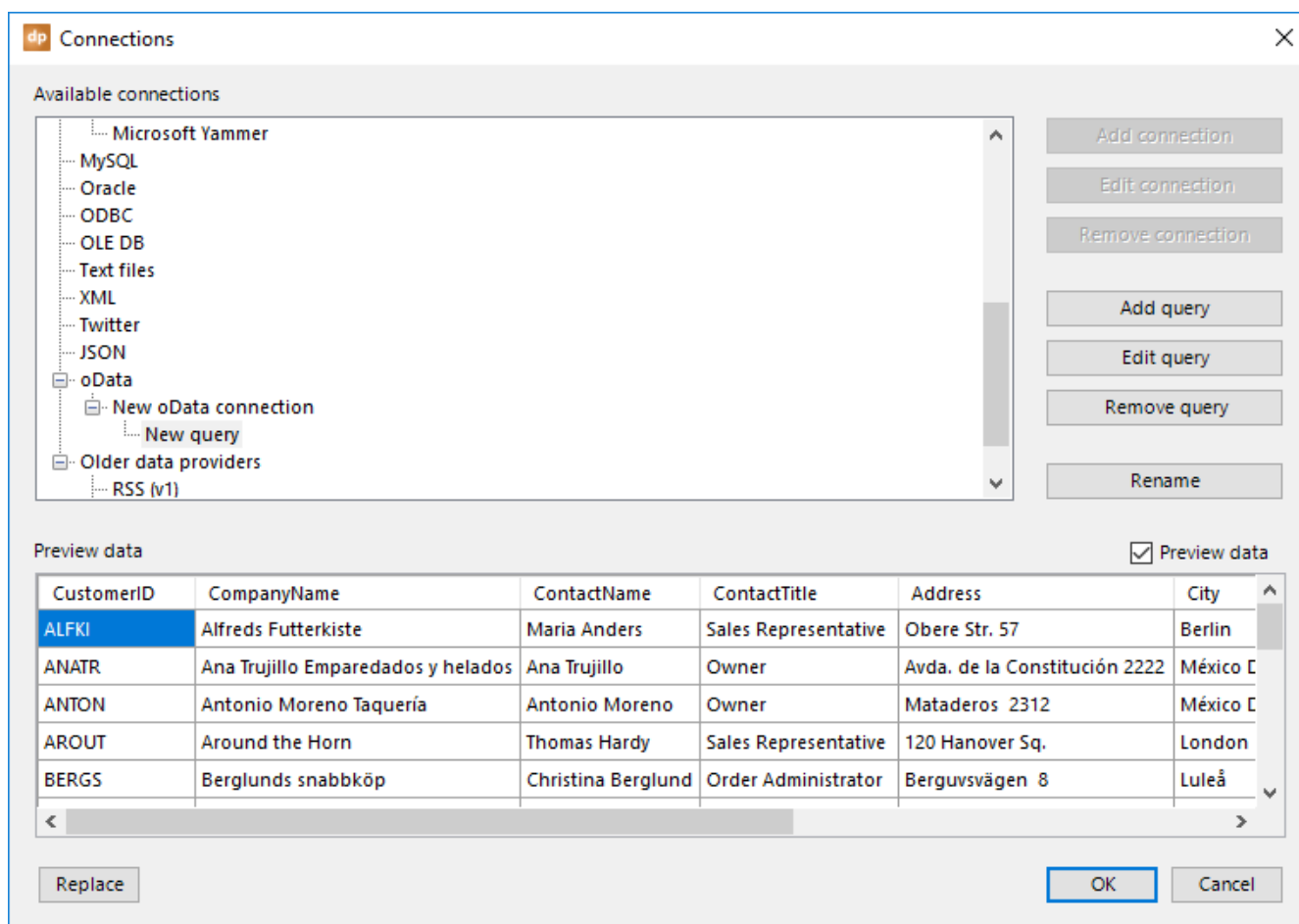


To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

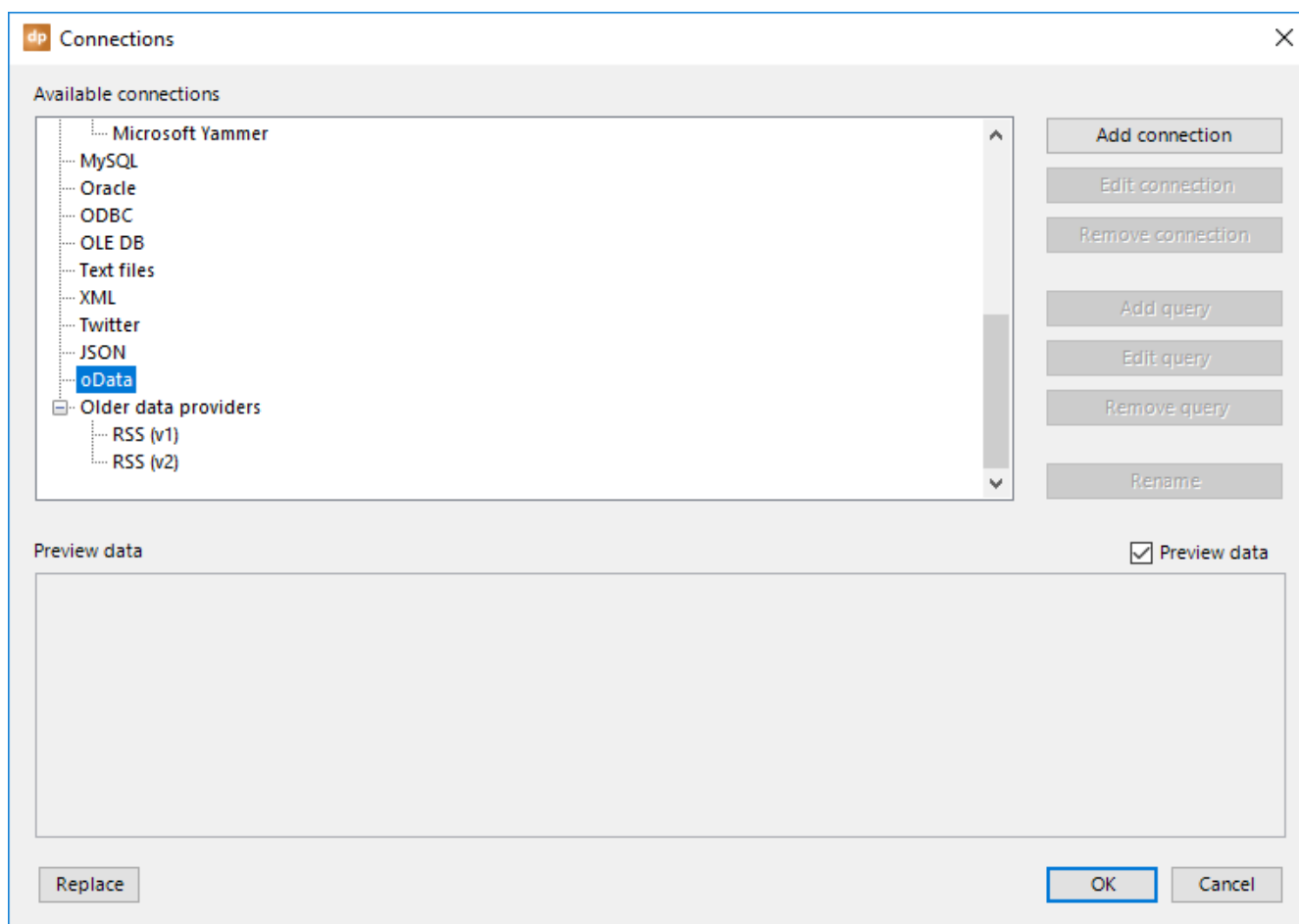
Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



4.22. oData connections

The OData (Open Data Protocol) data provider allows you to connect to RESTful APIs in a simple and standard way. Typically, you will find an oData service with one or more resources with data.

Open the **List** connections from the **DataPoint** menu and select the **oData** data provider. Click the **Add connection** button.



First of all, you start by setting the URI, or the Uniform Resource Identifier. This is the server or machine address that you are connecting to.

In addition, you can check the option **Log on as** and set its **username** and **password** for a protected service.

And finally, you can enable the use of a proxy server and set the proxy information. Check the correct values with your network administrator. Click **OK** to close.

oData connection

URI:

Authentication

Log on as

Username:

Password:

Use proxy

Use proxy server

Server:

Port:

Username:

Password:

OK Cancel

The oData connection is added to the oData node. Click the **Add query** button next.

Select an item from the resources list.

oData Resource

Resources:

- Categories
- CustomerDemographics
- Customers**
- Employees
- Order_Details
- Orders
- Products

Data refresh rate

Only once at opening of the presentation

Continuous updating

Interval: seconds

Advanced OK Cancel

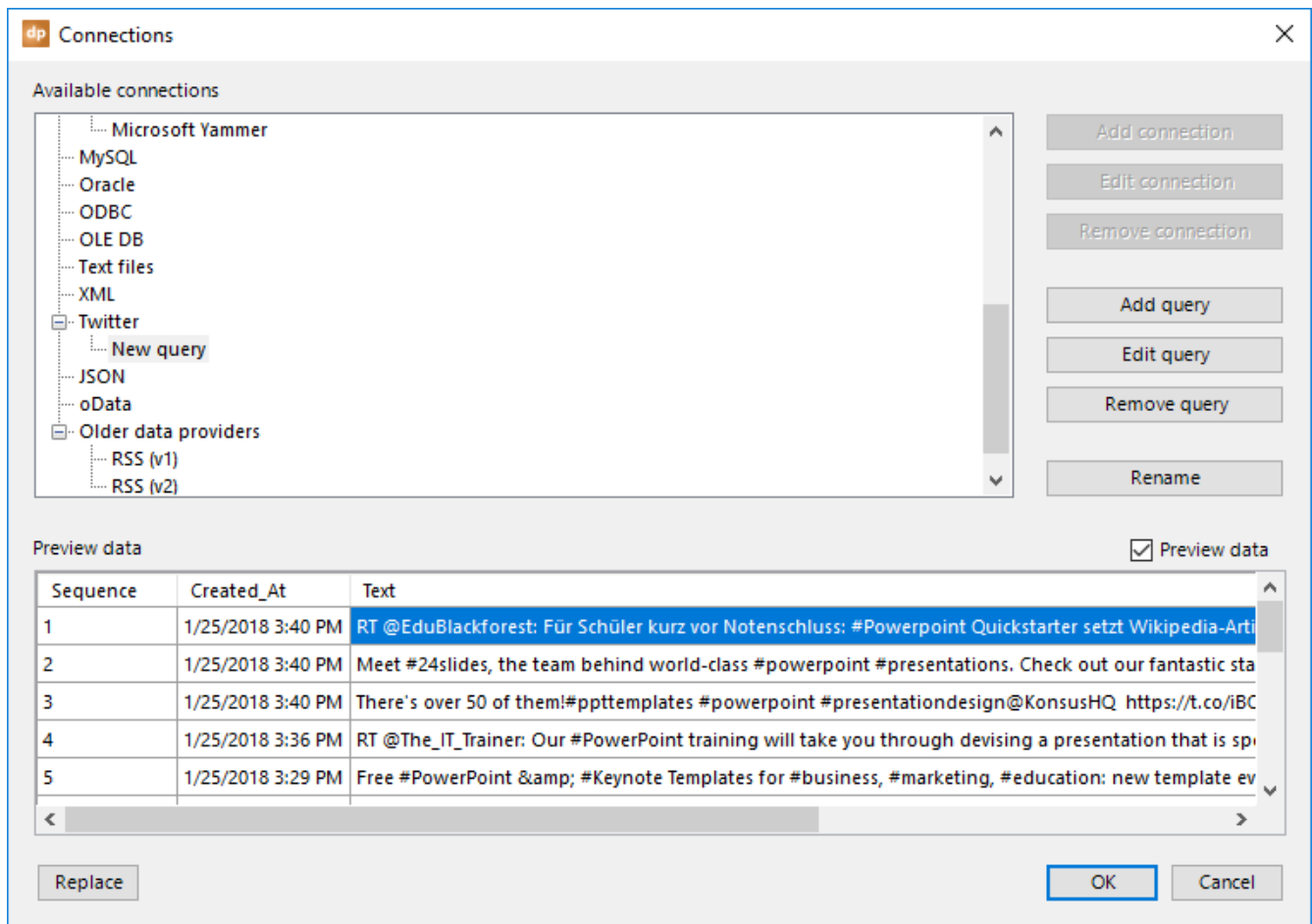
To refresh the data, you have two options here, too.

You can choose to refresh the data only once at the opening of the presentation. This could be done when you are only using the presentation for reporting or statistics, not really for real-time information screens.

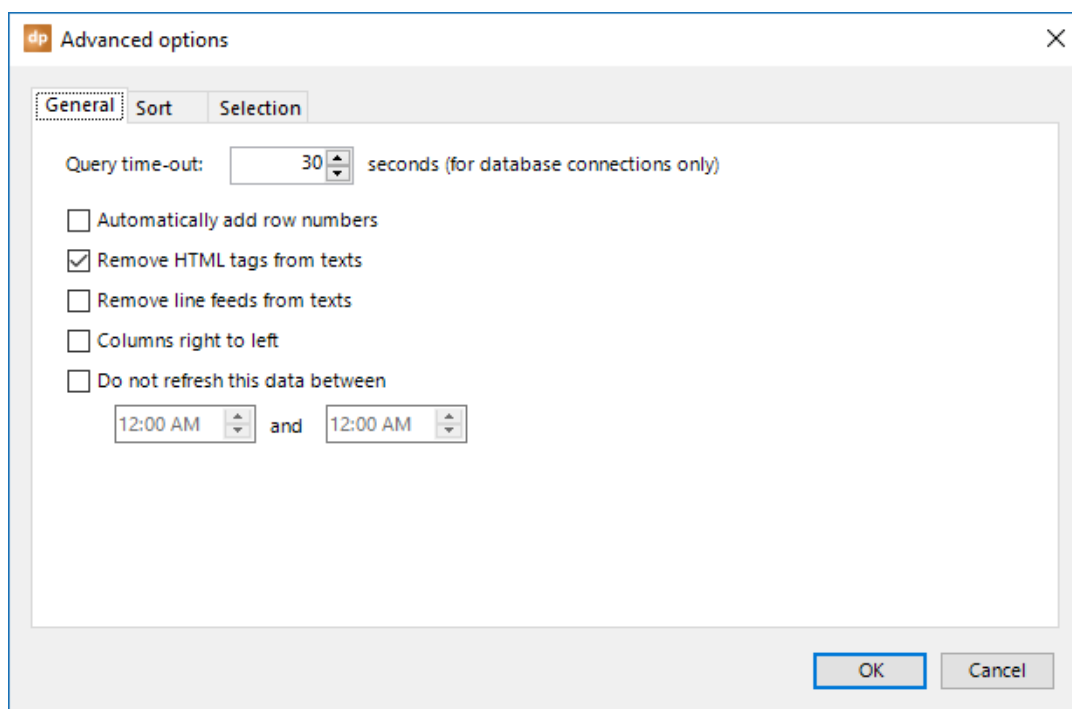
Or, you can choose to activate a timer, e.g. every 60 seconds, to check for new data. This timer begins when you start the slide show. So, the automatic updating will not happen when you are designing the presentation. For that, you have the **Refresh** button. Use a small figure for critical or frequently updated data, like for auctions and

sports game results. Or use a larger figure for anniversaries and non-critical messaging.

Click **OK** to close, and a preview of the data will be displayed.



4.23. Advanced properties



On the General tab, there are a few options that you can set for every type of query.

In some events, communication with a data server is either not working or too slow. To avoid long-running transactions, you can set a maximum time for running a query. A timeout, as this is technically called. Timeouts of 30 or 60 seconds are very common. When a query is launched, it will be seen as unresponsive after this number of seconds, and it will abort the data request. Sometimes, when you know that you are using a long-running query, it might be helpful to increase the **query time-out time**.

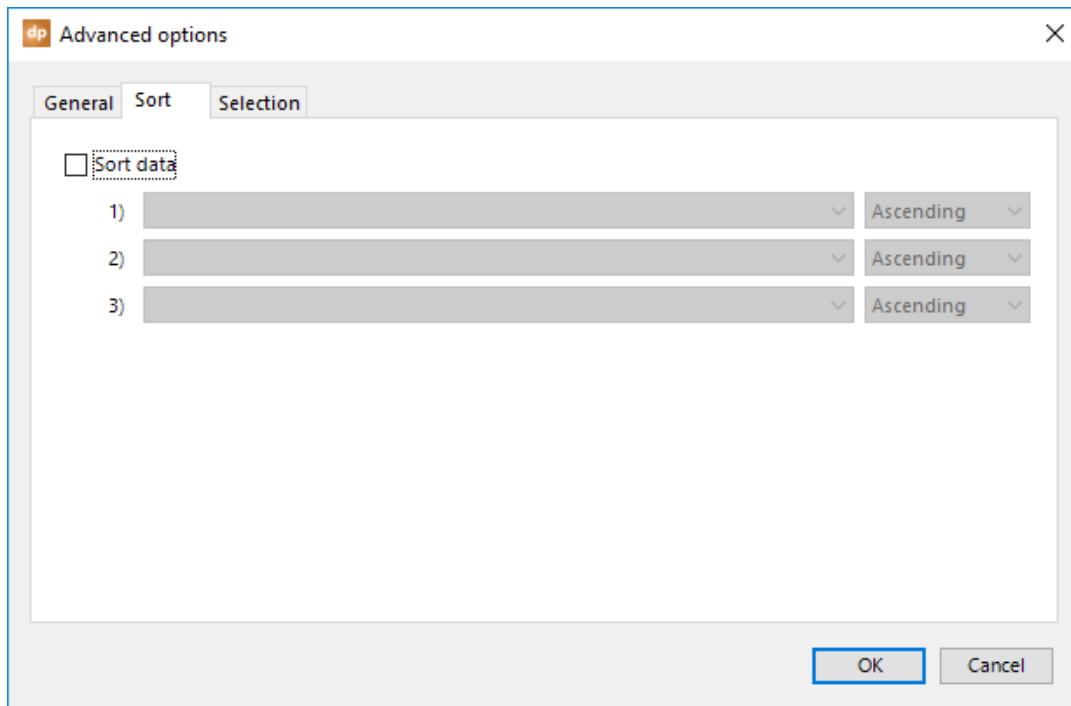
You can add row numbers automatically to the data. For example, when you want to display the five top-selling products, you can list the products' names and sales info, and you can use the row numbers to better rank your data. You will have a clear view of which product ranks 5th and which product ranks 1st.

In the event that you are working with HTML content, then you can remove the HTML content automatically by checking the option **Remove HTML tags from texts**. Examples of HTML tags are `<p>Your text</p>` and `my text` and are typically found in RSS feeds.

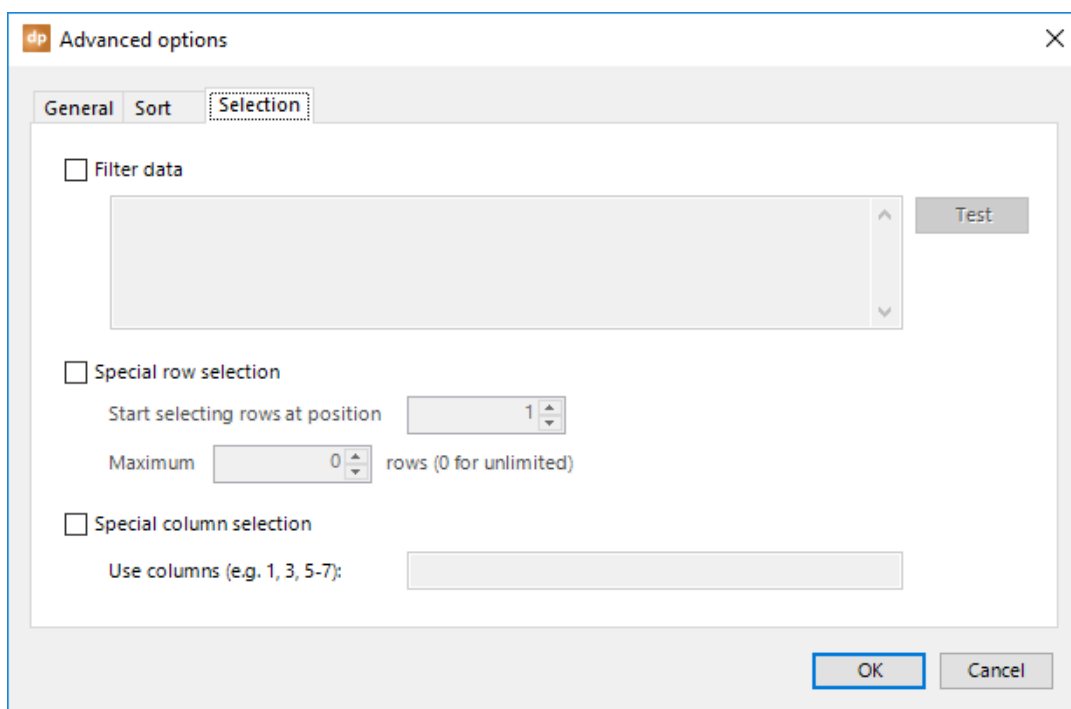
To remove the line feeds from the text, check the option **Remove Line Feeds from texts**. Line feeds are used to start a new line of text within the same field or column, like an address.

To put the column from right to left, check the option **Columns right to left**. This is typically used for some Arabic or Hebrew languages.

To lower data communications and to minimize network resources, you can disable the refreshing of data between certain hours, such as the closing hours of your shop. Check the option **Do not refresh this data between** and set your desired start and end date.



Sort data by checking the option **Sort Data**. This will enable the sort data option. The combobox will allow you to select an ascending or descending sort order — A-Z or Z-A.



Check the **Filter data** checkbox and set a .Net filter syntax to filter some of the data that matches the criteria. This is a bit technical, and more information can be found here([https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.data.datacolumn.expression\(v=vs.110\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.data.datacolumn.expression(v=vs.110).aspx))

There are a few variables that you can use in the filter like:

- **Now()** returns the current date and time

- **Today()** returns the current date only
- **UTCNow()** returns the current date and time in Universal Time Coordinated value
- **UTCToday()** returns the current date in Universal Time Coordinated format
- **DateAdd("n",-15,Now())** can be used to add or subtract minutes from the current time

Note that the functions are case sensitive!

A working filter is this: [Start] <= Now() and Now() <= [Stop]

Enable **Special row selection** when you need to read out rows 6 to 10 only. Set the starting position to 6 and set the maximum rows to 5.

Use the **Special column selection** to filter out columns automatically. Typically for a table of data, you have many columns that are not relevant showing on your screen. Therefore, you can use this feature to specify the column number that you want to keep. This works like a print command for pages. The notation 1, 3, 5-7 will include columns 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

5. Using shapes

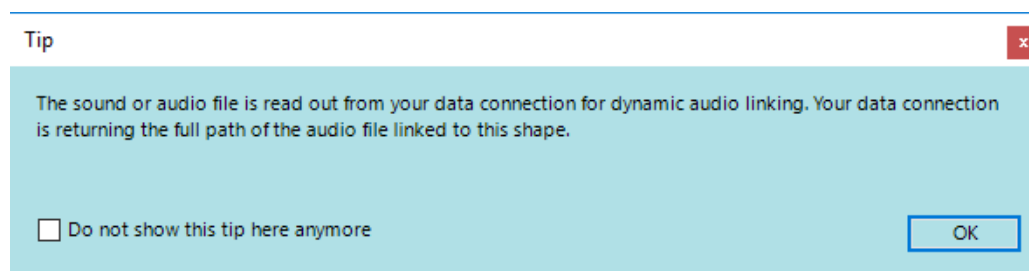
After setting up all your data connections, it is now time to start using that data for PowerPoint shapes.

There is only one DataPoint shape that does not need a connection associated, and that is the clock. The clock is reading out the normal date or time values from your local computer. Besides the DataPoint clock shape, all other shapes need to have a data connection because they are associated with data connections.

That is also the reason why you might experience numerous shapes being disabled in the DataPoint's shapes group. You need to have data before you can assign that data to shapes.

Let's explore all of the dynamic DataPoint shapes.

The first time that you open the DataPoint properties of a shape, you will get to see a tip that will tell you in short what the purpose of the shape is and what can be done with it.



You can click **OK** to close the message. It will not be shown anymore during this run of PowerPoint. The next time that you start PowerPoint and click the same button, this message will pop up again.

Check the option **Do not show this tip here anymore** to prevent future openings completely.

5.1. Shapes on slides and slide master

You can use different shapes on the slides of your presentation. Think about text boxes, pictures, tables, and charts. But even more exotic shapes — like audio and video, meters and pointers — can be used.

A slideshow is typically a sequential collection of slides, but sometimes it can be handy to be able to place some

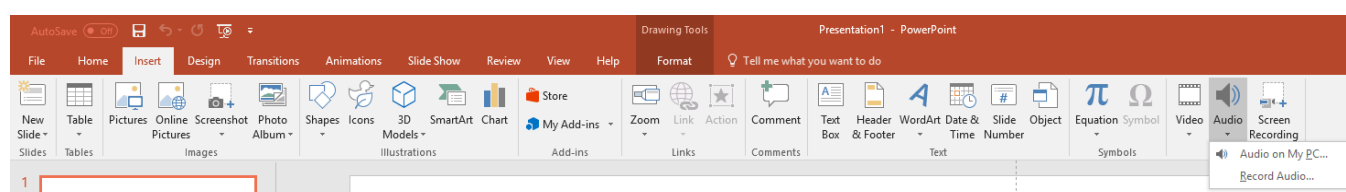
shapes on the slide's master design of a presentation, so that these shapes are immediately available on all slides. Think about the current time, or the running sum of your fund-raising event.

With DataPoint, you can use the clock, text boxes, and picture shapes on your slide master, and have it update automatically.

5.2. Dynamic audio shapes

With an audio shape on your slide, you can play a selected sound file. Click to open the **Insert** menu of your PowerPoint ribbon, and click the **Audio** icon or button. Next, choose **Audio on My PC...** and navigate and select a sound file.

You can use a variety of extensions and audio formats. The most common formats are MP3 and WAV files.

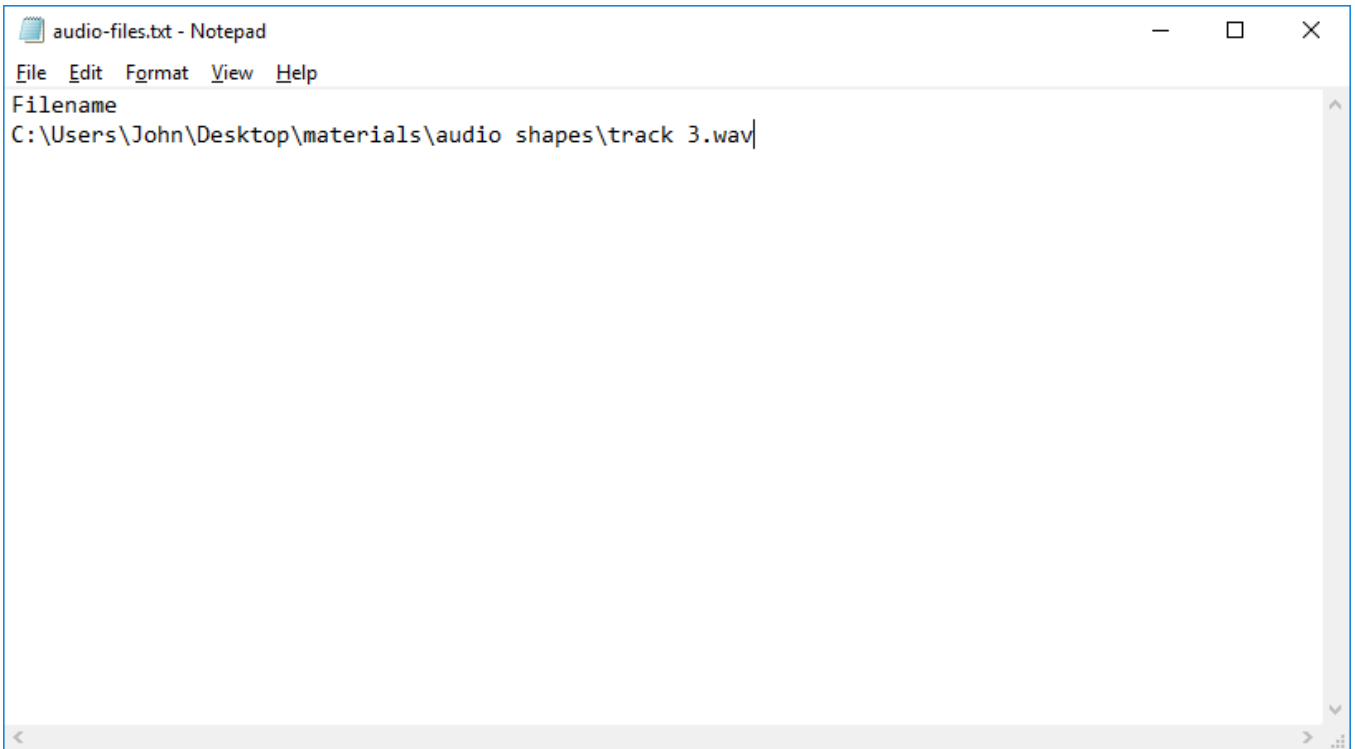


See the sound file and click the **Insert** button. The audio shape is inserted on your slide.

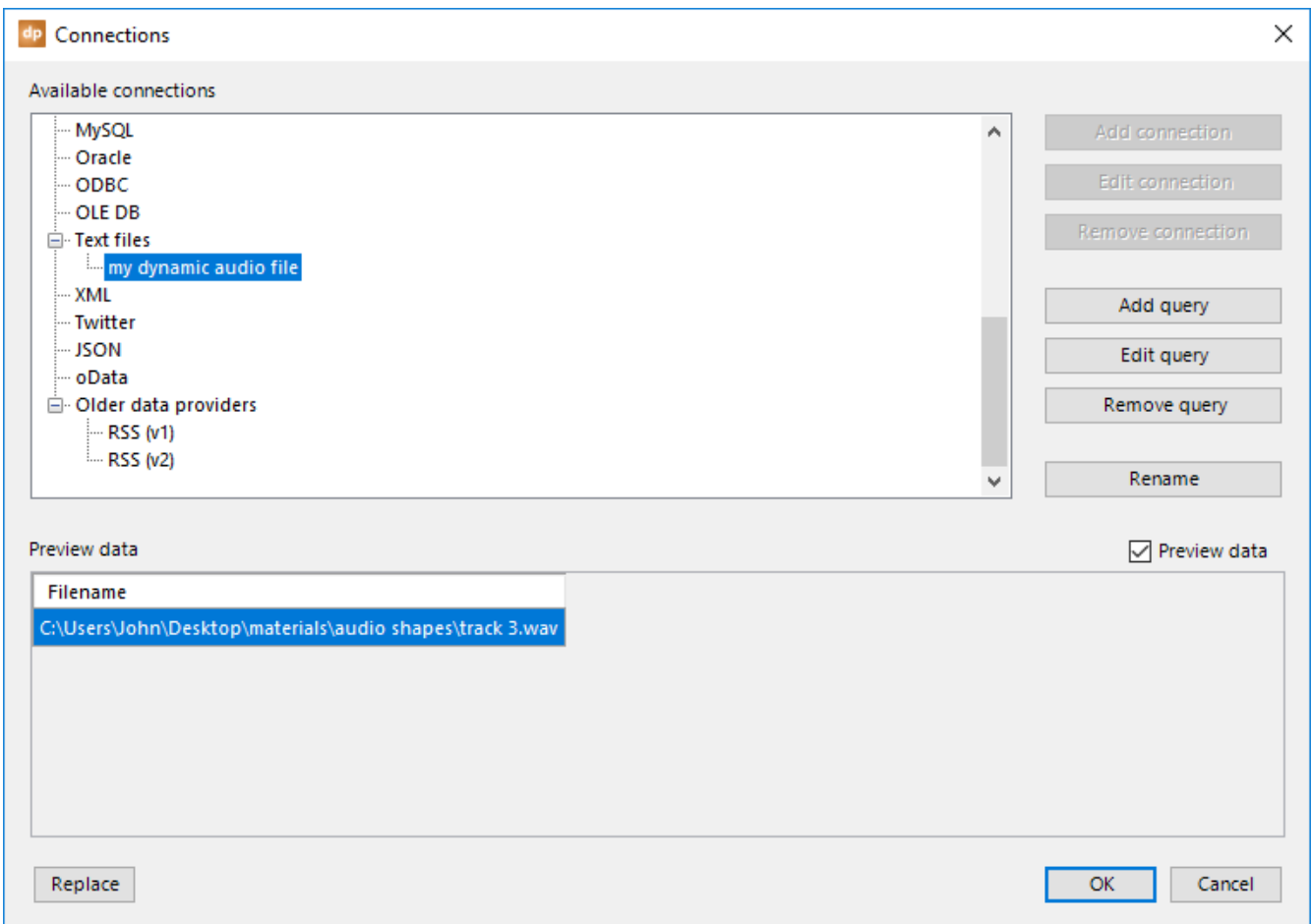


You might not see this very often, but you may want to change the audio file itself on certain occasions. Think about a ping sound when give the right answer on a quiz, and a big dong sound for an incorrect one. Something like that. Or maybe your audio file is a spoken text, or maybe some form of spoken advertising. Whatever...

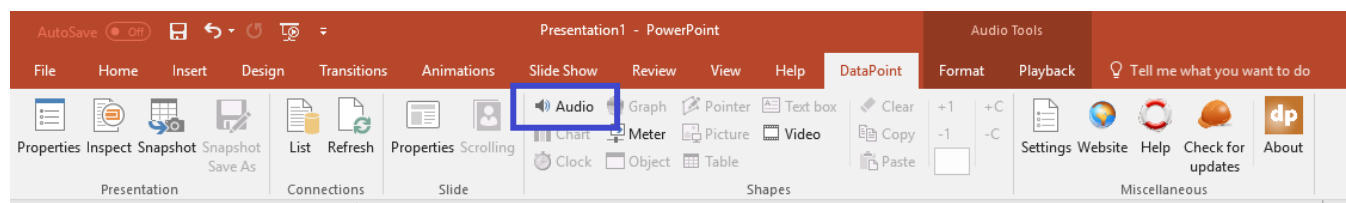
Now, we assume that we have a data source, like a Microsoft Access database, Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, or maybe just a text file within which is the full path to the audio file, that you link dynamically to this audio file.



So with DataPoint, we have a dynamic data connection via the text file data provider, like this.



To turn that previously static audio shape into a dynamic shape that is listening to our value of the data provider, we first have to select the audio shape. Then, click to open the **DataPoint** menu and you will see that the **Audio** button of the **Shapes** group is enabled.



Click the **Audio** button. The audio linking form looks like this.

 A screenshot of the 'dp Audio' dialog box. The 'Connection' tab is selected. It contains the following fields:

- Data connection:** A dropdown menu with 'my dynamic audio file' selected.
- Column:** A dropdown menu with 'Filename' selected.
- Row:** A spinner box set to '1'.
- Options:** A section with the text 'The data of the selected column contains:' and four radio button options:
 - Folder, filename and extension
 - Folder and filename
 - Filename and extension
 - Filename only
- Folder:** A text input field with a 'Browse' button next to it.
- Extension:** A text input field.
- Preview:** A text area displaying the path 'C:\Users\John\Desktop\materials\audio shapes\track 3.wav'.
- At the bottom, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

The first combobox, named **Data connection**, allows you to choose the data connection from which you want to read the information. You might have other data connections to news, weather, and other databases. So here, make sure to select the data connection that is holding your audio file for playback.

Based on the data connection you have selected, all of its columns will be displayed in the second combobox, named **Column**. Open this and select the corresponding column that you want to use. In this example, we only have one column, which is the filename of the audio file. But in more complex situations or data files, we might see a lot more columns here.

Leave the **Row** number as 1, as we are interested in the first data line of the data connection here. You are free to change the row number to any other value that corresponds to a line number or row number of your data file. If you want to play the 9th entry of the data file, then simply set this row value to 9.

In the Preview area, you can always see what value is currently taken from the data connection. Here, we see a

filename of 'track 3.wav,' accompanied by the file's full path.

A full path, filename, and extension are what we need to find the audio file. This value seems to be fine and, whenever the file can be found, it will be used in the PowerPoint slideshow when it's running.

In the **Options** group, there is a setting named **The data of the selected column contains**. By default, this is set to **Folder, filename and extension**. This is perfectly fine for our current value.

Sometimes, you may only find the filename, or filename and extension, in the data source. In that case, you have to change the option here. When you set it to **Filename only**, you can set the folder and extension options to complete the full path to the file.

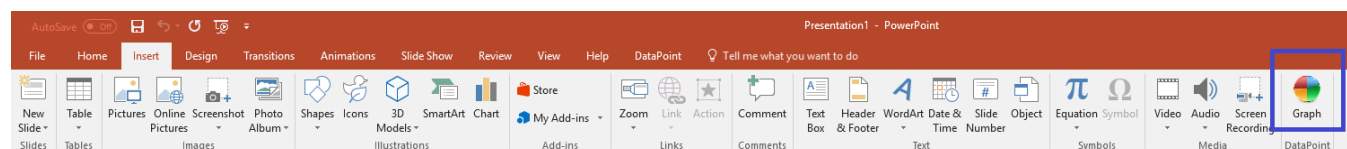
When you're ready, press the **OK** button.

The value of the first row is now dynamically linked to this audio shape. The next time you open the presentation, the potentially updated value of the data connection will be re-applied to this audio shape. And when this presentation is running as a slideshow, you can update the content of the data connection, and the sound file linked to this audio shape is updated accordingly, without having to stop the slideshow.

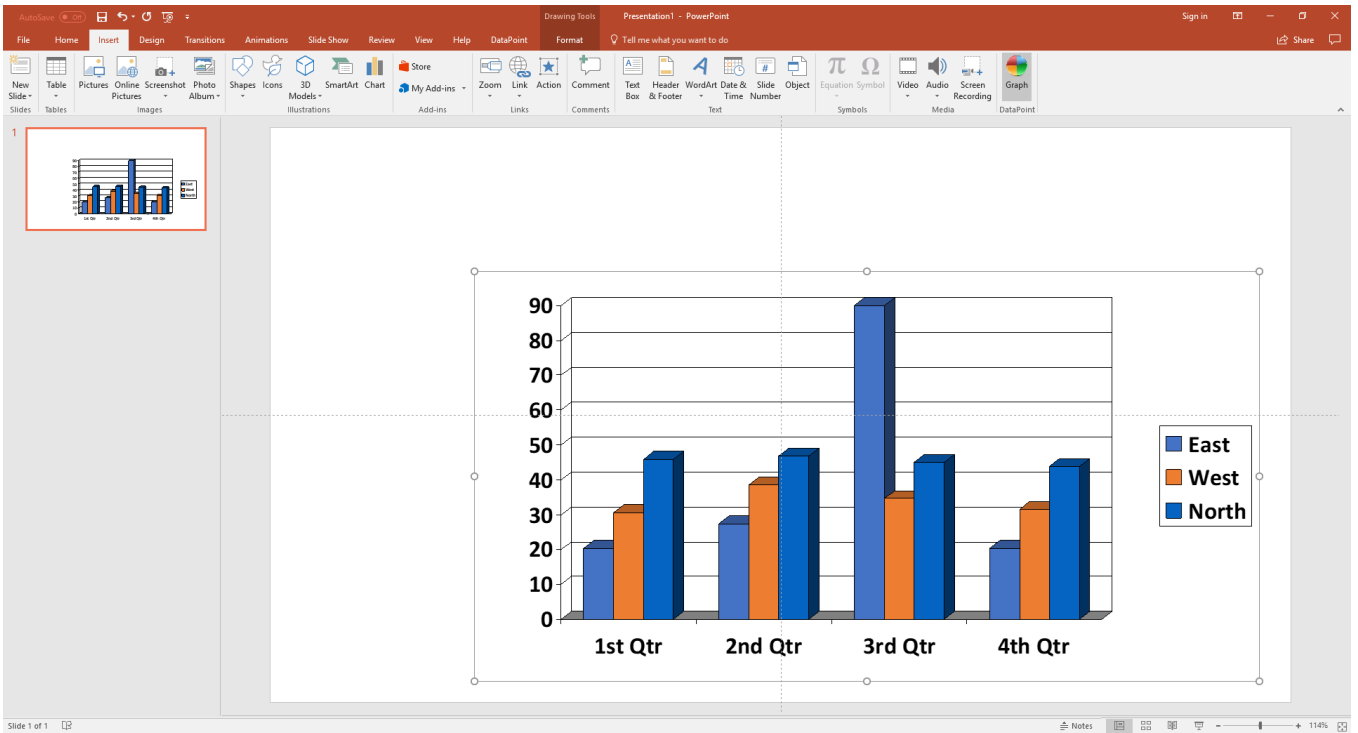
5.3. Dynamic chart and graph shapes

There are charts and graphs in PowerPoint. Basically, graphs are its older charts. Since PowerPoint 2007, Microsoft has moved away from graphs (produced by the Microsoft Graph) to the newer charting (based on the Excel charting engine). Microsoft is promoting the newer charts and discouraging the use of the graphs.

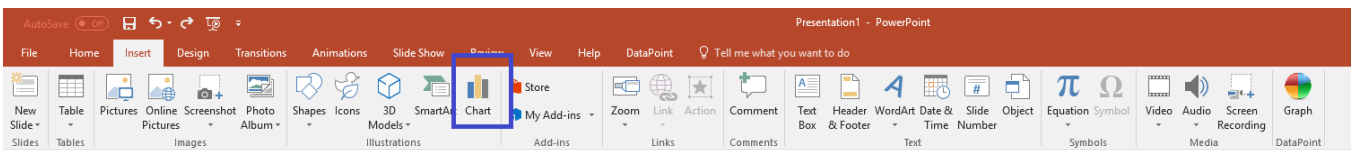
Let us show you first a graph and then a chart, and you will probably recognize the difference. Click to open the **Insert** menu and then click the **Graph** button in the **DataPoint** group.



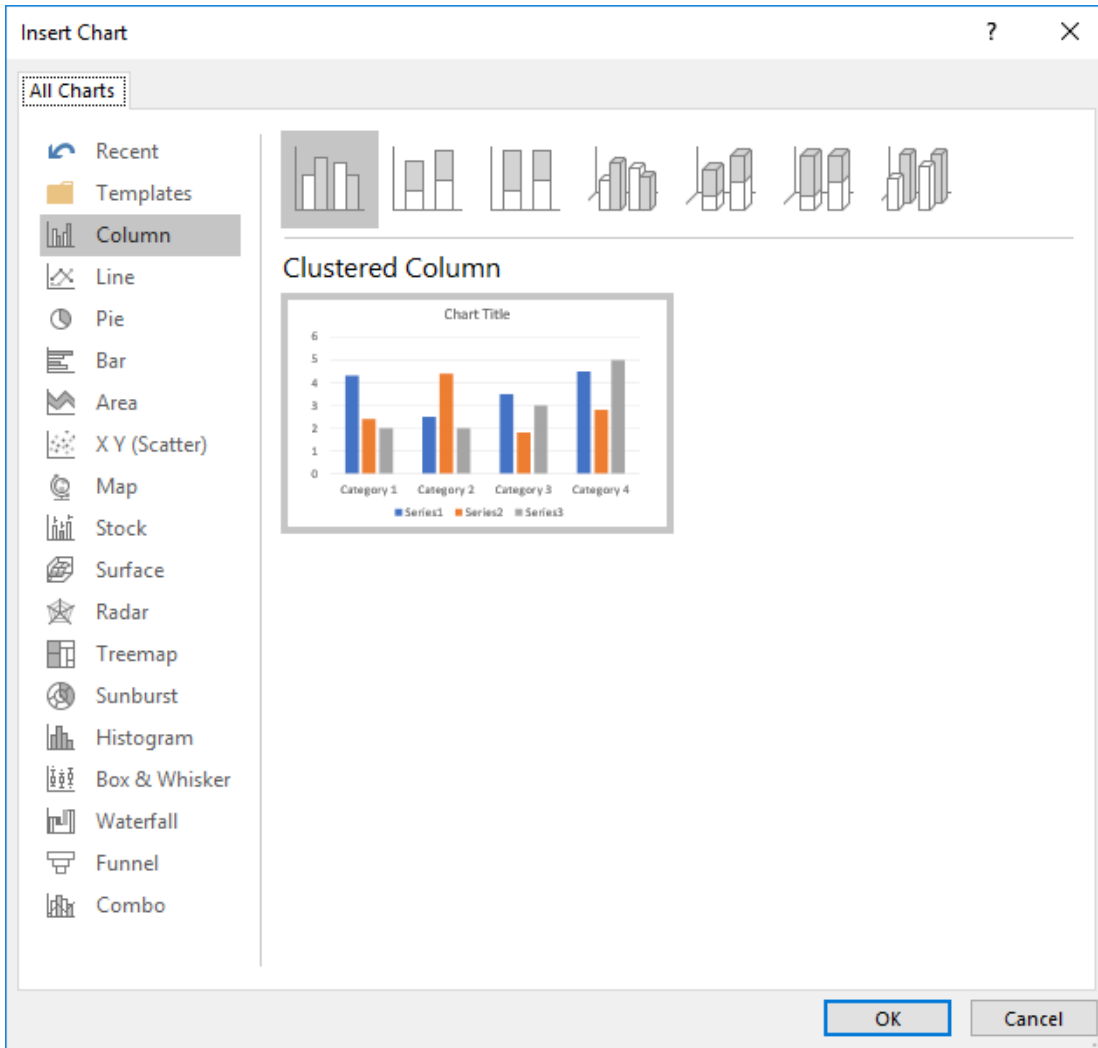
This action inserts a default graph on your slide.



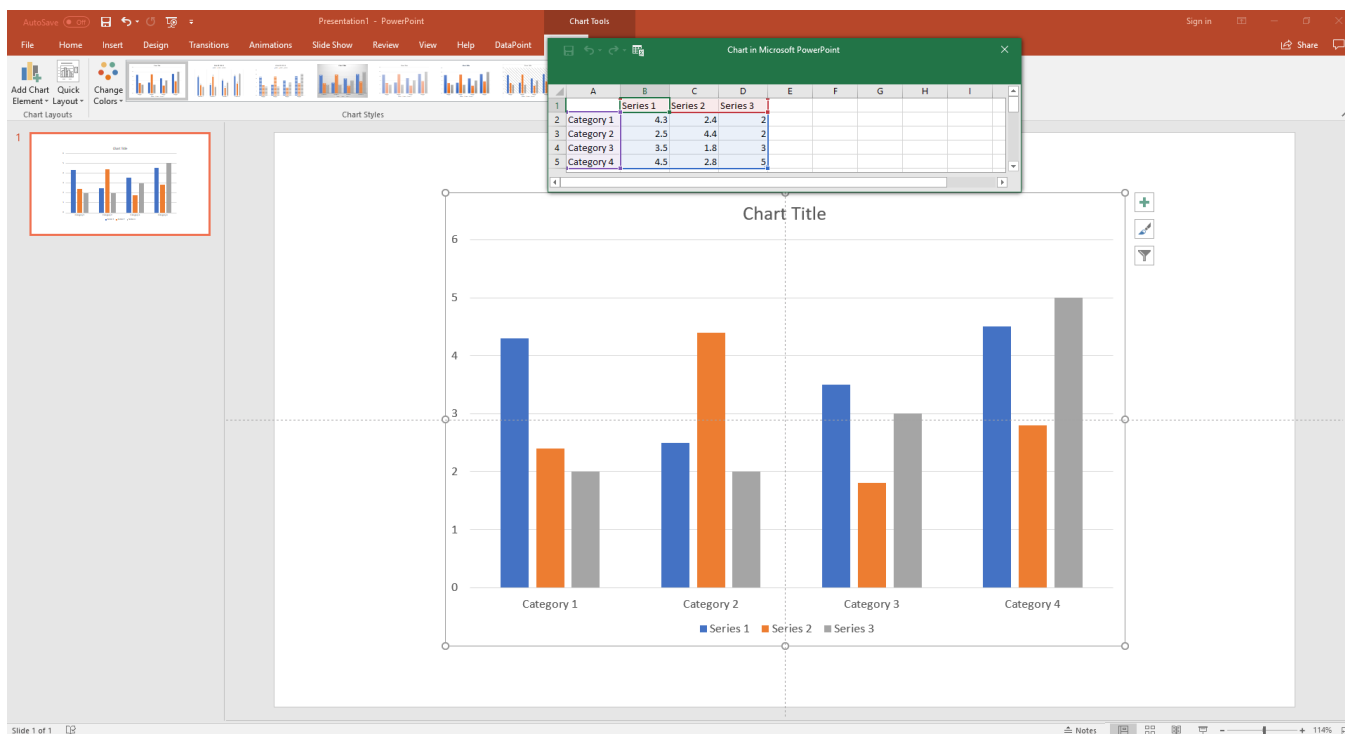
To insert a newer chart, open the Insert menu again, but this time, click the Chart button.



You are first asked to choose your type of chart. You can choose between bar charts, pie charts, and many more.



Finally, the inserted chart shape looks like this now.



What's the difference, you might ask. On this last chart shape, the green Excel worksheet opened up automatically to edit the figures of the datasheet. That worksheet opening is the difference between a graph and a chart.

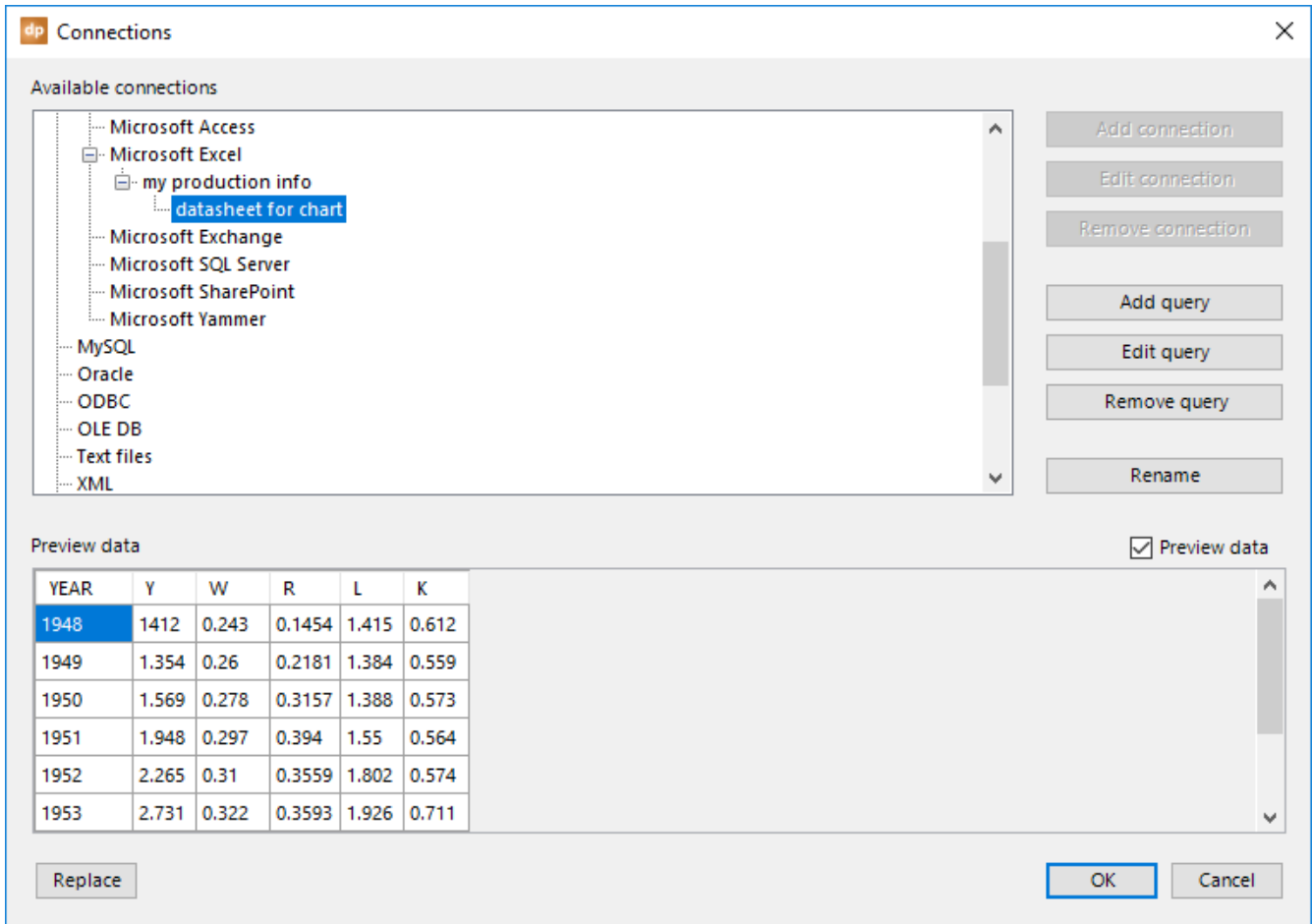
Microsoft PowerPoint does not allow 3rd party tools to update the data on the datasheet of a chart without opening and seeing the worksheet. This is 'by design.'

The older graphing shape allowed us to update data during the slideshow, without the datasheet popping up. So here is our advice: if you don't mind seeing that worksheet flashing when updating, then use a chart. If you do mind, use a graph.

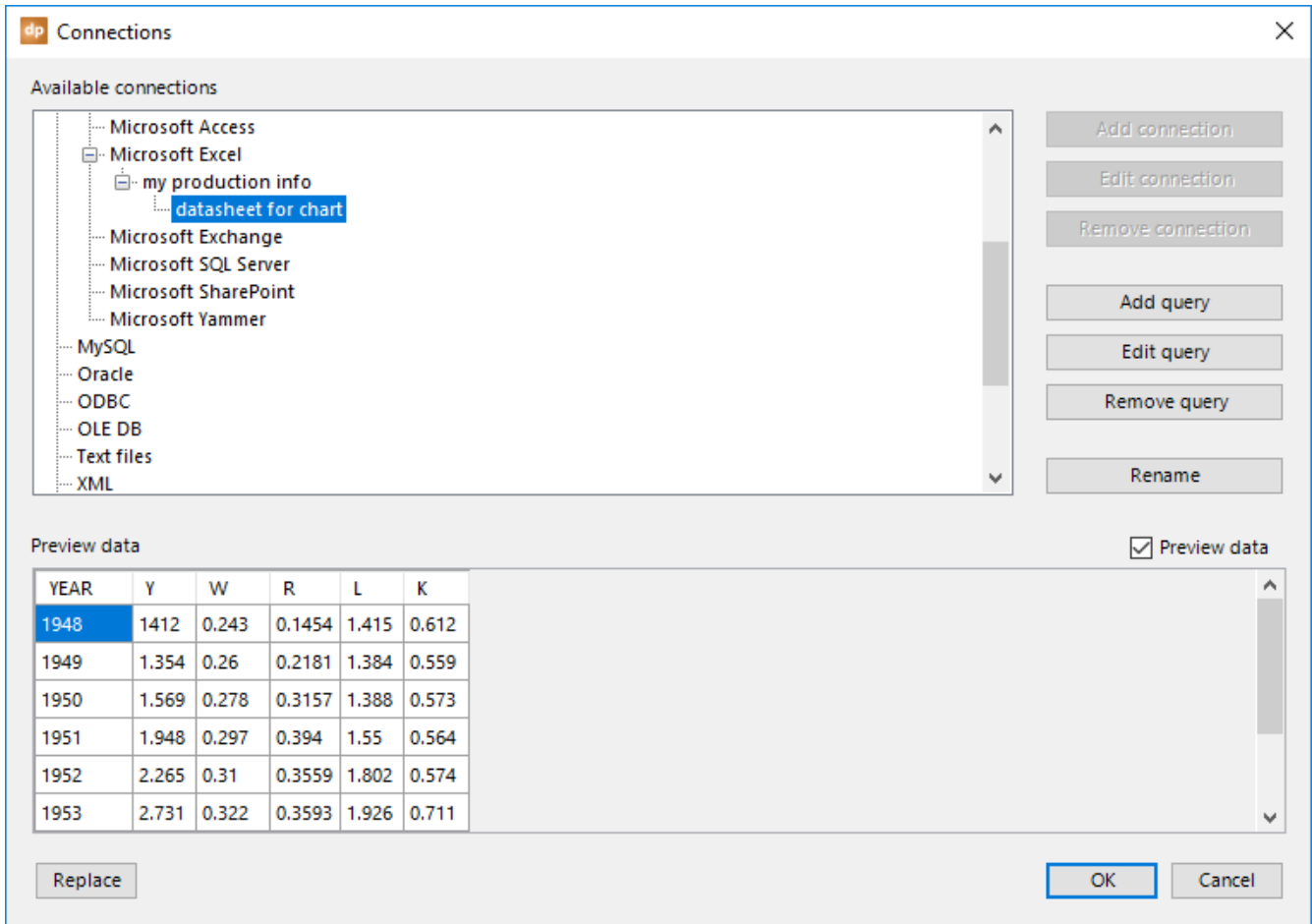
So, basically, our rule is as follows: for designing and generating snapshot presentations, etc., use a chart. If you want to display real-time updates on your chart on a running information screen, then use a graph.

The look of a chart is different from a graph, but its DataPoint processing and linking capabilities are identical.

For this here, we have a data file set up like this.

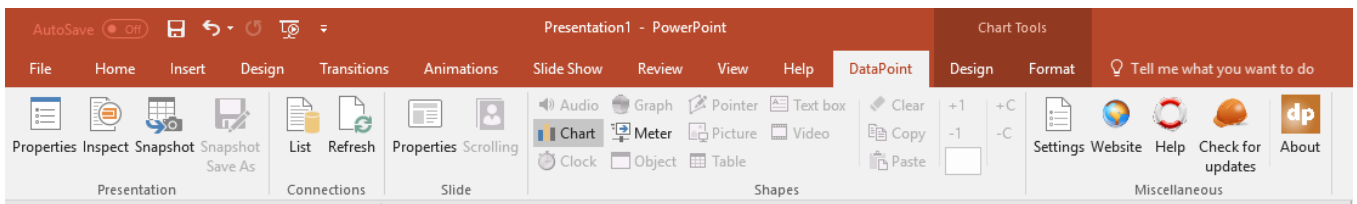


Typically for charts and graphs, you have numerical information like this.

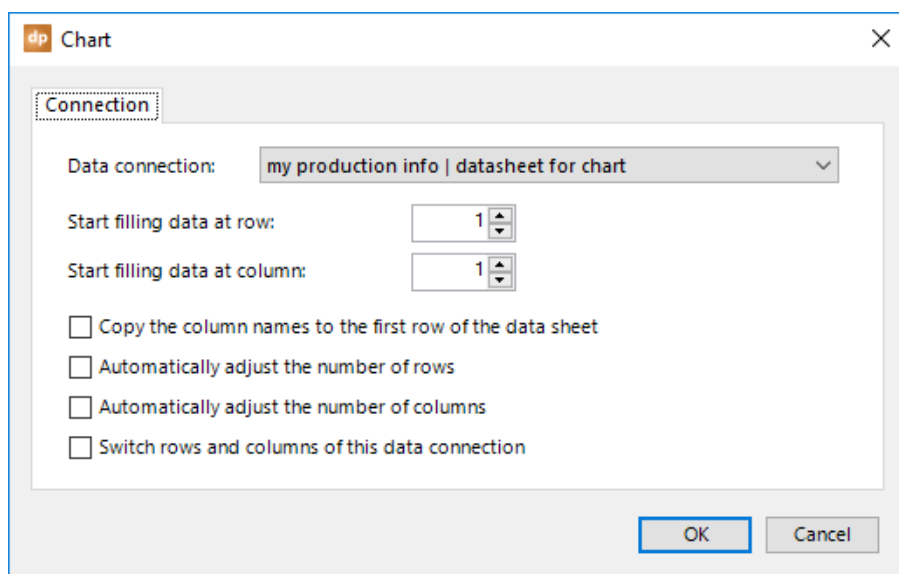


Now, when you select the inserted chart or graph, the following DataPoint linking options remain the same.

For chart processing, select the chart and click the **Chart** button on the **DataPoint** menu. For graph processing, select the graph and click the **Graph** button on the **DataPoint** menu.



The DataPoint linking properties look like this. We will use the chart for this documentation. The graph options are completely identical.



The first combobox, named **Data connection**, is used to select the data source or data connection for your chart. Open the combobox and you will see all the data connections that are set up for you in this presentation. Select the data source to feed your chart.

With **Start filling data at row** and **Start filling data at column**, you can control which cell of the chart's datasheet you start filling in with data. Typically, you start at row 1 and column 1. A good reason to start at row 2 is when you want to set your own column headers or names.

The option **Copy the column names to the first row of the data sheet** allows you to automatically use the data connection's column names as the column names of the chart. It will place the column names in row number 1 and start filling in the data in row number 2, and further.

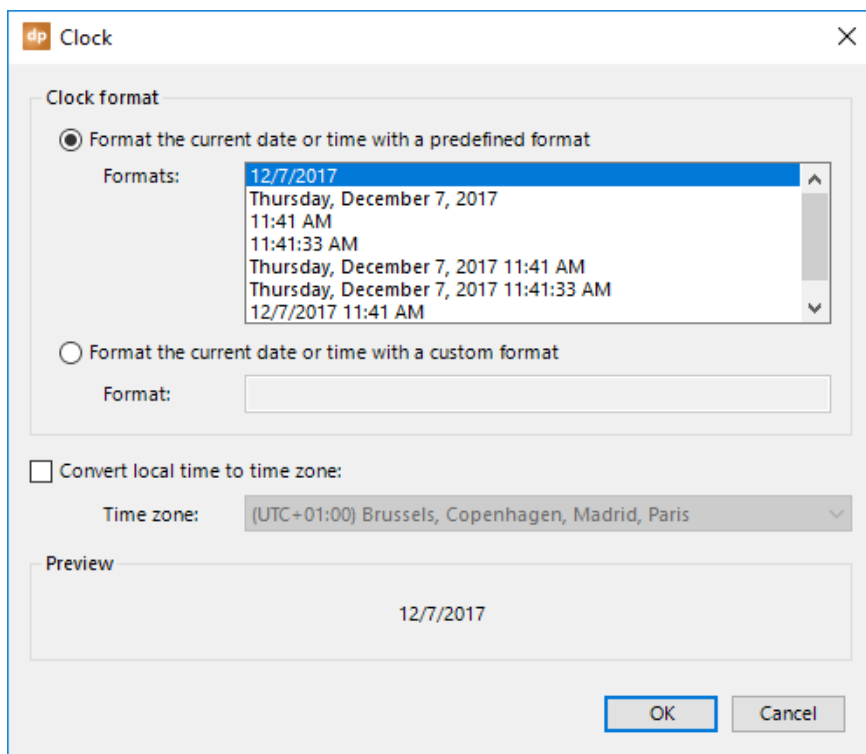
You create the chart and the datasheet, and you can control the selection of the data. Note that you can have more data on your datasheet than you display on the chart. This is controlled by the selection. So normally, DataPoint is just copying over the data from the data connection to the datasheet of the chart. If you want to grow or shrink the selection dynamically, then you can check the options **Automatically adjust the number of rows** and/or **Automatically adjust the number of columns**.

Finally, you can switch the rows and columns of your data connection before they are fed into the chart's datasheet. Just check this option and your datatable will be rotated 90°, so to say.

Click **OK** to close the form.

5.4. Dynamic clock shapes

A clock shape is the only shape in DataPoint that is not linked to data connections. It is just displaying the current date and/or time. Start with a new text box on your slide. Click **Clock** from the **Shapes** group while you have the text box selected.



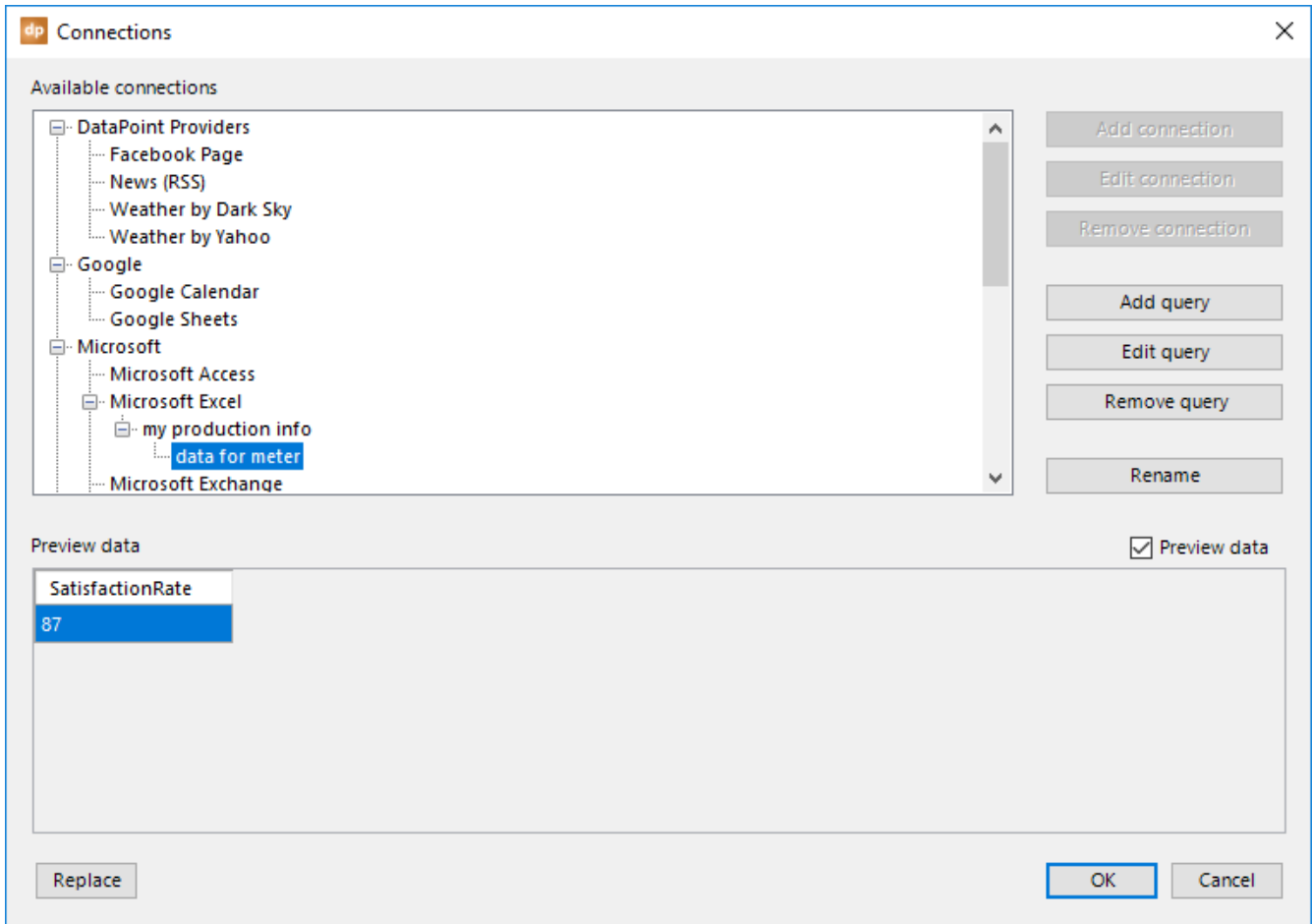
Now, you can select a preformatted date or time, or you can enter your own customized date and time format. A complete list of custom date and time formats can be found at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/8kb3ddd4.aspx>(<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/8kb3ddd4.aspx>)

Optionally, you can select a time zone to convert the current local time into the date or time of another time zone. The Preview frame is showing you how the presentation will look. Click **OK** to apply.

5.5. Dynamic meter shapes

Meters are great. They are easy controls for rotating or resizing a shape based on a dynamic value from a database. Think about dashboards, where you can, for example, rotate needles or gauges. Resizing controls can be used for the dynamic bars of a bar chart, but without the chart. You can visualize your dynamic values by resizing the shape. It is much quicker than updating a chart.

Typically for a meter, it can control the rotation and the width or height of a shape, dynamically and based on one specific value. Imagine this data.

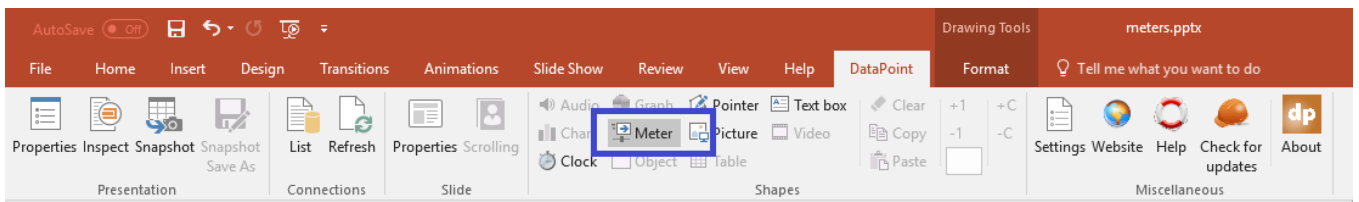


Controlling the Width and Height of a shape

We just inserted a rectangle shape and we want to control the length or width of the shape dynamically. It's important that you draw the rectangle at its maximum size.



Select the rectangle shape and click to open the **DataPoint** menu. Click the **Meter** button next.



The meter property form will open.

The screenshot shows the 'Meter' configuration dialog box. The 'Connection' section is active, showing 'Data connection' set to 'my production info | data for meter', 'Column' set to 'SatisfactionRate', and 'Row' set to '1'. The 'Property' section has three radio buttons: 'Rotation' (selected), 'Height', and 'Width'. The 'Preview' section shows the number '87'. The 'Rotation properties' section includes 'Value range' (0 to 1000), 'Minimum size' (0 degrees), and 'Maximum size' (180 degrees), each with a corresponding 'Use current rotation of shape as...' button. 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom right.

First, select the proper **data connection** from the list. Then, make sure that the data column that is holding your dynamic value is selected in the **Column** combobox, as well as for the **Row** number.

You can always verify your connection settings by looking at the **Preview** panel.

With this shape, we want to control the width dynamically. In the **Property** group, switch to use the **Width** option.

The properties on the form will change slightly.

In the Width properties group, you can set a range for the expected database value. The minimum value of the range corresponds to a width or size of 0 pixels. The maximum value of the range corresponds to the maximum database value that results in the maximum width that you want to draw on this slide. So, if we are dealing with percentages, then set the range to 0 and 100 as the maximum. When we are talking about salaries, set it to 0 and 6000, for example.

Important: Before we went into this form, we should have drawn the rectangle at the maximum size possible. When this is done, we just click the **Use current width of shape as maximum width** and the current width will be set as the value in the **Maximum size** textbox. Of course, if you need more excitement, you can set the maximum size with your own numeric value.

You can read the current values on the form like this: a database value of 1000 maximum will adjust the width of the shape selected to 856 points, which is a unit in PowerPoint for measuring shapes and lines. A database value of 500, which is exactly 50% of the maximum value possible, would resize the dynamic width of 856 pixels to 50% of 856, which is 428 pixels.

As an option, check the **Set caption** option to set the database value as the caption of the shape.

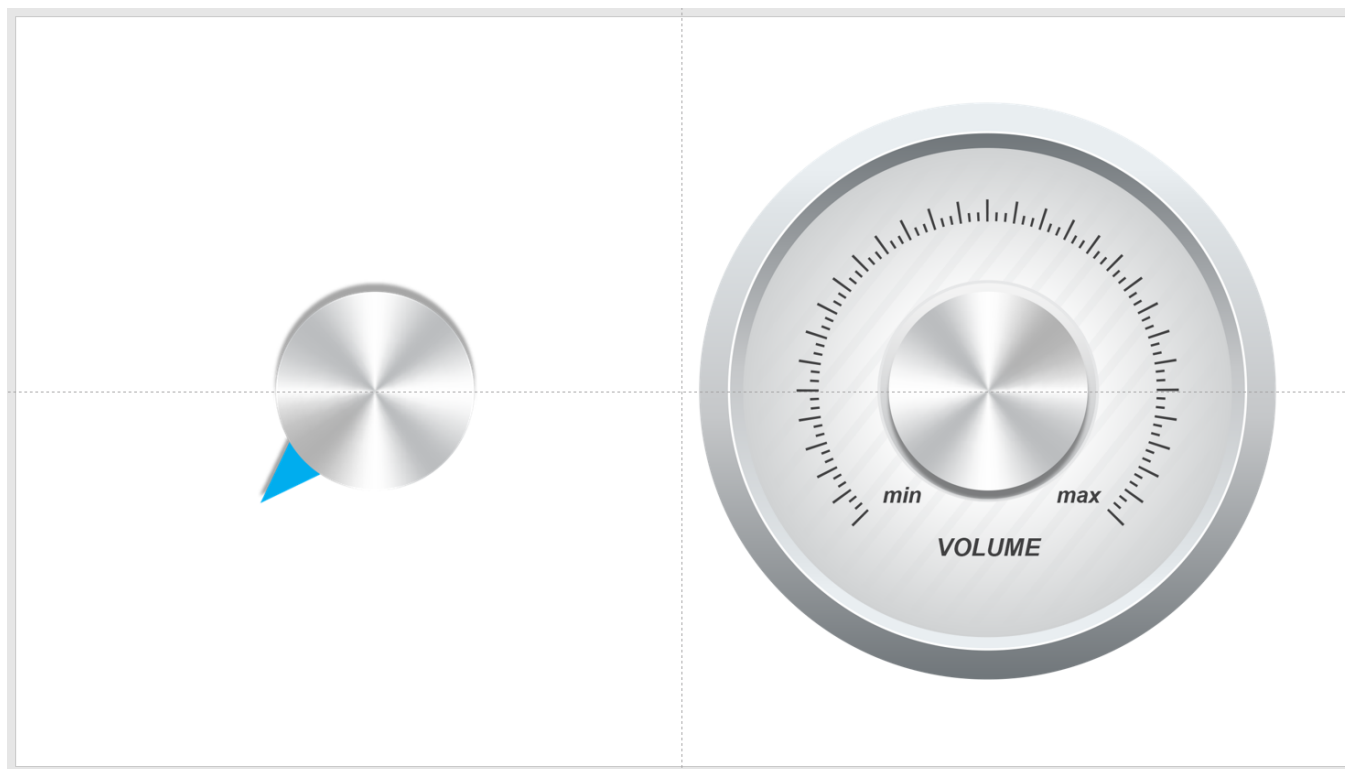
Hit **OK** to close and you will see that the width recalculation takes place immediately.

In design mode, a database value change would update the width by just resizing the shape at once. In slideshow mode, however, a new value will cause it to grow or shrink gradually to the new size.

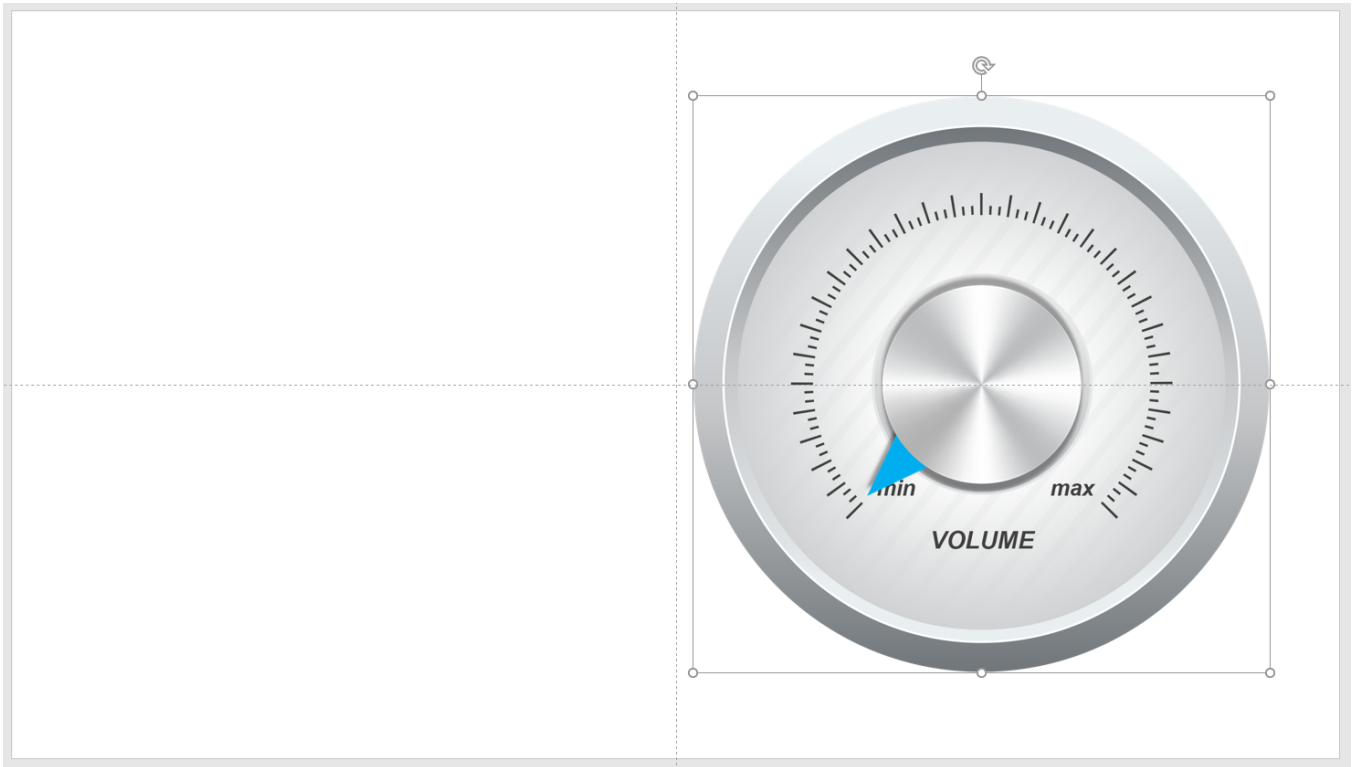
What we did for the width here is the same for dynamically controlling the height of the shape. It all depends on how you want to use your slides and your design.

Rotating a shape

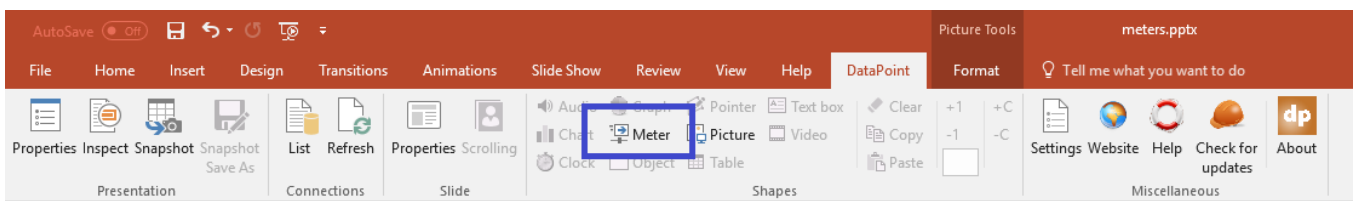
More visually spectacular is controlling the rotation of a shape. Most likely, you will use a gauge or needle to represent a database value. Look at the slide below. We have two physical drawings. One is the background image that represents the scale, and the other one is the needle that we can rotate.



We place the needle on top of the background image, and we still have the needle image selected before we go into the meter options.



Make sure that the needle is turned to the minimum position on the scale. Select and open the **DataPoint** menu and select the **Meter** button.



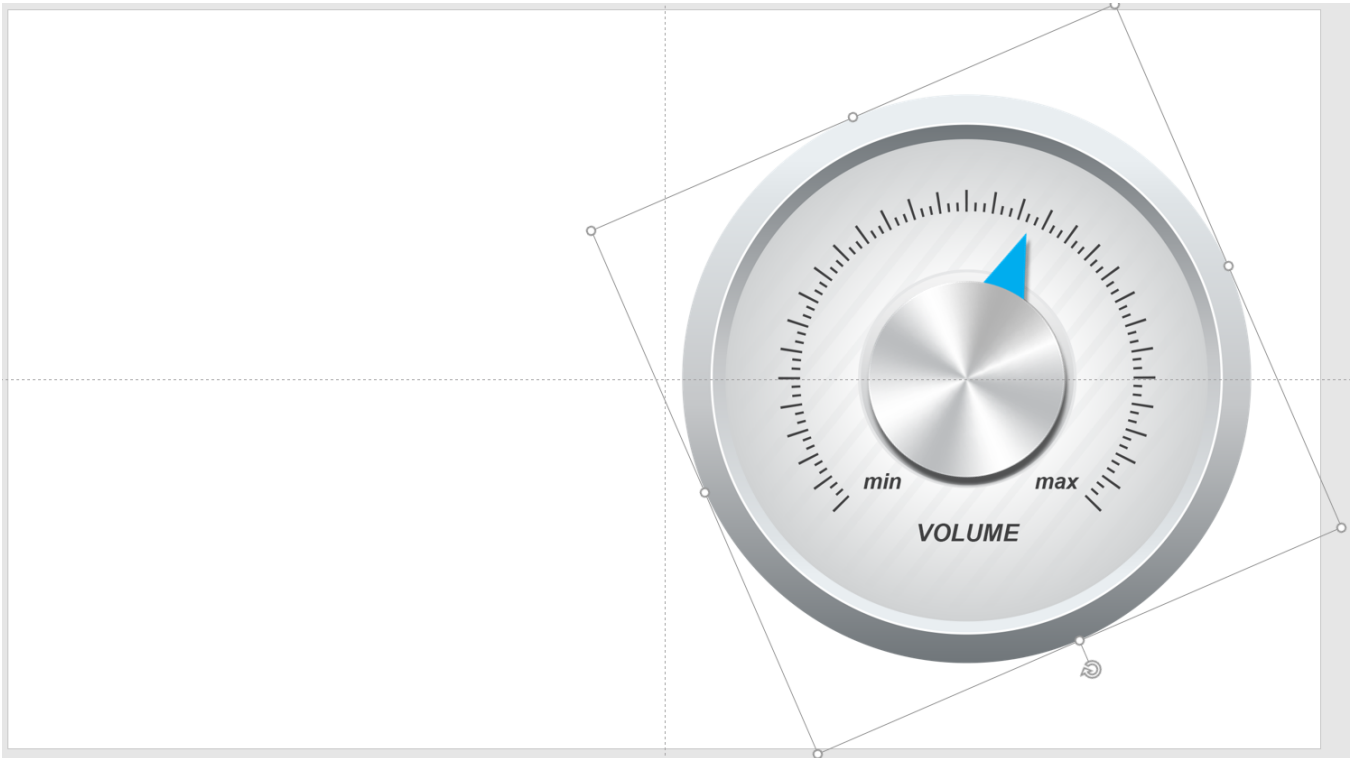
Just like when changing the width dynamically, make sure that the data connection, column, and row are correctly chosen from the lists.

The screenshot shows the 'Meter' configuration dialog box. The 'Connection' section is active, showing 'Data connection' as 'my production info | data for meter', 'Column' as 'SatisfactionRate', and 'Row' as '1'. The 'Property' section has 'Rotation' selected. The 'Preview' section displays the value '87'. The 'Rotation properties' section shows 'Value range' from 0 to 1000, 'Minimum size' at 0 degrees, and 'Maximum size' at 180 degrees. There are buttons for 'Use current rotation of shape as minimum rotation' and 'Use current rotation of shape as maximum rotation'. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom right.

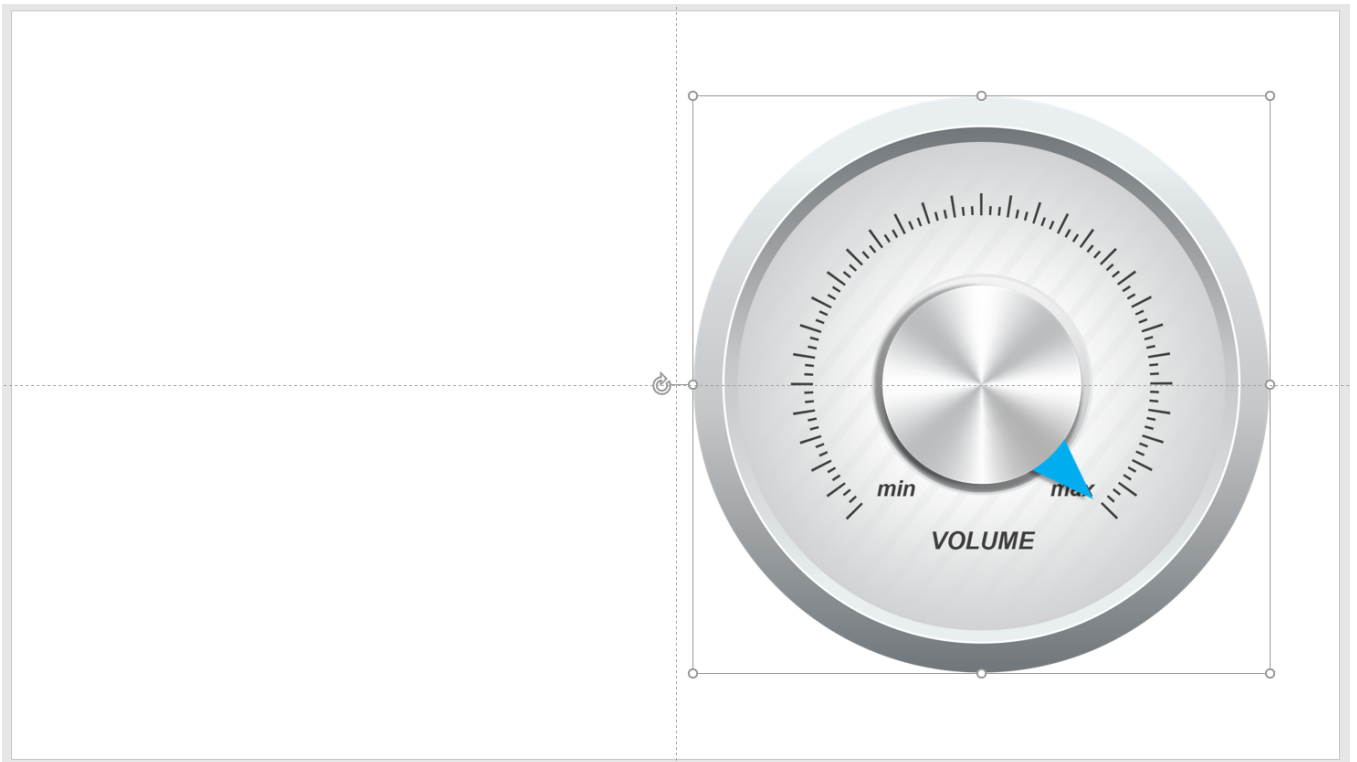
While we have the **Property** set to **Rotation**, we first set the **minimum** and **maximum** values of the **value range**. With this sample, we have a percentage value of 0 to 100 as our data source. So, we set the minimum to 0 and the maximum to 100.

Since we set the needle to the minimum position, just click the **Use current rotation of shape as minimum rotation** and the current rotation value will be set in the **Minimum size** textbox.

Click **OK** to close. The needle is repositioned.



Now, turn the needle to its maximum position.



Click the **Meter** button again from the DataPoint menu.

dp Meter

Connection

Data connection: my production info | data for meter

Column: SatisfactionRate

Row: 1

Property

Choose which meter shape property the data value changes

Rotation

Height

Width

Preview

87

Rotation properties

Value range: 0 - 100

Minimum size: 0 degrees

Use current rotation of shape as minimum rotation

Maximum size: 180 degrees

Use current rotation of shape as maximum rotation

OK Cancel

Click the **Use current rotation of shape as maximum rotation** button.

dp Meter [X]

Connection

Data connection: my production info | data for meter

Column: SatisfactionRate

Row: 1

Property

Choose which meter shape property the data value changes

Rotation

Height

Width

Preview

87

Rotation properties

Value range: 0 - 100

Minimum size: 0 degrees

Use current rotation of shape as minimum rotation

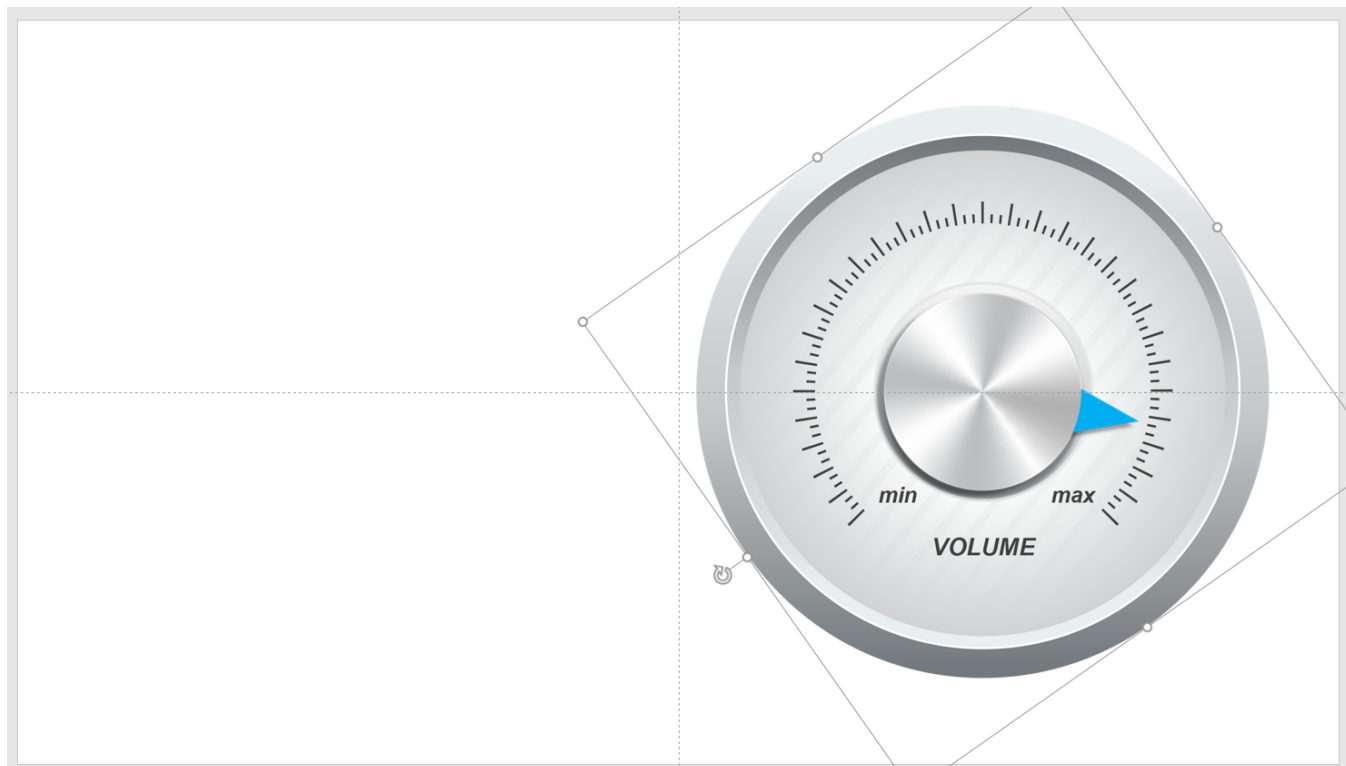
Maximum size: 270 degrees

Use current rotation of shape as maximum rotation

OK Cancel

The maximum size will now update to 270°, which completely reflects our rotation change between the minimum and maximum of the scale.

Click **OK** to close.



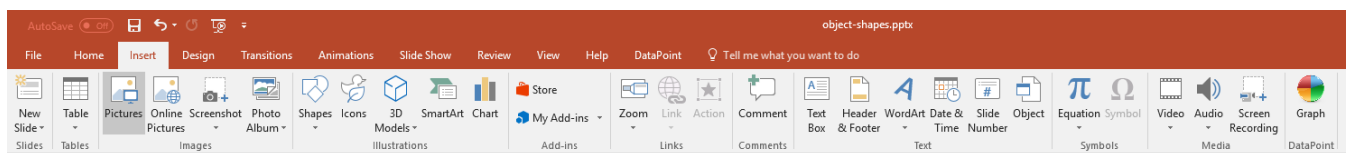
The needle is now correctly positioned according to its value.

In design mode, a database value change would rotate the shape to the new position immediately. In slideshow mode, however, a new value will cause it to gradually rotate to the new position.

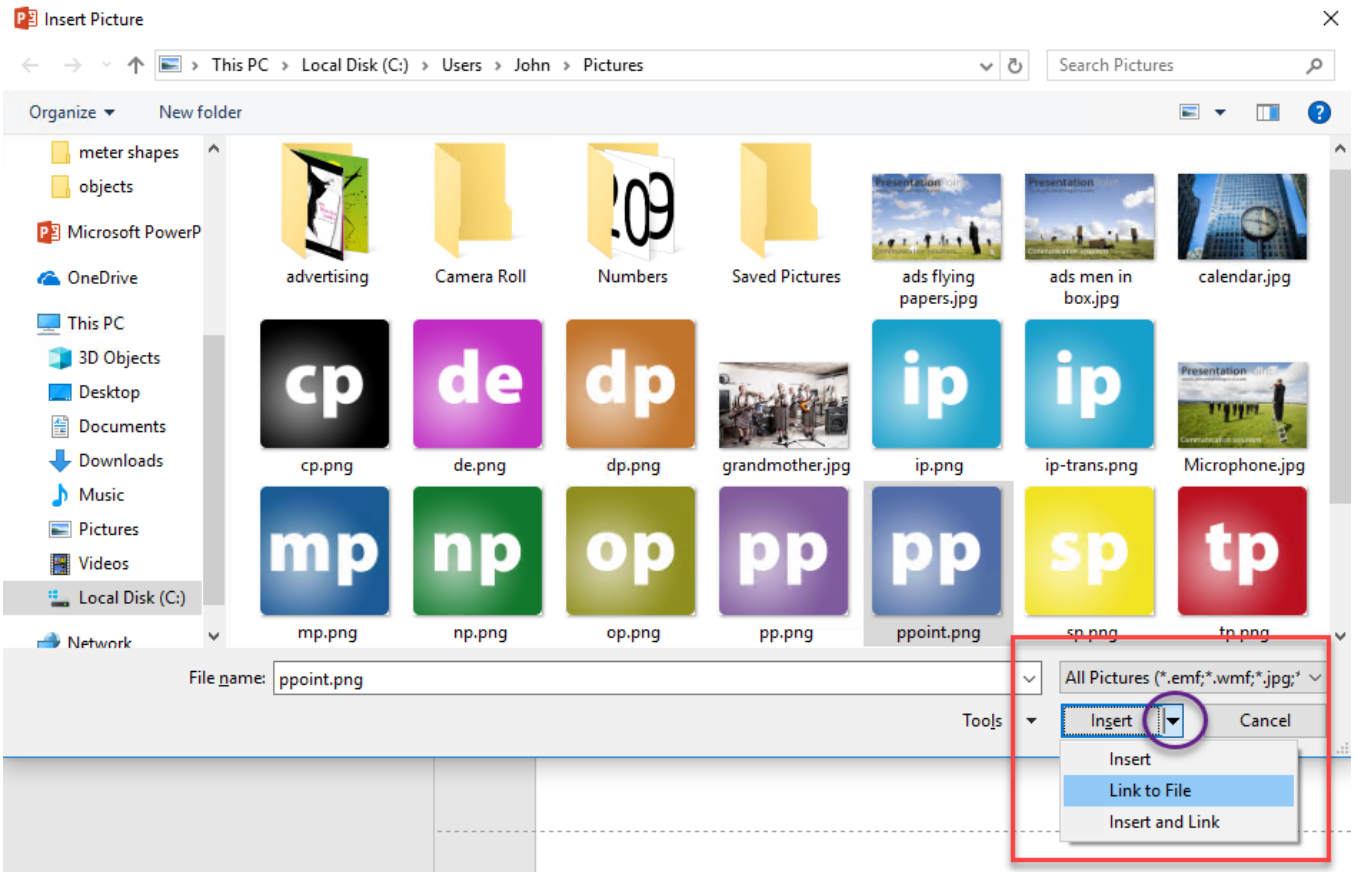
5.6. Dynamic object shapes

An object in PowerPoint is a generic shape that can host linked OLE objects and linked pictures. For example, when you need a picture, you go to Insert, Picture, and you choose your image. The image is inserted (not linked) on your slide. If the content of the file changes, the image will not change on your slide. That is where you would need a linked object.

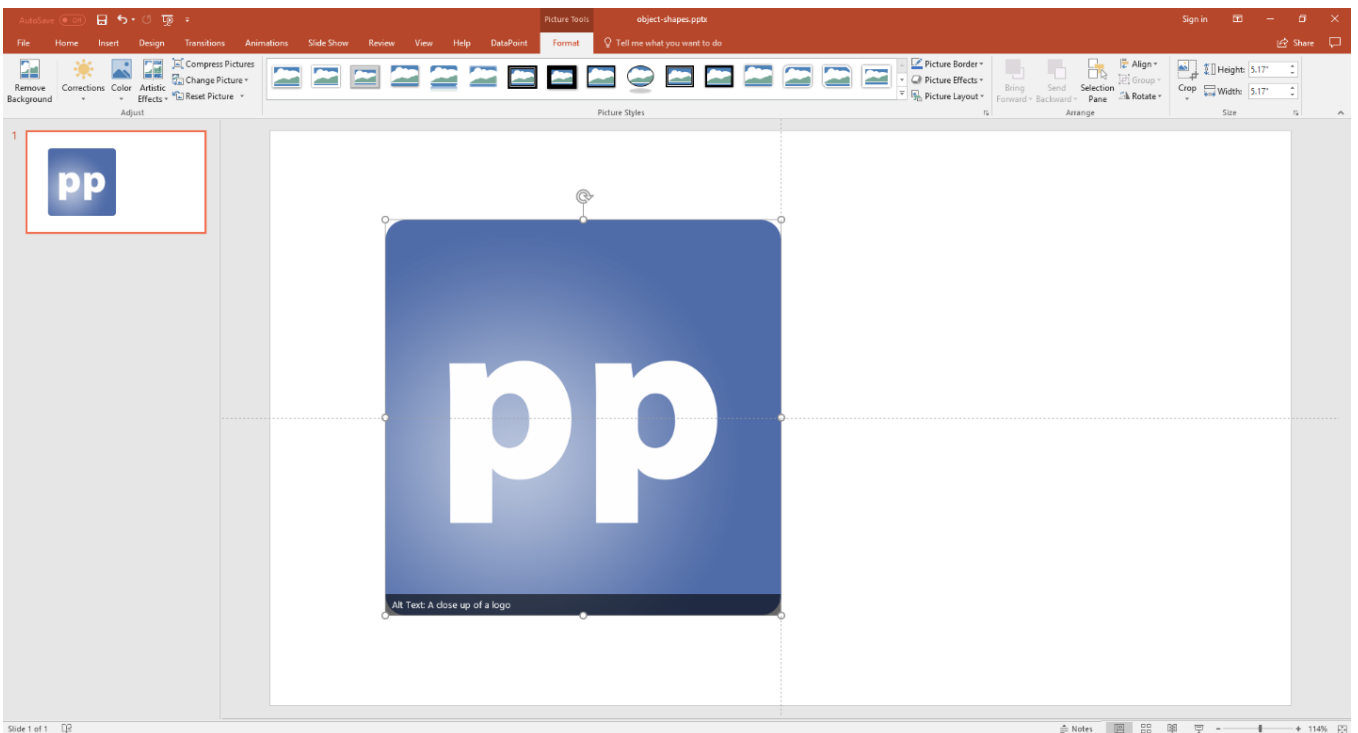
To insert a linked object or linked image, go back to the **Insert** menu and click the **Pictures** button.



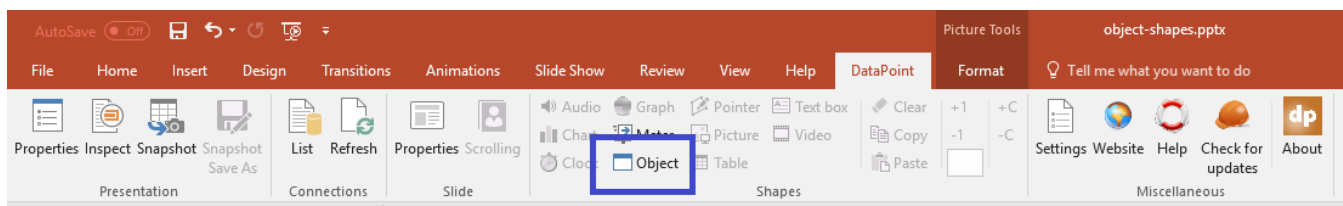
Now, browse until you see the image that you want to use, but do not click the **Insert** button as before. Open more options under the Insert button by clicking on the arrow of the button. Then, choose **Link to File**.



The result might look the same, but with this, the picture is dynamically linked to the source file and can be controlled by the content of your data connection.



With this inserted image selected, go to the **DataPoint** menu and click the **Object** button.

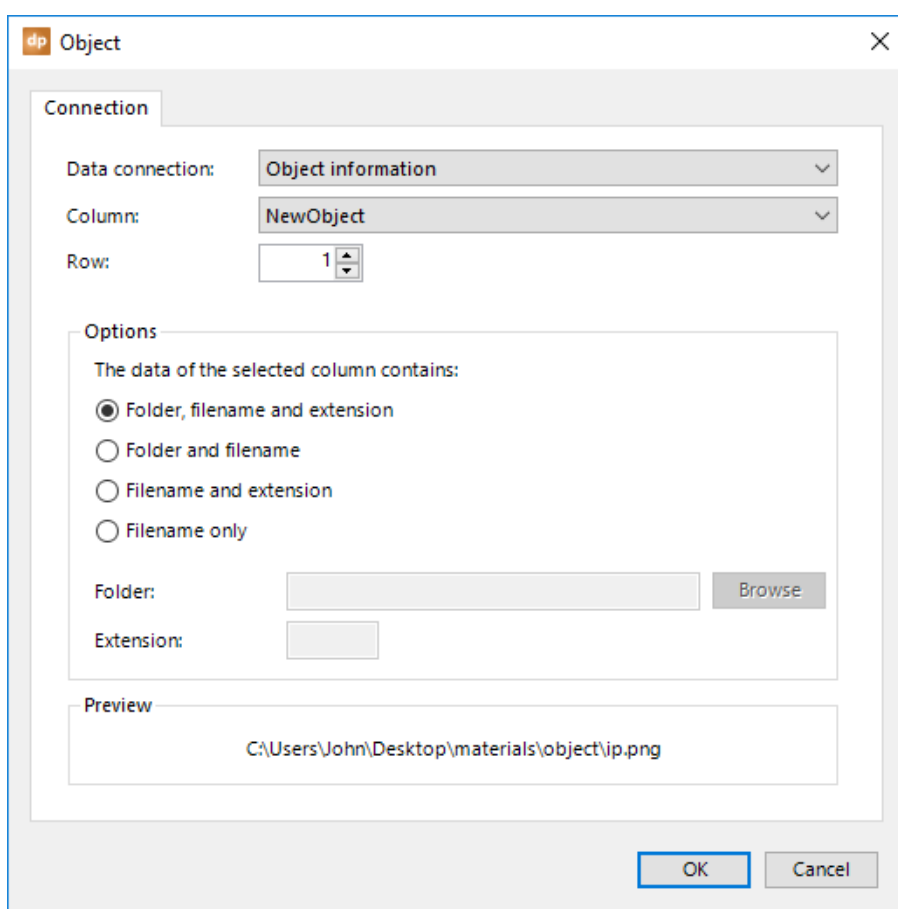


In the object linking properties, you can choose a **data connection** from the first combobox with a list of data connections that are set up for this presentation.

Then, pick the **column** of the data connection that you want to apply here.

Finally, change the row number to another value, when needed.

A preview of the value that is retrieved from your data source is visible in the preview area.



From the value in the preview, we can see a full path, filename and extension. So the default value in the **Options** group of **The data of the selected column contains** being set to **folder, filename and extension** is fine.

If ever a path is not supplied at the data source, then you can switch this option to **Filename and extension** and browse for the folder manually, to complete this information.

Hit **OK** and the image of the data connection is now dynamically linked to the source image or object.

5.7. Dynamic pointer shapes

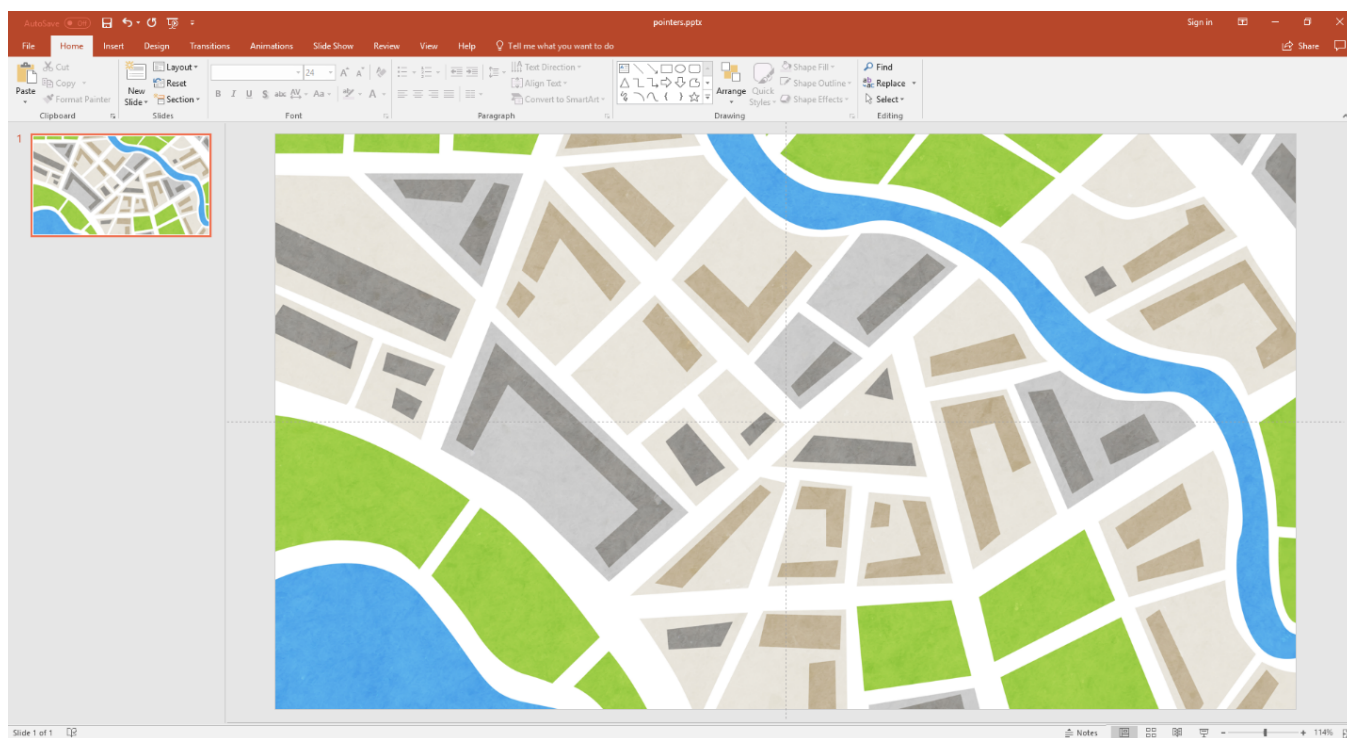
Time for something more exotic: dynamic pointers in PowerPoint. What is that, you might ask. Do you know what a Graphical Information System, or GIS, is? Right, that is a kind of presentation where you see objects moving on a map. Think about flight tracking software, or software where you can track trucks in real-time. With DataPoint, you can build your own graphical information system in PowerPoint.

Basically, what we call pointers in DataPoint, are just one shape to start with. We bind that to a data connection and multiply the shape or pointer by the number of data rows that you have.

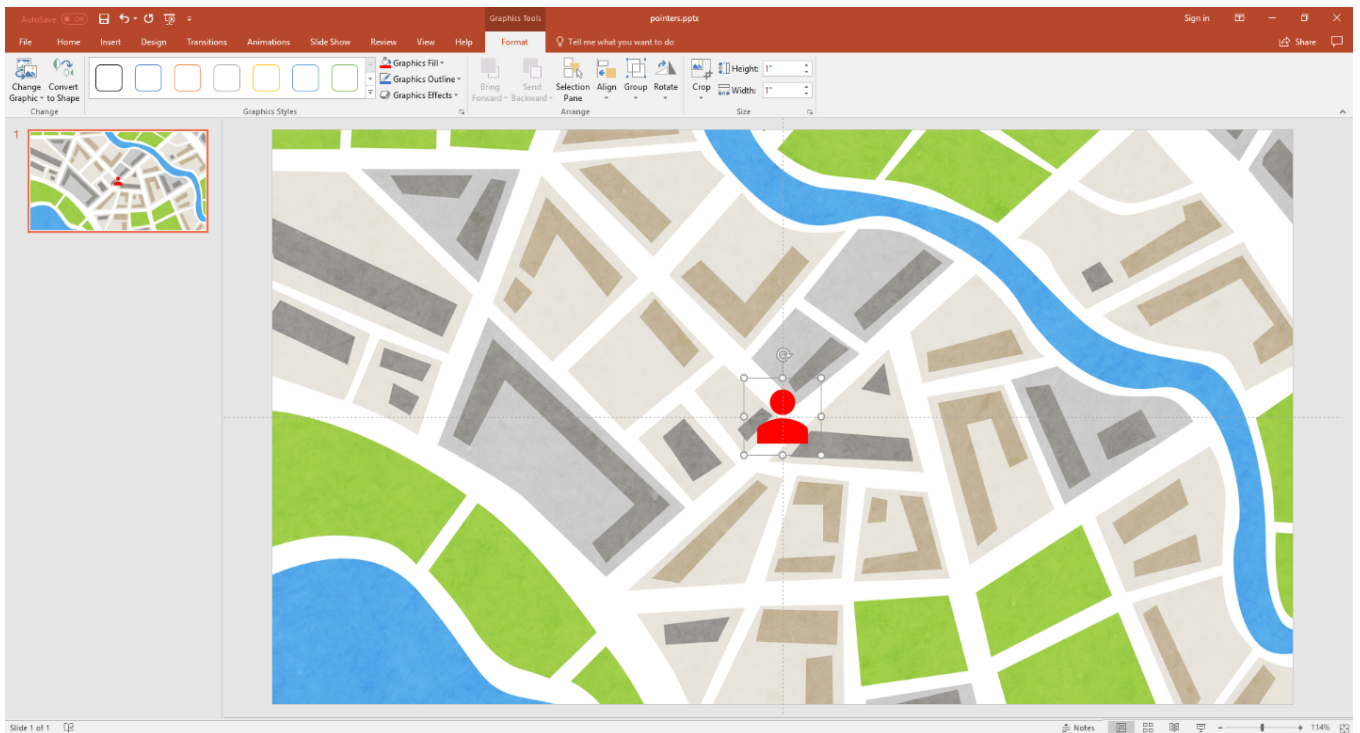
So, if you have information about 12 trucks driving out there with their corresponding position or X-Y coordinates, then you only need to add a map to your slide and add one shape to it. This shape, which could appropriately be an image or picture of a truck, will be positioned correctly on the map. Each truck will get its own pointer on the map.

So, after this introduction, you know that a pointer in DataPoint is an occurrence of a person or piece of equipment that is moving around and plotted in real-time on a map.

First, we start by adding a map as a background image. This can be a map of a country, state, city, or even a floorplan of a factory or plant.



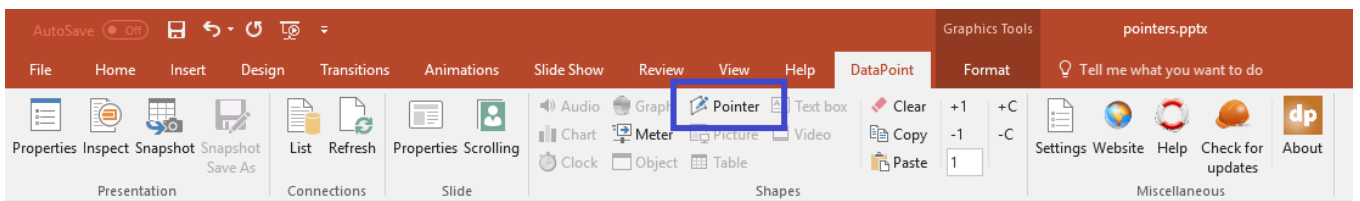
Second, we start by adding one shape that will be used to represent an object or resource. We add an icon to this slide here.



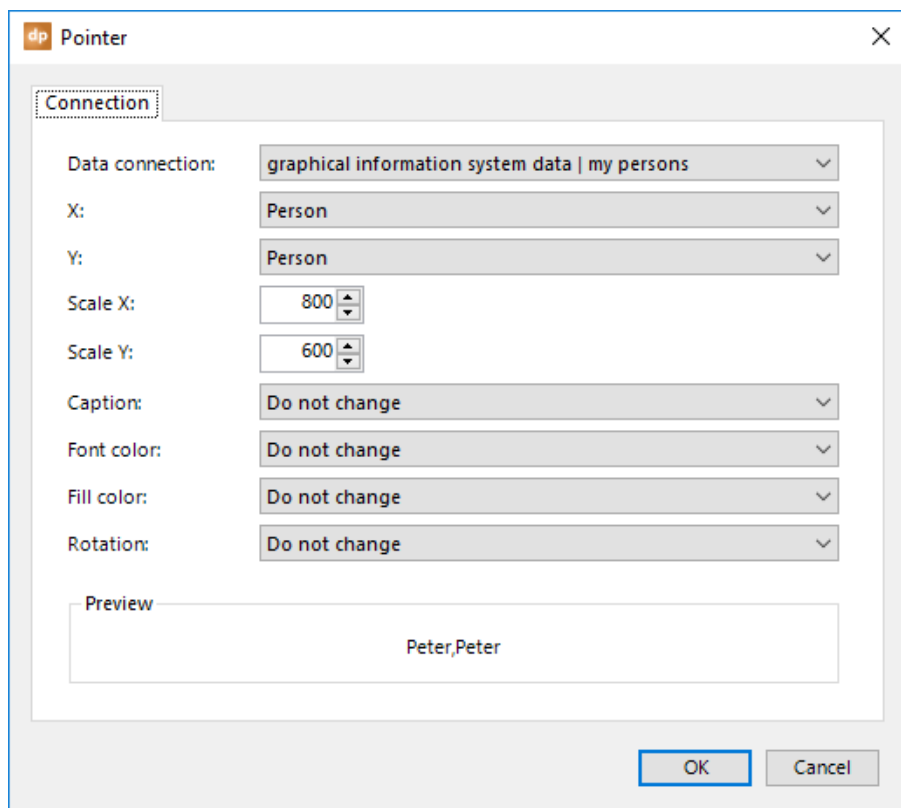
Third, we connect to a data source that will deliver some resources and positioning information.

<XXXX>

With this first shape selected, click and open the **DataPoint** menu and then click the **Pointer** button.



This will bring up the pointer properties form.

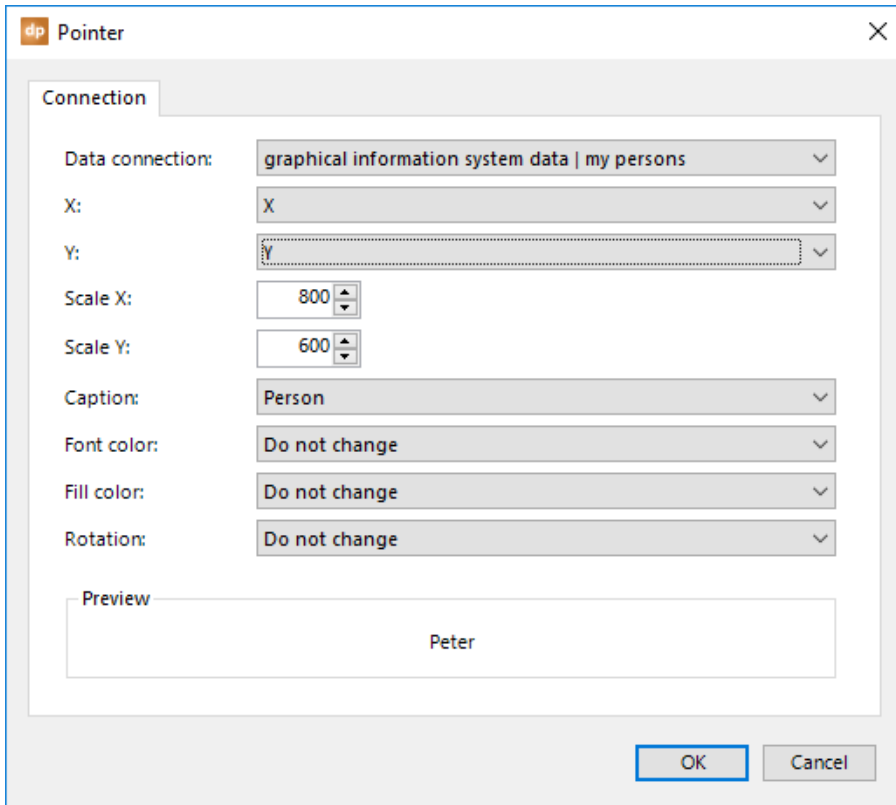


The first combobox, named **Data connection**, should be obvious by now. Here is where all of your positioning data is coming from.

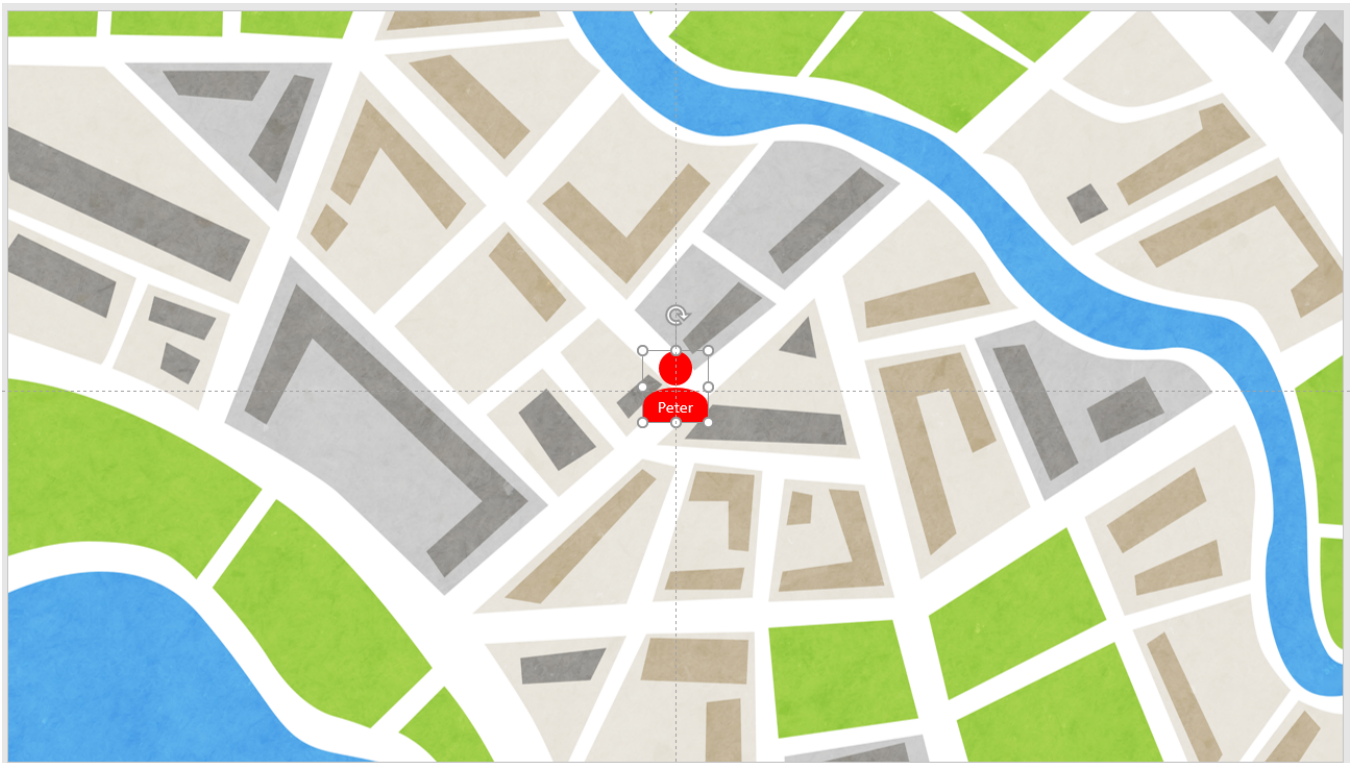
Then, there are two comboboxes named **X** and **Y**. For both comboboxes, select the columns holding the X and Y positions, respectively, of the resource that we are going to show on the slide.

Next, the two fields are called **Scale X** and **Scale Y**. These values represent the maximum possible size of the map or slide. Resources that are visible on this map area should have X-Y values within this range.

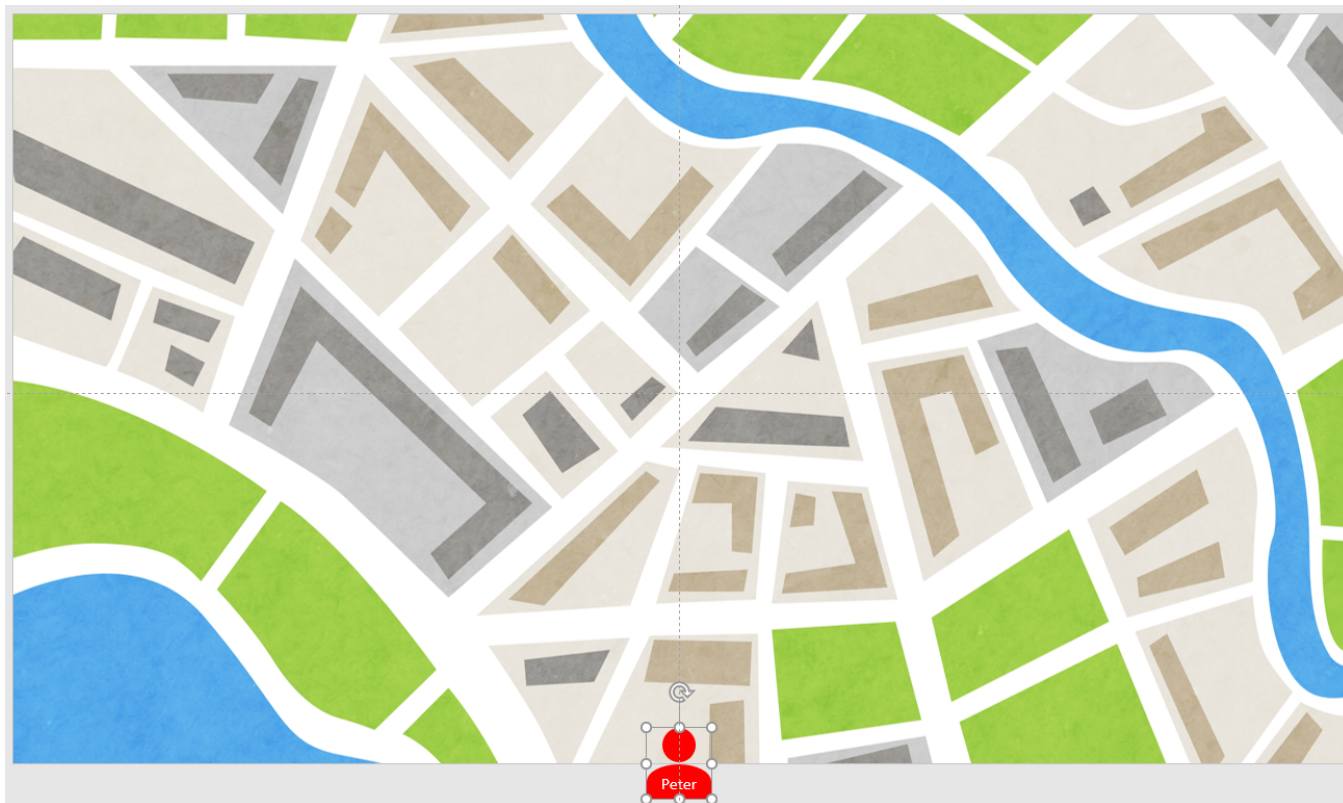
Set the **Caption** to a field that identifies a resource. Flight number for flights, license plates for trucks, names for persons, etc. Note that some shapes have a text placeholder, but others don't. For example, an image has no text placeholder, while a rectangle or freeform shape has a text placeholder.



With these values, we have a maximum map area of 800 points in width and 600 points in height. A plotted resource with X-Y values 400-300 would go directly in the middle of the map or slide.



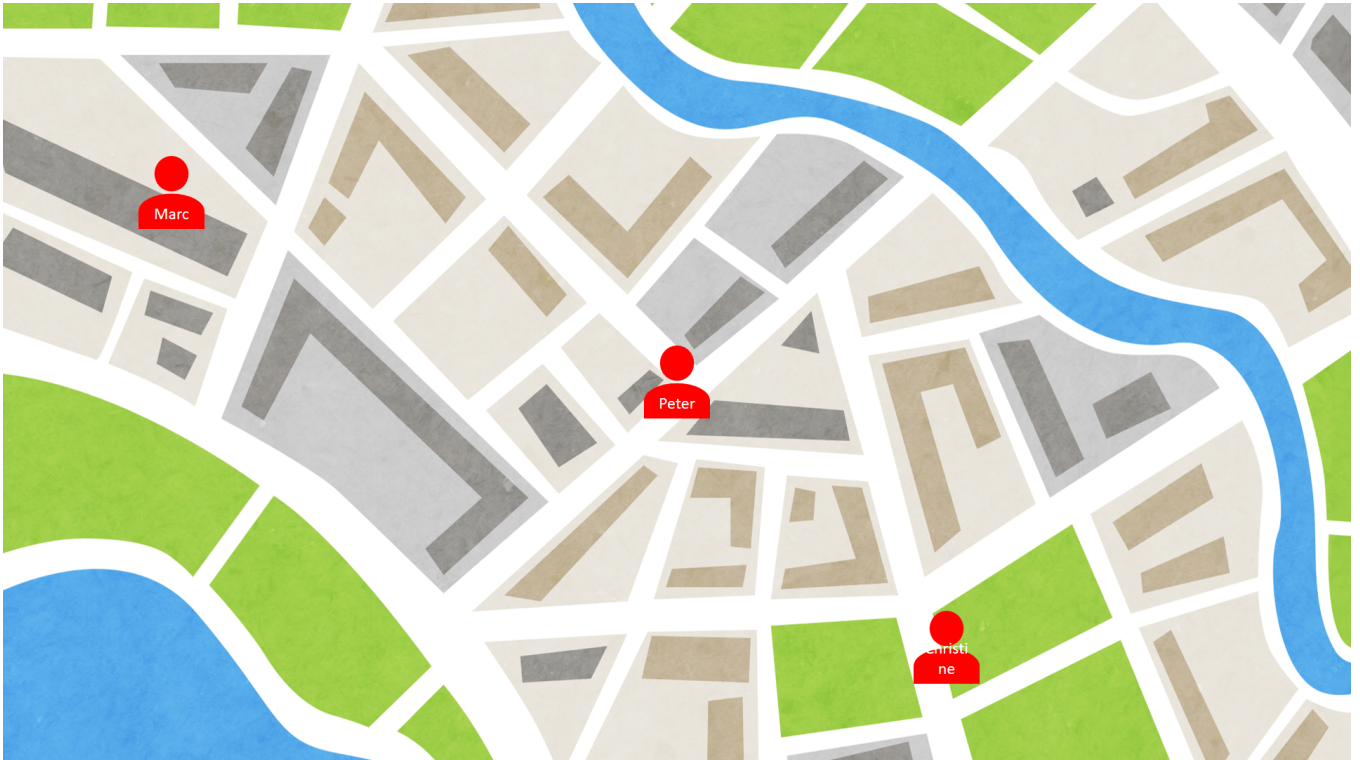
Another resource at 400-600 will be positioned in the middle of the bottom of the map.



Resources with a position of -180,500 are completely outside the scope of this map and these are not drawn on the map.

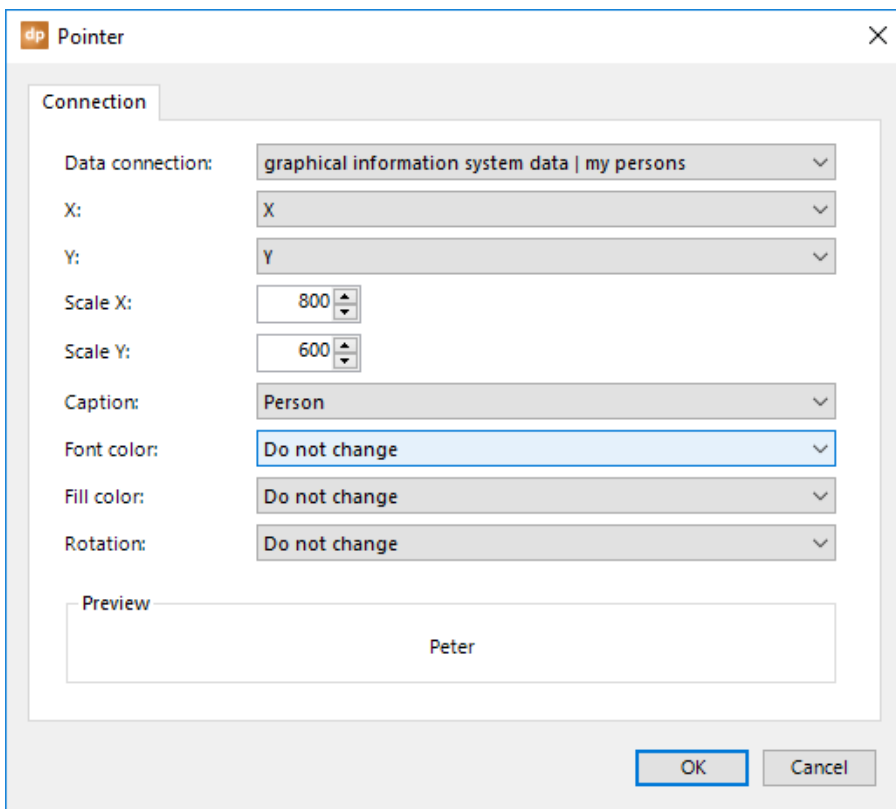
So when you design this map, you only place one resource linked to the first data row. Whenever you have multiple resources at your data source, DataPoint will automatically create duplicates of this shape to position each resource on the map.

Even during slide shows, new row additions will result in a new shape that is added at runtime to this map. A row deletion, or a resource that is completely outside the scope of the current map, is deleted automatically.



Tip: If you want to see the resources move in real-time on the map, make sure you use a high refresh rate (small value) in the connection or query settings.

There are a few properties left over to explain.



If you are controlling the color of the caption dynamically from our data source, then you can set the **Font**

color combobox to the database column that holds its value. The color value is expressed as a RGB value, like 255.255.255.

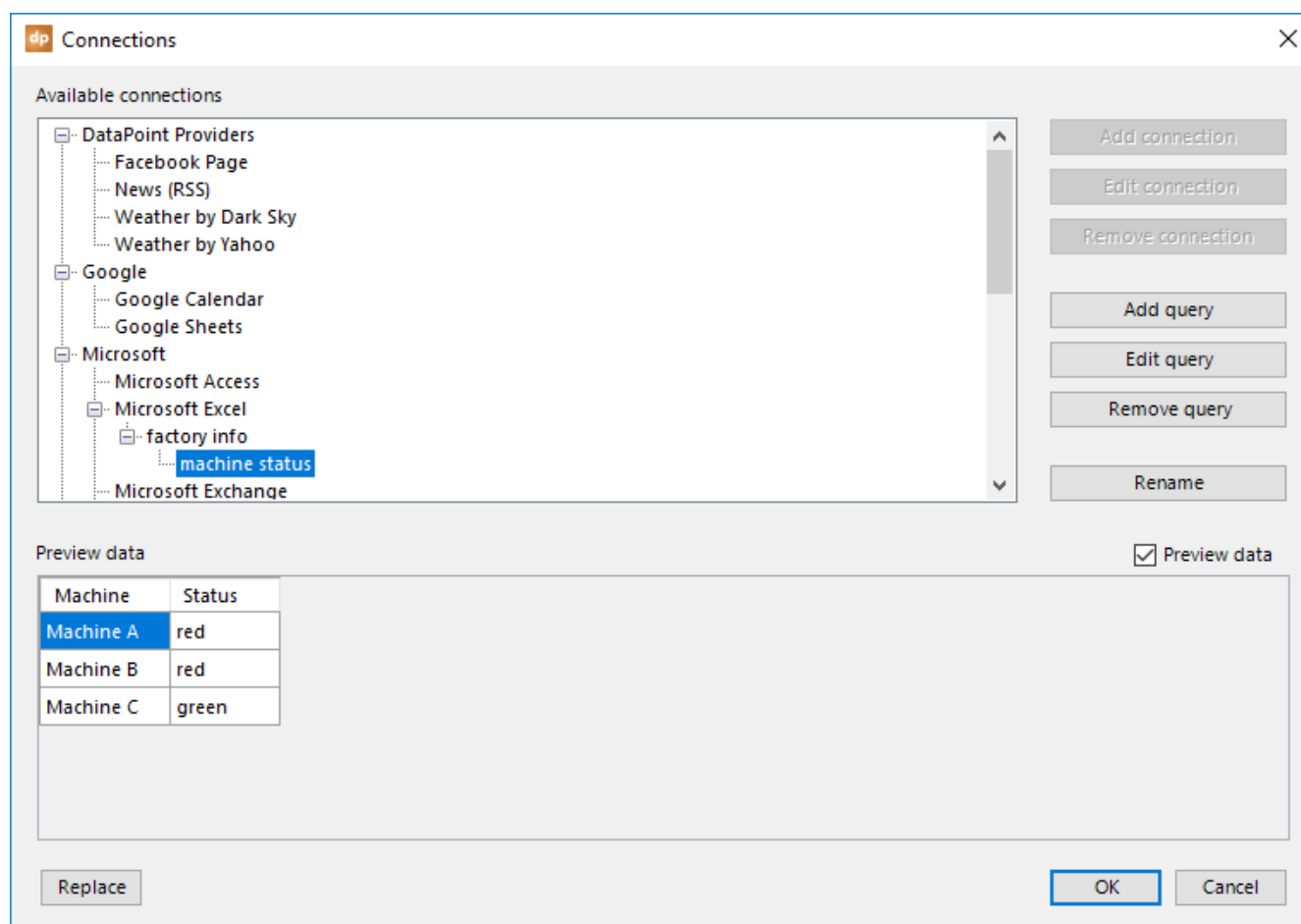
The same goes for the fill color of the shape. Set the **Fill color** combobox to the color that holds the fill color.

Finally, you can choose a column that will return the **Rotation** of the shape. This is a value between 0 and 360. Think about trucks and aircrafts that travel in a given direction.

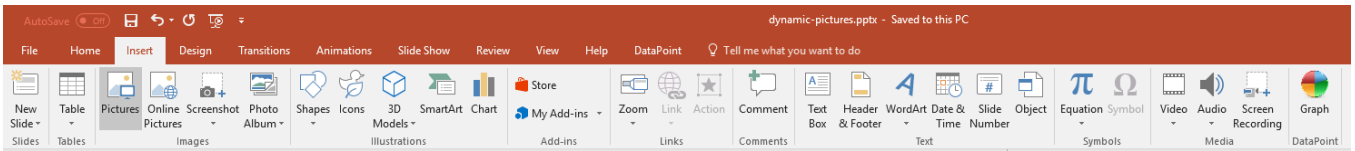
5.8. Dynamic picture shapes

Pictures are great shapes in PowerPoint. You can use a picture as a background image, but you can also use one to clarify or visualize data. A numeric value of 87 might say something to you, but a red light shows more information. 87 might be in the danger zone for certain indicators, but that is knowledge or interpretation. When you define that a value lower than 80 is green, and higher is red, then you alert people better in alarming situations. There is nothing wrong with giving that figure of 87 as well, but the picture says it all, in the blink of an eye.

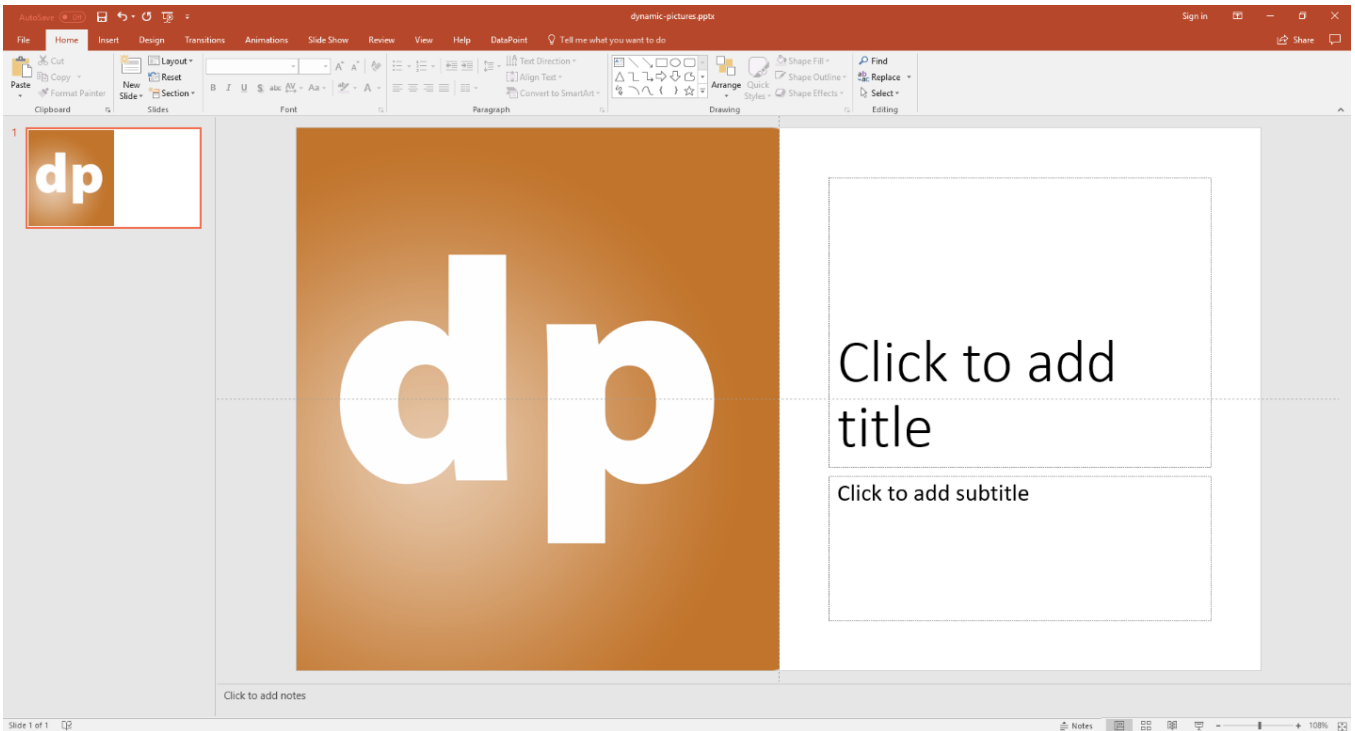
We have this information coming from a data source.



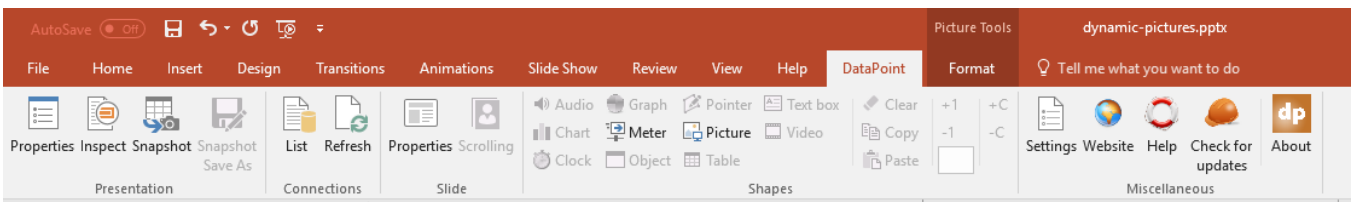
Let's try to visualize this information with dynamic pictures. First of all, add a normal picture to your slide. Click to open the **Insert** menu and click the **Pictures** button.



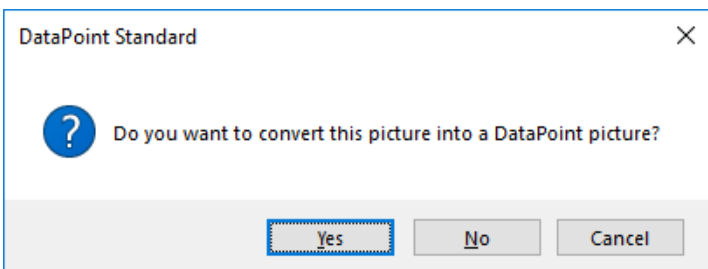
Browse and select any picture to get started.



With this picture selected, click to open the **DataPoint** menu and click the **Picture** button.



This will ask you to convert this static picture into a dynamic picture. Of course, we confirm by clicking **Yes**.



This will open the picture properties form.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Picture" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It has two tabs: "Connection" (selected) and "Misc".

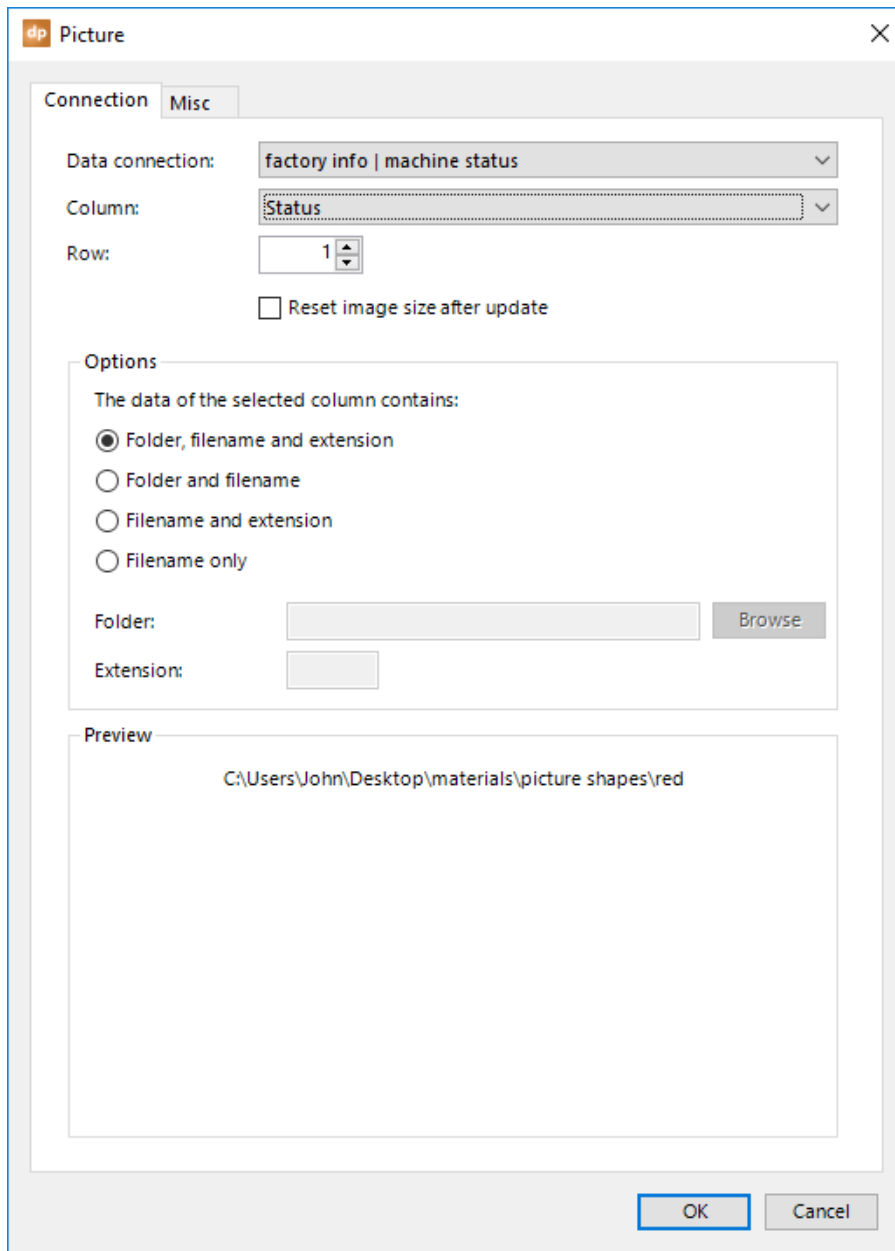
Under the "Connection" tab, there are three dropdown menus: "Data connection" (set to "factory info | machine status"), "Column" (set to "Machine"), and "Row" (set to "1"). Below these is a checkbox labeled "Reset image size after update" which is unchecked.

The "Options" section contains a text box stating "The data of the selected column contains:" followed by four radio button options: "Folder, filename and extension" (selected), "Folder and filename", "Filename and extension", and "Filename only". Below these are two text boxes labeled "Folder:" and "Extension:", and a "Browse" button next to the "Folder:" box.

The "Preview" section shows a text box containing the file path: "C:\Users\John\Desktop\materials\picture shapes\Machine A".

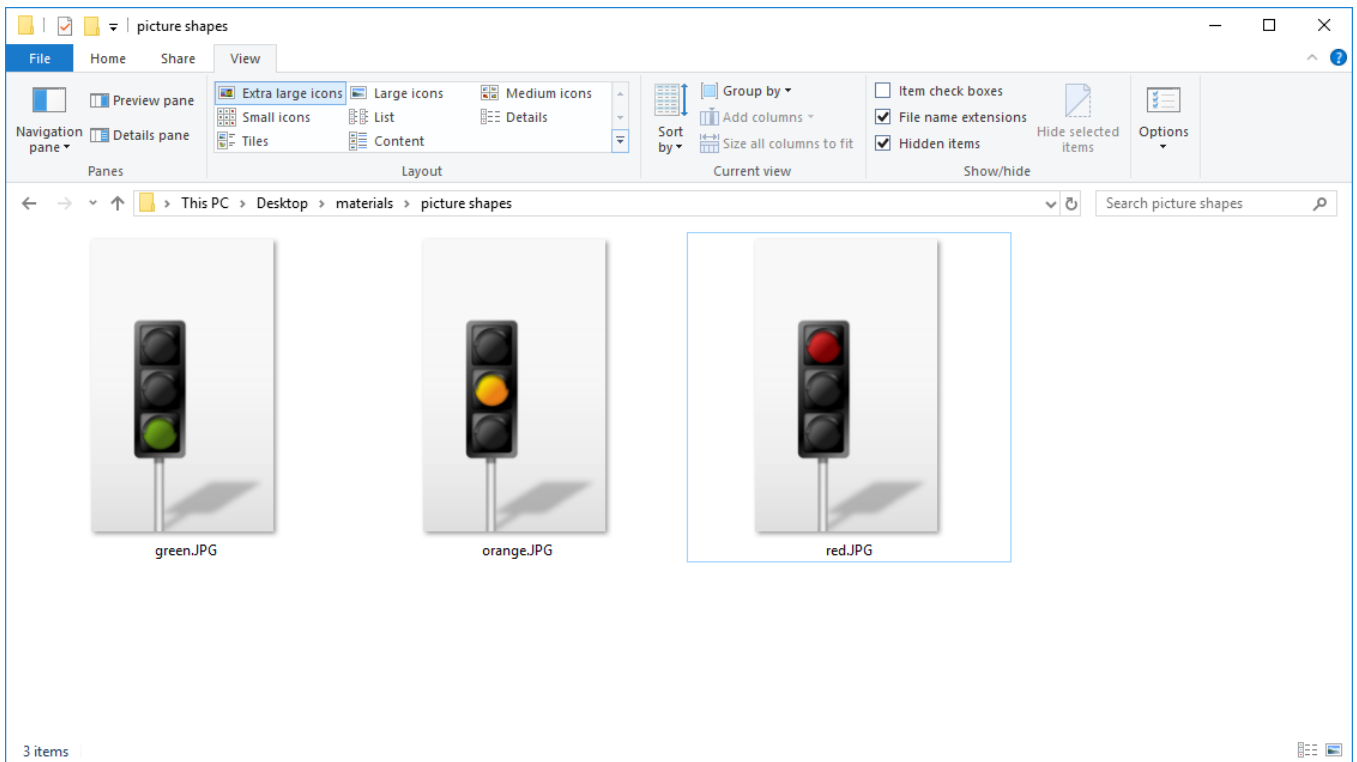
At the bottom of the dialog are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

First of all, we select the desired **data connection** from the list and set the **column** to the column that is holding the information for our dynamic picture. Also, make sure that the **row number** is correct.

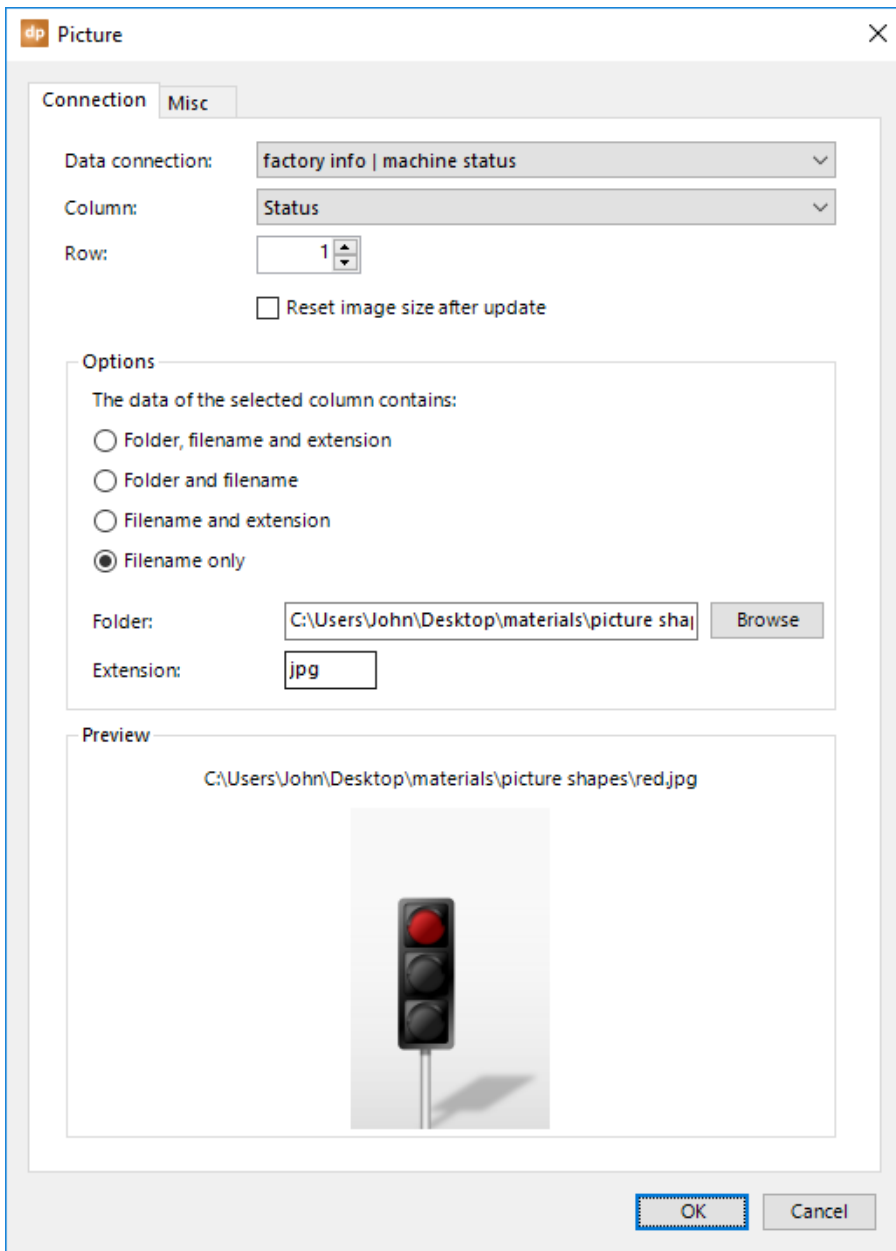


You can see the preview value. In this sample, the data connection is only returning the possible values green, orange, and red. We see some kind of default path, and then the value red in our preview.

When we look at the folder and the images that we have, we see three JPG files named green.jpg, orange.jpg, and red.jpg.

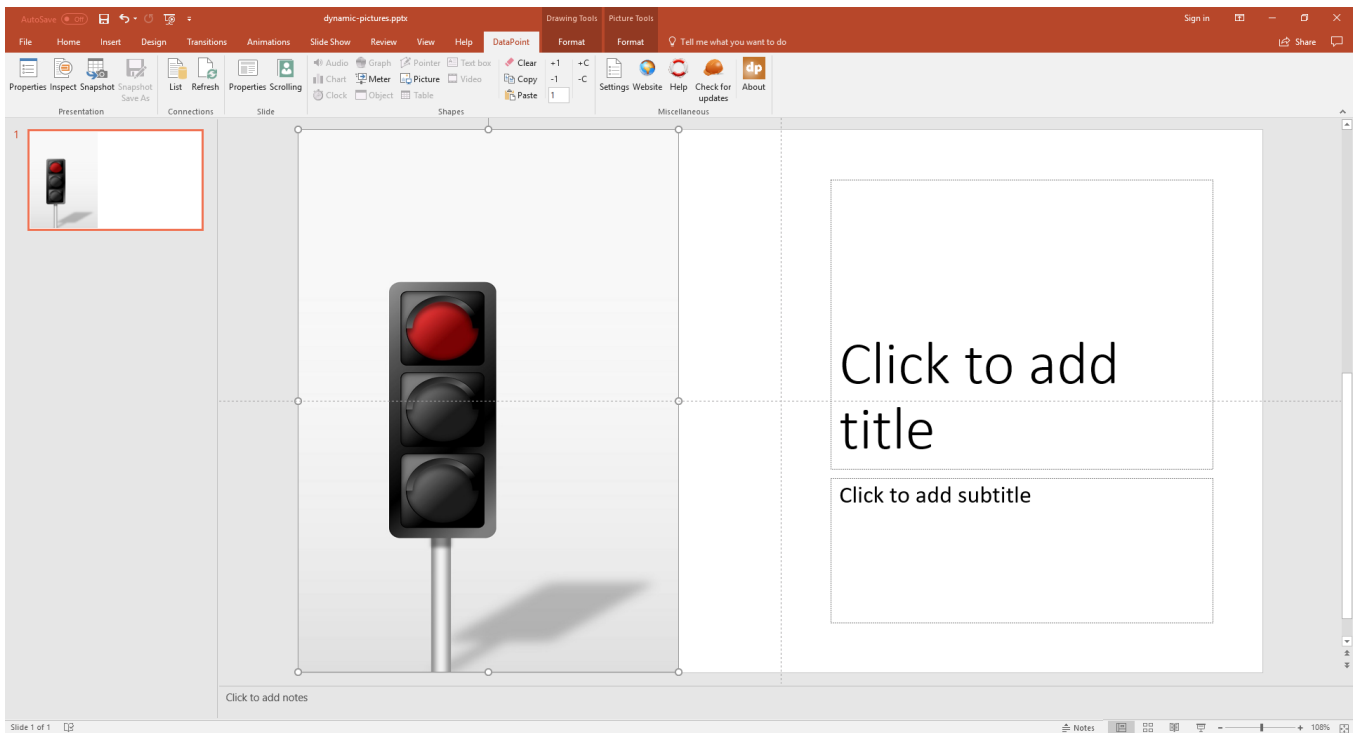


Back on the picture properties form, change the option **The data of the selected column contains to Filename only**. This gives us the option to specify a **folder** and an **extension**.



After setting the folder that holds our possible pictures and the correct extension (jpg is this sample), we can now confirm that the picture's path is correctly set, since we see the picture preview.

Click **OK** to close and this picture is now listening and reacting to changes at the data connection.



5.9. Dynamic table shapes

Nothing is easier to use than tables. The advantage of a table on your slide is that it is only one shape that can store multiple cells. Basically, it is a collection of text boxes in rows and columns. Probably very similar to the rows and columns of your data connection already.

Connections

Available connections

- DataPoint Providers
 - Facebook Page
 - News (RSS)
 - Weather by Dark Sky
 - Weather by Yahoo
- Google
 - Google Calendar
 - Google Sheets
- Microsoft
 - Microsoft Access
 - Microsoft Excel
 - Northwind data
 - Products
 - Microsoft Exchange

Buttons: Add connection, Edit connection, Remove connection, Add query, **Edit query**, Remove query, Rename

Preview data Preview data

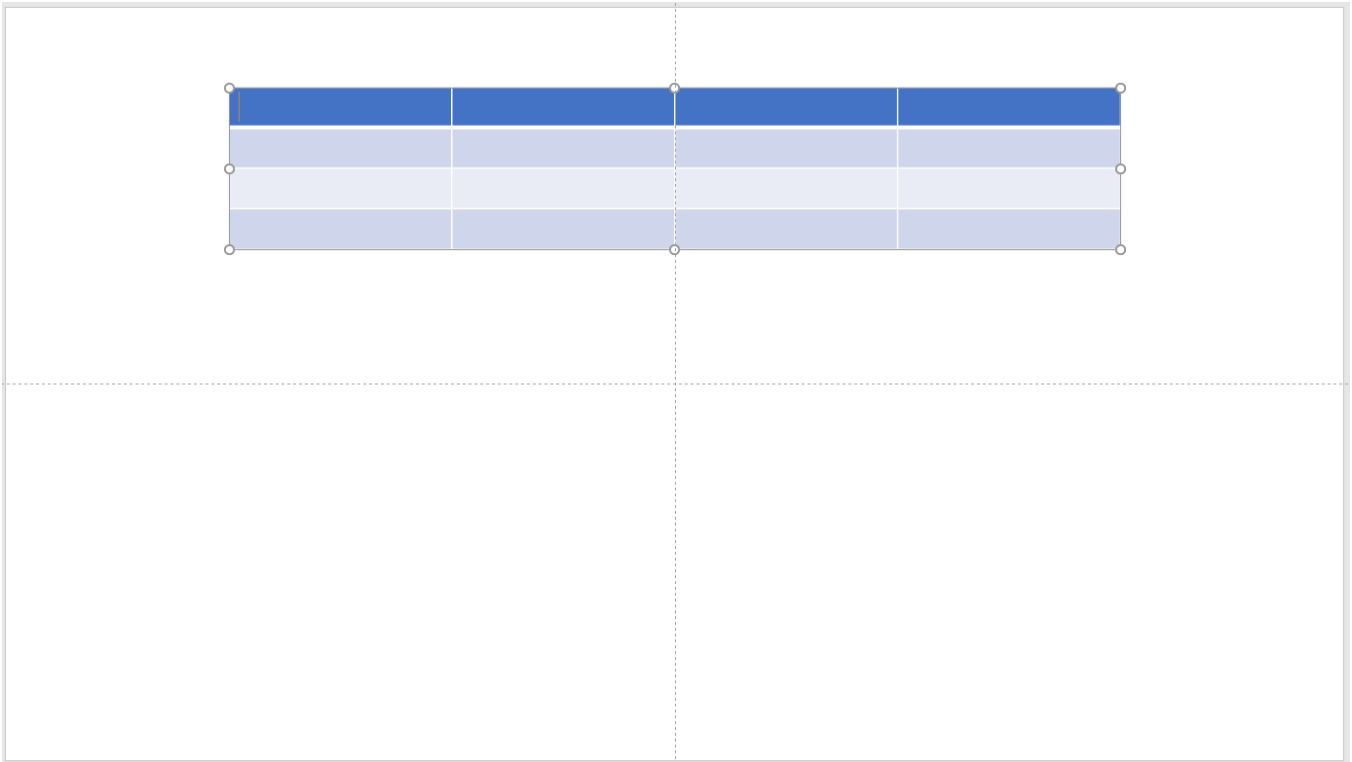
Supplier IDs	ID	Product Code	Product Name	Description	Standard Cost	List Price	
4	1	NWTB-1	Northwind Traders Chai		13.5	18	1
10	3	NWTCO-3	Northwind Traders Syrup		7.5	10	2
10	4	NWTCO-4	Northwind Traders Cajun Seasoning		16.5	22	1
10	5	NWTO-5	Northwind Traders Olive Oil		16.0125	21.35	1
2-6	6	NWTIP-6	Northwind Traders Boursenberry Spread		18.75	25	2

Buttons: Replace, OK, Cancel

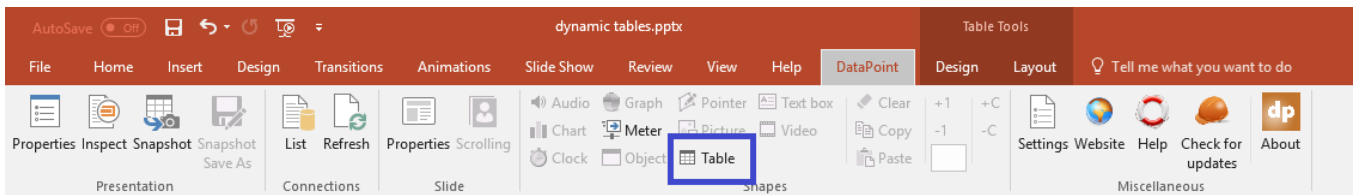
To insert a table on your slide, click to open the **Insert** menu and then click the **Table** button.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft PowerPoint interface. The **Insert** tab is selected in the ribbon, and the **Table** button is highlighted. A dropdown menu is open under the **Table** button, showing options: **Insert Table...**, **Draw Table**, and **Excel Spreadsheet**. The main slide area is blank, and the taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the date 2/2/2018 and time 4:06 PM.

On the popup menu, indicate how many rows and columns you want to have in your table and click it. The new table is inserted on your slide.



Now, click the **DataPoint** menu option to open it and click the **Table** button.



This clicking opens the table linking form.

dp Table

Connection Format Rules

Data connection: Northwind data | Products

Start filling data at row: 1

Start filling data at column: 1

Copy the column names to the first row of the table

Automatically adjust the number of rows

Automatically adjust the number of columns

Special row selection

Start selecting rows at position 1

Maximum 0 rows (0 for unlimited)

Special column selection

Use columns (e.g. 1, 3, 5-7):

OK Cancel

First of all, the data connection. Nothing new, always the same in DataPoint. Make sure to select the data connection that you want to use on this table.

When you click OK here with all of these defaults, your table is populated with data from the chosen data connection.

4	1	NWTB-1	Northwind Traders Chai
10	3	NWTCO-3	Northwind Traders Syrup
10	4	NWTCO-4	Northwind Traders Cajun Seasoning
10	5	NWTO-5	Northwind Traders Olive Oil

But, there are more options for tables.

To start with, you can control where to start filling in the data. You can change the **Start filling data at row** and the **Start filling data at column** options. The default is 1 and 1 to start filling the first upper left cell and so on. You can set the row to 2 if you want to set some header information manually in the first row.

The next option is that you can have the column names filled in on the first row of the table. Check the **Copy the column names to the first row of the table** option. Note that when you check this, this sets the **Start filling data at row** to 2.

By default, DataPoint is filling in all the cells of the table. If the table is larger than the data itself, then you will see empty rows and/or columns. DataPoint will only process the cells that are present.

But, sometimes you need more flexibility. Maybe next year, you will have a new column. Or your company is selling another product and you need an extra line. To handle this, you can allow DataPoint to automatically adjust the number of rows and columns by using the **Automatically adjust the number of rows** and the **Automatically adjust the number of columns** options.

Maybe you don't want to just show the first 10 rows of your data connection. Maybe you want to skip some rows or use some specific rows in the middle of your data table. Let's assume that you need to display rows 10 to 17, so 8 rows in total. First, check the option **Special row selection**. Then, set the **Start selecting rows at position** to 10, and increase the **Maximum 0 rows** to 8.

With these settings, DataPoint will not start copying data from row 1, but it will start from the 10th row and take the next 8 rows.

When you leave the maximum at 0 rows, then all of the rows after the starting row are selected until the end of the data.

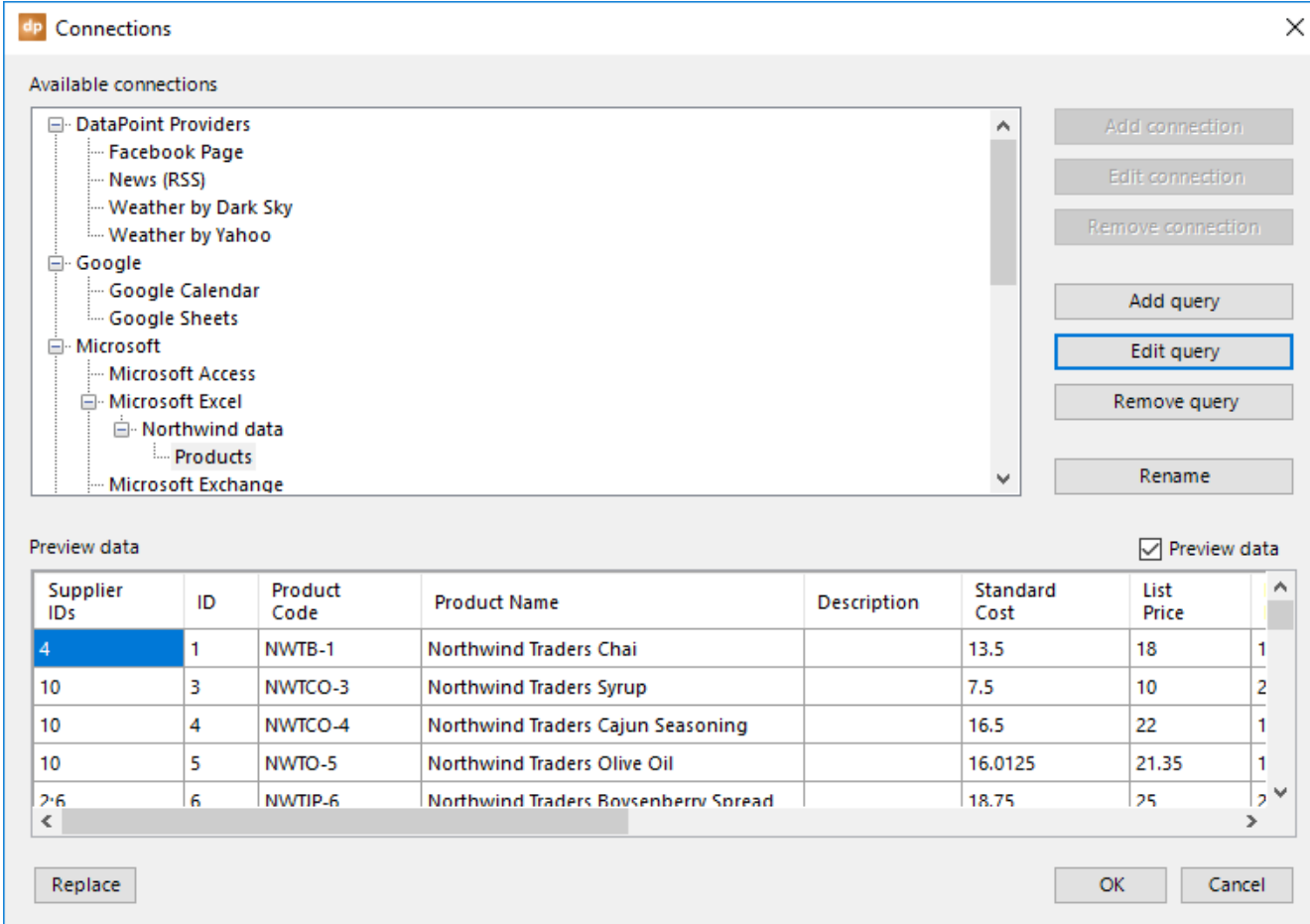
The same functionality is there to easily skip a number of columns. Maybe you don't want to show the first two columns because they just contain some meaningless numbers. The option named **Special column selection**

works exactly like a print job command, where you can specify what pages to print. If you only want to show columns 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 from your data connection, then set this **Use Columns** option to 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, or even 3-6, 11.

The tabs **Format** and **Rules** will be covered later on in this documentation because they behave the same for text boxes, too.

5.10. Dynamic text box shapes

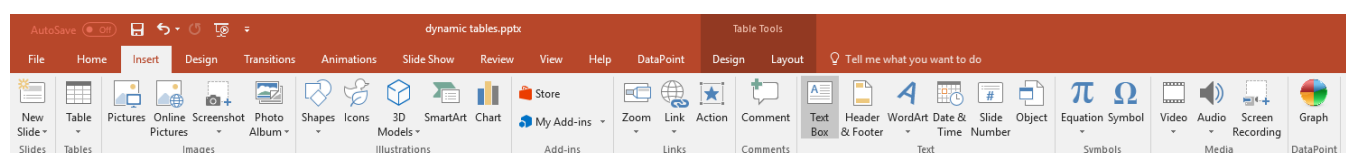
Textboxes in PowerPoint offer the best functionality of all dynamic shapes. First of all, a textbox is easy to characterize and format. And second, DataPoint has a lot of possible features for textboxes.



The screenshot shows the 'Connections' dialog box with the following data in the 'Preview data' table:

Supplier IDs	ID	Product Code	Product Name	Description	Standard Cost	List Price	
4	1	NWTB-1	Northwind Traders Chai		13.5	18	1
10	3	NWTCO-3	Northwind Traders Syrup		7.5	10	2
10	4	NWTCO-4	Northwind Traders Cajun Seasoning		16.5	22	1
10	5	NWTO-5	Northwind Traders Olive Oil		16.0125	21.35	1
26	6	NWTIP-6	Northwind Traders Boursenberry Spread		18.75	25	

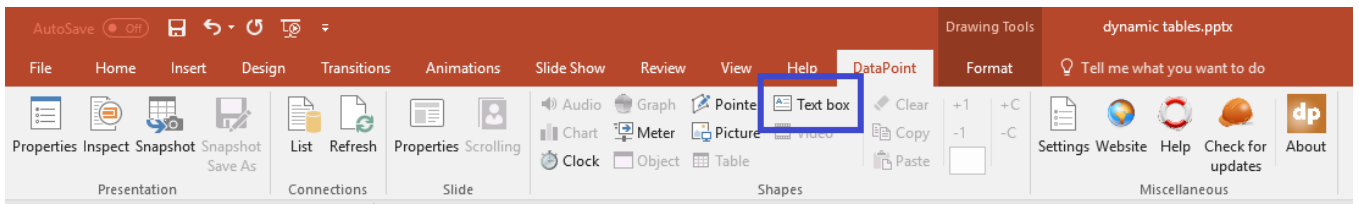
Insert a textbox in your slide by opening the **Insert** button and then clicking the **Textbox** button.



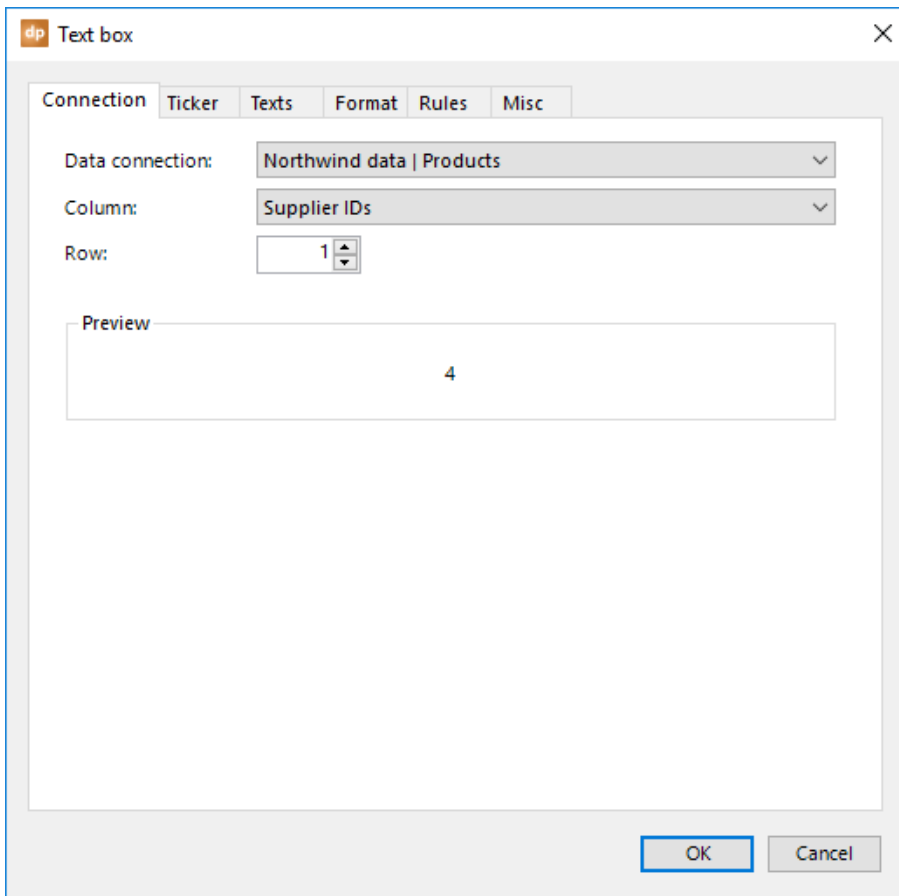
Then, draw the textbox on your slide.



With the textbox selected, click **DataPoint** and then the **Textbox** button.



This opens the DataPoint textbox linking properties.

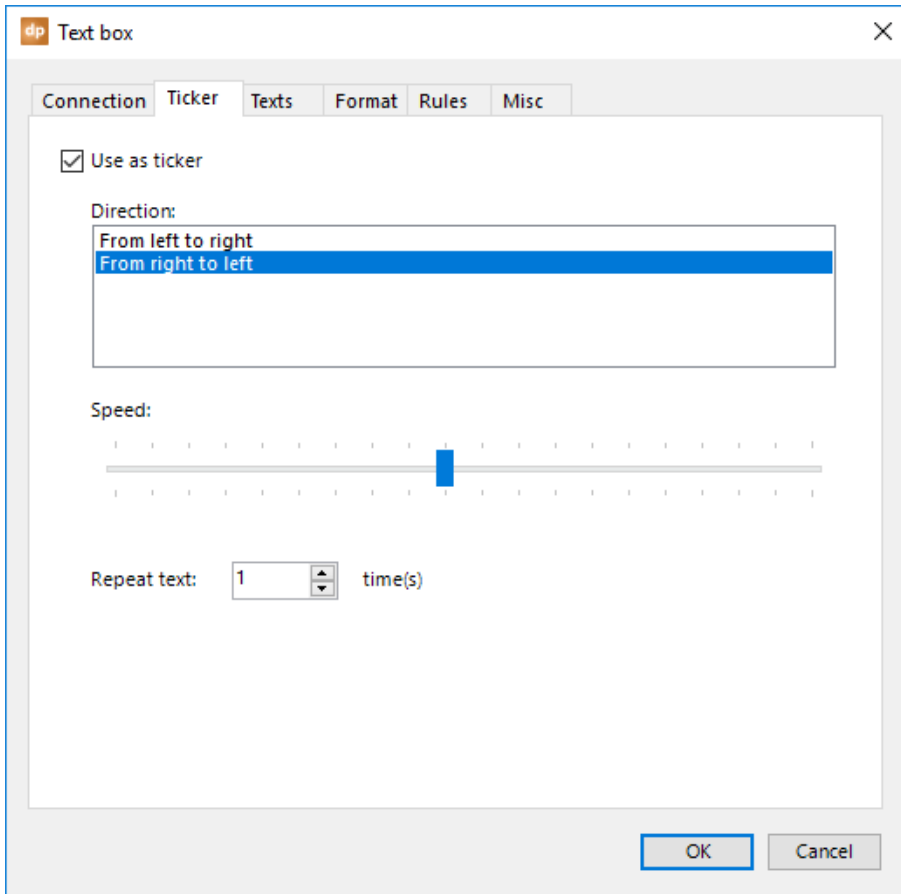


As with everything in DataPoint, you can choose where the data is coming from. First, choose a connection from the **Data connection** combobox. Then, choose a column name from the **Column** combobox. And finally, choose the row number.

The preview area shows what value is taken and will be assigned to the textbox.

Ticker tab

Click to open the **ticker** tab.



By default, a textbox just shows the dynamic value. But, you can check the option **Use as ticker** and that will add some animation to the textbox, to fly in from left to right or from right to left.

A text ticker is often seen as a news text message or other info at the bottom of your television screen on a news channel.

With the **Speed** trackbar, you can make a text scroll faster or slower. Move the tracker to the left for faster animation, or to the right for slower animation or to prolong the duration of the animation.

As an option, you can repeat the text a couple of times, as the text is typically too short for the duration of the slide.

Texts tab

The texts tab adds great value to a textbox.

dp Text box

Connection Ticker **Texts** Format Rules Misc

Prefix:

Suffix:

Empty:

Non-existing row:

Alternate text boxes every: seconds

Limit text length to: characters

Use dynamic font size calculation

Number of characters ranges between and

Uses a dynamic font size between and

OK Cancel

By default, just the database value is placed dynamically in your textbox.

When you enter a given text in the **Prefix** textbox, this text is placed in front of the database value. When showing temperatures on your slide, you can use a prefix text, like 'Current temperature is .' Notice the space after the "is."

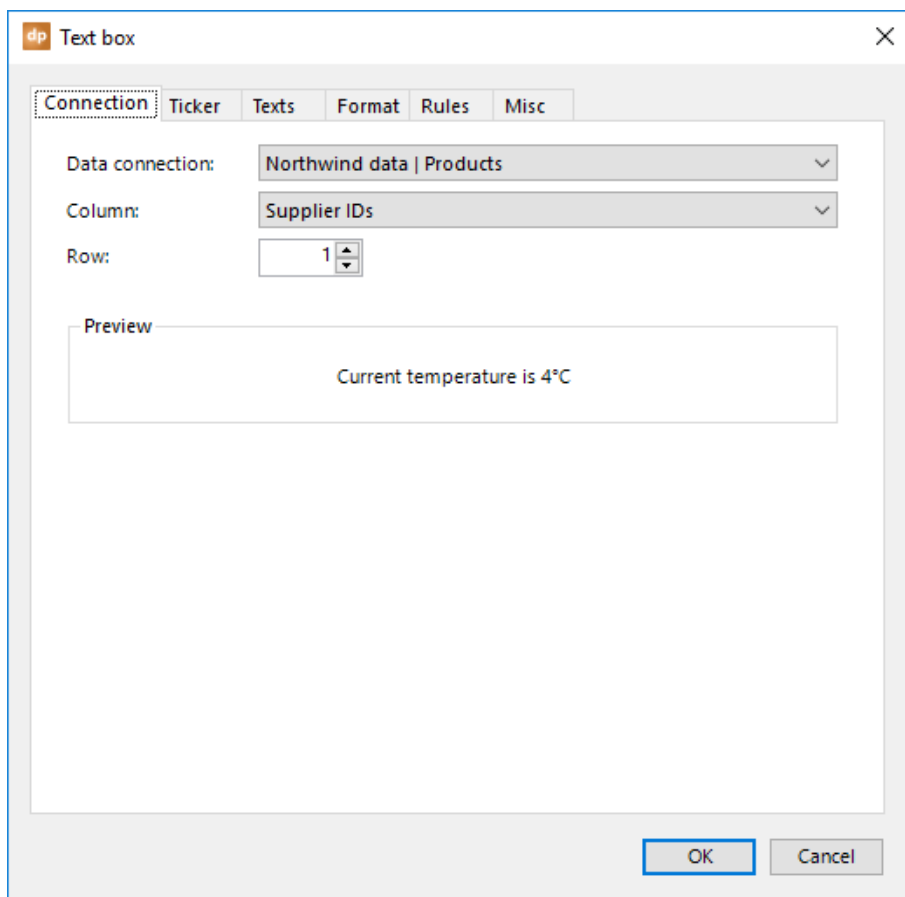
So the textbox will show a value like this:

The screenshot shows a 'Text box' configuration dialog with the following settings:

- Connection:** Northwind data | Products
- Column:** Supplier IDs
- Row:** 1
- Preview:** Current temperature is 4

Buttons: OK, Cancel

The same goes for the **Suffix** textbox. Here, this text is always added after the database value. Use, for example, a text like '°C' to end up with this new text:



The **Empty** text replacement can be used whenever the column is returning nothing or a database NULL value. Instead of displaying nothing (the database has a nothing value), you could display the word **None**, for example.

The last text replacement option is the **Non-existing row**. Imagine that your textbox is linked to row number 5. Today, your data connection is returning more than five rows, so you will see a value. But maybe next week, there is no row at all at position 5. In that case, you can specify the text replacement here, like 'No malfunction reported.'

Check the option **Alternate textboxes every x seconds** when you have multi-line texts in your database. This could be a multi-line text to show the status of a gate at an airport.

Gate open
Porte ouverte

In one single cell, there is not just one line of information, but multiple lines. Each line is separated by a typical line feed (LF). When this option is enabled, it will not show all of the lines at once in the textbox, but it will start displaying the first line for three seconds, then the second line for three seconds, and so on. It will continuously alternate the textboxes, line by line. This is an interesting option to gain more attention for your texts, but also interesting because it needs less space on your screen.

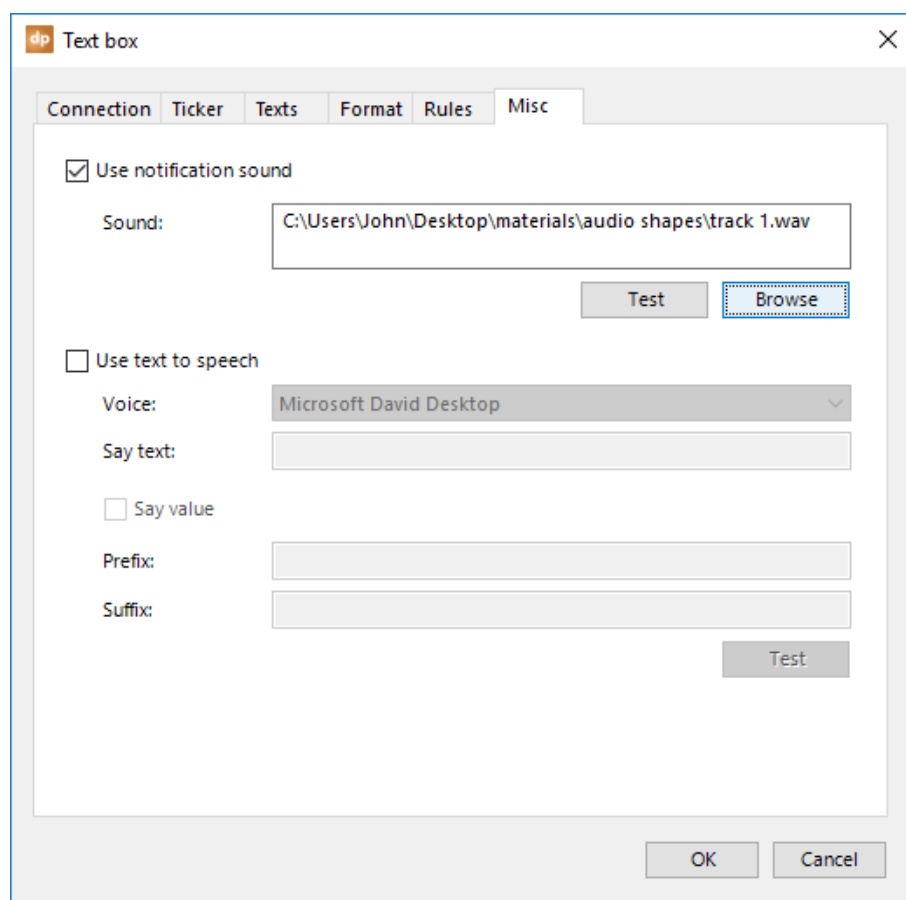
And there is an option to cut off long texts. Text can ruin your design when the text is too long, or longer than you expected to fit in your slide design. In order to prevent having textboxes that go over the expected size, you can check the option **Limit text length to** and set the number of maximal characters.

When the database value exceeds the specified number of characters, then DataPoint cuts off the text before the last word that exceeds the length. It will add "..." to the text to indicate the cut-off.

Finally, there is an option to adjust the font size based on the text length. The shorter the text, the larger the font size. Long texts require a smaller font size. Check the option **Use dynamic font size calculation**. Then specify the range (minimum and maximum) of the text length. And finally set the range of the smallest font size and the largest font size possible. The actual font size of your text will be calculated in function of the number of characters, reflected on the font size range. An actual text length of 30 characters, in a possible range of minimum 10 and maximum 50 characters, is calculated as 50%. Right in the middle. That percentage is also applied on the font size range. So a font size range of 20 and 100 as maximum, will use a dynamic font size of 60.

Misc tab

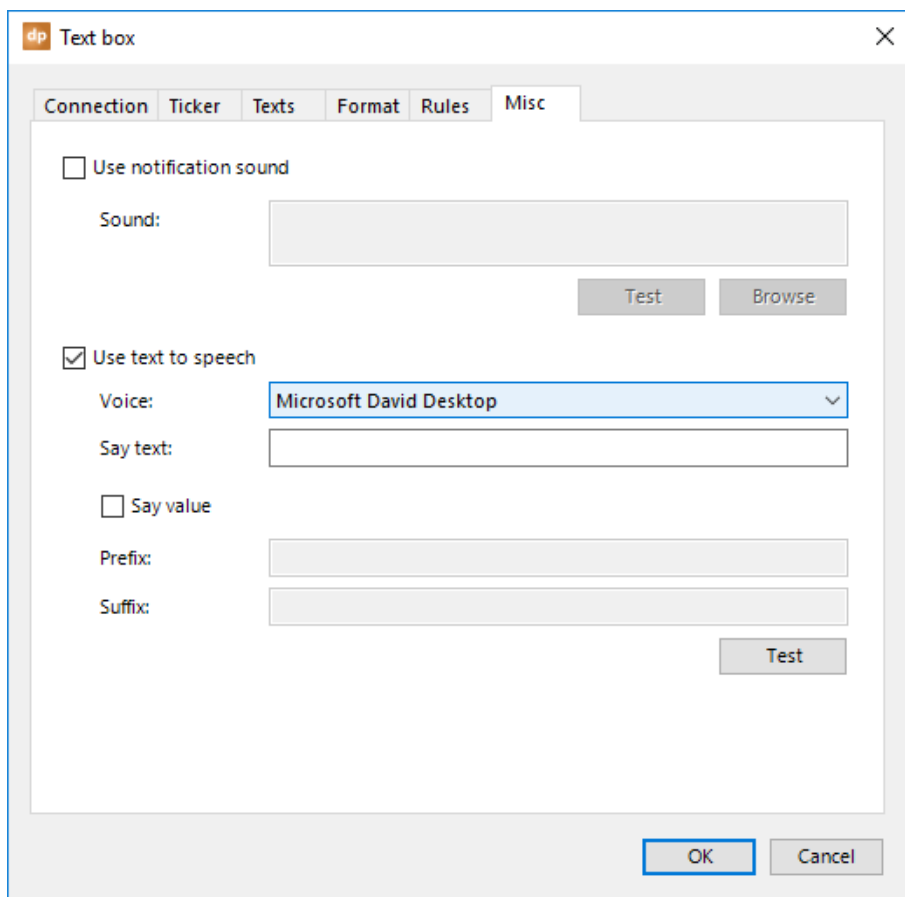
The miscellaneous tab hosts some unique features.



First of all, it is possible to play a notification sound whenever a database value is updated. Check the option **Use notification sound** and click the **Browse** button. Navigate to the .WAV file that you want to use and click **Open** to confirm it.

You can now start the slideshow. And when, for instance, your sales figure or KPI figure is updated in the database, DataPoint will update this information on your slide and play the notification sound to focus attention on the event.

The second option is very unique to DataPoint and PowerPoint. You can have your computer say or announce database values.



Check the option **Use text to speech**. Then, choose a voice from the **Voice** combobox. The voices that you can choose from are dependent on the operating system that you are using, and your language settings. Typically, you will find at least one male and one female voice.

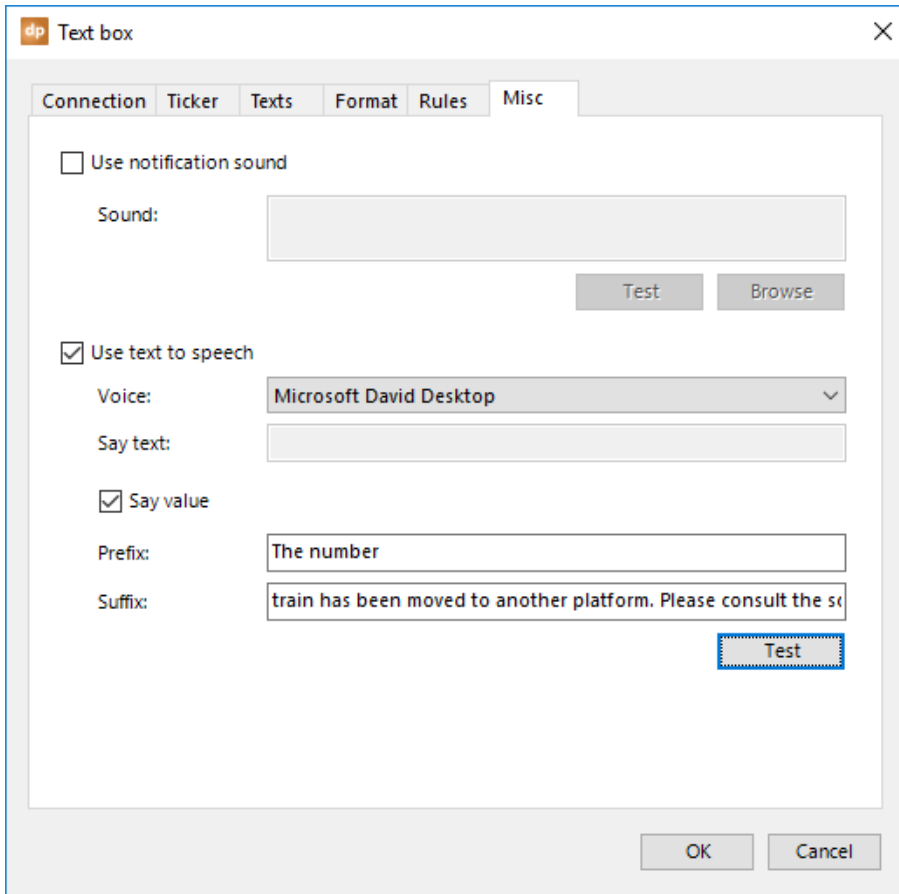
Basically, there are two options for text to speech.

The first option is that you say a given fixed text, like 'Hey, we have an update for you!' For this type of speech, just enter your text in the **Say text** textbox.

The second option is that you announce the database value in a sentence. You have your database value and you can say something before and after it.

When should you use this? Imagine an information display for a train station. You can see a field on the slide for showing last-minute platform changes. In case of such an event, you can display this text in the textbox.

For the text to speech functionality, you can enter this, as an example.



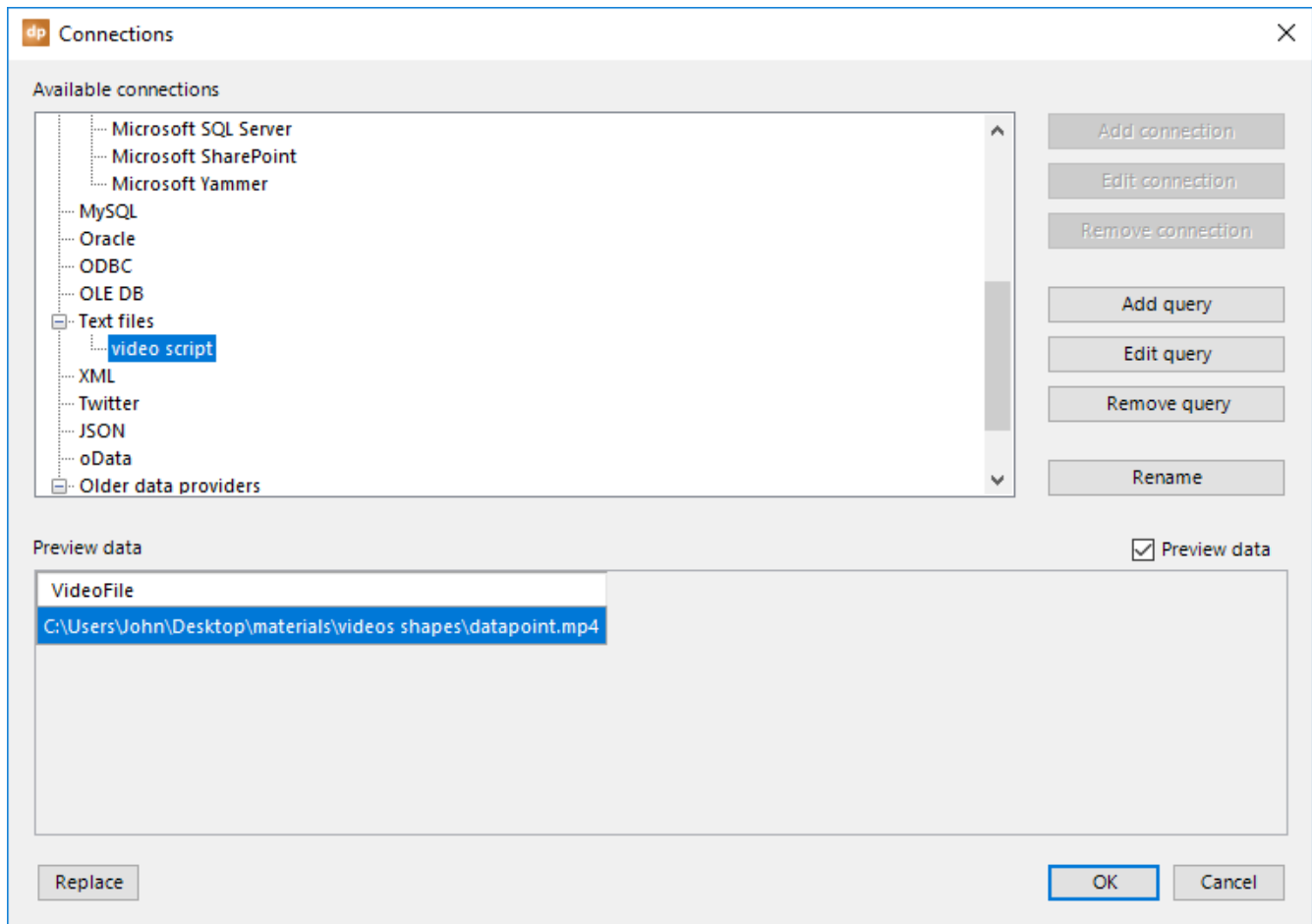
When the textbox is updated with this information, David will say or announce the text: “The number 4 train has been moved to another platform. Please consult the screens.”

Click **OK** to close.

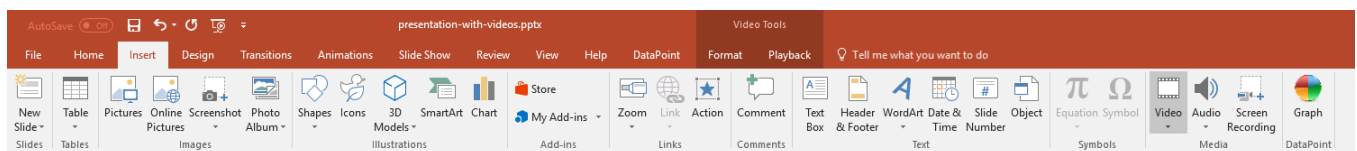
The tabs **Format** and **Rules** will be covered later on in this documentation because they behave the same for tables, too.

5.11. Dynamic video shapes

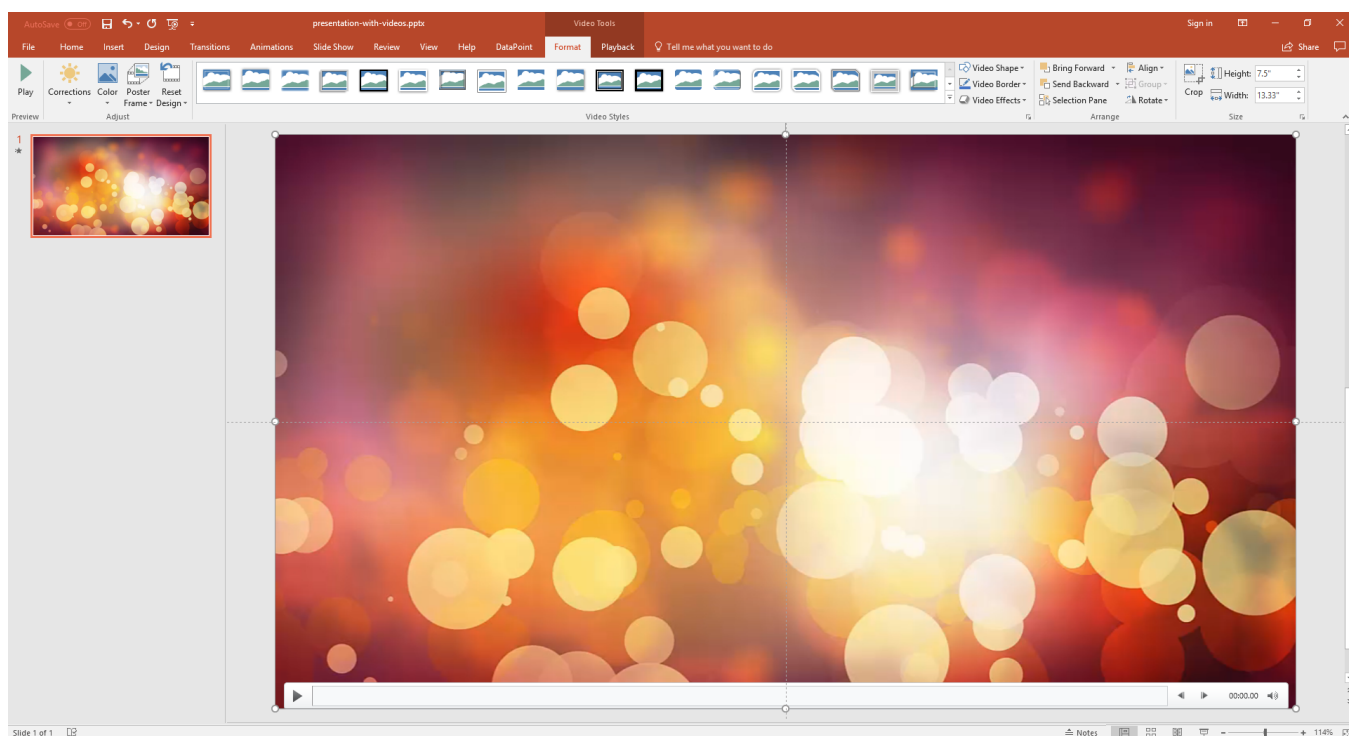
Pictures are great, but videos are even better. Think about product commercials or a video about your company. Maybe you want to control what video file is playing on your slides, via a data file.



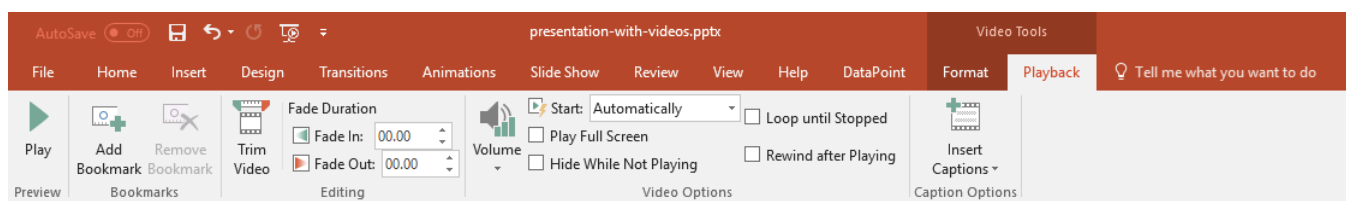
To insert a video on your slide, click to open the **Insert** menu and click the **Video** button, choosing Video from My PC...



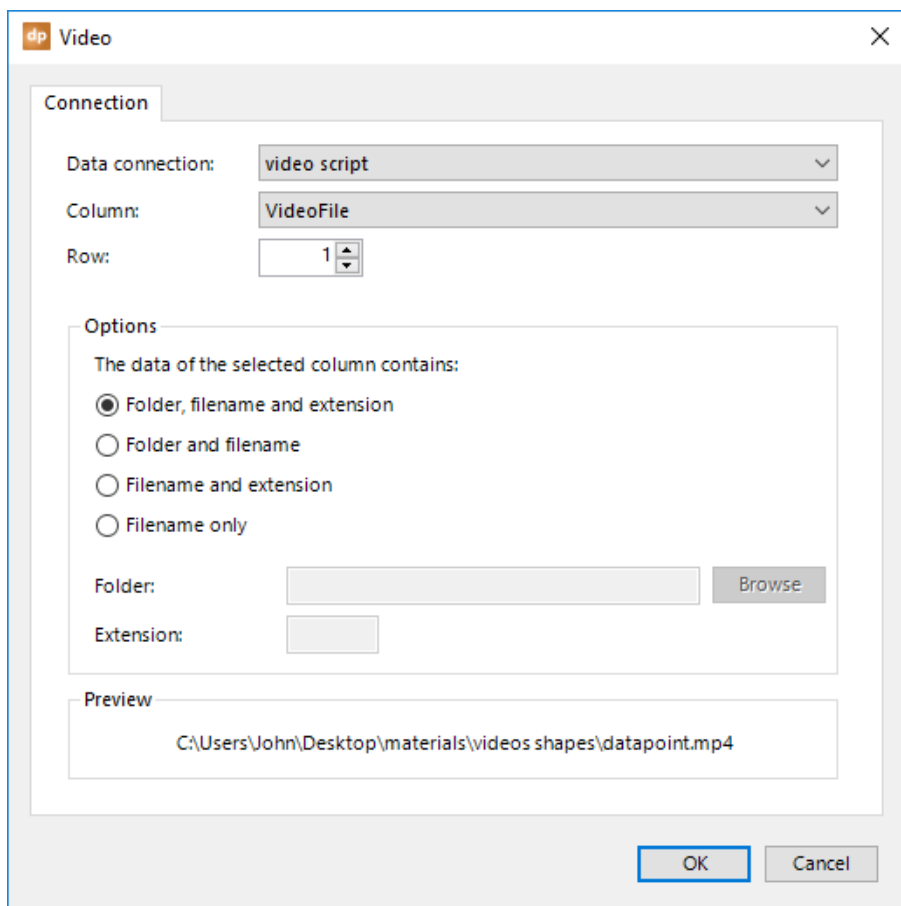
Navigate to your file and click **Insert** to get this video on your slide.



With the video selected, click the Playback menu option and change the **Start** option to **Automatically**.



Then, go to **DataPoint** and click the **Video** button.

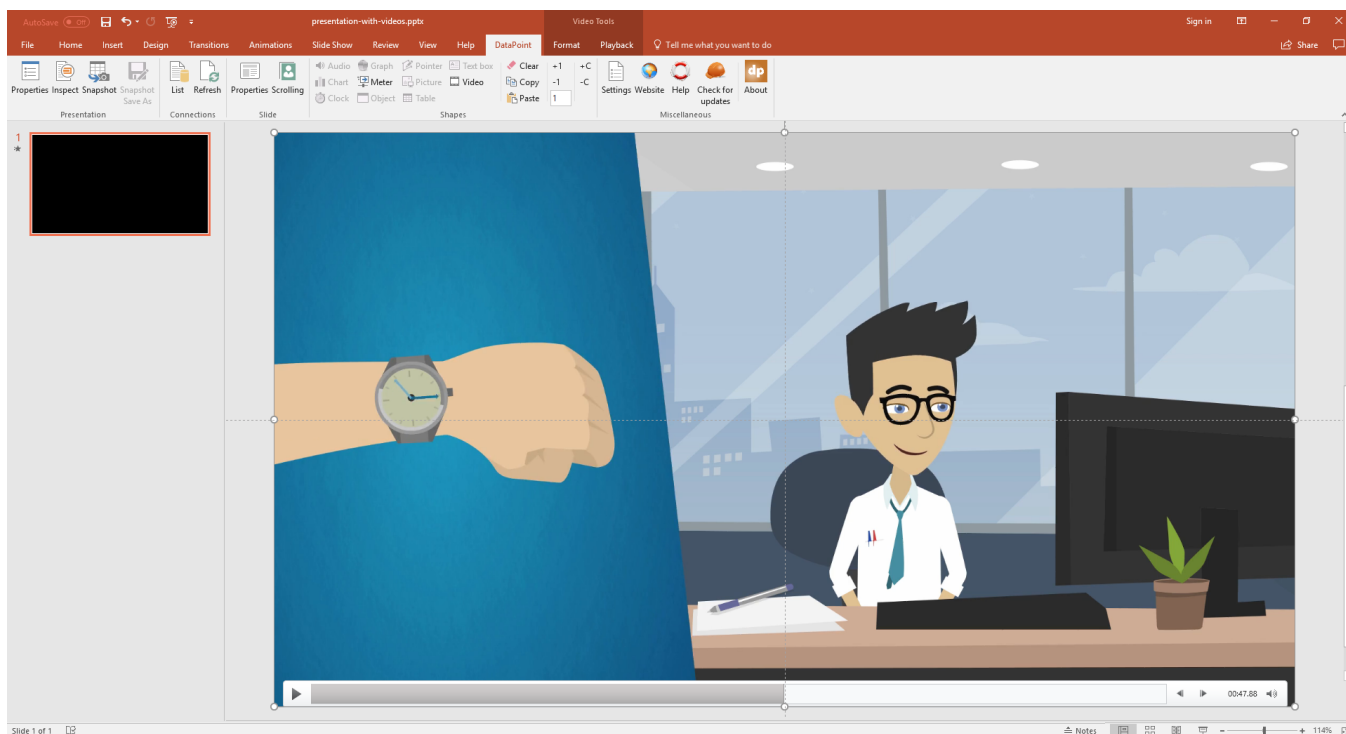


Make sure to select the correct **data connection** providing your video information, and set the right **column**. In the Preview area, you can see the value being returned from the data file.

Choose the appropriate option for the **The data of the selected column contains** option. If the data file is only returning the filename of the video, and not the full path, then you might have to set the folder and optionally specify the file extension.

The value, as we see it here in the preview, looks like a full path, so we can continue with this information.

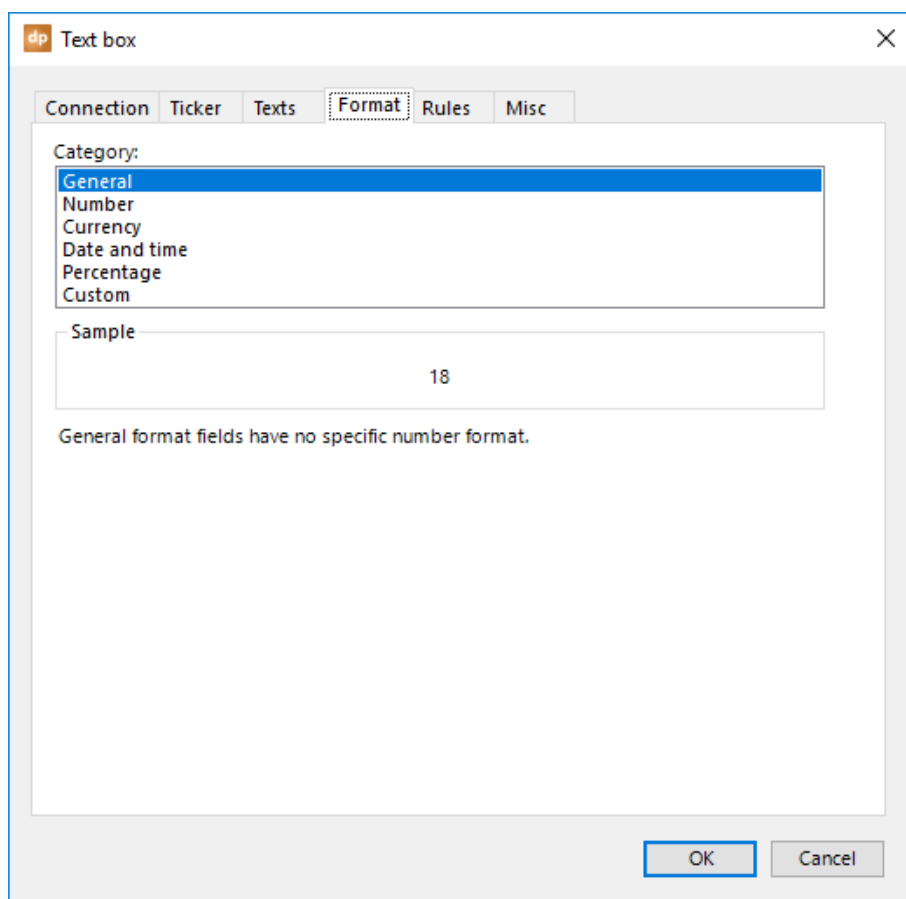
Click **OK** to close.



The source file of the video shape on this slide is now controlled by the content of the file.

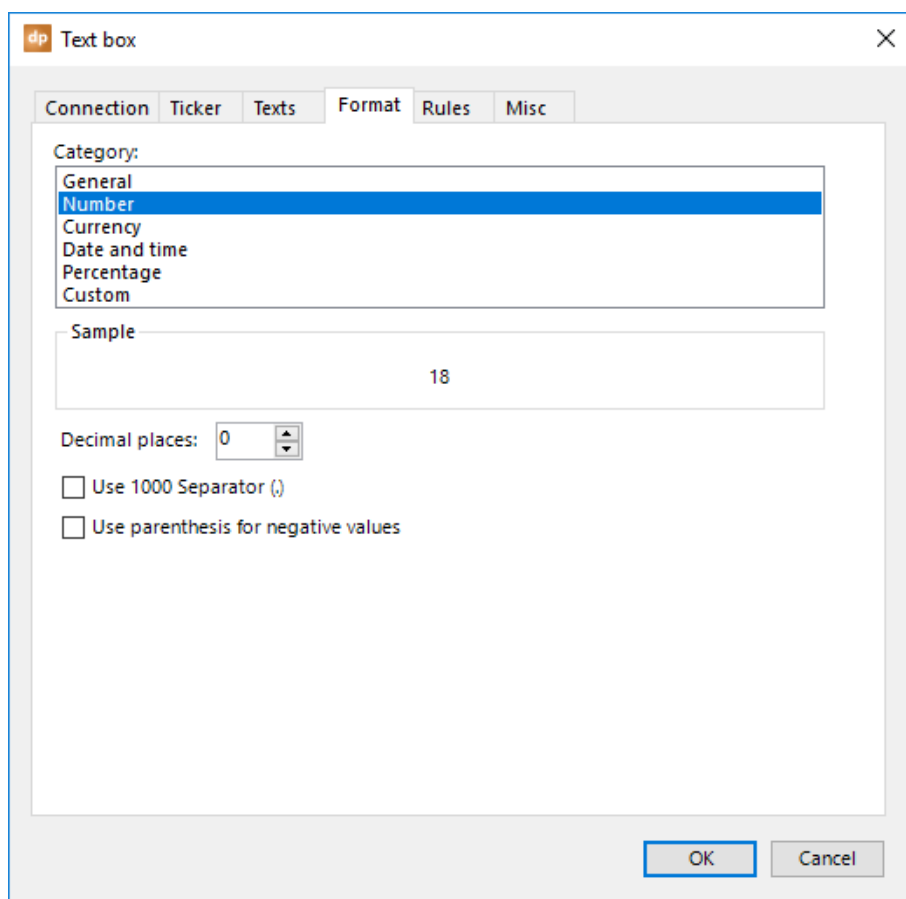
5.12. Formatting

You can format the value of a textbox or table. Select the text box that you want to format and open DataPoint's textbox properties. Next, click to open the **Format** tab.



Choose what format category you want to use. You can choose between general, number, currency, date and time, percentage, and a custom format.

If your textbox needs to show a price in a shop, you can set the category to number, and then more formatting options for numbers become available.

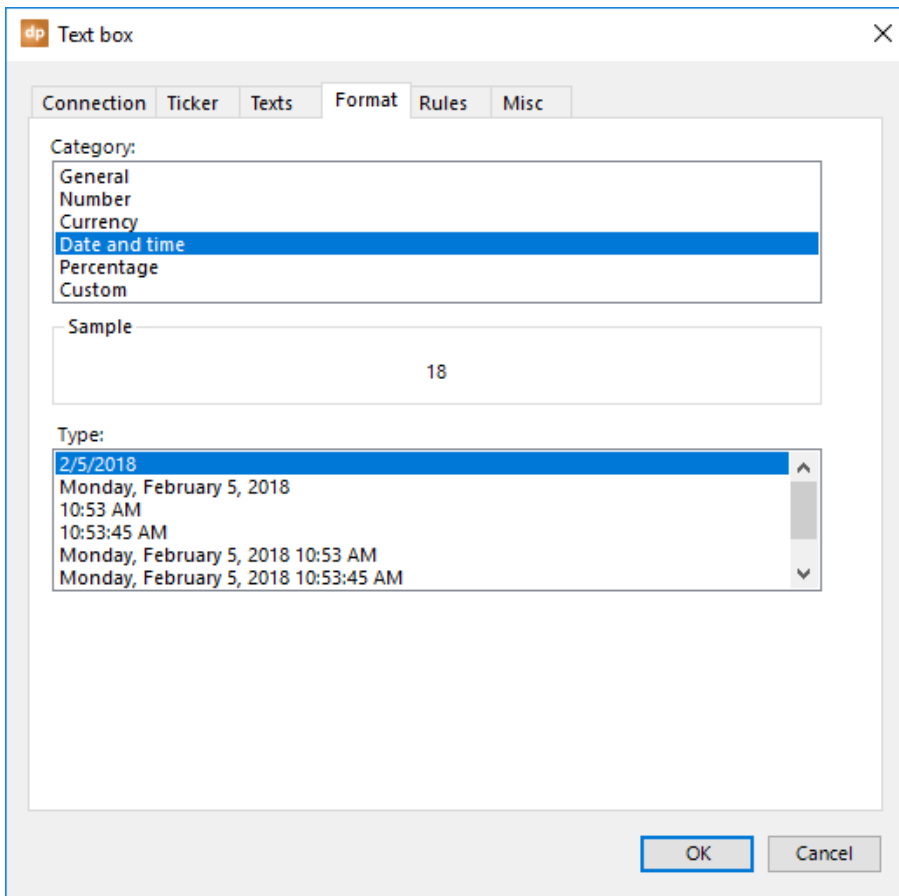


You can set the number of decimal places and decide whether you want to use a thousand-separator character, and so on.

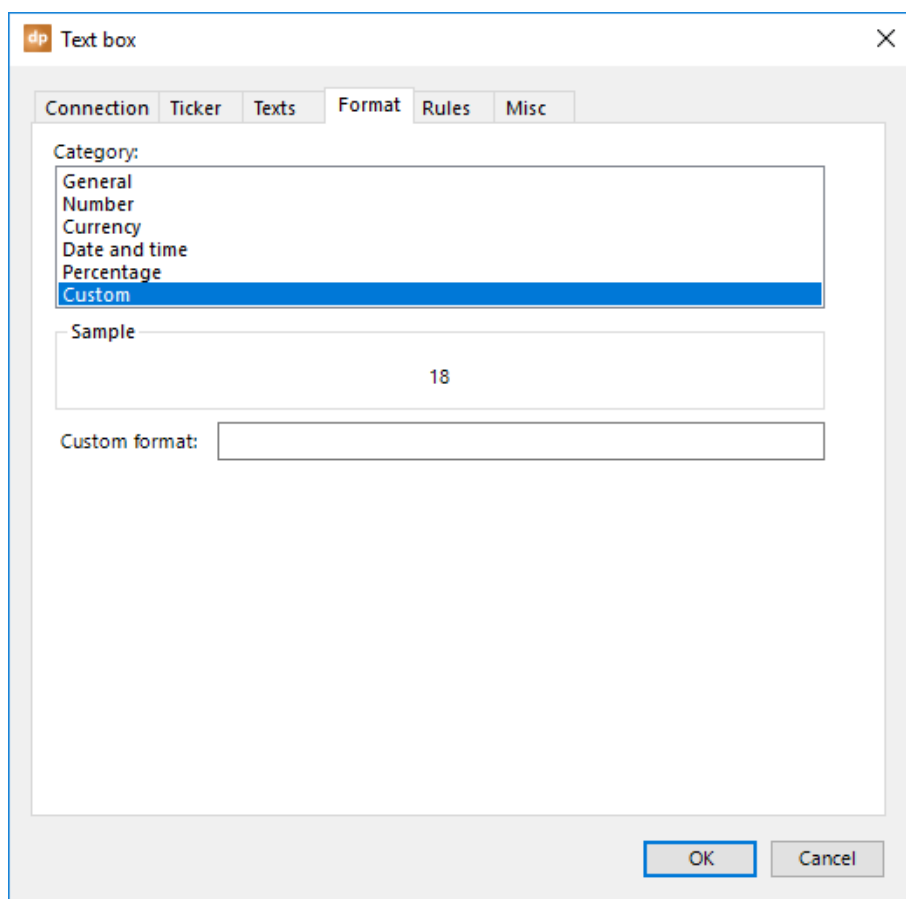
Or maybe for prices, you can set it to currency and then other options appear.

The image shows a dialog box titled "Text box" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog has five tabs: "Connection", "Ticker", "Texts", "Format", "Rules", and "Misc". The "Format" tab is active. Inside the dialog, there is a "Category:" label above a list box containing the following items: "General", "Number", "Currency" (which is highlighted in blue), "Date and time", "Percentage", and "Custom". Below the list box is a "Sample" text field containing the text "\$18". Underneath the sample field is a "Decimal places:" label followed by a spinner box showing the value "0". Below that is a "Symbol:" label followed by a dropdown menu showing "\$ English (United States)". At the bottom left of the dialog is a checkbox labeled "Use parenthesis for negative values", which is currently unchecked. At the bottom right are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

The date and time category also offers other options.



Most of the options are probably familiar. Special formatting can be set by choosing the custom category.



For the custom format, we completely follow the custom formatting options as they are defined by Microsoft in the .Net framework documentation.

Here is the documentation for custom numeric format strings: [https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/0c899ak8\(v=vs.90\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/0c899ak8(v=vs.90).aspx)

And the documentation for custom date and time format strings: [https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/8kb3ddd4\(v=vs.90\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/8kb3ddd4(v=vs.90).aspx)

Full custom formatting information can be found at: [https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/fbxf59x\(v=vs.90\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/fbxf59x(v=vs.90).aspx)

To indicate that you want to use numeric or date/time custom formatting, prefix your custom format in DataPoint with, respectively, **N** or **D**.

Use this custom format to display, e.g. June 15: **D\ MMMM d**

Table formatting

Textbox formatting is obvious. Select the textbox that you want to format, open DataPoint's textbox properties, and apply a specific format.

For tables, there are a few things that you should know.

When the complete table is selected as a shape, before you open DataPoint's table properties, all formatting is applied to all cells of the table.

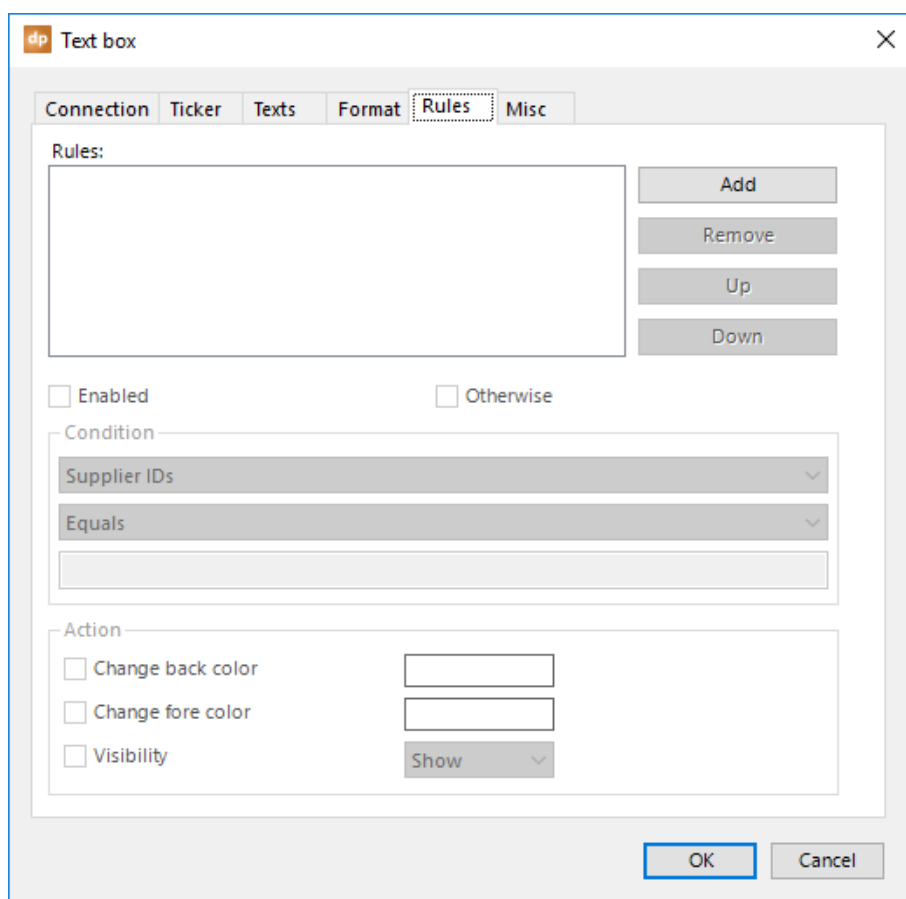
When you select a complete row, a complete column, or just some cells of the table before you go in, the formatting is applied to the selected cells only.

When the table is used with a data connection that is using the data scrolling feature, you set your custom formatting on the first data row only. Any new rows that you have because of more data depend on the settings of the first data row. Custom formatting on rows other than the first one when scrolling are ignored.

5.13. Rules

Rules are great for emphasizing a given value on your slides. You can display a number in red when the value is in the range of 80 and 100. Other values that are below 80 will be in green.

Select the textbox that you want to add a rule to and open DataPoint's textbox properties. Next, click to open the **Rules** tab.



You will find a list of rules on this **Rules** list. Click the **Add** button to add your first rule. A new rule will be added to the list.

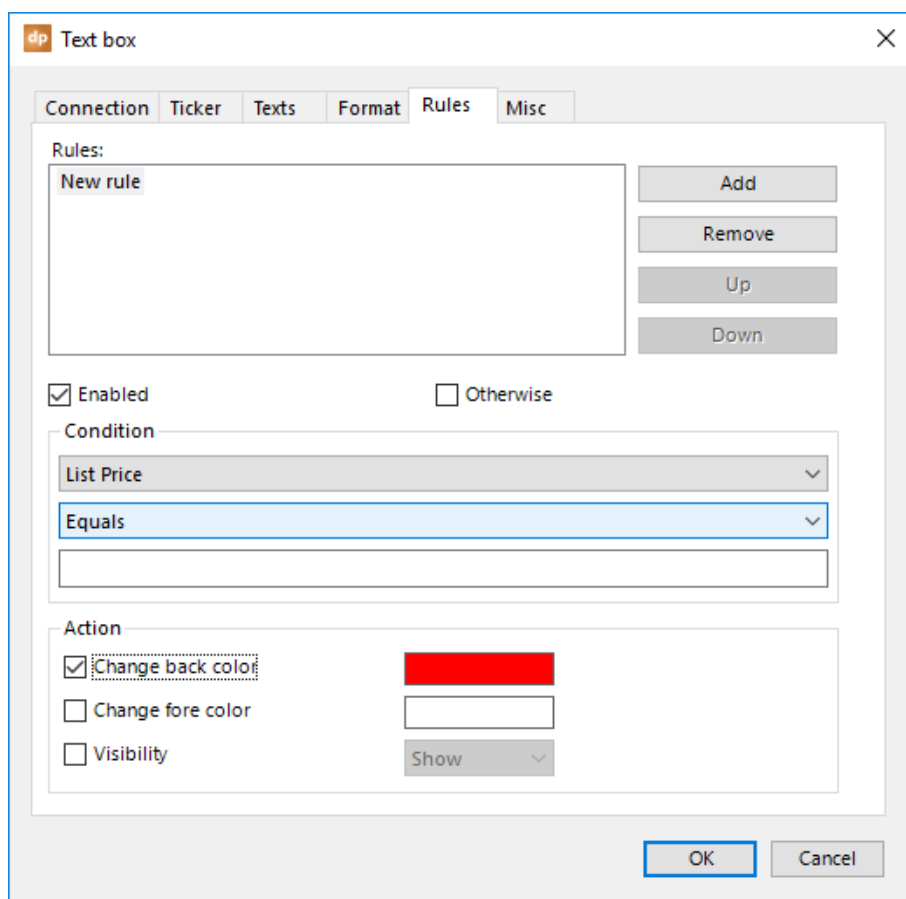
Now, look at the **condition** group. We can choose a column for the data connection and compare it to a given value. This column can be the column that is assigned to this textbox already, or it could even be another column from the same data connection, if you want to compare it to another value.

The options for comparing values are based on the column type. When you are using a numeric column, you get options like less than, greater than, less than or equal, etc. For columns with string or text values, you get options like starts with, ends with, contains, etc.

After choosing the column and the operator, you then choose a value for comparison. Just enter the value. When you want to compare the data value of the chosen column to the value of another column, you enter the name of that other column here, enclosed by brackets, like **[ListPrice]**.

There are 2 functions that you can use as Value. Use the function **=DATE()** to represent today's date or the function **=NOW()** to represent the current date and current time at your condition. Note that the functions are case sensitive.

The options for the conditions are all set. Now, we can specify what to do when the condition is met. You can check the **Change back color** checkbox and set the color from the color palette.



Or, check the **Change fore color** to specify what color the text should be. Or, control the visibility of the textbox by checking the **Visibility** checkbox. A good example of controlling visibility is a big red 'SOLD OUT' stamp on properties that are sold on a real-estate display screen.

You can always add more rules to the list, remove rules, and change the sequence of the rules. The first rule that satisfies the condition, wins. An important note about this list of rules is that you should always have one rule added to the list with the **Otherwise** checkbox checked. This rule is the last rule that is used when no previous conditions are met. Basically, this rule brings everything back to normal. For the otherwise rule, no condition parameters can be set.

Table rules

The rules on a textbox are rather obvious. Select the textbox that you want to set conditions for, open DataPoint's textbox properties, and add a list of rules.

For tables, there are a few things that you should know.

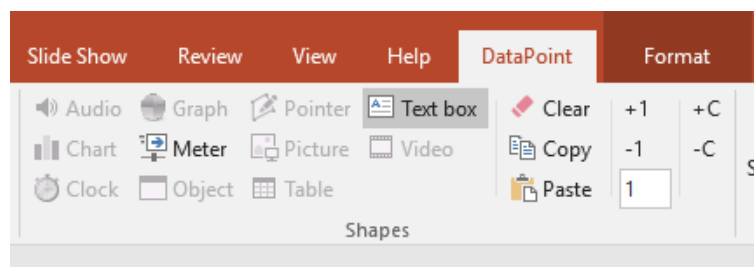
When the complete table is selected as a shape, before you open DataPoint's table properties, all rules are applied to all of the cells of the table.

When you select a complete row, a complete column, or just some cells of the table before you go in, the rules are only applied to the selected cells.

When the table is used with a data connection that is using the data scrolling feature, you set your rules on the first data row only. All new rows that are there because you have more data depend on the settings of the first data row. Any rules on the rows other than the first one when scrolling are ignored.

5.14. Clear, copy and paste shape information

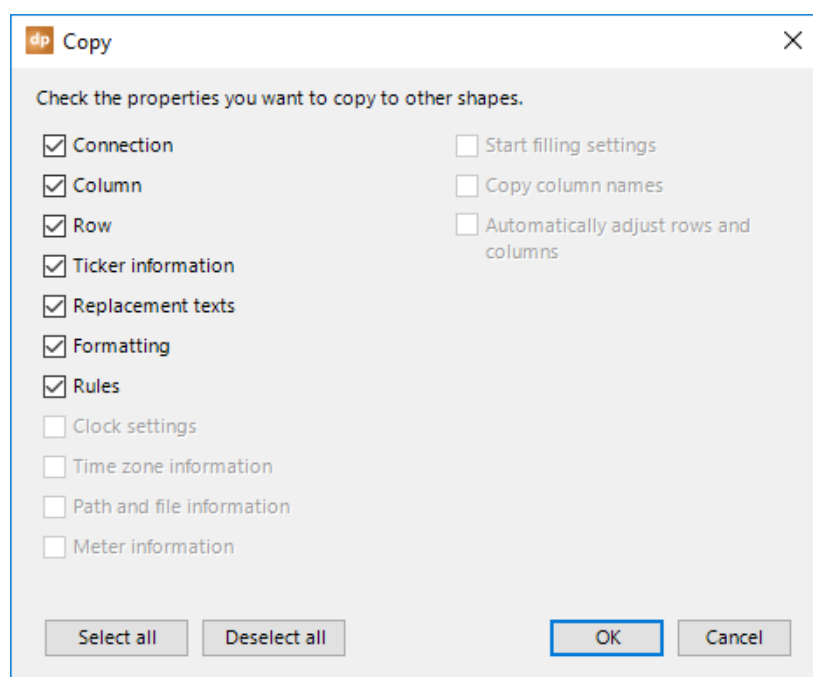
Within the shapes group of the DataPoint ribbon, there are a few controls that need more information.



The **Clear** button removes all DataPoint information from the selected shape. This includes data linking information, rules, formatting, etc. When you don't want to apply a dynamic value anymore to a textbox, use the clear button and DataPoint will forget this shape completely.

Use the **Copy** and **Paste** buttons to duplicate specific DataPoint settings from one shape to another. This can be handy when you want to switch data connections, or copy rules.

First, select the shape that holds the information that you need to copy to another. Then, click the **Copy** button. This opens the copy dialogue.

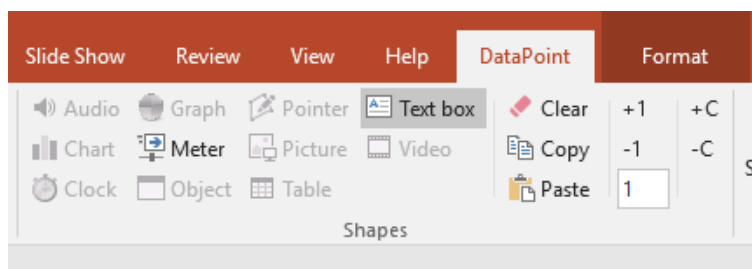


Here, you can check the information or tags that you want to copy to your clipboard. If you only want to set another connection, then click the **Deselect all** button and check the **Connection** checkbox. Click **OK** to close.

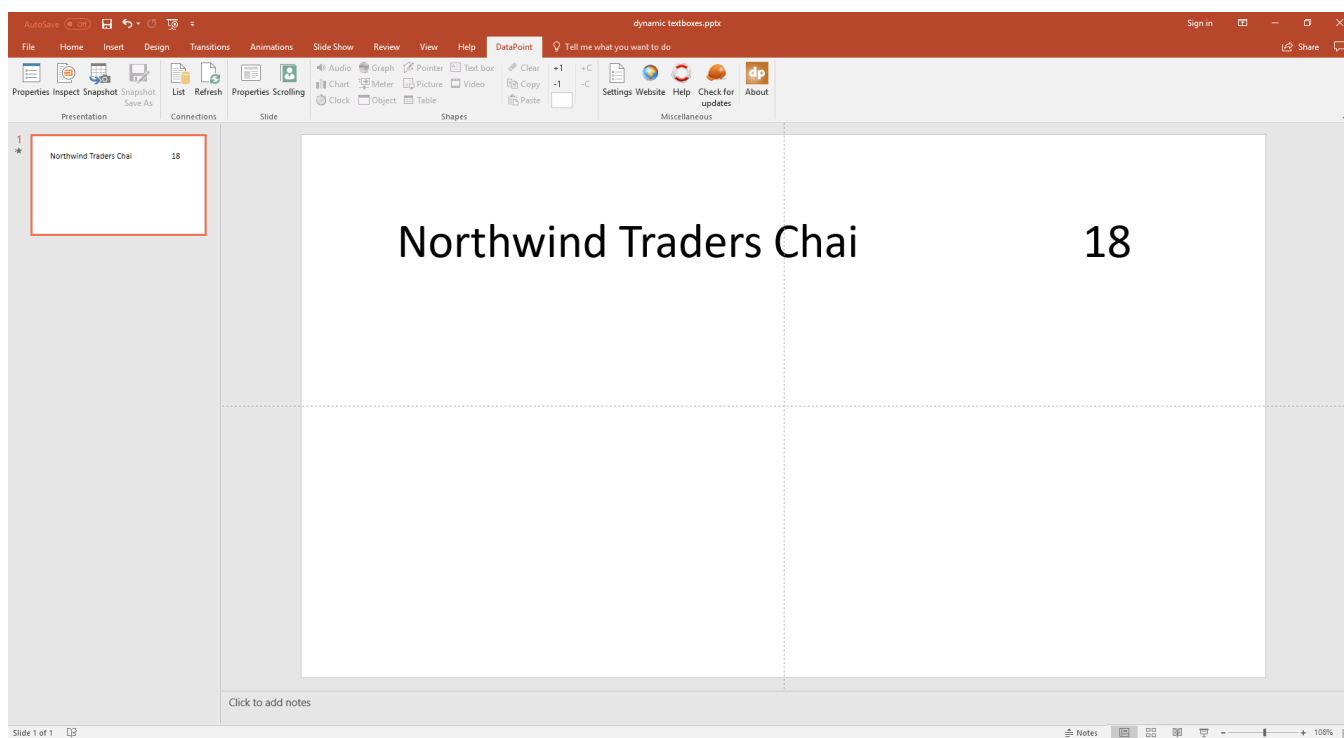
Next, select the shape or multiple shapes that you want to copy the selected information to and click the **Paste** button. All DataPoint tags that were previously copied to the DataPoint clipboard are now applied to the shapes that were selected.

5.15. Shortcuts

And there are more handy buttons in the shapes group.

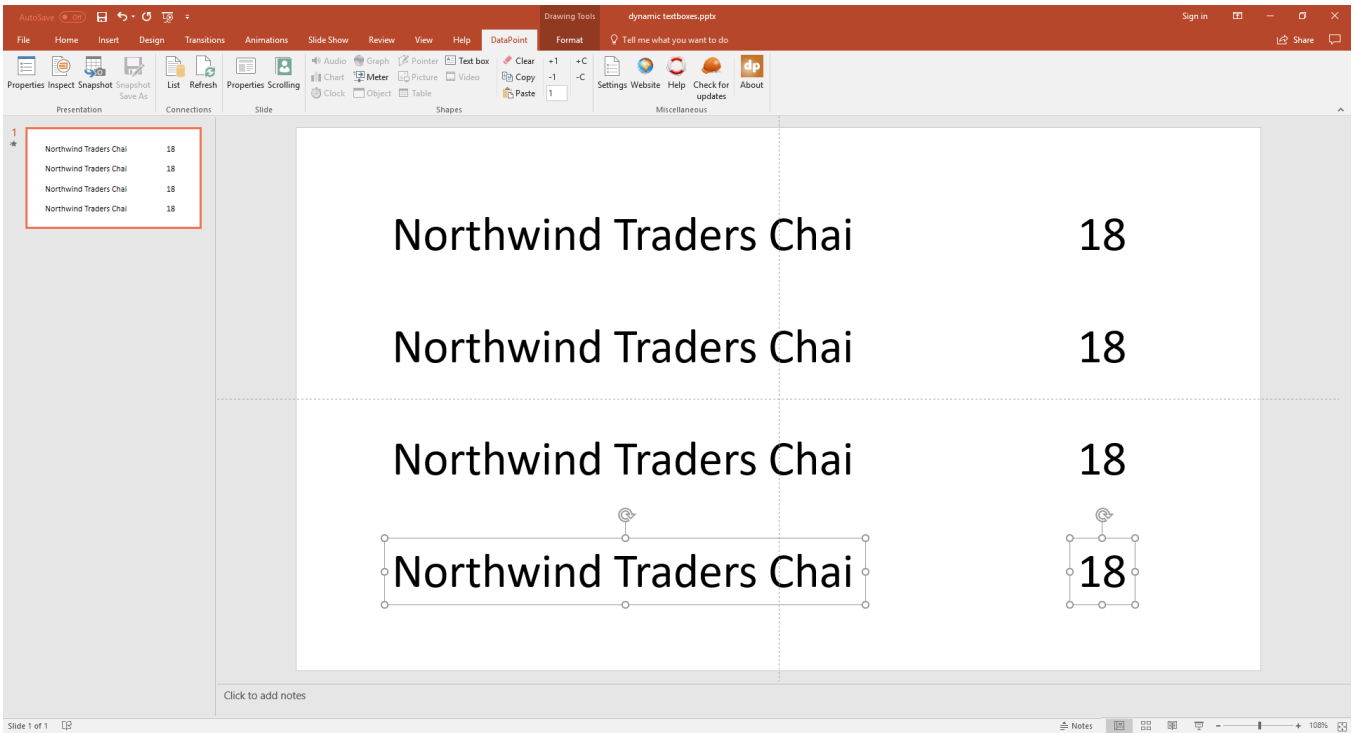


You can quickly show information from multiple rows on your slide. First, set up the textboxes to host the data from your first row.

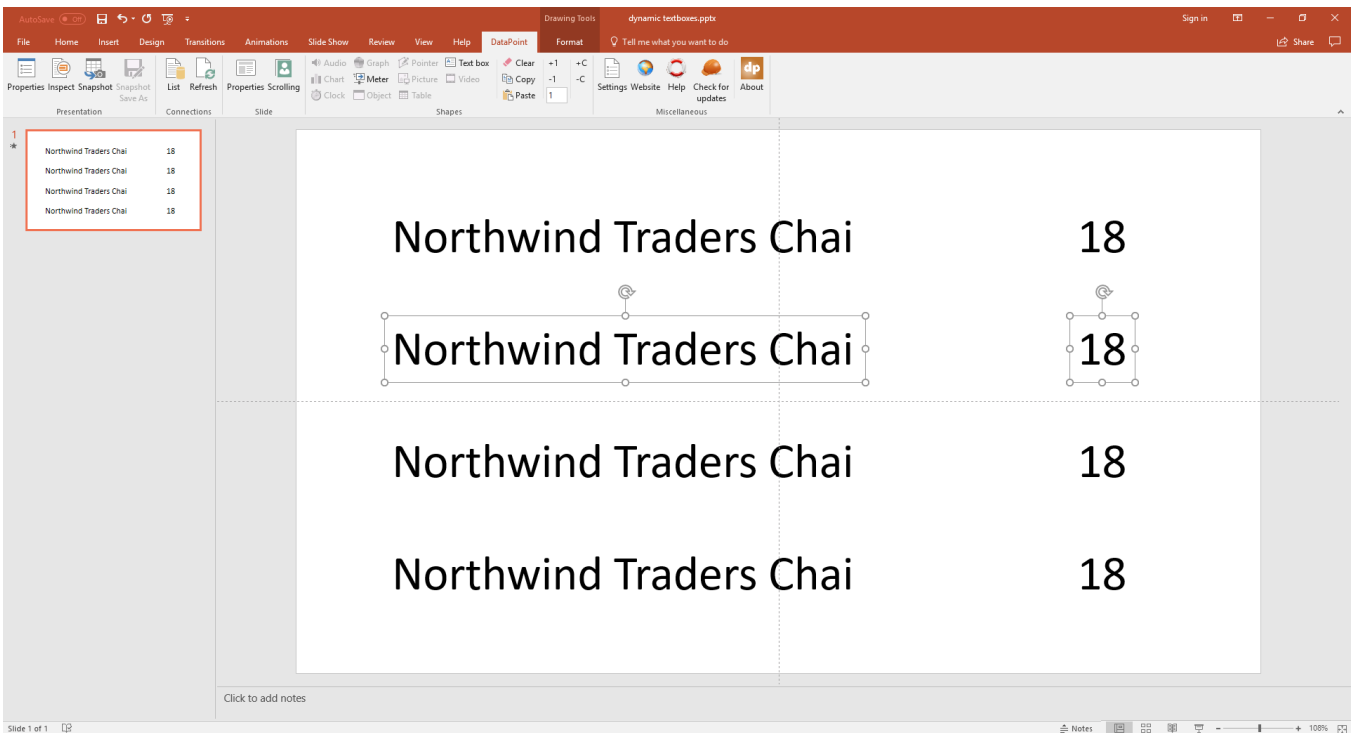


These two textboxes are each linked to the columns named ProductName and ListPrice. Both are from row number 1.

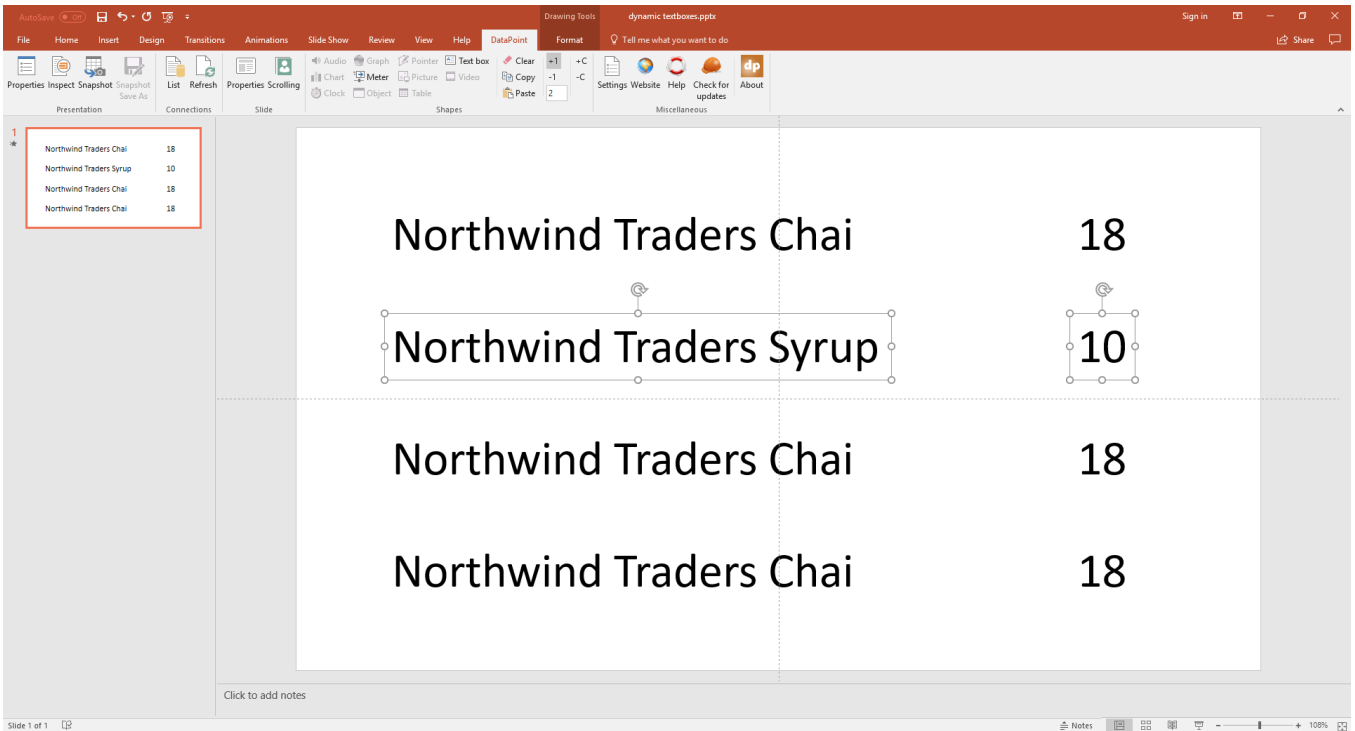
We can now select textboxes and create some kind a table with them.



Here, we have eight textboxes showing the information from row number 1 four times. Now select the 3rd and 4th textboxes.



We need to show the information from the second row of our data here. Simply click the **+1** button and the row number used in the selected textboxes increases by an increment of 1.

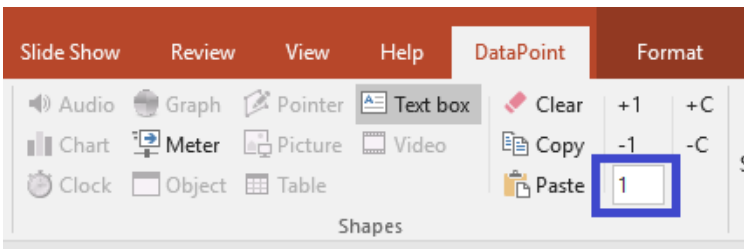


Repeat the same for the 5th and 6th textboxes and click the +1 button twice; and so on.

With the -1 button, you decrement the row number used on the selected shapes.

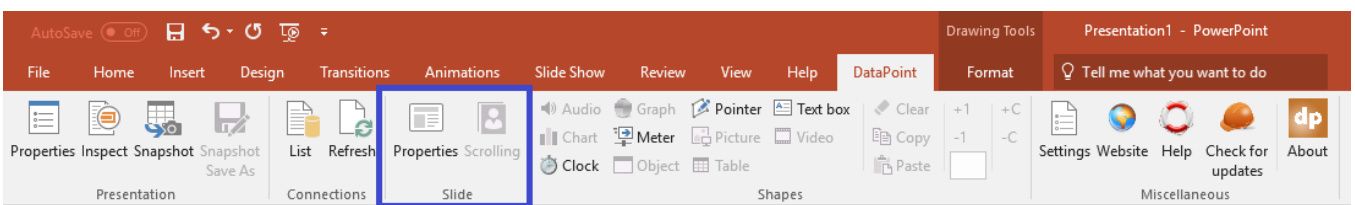
With the button +C and -C, you can assign the next or the previous column from the column list.

And finally, you can directly enter the row number in the row number textbox.



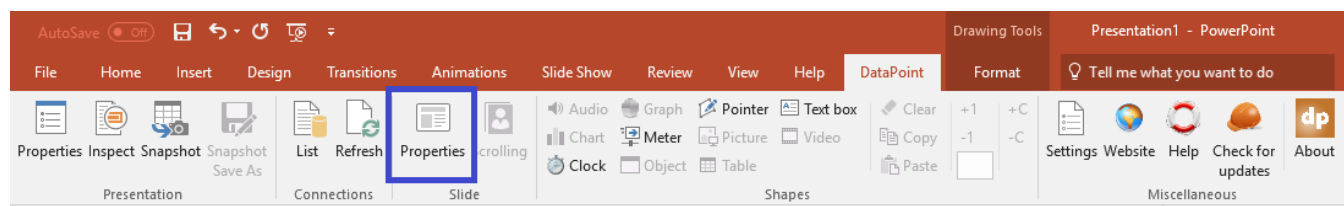
6. Slides

In the slide group of the DataPoint ribbon, you will find specific properties for the currently selected slide. You can hide a slide based on data or you can activate data scrolling.



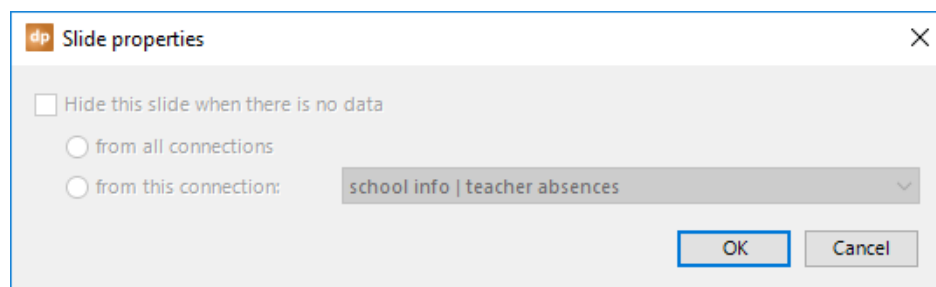
6.1. Properties

Click the **Properties** button of the **Slide** group.



This opens a form where you can control specific properties of slides. DataPoint offers the functionality to hide a slide in a running slideshow based on the availability of data.

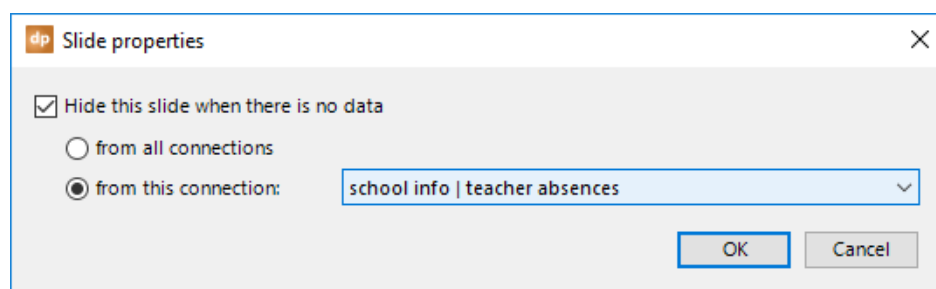
The controls on this form are only enabled when you have more than one slide and at least one data connection. A presentation or slideshow with only one slide cannot be hidden.



When there are no new employees started in your company, you don't want to show a slide that lists the names of new employees. Or at a school, you don't show a list of teachers that are absent when there are no absences for the day.

To hide a slide when there is no data, check the **Hide this slide when there is no data** checkbox.

After that, you have two options. You can hide the slide when there is no data returned from all the data connections that are being used on this slide. Alternatively, you can choose one specific data connection that is checked for no data. To do so, check the **from this connection** option and select the data connection from the connection list.



Hit **OK** to close.

When you are running your slideshow and there is no data (e.g., no teacher absent), DataPoint will show all of the other slides from this presentation, but it will ignore this slide.

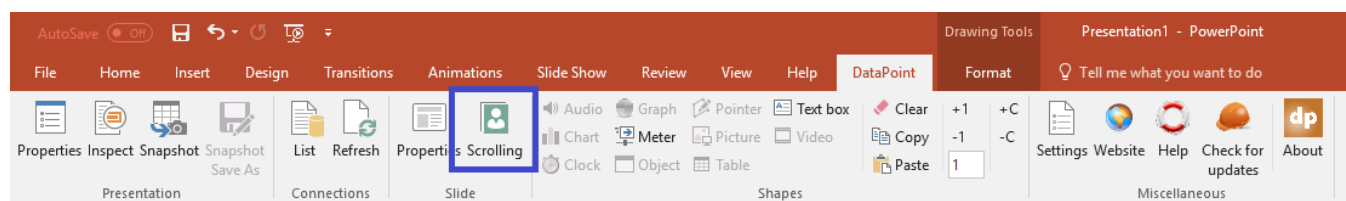
If one teacher absence is added to the data file, then when DataPoint sees the data, the slide will become visible automatically in the running slideshow.

6.2. Scrolling

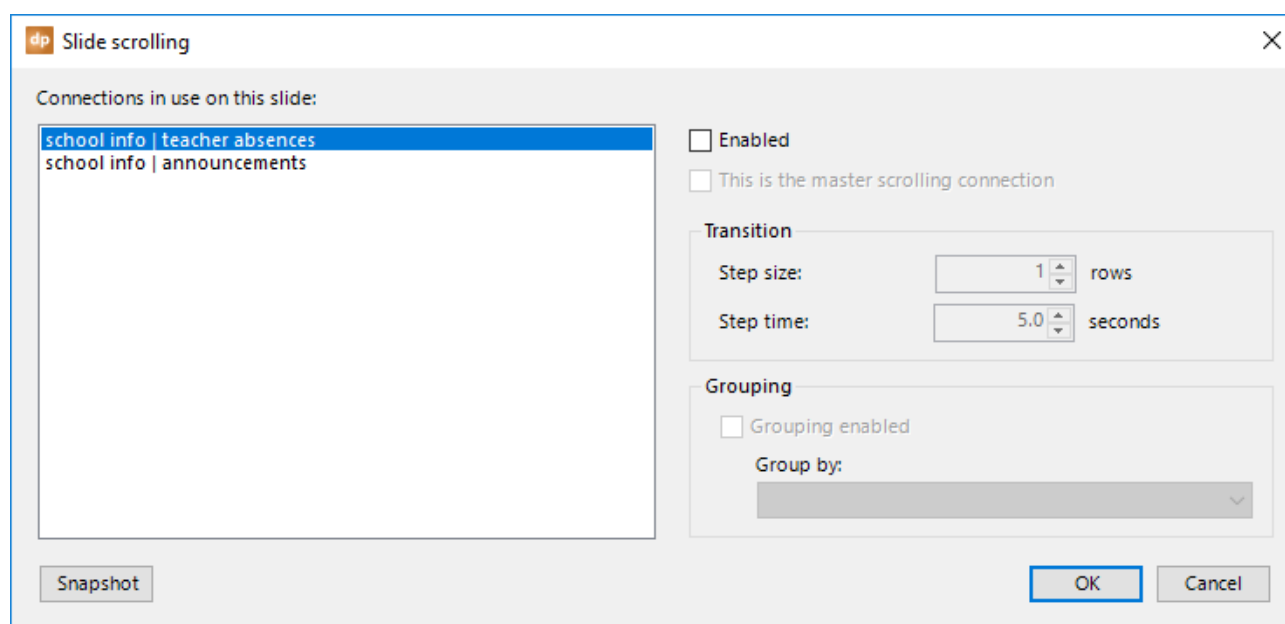
Next to the dynamic updating capabilities of data on your slide, the DataPoint's data scrolling is probably the best feature for your information screens and reporting.

Imagine that you are displaying RSS news information on your slide. You have all the news articles from your newspaper, and you can use textboxes to link the first article's fields to your slide. When you run this slide, you will always see the information from row 1, or the first or top article of the newsfeed. You could add a second and third slide and link them to rows 2 and 3, respectively. But there are probably 25 news articles. Or, when showing sales information for a product, you might be selling hundreds of products by next year.

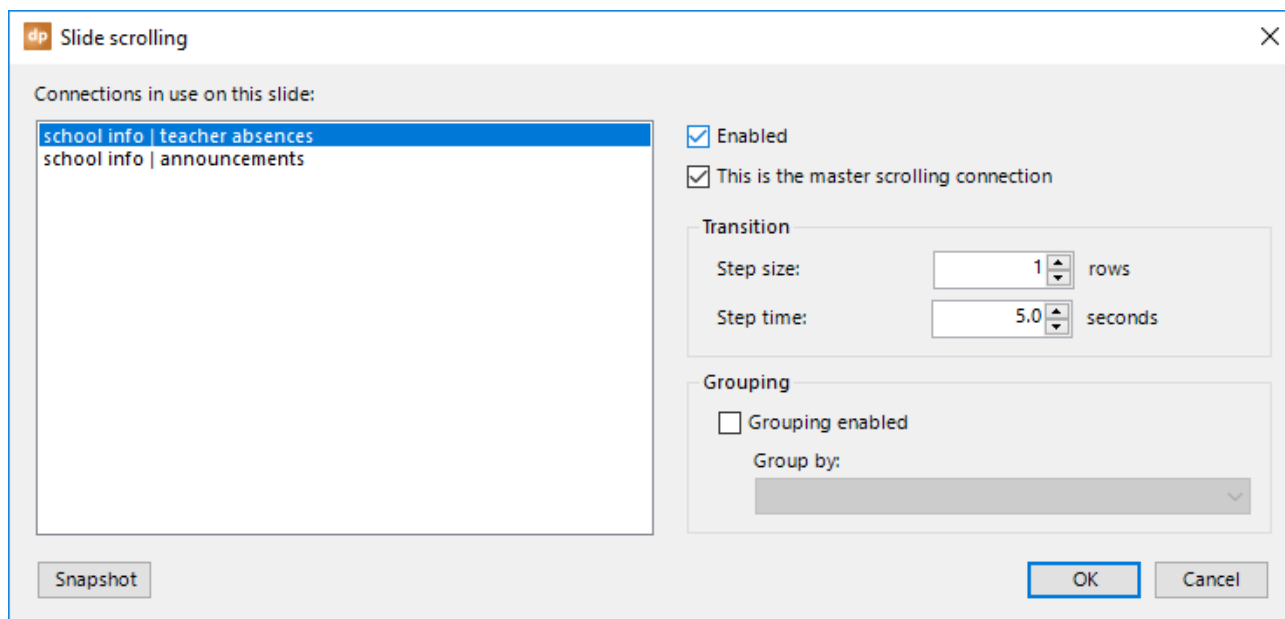
This is where data scrolling is very handy. Click the **Scrolling** button in the **Slide** group. This button is enabled only when you have linked DataPoint shapes on the current slide.



This opens the slide scrolling, or data scrolling, form.



To the left, you can see a list of all the connections that are in use on this slide. Select the connection that you want to use for data scrolling and check the **Enabled** checkbox.



First, let's have a look at the transition options.

The **step size** specifies the row increment of each transition. The **step time** determines how long a data block is shown.

Imagine that we are displaying one news article on the slide. We will set this step size to 1 and maybe a step time of 10 seconds. This would result in showing each news article individually for 10 seconds on the slide. So, 10 seconds for article 1, then 10 seconds for article 2, and so on, until all of the news articles are shown.

Another example is a table where you can show product information. You show 5 data rows on this slide. Here, you would probably set the step size to 5. This would show rows 1-5 in the first round, and rows 6-10 in the second round, rows 11-15 on the third row, and so on.

You can set scrolling information for all of the data connections that are used on this slide. Just select the data connection on the left, and then set its data scrolling options. But, you have to identify one data connection as the master scrolling connection. Check the option **This is the master scrolling connection** for that connection. When all of the data rows from the master scrolling connection are shown on the slide, DataPoint automatically moves on to the next slide of your presentation.

Grouping can be enabled, where you group data together and do not show the data from another group at the same time. To enable grouping, check the **Grouping enabled** checkbox and set the **Group by** combobox to the column that is used to identify the group.

Let's illustrate this grouping with an example. At a conference center, they have multiple rooms and they want to show which course is held in which room. They design a slide like this:

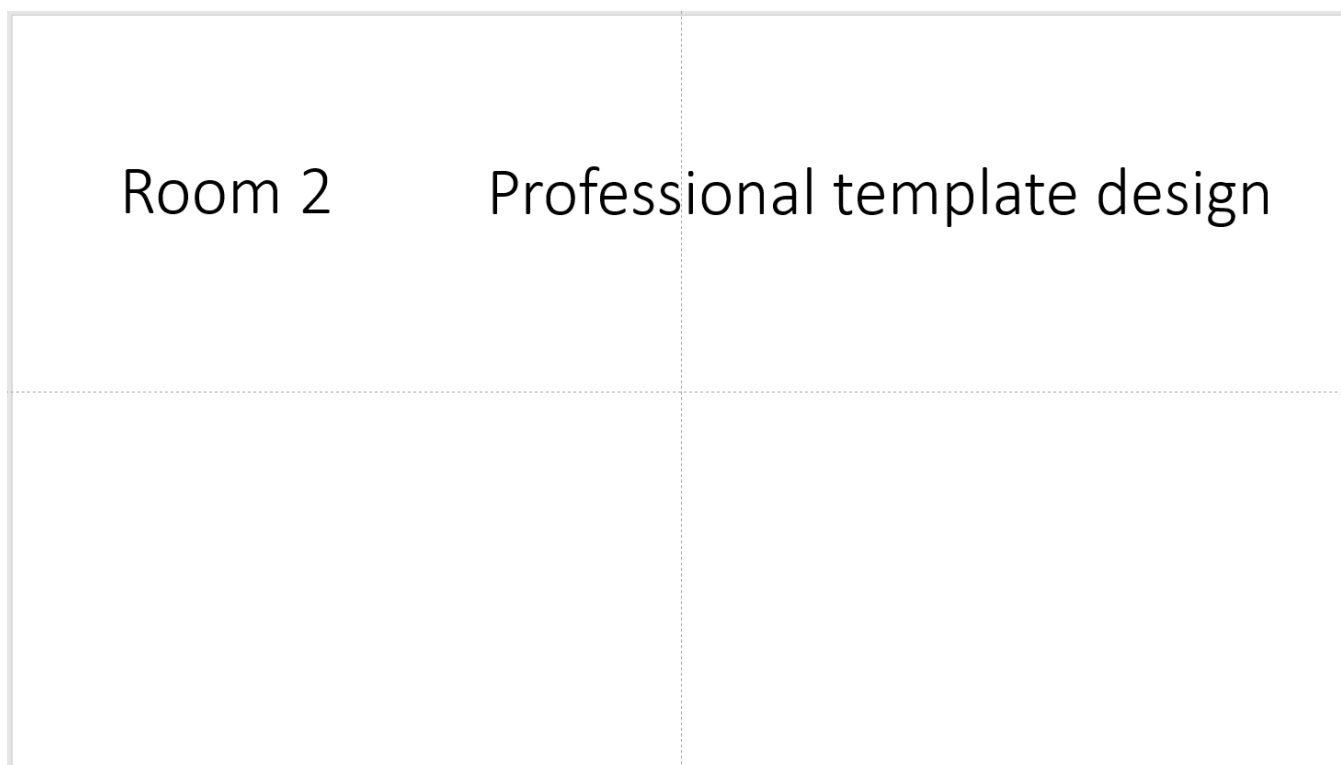
Room 1	Learning DataPoint
Room 1	Getting started with iPoint
Room 1	Dynamic presentations
Room 2	Professional template design

Here, you will probably use a step size of 4 rows. But, maybe you want to break down the data in the room field so that you keep the courses in room 1 together on one slide, and then you start showing the data for the next room (room 2 in this case) in the second round.

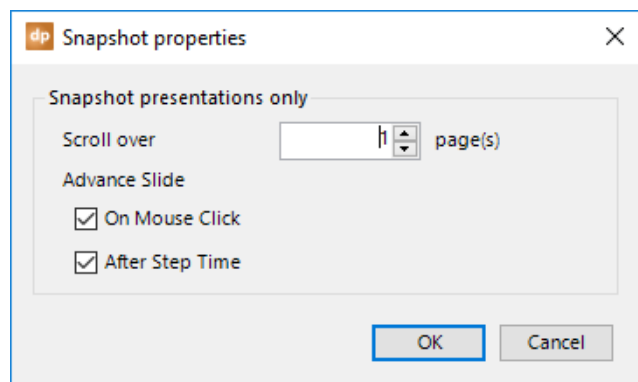
Then, activate the grouping option and set the group by column to the room column. After that, the slideshow would look like this for the first round.

Room 1	Learning DataPoint
Room 1	Getting started with iPoint
Room 1	Dynamic presentations

And this for the second round.



Finally, there is a button for snapshot options when you generate snapshots. Click the **Snapshot** button.



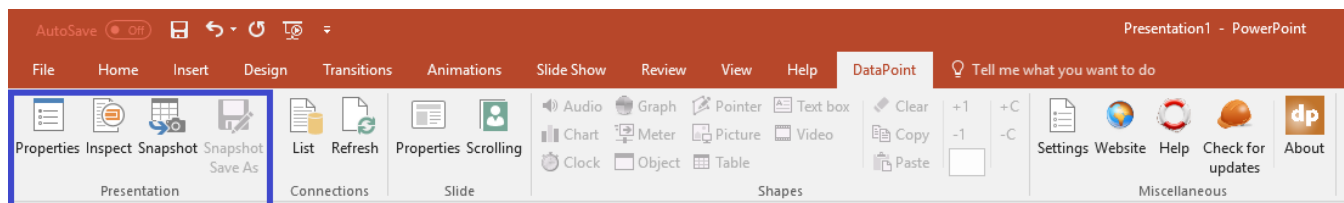
A snapshot presentation is a presentation that is generated by DataPoint by clicking the Snapshot button on the DataPoint ribbon. This action generates a new presentation with the latest information, but then disconnects the shapes from the data sources. So, a snapshot presentation is ideal for reporting and sending presentations to others that do not have DataPoint, or who do not have access to your data files and databases.

If you have multiple slides for one data record, then you can set this here. Imagine that your product or sales report is spread out over four slides per product. Set the **Scroll over** to 4 slides. At generation time, it will generate slides 1 through 4 with the data from row 1, then slides 5 through 8 with the data from row 2, and so on.

As an option, you can also set the **Advance Slide** option to specify how the generated snapshot slides should advance to the next slide. Either by mouse click or after a given number of seconds.

7. Presentation

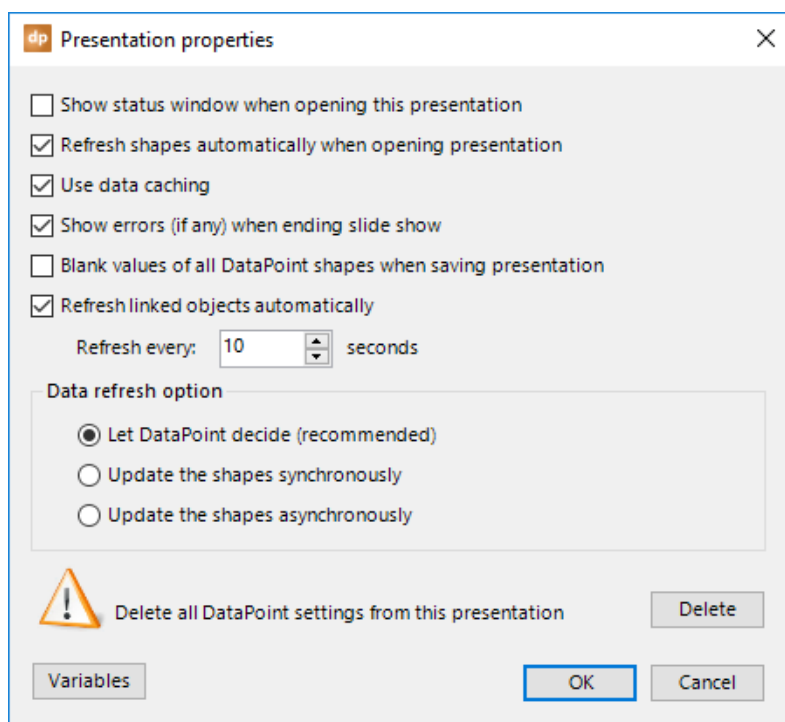
Now, we will describe the features of the **Presentation** group from the **DataPoint** menu.



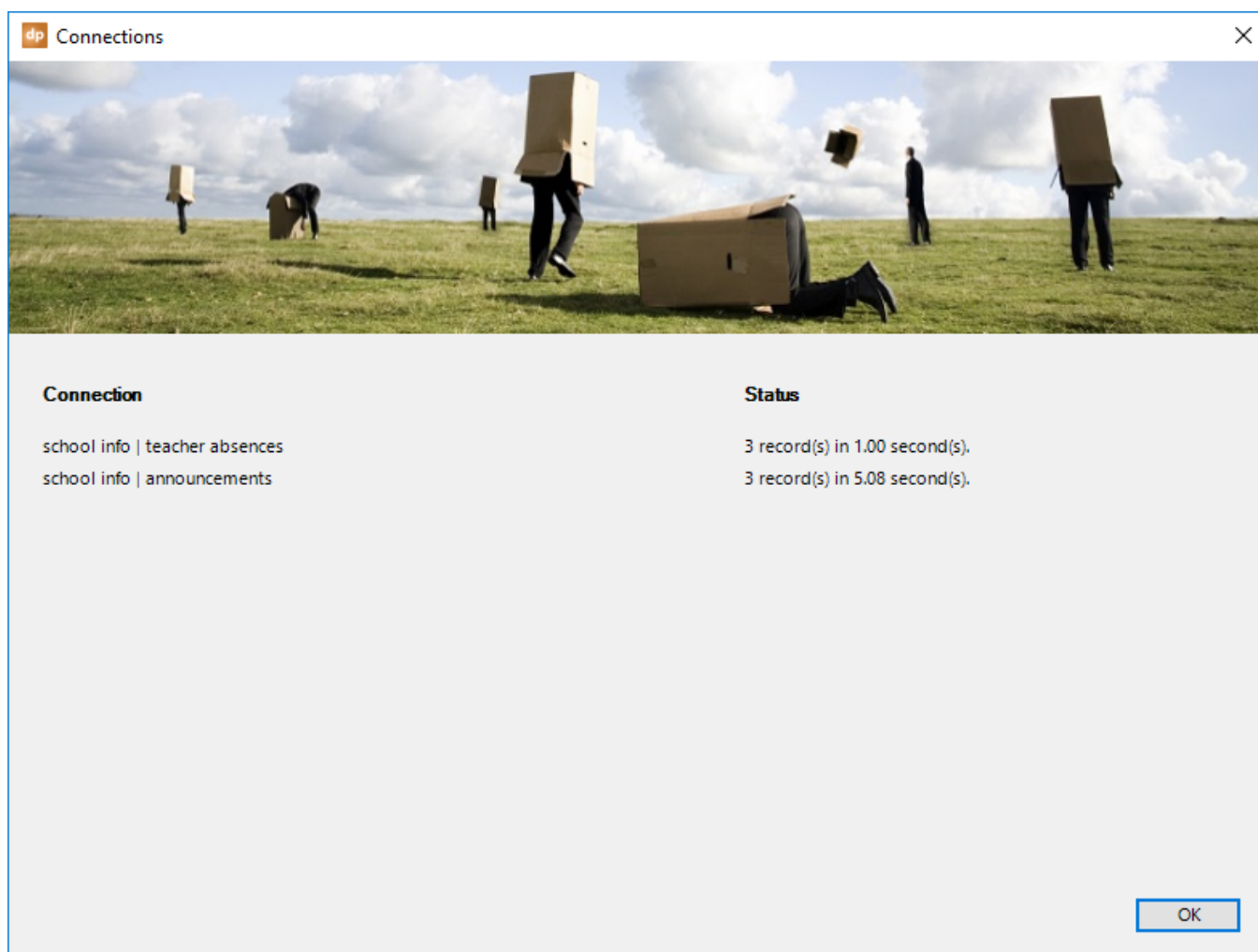
Let's explore each button.

7.1. Properties

The majority of the presentation's default properties are probably fine for most users.



The first option, **Show status window when opening this presentation**, shows the connections refresh form when you open the presentation. This is the connections refresh form.



The second option, **Refresh shapes automatically when opening presentation**, is refreshing the dynamic shapes at opening time, when checked. By default, DataPoint is reading the data and updating the dynamic linked shapes.

For slow or long-running queries, data caching might be a good option. Check the **Use data caching** option and all data will be sent to the data caches with an expiration time. Whenever the data refresh comes in before the expiration time, it will not execute that query on the data server, but read in the values from the local cache.

Note that you can clear the data cache manually when you go to **DataPoint** and then click the **Settings** form under the **Miscellaneous** tab. In the data cache section, click the **Clear** button.

The next option is called **Show errors (if any) when ending slideshow**. During the slideshow, potential errors are not shown by message boxes. Errors like network problems or timeouts are collected and optionally presented when the slideshow ends. You can turn that off by unchecking this checkbox.

By default, the current values of the data connections are visible and stored within the presentation. When dealing with highly confidential data, or when you want to prevent people from seeing old data for a second, check the option **Blank values of all DataPoint shapes when saving presentation** to avoid those saved values.

You can insert and link, for instance, an internet image or network image. When you enable the option **Refresh linked object automatically**, you can specify the interval. Note that this does not count for data or paths to images from a DataPoint data connection. This is really about linked objects without a data connection.

There are two basic data refresh options possible in DataPoint. Updating the shapes **synchronously** and

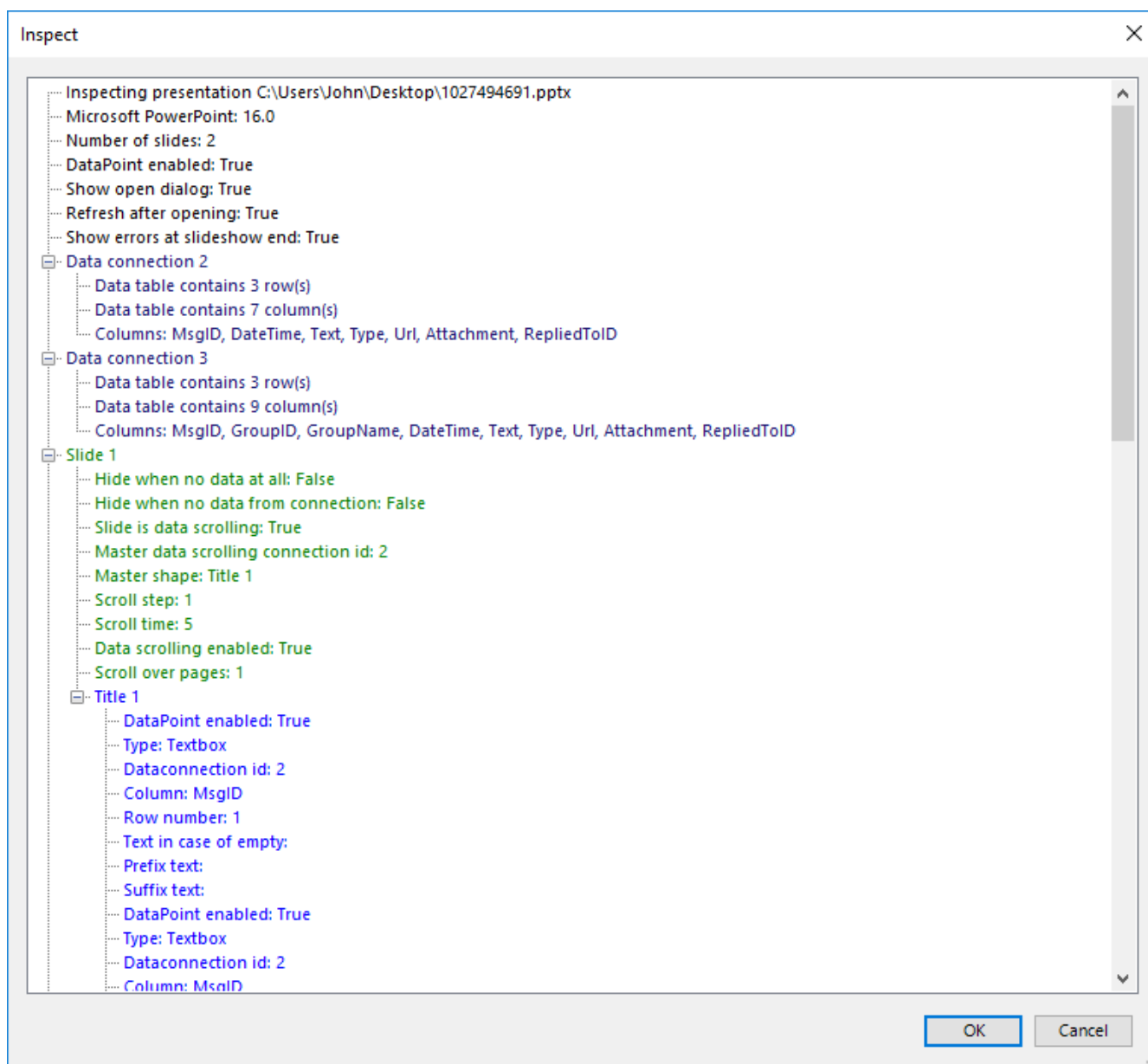
asynchronously. Synchronous updating will build a queue of all DataPoint shapes and it will process all of the shapes, one after another. It will wait for completion before processing the next shape. Asynchronous updating will build that same list of DataPoint shapes, but then start a separate thread to update them. It will launch all updates via a separate thread and will not wait for completion. The default value is to let **DataPoint decide** what to do, based on the number of data connections and the number of shapes.

In the unlikely event that you want to remove DataPoint connections and information from the presentation, click the **Delete** button under the option to **Delete all DataPoint settings from this presentation.**

The **Variables** button is there to set the value of variables that can be used in custom SQL statements. This will be covered in a dedicated chapter.

7.2. Inspect

The inspect button under the Presentation group will check your presentation and list all DataPoint options in a treeview. All information on this form is purely informational and read-only.

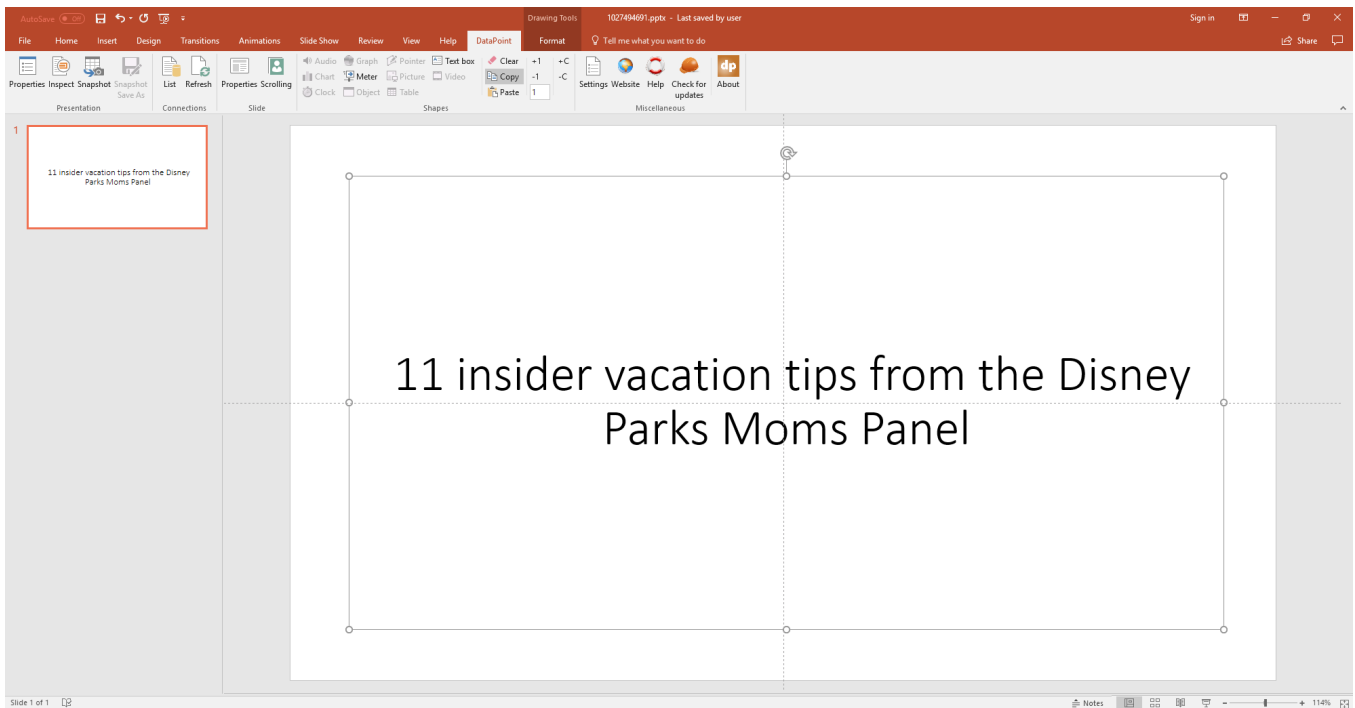


7.3. Snapshot presentations

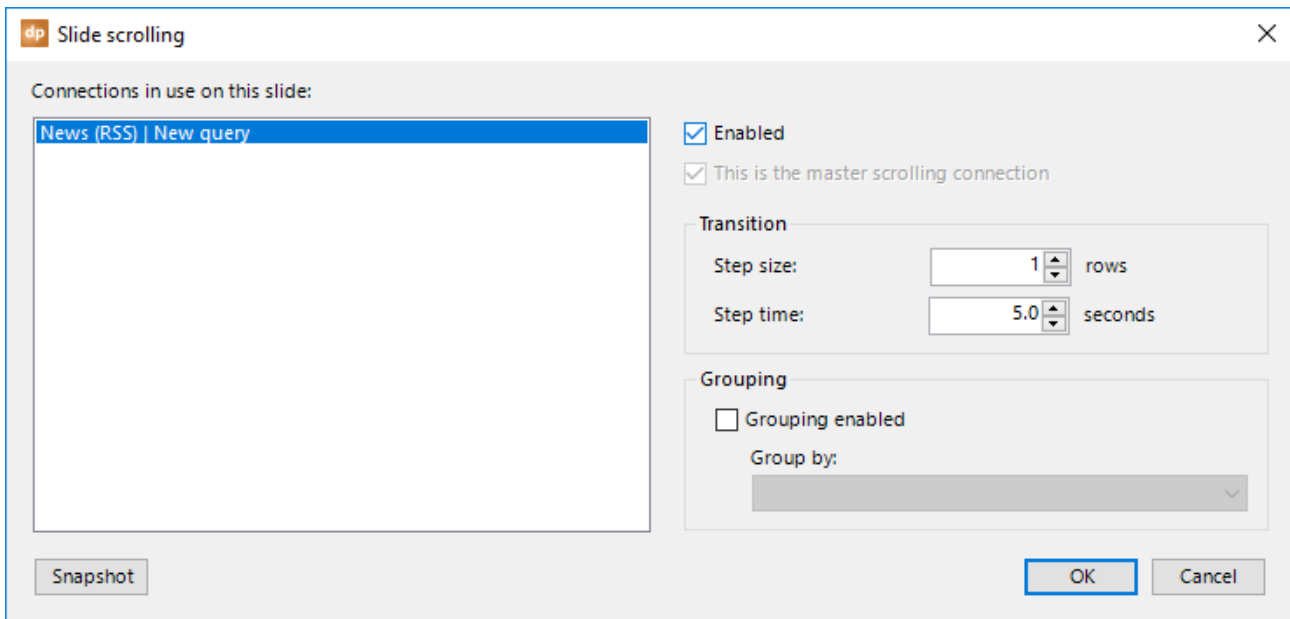
A snapshot presentation is a presentation that is generated on the fly with the latest information, but then disconnected from the data sources. You can then forward this snapshot presentation to others, like colleagues or customers, that do not have DataPoint installed, or do not have access to your databases. Snapshot presentations are easy to regenerate at regular intervals and are typically used for reporting.

A DataPoint snapshot presentation will have the latest information embedded in the presentation. Using data scrolling will also create physical slides for the scrolling data.

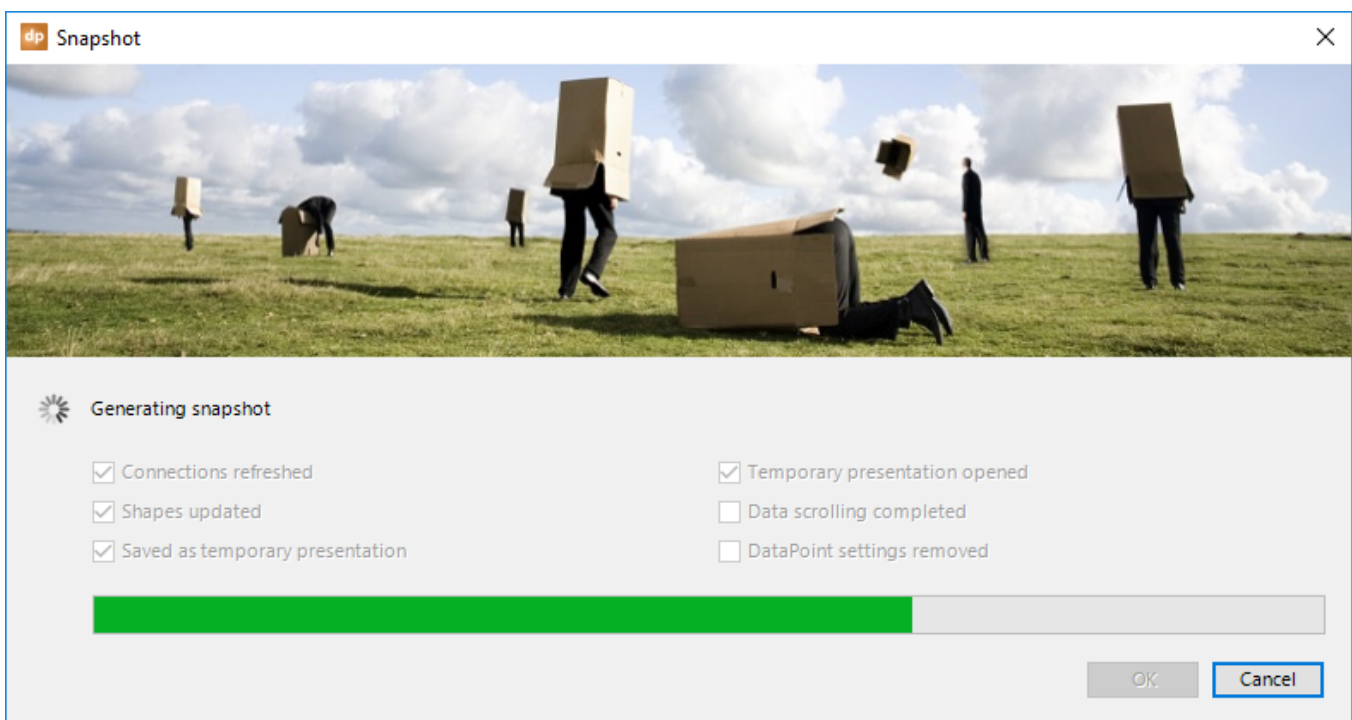
Let's showcase this presentation that is linked to a RSS newsfeed. First, the slide is linked to the first article from the newsfeed.



Then, we activate data scrolling.

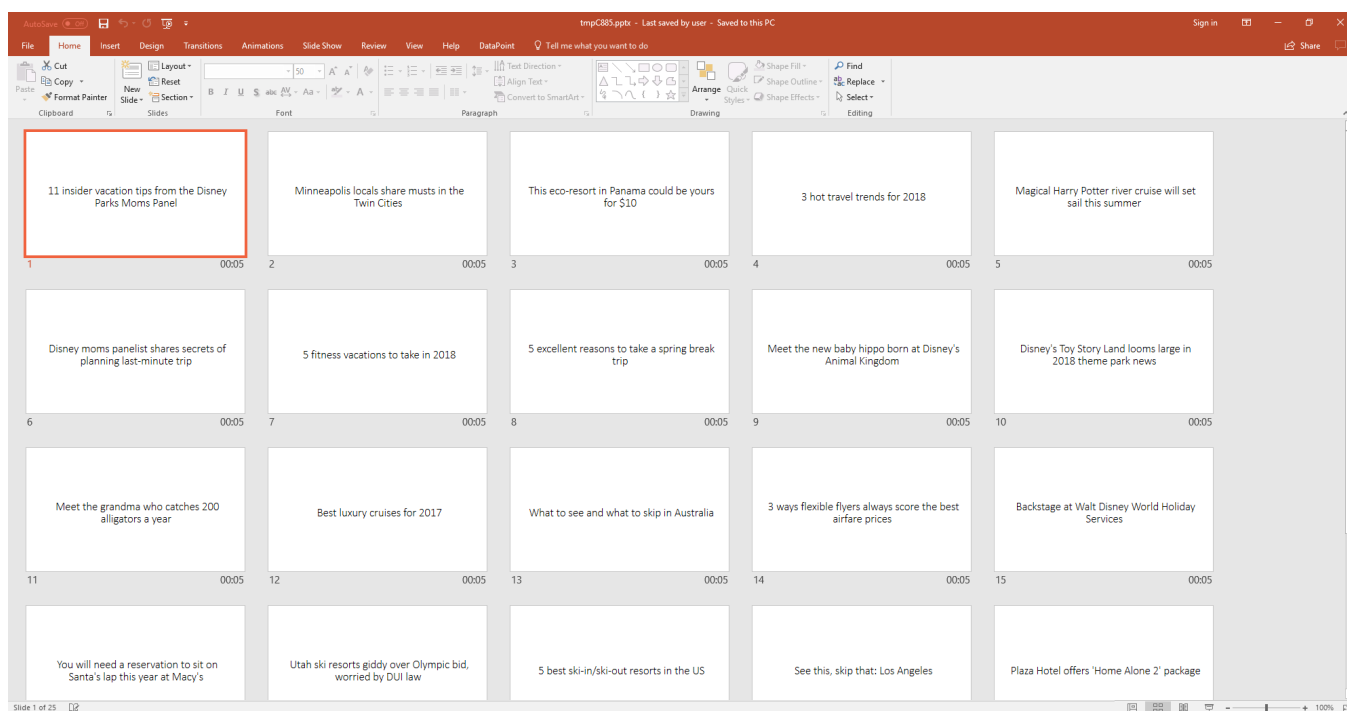


Click the **Snapshot** button and you will see a form that is showing the progress of the snapshot generation.



At the end of the snapshot generation process, a new temporary presentation is opened. You can save the file and send it out to your presentation audience.

The generated snapshot presentation looks like this presentation.



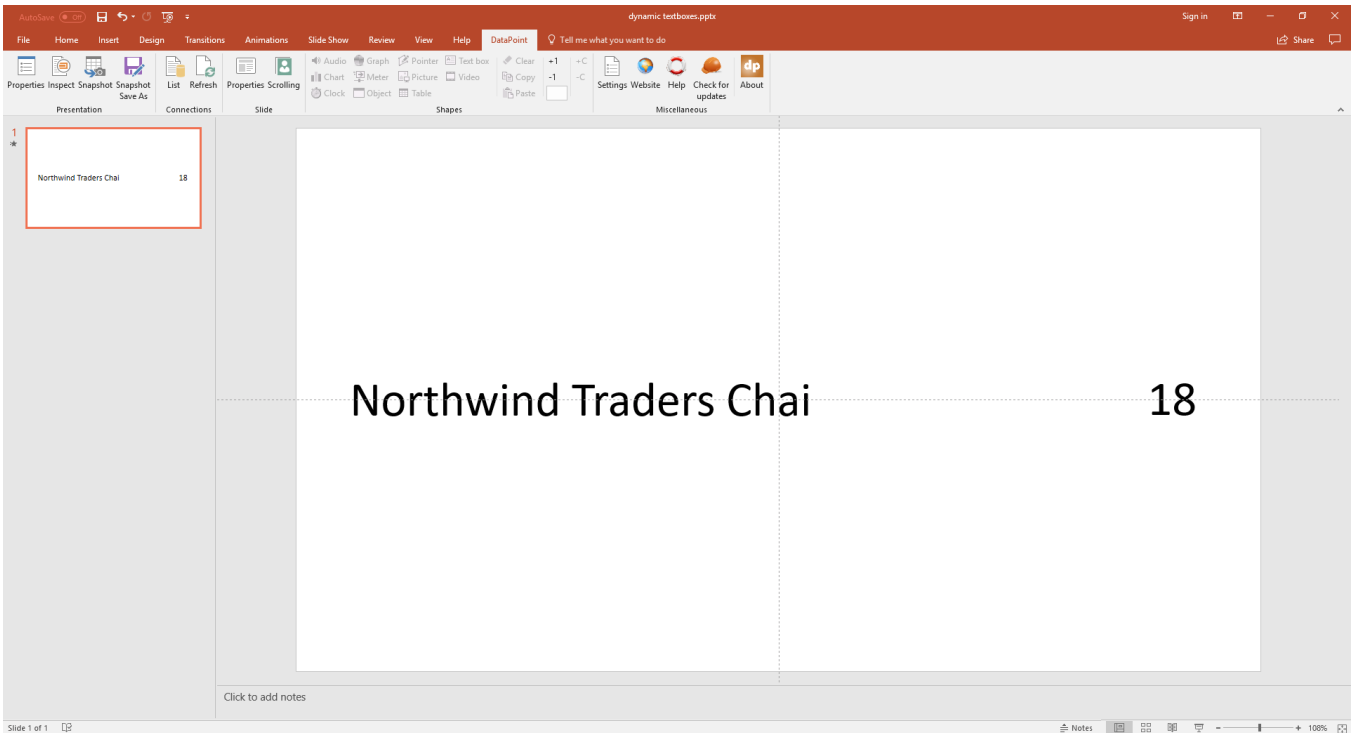
7.4. Snapshot Save As

FOR DATAPOINT ENTERPRISE EDITION ONLY!

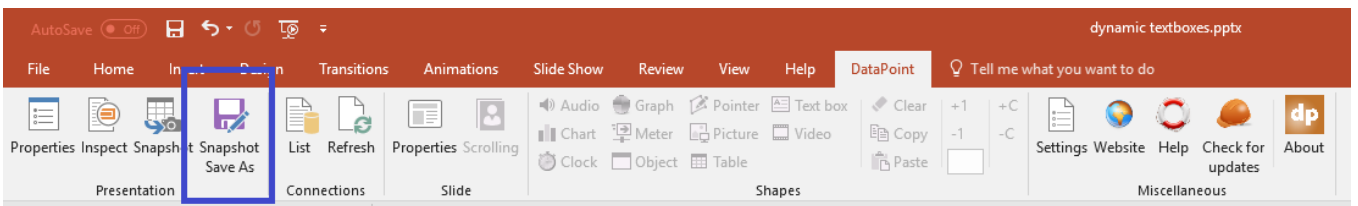
There is a button in the **Presentation** group that is only enabled in the **DataPoint Enterprise edition**. It is called **Snapshot Save As**. Remember that a snapshot presentation is a regenerated presentation with the latest information that is then saved as a new temporary file, ready for distribution.

This feature goes a bit further as it will generate multiple documents, and not only presentations. Imagine that you are generating reports on products, or reporting per country, or reporting per person. Then, you might want to run a generate batch that creates multiple documents; one per product, or one per country, or one per person. This is exactly what the Snapshot Save As is doing.

With the DataPoint Enterprise edition loaded in your PowerPoint, open your presentation, link to a data source, and start linking shapes. Don't forget to activate data scrolling. See this simple sample presentation below.



Then, click the **Snapshot Save As** button.



This will open an options form.

dp Snapshot Save As

Master connection: Northwind data | Products

Column for Filename: Attachments

Target folder: Browse

File format: PPTX PowerPoint Presentation

First delete all subfolders and files from target folder

Filename formatting

Prefix:

Suffix:

Sample: .pptx

OK Cancel

At the top, it will show and confirm the master data scrolling connection being used. It is our intention to generate a new snapshot presentation per product. So, click to open the **Column for Filename** combobox and select the field that holds the name of the generated file. We choose to use the Product name for this.

dp Snapshot Save As

Master connection: Northwind data | Products

Column for Filename: Product Name

Target folder: Browse

File format: PPTX PowerPoint Presentation

First delete all subfolders and files from target folder

Filename formatting

Prefix:

Suffix:

Sample: Northwind Traders Chal.pptx

OK Cancel

Then, set the **Target folder** where you want the snapshot presentations to be saved.

dp Snapshot Save As

Master connection: Northwind data | Products

Column for Filename: Product Name

Target folder: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots [Browse](#)

File format: PPTX PowerPoint Presentation

First delete all subfolders and files from target folder

Filename formatting

Prefix:

Suffix:

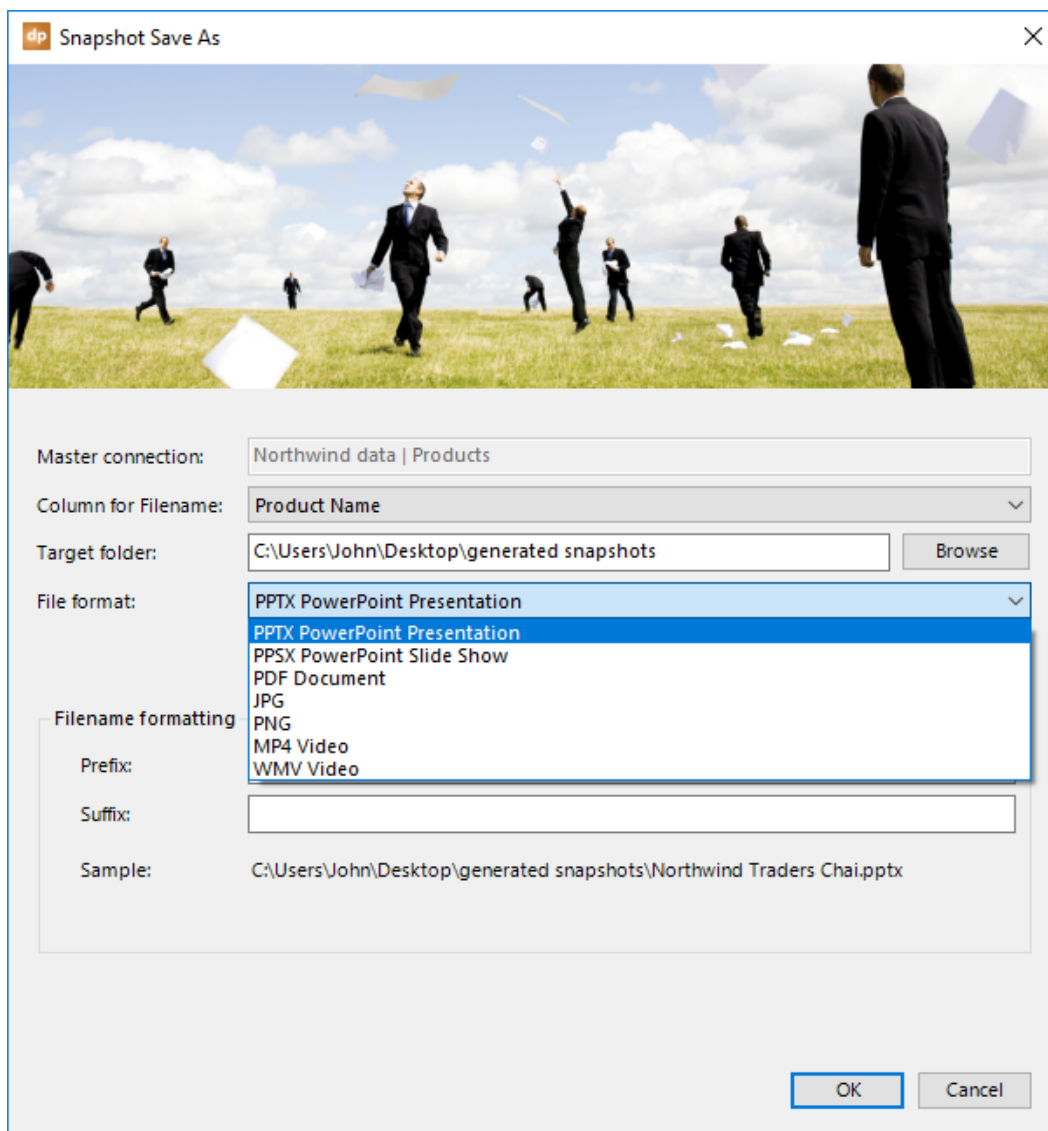
Sample: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots\Northwind Traders Chai.pptx

OK Cancel

Next, click to open the File format combobox. You can choose to generate:

- PowerPoint presentations
- PowerPoint slideshows
- PDF documents
- JPG images
- PNG images
- MP4 videos
- WMV videos

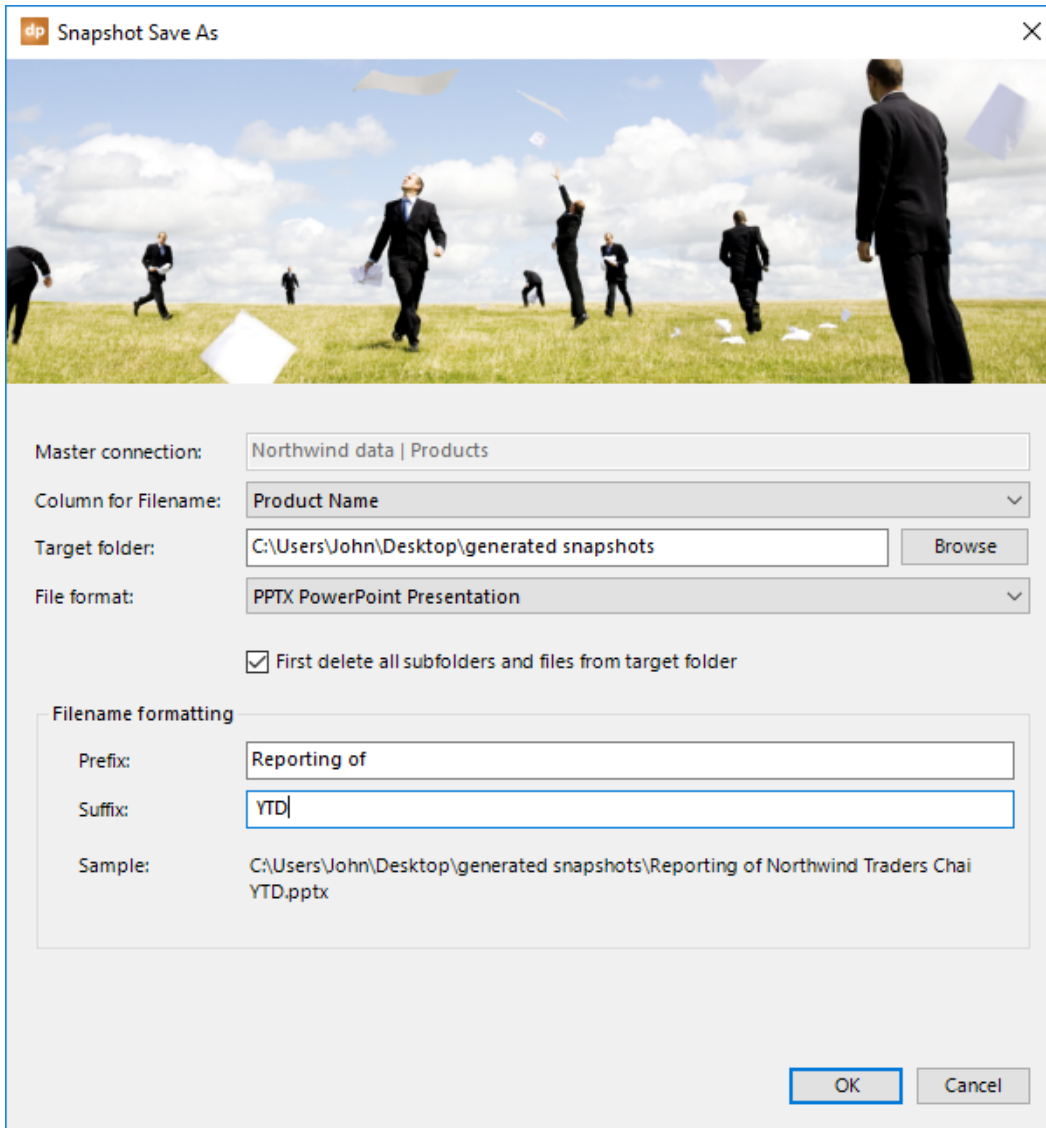
Make your selection.



As an option, check **First delete all subfolders and files from target folder**. This can be useful when you have run a Snapshot Save As before. When checked, it will remove all files and folders before starting.

Look at the preview of the filename. You will recognize the target folder or path, then the value from the first row of the column for filenames that were chosen, and the chosen file extension. You have the option to further customize the name of the files, but specify some text before and after the column value.

Before setting these values, our first filename would be saved as C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots\Northwind Traders Chai.pptx.



Snapshot Save As

Master connection: Northwind data | Products

Column for Filename: Product Name

Target folder: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots Browse

File format: PPTX PowerPoint Presentation

First delete all subfolders and files from target folder

Filename formatting

Prefix: Reporting of

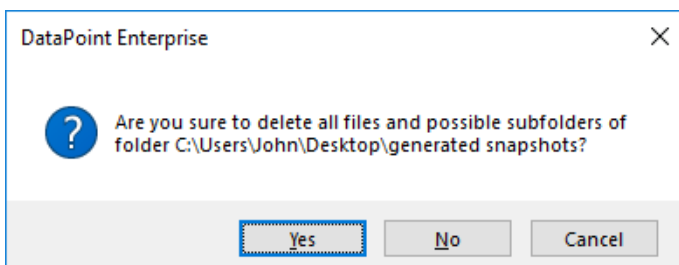
Suffix: YTD|

Sample: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots\Reporting of Northwind Traders Chai YTD.pptx

OK Cancel

With the prefix and suffix of this screenshot, our first file is now saved as: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots\Reporting of Northwind Traders Chai YTD.pptx.

Click **OK** to start the Snapshot Save As process. When the **First delete all subfolders and files from target folder** is set, you will get this option.

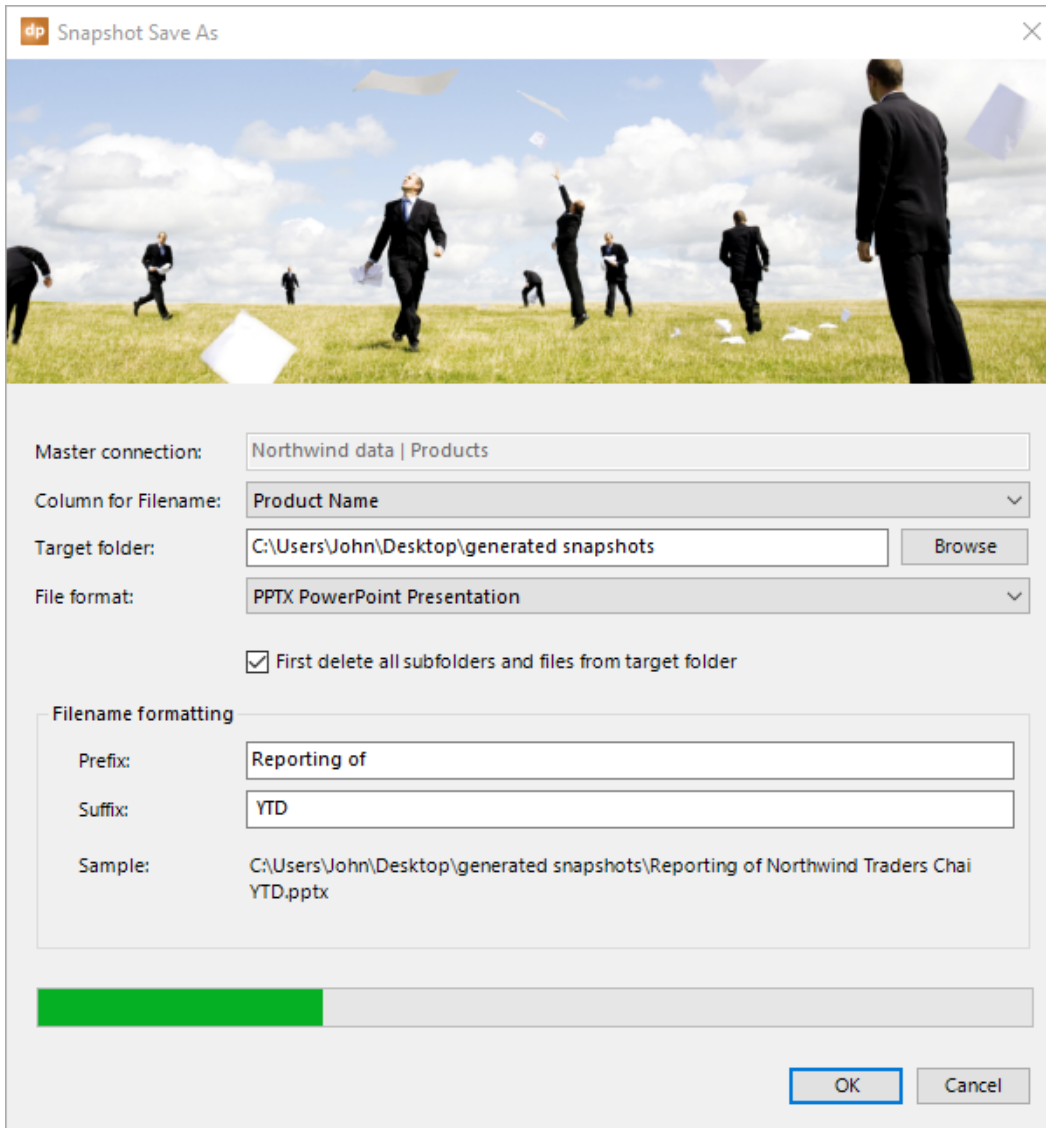


DataPoint Enterprise

Are you sure to delete all files and possible subfolders of folder C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots?

Yes No Cancel

Click **Yes** to continue. And, finally, the generation process starts.



Snapshot Save As

Master connection: Northwind data | Products

Column for Filename: Product Name

Target folder: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots Browse

File format: PPTX PowerPoint Presentation

First delete all subfolders and files from target folder

Filename formatting

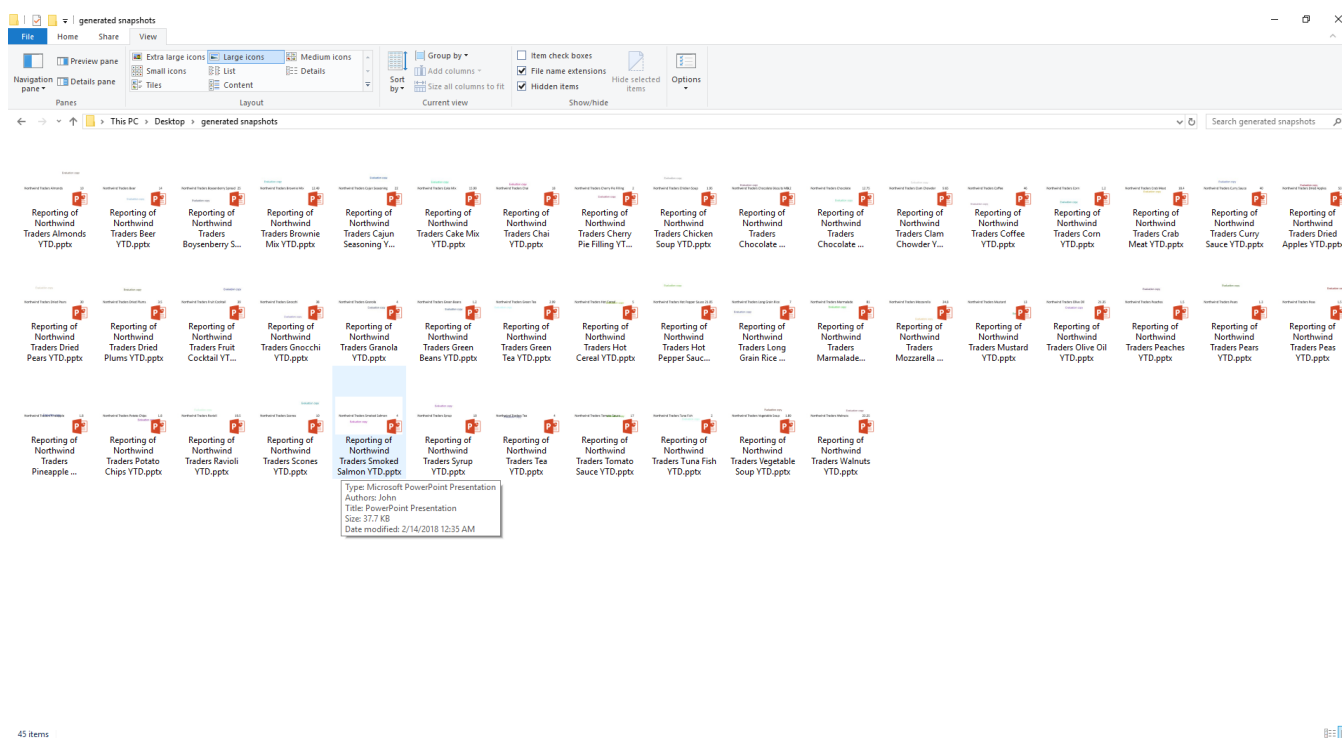
Prefix: Reporting of

Suffix: YTD

Sample: C:\Users\John\Desktop\generated snapshots\Reporting of Northwind Traders Chai YTD.pptx

OK Cancel

At the end, click the **Close** button. You can open the target folder and it will contain a file per column value as it was seen at the data source.



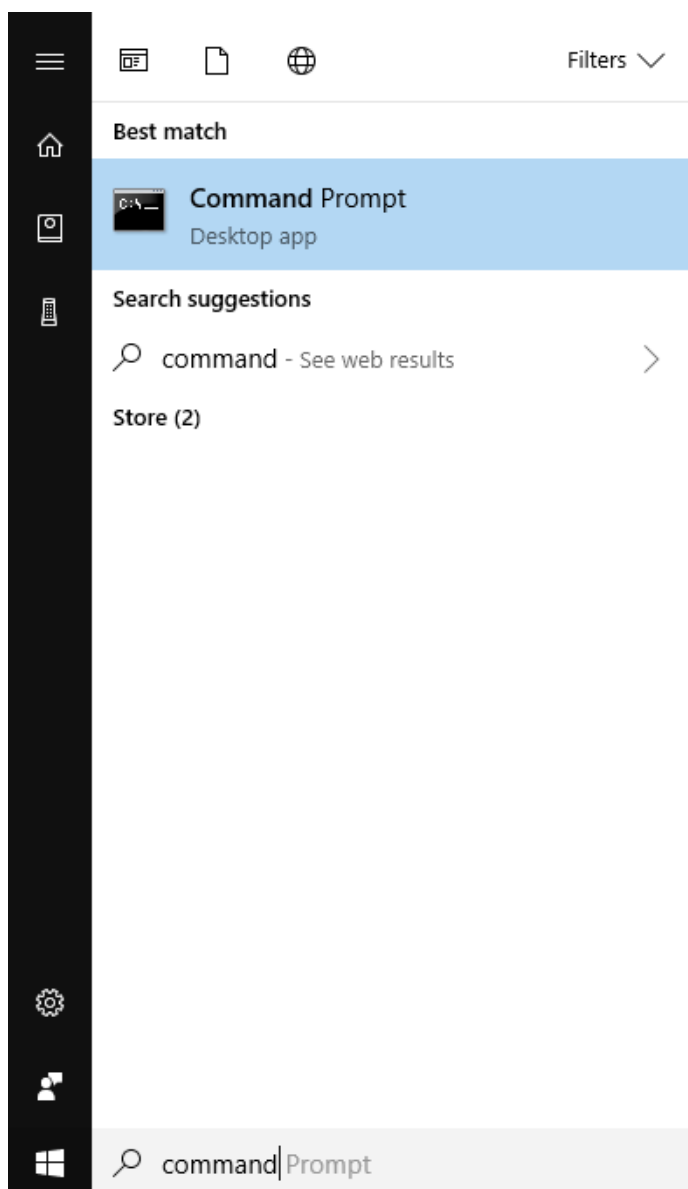
Note that you can easily select another format other than PowerPoint. It is very handy to generate PDF documents based on your PowerPoint designs. Or even generate customized video files with PowerPoint animations, where you can personalize the name of a person or product on the slides.

7.5. Command Line Tool

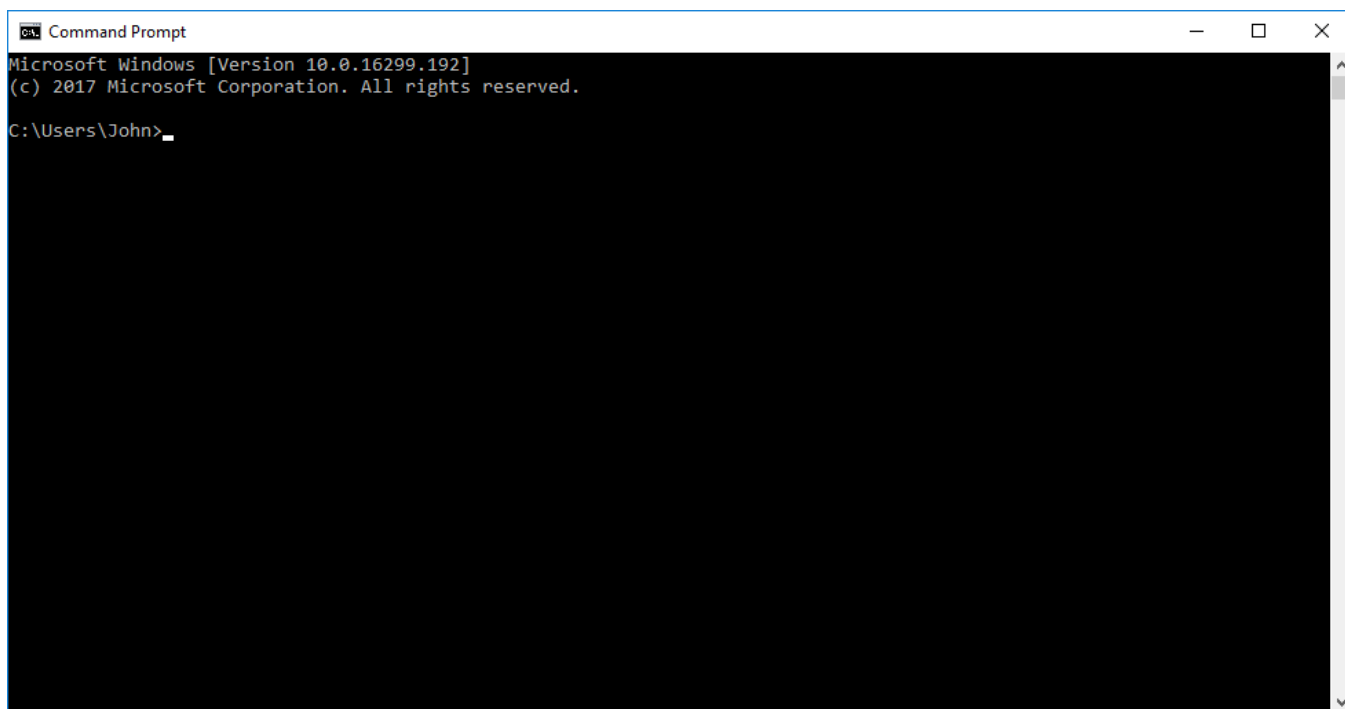
FOR DATAPOINT ENTERPRISE EDITION ONLY!

With the DataPoint Enterprise edition, a command line tool is included. A command line tool is a process that allows you to generate a snapshot presentation via instructions or batch file. This is a great feature when you want to use the command line tool or the presentation generation at scheduled times, or maybe integrate into another package. The DataPoint command line tool, or DataPoint Generator as this is called, will generate snapshot presentations without the need to open the PowerPoint user interface.

Click the **Windows Start** button and type Command. Select the **Command Prompt** option from the list.

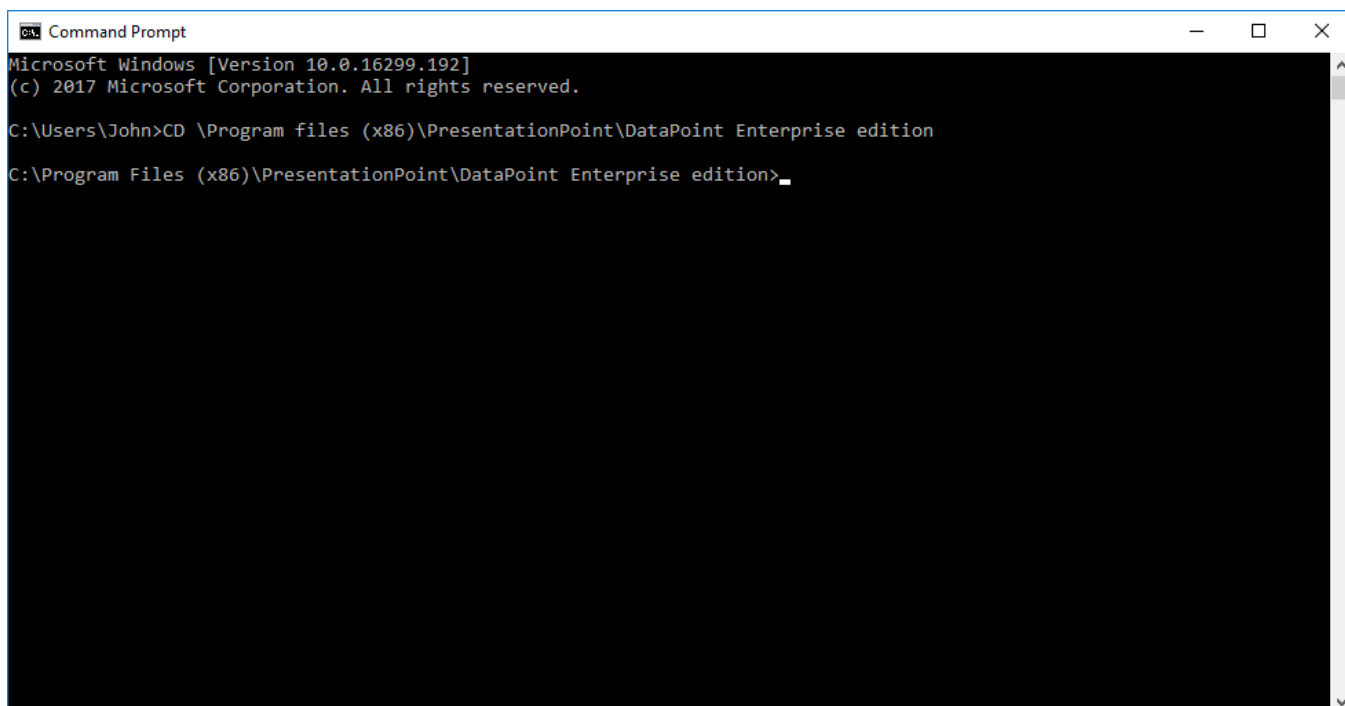


This opens a command prompt, which is a kind of notepad for instructions.



```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.16299.192]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\John>
```

First, we need to change the folder or directory to the one containing the DataPoint Generator tool. Type in: **CD \Program files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition** and hit **Enter**.

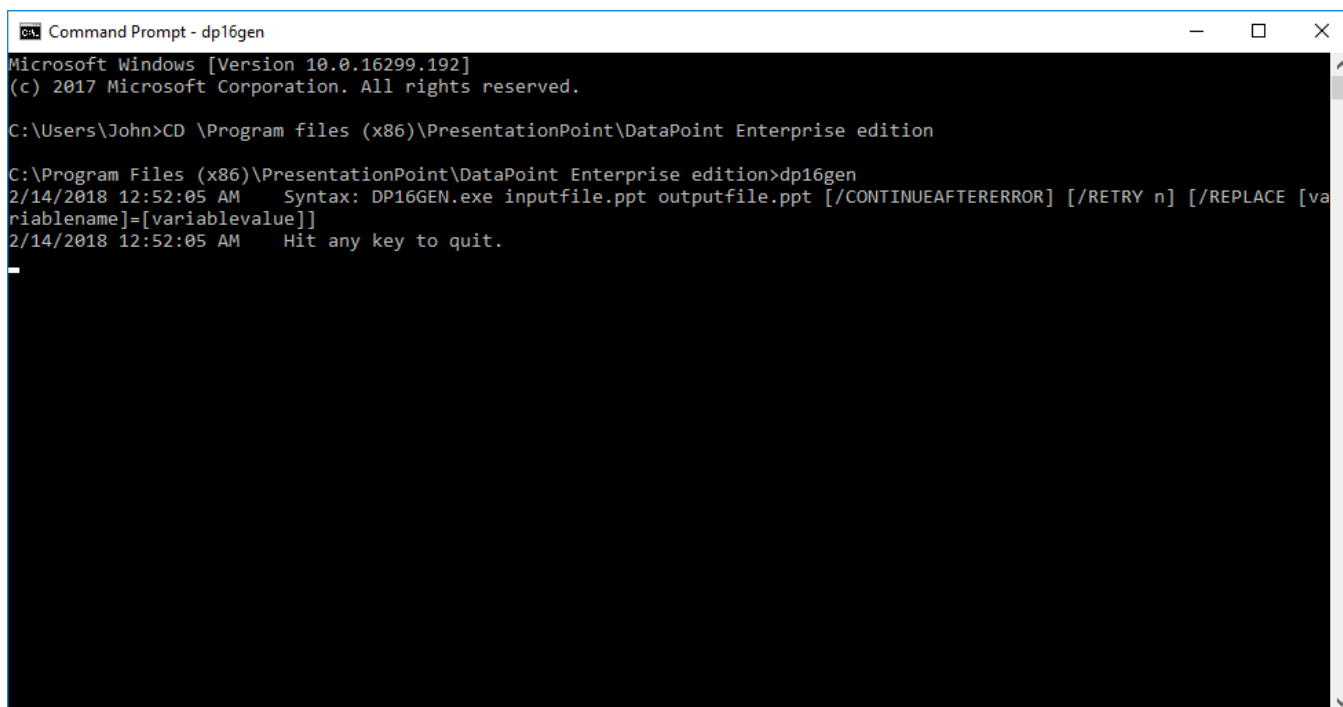


```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.16299.192]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Users\John>CD \Program files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition
C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition>
```

From the new line that was added after hitting enter, you can see the current path that we have changed to.

Now type in: **DP16GEN** and hit **Enter**.

Note that DP16GEN stands for the DataPoint Generator tool for PowerPoint 2016. Use DP14GEN for PowerPoint 2010, and DP15GEN for PowerPoint 2013.



```
Command Prompt - dp16gen
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.16299.192]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\John>CD \Program files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition

C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition>dp16gen
2/14/2018 12:52:05 AM Syntax: DP16GEN.exe inputfile.ppt outputfile.ppt [/CONTINUEAFTERERROR] [/RETRY n] [/REPLACE [variablename]=[variablevalue]]
2/14/2018 12:52:05 AM Hit any key to quit.
```

This will display the syntax on how we can use the command line tool. It looks like this:

```
DP16GEN.EXE inputfile.ppt outputfile.ppt [/CONTINUEAFTERERROR] [/RETRY n] [/REPLACE [variablename]=[variablevalue]]
```

The inputfile.ppt is the PowerPoint presentation that we use as the source presentation for the snapshot generation process. The outputfile.ppt is the name of the file used for the generated snapshot presentation.

Further value options are:

- /CONTINUEAFTERERROR: Don't stop the generation after an error, but instead try to make the best of it. Without this, it will stop processing and just display the error message.
- Sometimes you can retry the generation. Use the /RETRY option and set n to 3; for instance, try it 3 times.
- When using presentation variables in your queries, you can set the values here by scripting.

Set the inputfile and outputfile variables, and the optional parameters; then hit Enter after the command.

It is never a bad idea to put the variables between double quotes. This is a must whenever your filename or path contains spaces.

```

Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.16299.192]
(c) 2017 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\John>CD \Program files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition

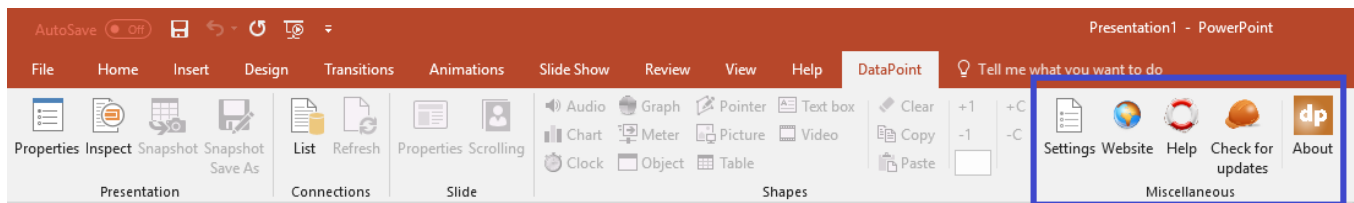
C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition>dp16gen
2/14/2018 12:52:05 AM Syntax: DP16GEN.exe inputfile.ppt outputfile.ppt [/CONTINUEAFTERERROR] [/RETRY n] [/REPLACE [va
riablename]=[variablevalue]]
2/14/2018 12:52:05 AM Hit any key to quit.
2
C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition>dp16gen "C:\Users\John\Desktop\materials\textbox s
hapes\dynamic textboxes.pptx" "C:\Users\John\Desktop\Generated-Snapshot-Presentation.pptx"
2/14/2018 1:01:41 AM Calling Microsoft PowerPoint
2/14/2018 1:01:48 AM Presentation C:\Users\John\Desktop\Generated-Snapshot-Presentation.pptx successfully generated!

C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition>_
    
```

The output above shows that the snapshot has run successfully and that our source presentation is updated with the latest information. It is saved as C:\Users\John\Desktop\Generated-Snapshot-Presentation.pptx.

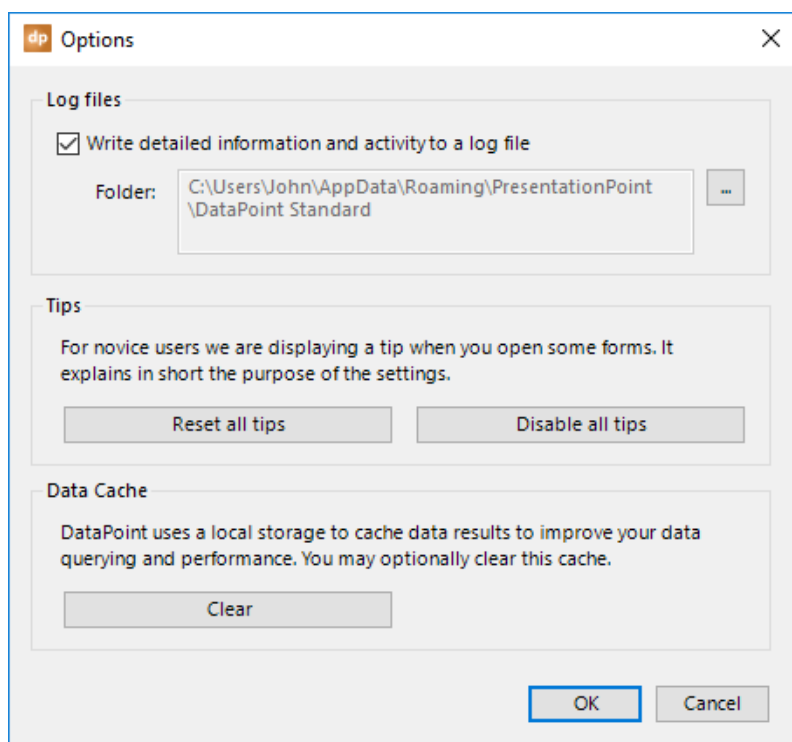
8. Miscellaneous

There is a Miscellaneous tab in every application. Let's discuss the buttons found there.



8.1. Settings

First, there is the **Settings** button.

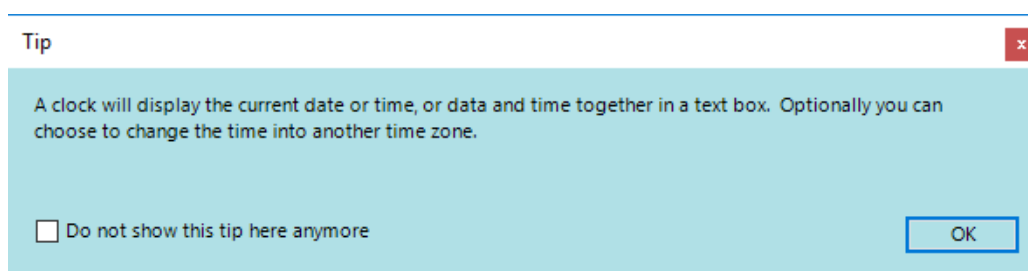


Log files is the first group of options. By default, DataPoint writes activity information to a log file. There is one log file per day that is stored in a given folder, and 15 days of history are kept.

Here in the log files group, you can disable the logging feature by just unchecking the **Write detailed information and activity to a log file** option. The folder where the maximum 15 days of logfiles are kept is listed here, too. Click the button with the three dots to open the folder directly.

The second group is about tips. Tips are those small blue forms that you see when you go into an option for the first time. A tip gives you more information and instructions on what the option is intended for.

A tip looks like this.



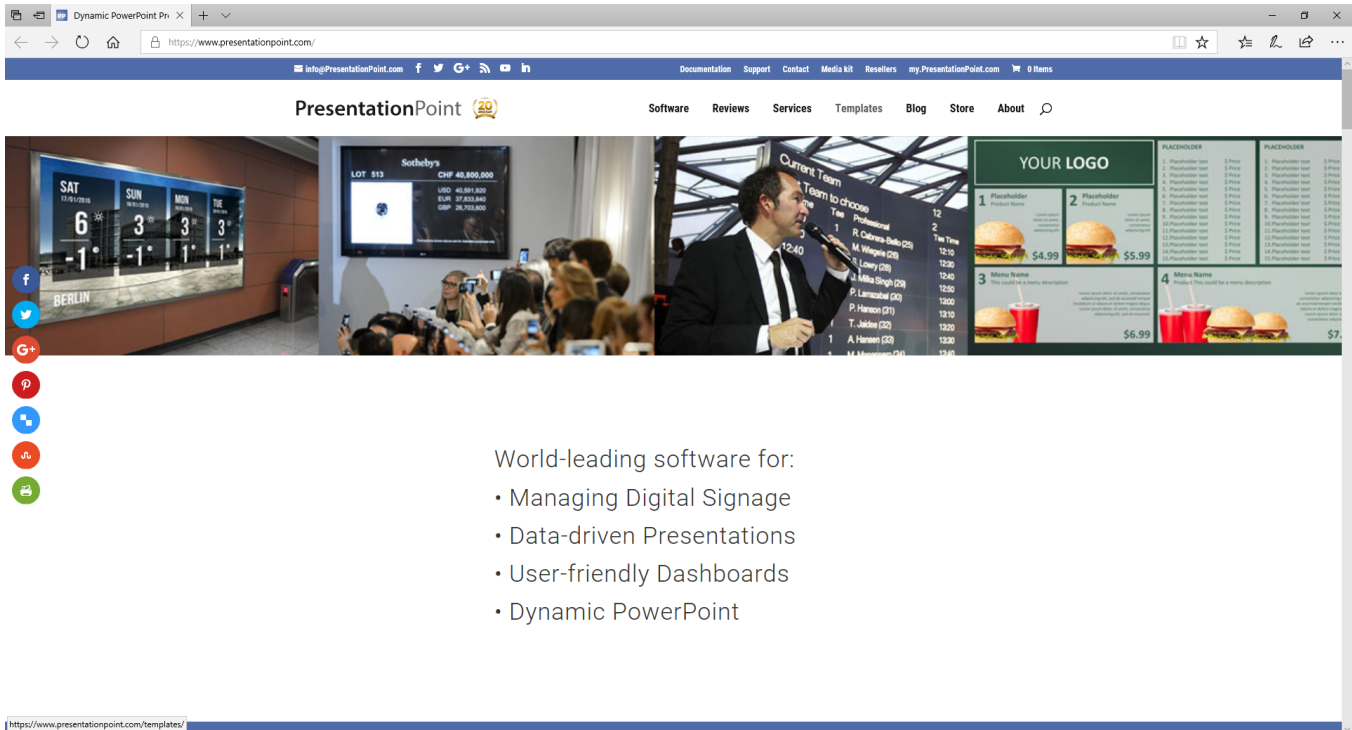
You can check the option **Do not show this tip here anymore**. The next time that you use PowerPoint and click that same button, it will not show that tip again.

You can click the **Reset all tips** button to reset the **Do not show anymore** for all shapes. Or, click the **Disable all tips** to set all tips as seen and understood.

Finally, there is the third group called **Data cache**. The cache folder is there to quickly retrieve data, like the caching of images from your internet browser. Cached data is stored on your hard disc as a temporary file. You can delete all cached files immediately by clicking this option.

8.2. Website

The **Website** button is very simple to use. It opens a browser on your computer and navigates to the PresentationPoint website.



8.3. Help

Click the **Help** button and it will bring you to the support section of the PresentationPoint website.

Help for you because you will succeed
Check out your options below.

Submit a ticket
If you still can't find it, then submit a ticket.

File a [new ticket](#) and fill in the requested fields. Give detailed information about how you are using our product, what you are willing to achieve and what the question or problem is.

Best is to include the information for us on how to reproduce your case on our computers.

View your tickets
Review and work on your tickets online.

Go to [our help desk](#) and first log on to the system with your email address and password. When you are logged in, click on View Tickets and you will get a list of all your tickets.

Click on a ticket on you will find our answer to your question, and you can reply to it.

8.4. Check for updates

We do our best to bring out new features and bug fixes. You can click the **Check for updates** button to find out if there is a new version or setup available. If you click on the button, a browser like this should open.

Check for updates

A new version (16.0.136.0) is available for downloading.
Just download the latest version and run the setup over your existing installation.
[Download new version](#)

This page signals that there is a new version of DataPoint available. You can click the URL to download and then run the setup. You can always install a newer version of DataPoint over the existing installation. By doing that, you will never lose the status of your license.

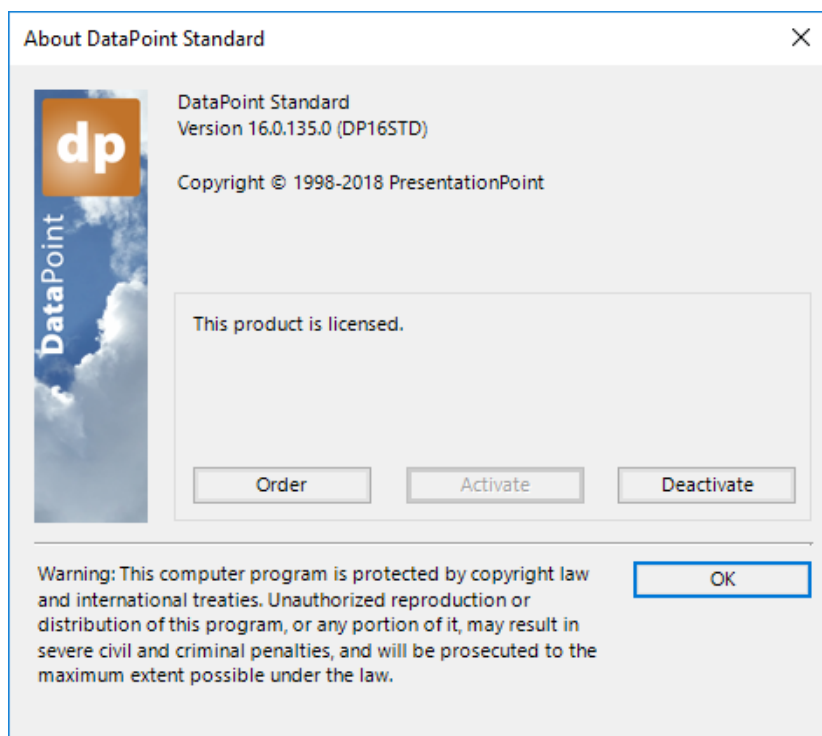
Whenever your version is brought to the latest version, then you can check for updates again, but it will show a page like this to confirm that you are using the latest version already.

Check for updates

No update available. You are already using the latest version.

8.5. About

The last button is the **About** button.



It will tell you what product you are using, the edition that is installed, and the current version number.

Also important, in the middle of this form, it will show you the status of the trial or the physical license. You will find buttons there to order a license at our shop, and two buttons to activate or deactivate a license. Activation is done when you want to enable a license on this computer. Deactivation is used when you have a license active and you want to deactivate it so that it can be activated again on another computer.

9. More

In our final chapter, we will cover some features that were not covered before.

9.1. Using hyperlinks

A hyperlink in PowerPoint is a clickable object that brings you to another document, or maybe a webpage. You can use hyperlinks in DataPoint, too. Basically, you need to format the content of a cell to a given syntax that contains all of the information for a hyperlink.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

ProductCode	Description	Hyperlink
DP	DataPoint	HYPERLINK://dp-logo-datapoint.png#http://www.presentationpoint.com/software/datapoint/
IP	iPoint	HYPERLINK://ip-logo-digital-signage.png#http://www.presentationpoint.com/software/ipoint/
MP	MessagePoint	HYPERLINK://mp-logo-messagepoint.png#http://www.presentationpoint.com/software/messagepoint/
NP	NewsPoint	HYPERLINK://np-logo-newspoint.png#http://www.presentationpoint.com/software/newspoint/
OP	OutlookPoint	HYPERLINK://op-logo-outlookpoint.png#http://www.presentationpoint.com/software/datapoint/

Format the value in your database like this: `HYPERLINK://value#link#caption`

`HYPERLINK://` is the mandatory prefix text to indicate that you want to use this as a hyperlink. After that, you have three possible values separated by a pound sign (`#`): value, link, and caption.

The text that you use for the value part is the text that is displayed in a textbox, or the file path of the image that you want to use. The link part is the URL that is opened when the text or hyperlink is clicked. The optional caption value is shown as a popup text when you hover over the object, like a tip.

The database value, like `HYPERLINK://dp-logo-datapoint.png#https://www.presentationpoint.com/software/datapoint/#More info on this...` on an image will use 'dp-logo-datapoint.png' as a dynamic filename for that picture. When it is clicked, it will open the command 'https://www.presentationpoint.com/software/datapoint/' and the picture caption is set to the text 'More info on this...'

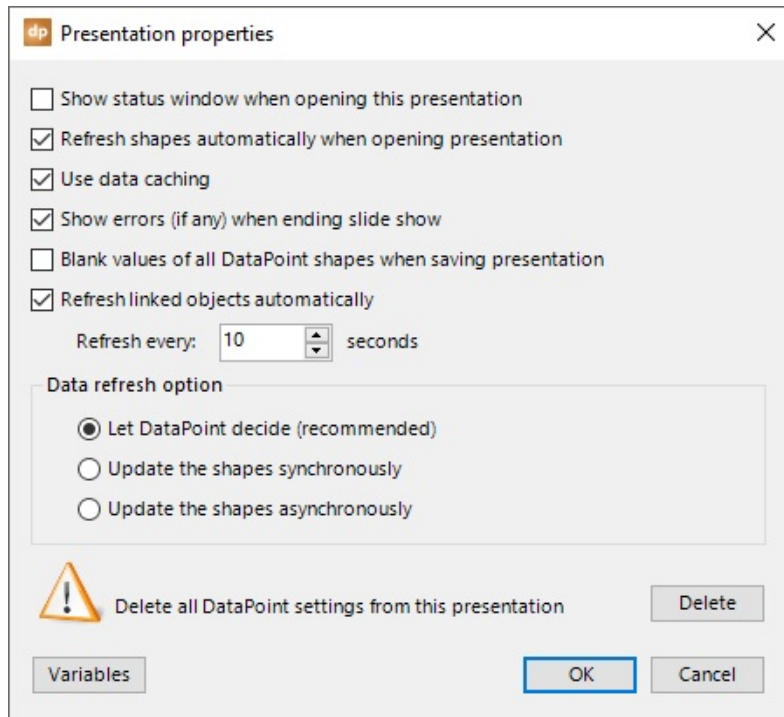
9.2. Using variables

DataPoint can work with variables in custom SQL statements. A variable has a name and has a value. Imagine that you have multiple data queries in your presentation, getting information from everywhere. Often, we see that some values are used in the various where clauses. When you are doing reporting on products that your company is producing or selling, you may need to use the name of the product or its part number in your queries. For instance, imagine that you have 12 queries where you get the information from various tables about the same product. In your custom SQL statements, you will see that product name or part number. When you want to reuse this presentation to do reporting on another product, you will need to change that product name or part number in all 12 of your queries. And that is time consuming.

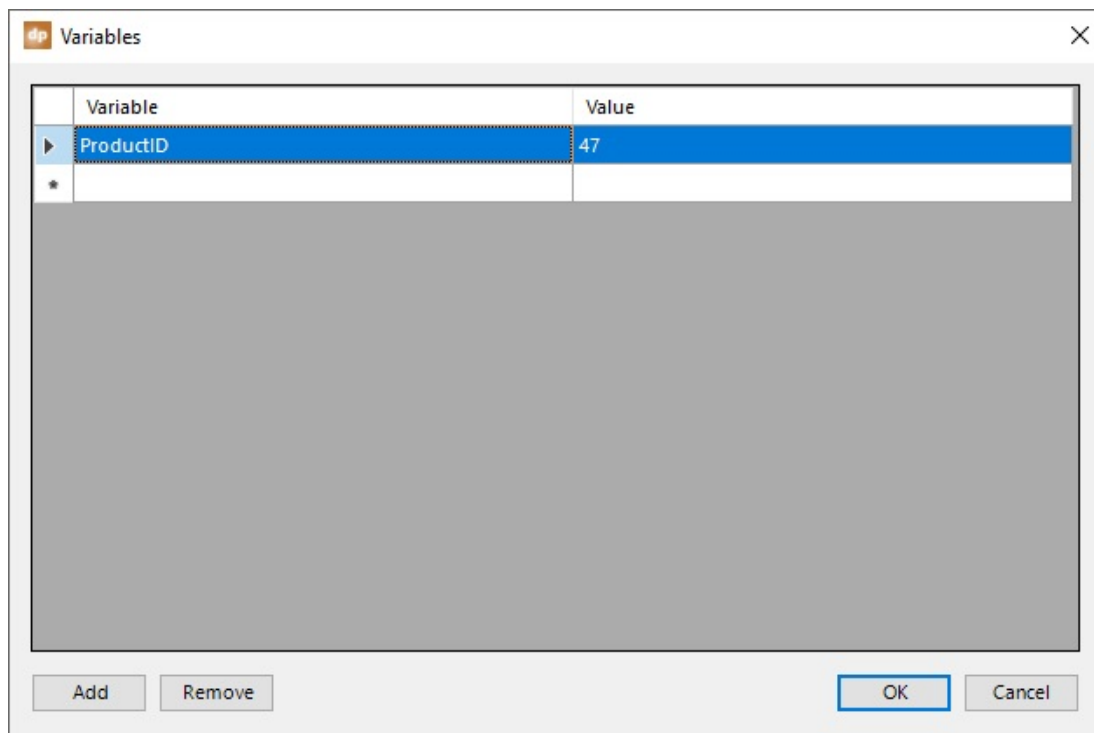
This is exactly where variables are handy. Instead of typing your part number each time, you just use the name of

the variable, like %ProductPartNumber%, in your SQL. And then, you only have to set the current value of this variable one time.

First of all, set up the variables. Open **DataPoint** and click the **Properties** button in the presentation group.



Click the **Variables** button here.



Click the **Add** button and set the name of the variable and its current value. You can add multiple variables to this list. To remove a variable, select the variable from the list and click the **Remove** button.

On this screenshot, we created a variable named ProductID, with its value set to 47.

Click **OK** to close.

Now, when we set up data queries, for example, for a Microsoft SQL Server connection, we use a custom SQL statement, like this:

```
Select * From TblProducts Where productid = REPLACE://ProductID
```

The REPLACE:// prefix reveals that we are using the name of a variable. So, when DataPoint executes these queries, it will replace the variables with their current value. This is how the SQL statement is executed at this time.

```
Select * From TblProducts Where productid = 47
```

The text 'REPLACE://ProductID' is replaced with 47 from our variable list.

Note that the productid is a number value. When you want to use a string value, like product name, use a syntax with quotes, like:

```
Select * From TblProducts Where productname = 'REPLACE://ProductName'
```

System variables

There are a few system variables in DataPoint that you can use in your queries.

REPLACE://COMPUTERNAME will use your computer's name in your queries. You could set up a database or datasheet with announcements for certain displays or computers. You will have a list of announcements with two columns: computer name and the announcement text. With this system variable, you could set up a query that filters out the announcements for the current computer only. The computer name will be replaced at runtime.

REPLACE://USERNAME fills the variable with the username of the user logged on to the system.

REPLACE://PRESENTATIONNAME will be replaced by the name of the active presentation. This is the name of the file without a path or extension.

REPLACE://PRESENTATIONFULLNAME replaces this variable text with the full filename of the active presentation. So, it is the filename including the path and extension.

REPLACE://PRESENTATIONPATH will do the opposite. It will only return the path of the filename of the active presentation. The filename and extension are dropped from the value.

Command line generation tool

Our users of the DataPoint Enterprise edition can now use the command line tool, or the DataPoint Generator tool, to create snapshot presentations with variables that are used in a command or instruction at the command prompt.

Just add the name of the variable and its associated value to the command line, like this:

```
"C:\Program Files (x86)\PresentationPoint\DataPoint Enterprise edition\DP16GEN.exe" "name-of-our-presentation.pptx" "snapshot.pptx" /REPLACE ProductID=47 /REPLACE CountryID=1
```

9.3. Using Viewer edition

Dynamic presentations that are created with the DataPoint Enterprise edition can be opened by the DataPoint Viewer edition. The DataPoint Viewer edition is a free add-on for PowerPoint, without any license limitations. Hundreds of your colleagues can use this free DataPoint edition when you, as a designer, create a presentation with the Enterprise edition.

The only limitation on the free Viewer edition is that the dynamic DataPoint data connections and linked objects are refreshed only once, when it is opened. So, with this limitation in place, the Viewer edition is ideal for distributing up-to-date statistical presentations or reporting presentations to your company.

Whenever you need continuous, self-updating content on your slides, then you have to use the DataPoint Standard edition.

9.4. Using Runtime edition with iPoint

Our digital signage product, iPoint, is great for distributing and scheduling presentations. These presentations can be static (typical for advertising) or dynamic (typical for information screens).

As a designer, you can create dynamic presentations with our DataPoint Standard edition. When you need to run dynamic DataPoint presentations on an iPoint player, then you need to install the DataPoint Runtime edition on the computer where the iPoint player component is installed.

The DataPoint Runtime edition license is free, as it is already included in your iPoint player license.

When you set up data connections for your iPoint players, make sure that you are using file paths to your data files (e.g. Microsoft Excel worksheets) that are accessible for you as the designer, as well as for all the players. Typically, you will first place the data files on a network share that is available to everyone.

10. Change log

Version 14.0.140, 15.0.140, 16.0.140 • under development

- Automatic font scaling for text boxes based on the length of the content
- Dynamic image updates on the slide master

Version 14.0.139, 15.0.139, 16.0.139 • 6 Jun 2018 • released

- Bug fix for switching rows and columns at graphs
- Enhancement for getting the featured image of Tweets

Version 14.0.138, 15.0.138, 16.0.138 • 19 May 2018 • released

- Faster processing of tables with data scrolling
- Automatic font size adjusting on text boxes
- New Facebook restrictions and API modifications applied
- Bug fix for hiding open Excel sheets when using dynamic charts

Version 14.0.137, 15.0.137, 16.0.137 • 30 Mar 2018 • released

- SharePoint data provider: fix for special column selection
- New data provider for Microsoft Outlook

- Bug fix for filtering JSON data queries
- Improved data provider for Twitter, now with featured images

Version 14.0.135, 15.0.135, 16.0.135 • 5 Feb 2018 • released

- Bug fix for some tables that are not properly using data scrolling

Version 14.0.134, 15.0.134, 16.0.134 • 25 Jan 2018 • released

- Updated data provider for Google Sheets
- Updating shapes on slide master

Version 14.0.133, 15.0.133, 16.0.133 • 20 Dec 2017 • released

- Fix on graph problem with various number of columns
- Better synchronization when using many images on one slide and using data scrolling
- RSS feed data provider: getting featured image when the image is embedded (HTML) in the description field
- RSS feed data provider: new featured image column name ThumbnailURL detected at abcnews(<http://abcnews.go.com>)
, now adapted for local downloading