

Instruction manual for SimpleAPI

The data bridge between your Business central and your Power Tools

Introduction:

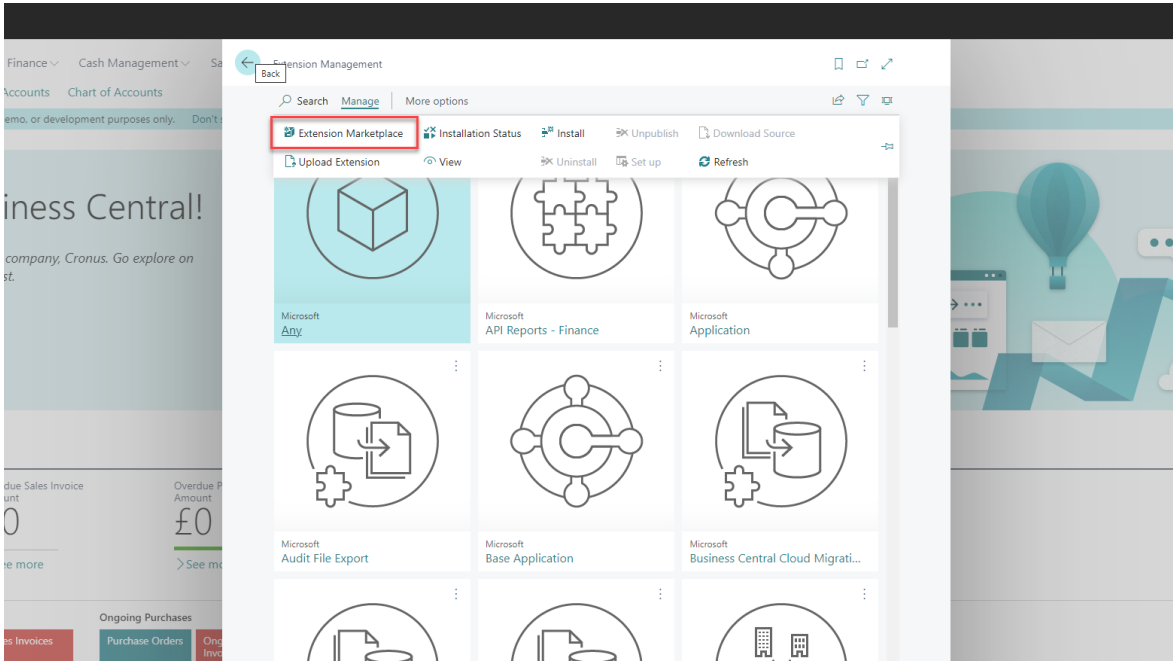
SimpleAPI is an extension created for Business Central, with the purpose of making it simpler to integrate to Business Central. This document contains brief instructions for how to install the extension, set it up and lastly how to connect to Business Central from frequently used Microsoft tools.

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How to install SimpleAPI

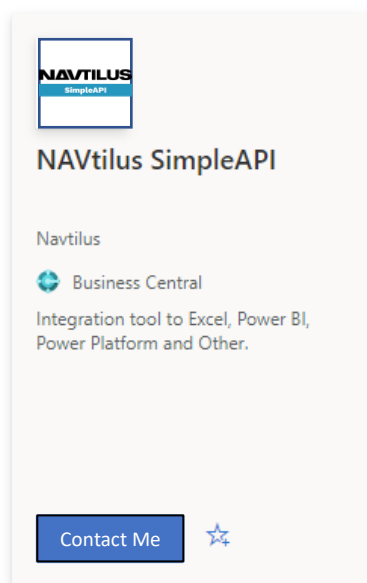
1. Go to the extension marketplace in Business Central.
 - a. Either through Extension management as seen in the picture below or directly from the search bar.



2. Search for SimpleAPI

Search results for "SimpleAPI"

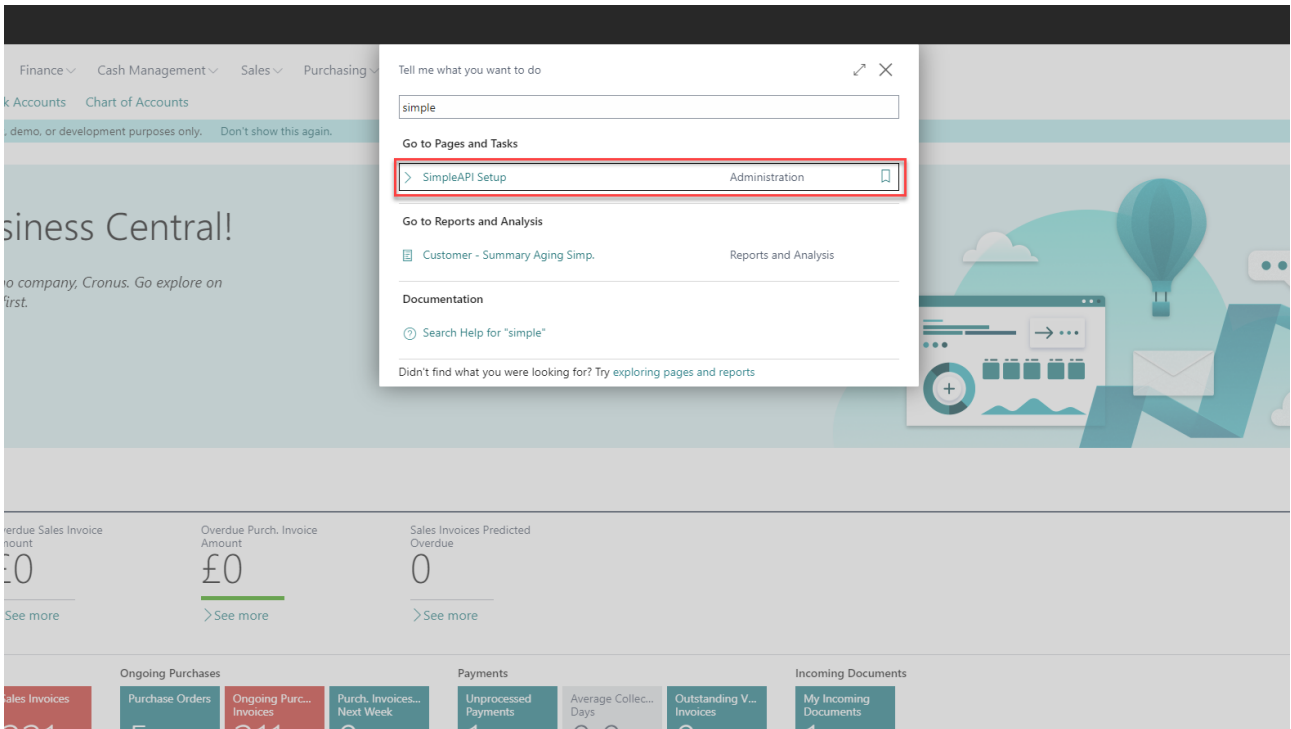
All results



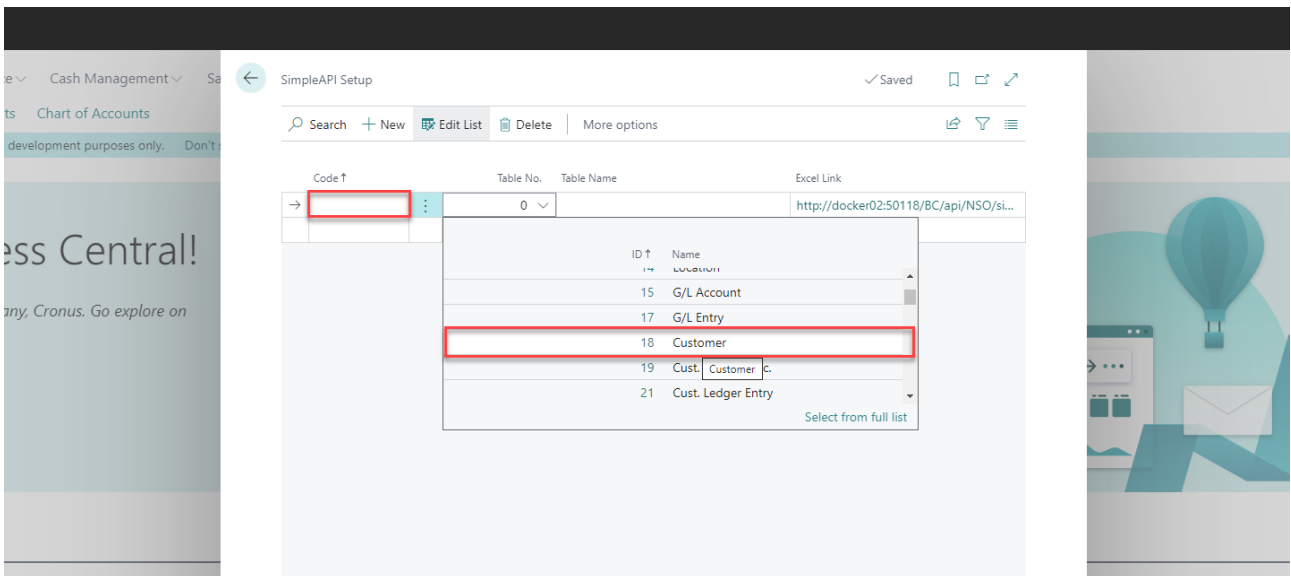
How to setup SimpleAPI

Note: For this guide we use the Customer data, you can choose whatever you prefer.

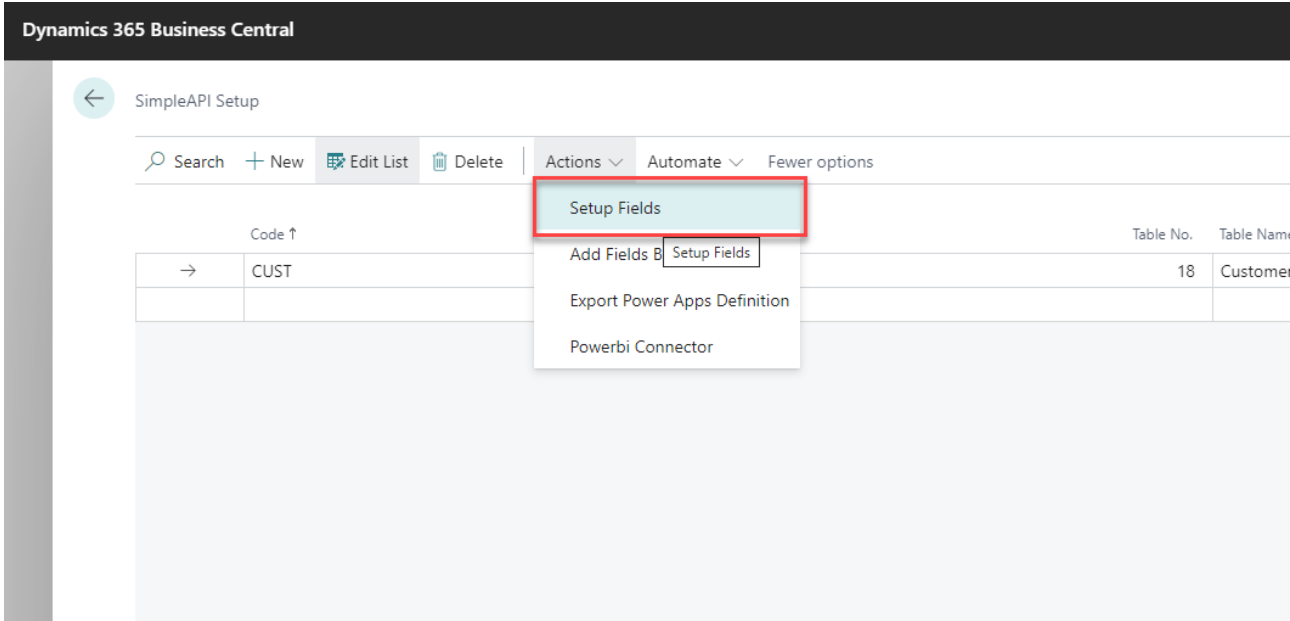
1. Search for SimpleAPI Setup and open it.



2. To setup the data you want to get out, first give the setup a code.
 - a. The “Code” field is used for your reference when integrating and can be named what you prefer.
3. To select which table to set up for, use the “Table No.” field.

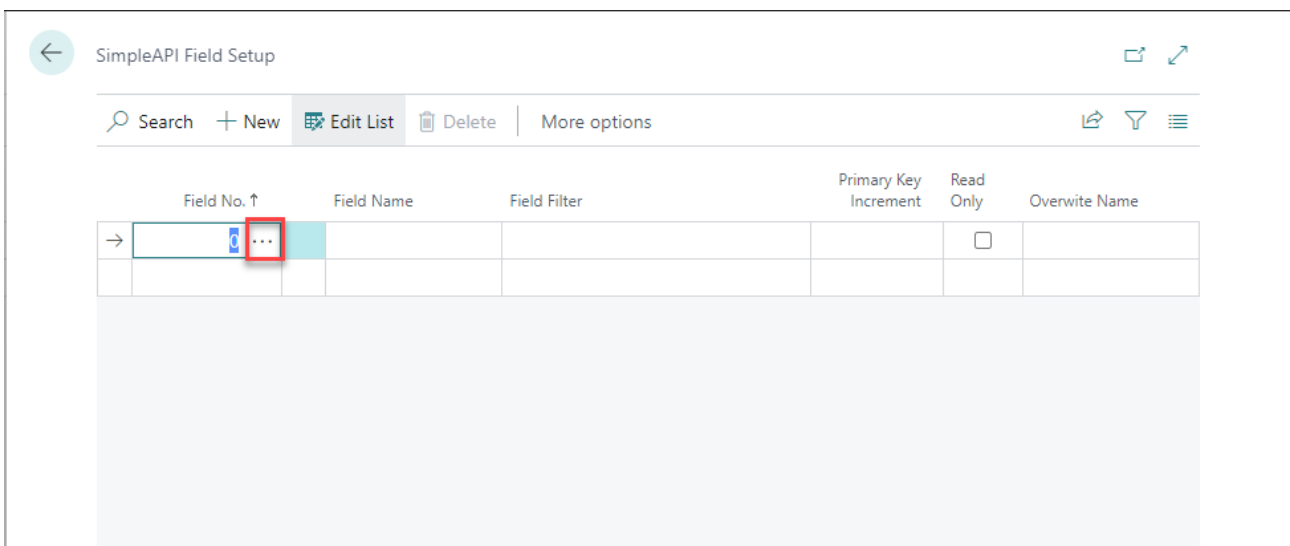


4. To setup what data you want from the table, use the action Setup Fields.







Explanation for SimpleAPI Field Setup:

- The "Field Filter" field is a filter for the records gathered for the integration.
 - "Primary Key Increment" allows for an integer in the primary key to be unfilled on post requests and instead be incremented by the number used.
 - "Read Only" will remove the field in the post and path definitions for power platform.
 - "Overwrite Name" allows to set the column name to a custom name.
5. On the SimpleAPI Field setup page you can select the data from the table you wish to set up.
 - a. Choose the assist edit on the "Field No." Field to get a list of all the available fields.
 - b. In case you want to add more than one field at a time you can look at steps 6 and 7.



6. If you want to add more than one field at a time, you can go to "Add Fields Bulk".

Search + New Edit List Delete **Add Fields Bulk** Export OpenAPI Definition ...   

Field No. ↑	Field Name	Field Filter	Primary Key Increment	Read Only	Overwrite Name
→ <input type="text" value="1"/> ... 	No.			<input type="checkbox"/>	

- 7. In “Field No. Filter” you can use the normal filters from Business Central to select the fields you want.
 - a. E.g. 1..10 or 12|13|17|22.
- 8. Click on the “OK” to add the fields.

Create Field Setup

Field

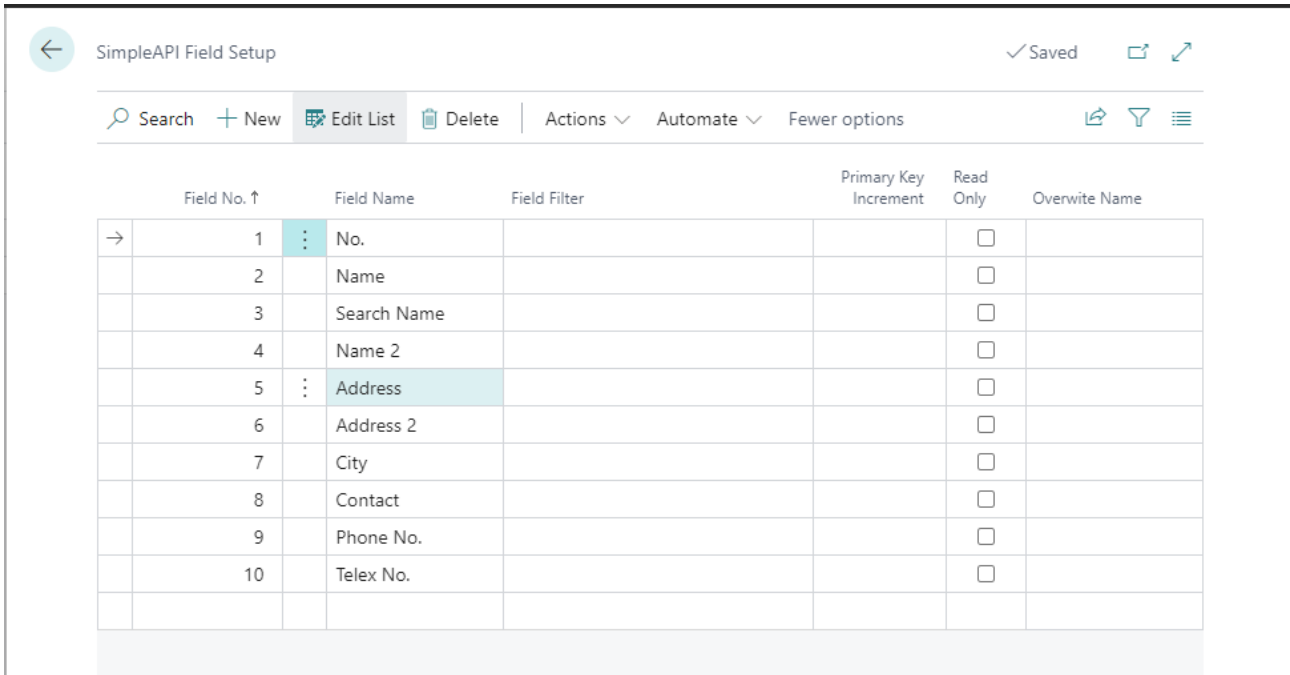
No. Filter

Filter: SimpleAPI Setup

× Code

+ Filter...

9. In case you want more than one filter in the list, simply just repeat steps 6 and 7.



The screenshot shows the 'SimpleAPI Field Setup' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow, the title 'SimpleAPI Field Setup', and a 'Saved' status with a checkmark. Below the navigation bar is a toolbar with icons for Search, New, Edit List (highlighted), Delete, Actions, Automate, and Fewer options. The main content is a table with the following columns: Field No. (with an upward arrow), Field Name, Field Filter, Primary Key Increment, Read Only (checkbox), and Overwrite Name. The table contains 10 rows of field configurations. The 'Address' field (row 5) is highlighted in light blue.

Field No. ↑	Field Name	Field Filter	Primary Key Increment	Read Only	Overwrite Name
→ 1	No.			<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Name			<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Search Name			<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Name 2			<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Address			<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	Address 2			<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	City			<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Contact			<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Phone No.			<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Telex No.			<input type="checkbox"/>	

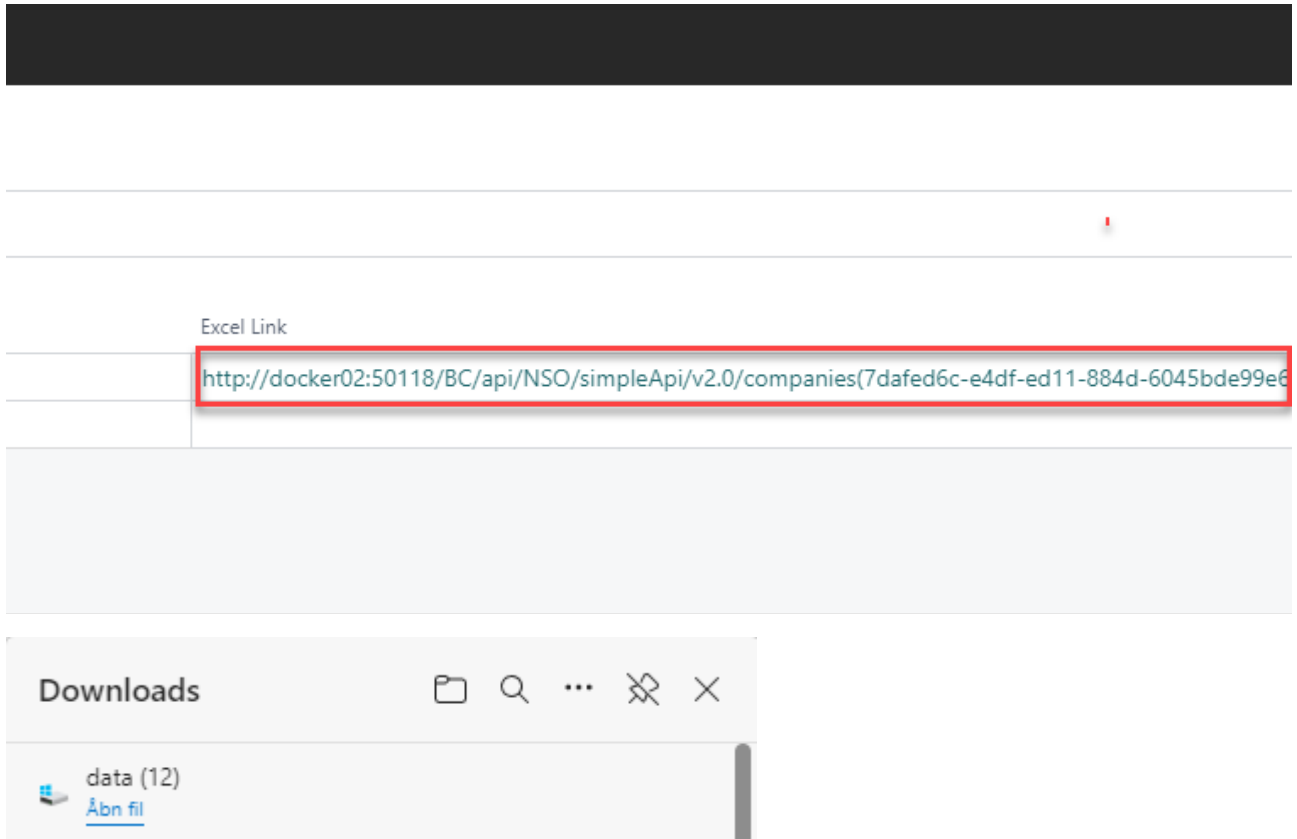
This concludes the setup instructions for a table with fields, the rest of the paper will show how to use the integration options available in the SimpleAPI.

Excel Integration

The excel integration allows for two forms.

Import File Data:

1. Clicking on the Excel Link on the SimpleAPI Setup page will move a data file to the downloads folder.
 - a. This file is in a csv format but is downloaded as a binary file.
 - b. It can be changed to .csv format or just be opened as .bin format.

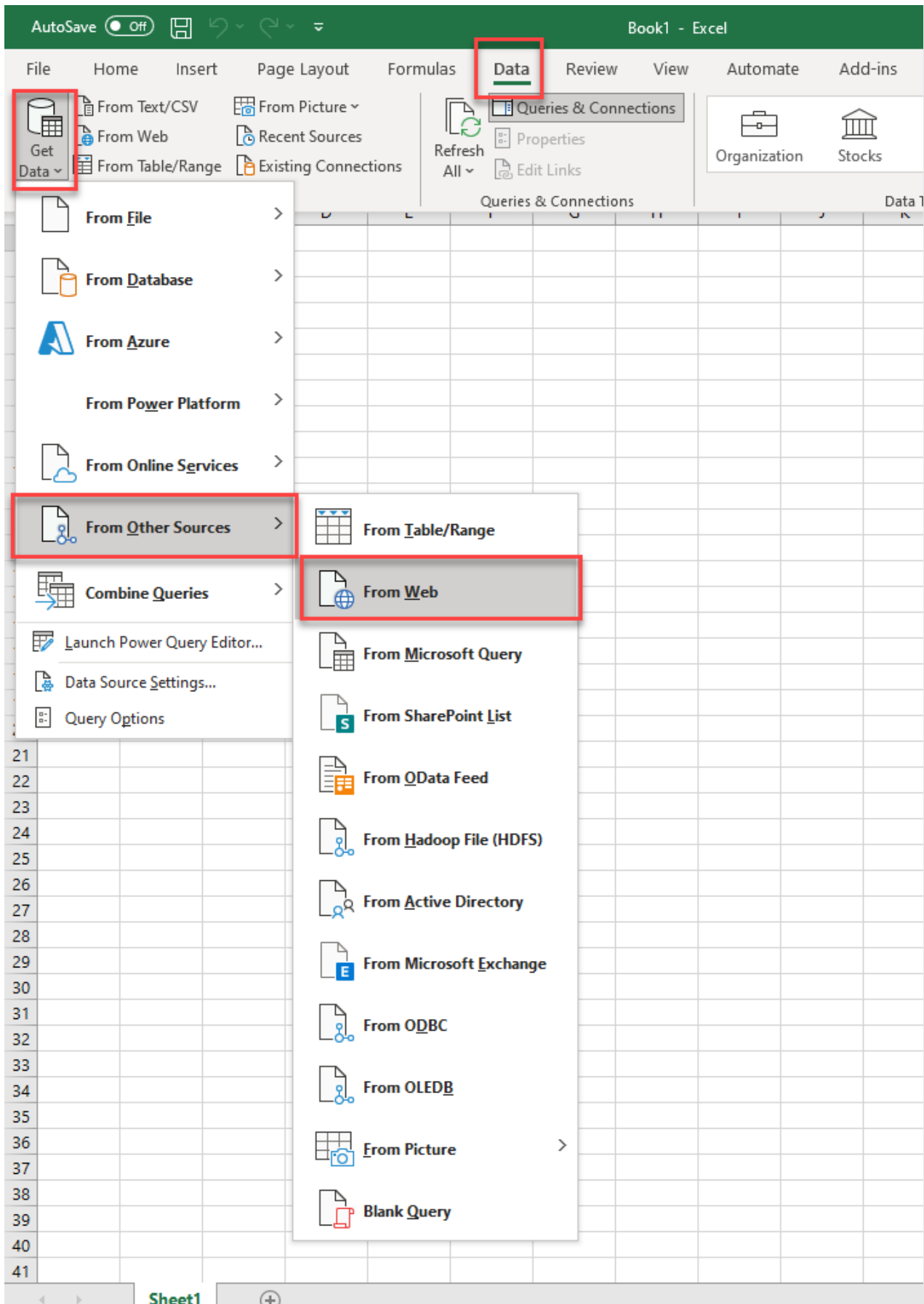


2. Right click on the file and open it in excel OR open Excel, go to "Data" -> "From Text/CSV".

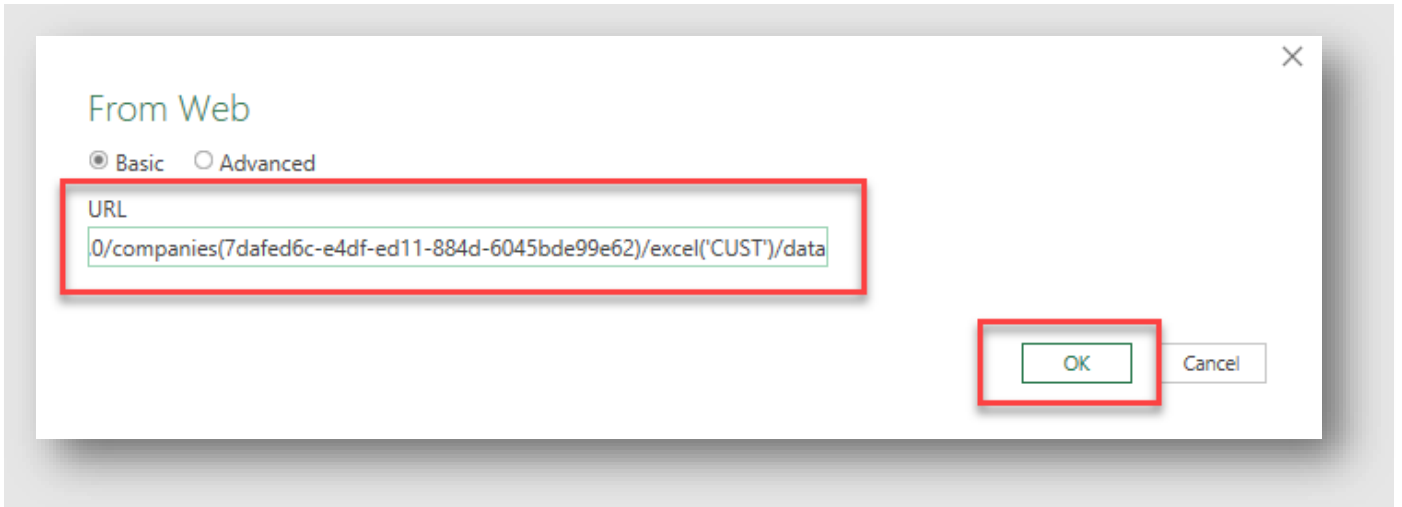
Data Link:

Note: this method only needs to be done once! Afterwards it can just be refreshed.

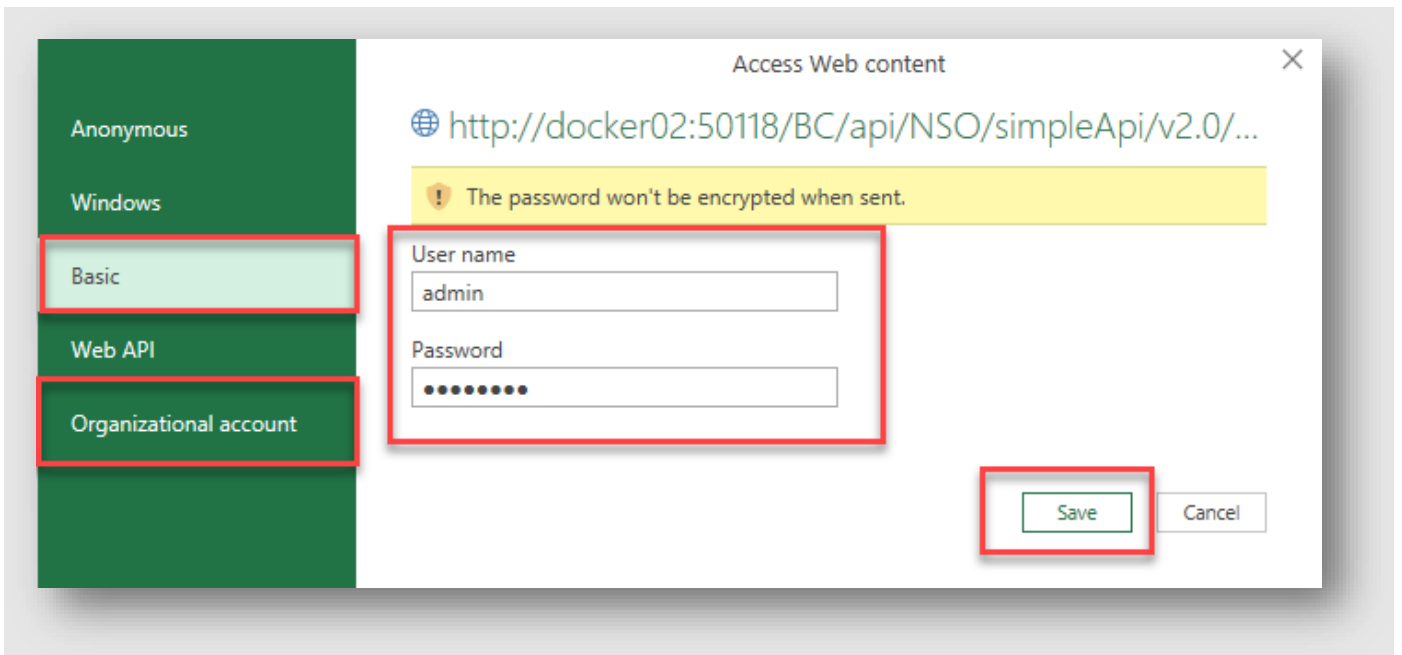
1. By copying the link, it can be used in Excel by going to the Data tab, click "Get Data" -> "From Other Sources" -> "From Web".



2. Paste the link in the URL box and click ok.



3. Login either with Basic or Organizational account.



- The data is now available, make sure the delimiter is Comma then you can transform or load the data.

[http://docker02:50118/BC/api/NSO/simpleApi/v2.0/companies\(7dafed6c-e4df-ed11-884d-6045b...](http://docker02:50118/BC/api/NSO/simpleApi/v2.0/companies(7dafed6c-e4df-ed11-884d-6045b...))

The screenshot shows a data loading interface with the following settings:

- File Origin: 1252: Western European (Windows)
- Delimiter: Comma
- Data Type Detection: Based on first 200 rows

no	name	searchName	name2	address	address2	city	contact	phoneNo
10000	Adatum Corporation	ADATUM CORPORATION		Station Road, 21		Cambridge	Robert Townes	
20000	Trey Research	TREY RESEARCH		Southwark Bridge Rd, 91-95		London	Helen Ray	
30000	School of Fine Art	SCHOOL OF FINE ART		10 High Tower Green		Miami	Meagan Bond	
40000	Alpine Ski House	ALPINE SKI HOUSE		Walter-Gropius-Strasse 5	Park Stadt Schwabing	Munchen	Ian Deberry	
50000	Relecloud	RELECLOUD		Occam Court, 1	Surrey	Guildford	Jesse Homer	

At the bottom right, there is a 'Load' button with a dropdown arrow, a 'Transform Data' button, and a 'Cancel' button. The 'Load' button is highlighted with a red box.

- The refresh button can be used to update to current data at any time, meaning this setup is only needed ones.

Book1

Search

Formulas Data Review View Automate Add-ins Help Dynamics NAV Power Pivot Team Table Design

Queries & Connections

Refresh All

Properties

Edit Links

Organization Stocks Currencies Geography

Data Types

Sort Filter

Refresh All (Ctrl+Alt+F5)

Get the latest data by refreshing all sources in the workbook.

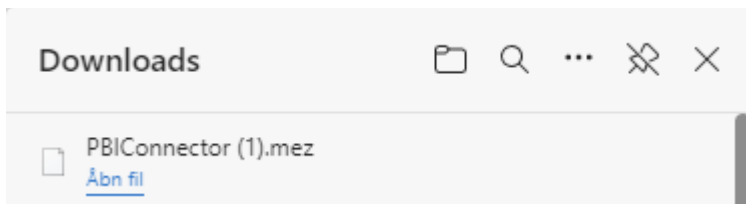
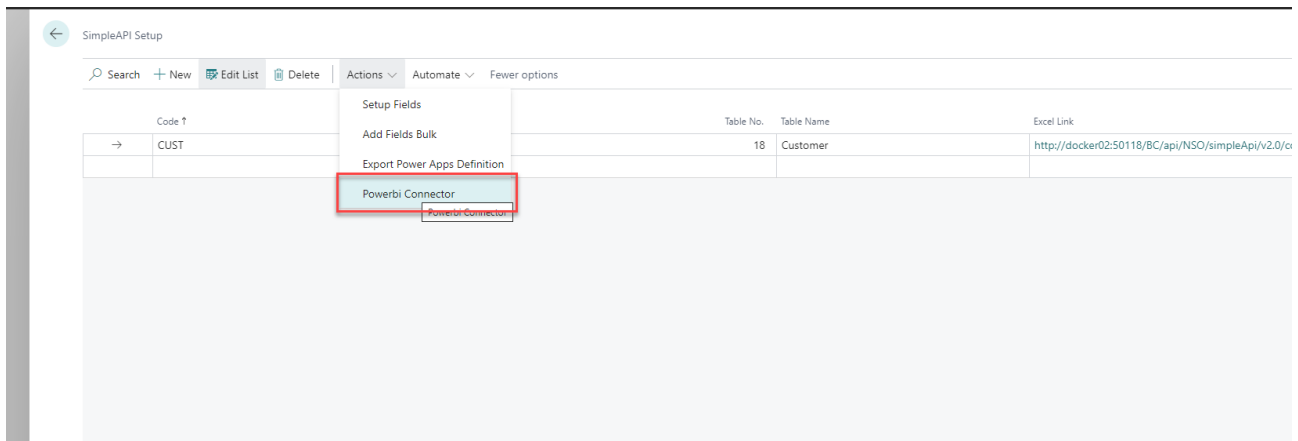
	address2	city	contact	phoneNo	telexNo
ORPORAT		Cambridge	Robert Townes		
RCH	Rd, 91-95	London	Helen Ray		
FINE ART	10 High Tower Green	Miami	Meagan Bond		
HOUSE	Walter-Gropius-Strasse 5	Park Stadt Schwabing	Munchen	Ian Deberry	
	Occam Court, 1	Surrey	Guildford	Jesse Homer	

Power BI Integration

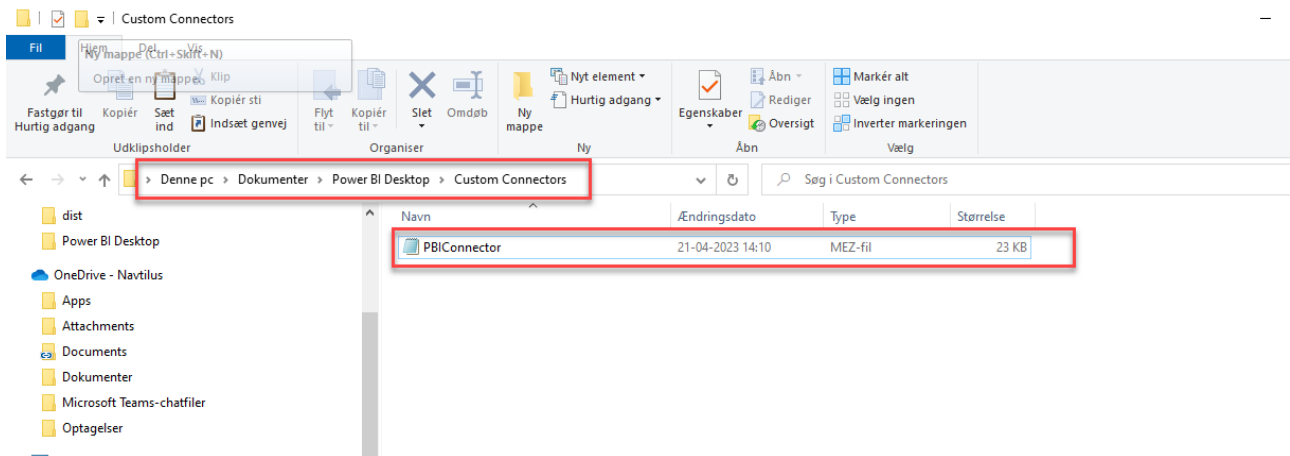
SimpleAPI comes with a custom connector for Power BI.

Note: This connector will not change for new versions of the SimpleAPI App. There may be changed in the BC app, but it will be kept backwards compatible. If changes are necessary, that will not allow backwards compatibility, a new version of the Power BI connector will be made in addition to the existing, to not disturb already dependent reports and dashboards.

1. Navigate to the “SimpleAPI Setup” page, from here you can go to “More options” -> “Action” -> “PowerBI Connector”, this will add the Connector .mez file to your download folder.



2. The .mez file is the way to make custom connectors for Power BI but it requires moving the file to the right folder for power bi to recognize the file. Required folder is “this pc\Documents\Power BI Desktop\Custom Connectors”.
 - a. If you do not have this folder, you can make it yourself.
 - i. Go to “This Computer” -> “Documents” -> Create a new folder called “Power BI Desktop” -> Open the folder and create one more called “Custom Connectors”.



3. Once the file is placed in the folder you need to restart your Power BI.

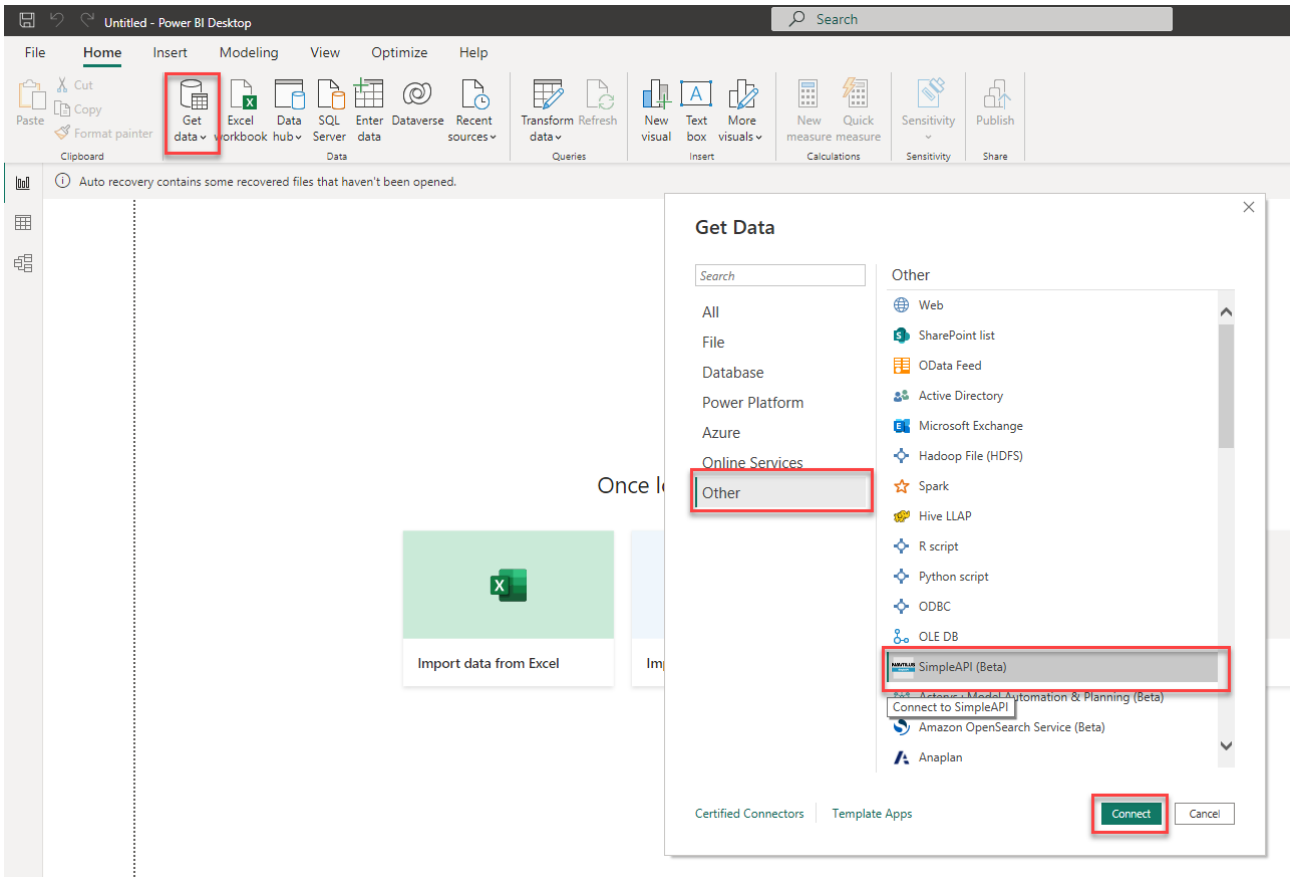
NOTE! For some people you might get a warning message when opening the Power BI. Press OK and do as following:

- In Power BI Desktop go to "File" -> "Options and settings" -> "Options" -> "Security" ->

Change the selected under “Data Extensions”.

The screenshot shows the 'Options' dialog box in Power BI, specifically the 'Security' section. The left-hand navigation pane lists various settings categories, with 'Security' highlighted. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Native Database Queries' (with a checked box for 'Require user approval for new native database queries'), 'Certificate Revocation' (with 'Basic check' selected), 'Web Preview Warning Level' (set to 'Moderate'), 'Data Extensions' (highlighted with a red box, with '(Not Recommended) Allow any extension to load without validation or warning' selected), 'Custom visuals' (with a checked box for 'Show security warning when adding a custom visual to a report'), 'ArcGIS for Power BI' (with an unchecked box for 'Use ArcGIS for Power BI'), and 'Map and Filled Map visuals' (with a checked box for 'Use Map and Filled Map visuals'). At the bottom right, there are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

4. After this you should be able to find the Connector in “Get data” -> “More” -> “Other” -> SimpleAPI
 - a. You might get a warning about “connection to a third-party service”, just press continue here.



Simple API

Base API Url

Company

OK

Cancel

5. After clicking connect a window is opening asking for two parts of information's:
 - a. First field is the "Base API URL".
 - i. In this example the link is from an on prem docker, but it can be used for SaaS as well. This link can be found on the SimpleAPI Setup page, in the Excel Link field has the base link as the first part copied up to after the environment name.

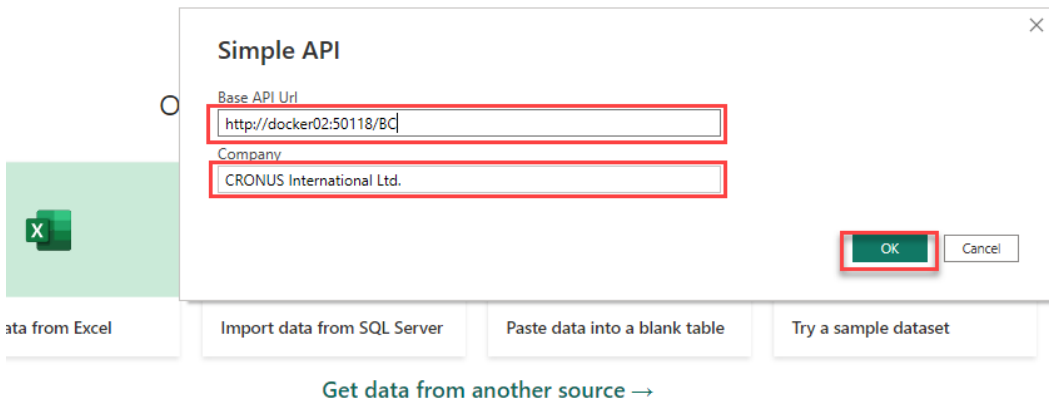
Excel Link

[http://docker02:50118/BC/api/NSO/simpleApi/v2.0/companies\(7dafed6c-e4df-ed11-884d-6045bde99e6](http://docker02:50118/BC/api/NSO/simpleApi/v2.0/companies(7dafed6c-e4df-ed11-884d-6045bde99e6)

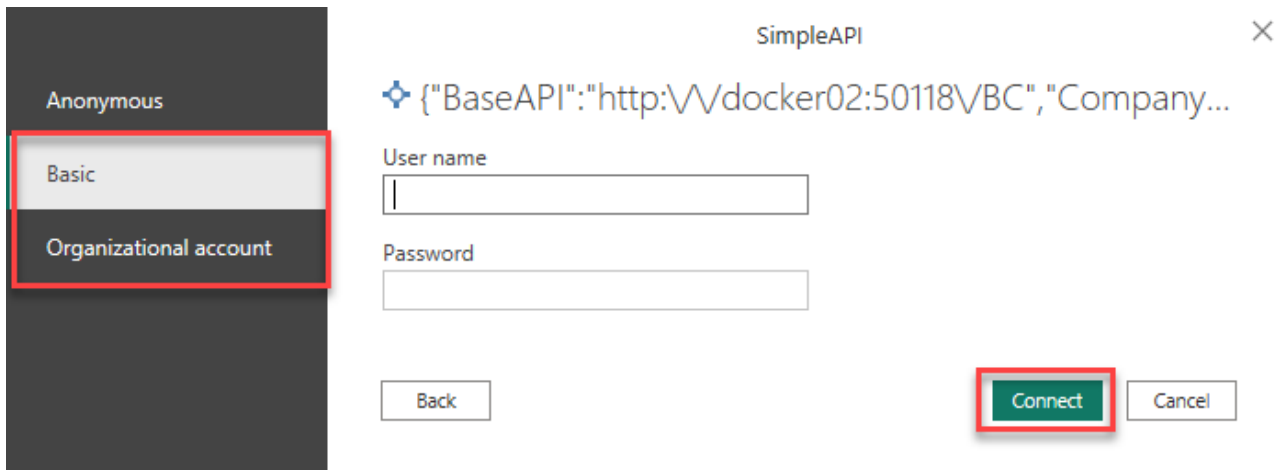
- b. The second field is the "Company".
 - i. This field is the company name (make sure it is the company name not the display name). This information can be found on the Companies page.

Name	Display Name	Enable Assisted Comp... Setup	Setup Status	Company Created
→ CRONUS Internation...	My Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4/23/2023 8:49 PM

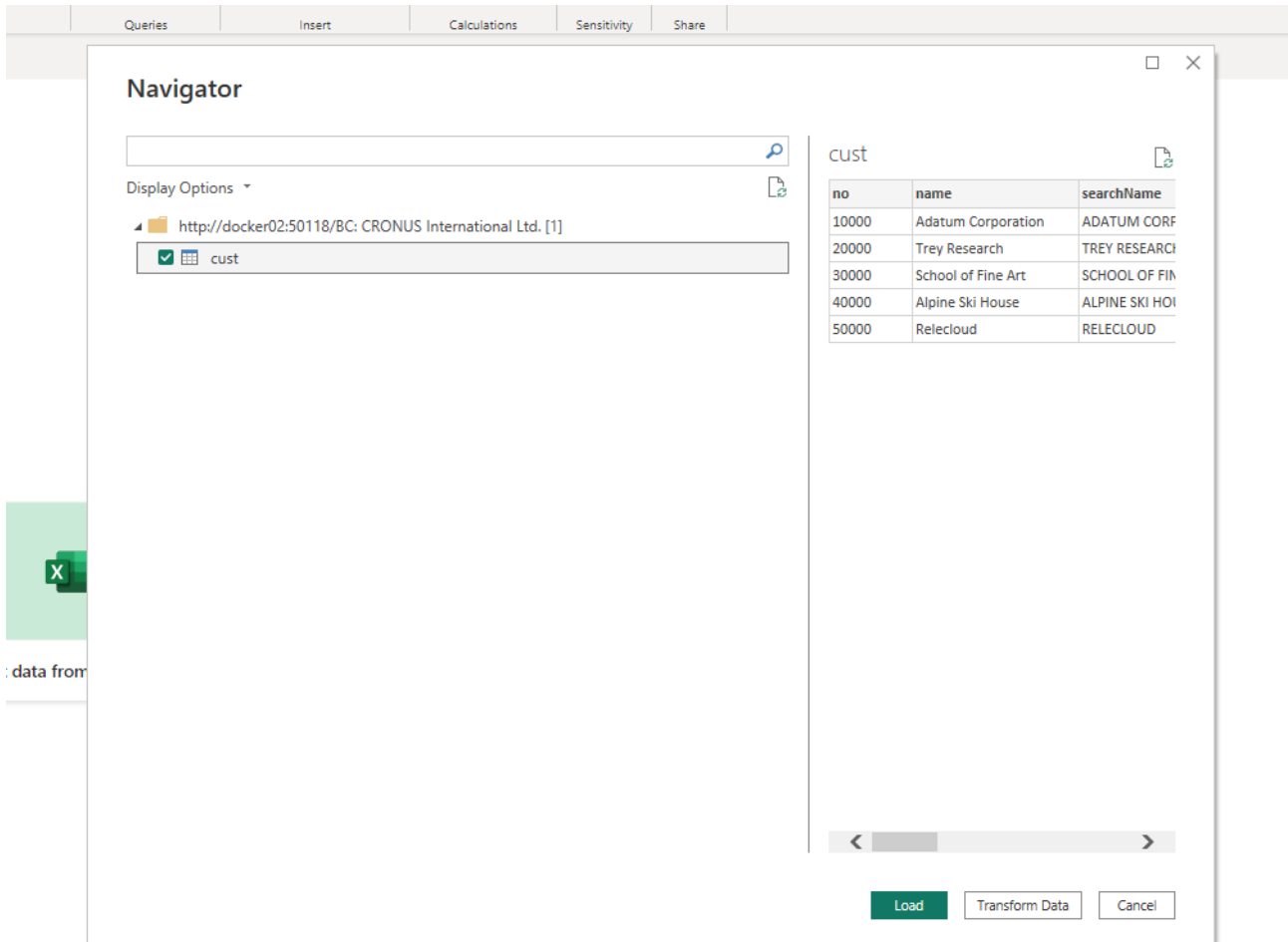
- 6. Input the information in Power BI and click ok.
 - a. In our example the box looks like the picture underneath, yours should have your company's information inside it instead.



7. Login with the business central login, either use the basic or the Organizational account.



- The SimpleAPI connector will then give you access to the selected Business Central fields on the selected tables in Power BI (Check the “How to setup” instructions, for managing fields).

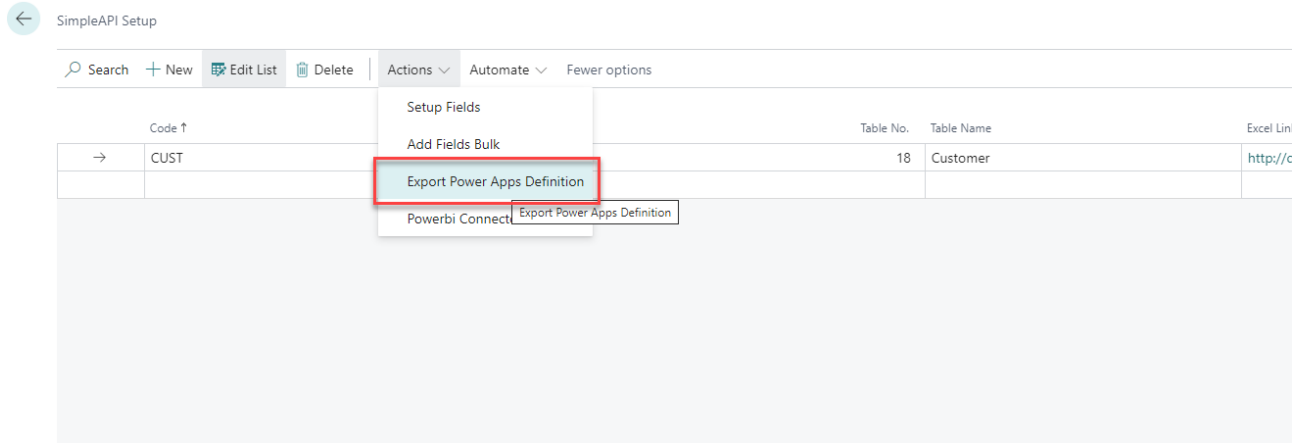


This concludes the setup instructions for the Power BI integration, from here it becomes a matter of using the data in Power BI.

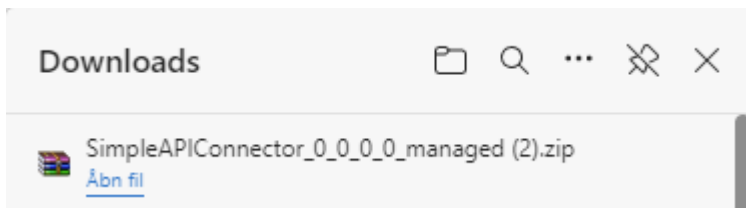
Power Platform Integration

SimpleAPI is also compatible with Power Apps, which allows the users to subtract data directly from Business Central and into their Power Apps. The instructions to setup this connection can be seen in the following pages:

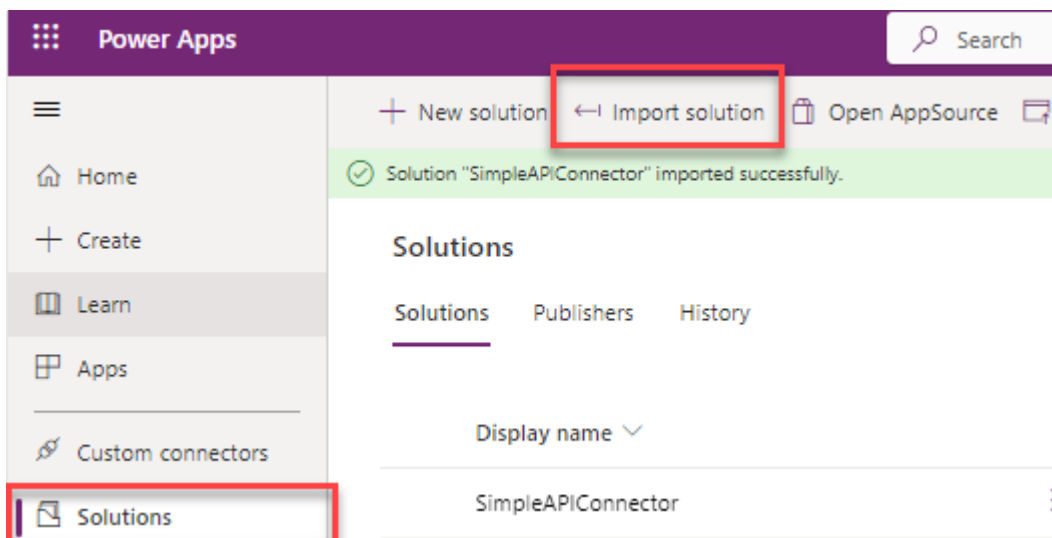
1. Go to the search bar in your Business central and search for “SimpleAPI Setup”.



2. Go to “More options” -> “Actions” -> “Export Power Apps Definition”.
3. This will start a download of a .zip file.



4. When the .zip file has been downloaded. Go to the Power Apps website.
5. Click on “Solutions” -> “Import solution” -> “Browse”.



6. Find and select the downloaded file you just downloaded.

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Import a solution

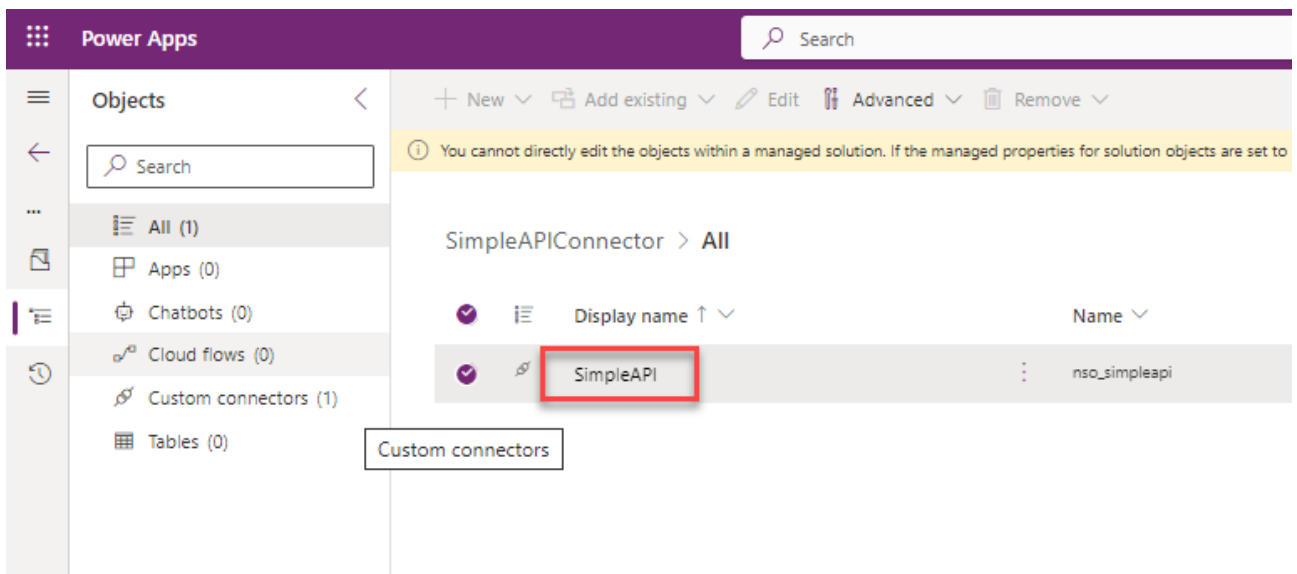
Environment
KS Dev Env

Select a file

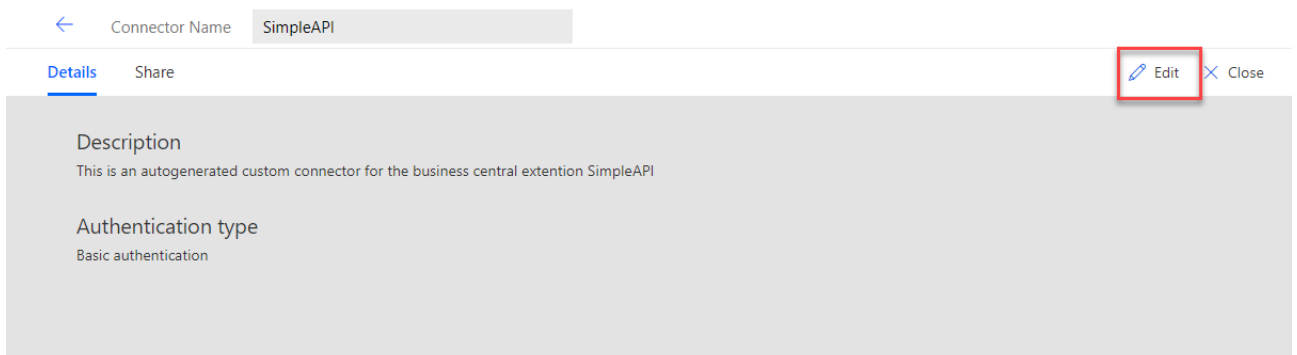
Browse for the solution file to import.



7. Click on "Next".
8. Click on "Import".
9. Find the SimpleAPIConnector in your list of solutions.
10. Click on the name of the app (Under Display name).
11. Inside the solution, click on the name once again.



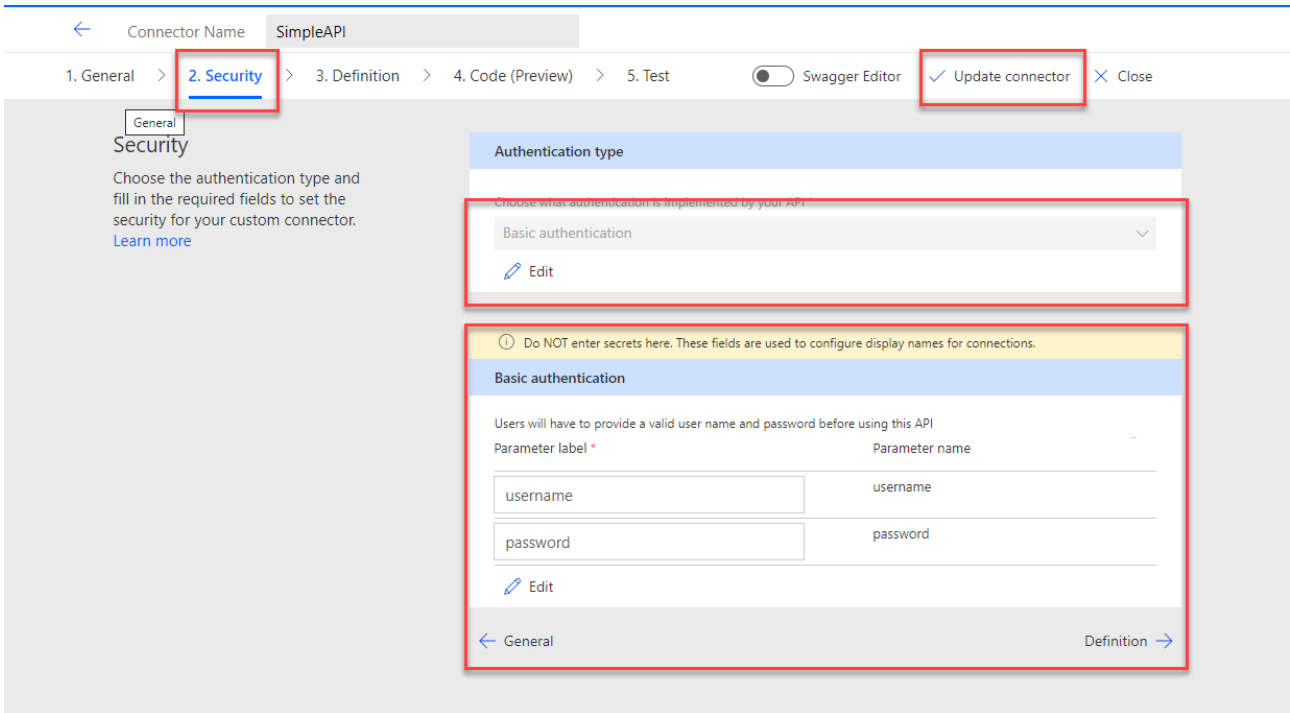
12. Once the App is opened in Power Automate, click on the "Edit" the connector.



13. Go to the page called "2. Security"
14. Fill in the Security tab with the Basic authentication or OAuth 2.0.

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15. Finally click on the “Update Connector” button top update the Connector.
16. From here the connector is ready to use.













Note: This connector will change when the setup in BC is changed and this flow needs repeating for the connector to be current.


OpenAPI Definition Export

If the intent is to use the app as a general integration tool, an OpenAPI Definition can be exported from the SimpleAPI Field Setup. The OpenAPI Definition is a standard format for use in programs, for example Postman.

1. Open the search bar in Business Central and search for "SimpleAPI Setup".
2. Select the line you are using.
3. Click on "Actions" -> "Setup Fields".
4. In the new window click on "Export OpenAPI Definition".

SimpleAPI Field Setup ✓ Saved  

 Search + New  Edit List  Delete  Add Fields Bulk  Export OpenAPI Definition ...   

	Field No. ↑		Field Name	Field Filter	Primary Key Increment	Read Only	Overwrite Name
→	1		No.			<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. This will start the download of the .json file.