ND SPUG 365
Schedule of Events
October 10, 2024

Time	Event			
8:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast / Welcome Reception			
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome / Opening Remarks			
8:45 – 9:15	Session 1.1: User Stories **Chaos to Order: A Customized Approach to Facility Management** Chip Bartunek, High Point Networks			
9:15-9:50	Session 1.2: User Stories **Building Solutions Faster: The Power Platform's Role in Citizen Development** Steve Thompson, TL of AI and Automation at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota			
9:50-10:00	Break			
10:00 – 11:00	Session 2.0: Facilitated Roundtables Select your preferred topic in advance (QR code in descriptions)			
11:00 – 11:30	Session 3.0 **Preparing our Data and Information for the Age of AI** Tony Ambrose, Nexus Innovations			
11:30 – 12:15 pm	Lunch Taco Bar or Sandwich Bar			
	A Track	**B Track**	**C Track**	**D Track**
12:15 – 1:15	Session 4A: New & Upcoming Features: SharePoint Modern	Session 4B: Fun With Microsoft CoPilot	Session 4/5C: Elevating your Canvas Power Apps & Power Automate solutions: Advanced Techniques and Patterns for Developers	Session 4D Building the Foundation: Power BI Structure and Setup
1:15 – 1:25	Break			Break
1:25 – 2:25	Session 5A: Tailoring Microsoft Search to your Organization	Session 5B: When to Use What: Communication and Collaboration Tools		Session 5D Designing Impactful Power BI Reports
2:25 – 2:35	Break			
2:35 – 3:35	Session 6A: Hidden Gems in Dataverse / Model Driven Apps	Session 6B: Viva?	Session 6C: Document & Information Management	Session 6D: Factors for Project Success
3:40 – 4:00	Session 7: Closing Thoughts + Door Prizes			

Session Descriptions

Session	Title	Technologies	Session Description
1.1	**User Story: Chaos to Order: A customized approach to Facility Management**	SharePoint, Canvas Power Apps, Power Automate	Guest presenter Chip Bartunek from High Point Networks will share their vision to bring order to the chaos around facility related data, how this has benefited their team, and what enhancements they are dreaming up for the future.
1.2	**User Story: Building Solutions Faster: The Power Platform's Role in Citizen Development**	Power Platform	Guest presenter Steve Thompson, the Team Lead of AI and Automation at Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, will share about their journey to launching citizen development in Microsoft's Power Platform to build solutions faster.
2.0	**Facilitated Roundtables**	Microsoft 365	Roundtables are topically focused with a facilitator for each. This is an opportunity for networking and sharing between attendees. Each attendee should consider what topic they want to attend using the QR code. Your selection will be used to ensure each topic has the right facility space for the number of attendees. Use the breakout roundtable topic map on last page to help you find your session (numbers will correspond to topics)
3.0	**Preparing our Data and Information for the Age of AI**	AI	In this session, we'll discuss the need to effectively configure, manage, and prepare your data for the AI-driven future. We'll explore best practices and strategies for managing data within Microsoft 365 and Power Platform tools, including SharePoint, Teams, and Power BI, to best leverage AI capabilities to drive better decision-making and business outcomes.
4A	**New Features: SharePoint Modern**	SharePoint	SharePoint online is continually being updated. Join this session to learn more about the latest features, their benefits and drawbacks, and what is up and coming on the horizon. You will see some of the features in action and have an opportunity ask questions.
4B	**Fun With Microsoft CoPilot**	CoPilot	In this session, we will explore some of the growing number of CoPilots that can assist us across the Microsoft 365, Power Platform, Power BI, and Visual Studio platforms. We will see some of these tools in action and have some lively discussion on how this new technology impacts both our digital worlds and our organizations.
4C / 5C	**Elevating your Canvas Power Apps & Power Automate solutions: Advanced Techniques and Patterns for Developers**	Canvas Power Apps, Power Automate	This in-depth, 2-part session will help intermediate to advanced users leverage the full potential of Microsoft Canvas Power Apps and Power Automate to create powerful, efficient, and scalable solutions. Solutions in this session will focus on leveraging SharePoint as their primary data source. This session covers critical techniques such as working within Power Platform Solutions, leveraging environment variables in Canvas Apps, avoiding delegation issues while performing advanced search and filtering by returning data from Power Automate into Power Apps using JSON, optimizing app performance with Canvas App formulas, and creating reusable components for scalable solutions. We will also dive into best practices for designing more effective workflows and automations, plus tips that come from hands-on experience with 100+ apps and hundreds of workflows. Whether you are looking to refine your Power Platform skills or push your solutions to the next level, this session is packed with insights, demos, and walk-throughs to enhance your Power Apps and Power Automate expertise.
4D	**Building the Foundation: Power BI Structure and Setup**	Power BI	Dive into the essentials of Power BI with our focused workshop on structure and setup. This session is designed for beginners and intermediate users who want to establish a solid foundation for their Power BI projects. • **Workspace Configuration:** Understand how to set up and organize your Power BI workspace for optimal efficiency and collaboration. • **Data Integration:** Learn the best practices for connecting and integrating various data sources into Power BI. • **Data Modeling:** Explore techniques for structuring your data models to ensure accuracy and performance. • **Report Structuring:** Discover how to effectively structure your reports to enhance readability and user experience. • **Security and Governance:** Gain insights into managing data security and governance within Power BI to protect your data and comply with organizational policies.

5A	**Tailoring Microsoft Search to your Organization**	M365 Search	Microsoft 365 Search helps users find the right answers, people, and content across an organization. In this session, we will explore how you can leverage the features available in M365 Search to gain insights around what users are searching for and the options available to tailor the results to the needs of your organization. Key takeaways from this session will include: 1) How to Plan your content and provide answers 2) High level options available to integrate additional/third-party data into your results 3) Options to customize and configure M365 search to provide more meaningful results.
5B	**When to Use What: Communication and Collaboration Tools**	SharePoint Teams OneDrive Viva Engage Viva Connections	When do I use SharePoint versus Teams versus OneDrive? Many ask this question as they wrestle with understanding which tools seem to fit the business need when it comes to collaboration and communication. During this session we will share tips for evaluating, planning, and organizing documents as well as considerations for effective collaboration and communication. By the end of this session, you will have a better understanding of which collaboration tool is the right one for your business needs.
5D	**Designing Impactful Power BI Reports**	Power BI	Unlock the full potential of your data with our Power BI report session. Use features in Power BI desktop create visually stunning, insightful, and actionable Power BI reports. • **Design Principles:** Understand the core principles of effective report design, including simplicity, clarity, and user-centric layouts. • **Data Visualization Techniques:** Learn how to choose the right visuals to represent your data accurately and compellingly. • **Storytelling with Data:** Discover how to weave narratives into your reports to make data more relatable and impactful. Learn techniques to transform raw data into compelling stories that resonate with your audience. • **Best Practices:** Discover best practices for organizing and presenting data to ensure your reports are both informative and engaging. • **Hands-On Experience:** Gain practical experience through hands-on exercises, allowing you to apply what you've learned in real-time. • **Advanced Features:** Explore advanced Power BI features and customization options to enhance your reports' functionality and aesthetics.
6A	**Hidden Gems in Dataverse / Model Driven Apps**	Model-Driven Power Apps, Dataverse	In this session, we will explore some of the "hidden gem" features of Dataverse / Model-Driven Power Apps, including Business Process Flows, SharePoint integration, and Outlook integration. We will discuss what these features are and generate / prototype some ideas of how/when to best leverage them.
6B	**Viva?**	Viva	Welcome to the world of Microsoft Viva one of the most talked about yet misunderstood offerings from Microsoft 365. In this session we will discuss what Viva is and is not, the core solution areas it focuses on, and the applications available to your organization. Key takeaways from this session will include: 1) High level understanding of the Viva offerings and what they provide 2) Licensing considerations.
6C	**Document & Information Management**	SharePoint	Managing information and documents seems straightforward until you really dive into it. It is less about the technology and more about understanding the process and end user needs to ensure people can quickly and easily find and use documents and information. In this session, we will discuss our approach to planning the storage, retrieval, control, retention, and disposition of documents and the key ingredients to ensure a successful planning and implementation of a document management system.
6D	**Factors for Project Success**	Leadership, Project Management	While trust is the foundational factor for successful projects, there are many other factors that contribute to that success. What are those factors? Discover the importance of strategic communication that builds trust and bridges change, find ways to bring ownership with empowerment for each team member, and implement processes that prepare and equip for projects that bring transformation to an organization.