



New Access Features and UI Tips/Tricks

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<https://isladogs.co.uk>

Wed 1 July 2026



<https://isladogs.co.uk/aeu-53>

<https://accessusergroups.org/europe/event/access-europe-2026-07-01>



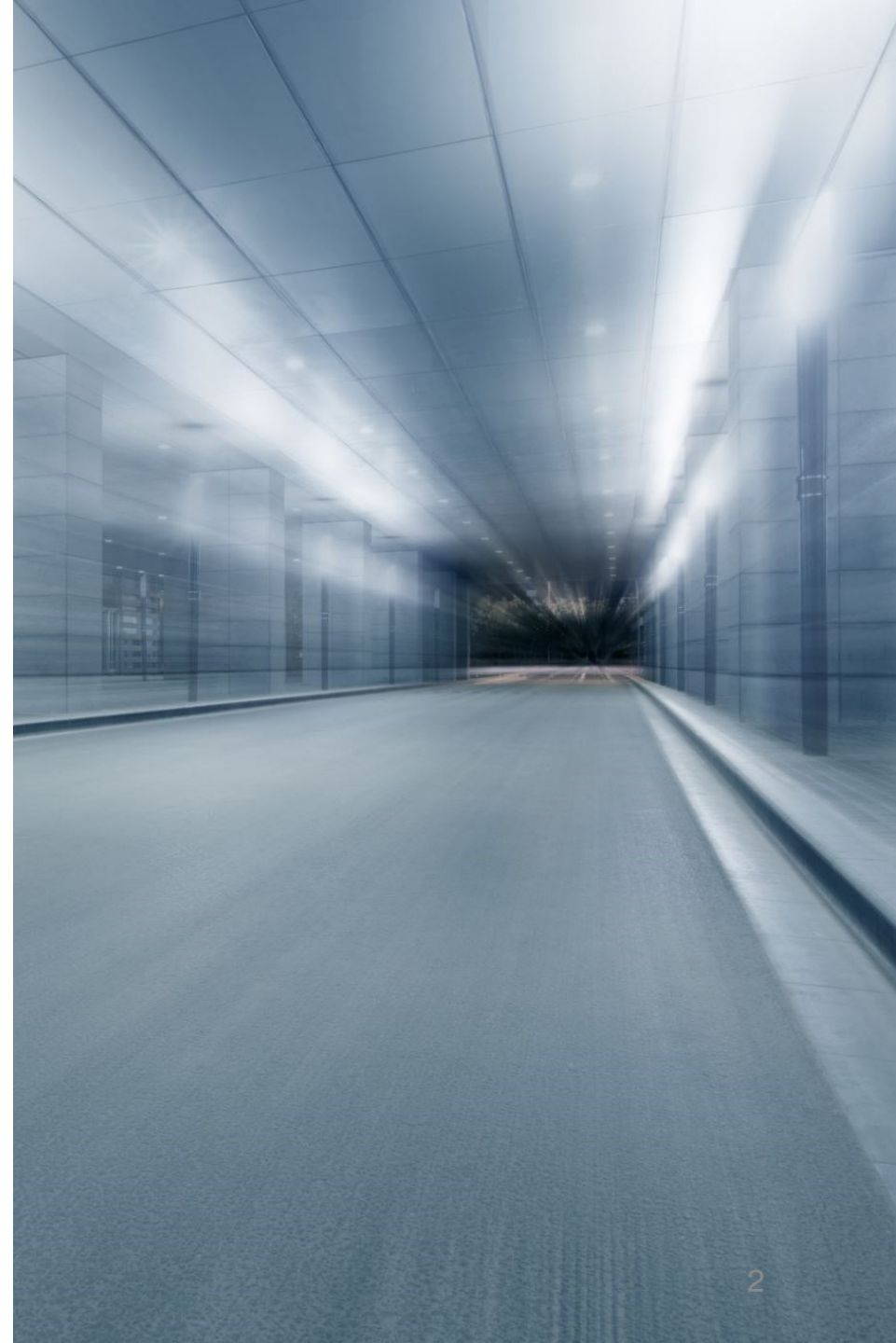
New Access Features

Access is alive and kicking . . .

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Access Europe User Group

Wed 1 July 2026



New SysCmd Actions

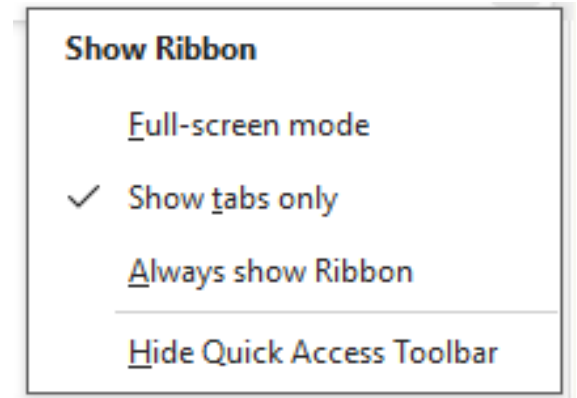
- Access 365 / 2024 / 2021 / 2019 / 2016
- Version 2604 onwards ...
- SysCmd 720 to 725 – use to obtain version info

```
?SysCmd(acSysCmdGetFullVersion)  
Microsoft Access (Version 2607) Build 16.0.20218.20000 Beta Channel 64-bit  
  
?SysCmd(720)  
Microsoft Access (Version 2607) Build 16.0.20218.20000 Beta Channel 64-bit
```

- <https://isladogs.co.uk/sys-cmd-actions>

Full Screen Mode

- Access 365 Version 2604 onwards . . .
- Ribbon and status bar removed
- Maximize available screen space for apps
- Useful for presentations

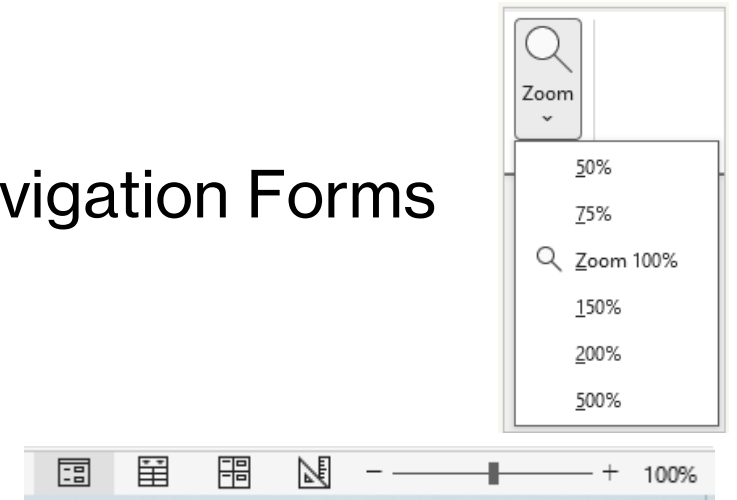


- <https://isladogs.co.uk/full-screen-mode>



Zooming in Forms - 1

- Access 365 only
- Stage 1 Version 2605 onwards . . .
- Now in Current Channel
- Datasheets / Single Forms / Split Forms / Navigation Forms
- Zoom range 50% to 500%
- Ribbon dropdown
- Zoom Slider
- Keyboard shortcuts
- Ctrl+Mousewheel



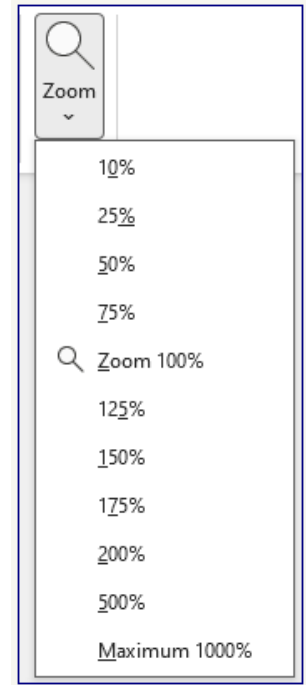
- <https://isladogs.co.uk/zoom-feature-enabled>

Zooming in Forms / Reports – 2

- Stage 2 Version 2607
- Beta and Current Channel Preview
- Continuous Forms / Popup Forms
- Report View
- Zoom Range extended : 10% to 1000%
- Control Tips now zoom
- VBA support

```
Me.Properties("Zoom") = 150
```

- <https://isladogs.co.uk/zoom-feature-2>



AFR



Zoom Tests



Word Cloud Chart

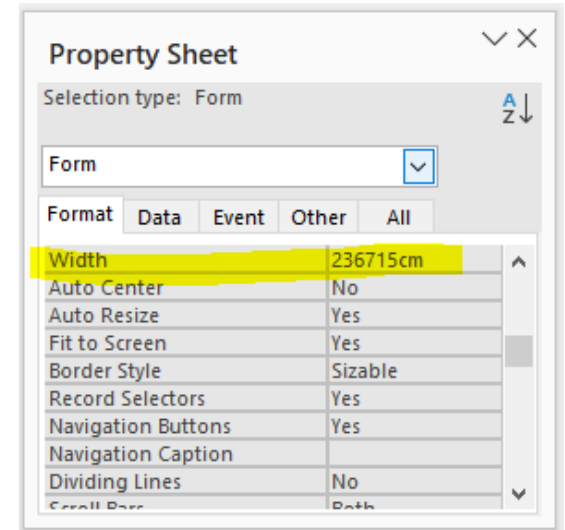
Big Forms and Reports

- Access 365 Version 2607
- Beta and Current Channel Preview
- 22-inch limit removed
- New width / height limits approximately
 - 93,195 inches (1.47 miles)
 - 236,715 cm (2.36 km)
- VBA Support

```
'Set form width in twips (1440 twips = 1 inch, 567 twips = 1cm)
Me.Properties("WidthNew") = 110000

'Set control widths to stretch across form
Me.Chart0.Properties("WidthNew") = 109000
```

- <https://isladogs.co.uk/big-forms-reports>



Big forms



Big charts

Cascading Combos and Listboxes

- Beta Channel – 30 June 2026
- New properties – LinkMasterFields / LinkChildFields
e.g. cboCountry & CountryID
- Child combo list filters to parent value
- Works with bound or unbound controls
- Works in Single, Continuous and Datasheet forms
- Multi-field links supported (separated by semicolons)
e.g. cboCountry;cboRegion and CountryID;RegionID



Cascade Test



Postcode Builder

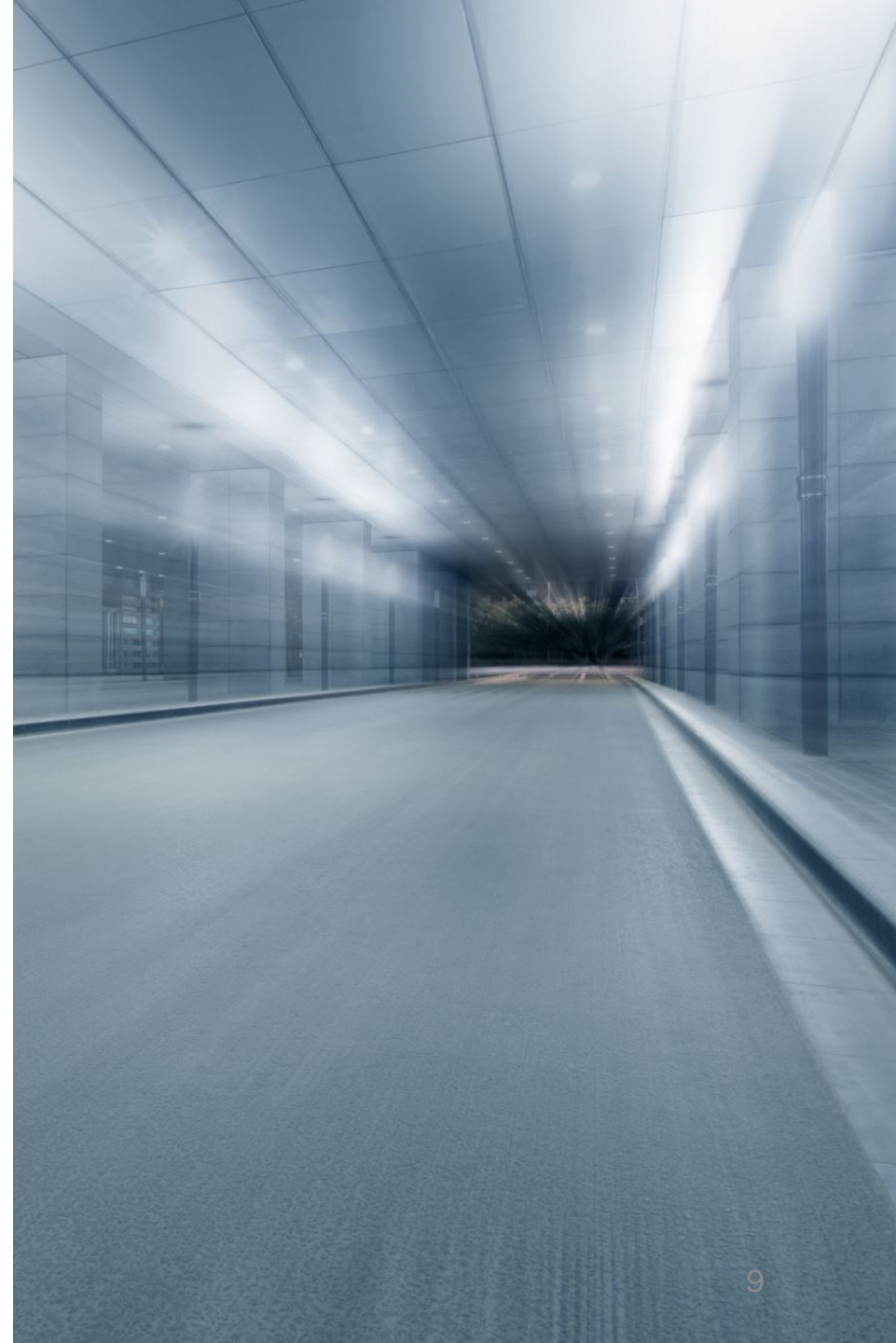
Upcoming Access Features

More still to come . . .

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Zooming in Forms / Reports - 3

- Stage 3 - Date TBC
- Design View
- Layout View
- Full VBA Support
- Various feature requests may be added
 - Right click context menu zoom?
 - Form dimensions also zoomed?
 - Zoom to fit window option?
 - Zoom by dragging border?
 - On Zoom event?

Rounded Control Corners

- Beta Channel Aug 2026?

Feature: CornerRadius

Rounded corners on form controls

- New CornerRadius property on textboxes, combos, list boxes, option groups, rectangles
- Set in property sheet or VBA:
`Me.TextBox1.Properties("CornerRadius") = 8`
- Works in Form View, Design View, Print Preview
- Combo dropdown button rounds to match
- Overrides all appearance styles when set



CornerRadius = 0



CornerRadius = 12

Slide from Access Team Presentation at Access DevCon – Apr 2026

New Date Time Picker

- Release Date TBC

Feature: Date Picker

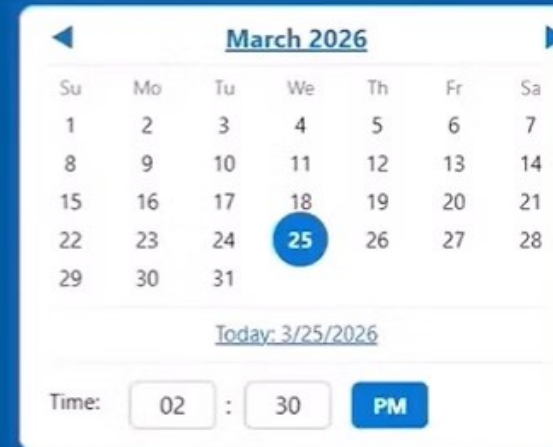
Custom GDI+ calendar replacing MSO picker

What's new:

- Month/year selector
- "Today" link
- Full keyboard navigation
- Time picker for Date/Time fields
- Week numbers
- Narrator support
- Smooth month transitions
- Rounded corners

Next:

- Min/max date constraints
- Year navigation



Slide from Access Team Presentation at Access DevCon – Apr 2026



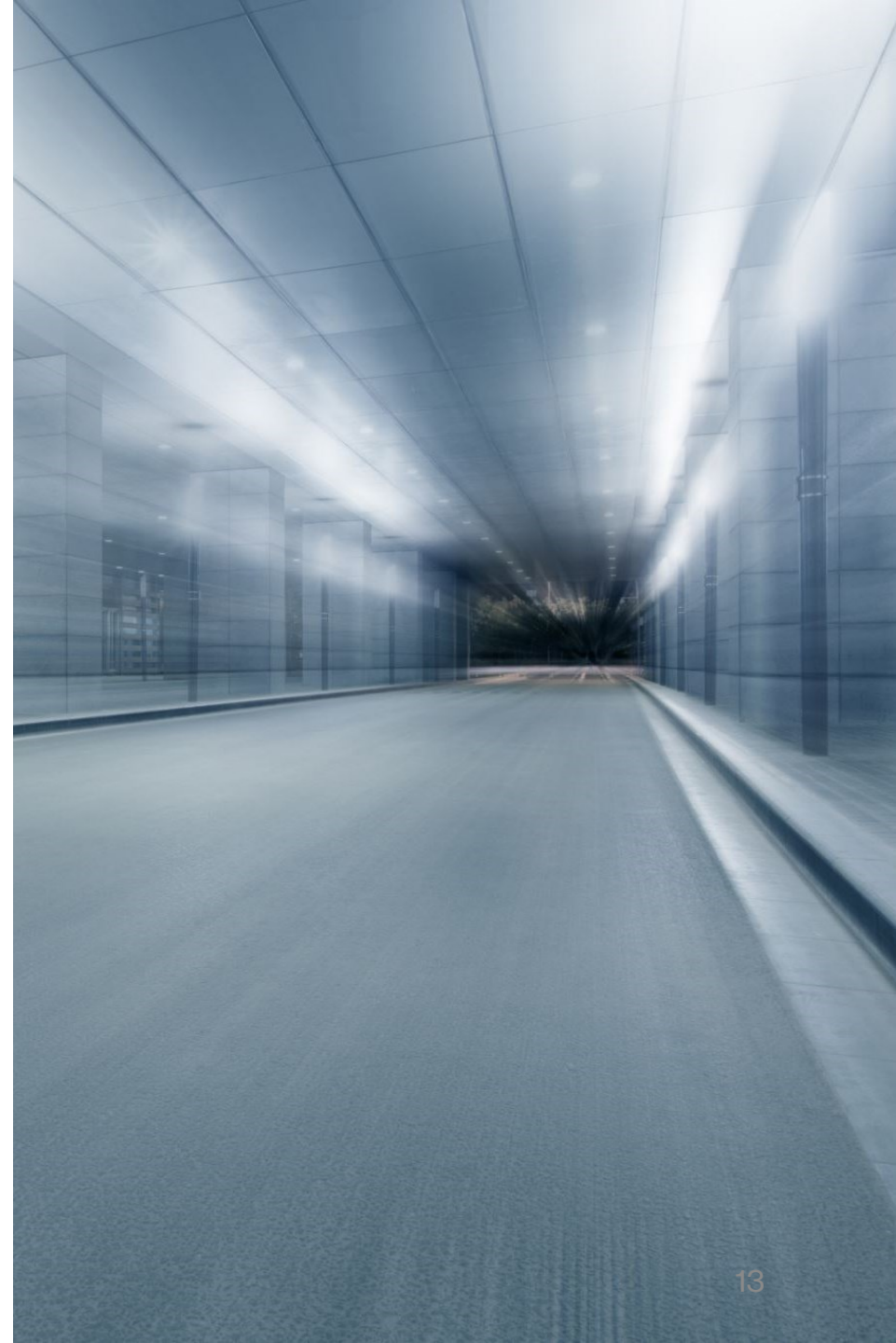
UI Tips and Tricks

Add a little magic to your applications

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Wed 1 July 2026



Theme Aware Forms

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



Office Theme

Personalised Popup Forms

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



Popup Form Positioning

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



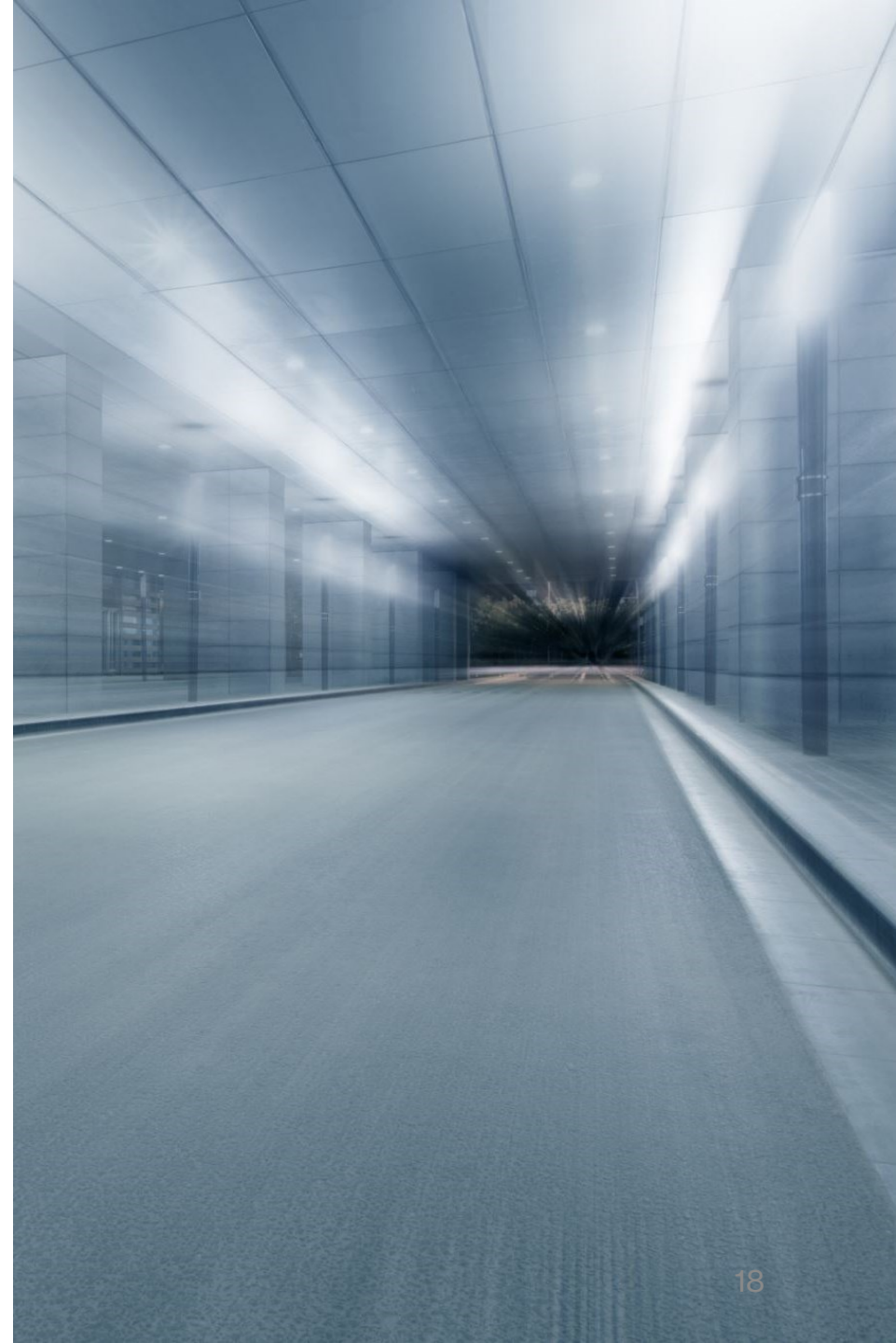
Fluent UI Message Boxes with Timeout

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



MsgBox Timeout

Questions?



Current Channel or Preview?

- Current Channel also subject to experimentation
- ‘Selected’ Current Channel users may receive Preview builds
- MS article: [Feature and update validation in the Microsoft 365 Apps channels](#)
- My article: [CCP or not CCP? That is the Question!](#)
- Karl’s article: [Guinea Pigs on the Current Channel](#)
- **RECOMMENDED ACTION**
- Move users to the Monthly Enterprise Channel