# R.I.P. InfoPath: 2003 – 2014

Forms are important.

Forms are used for nearly all end user data input.  We use forms for capturing vacation requests, timesheet entries, sign-ups, opt-ins, opt-outs, registrations, feedback, comments, reviews, ideas, expenses, help desk information, contacts, applications, speaker submissions, polls, tickets, tasks, and just about anything that requires user input.

You name it, and chances are a form is used to capture the information.

## Why is creating a SharePoint Form something we needed InfoPath for?

Why can't someone do this without being a code wiz?  Why do you need another tool like InfoPath, SharePoint Designer or Visual Studio?  And while we're asking tough questions, why would a code wiz not just write the code OUTSIDE of InfoPath to begin with?

It's such an innocent request.   "Hey SharePoint-person, we need a form that captures (insert field names here), and we need it yesterday."

We needed a way to create SharePoint forms quickly and easily.  It needed to be as easy as adding a Web Part to a page.   We wanted it to automate business processes using native SharePoint workflows.  We wanted it to post data to a SharePoint list, and we wanted it to send a custom email and land the user on a pre-determined landing page, like a "Step 2 of 3" or "Thank You" page.

We wanted to be able to teach someone how to use it in a few minutes.  We wanted anyone to be able to create beautiful forms.

We wanted to be free of yet another large investment in something that SharePoint already does (read workflows) natively just to get forms.

Simplicity is imperative.  We needed a bullet-proof form solution and we needed it to protect users from themselves.

Each custom form needed slightly different things, like a custom Thank You Message or email, a specific Landing Page, different submit/cancel buttons or URL parameters to pass to the personalized Landing Page.

We needed things like:

- Pre-Populated Forms that trigger native SharePoint workflows.
- Auto email form submissions.
- Forms with 1,2,3 or 4 columns – full control of form layout.
- Form Builder Interface – improved interface for building your forms.
- Hidden Form Fields – pass hidden form fields with your form submissions.
- Default Form Field Values – easily set the default values of form fields.
- Rapid Form Building (read: it takes minutes to stand up a new form).

# The death of Microsoft InfoPath will seem tragic to some... but our customers are guzzling champagne at its funeral!

Which is why everyone who attended the #SPC14 session on forms **are frantically downloading our free trial**.

<u>And with no clear vision for an InfoPath replacement, anyone looking to build SharePoint forms would be wise to do the same.</u>

So if you're truly interested in a no-code SharePoint forms solution, <u>download the Smart Forms Module Free Trial</u>.



**P.S.** It sounds crazy—but over the past several years most of our customers are InfoPath refugees which have found safe haven in our Smart Forms Module web part.

This was happening years before the official announcement that InfoPath is going away.

Why?

Because building beautiful SharePoint forms should be easy.