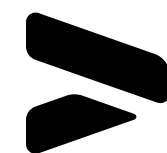# Power BI Storage & Connection Modes
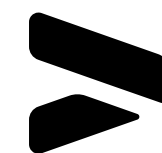
Storage & Connection Mode

Several types of storage & Connection Modes:

Import : tables are stored in-memory within Power BI and queries are fulfilled by cached data(Default)

Direct Query – Tables are connected directly to the source and queries are executed on-demand at the data source

Composite model(Dual) – Tables comes from a mix of import and DirectQuery modes, or integrate multiple DirectQuery tables.

Live Connection – Connect to pre-published Power BI Datasets in Power BI service or Azure Analysis services

Storage & Connection Mode

Import:
➢ Dataset is less than 1GB & fast performance
➢ Source Data does not change frequently
➢ No restrictions on Power Query, Data Modelling and DAX functions

Direct Query:
➢ Dataset is too large to be stored in-memory
➢ Source Data changes frequently and reports must reflects changes
➢ Company policy states that data can only be accessed from original source

Composite model(Dual) :
➢ Boost Performance by setting appropriate storage for each table
➢ Combine direct query model with additional imported Data
➢ Create a single Model from two or more DirectQuery models.

Live Connection
➢ create one dataset that serves as a central source of truth
➢ Analyst teams can create different reports from the same source
➢ Multi-developer teams where one user builds the model and another works on visualization.