

How does Power BI handle large datasets in the Online Service, and what is the role of Premium Capacity in this?

Power BI Online uses **cloud-based storage and processing** to handle large datasets efficiently. However, dataset size and refresh frequency are **limited in Pro licenses**. **Premium Capacity** removes most of these limits — it provides **dedicated cloud resources**, allows **larger datasets (up to hundreds of GBs)**, **faster refresh rates**, and **advanced AI and governance features** for enterprise-scale analytics.

2. What are the differences between Import mode, DirectQuery, and Live Connection in Power BI Service?

Mode	Description	Pros	Cons
Import	Data is copied into Power BI.	Fast performance, offline use.	Dataset refresh needed, uses storage.
DirectQuery	Queries the source database live.	Real-time data access.	Slower, depends on source performance.
Live Connection	Connects directly to a pre-built model (e.g., SSAS, Power BI Dataset).	Centralized model, consistent data.	No local modeling or data transformation.

3. Explain deployment pipelines in Power BI Online. What stages do they include?

Deployment pipelines help manage **report lifecycle** from development to production. They include **three stages**:

- **Development (Dev)** – build and test reports.
- **Test** – validate and review results.
- **Production (Prod)** – publish final reports to end users.

This ensures **version control**, **quality checks**, and **smooth deployment** across environments.

4. How can Power BI Service integrate with Microsoft Teams or SharePoint for collaboration?

Power BI integrates seamlessly with both:

- In **Microsoft Teams**, users can **embed dashboards** or **chat about reports** directly within Teams channels.
 - In **SharePoint Online**, Power BI reports can be **embedded via the Power BI web part**, allowing viewers to interact with reports without leaving the site.
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5. What is the XMLA endpoint in Premium and how does it benefit developers or enterprise BI teams?

The **XMLA endpoint** allows **read/write access to Power BI datasets** using standard Analysis Services tools (like SSMS or Visual Studio).

It benefits developers by enabling:

- **Advanced modeling and automation.**
 - **Integration with enterprise BI tools.**
 - **Programmatic management** of datasets, roles, and refreshes.
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6. Describe how usage metrics and audit logs work in Power BI Service.

- **Usage metrics** provide insights into how often reports or dashboards are viewed and by whom — helping measure adoption.
 - **Audit logs** (available via Microsoft 365 compliance center) record detailed user actions such as sharing, exporting, or deleting — helping track governance and security compliance.
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7. How do you manage workspace access and permissions for different users?

In Power BI Service, workspace access is managed via **roles**:

- **Admin** – full control.
 - **Member** – edit and publish content.
 - **Contributor** – edit reports but not manage settings.
 - **Viewer** – view-only access.
- Permissions can also be managed through **Microsoft Entra ID (Azure AD)** groups for better control.
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8. How can data governance be enforced in Power BI Service?

Data governance is enforced through:

- **Sensitivity labels** (e.g., Confidential, Public).
 - **Row-Level Security (RLS).**
 - **Data lineage and impact analysis** tools.
 - **Audit logs and usage metrics.**
 - **Centralized datasets and workspace roles** for controlled access.
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9. What are the limitations of Row-Level Security when using DirectQuery or Live Connection?

- **Performance impact:** RLS filters are applied at query time, which can slow performance.
 - **Limited control:** In **Live Connection**, RLS must be defined at the **source model** (e.g., SSAS), not in Power BI.
 - **No cross-dataset RLS:** Can't apply RLS across multiple connected datasets.
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10. Explain how you can refresh a dataset via Power Automate or REST API.

- **Power Automate:** You can create a flow that uses the “**Refresh a dataset**” Power BI connector to trigger refreshes automatically (e.g., after data upload).
- **REST API:** Developers can call the **Power BI REST API (POST /refreshes)** endpoint to trigger a dataset refresh programmatically — useful for integration with other systems or scheduling custom workflows.