



# Microsoft Fabric – Tales from a CAT

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# Microsoft Fabric

The unified data platform for AI transformation



Data  
Factory



Analytics



Databases



Real-Time  
Intelligence



Power BI



AI



OneLake



Purview



# Microsoft Fabric

The unified data platform for AI transformation

Generally Available



Data  
Factory



Analytics



Databases



Real-Time  
Intelligence



Power BI



Industry  
Solutions



Partner  
Workloads



AI



OneLake



Purview



# Microsoft Fabric

The unified data platform for AI transformation

AI-powered data  
platform

Open and AI-ready  
data lake

AI-enabled  
business users

Mission-critical foundation

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Understood it's a young product**

# Fabric workloads are now generally available!

Activator

Announcements

Apache Spark

Data Factory

Data Science

Data Warehouse

Fabric platform

Lakehouse

OneLake



November 15, 2023 by [Ryan Majidimehr](#)

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[Microsoft Fabric is now generally available!](#) Fabric brings together the best of Microsoft Power BI, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Azure Data Factory into a single software as a service (SAAS) platform. Fabric provides multiple workloads purpose-built for specific personas and specific tasks. Keep reading to learn about all of Fabric's workloads!

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

# Defined Scope



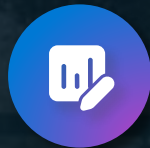
Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Understood it's a long term game**

# Expectations of data lakes



One place for an organization to land all data, structured and unstructured.



Break down data silos, making it easier to blend and analyze data together.



Simplify security, governance and data discovery enabling all user and applications to access the data they need.

# Companies need a unified platform for developing real-time data solutions

FROM

TO

Fragmented, fragile tech stack



One, unified SaaS solution

Advanced skillsets required



Accessible data and analytics tools

Faster batch data processing



Real-time event ingestion

Data silos, lack of governance

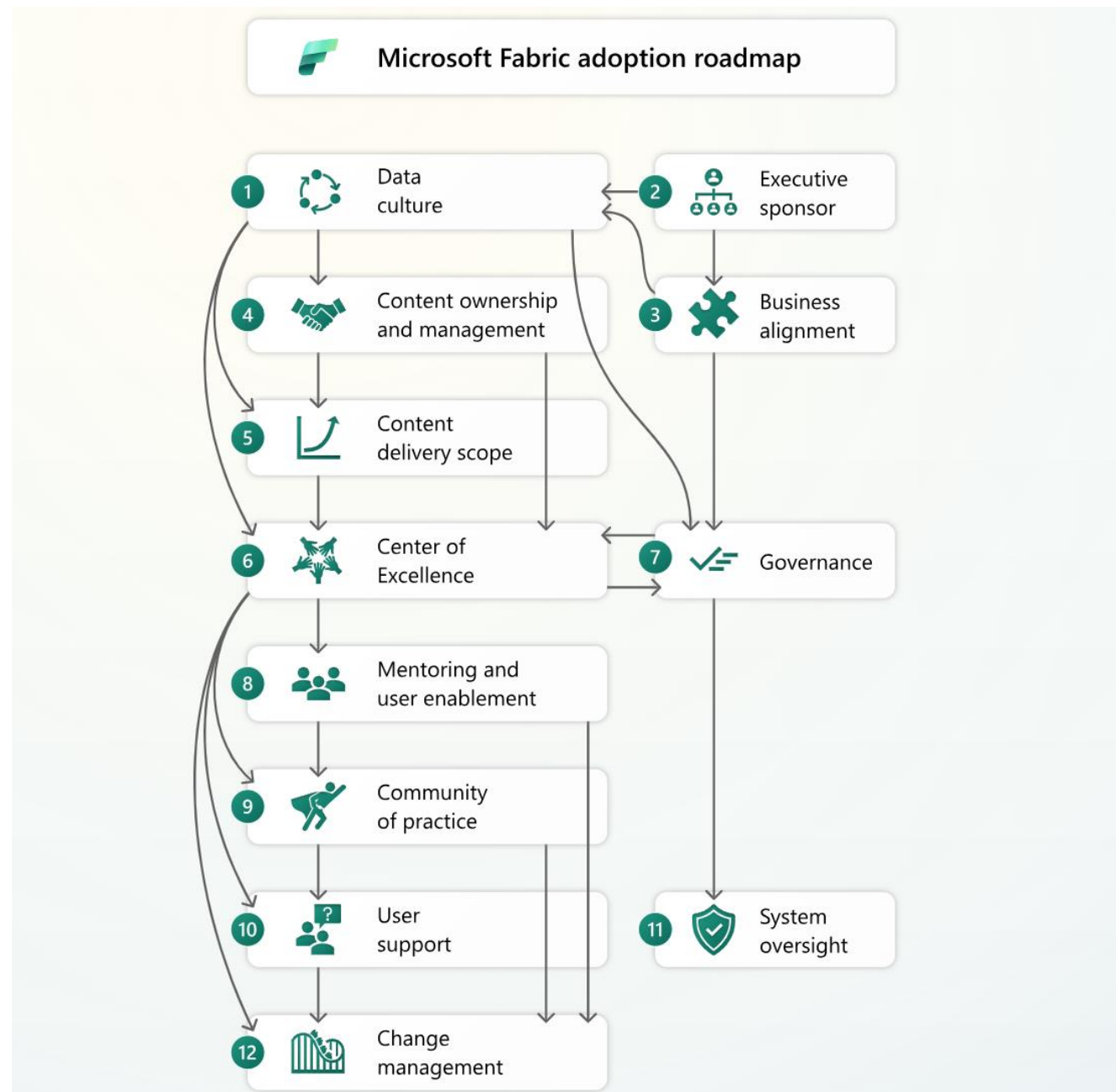


Unified single data estate

Hard to find unknown unknowns



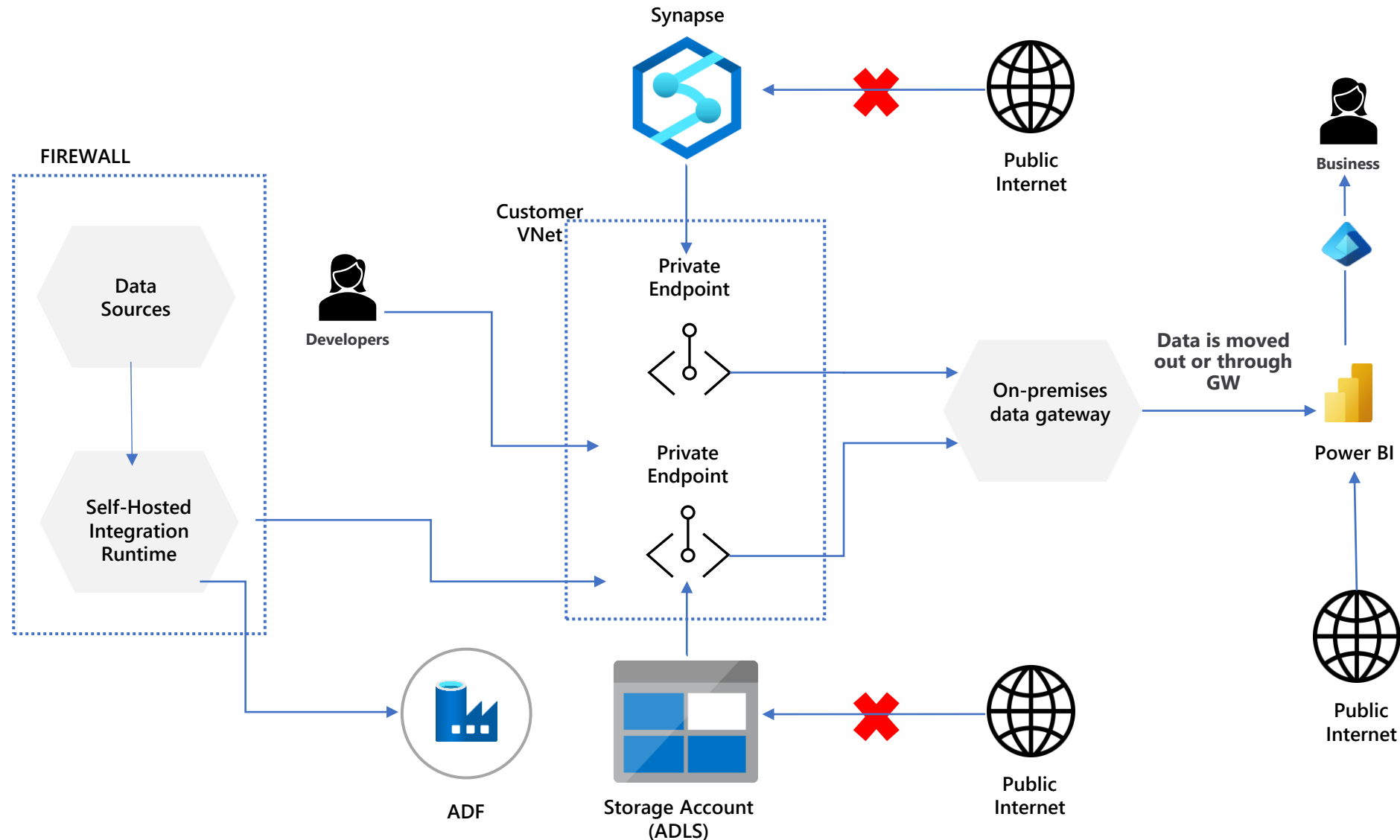
AI-powered insights and actions



Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Understood that SaaS is different**

# Existing PaaS World



PaaS services are disconnected from the Public internet.

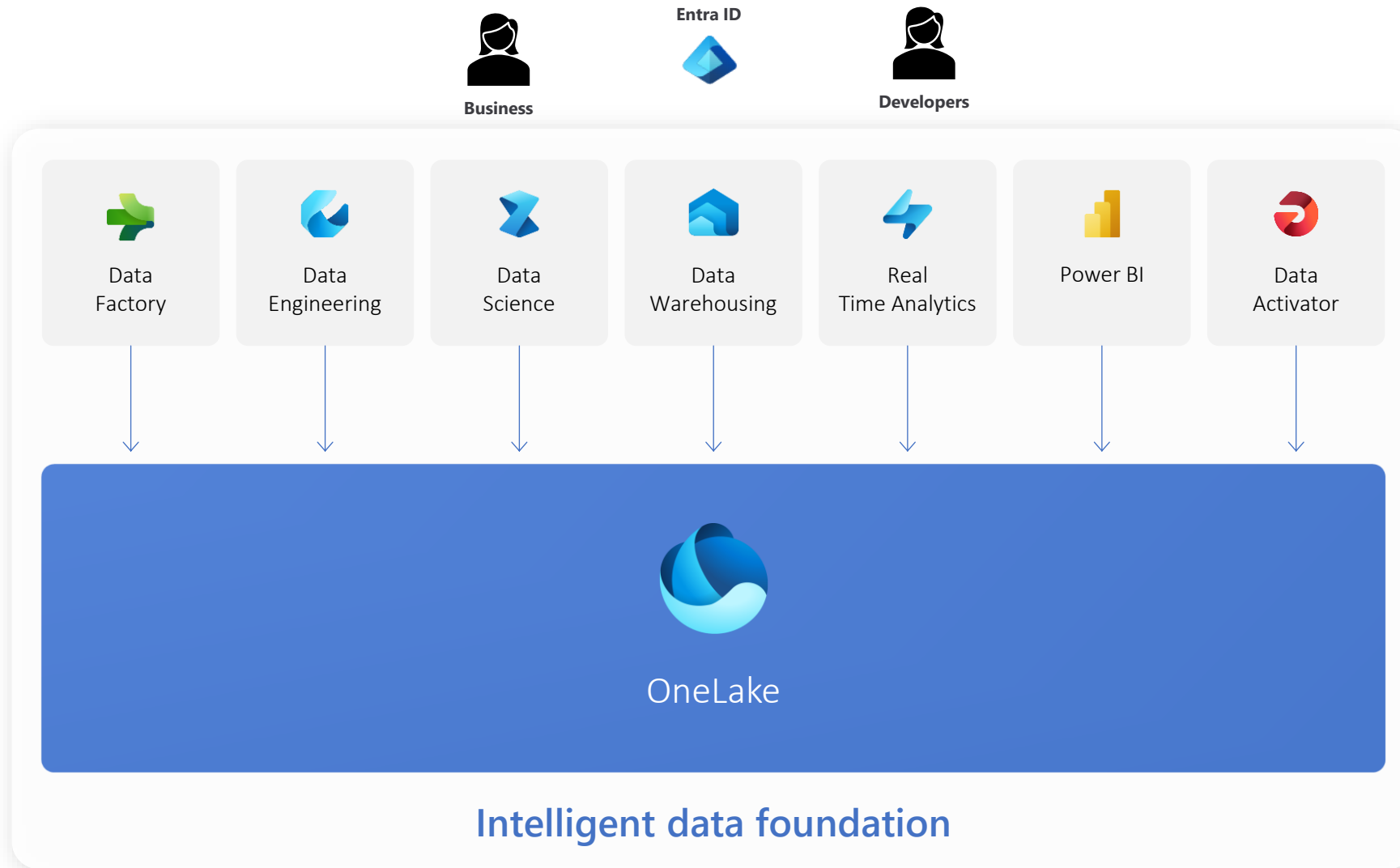
All communications between the services are configured to go through private endpoint

Developers connect to a VPN and connect to the backend services

Data sources are connected through the self-hosted runtime inside the firewall

When the CEO access the data in Power BI Report, the data is imported into Power BI or through the GW with DQ.

# Microsoft Fabric – SaaS World



Users connect to the SaaS service from global network

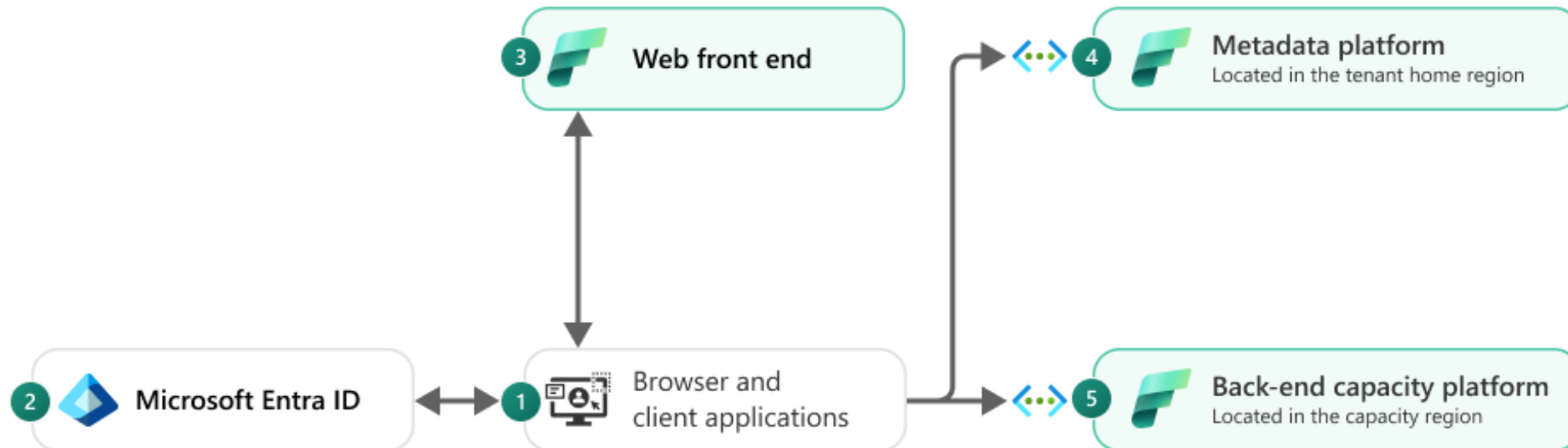
Endpoints and access are protected using Entra ID

All internal communications between the experiences happens through MS backbone network

When the CEO access the data in Power BI Report, the data is fetched directly from the OneLake instantly and securely without copying or moving

# Microsoft Fabric Architecture

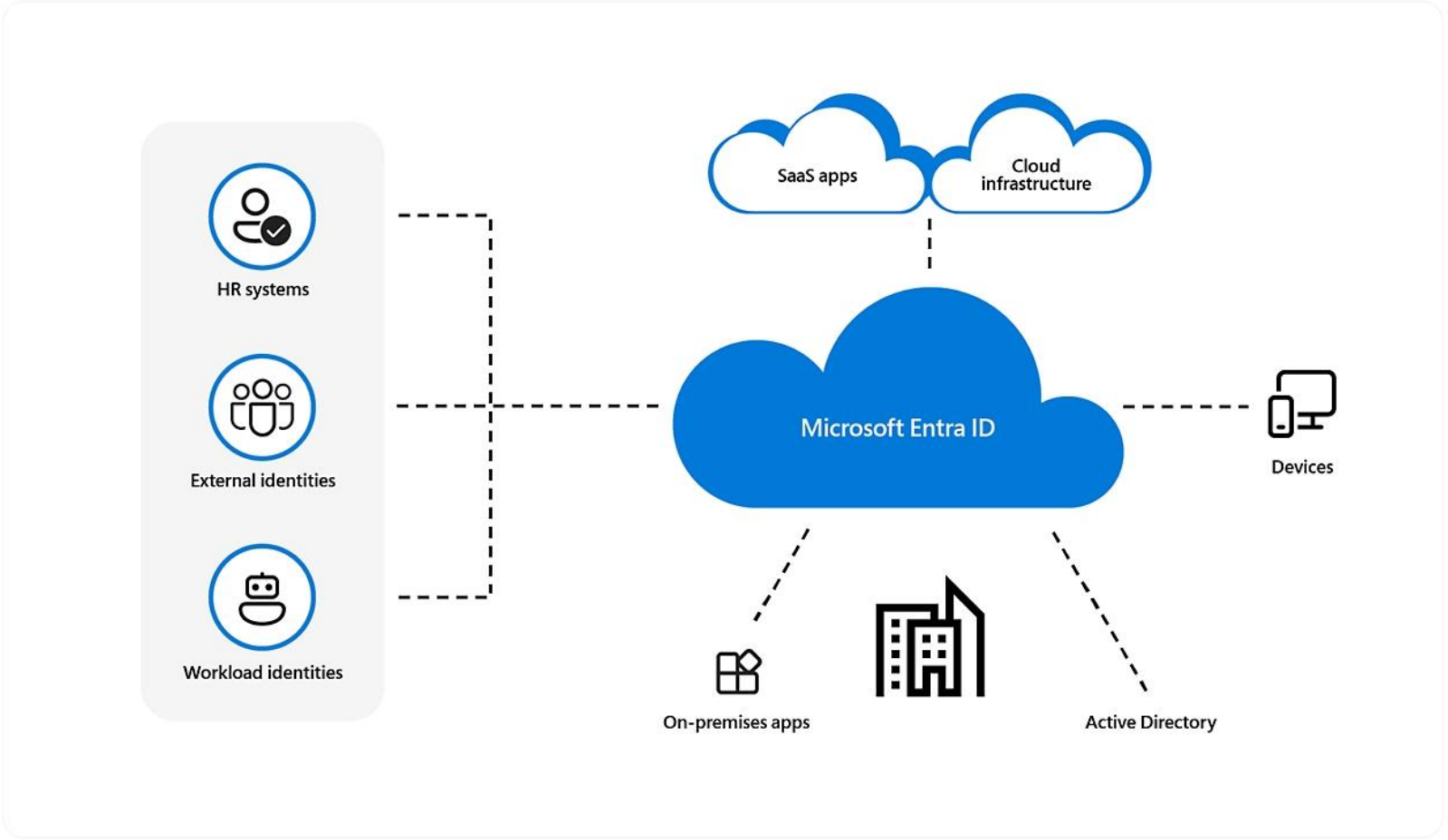
Fabric is built as a SaaS product.





# Authentication

Microsoft Entra ID at the hearth of your security



# Inbound protection options

Perimeter Network Security

Zero Trust Approach



Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

Understood that Capacities power  
*everything*

# Capacity Core Concepts

Scalable Compute Units

Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

**Capacity Unit Seconds (CUs)** “see-yews” are the base compute unit for all Capacities.

Multiple workloads can use the same capacity at the same time. No need to preallocate resources or provision different accounts.

The **more CUs are provisioned, the more load** the capacity can support.

SKU	CUs	CUs (per 30s)	Power BI SKU	Power BI V-cores
F2	2	60	-	0.25
F4	4	120	-	0.5
F8	8	240	A1	1
F16	16	480	A2	2
F32	32	960	A3	4
F64	64	1,920	P1	8
F128	128	3,840	P2	16
F256	256	7,680	P3	32
F512	512	15,360	P4	64
F1024	1,024	30,720	P5	128
F2048	2,048	61,440	-	256

# Capacity Core Concepts

Scalable Compute Units

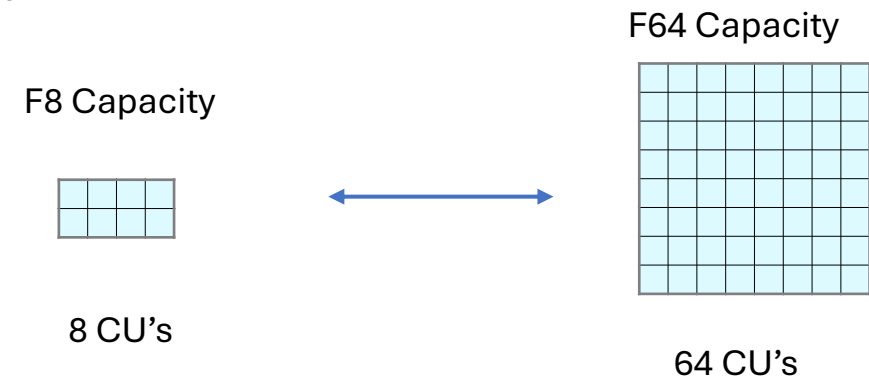
Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

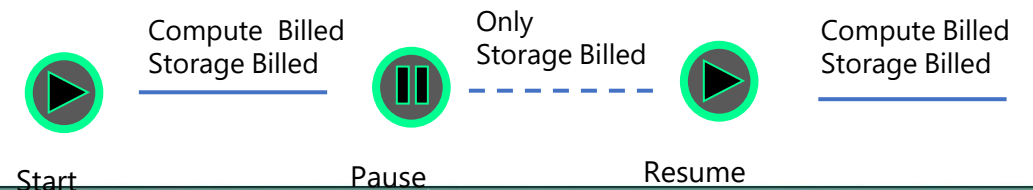
But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

New **Fabric SKUs** (F SKUs) enable **added flexibility**

**Resize** to increase or decrease the SKU to meet your compute needs.



**Pause and Resume the capacity**



# Capacity Core Concepts

Scalable Compute Units

Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

## Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

**Bursting** allows jobs to run at peak performance.

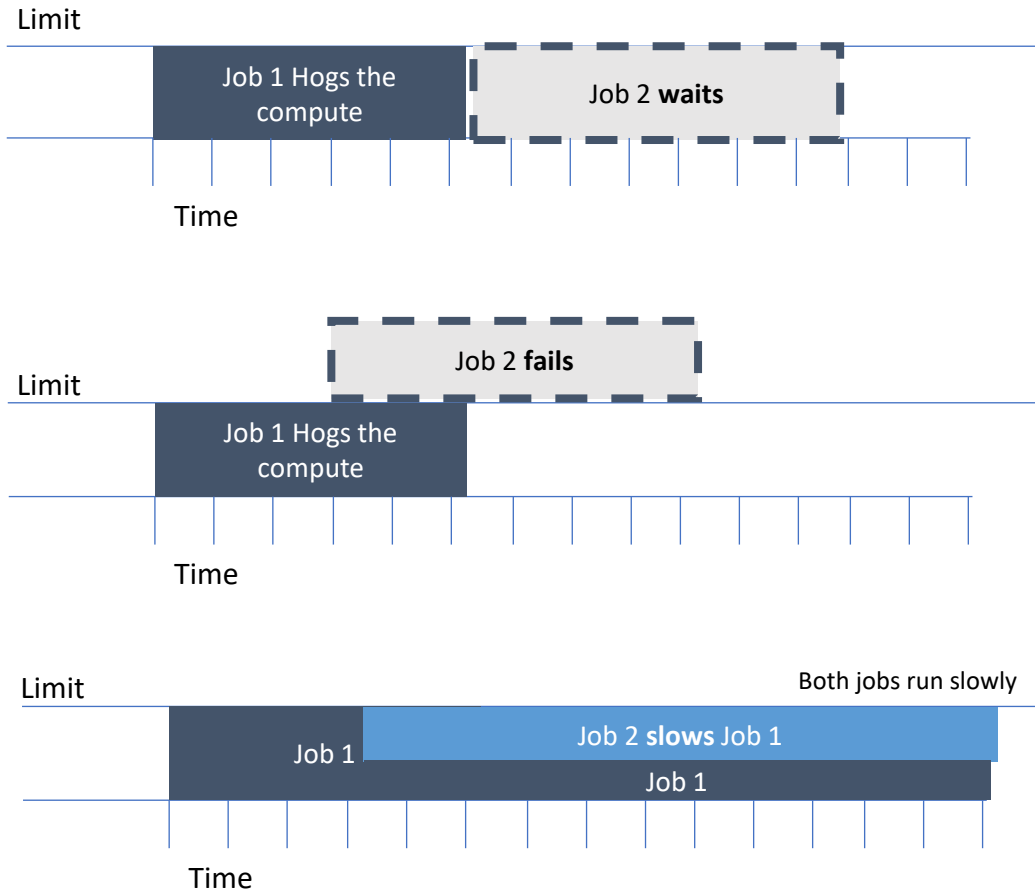
- Fewer delays reducing perception of slowness.
- Users are happier because jobs complete faster.

**Smoothing** reduces the impact of spikes in compute

- Pay for the compute from your future capacity
- No need to schedule jobs after another one finishes

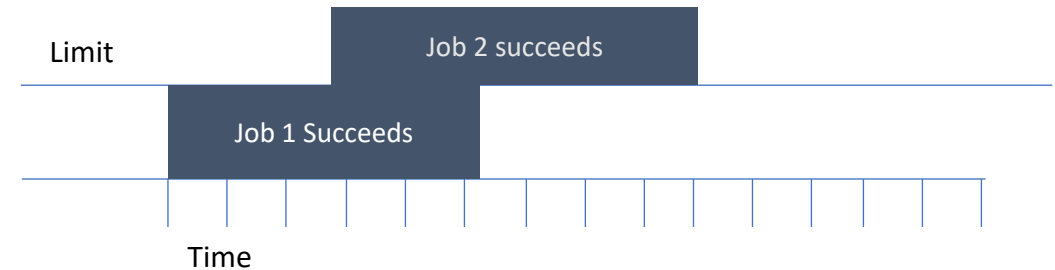
# Capacities are self-managing

**Traditional Systems** stay within a hard compute limit.

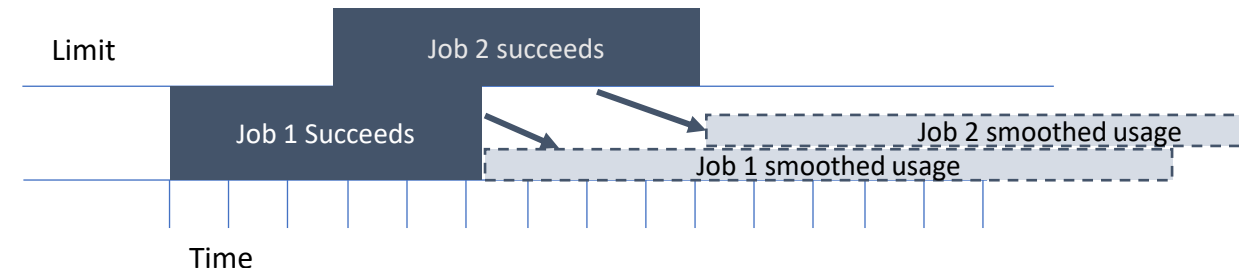


**Capacities use Bursting & Smoothing to solve these problems**

**Bursting** lets both jobs **succeed**, running at **peak performance** to finish fast.



**Smoothing** distributes the **cost** of jobs over a longer time-period preventing scheduling issues.



# Capacity Core Concepts

Scalable Compute Units

Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

## Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

**Smoothing** of compute cost depends on job type

- Interactive Jobs – up to ~1 hour
- Background Jobs – 24 hours

**Reduces the impact** of temporary spikes

- A single user running a big export won't block others
- A large batch jobs can run even during business hours

Works best when your capacity is not heavily utilized.



# Capacity Core Concepts

Scalable Compute Units

Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

Capacities offer **built-in resource governance**

- A **sustained overuse** will result in **throttling**.
- You won't use your monthly budget in a single day.
- Most capacities are “set and forget”

**How requests are affected by Capacity Throttling**

1. Interactive requests first are **delayed** and then are **rejected**
2. Background requests are **rejected**

When capacities throttle usage users will see the **CapacityLimitExceeded** error code in the detailed message.

Be aware that users may experience delays, slowness, or failures due to **workload limits**. These are unrelated to Capacity Throttling.

# Capacity Core Concepts

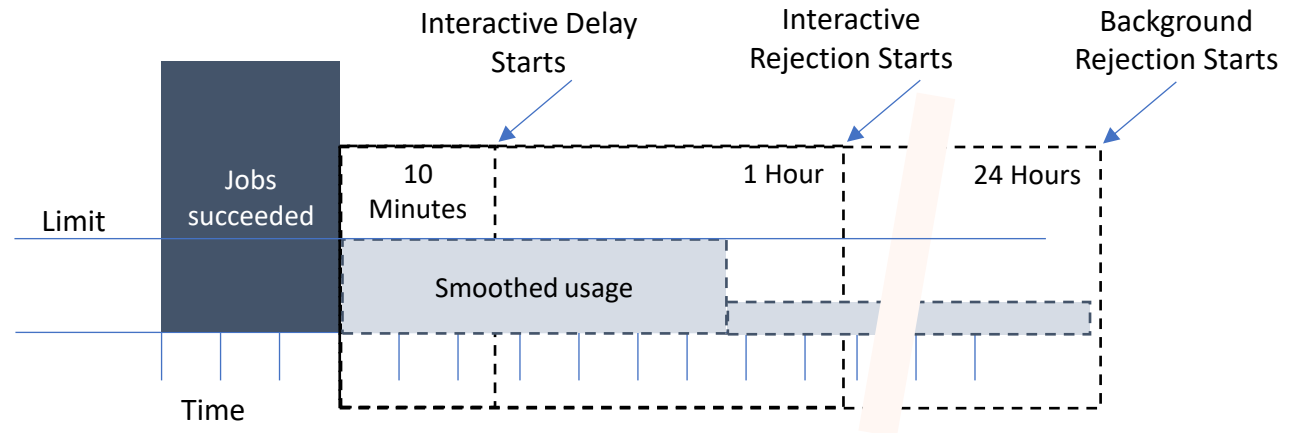
Scalable Compute Units

Resizable, Pausable

Self-Managing with Bursting and Smoothing

But as with any resource, you still can push them too far (Throttling)

When smoothed usage builds up too much, throttling is applied.



## Interactive Delays –

- Interactive requests will be delayed their start by 20 seconds.
- When smoothed usage exceeds 10 minutes of 100% CUs of the SKU.

## Interactive Rejections –

- Interactive requests fail.
- When smoothed usage exceeds 60 minutes of 100% CUs of the SKU.

## Background Rejections –

- All requests fail, including background requests.
- When smoothed usage exceeds 24 hours of 100% CUs of the SKU.

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Understood Microsoft Fabric has more to offer than just what we build ourselves**



# Industry Solutions



## Sustainability

ESG analysis,  
compliance

Build ESG data  
estate to meet  
requirements of  
regulations, analytics,  
reduction measures.

Generally Available



## Healthcare

Analytics to  
improve outcomes

Compare  
interventions and  
effects on outcomes;  
optimize targeted  
patient outreach.

Generally Available



## Retail

Insights and  
shopping experience

Understand 'bought  
together' insights,  
enable AI shopping  
assistant; Sitecore  
integration.

Preview

Generally Available

# Microsoft Fabric Workload Development kit

Seamless user  
experience

Discover and visualize  
insights in real-time

Automatically drive  
action from data

# Developer momentum

Microsoft Fabric Workload Development Kit

Public Preview



And many more!

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Realized the value of OneLake**



# OneLake

A single data lake for the entire organization

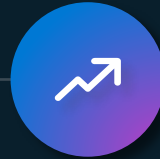


## Unified data lake for everyone

Connect to any source

Infinite scale

Dash mesh built-in



## Open at every level

Open Delta Parquet format

One copy across engines

Easy interoperability  
& extensibility



## Discoverable while secure

Intuitive data discovery

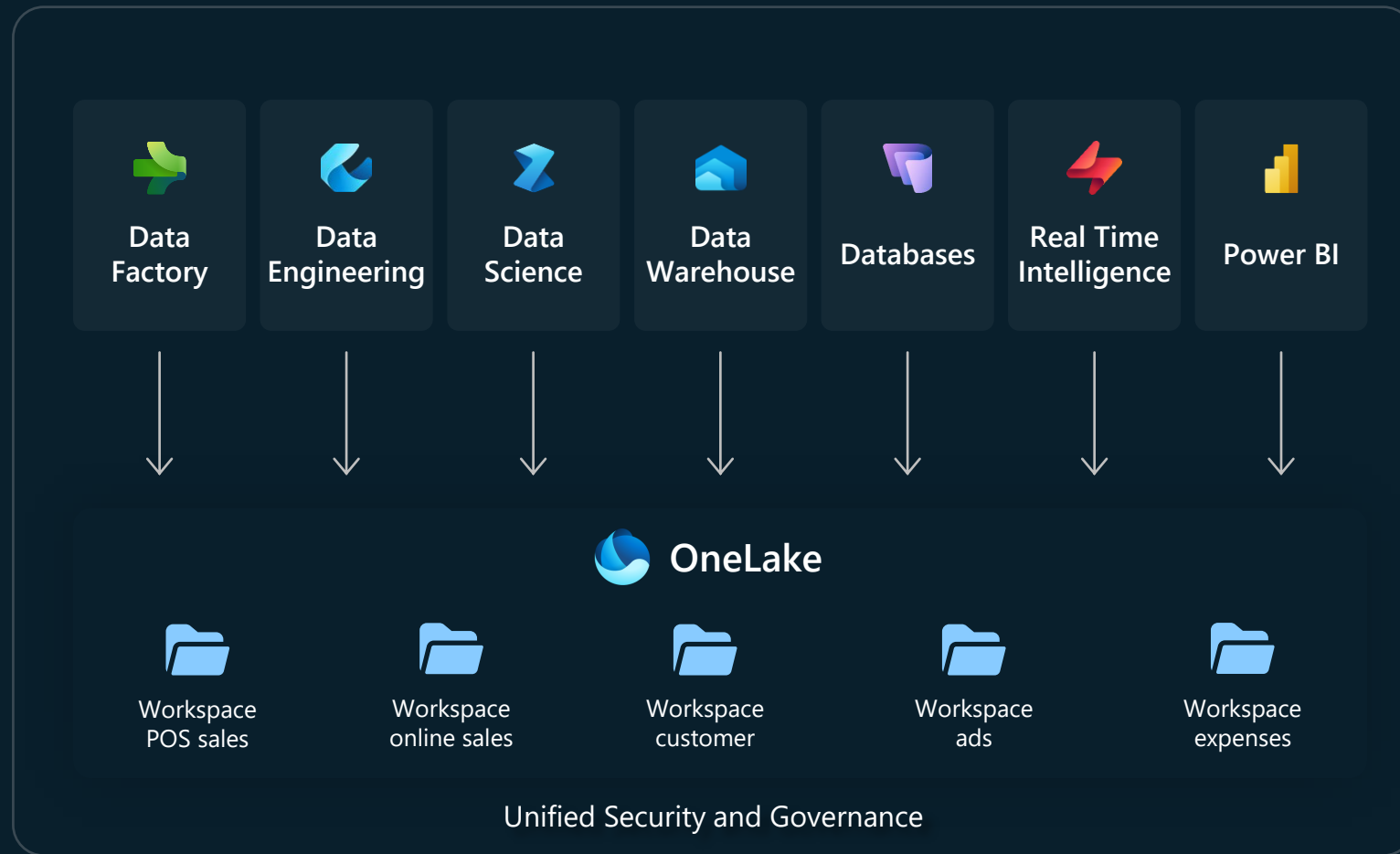
Industry-leading security

Extensive governance tools



# A single unified SaaS data lake

"No Silos"



Provisioned automatically with the tenant.

Any data in OneLake works with out-of-the-box governance such as data lineage, data protection, certification, catalog integration, etc. All data is ultimately under the control of a tenant admin.

OneLake enables distributed ownership. Different workspaces allow different parts of the organization to work independently while still contributing to the same data lake. Each workspace can have its own administrator, access control, region and capacity for billing.

# OneLake which logically spans the world

Reside workspaces in different regions around the world while still in the same data lake.

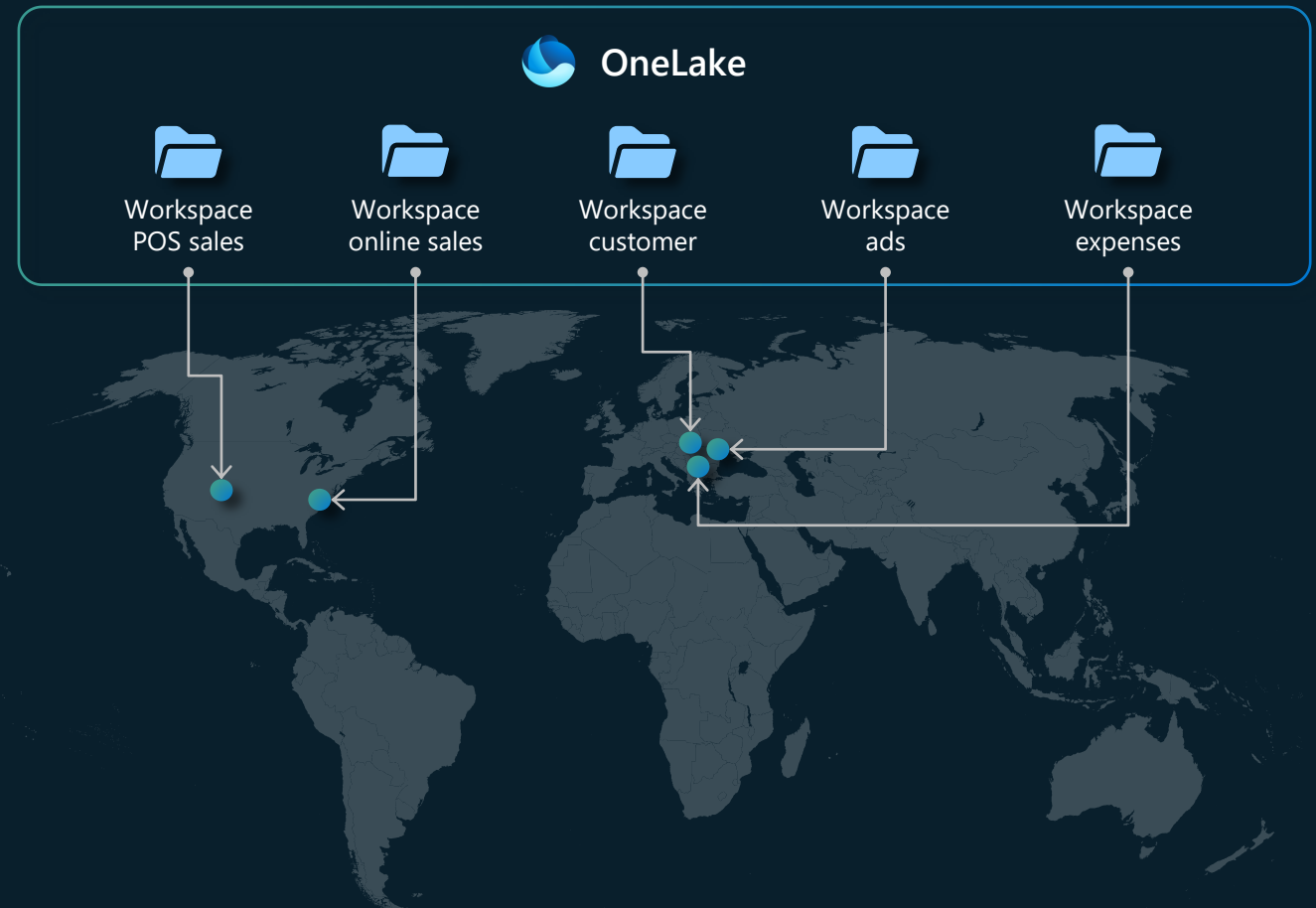
Reside data in different regions without managing different storage resources.

Meet demand for any scale with dedicated storage resources for each workspace (capacity, throughput and IOPS).

Underlying physical storage is virtualized away.

All storage is zone redundant by default with an option for Geo redundancy.

## Unified Security and Governance



# OneLake data available everywhere



M365  
Copilot



Microsoft  
Excel



Microsoft  
Teams



Power  
Platform



Power  
BI



Copilot  
Studio



Azure AI  
Studio



VS  
Code

OneLake catalog

Data Domains

Data Certifications



OneLake

Data Joins

Data Mesh



Azure



AWS S3



GCP



Dataverse



Databricks



Snowflake



On-Prem

# Unifying data in OneLake

## Cross-cloud shortcuts & mirroring



First **multi-cloud**  
SaaS data lake

Shortcuts for existing  
data **cross clouds and**  
**on-premises**

Mirroring to add  
**whole databases** into the  
OneLake data estate

# Shortcuts virtualize data across domains and clouds

No data movements or duplication



A shortcut is a symbolic link which points from one data location to another.

Create a shortcut to make data from a warehouse part of your lakehouse.

Create a shortcut within Fabric to consolidate data across items or workspaces without changing the ownership of the data. Data can be reused multiple times without data duplication.

Existing ADLS Gen2 storage accounts and Amazon S3 buckets can be managed externally to Fabric and Microsoft while still being virtualized into OneLake with shortcuts.

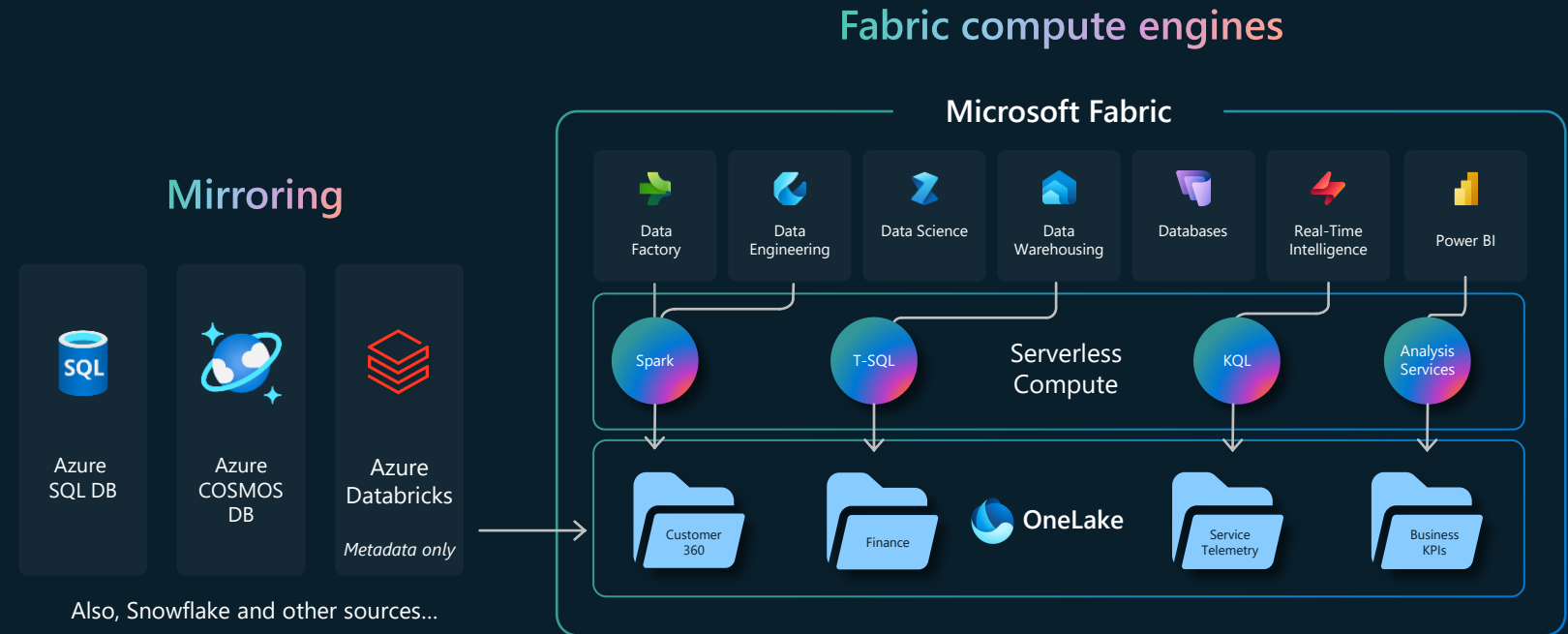
All data is mapped to a unified namespace and can be accessed using the same APIs including the ADLS Gen2 DFS APIs.

# Mirroring in Microsoft Fabric

A mirrored item reflects a full external database in OneLake.

Ensures the entire database shows up in OneLake, reflecting all changes to the schema and data.

Mirroring can be done through CDC based replication for proprietary formats or by automatically maintaining a set of shortcuts to the external database for open table formats (delta and iceberg)



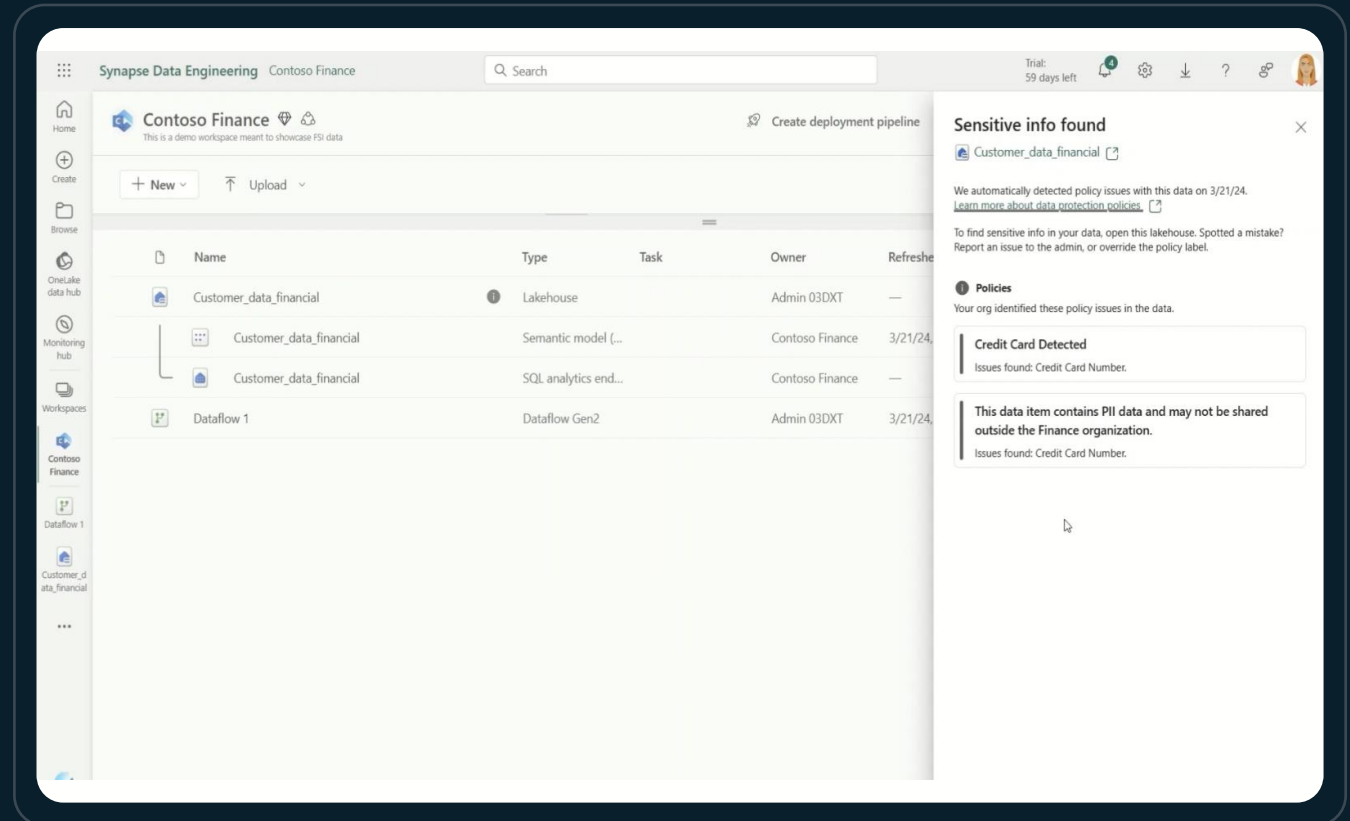
# Purview Information protection & Data Loss Prevention

## Data Loss Prevention policies:

- Automatically detect upload of sensitive data (e.g. PII) into Fabric and trigger risk remediation actions
- **What's new:** Public preview of Data Loss Prevention policies for Lakehouse, semantic models
- **Coming soon:** DLP for Warehouse, KustoDB;
- **Coming soon:** Restrict access action for Lakehouse

## Information protection labels:

- Classify sensitive Fabric data using the same labels in M365 and enforce even upon export
- **What's new:** MIP protection policies to enforce access permissions for Fabric items & SQL DB
- **What's new:** Domain default sensitivity label
- **Coming soon:** MIP policies for PBI reports, datamarts, WH

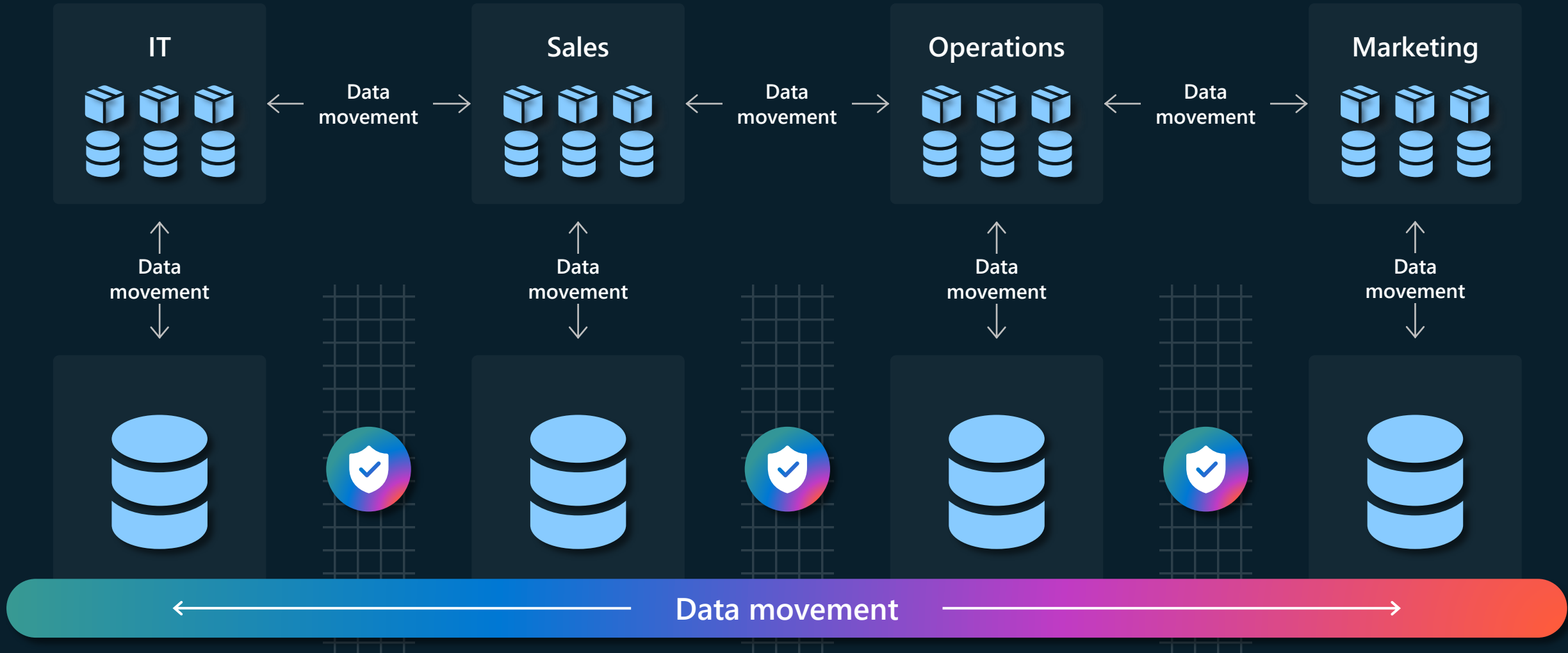


Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

Understood that Data Mesh is not just  
about technology



# Today: Multiple siloed lakes with lots of duplication



# Domains and subdomains

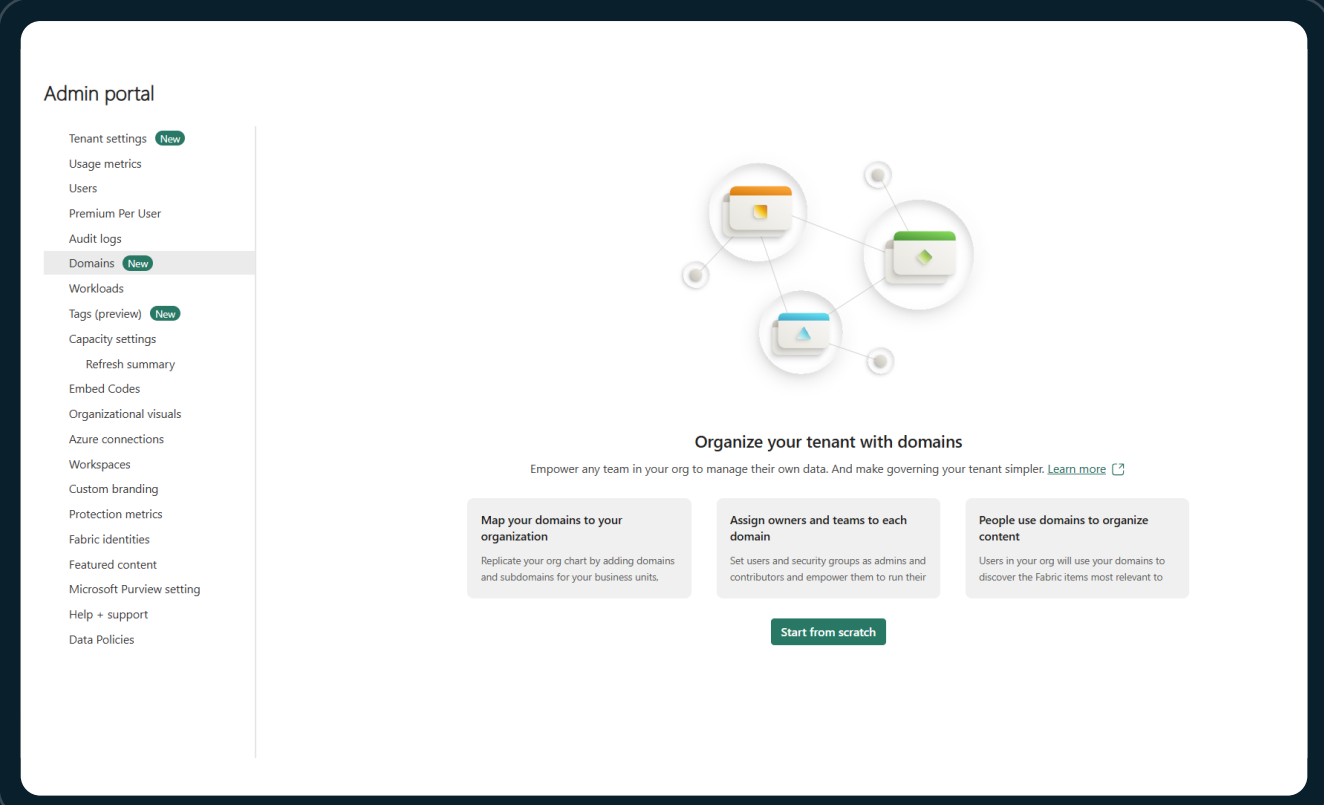
*Structure data per business needs, allowing granular control, optimized consumption*

Implement a data mesh pattern by logically grouping data relevant to a particular area (e.g., Sales, Finance) in domains & subdomains.

Optimize consumption & find relevant data faster by filtering/finding content by domains.

Gain granular control per business needs by delegating setting to domain-level.

Domains Management enabled also via Admin REST APIs, and traceable via domain Audit log activities.



The screenshot displays the Microsoft Fabric Admin portal interface. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: Tenant settings (marked 'New'), Usage metrics, Users, Premium Per User, Audit logs, Domains (marked 'New' and highlighted), Workloads, Tags (preview) (marked 'New'), Capacity settings (with a sub-item 'Refresh summary'), Embed Codes, Organizational visuals, Azure connections, Workspaces, Custom branding, Protection metrics, Fabric identities, Featured content, Microsoft Purview setting, Help + support, and Data Policies. The main content area is titled 'Admin portal' and features a diagram of three interconnected nodes, each representing a domain with a different colored folder icon (orange, green, blue). Below the diagram, the heading 'Organize your tenant with domains' is followed by the text: 'Empower any team in your org to manage their own data. And make governing your tenant simpler. [Learn more](#)'. Three instructional cards are provided: 'Map your domains to your organization' (replicate org chart), 'Assign owners and teams to each domain' (set users and security groups), and 'People use domains to organize content' (users discover relevant items). A 'Start from scratch' button is located at the bottom.

Early adoptions of Microsoft Fabric have ..

**Understood that content discovery and  
consumption is key**

Demo



# OneLake catalog

# Introducing Fabric Org Apps

Broadly distribute content built in Fabric across your entire organization



Package content  
to distribute  
within your  
organization



Customize content,  
styling, navigation,  
& more to make it  
your own



New! Create  
multiple apps  
from the same  
workspaces!

# AI Powered

Gen AI accelerates your data journey in Fabric



Copilot accelerated  
experiences



AI-driven  
insights



Custom  
generative AI  
for your data

# Copilot built into every workload

Public Preview



**Data Factory**

Get intelligent code generation to transform data with ease and code explanations to help you better understand complex tasks.

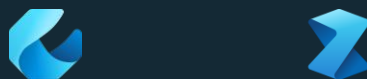
Public Preview



**Data Warehouse**

Write and explain T-SQL queries, or even make intelligent suggestions and fixes while you are coding.

Public Preview



**Data Engineering & Data Science**

Quickly generate code in Notebooks to help work with Lakehouse data and get insights.

Public Preview



**Databases**

Write and explain T-SQL queries, or even make intelligent suggestions and fixes while you are coding.

GA



**Real-Time Intelligence**

Translate questions into KQL queries that you can execute.

GA



**Power BI**

Quickly create report pages, natural language summaries, and generate synonyms.

Public Preview

# AI skills in Microsoft Fabric



# AI Skill in Microsoft Fabric

Public Preview

Deliver custom  
generative AI experiences for  
**your data** with **AI Skill**



Allow your users to talk to your data in OneLake from your own applications



Create, curate and configure a **Data expert** on your data domain



Stay tuned for integrations with **Copilot Studio** and **M365 Teams Chat**

Synapse Data Science Fabric\_AI

Fabric\_AI  
Fabric AI demo WS

Create deployment pipeline Create app Manage access Workspace settings

+ New item New folder (preview) Import

Filter by keyword Filter

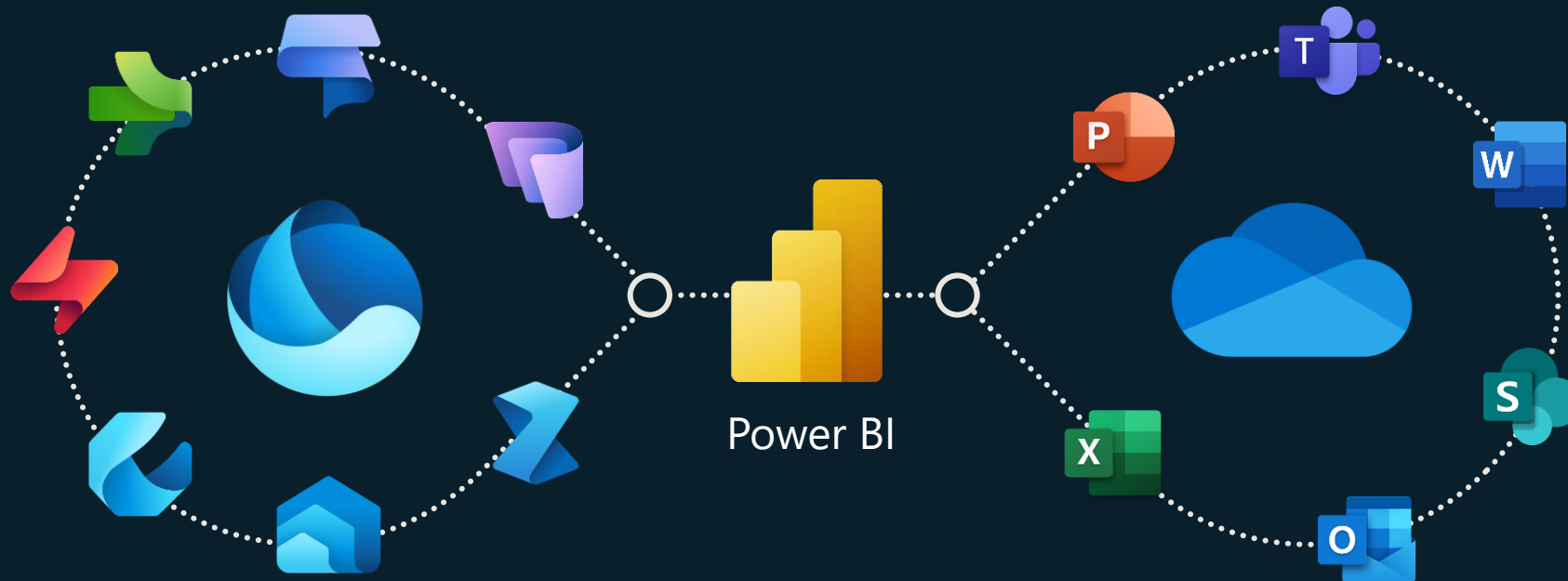
Select a task flow or build your own to get started (preview)  
Select from one of Microsoft's predesigned task flows or add a task to start building one yourself.

Select a task flow

Add a task

Name	Type	Task	Owner	Refreshed	Next refresh	Endorsement	Sensitivity	Included in app
Contoso_Sales_LH	Lakehouse	—	Admin user	—	—	—	—	—
Contoso_Sales_LH	Semantic mo	—	Fabric AI	8/28/24 3:53:0	N/A	—	—	—

# The bridge from professional developers in Fabric to business users in Office



# Copilot in **Power BI**

Unlock the full potential of your data



Get your  
data ready



Build semantic  
models & reports



Discover  
Insights

# Copilot in Power BI

Unlock the full potential of your data

52%

faster task completion  
compared to not using  
copilot

36%

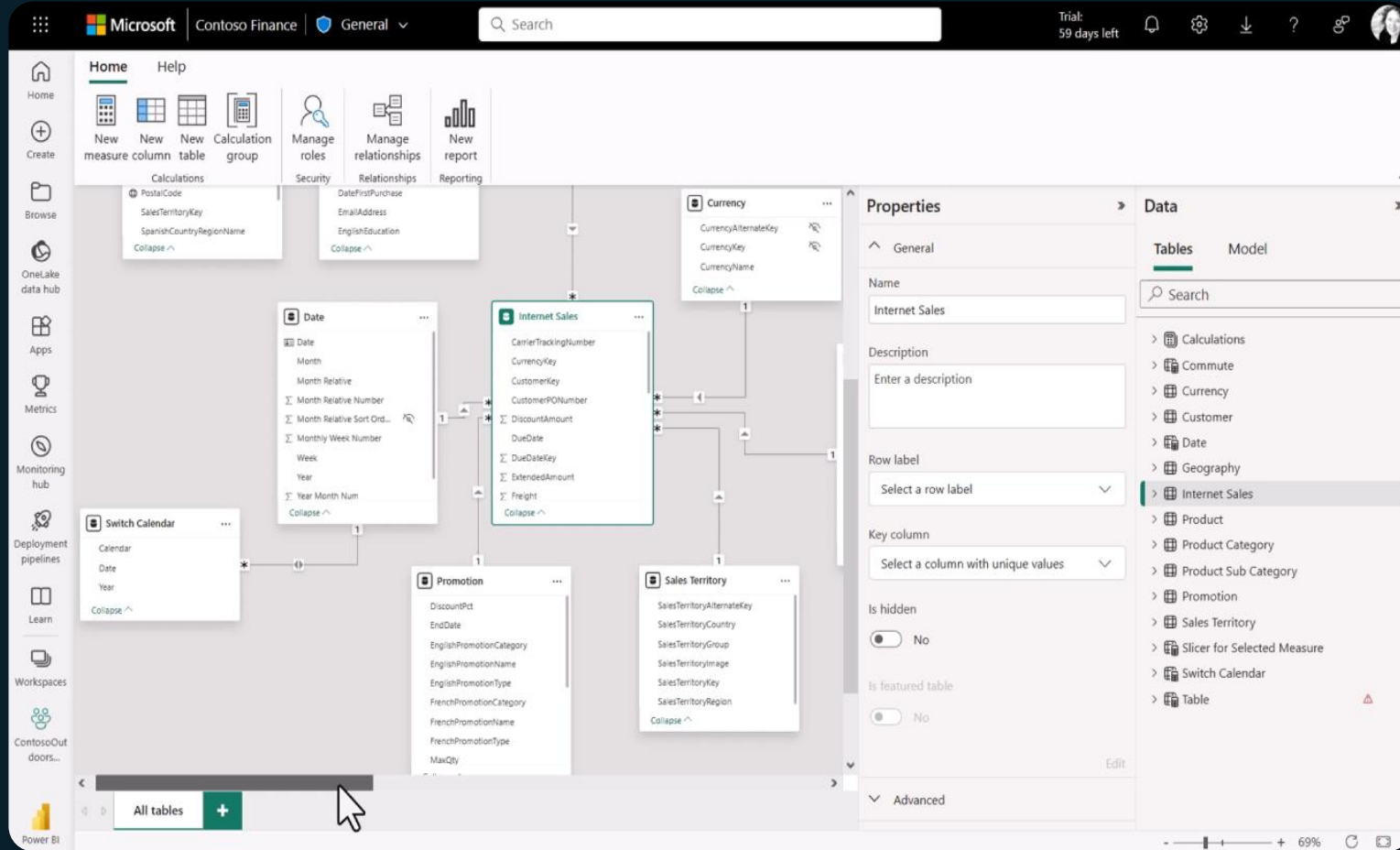
more accurate compared  
to not using copilot

90%

users tested  
were likely to  
adopt

*SOURCE: Based upon n=209 randomized control study conducted by Microsoft Corporation in October 2024 that measured four common metrics associated with the consumption experience of Power BI in Microsoft Fabric and compared it to users that did not use copilot. Qualitative sentiment gathered upon task completion. Actual results may vary.*

# Semantic model superpowers



Clearly defined corporate metrics and KPIs

Friendly names for tables/columns well defined relationships

Trusted, vetted and certifiable as the basis for management reporting in Power BI and Excel

(While not perfect) help eliminate significant guess work for the AI