

Troubleshooting your Power BI Report Performance

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Session Objectives

- Leverage (external) options to pinpoint common causes
- Techniques to avoid, or solve
- Usable set of best practices
- **Not!** a DAX or PowerQuery Performance Deep Dive

Why Troubleshoot Report Performance?

- No one likes to wait
- “Works on my machine” is not a valid reply
- 40% Science, 40% Art, 20% Luck
- Context and Baseline are Key
- Aim for quick wins on heavily used reports
- Avoid long investigations on barely used reports (unless it's the CFO)
- **It depends!**



**MR NOISY
NEIGHBOUR**

<http://www.51mon.co.uk/photo/MrNoisyNeighboursMCFC.jpg>

PowerBI.com

- Shared Resources, blessing and curse
- Premium Capacity does not automagically solve performance issues
- Beware of Cache mechanisms

A large audience is seated in a modern conference hall, facing a stage with two large presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

The Report Case

Use Case



https://elidesc.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Velo_Antwerpen.jpg

New York Citibikes

- www.citibikenyc.com/system-data
- Public Open Data
- Starts June 2013
- Information about every trip
 - Longer than 60 seconds
 - Starts at public station
- Masterdata



<https://i0.wp.com/thenypost.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/citibike1.jpg?quality=90&strip=all&ssl=1>

The Report(s)

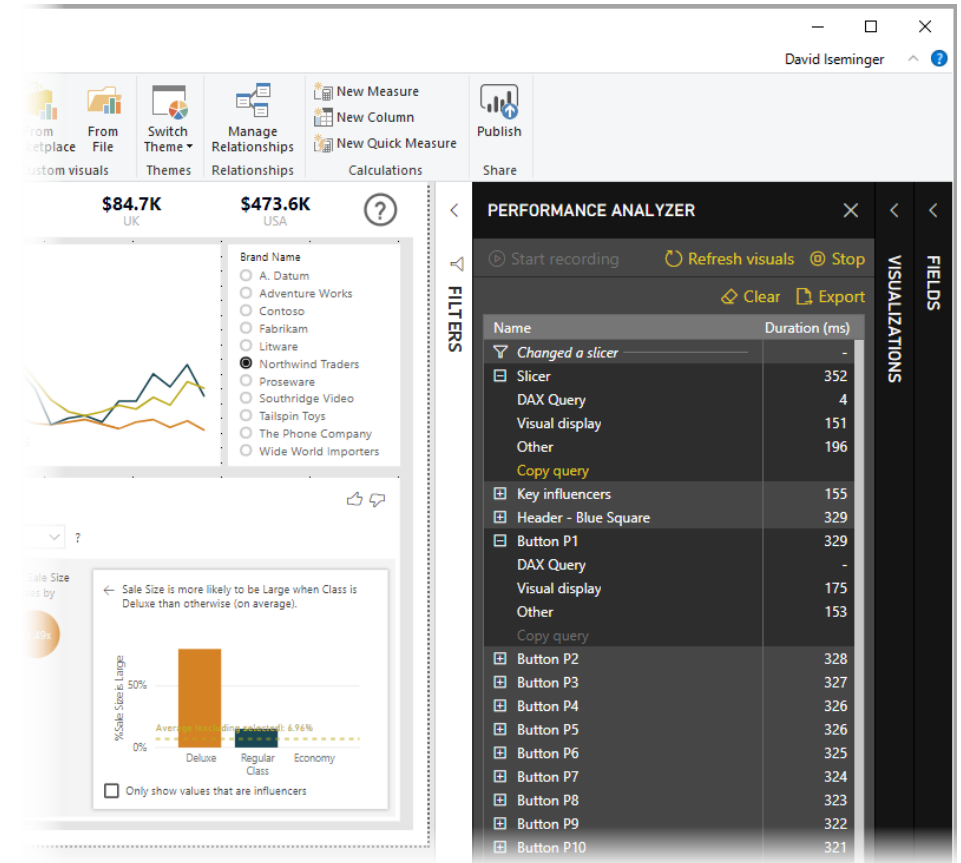
A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. A large presentation screen is visible on the stage, displaying a slide. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage.

The Tools

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage with multiple projection screens. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The stage features several large projection screens displaying content, and a person is visible standing near the center of the stage. The room has a modern design with a high ceiling and large windows on the right side.

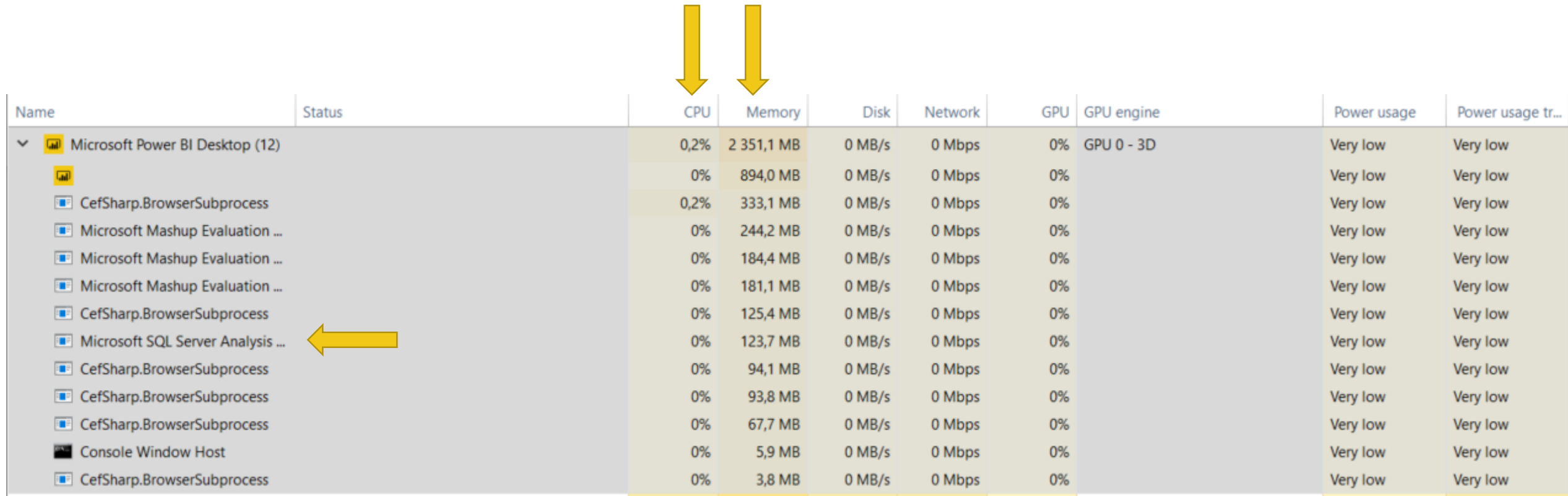
Performance Analyzer Pane

- Public Release in May 2019
- Flight Recorder for all operations
- Breaks down execution times
- Export results with ease



<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/media/desktop-performance-analyzer/performance-analyzer-01.png>

Inside Power BI Desktop



Name	Status	CPU	Memory	Disk	Network	GPU	GPU engine	Power usage	Power usage tr...
Microsoft Power BI Desktop (12)		0,2%	2 351,1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%	GPU 0 - 3D	Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	894,0 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Microsoft Mashup Evaluation ...		0,2%	333,1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Microsoft Mashup Evaluation ...		0%	244,2 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Microsoft Mashup Evaluation ...		0%	184,4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Microsoft Mashup Evaluation ...		0%	181,1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	125,4 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Microsoft SQL Server Analysis ...		0%	123,7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	94,1 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	93,8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	67,7 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
Console Window Host		0%	5,9 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low
CefSharp.BrowserSubprocess		0%	3,8 MB	0 MB/s	0 Mbps	0%		Very low	Very low

Tools for the Trade



<http://www.clker.com/cliparts/9/6/7/c/1280887403729185486tool%20belt.jpg>

Tools for the Trade

- Performance Analyzer Pane
- DAX Studio (SQLBI.com)
- VertiPaq Analyzer (SQLBI.com)
- Tabular Editor
- Power BI Helper
- Power BI Field Finder

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage with presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

The Tips & Best Practices

The Golden Rule(s)

- Transform early
- Transform once
- Transform smart

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage where a presentation is being displayed on a large screen. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage.

Data Types

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage where a presentation is being displayed on a large screen. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage.

Auto Date/Time

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Column/Row Usage

A large audience is seated in a modern conference hall, facing a stage with two large presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The word "Modelling" is overlaid in large, bold, black text across the center of the image.

Modelling

Modelling Tips

STAR SCHEMA



Thanks, @KoVer ☺

Modelling Tips

- Star Schema (all the things!)
- Use persisted surrogate keys for relationships
- Avoid Bi-Directional filtering (DAX Crossfilter)
- Disable auto date/time, rather 'Mark as Date Table'
- Debate Role-playing dimensions
- Optimize Data Types
- Try setting "Assume Referential Integrity" on relationships – in many cases, this setting significantly improves query performance.

Modelling Tips (continued)

- Avoid wide tables
- Remove unused columns **and** rows
- Only load queries that are used
- Reduce inappropriate summarization
- Think about your data granularity
- Hide (or remove) Key fields from the model view
- Consider your source and refresh schedule

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PowerQuery

PowerQuery Tips

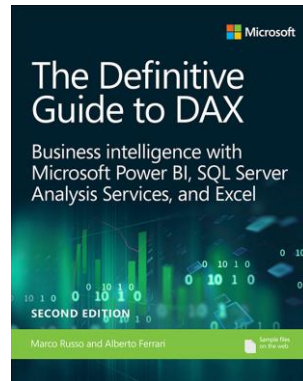
- Query Folding, when possible
- Don't repeat tables & fields
- Only load tables that are used in the model
- Specify correct Data Types
- Parameterize 'fact' queries (Date or Entity)

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage with presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The word "DAX" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters in the center of the image.

DAX

DAX Tips

- Avoid 'repeater' functions (SumX, AverageX, ..)
- Avoid calculated columns
- Keep measures simple initially, and add complexity incrementally.
- Use variables
- Solve the model, then solve DAX
- Use Data Categories
- Read [the Bible](#) 😊



A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage with presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The word "Reports" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Reports

Report Page Tips

- Limit visuals on a single pane
- Filtering and slicing before rendering is a valid option (ie. Landing page, Report Filters, ..)
- Avoid having 5+ report tabs on a single report
- Avoid interaction between visuals when they're not needed
- Avoid overly detailed visuals
- Be aware of render intensive visuals (ie. Maps, Custom visuals, ..)

A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage with presentation screens. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting and large windows on the right side. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the stage. The text "Bonus Round" is overlaid in the center of the image.

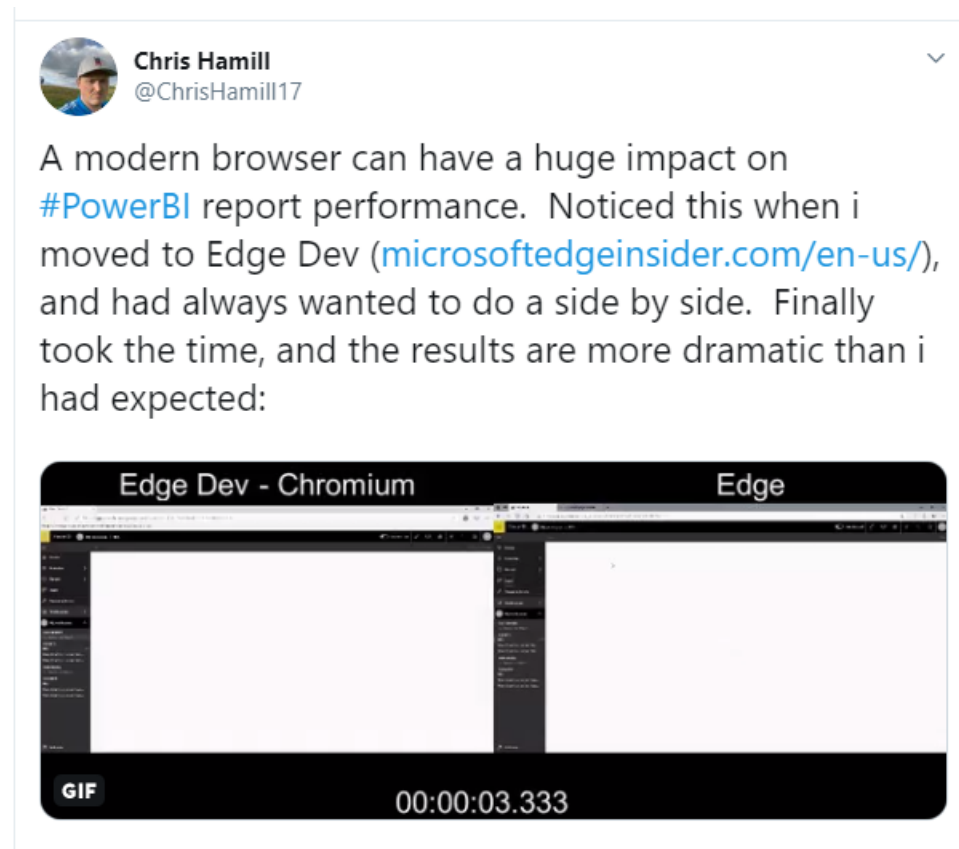
Bonus Round

Composite Models & Aggregations

- Composite models (and DirectQuery) require proper usage of DAX
 - Use these wisely
- Aggregations cost memory, data refresh time
 - Solve specific performance issues

Battle of the Browsers

- <https://twitter.com/ChrisHamill17/status/1160242636369694720>



Takeaways

- Report performance should be thought of at design time
- Think about your transforms
- Modelling is key
- Choice of browser matters
- Create a personal set of best practices for Tabular Editor
- Read public (online) resources

Resources

- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/power-bi-reports-performance>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/guidance/import-modeling-data-reduction>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/guidance/star-schema>
- <https://sqlserverbi.blog/2019/08/24/power-bi-project-good-and-best-practices/>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/desktop-performance-analyzer>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/visuals/power-bi-visualization-best-practices>
- <https://www.sqlbi.com/books/the-definitive-guide-to-dax-2nd-edition/>

Resources

- <https://www.sqlbi.com/tools/>
- <https://github.com/otykier/TabularEditor>
- <https://powerbihelper.org/>
- <https://github.com/stephbruno/Power-BI-Field-Finder>

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Power Platform World Tour

PowerBIUG PowerAppsUG FlowUG

