Understanding Fabric Capacities

Benni De Jagere



Slides





Fraktal

CEÐAL





2024



WEBSTEP















Benni De Jagere

Senior Program Manager | Fabric Customer Advisory Team (FabricCAT)







in

@BenniDeJagere





sessionize /bennidejagere



#SayNoToPieCharts





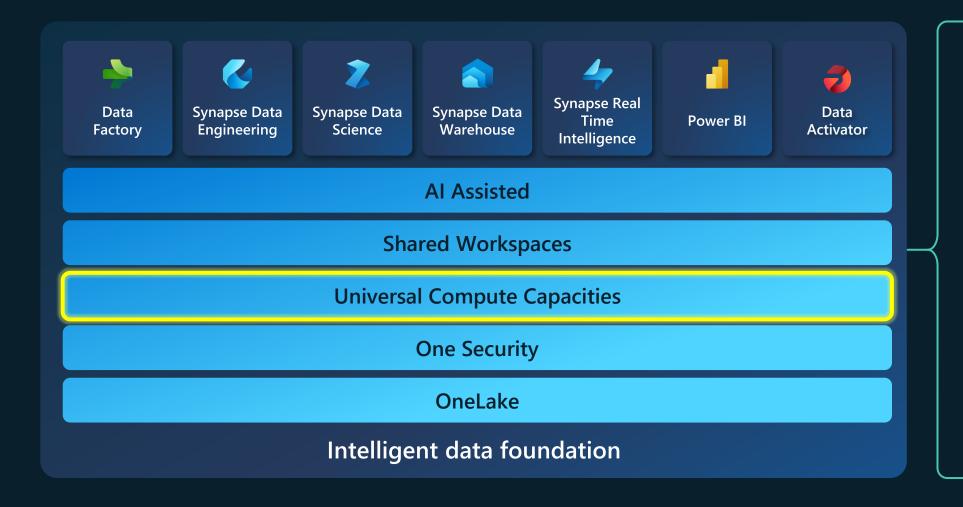




Fabric Capacities Introduction



Microsoft Fabric



Single...

Onboarding and trials

Sign-on

Navigation model

UX model

Workspace organization

Collaboration experience

Data Lake

Storage format

Data copy for all engines

Security model

CI/CD

Monitoring hub

Governance & Capacity Metrics

Data Hub

Capacities are a shared resource

Shared across workloads

A single capacity is providing the compute power for all Fabric workloads.

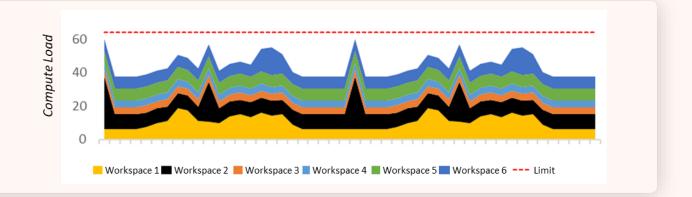
There is no need to allocate compute for each workload separately.



Shared Across Projects

A single capacity typically supports dozens of separate projects simultaneously, each managed in its own workspace.

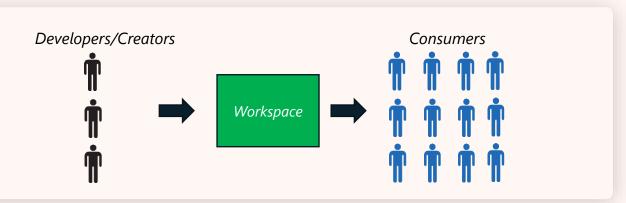
It is rare to have a capacity dedicated to a single project



Shared across users

For each project, many developers will share a workspace where collaborative development and consumption at scale is managed.

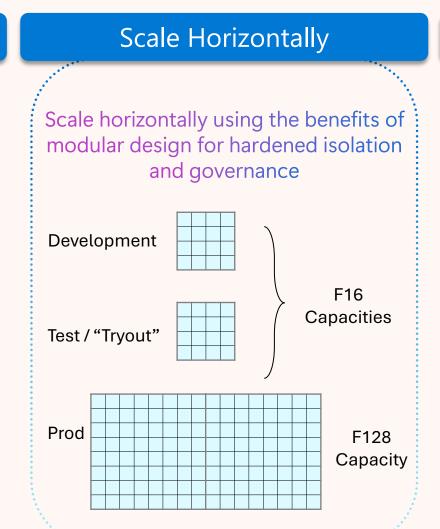
Each creator can provision any artifact and run any job without the need for any pre-approval or planning

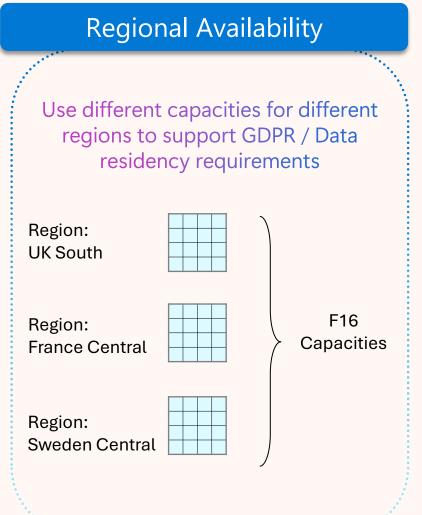


Capacities are flexible building blocks for growth

Capacities can be configured in endless ways to meet scale, usage and governance requirements while tuning to minimize TCO and performance goals

Scale Vertically Increased capacity size provides more throughput 8 CU's F8 Capacity F16 Capacity 16 CU's F64 Capacity 64 CU's 2048





Provisioning and Deploying Capacities

Purchased in Azure

- **Purchased** either as a PAYG or RI resource
- Provisioned with a certain amount of compute units, analogous to CPU cores.
- The more capacity units are provisioned, the more load the capacity can support
 - Multiply SKU size by 30s to match platform evaluation in metrics app
- Capacities are priced at a fixed hourly rate, based on capacity units provisioned
- The RI commitment (1-year reserved instance) enjoys a **41% discount**

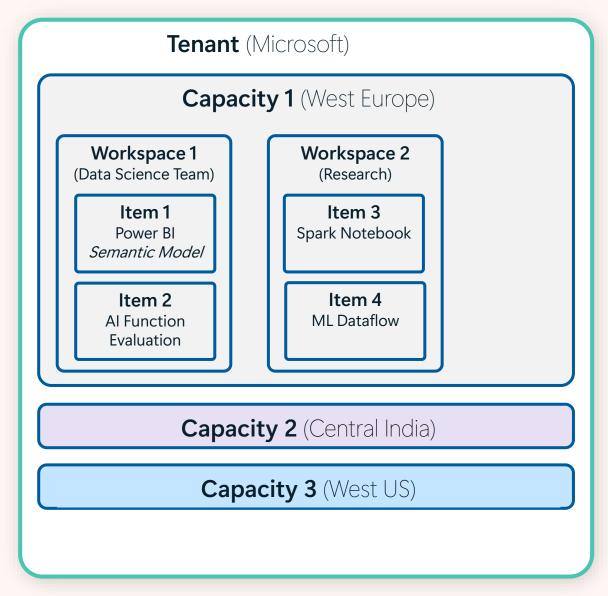
Universal Compute Capacities SKU Sizing

SKU	Capacity Units (CU)	CU's (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	1920	P1	8
F128	128	3840	P2	16
F256	256	7680	Р3	32
F512	512	15360	P4	64
F1024	1024	30720	P5	128
F2048	2048	61440	-	256

Provisioning and Deploying Capacities

Deployed to Regions

- Each capacity resides in a specific region of the buyers' choice where both the data & compute reside
- Workspaces are assigned to a capacity that provides the compute and storage for all the workspace artifacts
- Multiple capacities can be purchased, deployed and managed by different owners residing in a single tenant allowing each business unit to pay for their own consumption





Bursting and Smoothing

Smoothing intro and benefits

Load stabilization

Smoothing helps capacities self-stabilize by flattening large spikey loads into a smooth load profile, eliminating temporal spikes

Eliminates Scheduling contention

Large/scheduled Jobs usage (not execution) are smoothed over 24 hours, eliminating the need to decide the timing and order of job execution

Bad actor protection

Interactive operations smoothed over several minutes, preventing a single user with a very demanding query from hogging the entire capacity



What is Bursting?

Job acceleration

Bursting provides extra compute resources to jobs and queries to accelerate their completion

Go beyond

The extra resources of bursting allow jobs to utilize far more resources than "face value"

Instead of running a job on 64 CU and completing in 60 seconds, bursting could use 256 CUs to complete the job in 15 seconds.

Same amount of work, just completed faster

No hassle, No overload

Bursting is automatic when the system reasons it can accelerate the job by applying extra resources. No settings are required.

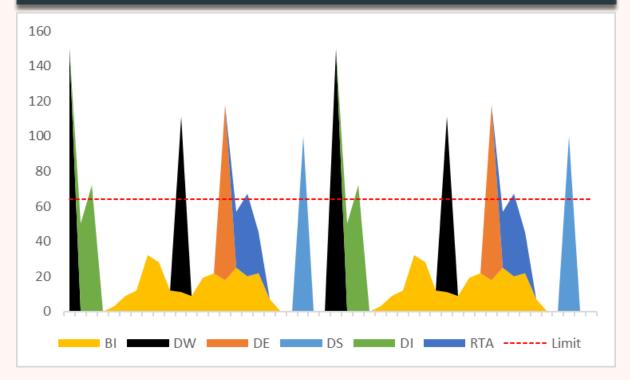
Bursting prevents an overload as the *smoothing* mechanism will always flatten the resource burst

Bursting and smoothing | before and after

Looking at an example of a 64 CU capacity, running multiple workloads over a couple of days...

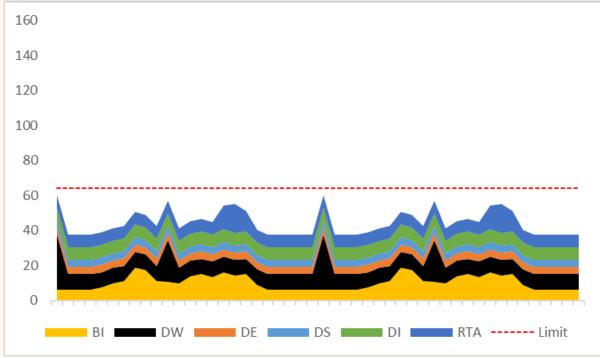
Before Smoothing

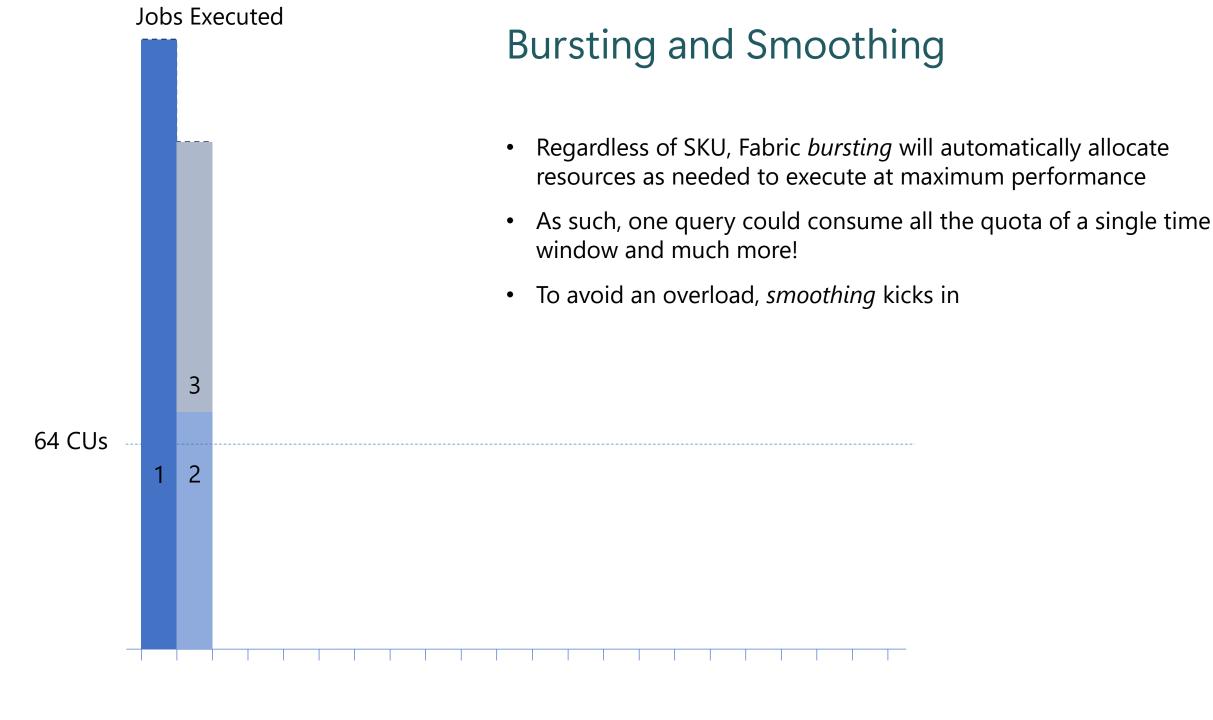
- Actual load as executed on the capacity before smoothing
- Bursting accelerates jobs execution by resource boosting
- The capacity could be overloaded 25% of the time
- Some of the overloads are more than 2x the limit
- There are periods of no/low usage

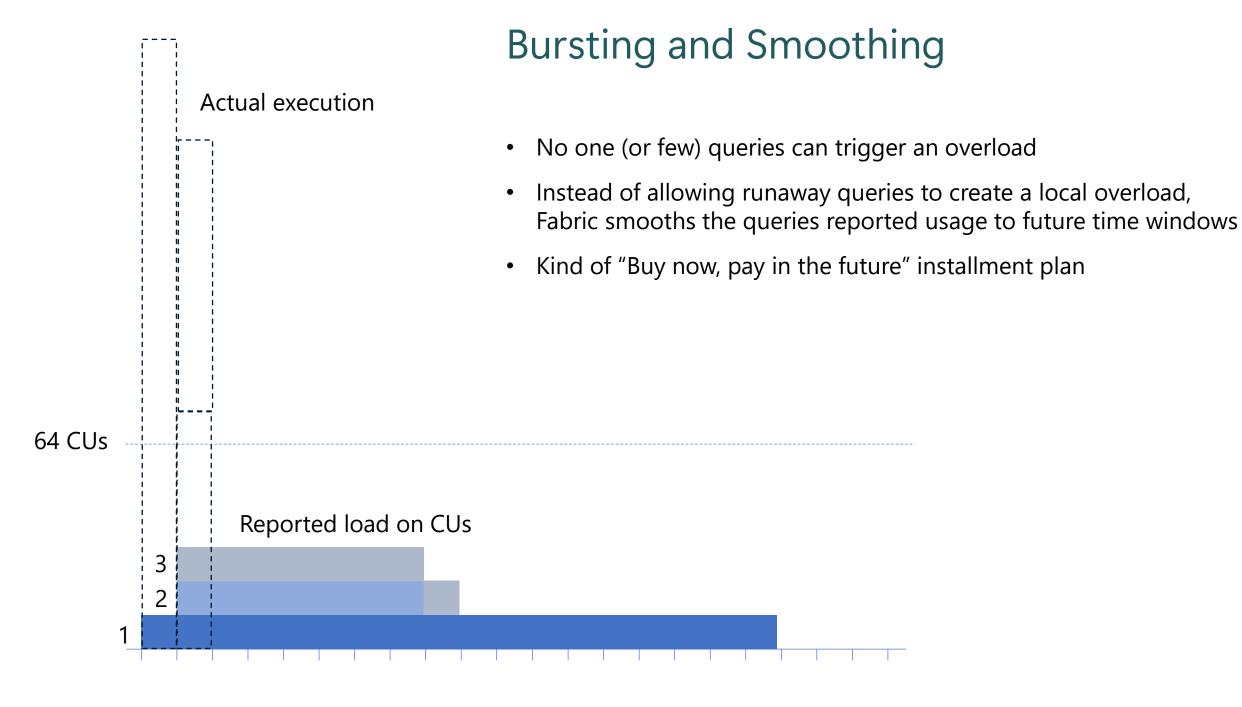


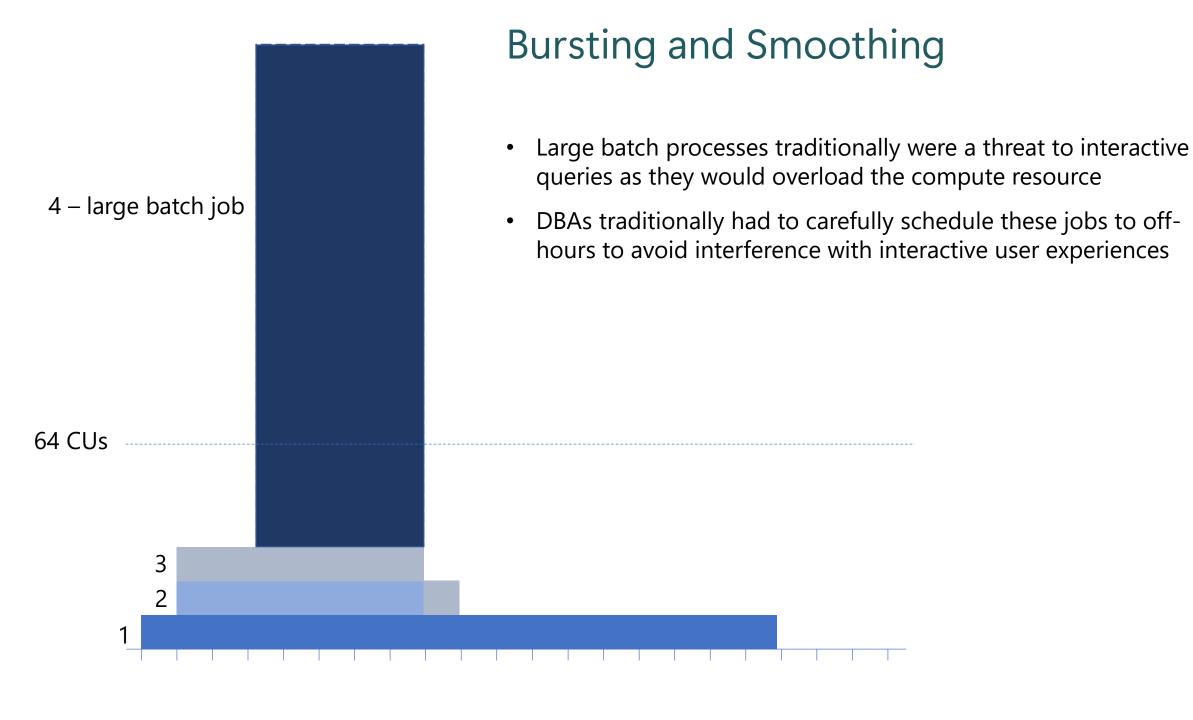
After Smoothing

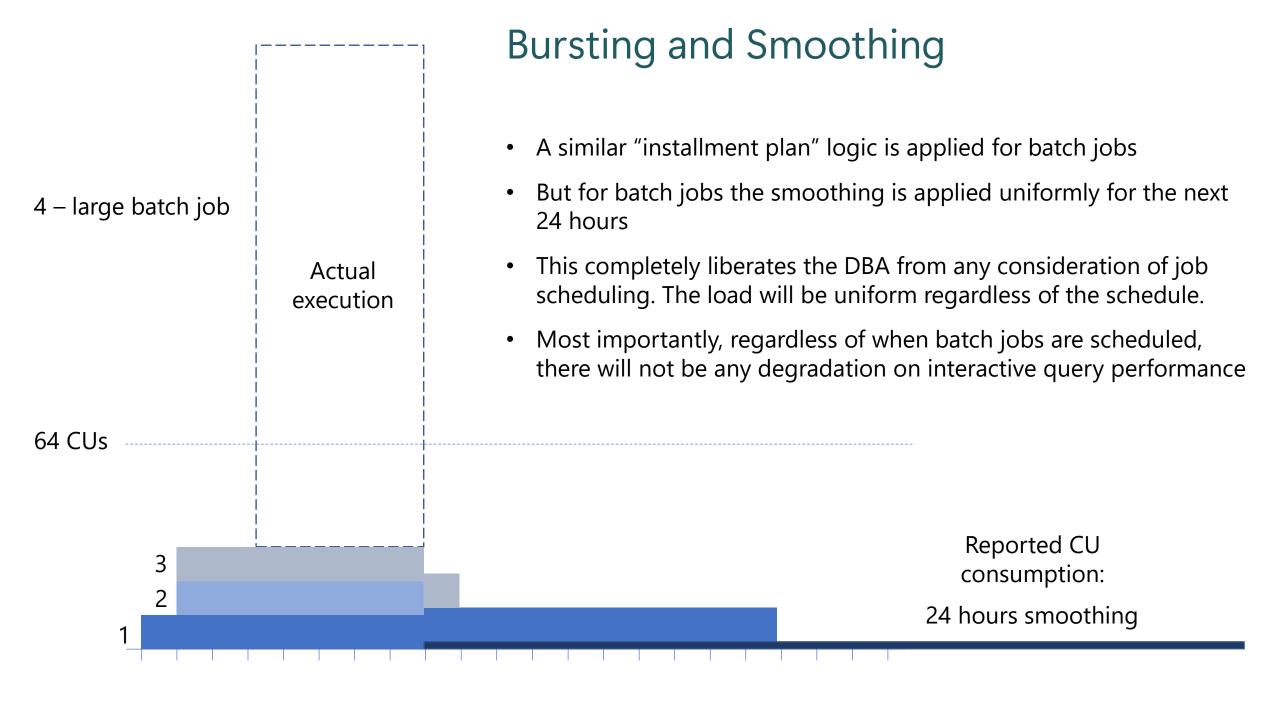
- Shows the reported load (not runtime execution) against the capacity limits
- There is NO overload, and consumption is more stable
- The smoothing of usage fills in gaps











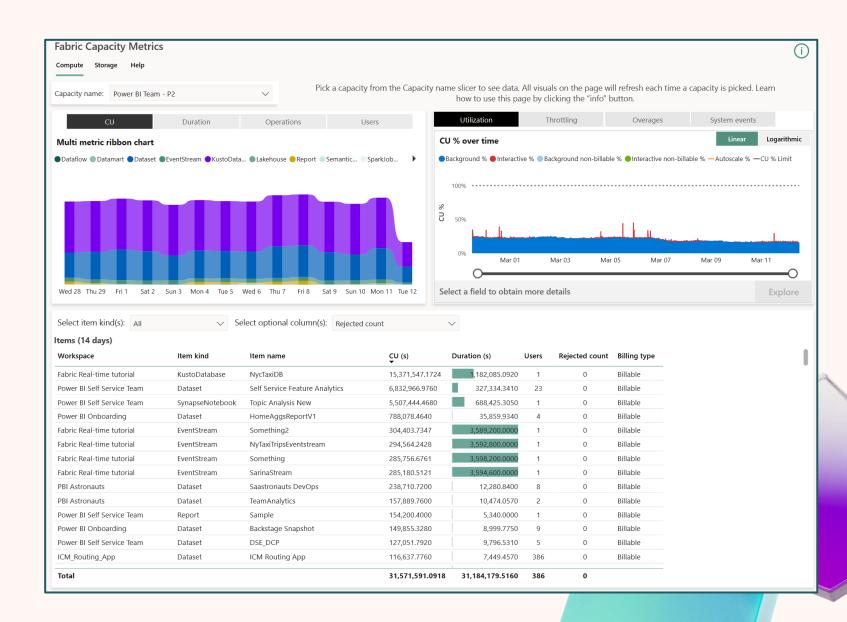


Monitoring with Capacity Metrics

Capacity Metrics

Monitor Capacities and Plan capacity scale-up with confidence

- Tenant wide visibility into capacity usage for all Fabric experiences
- Identify resource usage trends and their impact to autoscale & throttling
- View preview workload usage alongside production workloads to make data-driven capacity sizing decisions

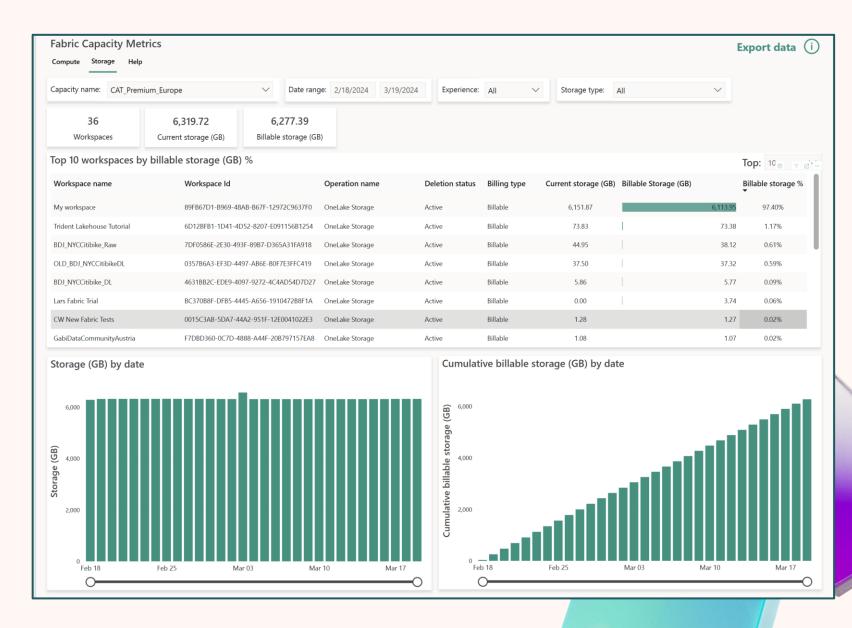


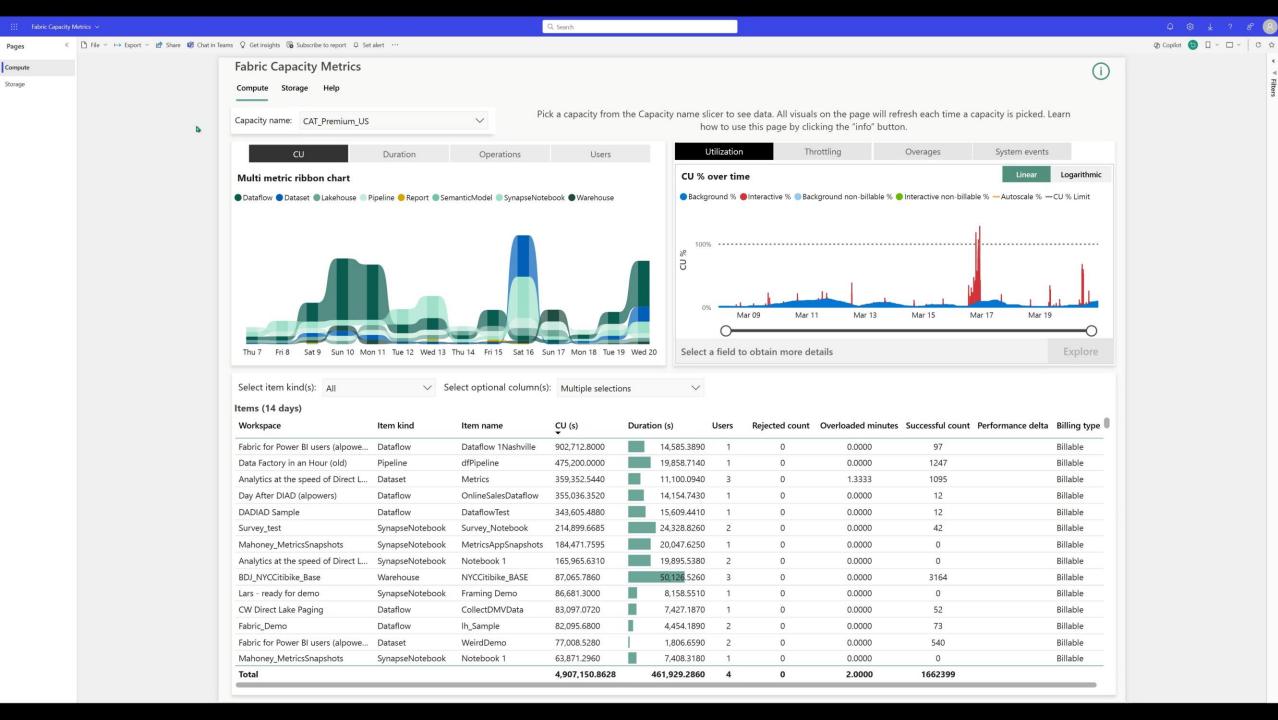
Capacity Metrics

Monitor OneLake consumption

Measure the trends of workspace storage consumption against capacity limits, by day or hour

Reconcile costs with internal chargeback processes





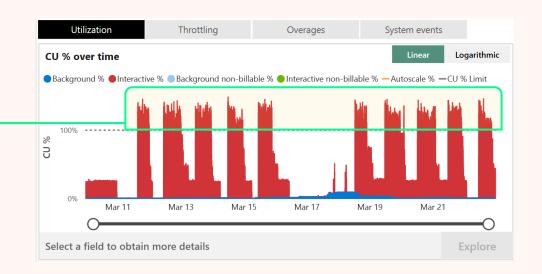


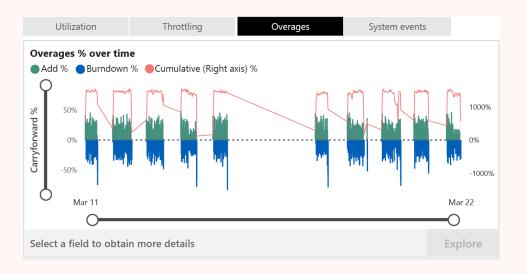
Capacity Throttling Policies

Throttling intro

- Throttling is the platform policy for managing consumption that exceeds throughput is provided by SKU choice
- When workloads exceed the throughput of a capacity a cumulative debt is tracked to be burned down
- Cumulative debt is used to determine throttling policies and is burned down when resources are free

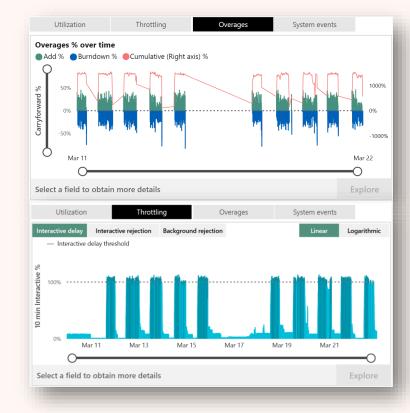
Overage Operation	Description
Overages - Added	 Timepoint when job requests exceed the throughput of a capacity, overages are was added to the cumulative buffer to burn down. This graph simplifies identification of the optimal timepoint to load timepoint drill to analyze the user operations that contributed to an overage.
Overages - Burndown	 Overages being reconciled when future capacity is free to burn down
Overages - Cumulative	 The total amount of queued work on the capacity to be burned down in the future when the capacity is not fully utilized





Capacity throttling evolution for Fabric

- For Fabric, throttling policies were refined to deliver multiple benefits
 - Reduced throttling for capacities that only experience occasional spikes
 - Added overage protection rejection policies prevent overloaded capacities from irrecoverable overload
 - Optimizations for long-running jobs: We're optimizing the platform for long-running jobs, so if a job exceeds capacity limits, it will run to completion and the overage will be burned down against future capacity



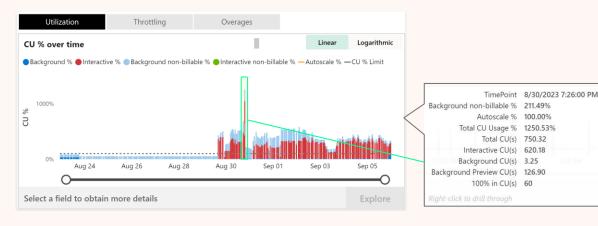
Smoothed Capacity - Future Use	Platform Policy	Customer Impact
<= 10m	Overage Protection	Jobs can consume 10 minutes of future capacity use without throttling
> 10m → <= 60m	Interactive Delay	User requested interactive type jobs will be throttled
> 60m → <= 24h	Interactive Rejection	User requested interactive type jobs will be rejected
> 24h	Background Rejection	User Scheduled background jobs will be rejected from execution



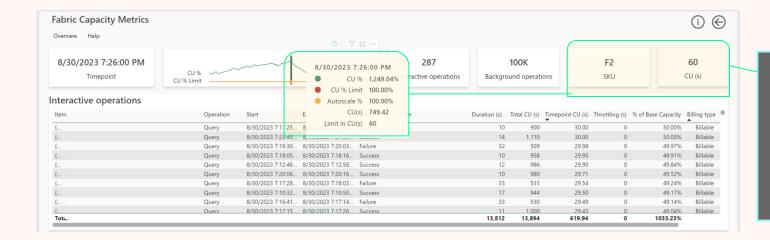
Capacity Planning with Capacity Metrics

Capacity planning case study - measurement

Start with a test or trial capacity to evaluate the load of specific Fabric Experiences i.e., Power BI Datasets,
Spark Notebooks or a
Datawarehouse



If usage is above the current capacity limits, choose the desired utilization rate to accommodate via capacity scale up



Load Capacity Metrics timepoint drill to analyze:

- Total CU's consumed : 749 CU(s)
- Capacity Size: (F2)
- CU(s) available on your capacity: 60 CU(s)

Capacity planning case study – SKU selection

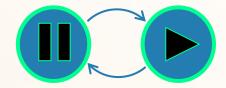
To accommodate a 749 CU(s) load the admin can purchase an F32 capacity providing 960 CU(s) of throughput

Universal Compute Capacities SKU Sizing

SKU	Capacity Units (CU)	CU's (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	1920	P1	8
F128	128	3840	P2	16
F256	256	7680	Р3	32
F512	512	15360	P4	64
F1024	1024	30720	P5	128
F2048	2048	61440	-	256



Pausing and Resuming Capacities



Introduction to Pausing and Resuming Capacities

Overview and Benefits



Pause and Resume lets you manage compute costs on F SKU capacities by suspending the execution of all workloads running on the capacity

When a capacity administrator pauses a capacity:

Workloads stop execution

New requests are not run

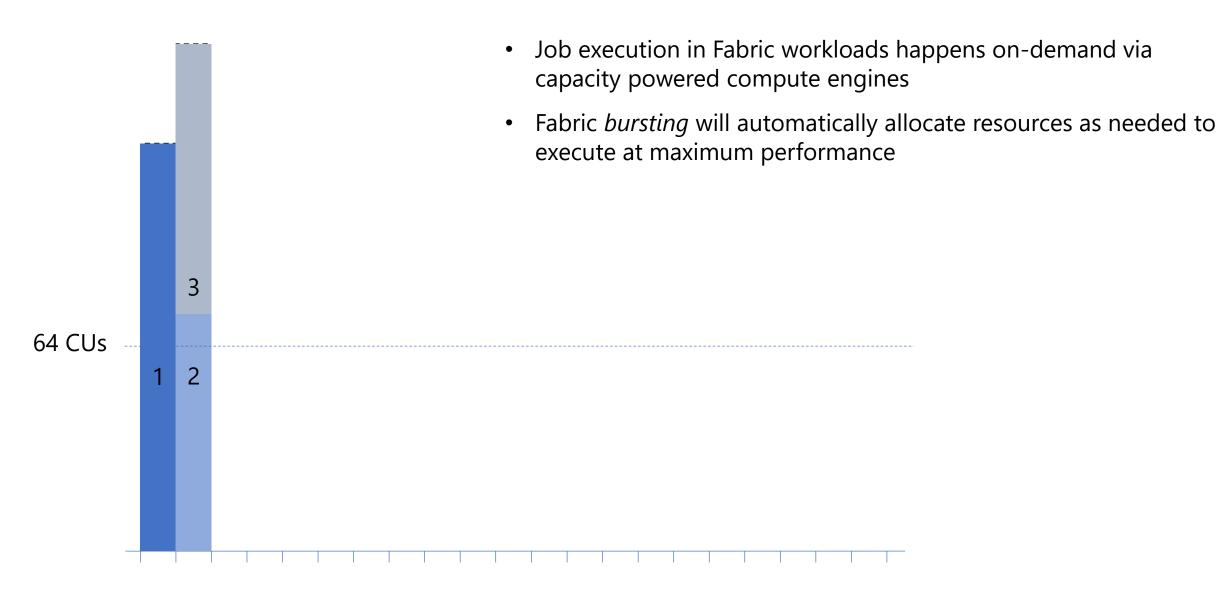
Smoothed usage will be reconciled

Note: OneLake storage will remain active and billable while a capacity is paused



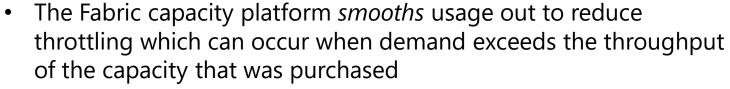
Bursting and Smoothing

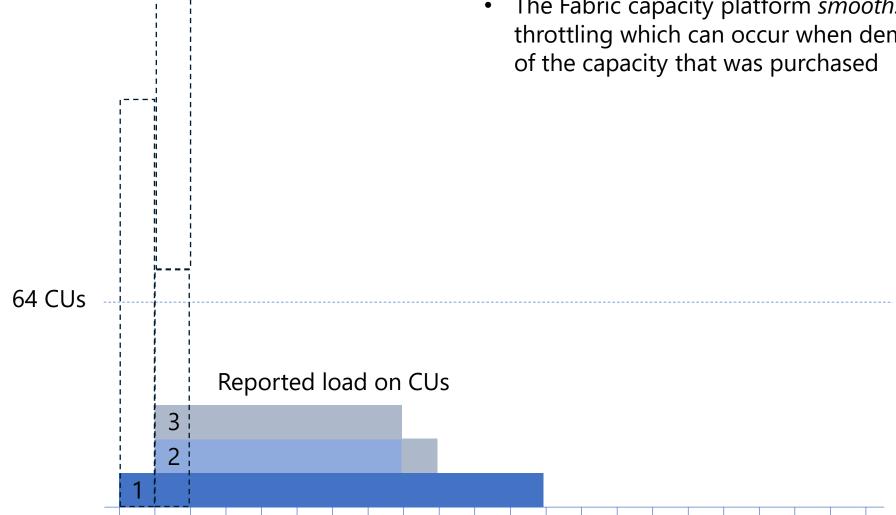


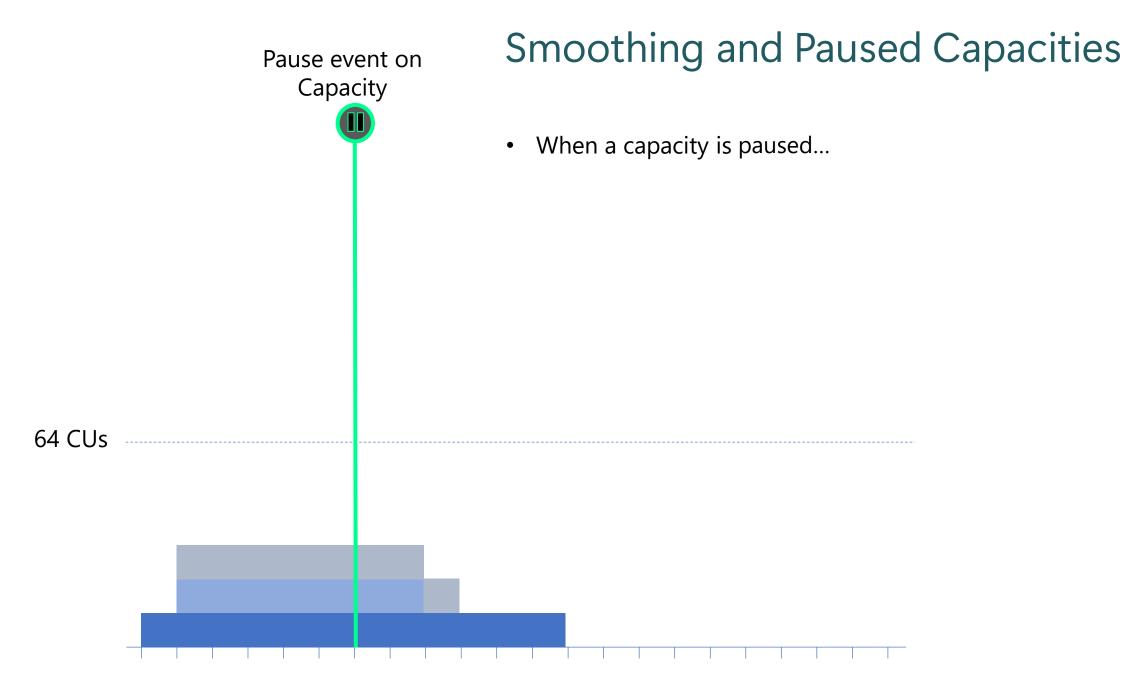


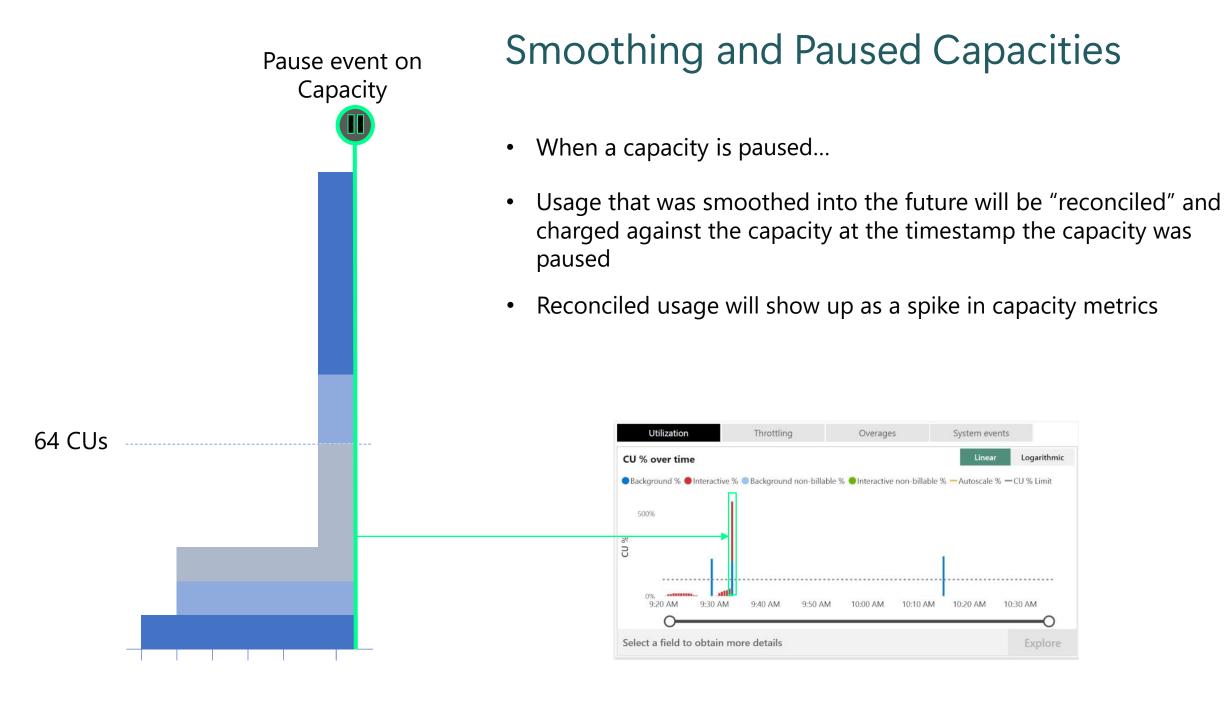


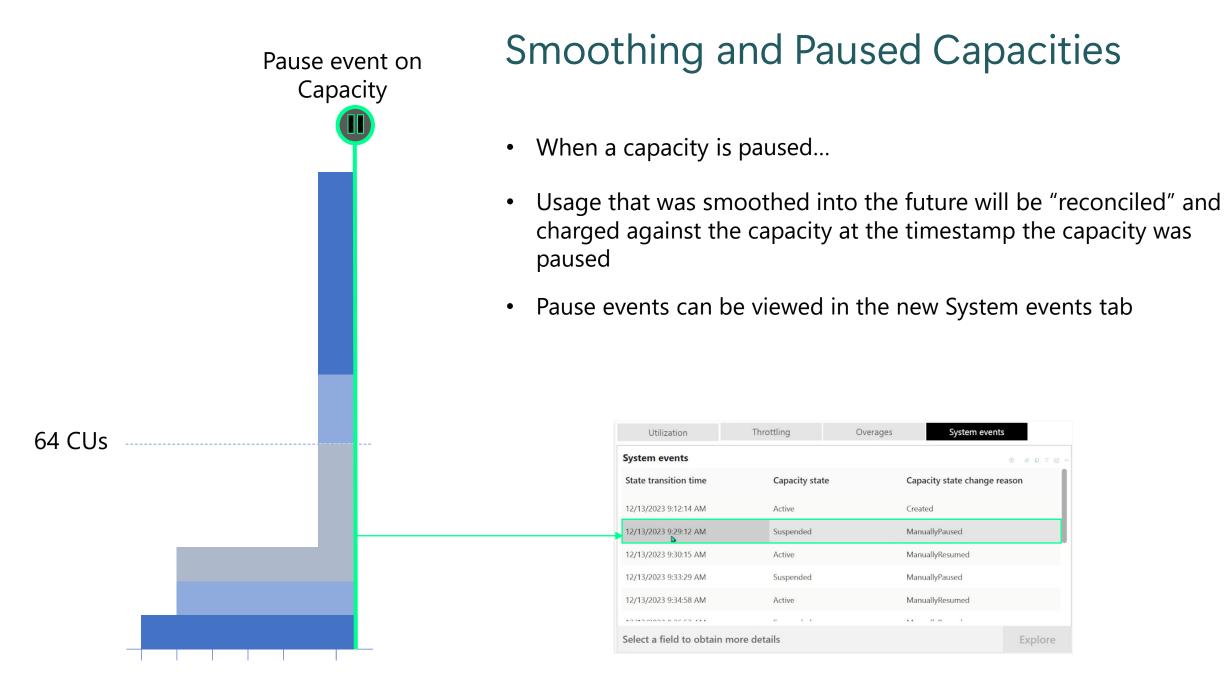
Bursting and Smoothing







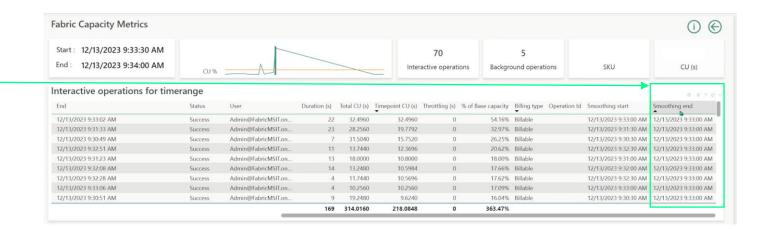




Pause event on Capacity 64 CUs

Smoothing and Paused Capacities

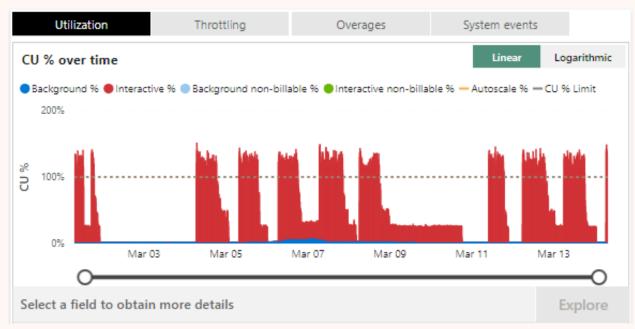
- When a capacity is paused...
- Usage that was smoothed into the future will be "reconciled" and charged against the capacity at the timestamp the capacity was paused
- Pause events timestamp is shown in the smoothing end field in timepoint drill views

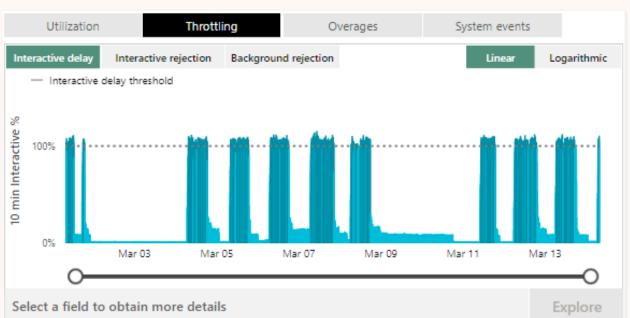




Bonus: Tips and Tricks for capacity management and monitoring

My capacity is being throttled! What can I do?





Over 100% utilization doesn't always result in throttling

No penalty until you hit 100% on one of the throttling tabs

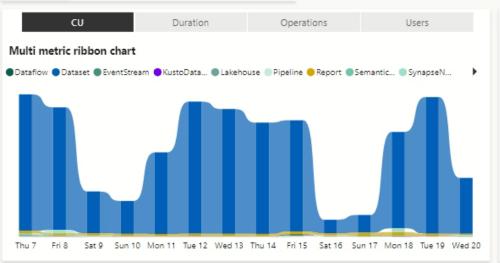
Note: For F SKU, if throttled, you can pause/resume to pay now and clear the carry forward, but that is not a long-term solution

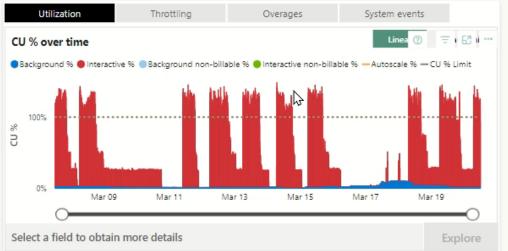
Metrics **App Tips**

Fabric Capacity Metrics Compute Storage

Capacity name: CAT Premium Europe

Pick a capacity from the Capacity name slicer to see data. All visuals on the page will refresh each time a capacity is picked. Learn how to use this page by clicking the "info" button.



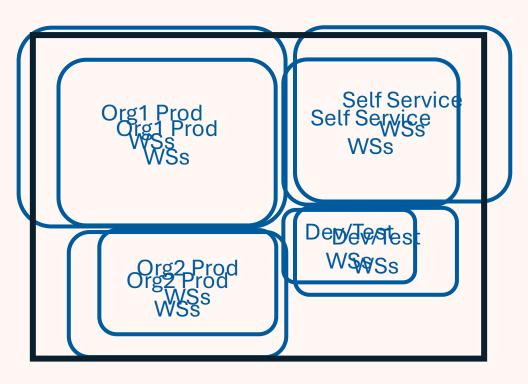


Select optional column(s): Rejected count Select item kind(s): All Items (14 days) Workspace CU (s) Item kind Item name Duration (s) Users 32,451,086,7200 LoadTest Dataset Phils test dataset_YR_Max 2,302,896,3680 2 0

Billing type Rejected count Billable CSA PT Report Life expectancy 789,600.0000 14,755.2200 0 Billable 322,122,5920 2 0 BDJ_NYCCitibike_StarSchemaAllT... Dataset 00_NYCCitibike_FLAT 7,810.0520 Billable 253,104.3680 0 GabiDataCommunityAustria wwilakehouse 12,047.0100 Billable Dataset BDJ_NYCCitibike_StarSchemaAllT... Dataset 00_NYCCitibike_STAR 133,060,0640 26,935.4120 2 0 Billable 127,017.4050 12,927.6500 2 0 # ankit copilot demo SynapseNotebook Notebook 1 Billable 93,539,2000 # ankit copilot demo Report Power BI Session Service 5,580,0000 0 Billable GabiDataCommunityAustria Lakehouse wwilakehouse 73,768.2224 2.4700 0 Billable BDJ_NYCCitibike_StarSchemaAllT... Dataset 00_NYCCitibike_STAR (Full) 72,103.2960 9,025.5060 2 0 Billable DbrowneFabricTest 41,743,9430 4,891.2610 0 SynapseNotebook Notebook 1 Billable 37.969.7683 2 BDJ_NYCCitibike_DL NYCCitibike 2,660,9720 0 Billable Lakehouse 35.391.4400 Dataflow CopilotDemoDataflowGen2 1,929,9490 2 0 # ankit copilot demo Billable PBI Monitor - PBICAT Dataflow PBI - Activity Monitor - Dataflow 32,553.7440 1,815.4310 0 Billable BDJ NYCCitibike Raw Pipeline nine BASE NYCCitibike 28 800.0000 2 233,1790 Billable Total 34,896,258.5263 6,028,289.7330 0

Note: Didn't even go to Timepoint Detail page. Useful for usernames and individual operation time/CU

When Capacity Units Run Out Option 1 – Optimize



WSs = Workspaces

Capacity

Approach

 Work with content creators to follow best practices and reduce CU consumption

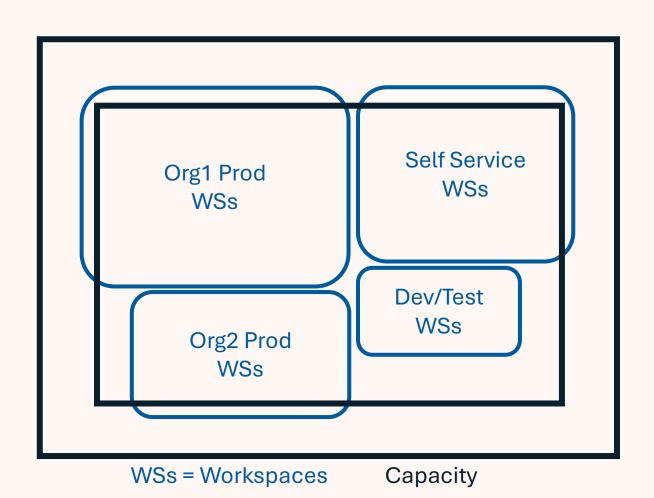
Pros

- Avoids increased cost
- Learning carries over to future content

Cons

• Can be difficult/time consuming

When Capacity Units Run Out Option 2 – Scale Up



Options to add compute

- Move to a bigger P SKU or RI F SKU
- Turn on autoscale (P SKU)
- Manual/Dynamic change size (F SKU)

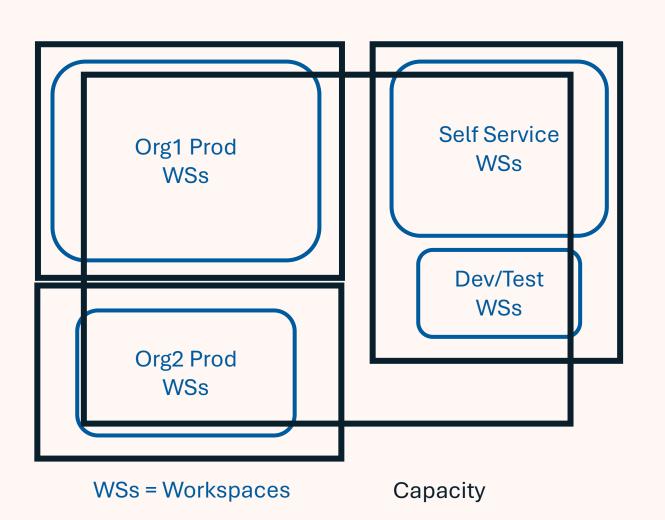
Pros

- Add CUs for all items
- Easy

Cons

- Cost
- Bad actors (items with unintentionally high CU burn) can still be a problem

When Capacity Units Run Out Option 3 – Scale Out



Options

 Create multiple smaller P or F SKUs based on organization, type of work, etc.

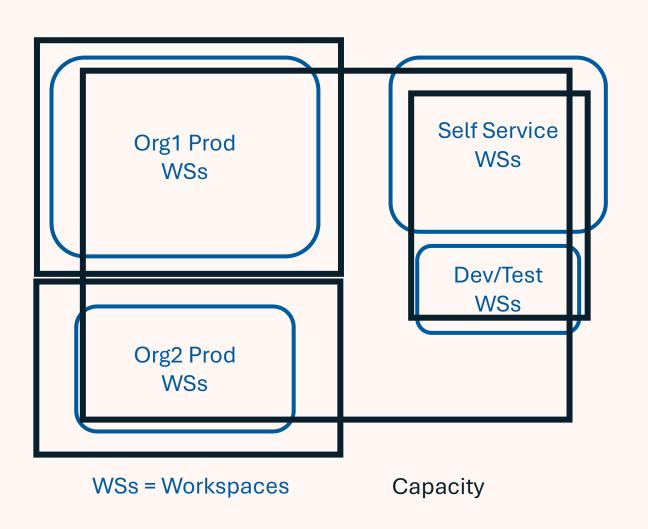
Pros

- Easy
- Provides some isolation from bad actors (items with unintentionally high CU burn)
- Flexibility in capacity settings/governance

Cons

- Cost
- High CU items have increased chance of throttling

When Capacity Units Run Out Option 4 – Isolate



Approach

Provide isolated capacity for key items built by experienced developers

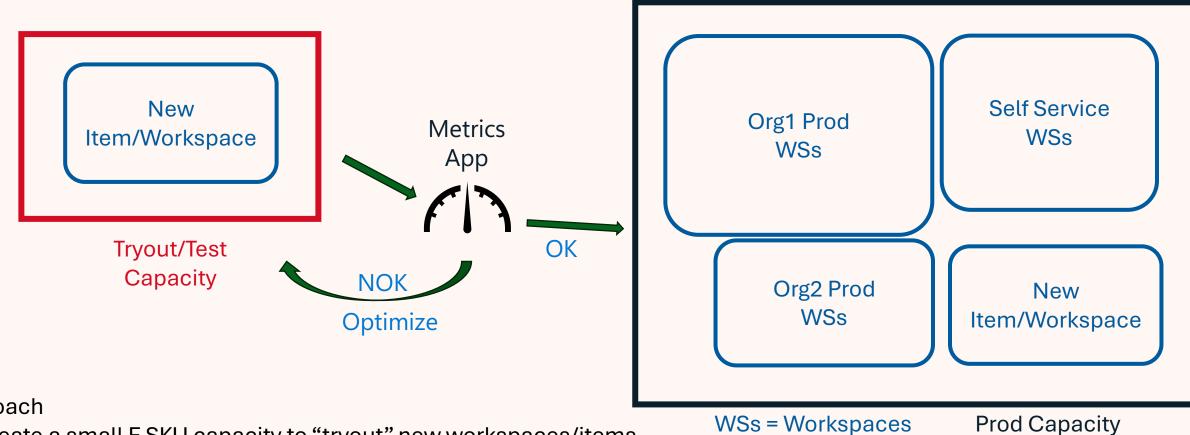
Pros

- Easy
- Provides isolation from items built by inexperienced developers and/or rapid unplanned usage growth
- Flexibility in capacity settings/governance

Cons

- Cost
- May lead to frustration of lower priority content developers/consumers

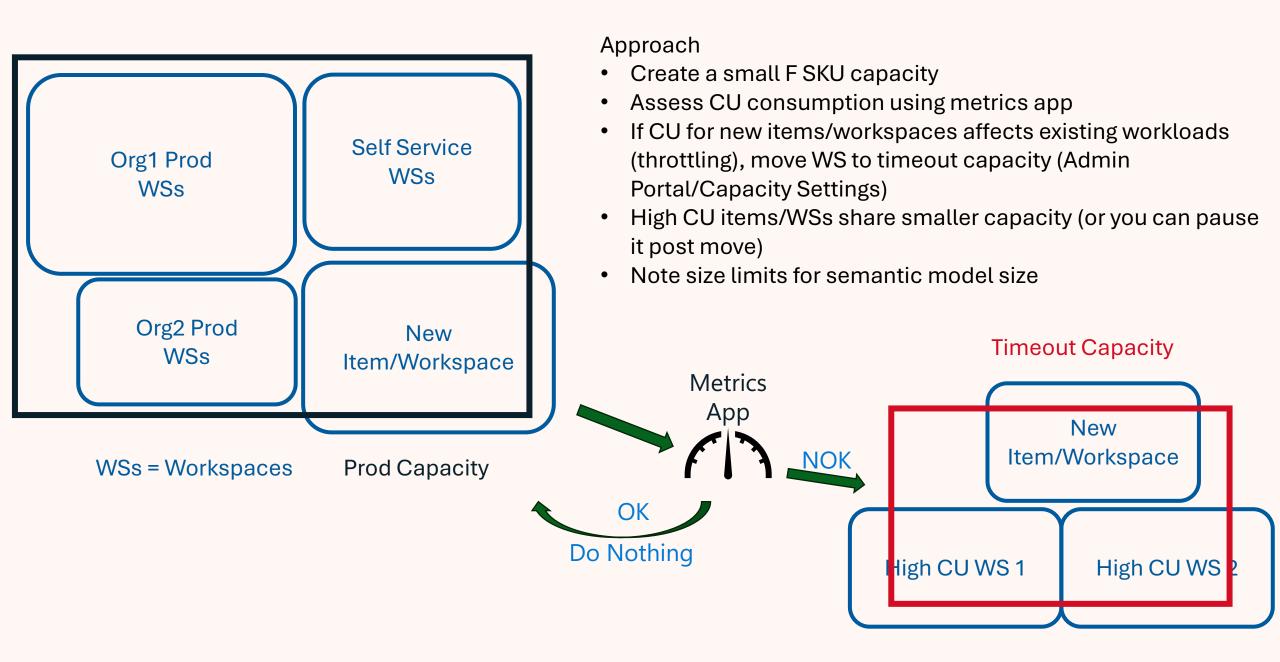
Isolation Strategy #4a – Tryout Capacity



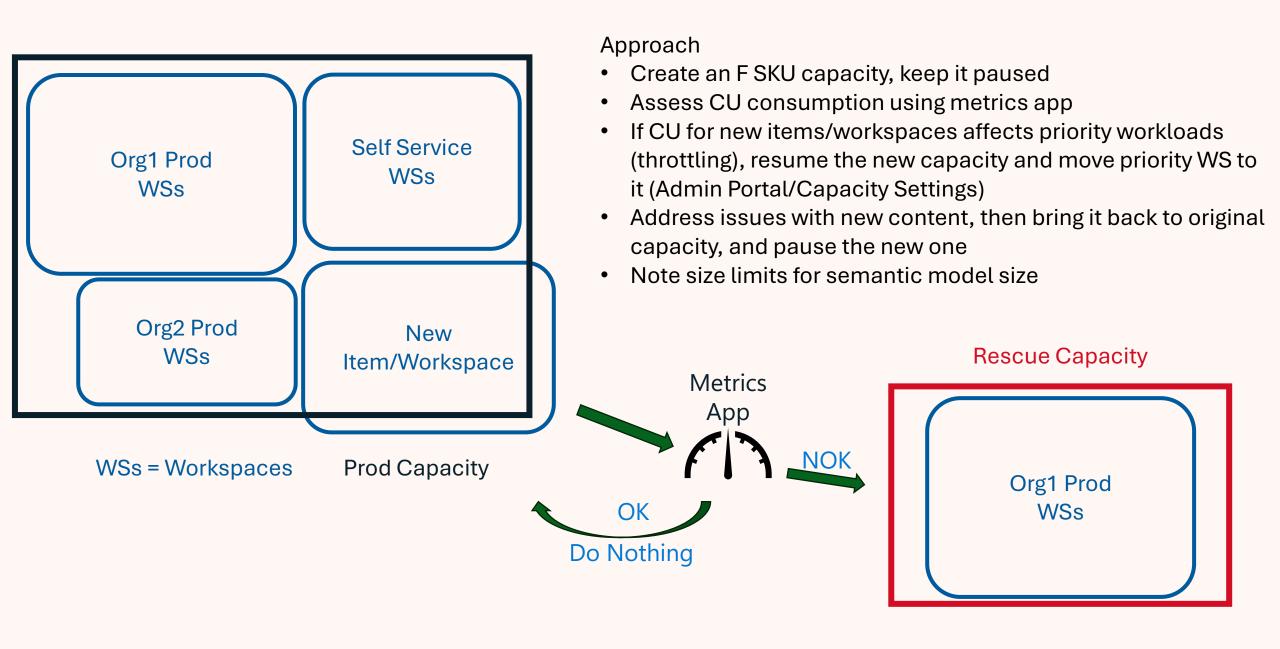
Approach

- Create a small F SKU capacity to "tryout" new workspaces/items
- Assess CU consumption using metrics app
- If acceptable, move to prod capacity
- If not, optimize
- Pause tryout capacity when not in use, if possible
- Note size limits for semantic model size

Isolation Strategy #4b – Timeout Capacity



Isolation Strategy #4c – Rescue Capacity

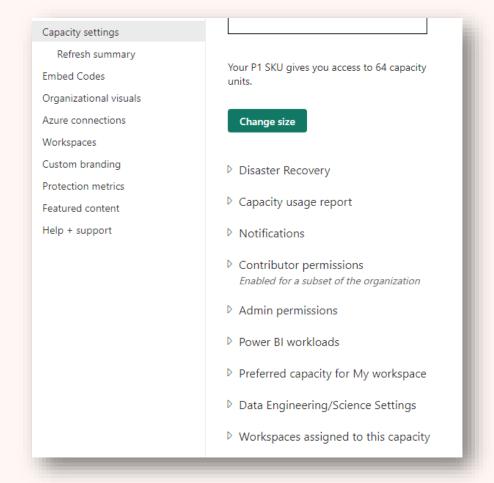


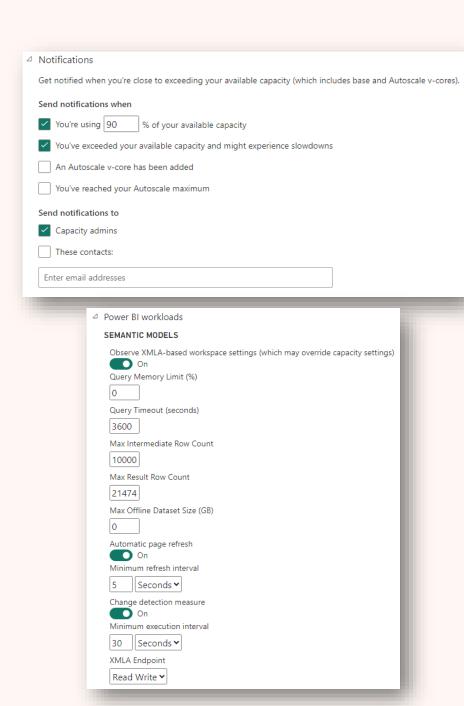
Recommendations for Cost/CU Savings

- Invest in education, knowledge/best practice sharing, COE, etc. for creators and consumers (proactive optimization)
- Avoid data/report sprawl (leverage certified/promoted models, OneLake shortcuts, etc.)
- Leverage a multi-capacity strategy (isolate, tryout, timeout, etc.)
- Right size your capacities and leverage F SKUs for pause/resume/resize, or reserved instances for discounts
 - Consider a combo of RI and PAYGO (for predictable surge activity)
- Choose the right tool for the job and stay up to date on Fabric feature releases
 - High concurrency mode for notebooks

Leverage the capacity settings in the UI

- Notifications on CU overuse
- Power BI workloads settings (e.g., query limits, page refresh)

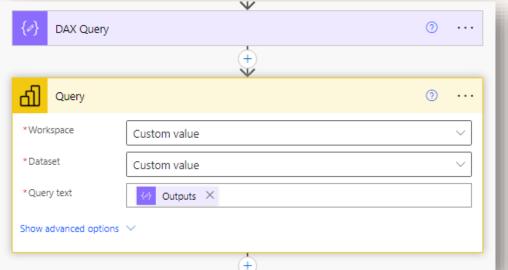




Custom Solutions

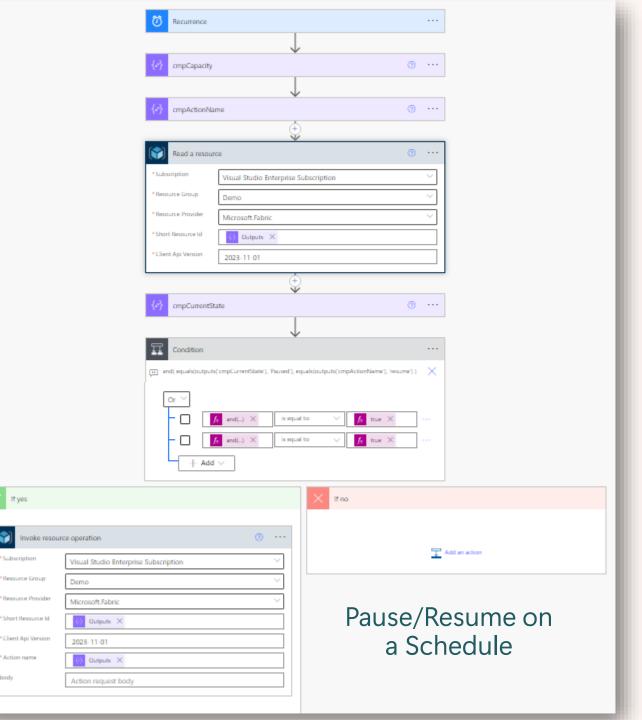
- Modify the Metrics App to meet your needs
- Build a custom report off the semantic model
- Send DAX queries to the metrics app semantic model in your own solution
 - Power Automate, Notebook (SemPy), PowerShell, etc.
 - Get throttling % values (Interactive Delay, Interactive Rejection, and/or Background Rejection)
 - Latest values and/or trends over time
 - Best for summarized data only (e.g., hour, day)

Incorporate Metrics App queries into custom solutions



Collect data from multiple capacities and store it long term

```
# Get max date from current delta table (to avoid loading duplicate days)
         df max = spark.sql(f'''
         SELECT MAX(Date) as MaxDate
         FROM throttling;
         maxdate = df_max.first()['MaxDate']
         maxdate = datetime.today() + timedelta(days=-6)
     maxdateforDAX = maxdate.strftime('%Y,%m,%d')
20
     if maxdate.date() < (datetime.today() + timedelta(days=-1)).date():</pre>
22
         # Get data for each capacity, write daily csv and append delta
         for capacity in lst_capacities:
             querytext = '''\
                         DEFINE
                         MPARAMETER 'CapacityID' = "{capID}"
                         VAR yesterday =
                             FILTER(ALL('Dates'[Date] ), 'Dates'[Date] < TODAY() && 'Dates'[Date] > DATE({MD}) )
                         EVALUATE
                         SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(
                              'Dates'[Date],
                              'TimePoints'[Start of Hour],
                             yesterday,
                             "IntDelay", ROUND( 'All Measures' [Dynamic InteractiveDelay %] * 100, 2 ),
                              "IntReject", ROUND( 'All Measures' [Dynamic InteractiveRejection %] * 100, 2 ),
                              "BackReject", ROUND( 'All Measures'[Dynamic BackgroundRejection %] * 100, 2 )
                          '''.format(capID=capacity, MD=maxdateforDAX)
             df throttling = fabric.evaluate dax(workspace=MetricsWS, dataset=MetricsModel, dax string=querytext)
             if len(df throttling) >= 1:
                 df_throttling.columns = df_throttling.columns.str.replace(r'(.*\[)|(\].*)', '', regex=True)
                 df throttling.columns = df throttling.columns.str.replace(' ', ' ')
                  df throttling['capacityId'] = capacity
                  filename = capacity + ' throttling ' + (datetime.today()).strftime('%Y%m%d') + '.csv'
                  df throttling.to csv("/lakehouse/default/Files/ThrottlingData/" + filename)
                  spk throttle = spark.createDataFrame(df throttling)
                 spk throttle.write.mode("append").format("delta").option("overwriteSchema", "true").saveAsTable('Throttling')
```



Automate With F SKUs

- Pause/resume on a schedule
 - Automate with Power Automate, Logic Apps, or a Notebook
- Resize at peak/slow times
 - Mix with Reserved Instance (PAYGO when at increased size)
 - Query the metrics app and respond to actual demand (DIY autoscale)

DIY Autoscale – Fabric Notebook (Bret Myers)

Set SKU Ranges and Values

```
# Parameters to be passed in from pipeline.
minSku = 'F2' # min sku size we can scale down to
maxSku = 'F128' # max sku size we can scale up to

utilizationTolerance = 90 # Percentage of CU used to st
capacityName = 'fabricbamdemo' #capacity name to be mon
subscriptionId = '## metricsAppWorkspaceName = 'WS_FabricCapacityMetrics' #
metricsAppModelName = 'Fabric Capacity Metrics' # name
alertEmail = '' # email address to send alert that we s
```

Get credentials

```
tenantId = mssparkutils.credentials.getSecret('keyVaultEndpoint', 'secretName_tenantId')
clientId = mssparkutils.credentials.getSecret('keyVaultEndpoint', 'secretName_clientId')
secret = mssparkutils.credentials.getSecret('keyVaultEndpoint', 'secretName_clientSecret')

api_pbi = 'https://analysis.windows.net/powerbi/api/.default'
api_azuremgmt = 'https://management.core.windows.net/.default'
```

Not all code shown

$\underline{FabricTools/CapacityAutoScale\ at\ main\cdot bretamyers/FabricTools\cdot GitHub}$

Query metrics app model

```
from azure.identity import ClientSecretCredential
     import requests, json, math
     from pyspark.sql.functions import explode
     auth = ClientSecretCredential(tenant id=tenantId, client id=clientId, client secret=secret)
     access token = auth.get token(api pbi)
     header = {'Authorization': f'Bearer {access token.token}', 'Content-type': 'application/json'}
10
     body = {
        "queries":
12
13
            "query": f"""
14
             DEFINE
15
               MPARAMETER 'CapacityID' = "{capacityId}"
16
17
               VAR DS0FilterTable =
18
                 FILTER(
19
                   KEEPFILTERS(VALUES('TimePoints'[TimePoint])),
                    'TimePoints'[TimePoint] >= NOW() - 1
20
21
22
23
               VAR __DS0FilterTable2 = TREATAS({{"{capacityId}"}}, 'Capacities'[capacityId])
24
25
               VAR __DS0Core =
26
                 SELECTCOLUMNS (
                   KEEPFILTERS(
28
                     FILTER(
29
                       KEEPFILTERS(
                         SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(
30
31
                            'Capacities'[capacityId],
                            'Ttame'[Billable tune]
3.2
```

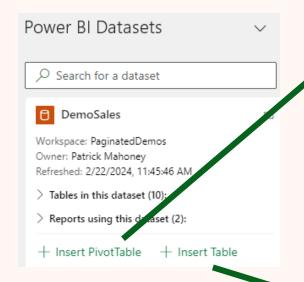
Change SKU Size

Most Common Capacity Issues (Power BI)

Bad Practice	Recommendations/Typical Resolution
Model issues (M:M, bi-di, snowflake, etc.) and/or inefficient DAX	Follow best practices (e.g., BPA), star schema
Too many visuals	Multi card, small multiples, Deneb, PowerPoint background, etc.
Big single visual (i.e., matrix with lots of rows, columns, and/or measures)	Improve report design (e.g., drillthrough, apply all Slicers, report page tooltip), field parameters, calc group guardrails, etc.
Complex RLS	Remodel to enable simple filter like Table[Email] = USERPRINCIPALNAME()
Very high concurrency	Optimize reports, DAX, etc. (big multiplier) Consider QSO, data subsets
Direct Query	Switch to import or Direct Lake, if possible. Aggregations, hybrid tables, etc.
Analyze in Excel	Automate downstream analytics with a Power BI report instead, subscriptions, DAX connected table, slicers/measures first, etc.
Excessive refresh	Don't "break the fold", incremental refresh, reduce frequency, optimize M code

Save Those CUs – Getting Data Into Excel

Analyze in Excel



Connected Table

Key Takeaways

- How you build it matters
 - Filters & measures first!
- This shows durations but it's CU that matters (test your use cases/models)
- Opt for DAX Connected Tables
 - Create pivot table from that, if needed

X Rows, Measures, Filter

StartTime	Туре	Duration	User	Database	Query
11:49:30	MDX	2,328ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measures].[To
11:49:26	MDX	0ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {AddCalculated
11:49:23	MDX	0ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {AddCalculated
11:49:17	MDX	1,875ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measures].[To
11:49:03	MDX	4,469ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measures].[To
11:48:54	MDX	3,938ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measures].[To

Filter, measures, rows

StartTime	Туре	Duration	User	Database	Query
10:06:13	MDX	1,625ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measure
10:06:03	MDX	781ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measure
10:05:49	MDX	109ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measure
10:05:46	MDX	312ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measure
10:05:43	MDX	234ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT FROM [N
10:05:14	MDX	0ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {AddCale

Refresh (same for both)

StartTime	Type	Duration	User	Database	Query
11:50:30	MDX	2,234ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	SELECT {[Measures].[To

X Rows, Measure, Filter

StartTime	Type	Duration	User	Database	Query
01:28:50	DAX	31ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:41	DAX	1,516ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VARC
01:28:40	DAX	16ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:34	DAX	156ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:33	DAX	16ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:31	DAX	0ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:30	DAX	141ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:15	DAX	2,047ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:11	DAX	1,797ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:28:08	DAX	594ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VARC
01:27:56	DAX	281ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _C
01:27:50	DAX	16ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VARC

Filter, measures, rows

StartTime	Type	Duration	User	Database	Query
09:14:20	DAX	16ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _DS0Filte
09:14:07	DAX	1,000ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _DS0Filte
09:14:02	DAX	1,188ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _DS0Filte
09:13:59	DAX	594ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _DS0Filte
09:13:51	DAX	531ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR _DS0Filte
09:13:50	DAX	0ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VAR DS0Cor

Refresh (same for both)

StartTime	Type	Duration	User	Database	Query
11:54:49	DAX	1,969ms	Power Bl	DemoSales	DEFINE VARDS0FilterTable = TREATA