

POWER BI  
WEEK

LESSON

#01

# SALES DASHBOARD



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Hey guys!

The day has finally come!

I'm glad to have you here with me! This is the first edition in English besides the others 4 in Portuguese. All students that took these lessons are now building dashboards like a Pro with Power BI. You are next!!

Let me know where you are from!! Write in the chat. Also, tag me in your stories in Instagram so I can share with my connections.

First of all, I'm Leonardo Karpinski and I like to teach Power BI with flowered shirts! LOL It's my trademark!

I have students in other countries that speaks Portuguese like Portugal, Moçambique, Angola, and others. And now I decided to teach in English too! Extend the horizons!

I already helped more than 16 thousand of people, and I'm here to help you as well!

Okay, let me show you what we are going to learn during this week. We are going to build a dynamic and interactive Sales and Financial Dashboard from scratch! That's right!

## ***Important notes:***

- We will have five lessons, one for each day until Friday at the same time (Brazil 12pm – UTC 3pm – India 8:30pm);
- From today (Monday) to Thursday, the sessions will be recorded, but I will be live in the chat during the session;
- On Friday I will be live! It will be a great challenge to me!
- The database and materials for today are available in the link in the description;
- In the materials there is also a complete PDF tutorial for every single step I'm going to present here;
- Pay attention here first, then later you can practice. You will have the video and

the PDF to help you;

- All recordings will be available until Sunday;

- I will provide my solution in Power BI (PBIX file) for those who watch Live on Thursday;

- And last but not least, pretend you paid a large amount of money to participate in this event, and be committed during this week! I'm pretty sure it will be life-changing to you!!

Now, I want to know the experience you guys have with Power BI:

- 1) Never used Power BI
- 2) Beginner
- 3) Intermediate
- 4) Expert

If you never used, congrats for being here! You are starting a very promising career that is growing more and more.

I'm going to start with the basic questions:

### *What is Power BI and Business Intelligence?*

Power BI is a Microsoft tool to create analysis (data analysis), and BI is a process for collecting, analyzing and monitor information you would like to compare/track in your company. The main goal of Power BI/BI is to help you to make better decisions.

### *In what areas can I use Power BI?*

There are no restrictions. All you need is data. I showed some dashboards for Sales, HR, Sales vs Target, and Logistics. You can see that we have an overall information and detailed information in the same dashboard, and also make simulations!



## *How can I download Power BI?*

There are 2 options: By using Microsoft Store or on the website.

Go to <https://powerbi.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/> → “Products” → “Power BI Desktop”

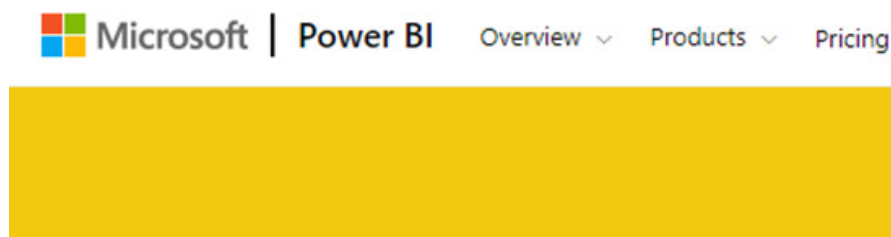


Figure 1: Downloading Power BI

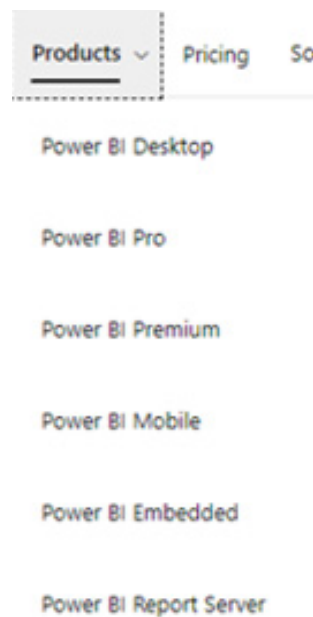


Figure 2 – Downloading Power BI Desktop

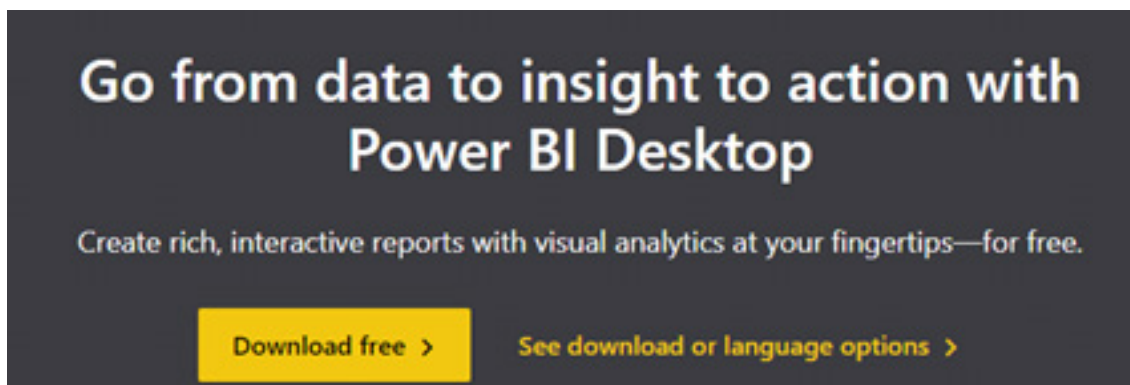


Figure 3: Download for free

## *How much is Power BI? 100% free!!*

There are two ways to share your dashboards:

With a Pro license (\$9.90 month/user) when you need to share reports on the cloud in a safe way.

FYI: Power BI Service, Cloud and Online are all the same, okay?

or publishing as public. This way anybody can access the information for free (not really a safe way).

## *Excel vs Power BI*

A really common doubt, right? Both tools are really good for different purposes. Excel is a report-based tool. Simple to use but too many “copy and paste” techniques.

Power BI is a model-based tool that you can create reports on top of data model. Once the model is defined, you can build different reports with the same data. You automate processes.

Excited?! Now let's get started!! Yay!

## ***The 7 pillars for Mastering Power BI***

- 1) Extraction (the data from the source)
- 2) Transformation
- 3) Modelling (create table relationships)
- 4) Calculation (create measures and we build KPI's)
- 5) Visualization
- 6) Distribution (publishing)
- 7) Automation

- From 1 to 5 we use Power BI Desktop and it is 100% FREE. This is our Development Environment.

- From 6 to 7 we use Power BI Service.

- During Power BI Week we will talk mostly about steps 1 to 5.

- Steps 6 and 7 are related to the Power BI Service and I recommend you read the following blogpost:

<https://powerbiexperience.com/en/definitive-guide-power-bi-licensing-free-x-pro-x-a1-x-em1-x-p1/>

# *Knowing Power BI Layout*

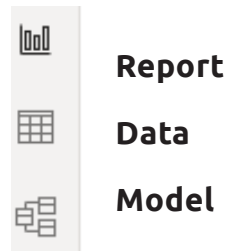


Figure 4: Options in Power BI

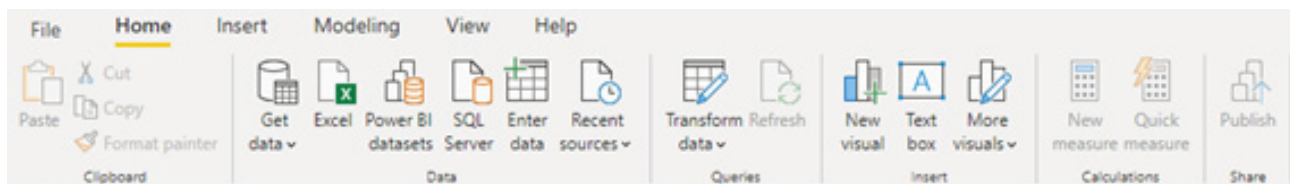


Figure 5: Tool bar

## **Getting started with the phases!**

# *Phase 1: Extract*

Where does data come from?

The data we use in Power BI, usually comes from a database (OLTP database or database transaction). A database is an organizational collection of data, usually stored and accessible electronically from a computer system. When databases are more overly complex, they are often built using a formal design and modeling method.

How do you get the data you work with today? Answer me in the chat:

- 1) Connecting directly in the transactional database (OLTP)



- 2) Connecting to a Data Warehouse (DW)
- 3) Through an Excel file connected to the database
- 4) Extracting reports from the ERP system**
- 5) Filling out spreadsheets manually**

So, the first thing to do is to extract the data, just like we did in the video with our Revenue data. Once extracted, we must transform data (always, always, always transform before load).



Figure 6: Transform Data

When you click in “Transform data”, it will open a new window, that is the Power Query Editor.

All the information you see in the formula bar is called “M”. We do not need to worry about it now.

The best option, in my opinion, to remove empty rows, is to filter the column.

In the example was used the “Order Number” column. When you are going to do this, you have to be sure about the column information, like this one that has to have an order number value.

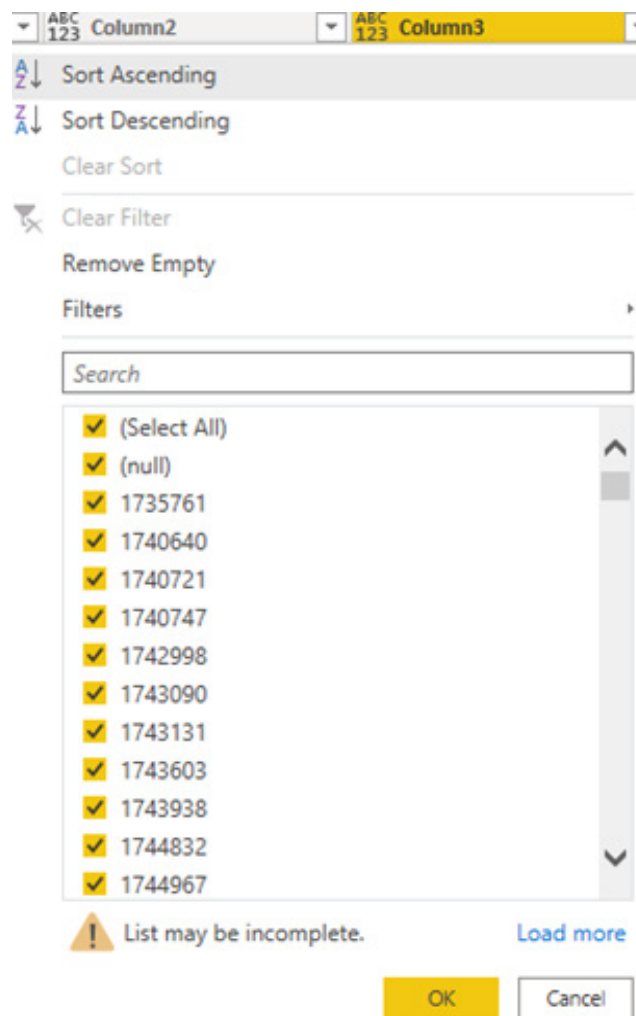


Figure 7: Removing Empty Rows

If you made a mistake, you could undo it in the “Applied Steps”.

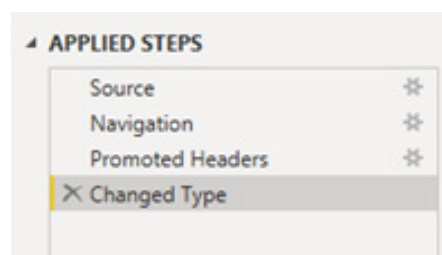


Figure 8: Delete Applied Steps

After doing this, now we must configure the header.

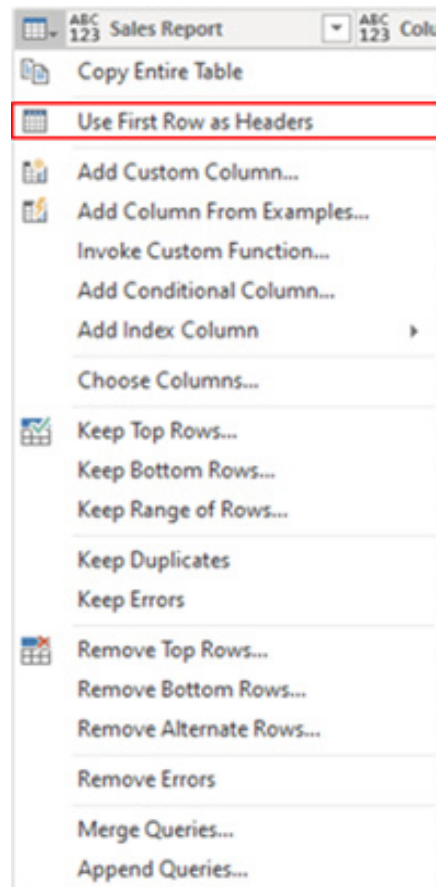


Figure 9: Using first row as headers

You have to be careful because Power BI sometimes applies changes that were not required. Like for example, the date configuration in Brazil we use dd/mm/yr in the US mm/dd/yr, also the decimal separation with “ , ” or “ . ”. You can configure per locale:

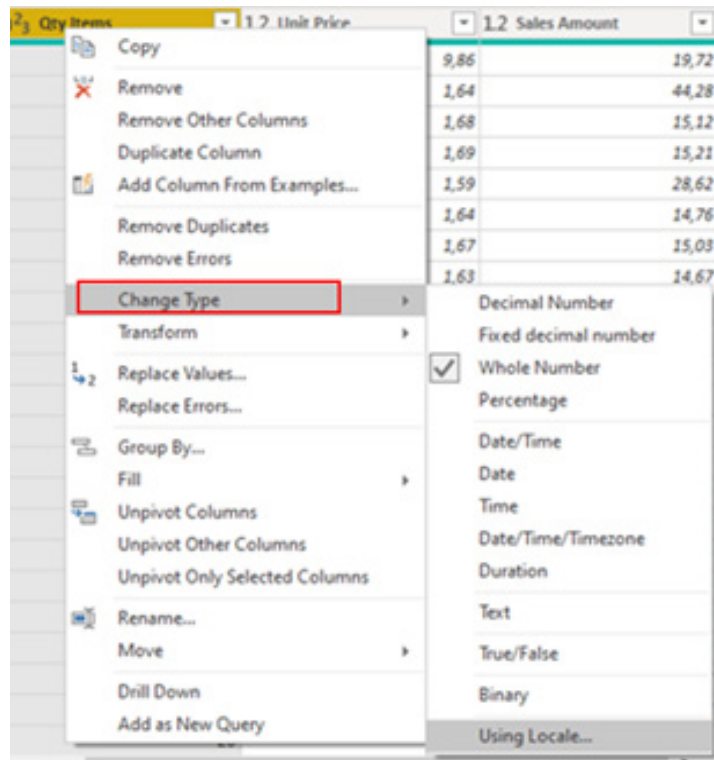


Figure 10: Using Locale

Then adjust for your convenient locale.

Once you did all the transformation you needed, then click on “Close and Apply”. Now we can start to build our dashboard!!

Let's start comparing the Sales Amount. To select the table, you want to work with, you can drag and drop in “Fields” or just check the box.

**TIP:**

When you create graph and you want to create another one, pay attention to click outside the graph, otherwise you are going to change it instead of creating a new one.

When we use a clustered bar chart, when you click on the options it changes according to your selection, see:

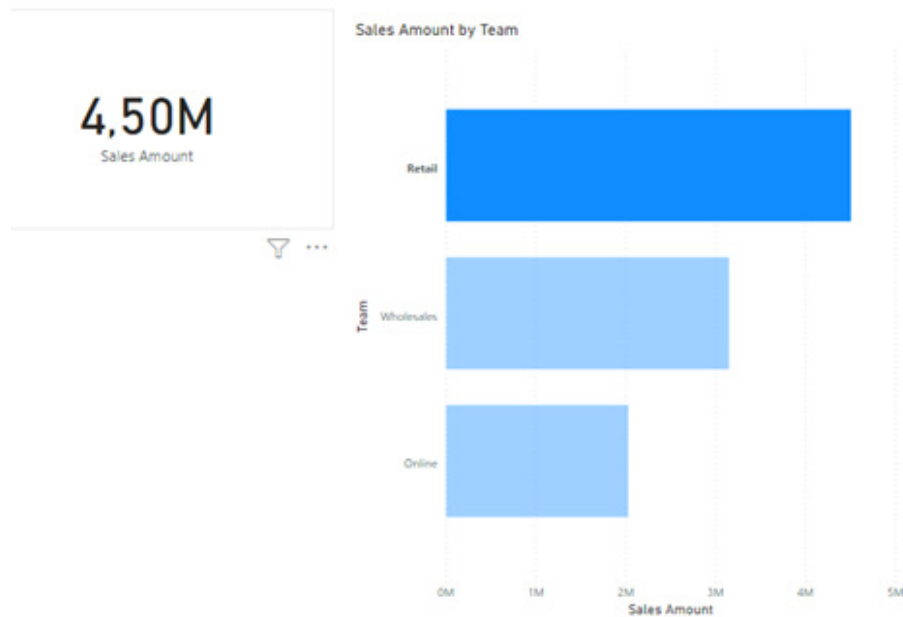


Figure 11: Retail information

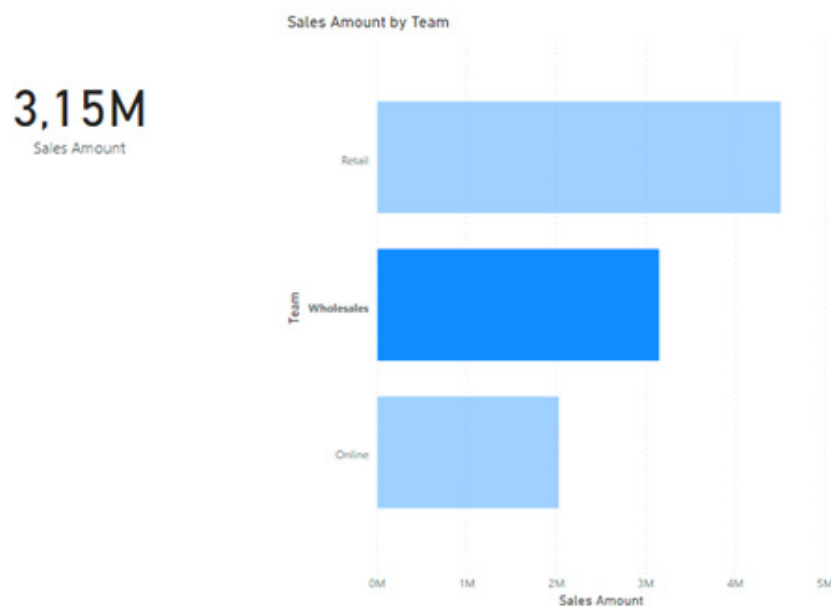


Figure 12: Wholesales information



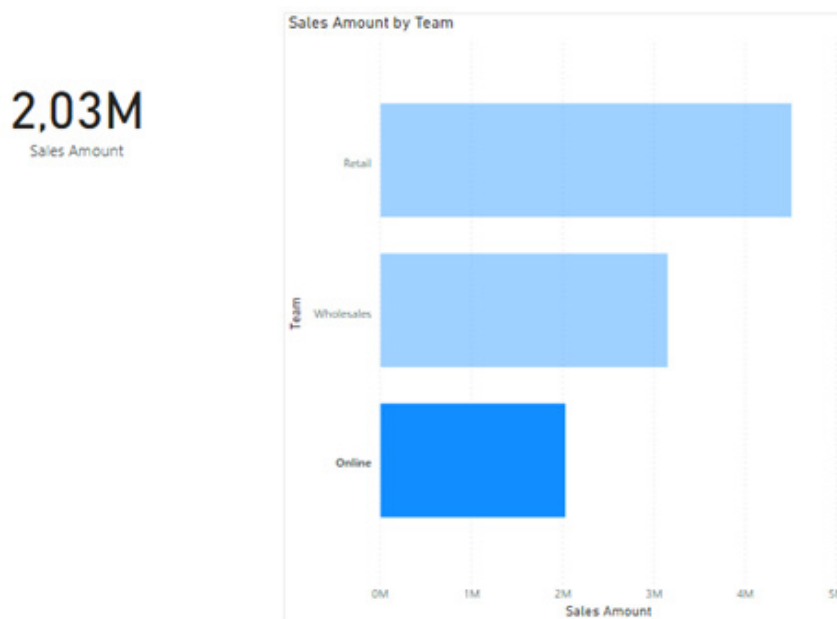


Figure 13: Online information

Any changes you want to make, you have to use the “Format”.

When you save the file and find it in a folder, you can compare the size of your file between Power BI and Excel.

Power BI compresses the file, and it works faster than Excel.

Tell me, if you had an Excel with two files, you would have to use the functions “VLOOKUP” and “XLOOKUP”, but in Power BI is different, is all about modelling, creating relationships between them.

Just to contextualize, a look up table known as dimensions, is what defines your business entities such as costumers, products, accounts. It’s your who, what, where and when.

And the fact tables that usually have lots of rows and less columns, just like in the example in the video.

Tomorrow we are going to talk more about this!

The “Extract” function is to keep the data you want. Then click on “Text After Delimiter”, which in this case is after the space.

Inside the “Delimiter” blank you click on the space bar, and “ok”.



Figure 14: Format

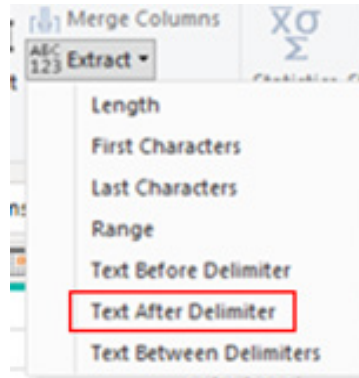


Figure 15: Extract function

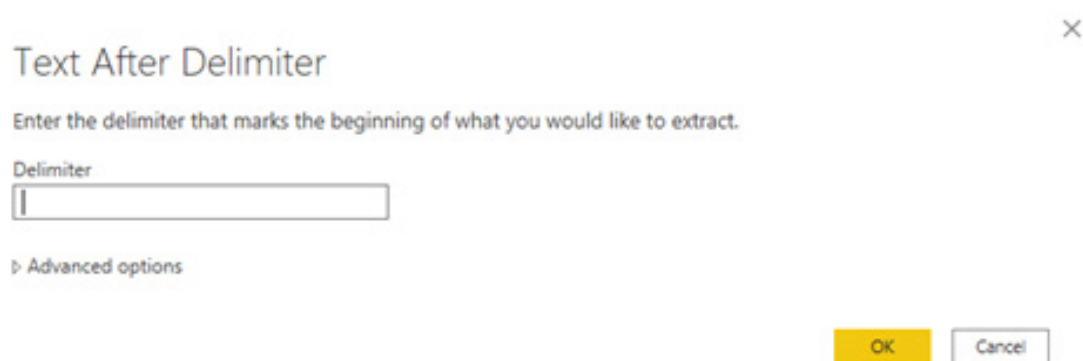


Figure 16: Text After Delimiter function

The in the Product ID change the “ABC” to “123 whole number”.

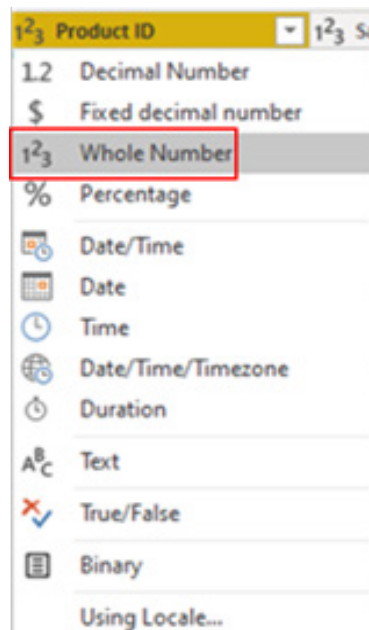


Figure 17: ABC to Whole Number

All set, “Close and Apply”.

That leaves us with two tables, “Product” and “Revenue”, and I want to compare Sales Amount with Group.

Choose the “Table Chart”, then select “Group” and “Sales Amount”. Remember you can configurate in “Format”.

It was only possible to make this work because of the relationship that Power BI creates between the tables, since they have a column in common.

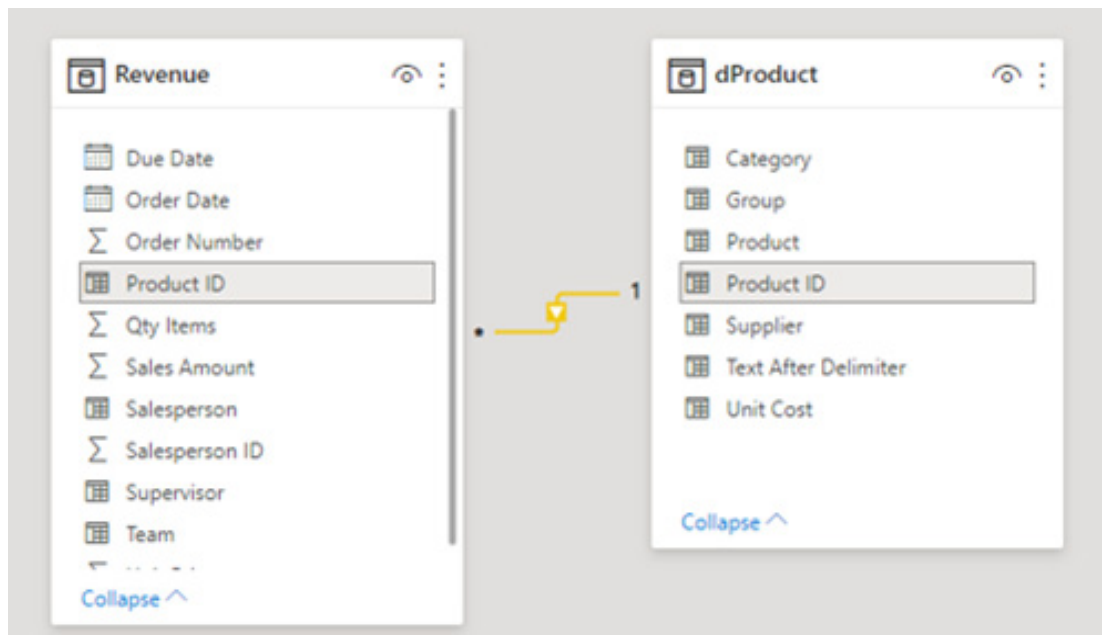


Figure 18: Relationship Environment

You can see that when the relationship is deleted, it reflects directly in the chart.

Understanding 1: many

1 stands to one particularly value in the unique table (Product ID), and the " \* " for the value that is repeated.

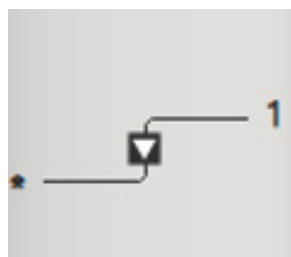


Figure 19: 1: M

## *Phase 2: Transform*

### **What is the correct structure of a table?**

- Always columnar; In Power BI in general we cannot have in a single column, two different types of information.

- Each column must represent a unique type of information.

- Whenever we connect to a data source and to use data, usually it is very we can say “raw” because there are a lot of information that may or may not need, structured or not, so we have always to prep them using Power Query, that we can call a “magic box” since it’s where we structure and “clean” (transform) our data.

- So, it is extremely important to TRANSFORM it before loading into the model.

Power Query is our best friend for this. It is the tool to prepare, transform and put the data into the right shape

**Even better:** you do this only once because it automates all your ETL process. Since the structure remains the same, **you won’t need to do it all over again.**

Now let’s create some measures?

In order to create a new column, you can right-click on any column and add a “New Column”.

In the formula bar you use the formula to calculate:

`COST = REVENUE[QTY ITEMS] * = RELATED('PRODUCT'[UNIT COST])`



To create a new measure, you have to right-click on “Revenue” in “Fields” and select “New measure”.

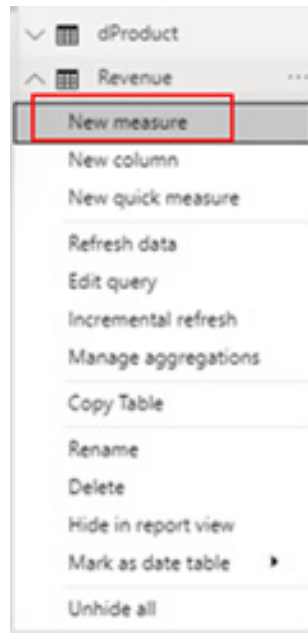


Figure 20: Creating new measure

The formula you are going to use is:

```
REVENUE = SUM(FREVENUE[SALES AMOUNT])
```

After doing so, you can see that in “Fields” there is a calculator in the “Revenue”.

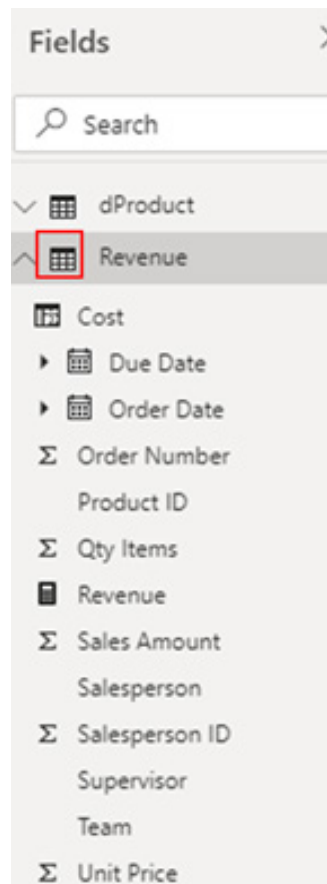


Figure 21: Measure

**TIP:**

TRY TO AVOID USING IMPLICIT MEASURE.

Per what you could see in the video, there are 2 measures: implicit and explicit. I will give you 3 reasons why the explicit measure is better.

- You can use it along with other measures;
- You must always use a measure instead of a column when you use Values;
- Any measure store data within them.

Today we are going to skip the Modeling phase and talk about it tomorrow.

## ***Phase 4: Calculation***

- DAX: Data Analysis eXpressions;
- Filter Context: is the combination of all filters that are applied on the report, which propagate through the relationships. Doesn't iterate, but filters;
- Row Context: is when we create a calculated column or when we use iterative functions (like SUMX). The values are calculated for each detail row. Doesn't filter but iterates;
- CALCULATE function: it is the only function that can modify the evaluation context;
- Syntax: CALCULATE(<expression>, Filter 1, Filter 2... )

We can create columns, measures or tables with DAX:

- 1) Columns: consume memory and are static calculations. Use only for information on the Axis or for Filters.
- 2) Measures: are dynamic and consume only CPU, because they are calculated on the fly. Use always for Math (numbers that you place in the Values of the visuals);
- 3) Tables: not used often. It is better to create them in Power Query.

Where is the Power of DAX? 1, 2 or 3?

You got it right if you said number 2, creating measures.

Creating a new measure using SUMX function:

```
COST =  
SUMX (  
    REVENUE,  
    REVENUE[QTY ITEMS]  
        * RELATED ( 'PRODUCT'[UNIT COST] )  
)
```

To calculate the Gross Margin in this case is easy to calculate since is Revenue – Cost.

Whenever I must divide two measures, I prefer to use the function “DIVIDE”:

```
% OF GM = DIVIDE([GROSS MARGIN] , [REVENUE])
```

## *Phase 5: Visuals*

### *What is Data Storytelling?*

The main idea of dashboards is they must give the answer is been looked for just by looking at the analysis, without explaining or any question. It must always be easy to understand.

The power of building a narrative around a set of data to help convey the meaning of that data in a powerful and compelling fashion

**TIP:**

[HTTPS://TDWL.ORG/PORTALS/WHAT-IS-DATA-STORYTELLING-DEFINITION.ASPX](https://tdwl.org/portals/what-is-data-storytelling-definition.aspx)

And what is NOT Data Storytelling? See examples of what not to do here: <https://viz.wtf/>

### *Recommendations*

1) Be concerned about design – really important!! This is the first thing people see in your dashboards.

2) Identify your audience – Once you do that, you will have a better idea to:

- Ask how a dashboard will be used and design for next step actions.
- What information does the reader need to be successful? (Key words: KPI's – Indicators)
- How much detail does the reader need? You must pay attention to this one because you will have to change information depending on whom you are going



to send to and what are the most important information one needs.

3) Draw a sketch\*

- Good design should tell a story with data that does not become overwhelming with way too much information, clutter, or noise.
- Limit content to fit entirely on one screen.
- Keep your dashboard simple with only a 3 to 5 key values, charts, or tables. Avoid putting too much information on a dashboard.
- If detail tables are needed, place them on the bottom of the dashboard

4) Choose the right theme and keep consistency. This way the user automatically associates the color with the information in any other moment of the dashboards.

**5) Change the background (WOW effect)**

6) Use icons and images to add context (<https://logomakr.com>). After downloading the image you need, to insert in Power BI you go to the tool bar, click on "Insert" and then on "Image" select from where you want to search, choose and use it!

7) Align all visuals properly

8) Choose the right visuals\*\*

An important tip for you: whenever you need to compare values that change over time, use it in a horizontal, this means time in x-axis.

When you have a category that you want to compare, we use it in the y-axis.

9) Use visualization features from Power BI (tooltip, drill-through, bookmarks...)

Tip: \* whenever you are building a dashboard, start from the upper bottom and make it in a “Z” field of vision

Tip: \*\* Use columns charts for time and bars for categories.

In the “Assets” folder I have provided as a bonus some backgrounds. Use it wisely!  
😊 And sure, make the changes you feel appropriate.

Keep in mind that must maintain the same colors for the same subject.

Let’s see how we can even improve our dashboard.

First, change the background.

Go to “Visualizations” → “Page background” → “+ Add image” → Select the image you want

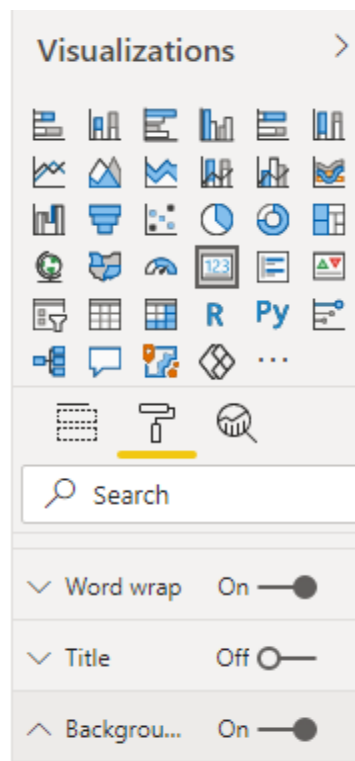


Figure 22: Changing background

Now let's change the color and theme:

Tool bar – “View” – Choose the theme you think it's more appropriate for your information.

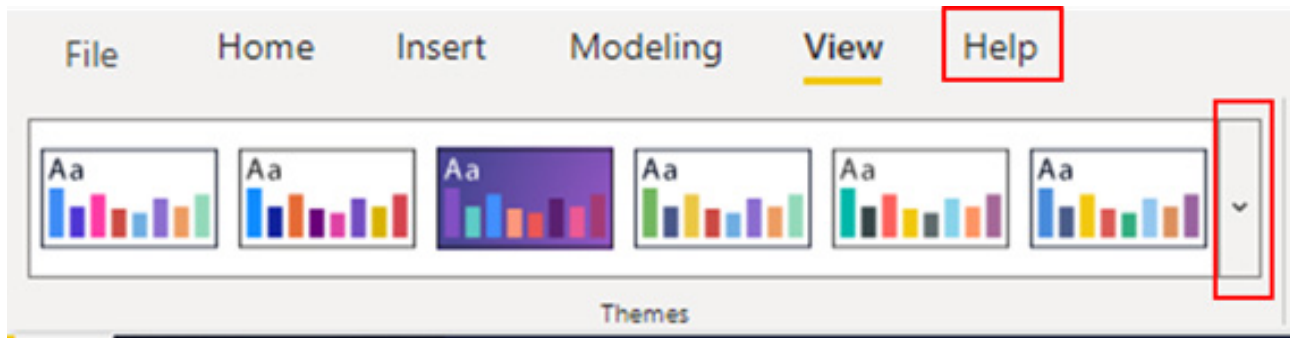


Figure 23: Choosing theme

Also, we can customize any theme:

Tool bar → “View” → “Customize current theme”

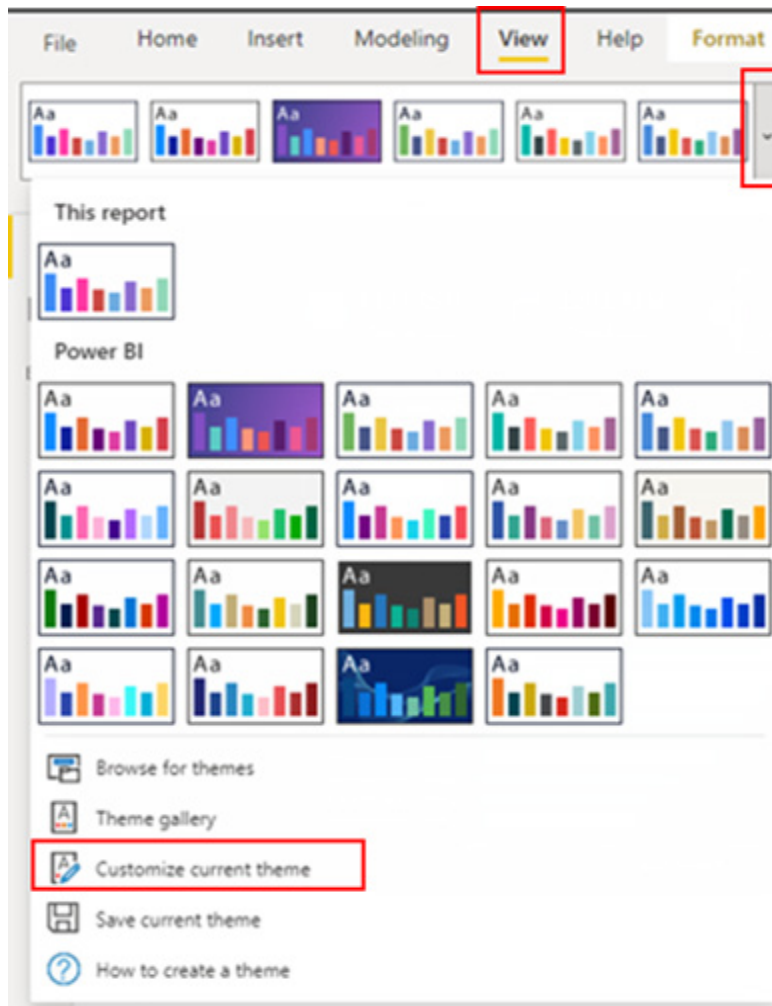


Figure 24: Customizing theme

While I’m building the dashboard, I’m not liking the layout with too many measures. So, I’m going to create a table to put all measures in the same table.

“Home” tab → “Enter data” → “Create Table” → “Load” → Name the table

Then you will be able to see the table in “Fields”. Select all the measures, drag and drop to the measures folder.

There are 3 main ways to work with a Date Dimension Table:

1. Bring the date table from your source;
2. By creating the data table in Power Query
3. Using DAX

Today we are going to use a function:

```
DATE = CALENDARAUTO()
```

Then go to your relationship environment to see if the Date Table was created and then create a new relationship. In this case is going to be a little more complicated since there are two date options “Due Date” and “Order Date”.

For our dashboard, since is a Sales Report and I want finance information, it's better that we use “Due Date”.

Drag and drop and check to see if the relationship was made correctly.

When we put “Date” in the “Axis” space in “Visualizations”, Power BI automatically splits in “Year”, “Quarter”, “Month” and “Day”. Since we only need “Month” and “Day” information, that's what we are going to keep.

We can see that we cannot almost read the months, right? Let me give you a tip:

Create a new column:

```
MONTH NAME = FORMAT(DDATE[DATE],"MMMM")
```



But to use it you must be careful because Power BI automatically creates an alphabetical order, and we have to tell him to go according to the month number.

```
MONTHNO = MONTH('DATE'[DATE])
```

Then click on “Sort by Column”

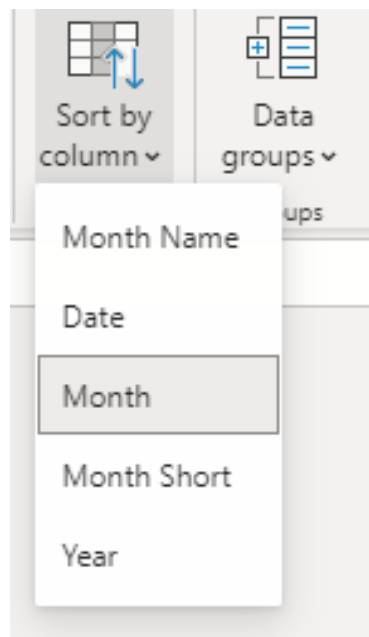


Figure 25: Sorting column

Now that the “MonthNo” was created you can drag and drop it directly in “Axis”.

To make this dashboard even more interactive, let’s do the following:

Copy the “Operational Revenue – Card” → Open “Filters” → “Filter type” as “Top N”  
Inform how many Top N you want (in the example was 1) .

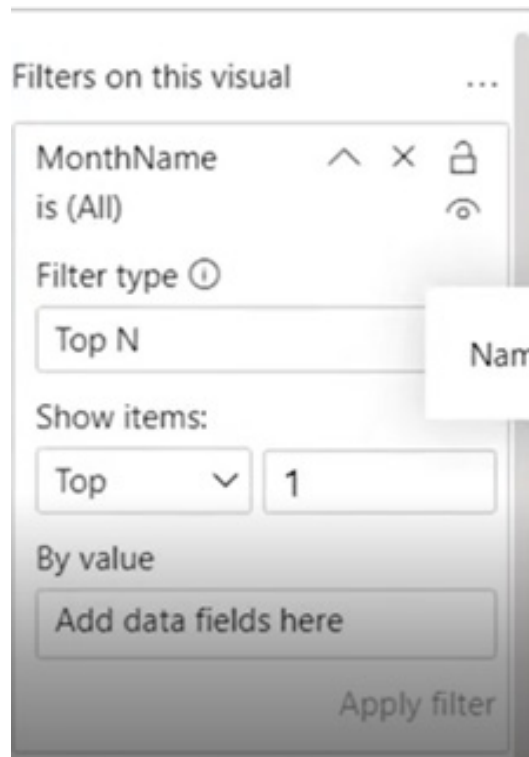


Figure 25: Sorting column

We create a new measure to the title of the best month:

```
TITLE BEST MONTH = "BEST MONTH: " &  
SELECTEDVALUE('DATE'[MONTHNAME])
```

For now let's insert some text as headers to our dashboard.

"Insert" tab → "Text box"

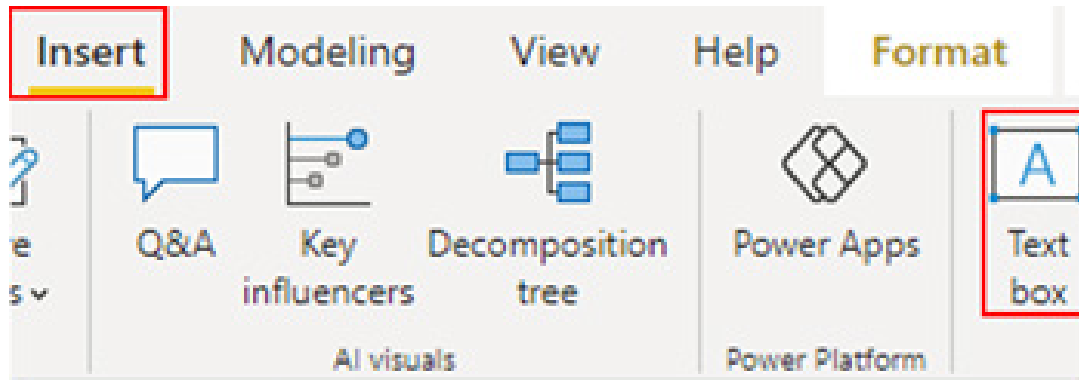


Figure 27: Tool bar

Then add "Slicer" in "Visualizations". After the first one, just copy and paste the others.

That is it for today, guys! We learned a lot of new things today, huh?!

Even though, I will give you guys a challenge!!

**It's crucial that you practice and think how to solve problems.**

**So, import all the tables, create your own version, and post the result on LinkedIn mentioning me and using the hashtag #PowerBIWeek.**

Thanks for attending Power BI Week! Don't forget you still have more, huh?!

See you!

Cheers,

**Leonardo Karpinski.**



POWER BI  
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