Designing Queries with Power BI Desktop



Agenda

- Course Introduction
- Importing Data using Power Query
- Writing Query Logic in M
- Understanding Query Folding
- Writing Reusable Function Queries



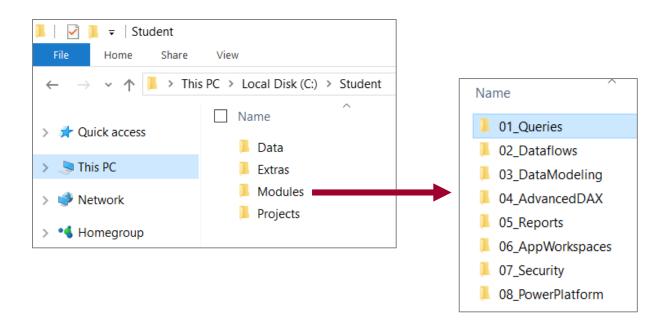
Student Background

- What is your name?
- What are you doing with Power BI?
- Which products/services have you used
 - Excel
 - Access
 - SQL Server, SSRS, SSAS
 - SharePoint and Office 365
 - Tableau
 - Dynamics 365
 - Salesforce
 - Others



Student Files for This Course

- Copy the Student folder from the master zip archive
 - Create a new local folder at C:\Student
- Each module has folder inside Student\Modules folder
 - Slides and lab writeup available through student manual (not in GitHub repository)





What is Power BI?

- What is Power BI?
 - A cloud-based analytics service for licensed subscribers
 - Environment which supports and promotes self-service BI
 - Powerful builder tools for importing, modeling and visualizing data
 - Enterprise-grade platform for deploying reports and dashboards
 - On-premises server product supporting subset of cloud features

Power BI Service

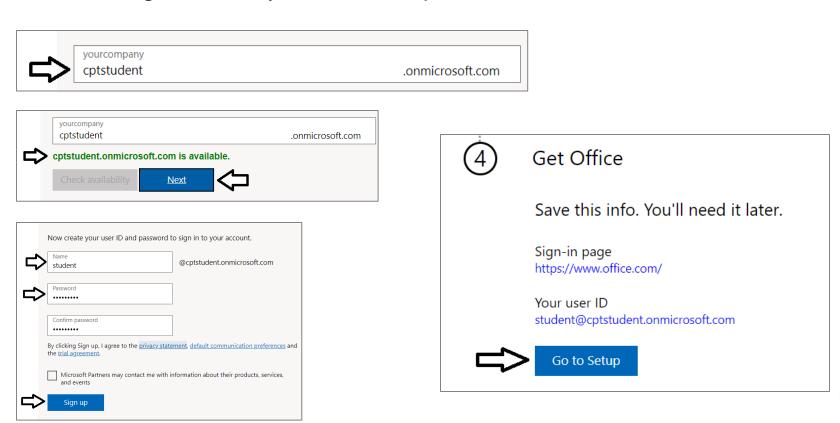
Power BI Desktop

Power BI Report Server



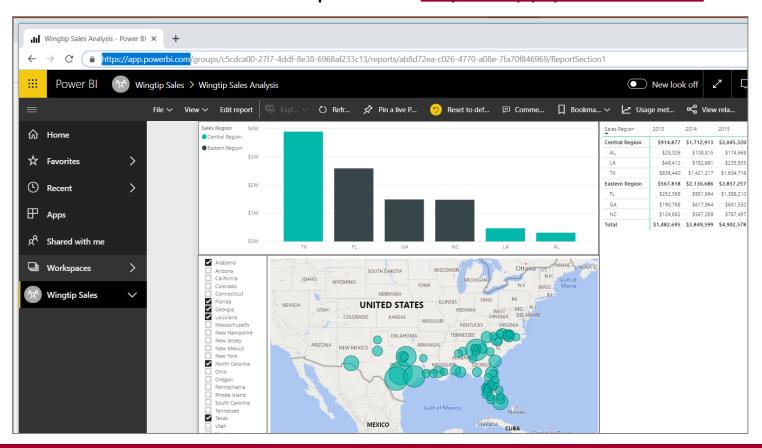
Creating a Power BI Lab Environment

- Sign up for an Office 365 E5 trial account
 - Sign up process creates new Azure AD tenant
 - Tenant created with user account which is Global tenant admin
 - Tenant gets 30-day trial subscription for 25 Office 365 E5 licenses



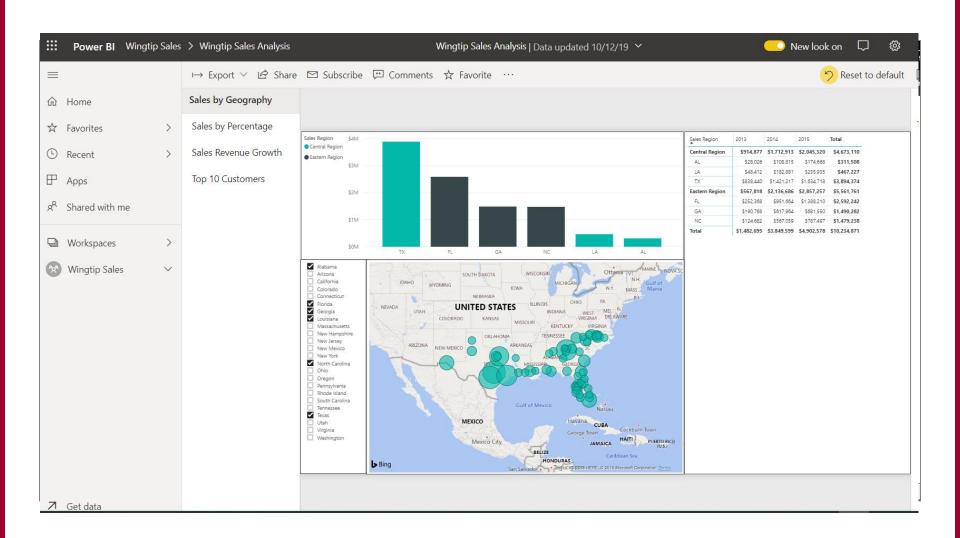
The Power BI Service

- The Power BI Service
 - Provides cloud-based foundation for Power BI platform
 - Provides browser-based portal at https://app.powerbi.com





Light Grey is the New Black





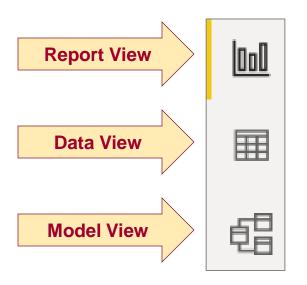
Central Power BI Concepts

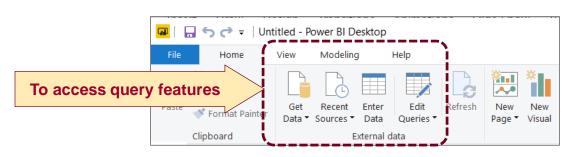
- Workspace
 - Secured container for Power BI resources
 - Created as personal workspaces and app workspaces
- Dashboard
 - Consolidated high-level view into reports and datasets
 - Provides great experience on mobile device (e.g. iPhone, Android, tablet, etc.)
- Report
 - Collection of one or more pages with tables & visualizations
 - Provides consumer with interactive control through filtering and bookmarks
- Dataset
 - In-memory data model containing one or more tables
 - Used to supply the underlying data to reports and dashboards
- Dataflows
 - Persistent data store used for more complex ETL requirements
 - Not required in most Power BI scenarios



Getting Around in Power BI Desktop

- What do you need to learn to use Power BI Desktop?
 - Query features for importing data
 - Designing data model & writing DAX expressions
 - Designing reports with Power BI Desktop report designer
- Navigating between view modes



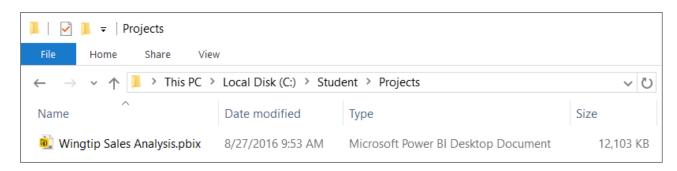




Projects and PBIX Files

- Power BI Desktop projects saved using PBIX files
 - PBIX file contains data source definitions
 - PBIX file contains query definitions
 - PBIX file contains data imported from queries
 - PBIX file contains exactly one data model definition
 - PBIX file contains exactly one report
 - PBIX file never contains data source credentials







Publishing a Power BI Desktop Project

- Power BI Desktop provides Publish command
 - Used to publish project to Power BI service



Requires logging into your Office 365 account





Published articles added to target workspace



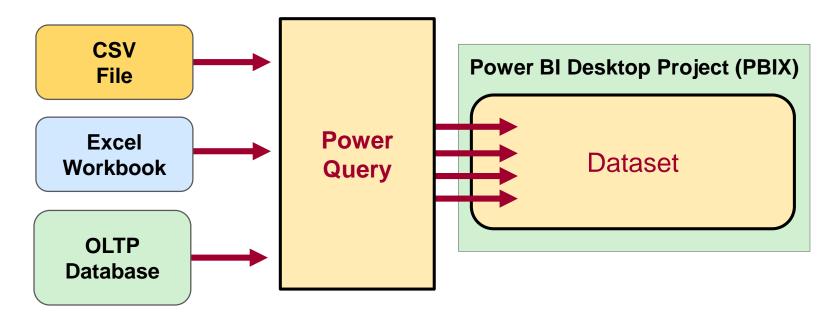
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Power Query is an ETL Tool

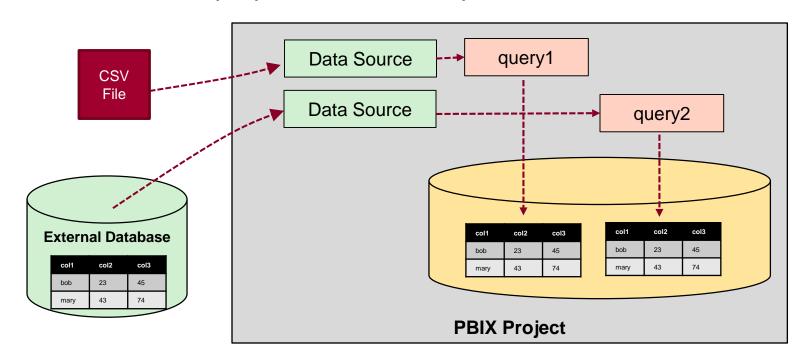
- ETL process is essential part of any BI Project
 - Extract the data from wherever it lives
 - Transform the shape of the data for better analysis
 - Load the data into dataset for analysis and reporting





Understanding Query Input and Output

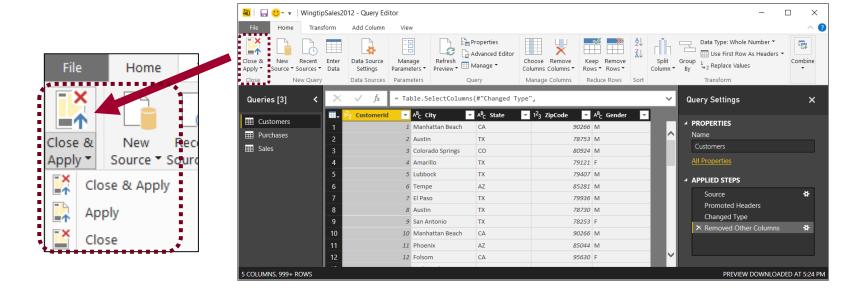
- PBIX project is container for data sources and queries
 - Queries created and saved within scope of Power BI project
 - Queries can pull data from local files
 - Queries can pull data from external content sources
 - Queries main purpose is to load imported data into data model





Query Editor Window

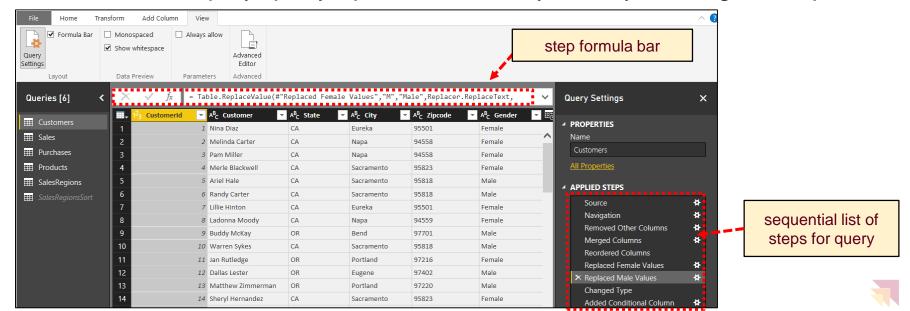
- Power BI Desktop provides separate Query Editor window
 - Provides powerful features for designing queries
 - Displays list of all queries in project on the left
 - Displays Properties and Applied Steps for selected query on right
 - Preview of table generated by query output shown in the middle
 - Query can be executed using Apply or Close & Apply command





Query Steps

- A query is created as a sequence of steps
 - Each step is a parameterized operation on the data
 - Each step has formula which can be viewed/edited in formula bar
 - Query starts with Source step to extract data from a data source
 - Additional steps added to perform transform operations on data
 - You can replay query operations one by one by clicking on steps



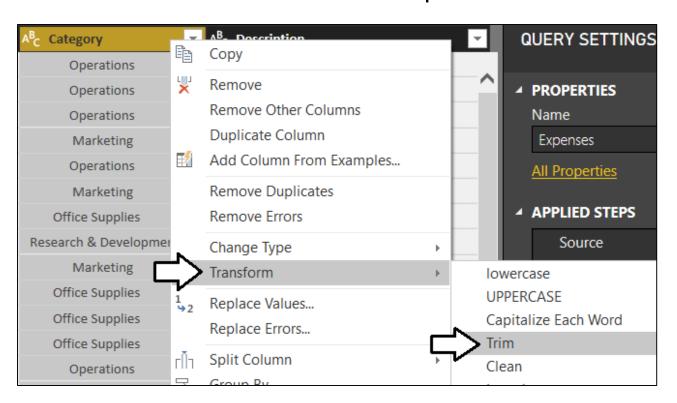
Examples of Basic Power Query Steps

- Rename column
- Convert column type
- Trim and clean column values
- Replace column values
- Format column values
- Expanding related column
- Merging columns
- Splitting columns



Cleaning Data

- Special steps available to clean up string-based data
 - Transform > Trim removes whitespace
 - Transform > Clean removed non-printable characters





Converting Column Datatypes

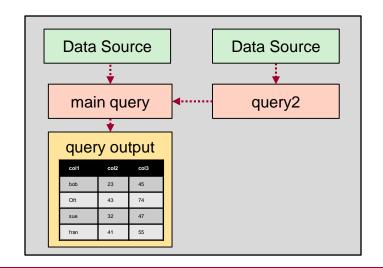
- Transform data to make it more reliable
 - Convert date-time column to date column
- Transform data to make it more efficient
 - Convert decimal to fixed decimal number for currency

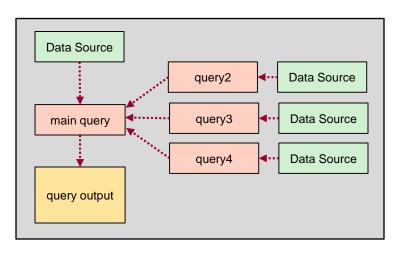
## PurchaseDate	1 ² ₃ Quantity	\$ SalesAmount	\$	ProductCost 🔻
1/28/2012	1	2.95	1.2	Decimal Number
1/28/2012	6		\$	Fixed Decimal Number
1/28/2012	1	19.95	1 ² 3	Whole Number
1/28/2012	5	249.75	<u></u>	Date/Time
1/28/2012	1	2.95	<u> </u>	Date



Combining Queries

- Query can be merged or appended with another query
 - Merge operation allows you combine columns from two tables
 - Append operation allows you to combine rows from two tables
- Two queries are combined into single output for loading
 - Load settings of main query determines where output is loaded
 - Secondary query acts as source for main query
 - Secondary query be can created with connection-only load setting



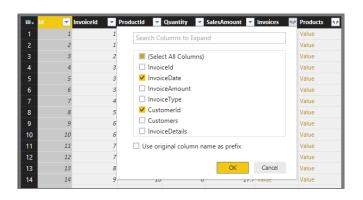




Expanding Related Columns

- Used to pull data from related tables
 - Saves you from performing SQL joins or VLOOKUP





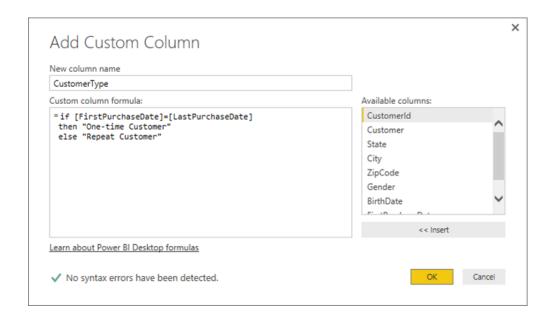




Adding a Custom Column

- Custom column provide custom logic
 - Logic must be written in M programming language



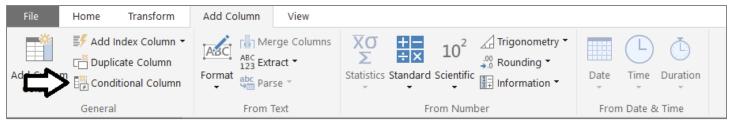


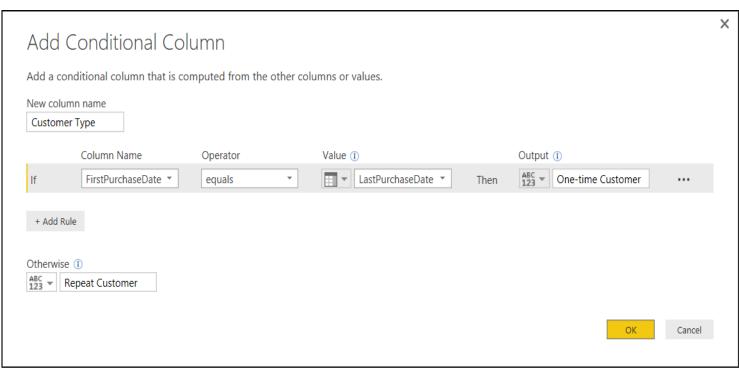
FirstPurchaseDate 🔻	LastPurchaseDate 🔻	CustomerType ~
1/28/2012	1/28/2012	One-time Customer
1/29/2012	11/22/2015	Repeat Customer
1/29/2012	10/2/2015	Repeat Customer
1/29/2012	1/29/2012	One-time Customer
1/29/2012	5/6/2015	Repeat Customer
1/29/2012	1/29/2012	One-time Customer



Adding a Conditional Column

Abstracts away need to write M code

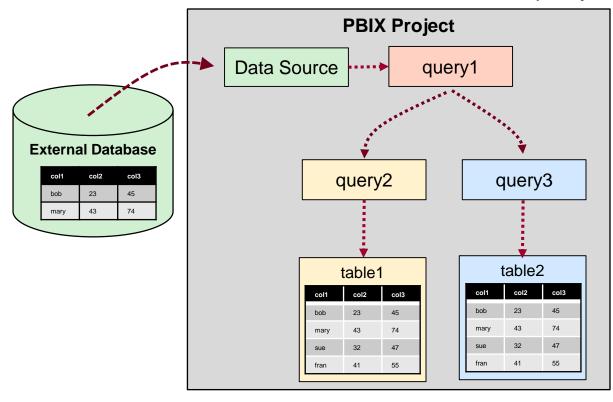


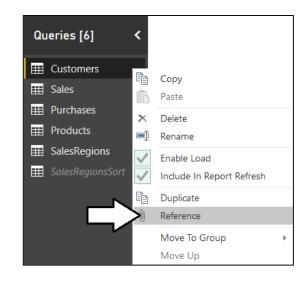




Query Composition

- Query can serve as source for other queries
 - Allows for creation of reusable base queries & query composition
 - Complexity can be hidden in base queries
 - Reference command creates new query based on another query

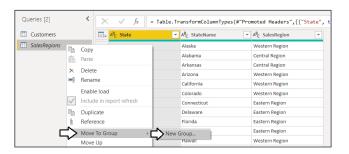






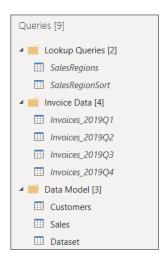
Structuring Queries into Folder Groups

- Queries can be organized into folder groups
 - Folder groups can be created for similar types of queries





Makes it easier to manage project with large number of queries





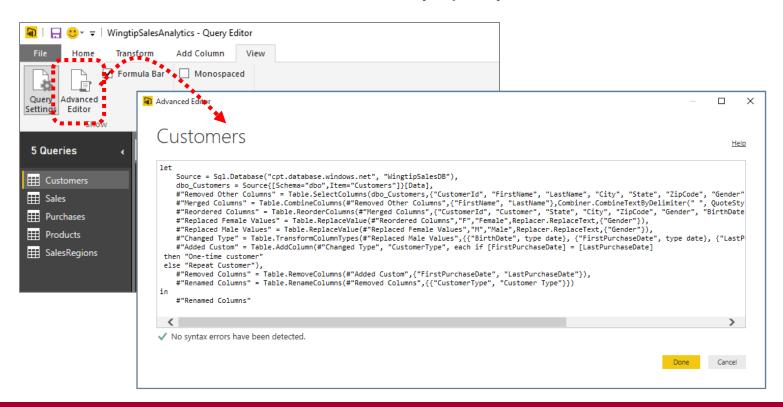
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Advanced Editor

- Power BI Desktop based on "M" functional language
 - Query in Power BI Desktop saved as set of M statements in code
 - Query Editor generates code in M behind the scenes
 - Advanced users can view & modify query code in Advanced Editor





The M Programming Language

- M is a functional programming language
 - computation through evaluation of mathematical functions
 - Programming involves writing expressions instead of statements
 - M does not support changing-state or mutable data
 - Every query is a single expression that returns a single value
 - Every query has a return type
- Get Started with M
 - Language is case-sensitive
 - It's all about writing expressions
 - Query expressions can reference other queries by name



Comments and Variable Names

- M supports using C-style comments
 - Multiline comments created using /* */
 - Single line comments created using //

```
/*
This is my most excellent query
*/
let
var1 = 42, // the secret of life
```

- Variable names with spaces must be enclosed in #" "
 - Variable names with spaces created automatically by query designer

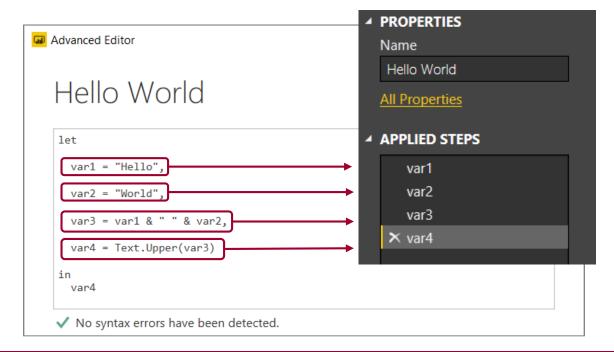
```
let
  var1 = "Spaces in ",
  #"var 2" = "variable names ",
  #"Bob's your unkle" = "are evil",
  #"Kitchen sink" = var1 & #"var 2" & #"Bob's your unkle"
in
  #"Kitchen sink"
```





Let Statement

- Queries usually created using let statement
 - Allows a single expressions to contain inner expressions
 - Each line in let block represents a separate expression
 - Each line in let block has variable which is named step
 - Each line in let block requires comma at end except for last line
 - Expression inside in block is returned as let statement value





Flow of Statement Evaluation

- Evaluation starts with expression inside in block
 - Expression evaluation triggers other expression evaluation

```
let
    var1 = "Hello",
    var2 = "World",
    var3 = var1 & " " & var2,
    output = Text.Upper(var3)
    in
    output
```



M Type System

Built-in types

```
any, none
null, logical, number, text, binary
time, date, datetime, datetimezone, duration
```

 Complex types list, record, table, function

- User-defined types
 - You can create custom types for records and tables



Initializing Dates and Times

```
// time
var1 = #time(09,15,00),

// date
var2 = #date(2013,02,26),

// date and time
var3 = #datetime(2013,02,26, 09,15,00),

// date and time in specific timezone
var4 = #datetimezone(2013,02,26, 09,15,00, 09,00),

// time durection
var5 = #duration(0,1,30,0),
```



Lists

- List is a single dimension array
 - Literal list can be created using { } operators
 - List elements accessed using { } operator and zero-based index

```
let
   RatPack = { "Frank", "Dean", "Sammy" } ,
   FirstRat = RatPack{0} ,
   SecondRat = RatPack{1} ,
   ThirdRat = RatPack{2} ,
   output = FirstRat & ", " & SecondRat & " and " & ThirdRat
in   output
```

Use { }? to avoid error when index range is out-of-bounds

```
Rat4 = RatPack{4},  // error - index range out of bounds
Rat5 = RatPack{5}? , // no error - Rat5 equals null
```



Records

Record contains fields for single instance of entity

```
// create records by using [] and defining fields
Person1 = [FirstName="Chris", LastName="Webb"],
Person2 = [FirstName="Reza", LastName="Rad"],
Person3 = [FirstName="Matt", LastName="Masson"],

// access field inside a record using [] operator
FirstName1 = Person1[FirstName],
LastName2 = Person2[LastName],
```

You must often create records to call M library functions



Combination Operator (&)

Used to combine strings, arrays and records

```
// text concatenation: "ABC"
var1 = "A" & "BC",

// list concatenation: {1, 2, 3}
var2 = {1} & {2, 3},

// record merge: [ a = 1, b = 2 ]
var3 = [ a = 1 ] & [ b = 2 ],
```



Table.FromRecords

- Table.FromRecords can be used to create table
 - Table columns are not strongly typed

```
let

CustomersTable = Table.FromRecords({
    [FirstName="Matt", LastName="Masson"],
    [FirstName="Chris", LastName="Webb"],
    [FirstName="Reza", LastName="Rad"],
    [FirstName="Chuck", LastName="Sterling"]
})

in
CustomersTable
```





Creating User-defined Types

- M allows you to create user-defined types
 - Here is a user-defined type for a record and a table

```
CustomerRecordType = type [FirstName = text, LastName = text],
CustomerTableType = type table CustomerRecordType,
```

User-defined table used to create table with strongly typed columns

```
let
  CustomerRecordType = type [FirstName = text, LastName = text],
  CustomerTableType = type table CustomerRecordType,
  CustomersTable =
    #table(CustomerTableType, {
                 "Masson" },
"Webb" },
                                                       FirstName
                                                                           AB<sub>C</sub> LastName
         "Chuck", "Sterilicious"}
                                                       Matt
                                                                           Masson
                                                                           Webb
                                                       Chris
                                                                           Rad
                                                       Reza
  Customers Table
                                                       Chuck
                                                                           Sterilicious
```



Using Each with Unary Functions

- Many library functions take function as parameters
 - Function parameters are often unary (e.g. they accept 1 parameter)

```
FilteredRows = Table.SelectRows(CustomersTable, (row) => row[CustomerId]<=10 ),
```

- M provides each syntax to make code easier to read/write
 - Unary parameter passed implicitly using _ variable

```
FilteredRows = Table.SelectRows(CustomersTable, each _[CustomerId]<=10 ),
```

You can omit _ variable when accessing fields inside record

```
FilteredRows = Table.SelectRows(CustomersTable, each [CustomerId]<=10 ),
AddedColumn = Table.AddColumn(FilteredRows, "Display Name", each [FirstName] & " " & [LastName])</pre>
```

```
AddedColumn =Table.AddColumn(FilteredRows, "Display Name", each [FirstName] & " " & [LastName])
```

You must use _ variable when using each with a list

```
MyList = { "Item 1", "Item 2", "Item 3" },
MyUpperCaseList = List.Transform(MyList, each Text.Upper(_) )
```



Catching Errors

• Error handling in M done using try .. otherwise

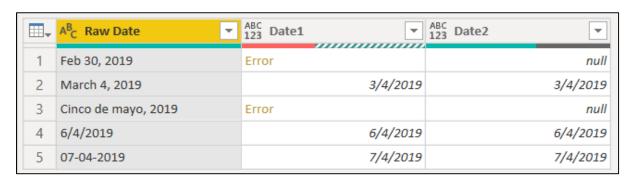
```
try Date.FromText([Raw Date]) otherwise null
```

Error handling can avoid evaluation errors

```
AddedDateColumn1 = Table.AddColumn(Source, "Date1", each Date.FromText([Raw Date])),

AddedDateColumn2 = Table.AddColumn(AddedDateColumn1, "Date2", each ( try Date.FromText([Raw Date]) otherwise null ) )
```

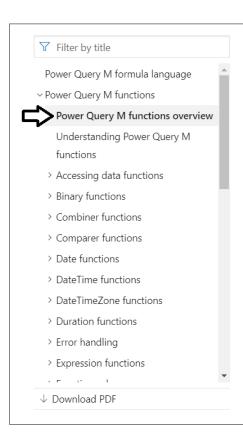
Expression causing errors replace with value such as null





M Function Library

- Check out the Power Query M function reference
 - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powerquery-m/power-query-m-function-reference



Power Query M function reference

07/31/2019 • 2 minutes to read • 📵 🔨 🔰

The Power Query M function reference includes articles for each of the over 700 functions. The reference articles you see here on docs.microsoft.com are auto-generated from in-product help. To learn more about functions and how they work in an expression, see <u>Understanding Power Query M functions</u>.

Functions by category

- Accessing data functions
- Binary functions
- Combiner functions
- Comparer functions
- Date functions
- DateTime functions
- DateTimeZone functions
- Duration functions
- Error handling
- Expression functions
- Function values
- List functions



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Query Folding

- Mashup engine pushes work back to datasource when possible
 - Column selection and row filtering
 - Joins, Group By, Aggregate Operations
- Datasource that support folding
 - Relational database
 - Tabular and multidimensional databases
 - OData Web services
- What happens when datasource doesn't support query folding?
 - All work is done locally by the mashup engine
- Things that affect whether query folding occurs
 - The way you structure your M code
 - Privacy level of datasources
 - Native query execution



Query Folding Example

When you execute this query in Power BI Desktop...

```
let
    Source = Sql.Database("ODYSSEUS", "WingtipSalesDB"),
    CustomersTable = Source{[Item="Customers"]}[Data],

    // select rows
    FilteredRows = Table.SelectRows(CustomersTable, each ([State] = "FL")),

    // select columns
    ColumnsToKeep = {"CustomerId", "FirstName", "LastName"},
    RemovedOtherColumns = Table.SelectColumns(FilteredRows, ColumnsToKeep),

    // rename columns
    ColumnRenamingMap = { {"FirstName", "First Name"}, {"LastName", "Last Name"} },
    RenamedColumns = Table.RenameColumns(RemovedOtherColumns, ColumnRenamingMap)

in
    RenamedColumns
```

Mashup Engine executes the following SQL query



Native Queries

No query folding occurs after native query



Accessing Data using OData.Feed

- OData.Feed can pull data from OData web service
 - OData connector assists with navigation through entities
 - OData connector support query folding

- OData makes extra calls to acquire metadata
 - Let's look at the execution of this query using Fiddler



Web.Contents

- Can be more efficient than OData. Feed
 - You can pass OData query string parameters (e.g. \$select)



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Text.Select

- Text.Select can be used to clean up text value
 - You create a list of characters to include

```
// take a text value with unwanted charactors
input = "!!My text has some @bad things !&^",
// get upper and lower case letters
set1 = {"A".."Z"},
set2 = {"a"..."z"},
// get digits 0-9 and convert to text
set3 = List.Transform({0..9}, each Number.ToText(_)),
// add any other allowed characters
set4 = {" ", "-", "_", "."},
// combine all allowed charactors in single list
allowedChars = set1 & set2 & set3 & set4,
// call Text.Select to strip out unwanted charactors
output = Text.Select(input, allowedChars)
```



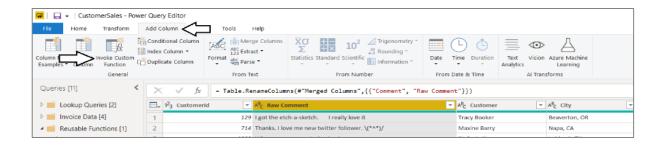
Creating a Function Query

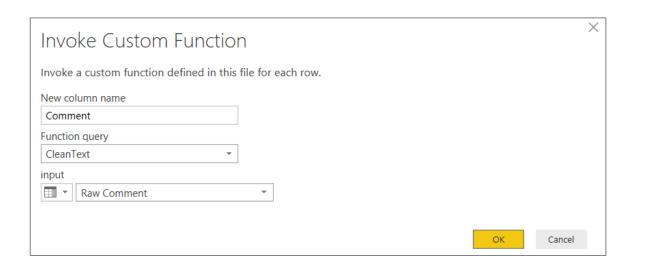
Requires adding parameter list

```
Advanced Editor
                                                                                       \times
   CleanText
                                                                         Display Options *
      (input as text) =>
     let
         set1 = {"A".."Z"},
         set2 = {"a".."z"},
         set3 = List.Transform({0..9}, each Number.ToText( ) ),
         set4 = {" ", "-", "_", ".", "'"},
         allowedChars = set1 & set2 & set3 & set4,
         output = Text.Select(input, allowedChars)
     in
         output
   ✓ No syntax errors have been detected.
                                                                            Done
                                                                                       Cancel
```



Calling a Function Query







Summary

- ✓ Course Introduction
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