Installing and configuring Power BI Desktop

Version 2.8.20 – 8 August 2023 | Naji El Kotob

Power BI is an advanced and integrated self-service business intelligence system for analyzing data and presenting actionable information to help corporate executives, business managers and other end users make more informed business decisions.

Contents

Software Requirements

Minimum requirements

Most contemporary computers are equipped with the minimum software requirements necessary to run Power BI Desktop.

- Windows 8.1 or Windows Server 2012 R2 or later.
- .NET 4.6.2 or later.
- Microsoft Edge browser (Internet Explorer is no longer supported)
- Memory (RAM): At least 2 GB available, 4 GB or more recommended.
- Display: At least 1440x900 or 1600x900 (16:9) required. Lower resolutions such as 1024x768 or 1280x800 aren't supported because some controls (such as closing the startup screens) display beyond those resolutions.
- CPU: 1 gigahertz (GHz) 64-bit (x64) processor or better recommended.
- WebView2: If WebView2 wasn't automatically installed with Power BI Desktop or if it was uninstalled, download and run the installer for WebView2
- For additional information, please visit Get Power BI Desktop

Windows 10 or 11 (Option 1 – Recommended)

For users on Windows 10 or 11, Power BI Desktop is available through the Microsoft Store. To install:

1. Click on this link: https://aka.ms/pbidesktopstore or
2. Open the "Microsoft Store", search for "Power BI Desktop", and click the "Get" button.
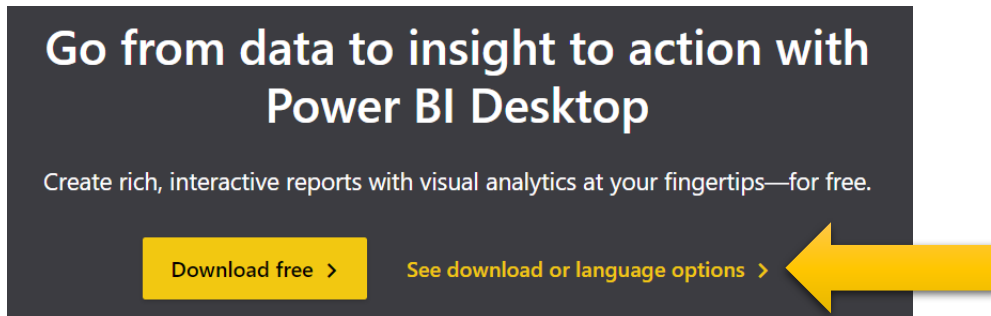3. Follow the installation instructions.

After installation, refer to the Configuration section on pages 5 and 6."
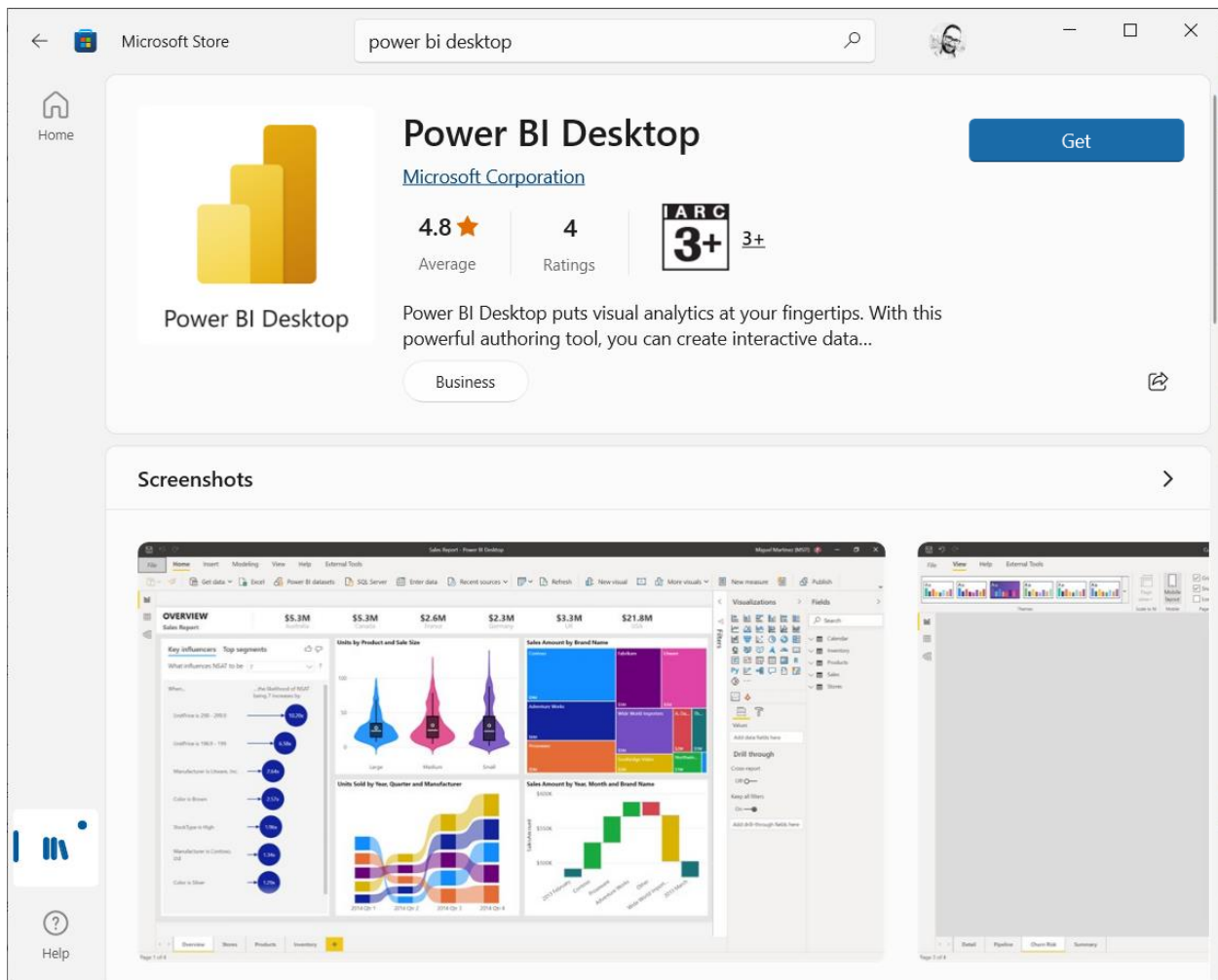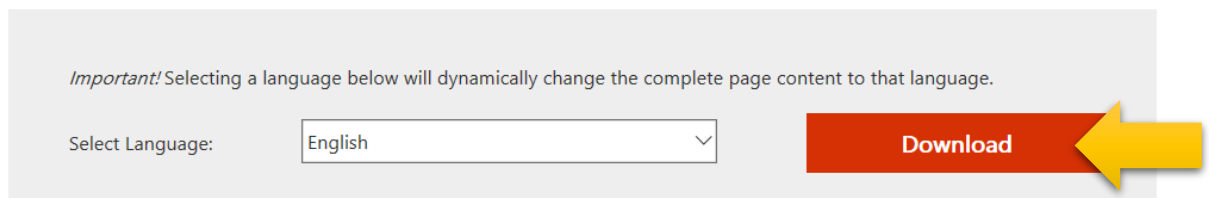

1 - Microsoft Store (Windows 10)

Download and install Power BI Desktop manually (Option 2)

1. Go to https://powerbi.microsoft.com/desktop to download the latest version of Power BI Desktop

2. Click **See download or language options**
3. Click **Download**

4. Choose between the 64-bit or 32-bit version *- Don't know how to choose? Please check* **Which version of Windows operating system am I running? (microsoft.com)**

Which version to install?
- If you have a 32 bit machine, you need to install the 32bit Power BI Desktop.
- If you have a 32 bit Office installed (regardless of your machine 32bit or 64bit), you need to install the 32 bit Power BI Desktop.
- Otherwise, you can install the 64 bit PBI Desktop.
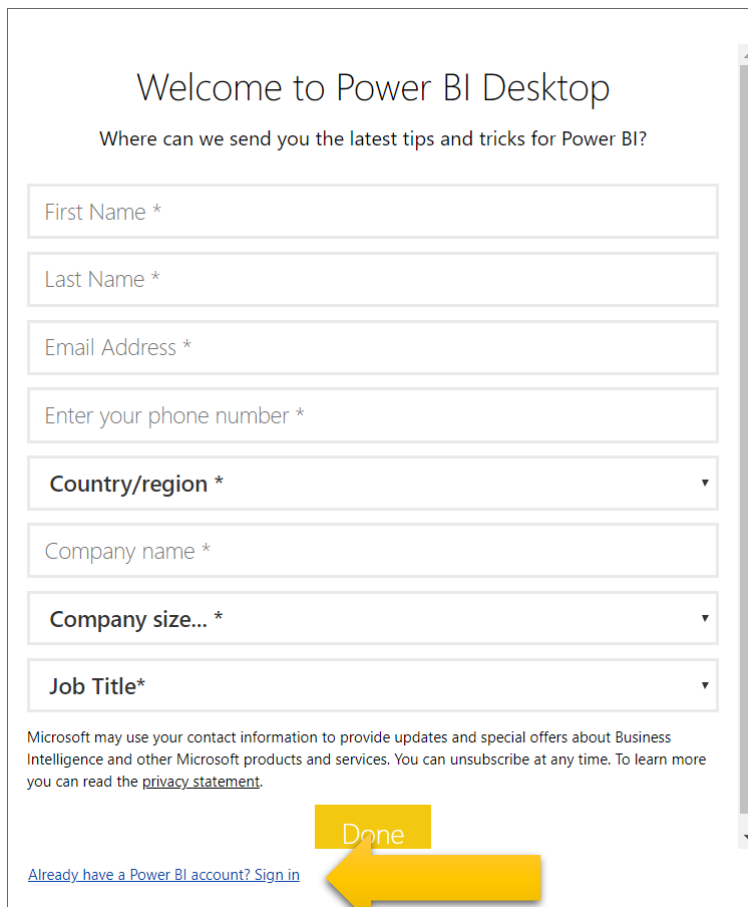
Choose the download you want

File Name	Size
PBIDesktopSetup_x64.exe	361.7 MB
PBIDesktopSetup.exe	330.2 MB

5. Download, run the executable file and follow the setup instructions.

Configuration

Sign-in

Finished with the setup? Launch Power BI Desktop. There's **NO need to sign up** to begin using the application. Simply click on "Already have a Power BI account? Sign-in" to get started.

Press Esc or click on "x"
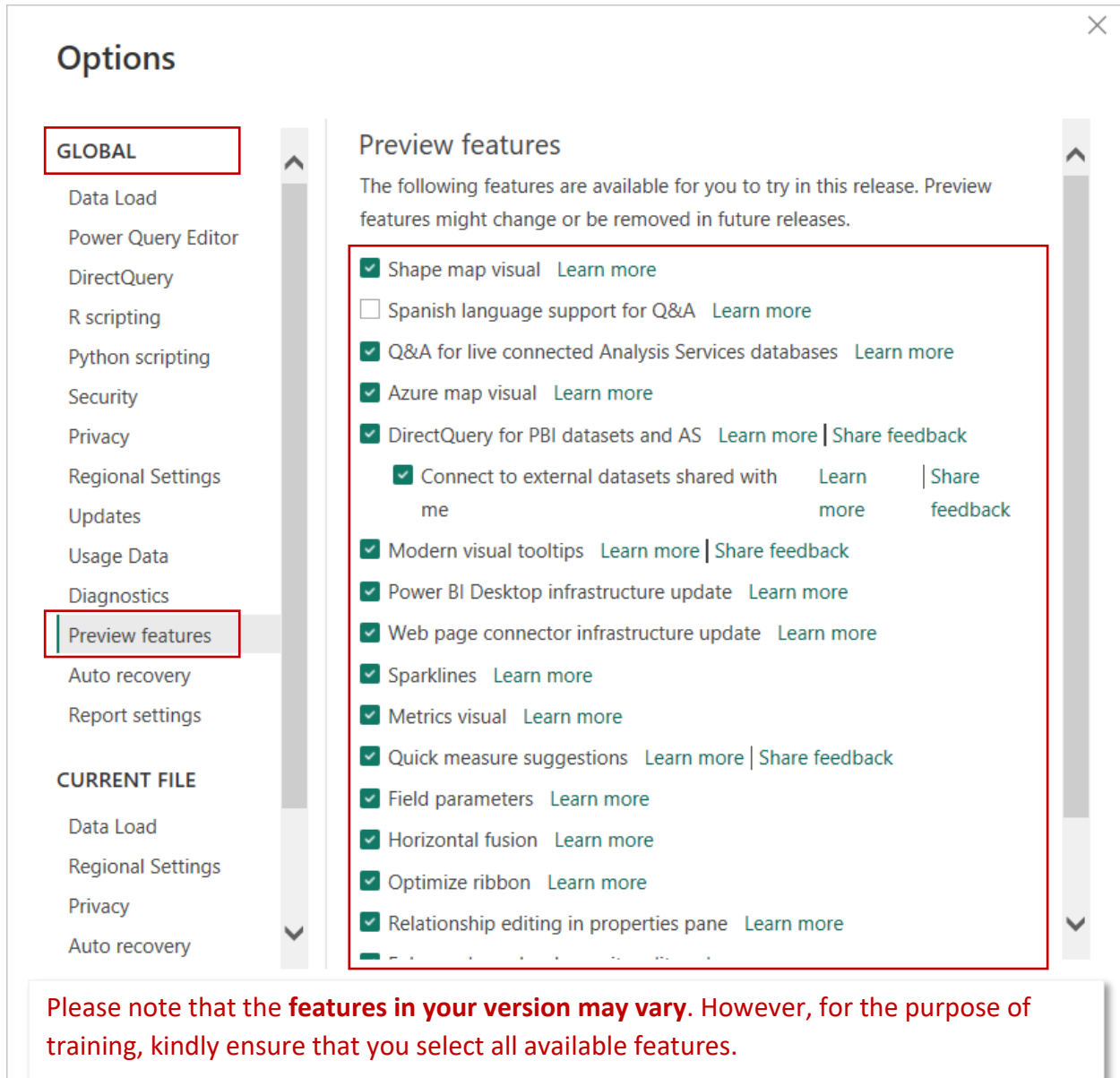
Enable all the "Preview features"

1. Locate and select "**Preview features**" in the **GLOBAL** section.
2. Enable all the preview features by checking the corresponding checkboxes on the right side.
3. Click OK and restart Power BI Desktop.
4. Once restarted, the enabled preview features will be accessible for use.

Please note that the **features in your version may vary**. However, for the purpose of training, kindly ensure that you select all available features.

Mac

Unfortunately, Microsoft Power BI Desktop is not available for mac users. If you have a Mac, you will NOT be able to install Power BI Desktop, but there are other options, such as Dual Boot Camp[1], creating a local virtual machine (VM). You could also try to run it with an application such as Turbo.net[2], Parallels[3], VMware Fusion or Paperspace.

Microsoft Virtual Lab (Free)

Additionally, you have the option to access the Microsoft Virtual Lab at no cost by utilizing a Microsoft email account, such as one with an outlook.com or hotmail.com domain.

- VM#1 Lab - Power BI Desktop

Screenshot:

This unit includes a lab to complete.

Use the free resources provided in the lab to complete the exercises in this unit. You will not be charged.

Microsoft provides this lab experience and related content for educational purposes. All presented information is owned by Microsoft and intended solely for learning about the covered products and services in this Microsoft Learn module.

Sign in to launch the lab

Happy Power BI'ing 💛

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[1] Install Windows 10 on your Mac with Boot Camp Assistant https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201468 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmm9Q-T0oTo
[2] Turbo.net uses an older version of Power BI Desktop
[3] How to Install Parallels Desktop 16 for Mac Step-by-Step Guide https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeL6rvDgZcw