Dataflows in Power BI

Links:-

[What is Data flow and its use cases in Power BI](https://radacad.com/what-are-the-use-cases-of-dataflow-for-you-in-power-bi)

[A Quick Look at Power BI dataflows](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veuxofp0ZIg)

[Creating and using dataflows in Power BI](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/power-bi/service-dataflows-create-use)

[(For data in CSV and Excel files to be used in creating dataflows)](https://www.superdatascience.com/pages/powerbi)

[For In Depth knowledge of Data Flow: A Walkthrough](https://ssbipolar.com/2018/10/23/dataflows-in-power-bi/)

Difference between Data Sets and Data Flows in Power BI:

Power BI dataflows and Power BI datasets do share some similarities however, they are not the same and may be used together or separately to accommodate the organization’s BI needs:

* Datasets – are a tool designed for modeling the data for BI needs. In a dataset, you can manage your data, create computations and measures and implement modeling tools for BI.
* Dataflows – are designed as a sort of a cloud ETL process designed to assist you in connecting to various data sources, ingesting data and prepping it for BI.

However, dataflows allows much more than just a simple ETL process:

* Dataflows allows for CDM mapping – using Microsoft’s common schema for entity definition and preparations. ([For better understanding about CDM and its use.](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/common-data-model/))
* Dataflows allows for linked entities- using dataflows you can ingest your data once and use it in multiple contexts by referencing it from other dataflows.
* Compute – using dataflows you can transform and compute your data, this becomes extra powerful when used with linked entities. You can ingest data once and use it in multiple calculations in different dataflows.
* Dataflows also takes care of your cross dataflow dependencies and calculations triggering – you don’t need to worry about figuring out the right order to refresh things – dataflows knows how to do it for you.
* And finally, dataflows are open to Azure – you can use data in dataflows in Azure leveraging Azure technology like ADF to perform complex operations. You can than connect a dataflow stored in Azure back to Power BI for a seamless integration.

In summary. Dataflows and Datasets do share some capabilities, however, they are different and offer different solutions to different problems. In any case, both tools are available and may be used to solve various problems. Each implementation has its advantages and disadvantages and one should consider the right tool to use for the job.