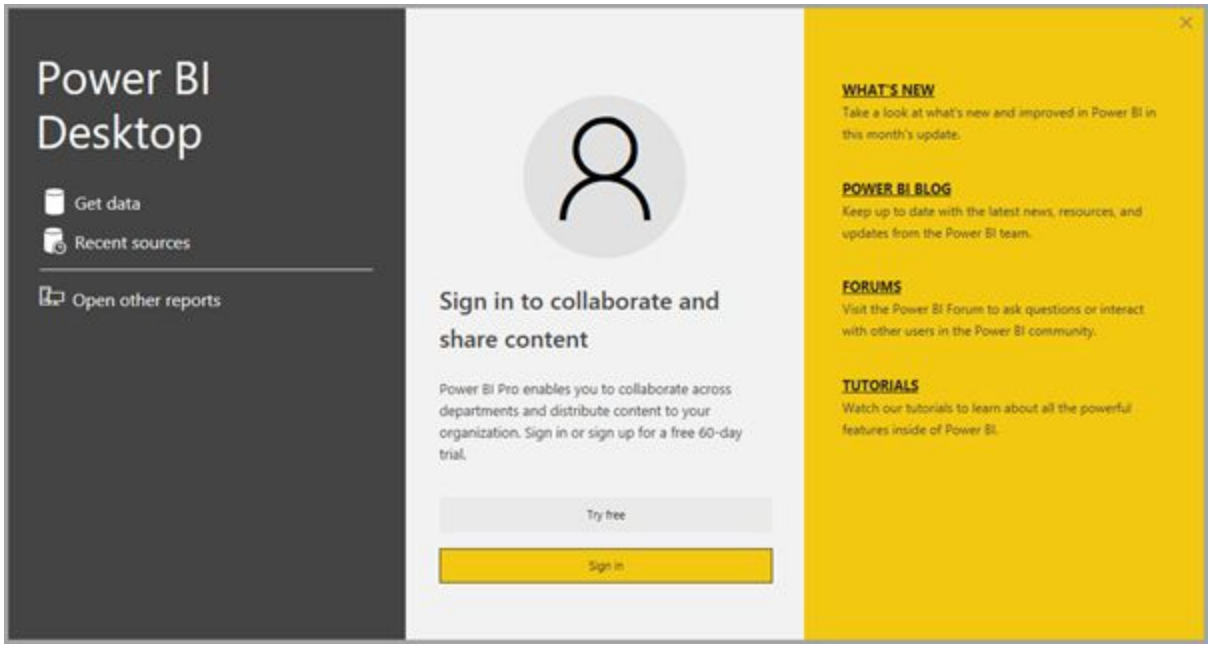
Power BI Desktop Installation:

If you want to develop power bi reports, you will need the power bi desktop Application. However, the power bi desktop application comes in two ways; Download it separately and install it on your windows machine or Get it From the Microsoft Store as an app. The question that I often get is What Is the difference? Which one is better?

Power BI Desktop: Report Authorizing Tool:

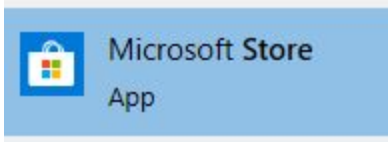
Power Bi Desktop is a tool that every power bi developer needs to build power bi reports. This tool is Free.



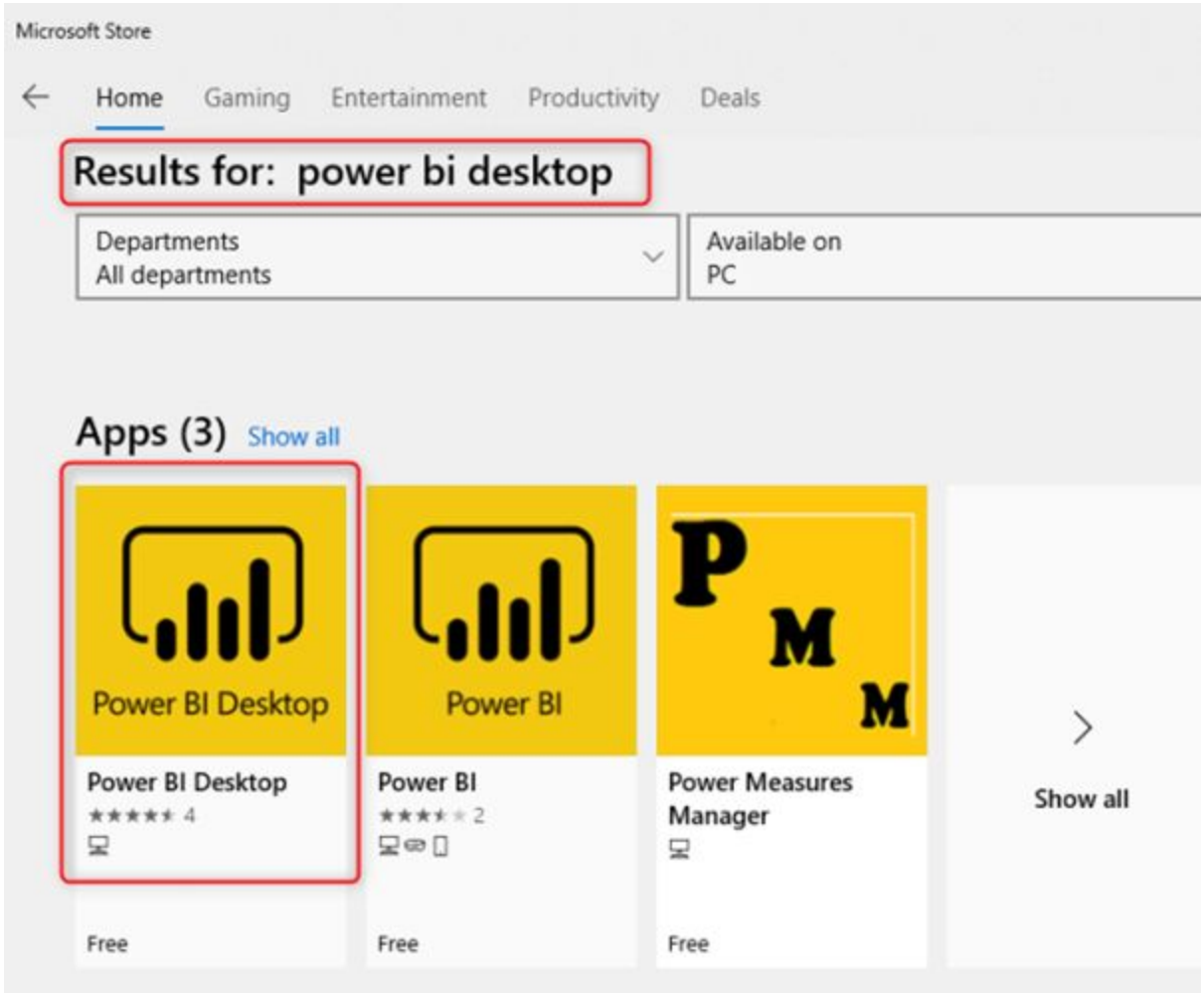
When you open Power BI Desktop for the first time, there is a pop-up window which will ask you to login but that is not mandatory. You can use Power BI Desktop without any account, username or login credentials.

Power BI Desktop in Microsoft Store:

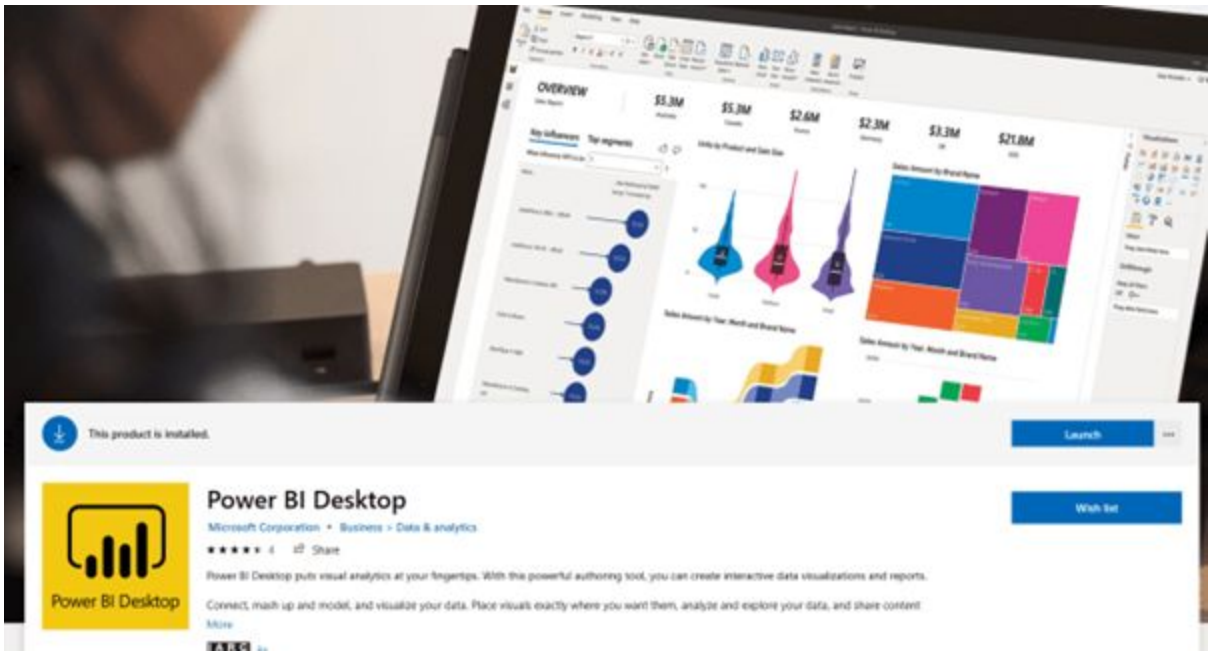
One of the ways to download Power BI Desktop is to get it from the Microsoft Store.



Again, it does not mean that you need to pay for it. All you need is a Microsoft account (which can be a live account) to be able to access apps from the store, and the power bi desktop app is free.



As you see in the screenshot below, Power BI Desktop can be searched in the Microsoft store and easily downloaded. I have this already installed through Microsoft store and that is why I see it is mentioned launch instead of download in the below screenshot.

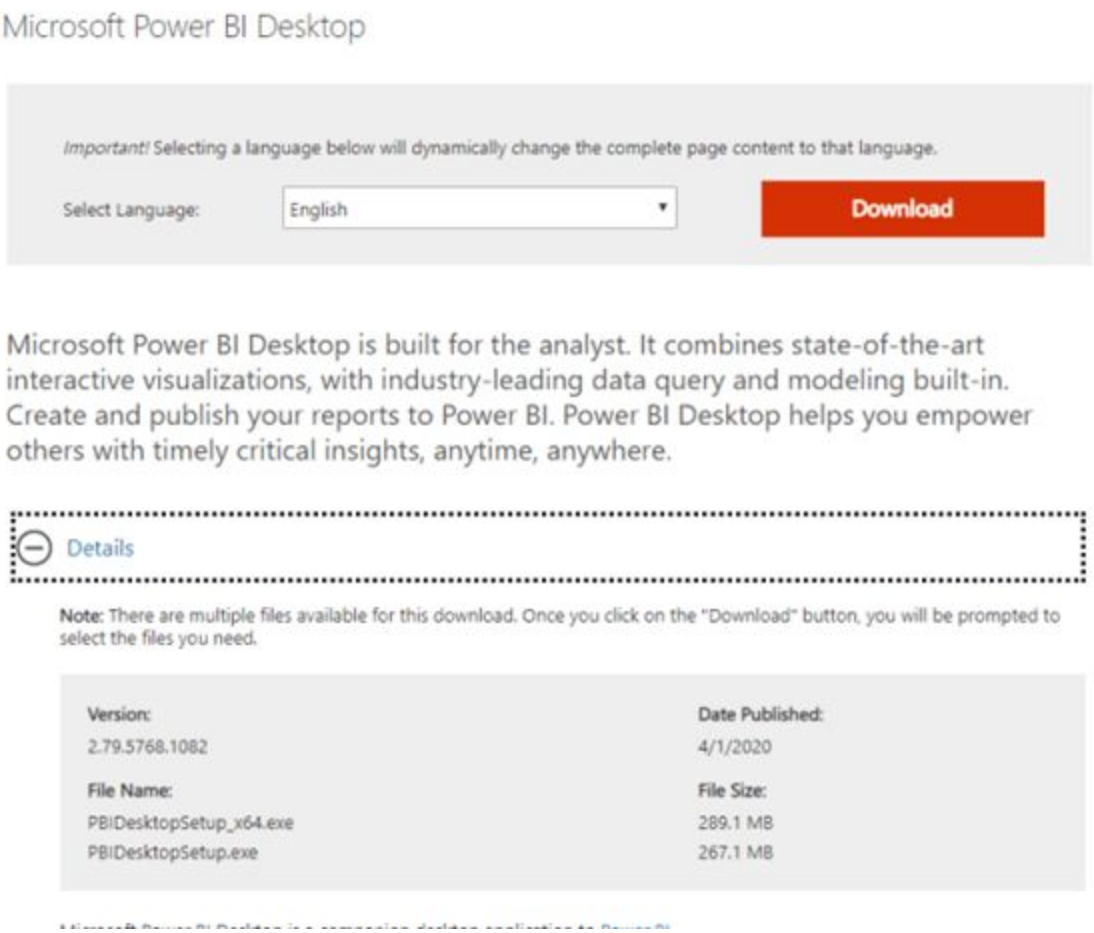


You can easily use this option if you have windows 10 on your machine.

Power BI Desktop; Separate Download link:

Another way to get power bi desktop is to download it from the link.

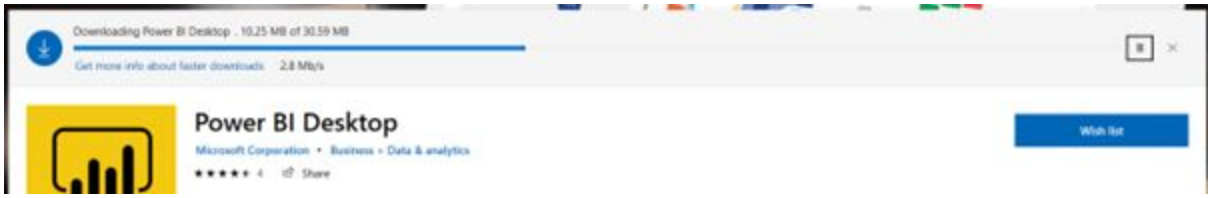
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=58494



You can simply download the file and install it on your machine.

Auto-Update: Microsoft Store App:

Now that you know the two methods that power bi desktop can be available, let's see the difference. The first difference is that The Microsoft store version of power bi desktop updates automatically. As soon as a new update is available from power bi team the application automatically updates itself to the latest Version and you don't need to do any extra actions to keep it up to date.



Power BI team updates the Power BI Desktop tool every month and keeping that manually up to date is a big hassle. So, if you want to be always on the edge of updates and enjoy the fascinating new features announced every month, considering getting the Power BI Desktop from the Microsoft Store.

Flexibility on Install: Download Link:

One of the problems of Microsoft Store version of Power BI Desktop is that is not available for all version of windows. For some versions you can only Use the download link. Another scenario is that for some reason someone might want to use an older version of power bi desktop for there report development

Work. Using the Microsoft Store app would not allow it usually, because it automatically updates. so, you will have more flexibility on what you want to have installed and where you want this to be installed using the download link.

Development Work: Both the Same:

In terms of building the report, there is no difference between the two versions (if we consider that both versions are up-to-date). You can build exactly the same report using any of these two methods. There will be no difference in the Power BI file (*.PBIX file) that is created using any of these methods. You can open a file created with any of these, using the other one (as long as they are both up-to-date).