

1. What is the difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service?

Power BI Desktop vs Online Service: Desktop is a free Windows application for creating reports and data models locally. Online Service is a cloud-based platform for sharing, collaborating, and consuming reports. Desktop is for authoring; Service is for sharing and collaboration.

2. How do you publish a Power BI report from Desktop to the Online Service?

Publishing Reports: In Desktop, click "Publish" button, sign in to your Power BI account, select destination workspace, and the report uploads along with its dataset to the Service.

3. What is a workspace in Power BI? What are the types of workspaces available?

Workspaces: Workspaces are containers for related content (reports, dashboards, datasets). Types: My Workspace (personal), Classic Workspaces (legacy), and New Workspaces (modern with better collaboration features and security).

4. What is the difference between a workspace and an app in Power BI?

Workspace vs App: Workspaces are collaborative environments where creators build content. Apps are curated, read-only packages of content distributed to end users from workspaces. Apps provide simplified navigation and controlled access.

5. Explain the different Power BI license types and their limitations.

License Types:

- **Free:** Personal use, My Workspace only, limited sharing
- **Pro:** Full collaboration, workspace access, 10GB storage per user
- **Premium Per User (PPU):** Advanced features, AI, larger datasets, 100GB storage
- **Premium:** Capacity-based, unlimited users, advanced features, on-premises gateway

6. How can you share a report with someone who doesn't have a Pro license?

Sharing Without Pro: Use Power BI Premium capacity, embed in SharePoint/Teams, export to PDF/PowerPoint, or use publish to web (public only). Premium allows unlimited viewers regardless of their license.

7. What is a semantic model (dataset) in Power BI, and where is it stored in the service?

Semantic Model/Dataset: The data model containing tables, relationships, and measures that powers reports. Stored in the workspace where it was published, separate from but connected to reports.

8. How does Scheduled Refresh work in Power BI Online Service?

Scheduled Refresh: Automatically updates datasets on a schedule (up to 8 times daily for Pro, 48 for Premium). Configured in dataset settings, requires gateway for on-premises data sources.

9. What is the difference between a dataset and a dataflow in Power BI?

Dataset vs Dataflow: Datasets contain the final data model for reports. Dataflows are reusable ETL processes that prepare and transform data before loading into datasets. Dataflows enable data reuse across multiple datasets.

10. When and why would you use a dataflow instead of a dataset?

When to Use Dataflows: When you need to share common data transformations across multiple datasets, implement centralized data preparation, or separate ETL processes from reporting models.

11. What are dashboards in Power BI Online? How are they different from reports?

Dashboards: Single-page canvases displaying key metrics through tiles (pinned visuals). Unlike reports, dashboards show real-time data, combine content from multiple reports, and focus on monitoring rather than analysis.

12. How do you pin a visual to a dashboard from a report?

Pinning Visuals: Click the pin icon on any visual in a report, choose existing dashboard or create new one. The visual becomes a tile that reflects current data and links back to the source report.

13. What is the mobile view in Power BI and why is it useful?

Mobile View: Optimized layout for phones with portrait orientation, larger tiles, and touch-friendly navigation. Useful for executives and field workers who need quick access to key metrics on mobile devices.

14. What is a paginated report in Power BI and when would you use it?

Paginated Reports: Pixel-perfect, print-ready reports (invoices, statements, regulatory documents). Used when you need precise formatting, multi-page documents, or traditional tabular reports rather than interactive analytics.

15. Can you export reports from Power BI Service to PDF or PowerPoint? How?

Export Options: From report's "Export" menu choose PDF, PowerPoint, or Excel. Also available via "File" menu. Maintains formatting and can include specific pages or entire reports.

16. What does "Live Connection" mean in Power BI Service, and how does it work?

Live Connection: Direct connection to data source without importing data into Power BI. Queries sent to source system in real-time. Works with Analysis Services, Power BI datasets, and some cloud sources.

17. Explain Row-Level Security (RLS) and how it's applied in Power BI Online.

Row-Level Security (RLS): Restricts data access based on user identity. Defined through roles in Desktop with DAX filters, then applied to users/groups in Service. Users only see data they're authorized to view.

18. How can you test RLS roles in Power BI Service?

Testing RLS: In Power BI Service, go to dataset security settings, select role, and use "Test as role" feature. In Desktop, use "View as Roles" in Modeling tab to simulate different user perspectives.

19. What are Apps in Power BI and how do you publish one?

Apps: Curated packages of dashboards and reports distributed to end users. Published from workspaces with specific permissions and navigation. Provide simplified, branded experience for consumers.

20. What are some key benefits of using the Power BI Online Service in enterprise environments?

Enterprise Benefits: Centralized governance, enterprise-grade security, scalability, integration with Microsoft ecosystem, compliance features, centralized data sources, collaboration tools, and reduced IT overhead through cloud management.