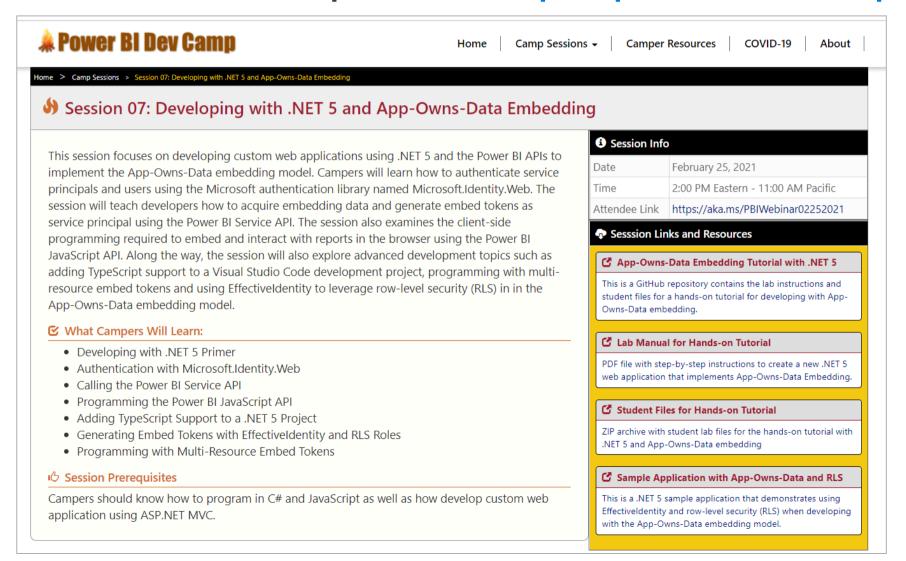
Intro to M Programming

Ted Pattison

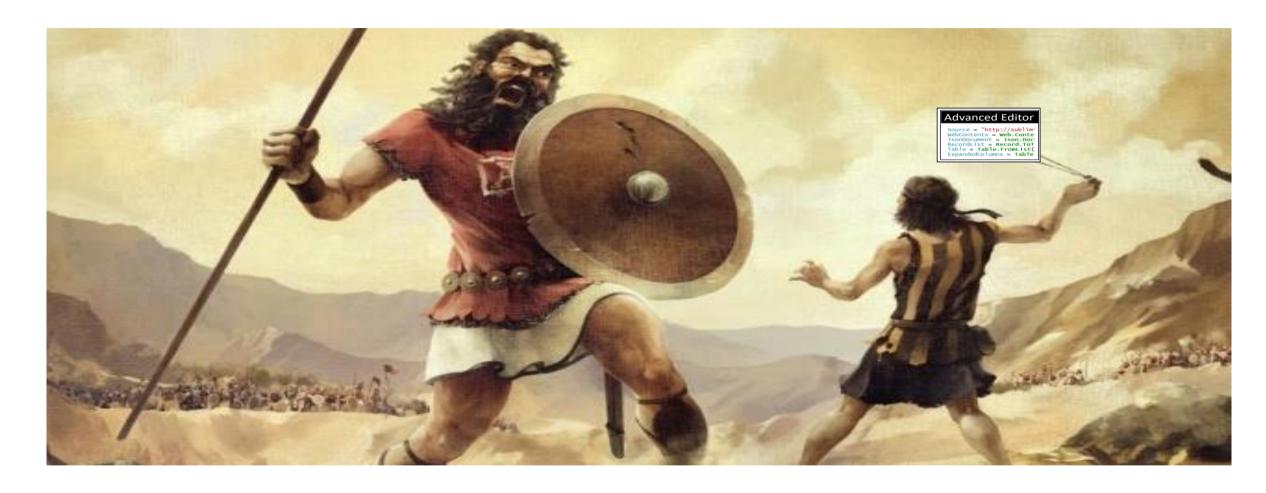
Principal Program Manager Customer Advisory Team (CAT) at Microsoft

Welcome to Power BI Dev Camp

Power BI Dev Camp Portal - https://powerbidevcamp.net



Using the Advanced Editor

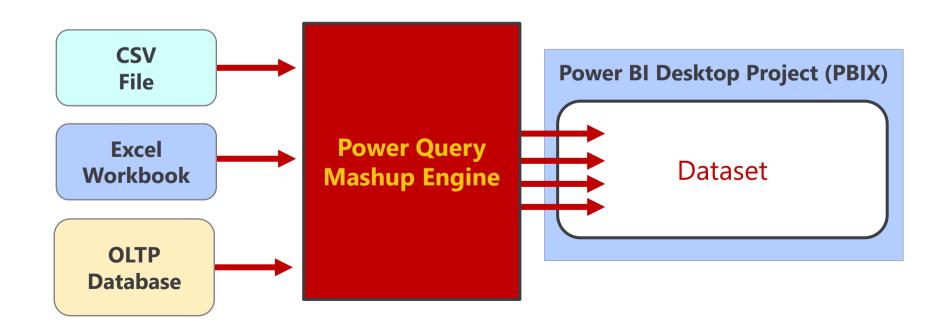


Agenda

- > The Power Query Mashup Engine
- M Programming Fundamentals
- Choosing Between OData.Feed & Web.Contents
- > Introduction to Custom Connectors
- Importing Data from the Microsoft Graph API
- Signing and Deploying Custom Connectors

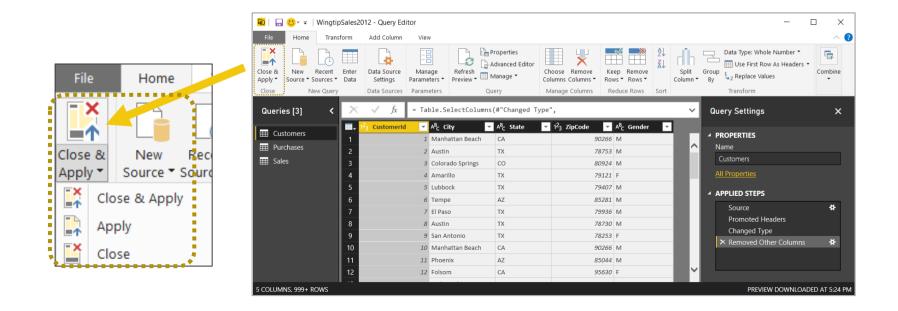
Power Query is an ETL Tool

- 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



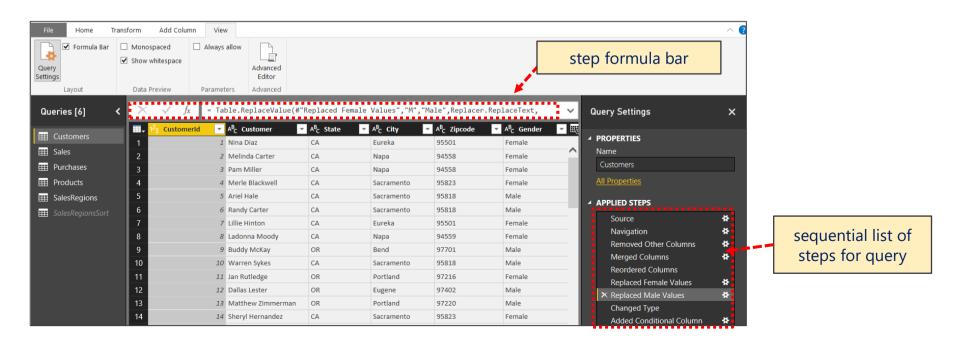
Query Editor Window

- Power BI Desktop provides separate Query Editor window
 - Provides easy-to-use UI experience for designing queries
 - Queries created by creating Applied Steps
 - Preview of table generated by query output shown in the middle
 - Query can be executed using Apply or Close & Apply command



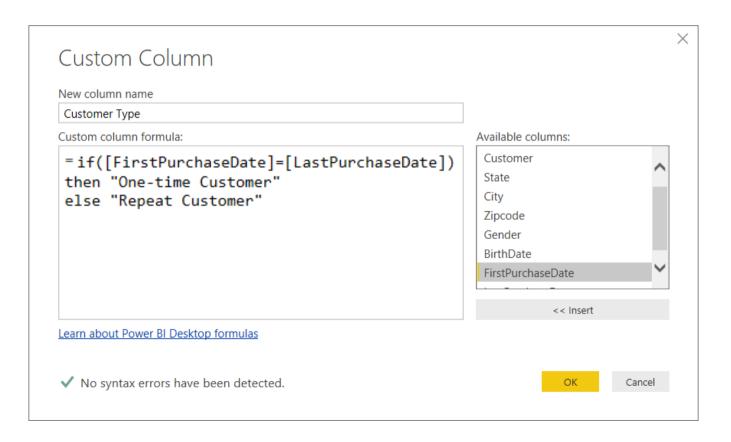
Query Steps

- A query is created as a sequence of steps
 - Each step is a parameterized operation in data processing pipeline
 - Query starts with Source step to extract data from a data source
 - Additional steps added to perform transform operations on data
 - Each step is recorded using M (aka Power Query Formula Language)



Custom Column Dialog

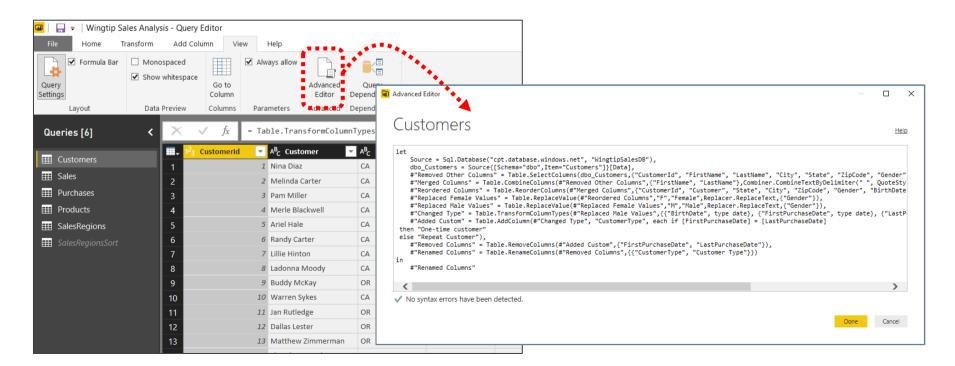
- You can write M code directly for custom column
 - The Custom Column dialog provides a simple M code editor



Advanced Editor

or more correctly - The Simple Editor for Advanced Users

- 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



Why Learn M

- Accomplish things that cannot be done in query editor
 - Working with query functions
 - Performing calculations across rows
 - Navigate to SharePoint list by list title instead of GUID with the ID
- Author queries and check them into source control system
 - Add query logic in .m files and store them in GitHub, TFS, etc.
 - Ensure query logic is the same across PBIX projects
- Stay Ahead of the Pack and Win Admiration of Your Peers
 - People will think you are buddies with Chris Webb!

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The M Programming Language

M is a functional programming language

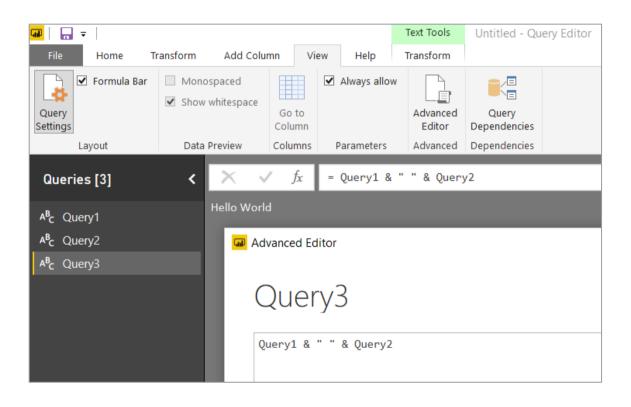
- computation through evaluation of mathematical functions
- Programming involves writing expressions instead of statements
- M does not support changing-state or mutable data
- Every query is a single expression that returns a single value
- Every query has a return type

Get Started with M

- Language is case-sensitive
- It's all about writing expressions
- Query expressions can reference other queries by name

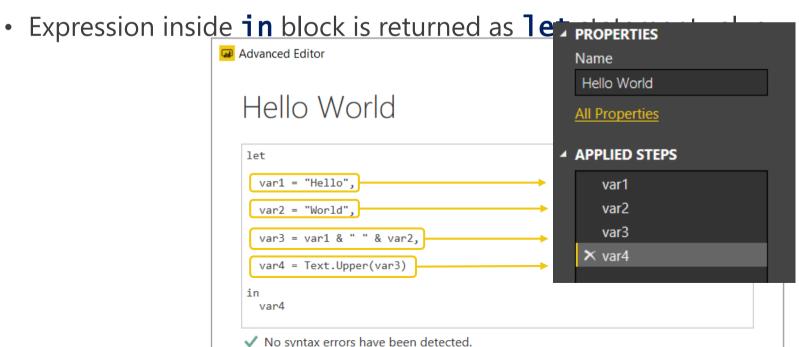
Referencing Other Queries

- Query can reference other queries by name
 - Every query is defined with a return type



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



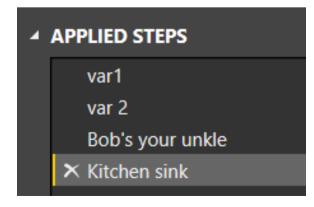
Comments and Variable Names

- 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"
```



Flow of Statement Evaluation

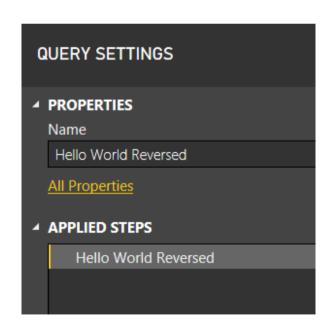
- Evaluation starts with expression inside in block
 - Expression evaluation triggers other expression evaluation

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

Will This M Code Work?

- Yes, the Mashup Engine has no problem with this
 - The order of expressions in let block doesn't matter
 - However, the visual designer might get confused

```
let
    var4 = Text.Upper(var3),
    var3 = var1 & " " & var2,
    var2 = "World",
    var1 = "Hello"
in
    var4
```



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

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

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

Examples of programming with M Datatypes

```
let
 // primitives
 var1 = 123, // number
 var2 = true,  // boolean
var3 = "hello",  // text
 var4 = null, // null
 // creating lists
 list1 = \{1, 2, 3\}, // list of three numbers
 // accessing list elements
 var5 = list1{1}.
 // create records
 record1 = [ FirstName="Soupy", LastName="Sales", ID=3 ].
 // accessing records
 var6 = record1[FirstName],
 // table
 table1 = #table( {"A", "B"}, { {1, 2}, {3, 4} } ),
 // creating function
 function1 = (x) \Rightarrow x * 2,
 // calling function
 output = function1(var1)
 in
    output
```

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
```

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 characters
output = Text.Select(input, allowedChars)
```

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, {
         "Chris", "Webb" },
"Reza", "Rad" },
"Chuck", "Sterilicious"}

▼ A<sup>B</sup><sub>C</sub> LastName

                                                                 FirstName
                                                              Matt
                                                                                     Masson
                                                              Chris
                                                                                     Webb
                                                                                     Rad
                                                              Reza
  CustomersTable
                                                                                     Sterilicious
                                                              Chuck
```

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 ),</pre>
```

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

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

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])
```

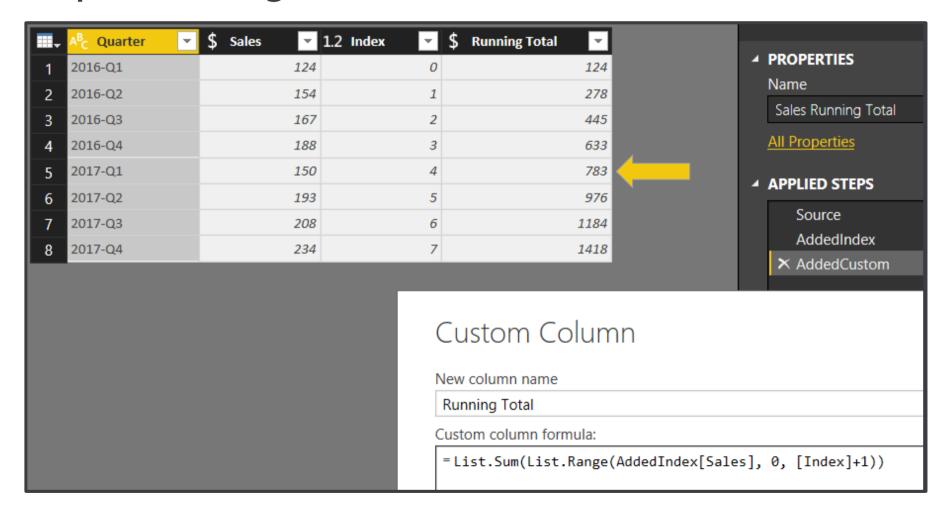
You must use _ variable when using each with a list

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



Performing Calculations Across Rows

Requires adding an index column



Understanding Function Queries

- Query can be converted into reusable function
 - Requires editing query M code in Advanced Editor
 - Function query defined with one or more parameters

```
GetExpensesFromFile

(FilePath as text) =>

let
    Source = Csv.Document(Web.Contents(FilePath)
    #"Changed Type" = Table.TransformColumnTypes
```

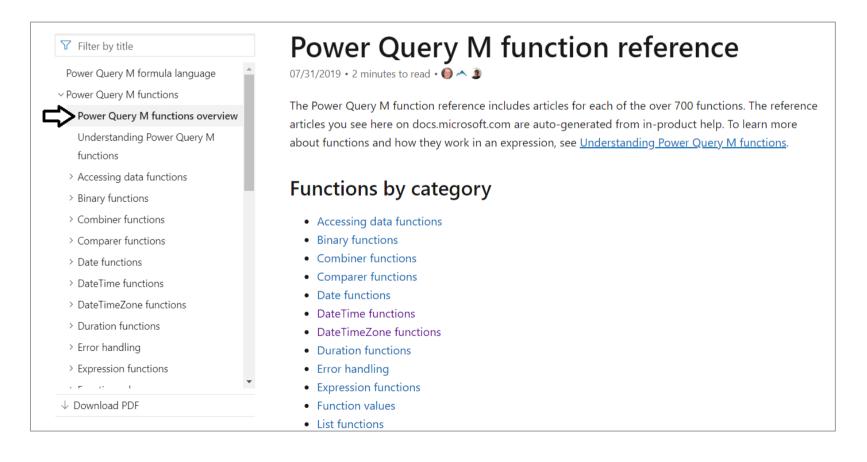
- Function query can be called from other queries
- Function query can be called using Invoke Custom Function
- Function query can't be edited with visual designer

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M Function Library

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



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)

List.Generate

• List.Generate accepts 3 function parameters

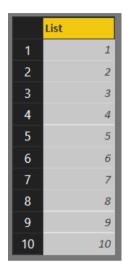
```
MyList = List.Generate( ()=>1, (item)=>(item<=10), (item)=>(item+1) )
```

You can use each syntax for 2nd and 3rd parameter

```
MyList = List.Generate( ()=>1, each _<=10, each _+1 )</pre>
```

You can optionally split functions out into separate expressions

```
let
    StartFunction = ()=>10,
    TestFunction = each (_ <= 70),
    IncrementFunction = each (_ + 10),
    MyList = List.Generate( StartFunction, TestFunction, IncrementFunction)
in
    MyList</pre>
```



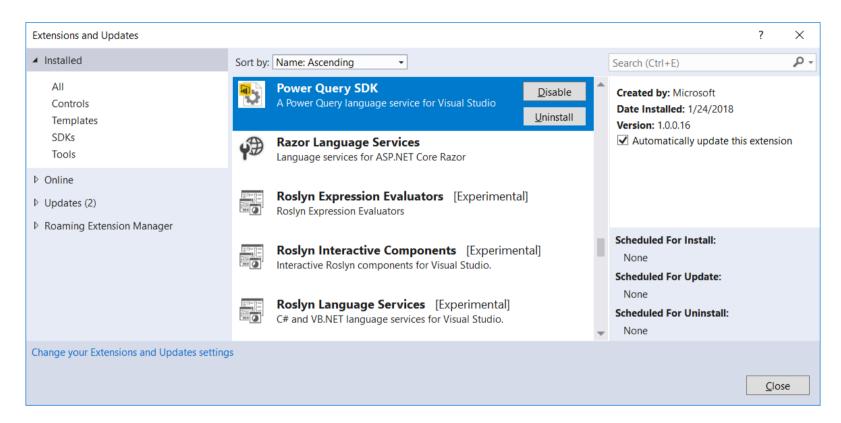
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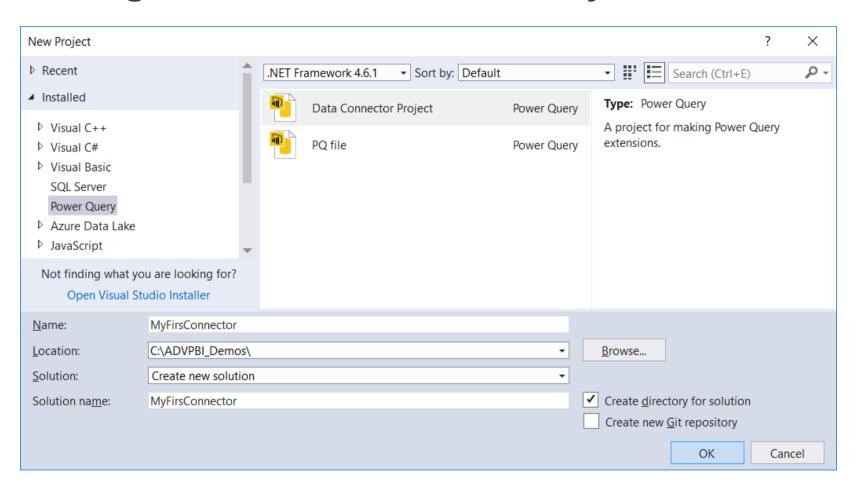
Developing Custom Data Connectors

- Custom Connectors let you write reusable query logic
 - Custom connector is written using M programming language
 - Custom connector can be used across PBIX project files
- Common motivation for developing a custom connector
 - Creating a friendly view of a REST API for business analyst
 - Providing branding on top of existing connector
 - Exposing a limited/filtered view over your data source
 - Control how mashup engine authenticates against datasource
 - Implementing OAuth v2 authentication flow for a SaaS offering
 - Enabling Direct Query for a data source via an ODBC driver`

Power Query SDK



Creating a New Data Connector Project

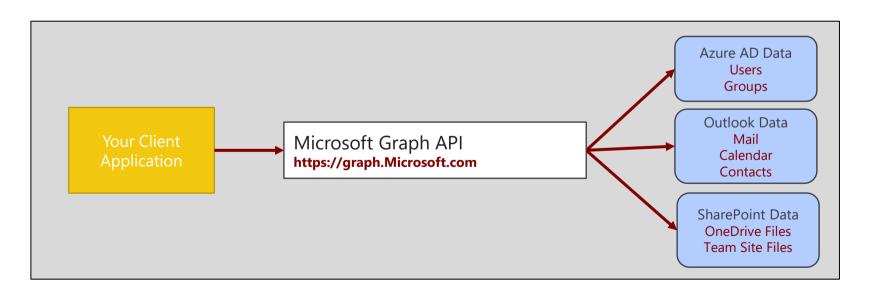


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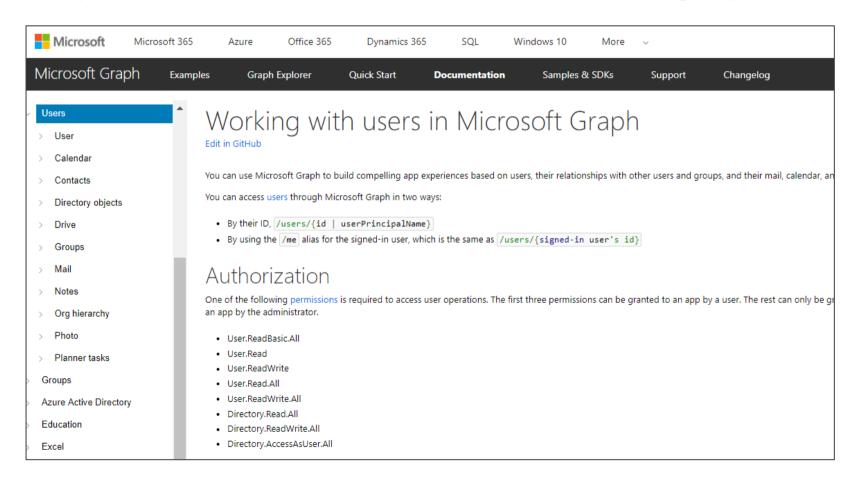
The Microsoft Graph API

- Designed as a one-stop-shopping kind of service
 - Abstracts away divisions between AD, Exchange and SharePoint
 - No need to discover endpoints using the Discovery Service
 - You can acquire and cache a single access token per user



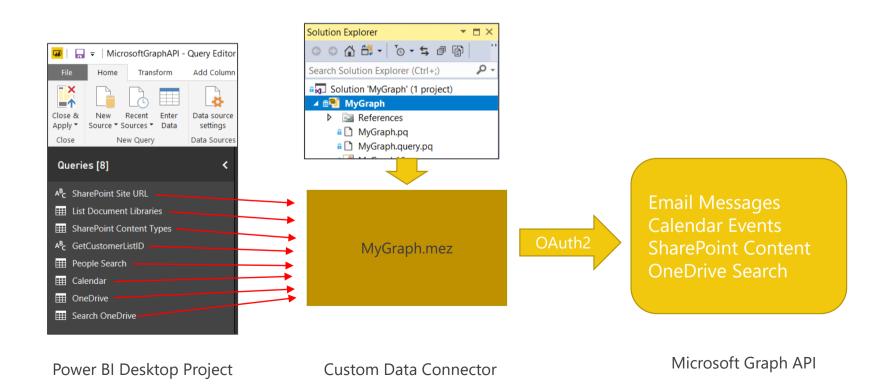
More Info on the Microsoft Graph API

• https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/graph/docs/api-reference/v1.0



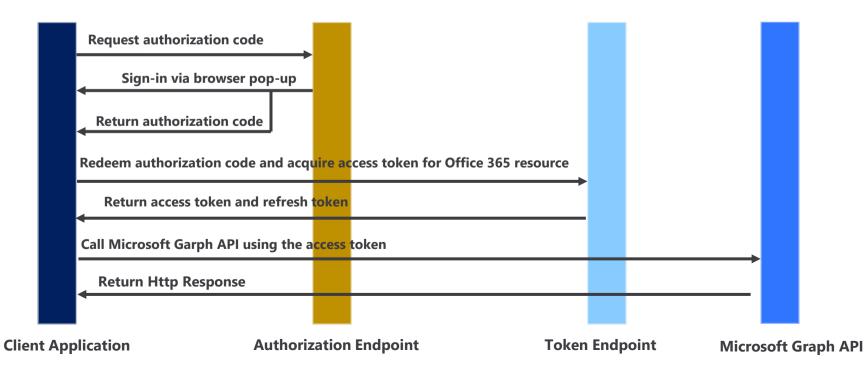
MyGraph Demo

- Project originally created by Matt Masson
 - Connector designed to query Microsoft Graph API
 - Connector provides code to authenticate with OAuth2



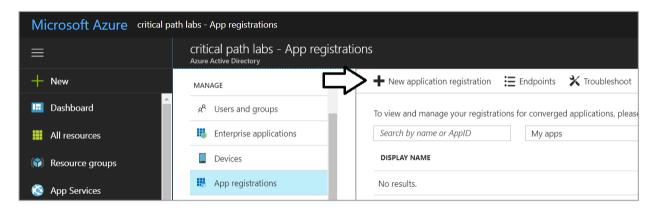
Authorization Code Grant Flow

- Sequence of Requests in Authorization Code Grant Flow
 - Application redirects to AAD authorization endpoint
 - User prompted to log on at Windows logon page
 - User prompted to consent to permissions (first access)
 - AAD redirects to application with authorization code
 - Application redirects to AAD access token endpoint



Registering an Azure Application

Can be done using Azure portal



- Details you need for the custom data connector
 - Client ID
 - Client Secret
 - Redirect URL

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