

Start with PowerBI

"From Rookie to Rock"

Learn &
Practice

Develop faster with TDML

Part 3: Document your PowerBI projects



Patou Tips #51



What is TDML?

An integrated code editor



TDML = Tabular **M**odel **D**efinition **L**anguage

The script TDML allows you to:



- ✓ Manage your data model more easily
- ✓ Share your code
- ✓ Modify, optimize, and improve your code with its integrated editor
- ✓ Manage your project versions

In these Patou Tips, we will examine the first 3 points.



Resources on GitHub

[Patou-Tips/#51 Patou Tips \(Develop faster with TDML - Create documentation\) at main · PatouTips/Patou-Tips](#)

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Develop faster with TDML

Part 3

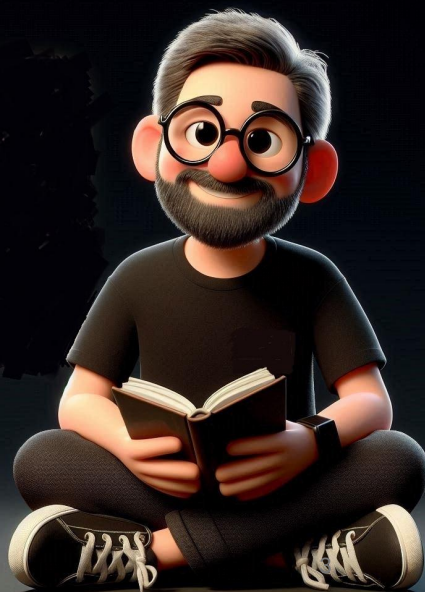
Document your PowerBI projects



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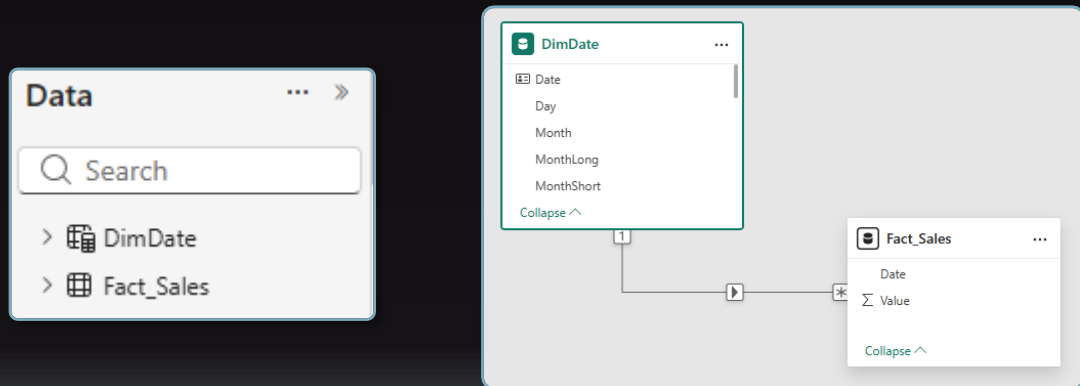
Document your PowerBI projects



Documenting a project is a tedious task that can take as much time as the project itself, especially for small projects. However, this documentation is useful not only for you if you are working alone, but also for your collaborators and the teams that will manage the execution and development phases.

To do this, we will use the Power BI TDML script and a prompt in an AI (here, Mistral).

We use the project of the previous part 2, Patou Tips#50.



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Document your PowerBI projects

Step 1: Generate the code

The screenshot shows the PowerBI interface with the TDML View window open. A yellow box highlights the TDML View window (1), the Semantic model in the Data pane (2), and the generated code in the TDML View window (3). The code in the TDML View window is as follows:

```
1 createOrReplace
2
3 table DimDate
4     lineageTag: 723ffede-04e5-48af-9cfd-2975c961bca8
5     dataCategory: Time
6
7     column Date
8         isHidden
9         isKey
10        formatString: General Date
11        lineageTag: 4f0b183d-a93f-4b76-93d6-a1b0942448c2
12        summarizeBy: none
13        isNameInferred
14        sourceColumn: [Date]
15
16    annotation SummarizationSetBy = Automatic
```

- 1 Go in the **TDML View**
- 2 Drag and drop the "Semantic model" in the "**TDML View window**"
- 3 A code appears in the **TDML View window** and includes all the characteristics of the Semantic Model.



Document your PowerBI projects

Step 2: Prompt your project

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```
1 createOrReplace
2
3 table DimsData
4   lineageTag: 223f9c9-80c1-40ef-8cfa-2975c9d1a1c1
5   dataCategory: file
6
7   column Date
8     formatString: General Date
9     lineageTag: 4f0b15c0-493f-4d76-83b6-eb0942448c1
10    summaryInfo: none
11    isNameInferred:
12    sourceColumn: [Date]
13
14
15    annotation SummaryInfoSetBy: Automatic
16
17   column Year
18     formatString: Y
19     lineageTag: 4f0b15c0-493f-4d76-83b6-eb0942448c1
```

Select all the code (ctrl + A) and copy it (ctrl + C)

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Posez une question au ChatGPT



Put the **prompt** in your LLM (5) then paste the TDML script with the prompt (ctrl + V) (6).

Prompt

Create comprehensive technical documentation in 3 chapters:
1 - Data Modeling: Architecture and Data Flows,
2 - List of Tables and Measures,
3 - Maintenance: Guide to Data Sources to Update and Best Practices

Based on the following TDML code from a Power BI project:

createOrReplace

```
model Model
  culture: fr-FR
  defaultPowerBIDataSourceVersion: powerBI V2
```

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Document your PowerBI projects

Step 3: That's all folks!



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Prompt

Create comprehensive technical documentation in 3 chapters:
1 - Data Modeling: Architecture and Data Flows,
2 - List of Tables and Measures,
3 - Maintenance: Guide to Data Sources to Update and Best Practices

Based on the following TDML code from a Power BI project
[add the TDML script of your PowerBI project]

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Now the documentation is ready,
paste it in Microsoft Word by
example then save it in PDF
format!

See example in the GitHub folder
(see link in the beginning of this
Patou Tips.
5 minutes for really complete and
great documentation!

Here's a structured technical documentation for the provided Tabular Model Definition Language (TDML) code. This documentation explains the purposes, properties, and configurations of the model.

Tabular Model Documentation: Sales Data Model

1. Overview

This TDML script defines a **Power BI Tabular Data Model** for sales data analysis. The model includes:

- A **data dimension table** ([Dim_Date](#)) for time intelligence.
- A **fact table** ([Fact_Sales](#)) for sales transactions.
- A **relationship** between the fact and dimension tables.
- Model-level configurations for culture, data access, and Power BI compatibility.

2. Model Configuration

2.1. Model Metadata

Property	Value	Description
culture	fr-FR	Sets the model's locale to French (France).
defaultPowerBISourceVersion	powerbi_V3	Specifies the Power BI data source version.
sourceQueryCulture	fr-FR	Ensures date/number formatting follows French conventions.
dataAccessOptions	legacyRedirects_returnErrorValuesAsNull	Configures how errors and legacy redirects are handled.

3. Tables

3.1. [Dim_Date](#) (Data Dimension Table)

Purpose: Provides a comprehensive date hierarchy for time-based analysis.

Columns	Data Type	Description	Lineage Tag	Source Column	Format	Summarisation
Date	Date	Primary key for the date table.	4f0b183d-4d39-4b76-9346-a160842448c2	[Date]	General Date	None
Year	Integer	Year of the date.	53f72662-4037-4911-91c3-5d684654b771	[Year]	0	None
YearSemester	Text	Year and semester (e.g., 2024-S1).	f4d97932-5628-4a0b-a125-4769aa865214	[YearSemester]	-	None
YearQuarter	Text	Year and quarter (e.g., 2024-Q1).	861776c6-3989-480a-a61d-080ad33e410	[YearQuarter]	-	None

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Coming soon, in 2026!



Patrice Fayard

Business Intelligence WORKBOOK

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To develop your
knowledge, find more
explanations and
exercises



Learn and practice

Find past issues of "Patou Tips" and download resources to practice on GitHub



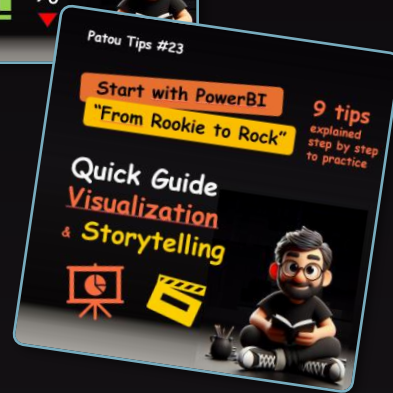
Patou Tips #5
Create a
Customized
Chart
(for income
statement)



Patou Tips #12
Calculate right
evolution for
KPI



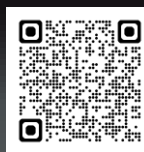
Patou Tips #6
Create
Customized Icon



Patou Tips #23
Quick Guide Visualization &
Storytelling



Patou Tips #7
Create an Age
Pyramid Chart
(for Human
Ressources)



Resources on GitHub
<https://github.com/PatouTips/Patou-Tips>

Don't forget!
This isn't the truth, it's just my truth!

Patou Tips



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