

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 Model Definition Language**



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.



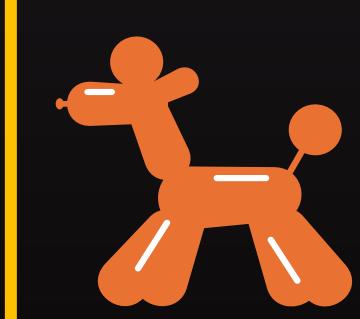
Resources on GitHub

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

# Develop faster with TDML

Part 3

## Document your PowerBI projects



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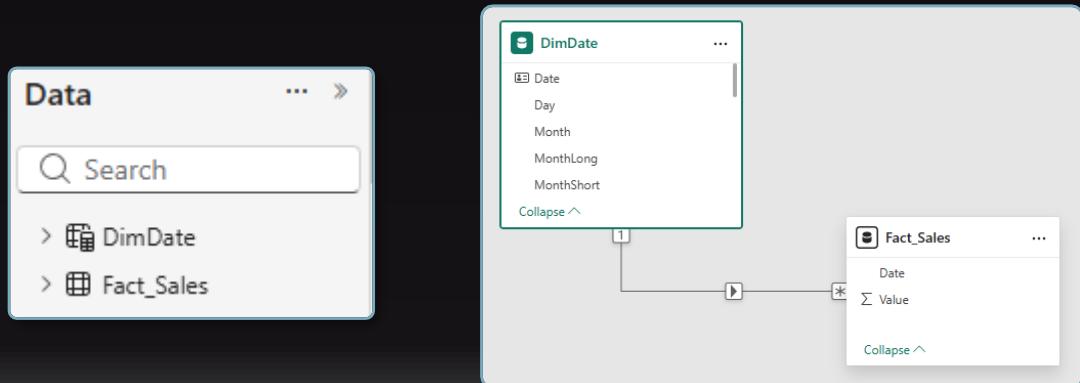
# Document your PowerBI projects



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.



# Document your PowerBI projects

## Step 1: Generate the code



The screenshot shows the Power BI Data view interface. On the left, there's a tree view of the semantic model structure under the 'Tables' node. The first table listed is 'DimDate'. A red box highlights the 'DimDate' table node, and a red arrow points from it to a callout box labeled '2 Semantic model'. Another red box highlights the 'TMDL' icon in the toolbar. A red circle with the number '3' is placed over the 'DimDate' table node in the tree view.

Table 2 Model

Semantic model

Cultures (1)  
Expressions (0)  
Functions (0)  
Measures (0)  
Perspectives (0)  
Relationships (0)  
Roles (0)

Tables (1)

- 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.

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# Document your PowerBI projects

## Step 2: Prompt your project

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```
1 CreateOrReplace  
2  
3   table [Date]  
4     lineageTag: 723fnode-84e5-48ef-9cf0-2975c61bce8  
5     dataCategory: Time  
6  
7     column [Date]  
8       isKey: true  
9       formatString: General Date  
10      lineageTag: 723fnode-84e5-48ef-9cf0-2975c61bce8  
11      summaryBy: none  
12      isNameInferred: false  
13      sourceColumn: [Date]  
14  
15      annotation SummarizationSetBy = Automatic  
16  
17     column [Year]  
18       formatString: 0  
19  
20     column [Year]  
21       formatString: 0
```

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

5

Posez une question au Chatbot

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

Prompt

6

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_V3
```

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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 purpose, included components, and key configurations.					
<b>1. Overview</b>					
This TDML script defines a <b>Power BI Tabular Data Model</b> for sales data analysis. The model includes:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A date dimension table (<a href="#">Dim Date</a>) for time intelligence.</li><li>A fact table (<a href="#">Fact Sales</a>) for sales transactions.</li><li>A relationship between the fact and dimension tables.</li><li>Model-level configurations for culture, data access, and Power BI compatibility.</li></ul>					
<b>2. Model Configuration</b>					
<b>2.1. Model Metadata</b>					
Property	Value	Description			
culture	fr-FR	Sets the model's locale to French (France).			
defaultPowerBIDataSourceVersion	powerbi_V3	Specifies the Power BI data source version.			
sourceQueryCulture	fr-FR	Ensures date/number formatting follows French conventions.			
dataAccessOptions	legacyRedirects, returnErrorValues, isNull	Configures how errors and legacy redirects are handled.			
<b>3. Tables</b>					
<b>3.1. Dim Date (Date Dimension Table)</b>					
Purpose: Provides a comprehensive date hierarchy for time-based analysis.					
<b>Columns</b>					
Column	Data Type Description	Lineage Tag	Source Column Format Summarization		
Date	Date	Primary key for the date table. 4fb0183d-a93f-4b76-93d6-a1b094244bc2 [Date]	General Date None		
Year	Integer	Year of the date. 53772e62-40b7-4911-9c3-5dd4d5b771 [Year]	0 None		
YearSemester	Text	Year and semester (e.g., 2024-S1). fd597932-5b2f-4fb-a125-4769aa8652f4 [YearSemester]	- None		
YearQuarter	Text	Year and quarter (e.g., 2024-Q1). 6f177fc6-5ff9-4bf-e61d-0f60ed33e10 [YearQuarter]	- None		

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Coming soon, in 2026!



Patrice Fayard

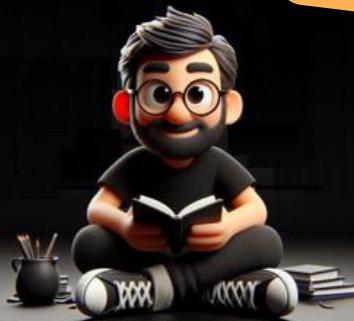
# Business Intelligence WORKBOOK

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## Learn & Practice

- ✓ 1000 Video tutorials
- ✓ 500 Step by step
- ✓ 5 Cheat Sheet
- ✓ 100 Power Patou Tips
- ✓ Hacking & Workshops



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Easy to do it...

Patou Tips #5



Create a **Customized Chart** (for income statement)



To practice downloadable free resources in GitHub



## Patou Tips #5

Create a  
Customized  
Chart  
(for income  
statement)

Easy to do it...

Patou Tips #12



Calculate the correct evolution for KPI



Patou Tips #23



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9 tips explained step by step to practice

Quick Guide Visualization & Storytelling



## Patou Tips #12

Calculate right evolution for KPI

Easy to do it...

Patou Tips #6



Create Customized Icon



(with PowerPoint for PowerBI)



To practice downloadable free resources in GitHub



## Patou Tips #6

Create  
Customized Icon

Easy to do it...

Patou Tips #7



Create an **Age Pyramid Chart** (for Human Ressources)



To practice downloadable free resources in GitHub



## Patou Tips #7

Create an Age  
Pyramid Chart  
(for Human  
Ressources)

Patou Tips #23



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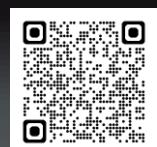
9 tips explained step by step to practice

Quick Guide Visualization & Storytelling



## Patou Tips #23

Quick Guide Visualization &  
Storytelling

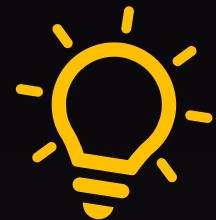


Resources on GitHub  
<https://github.com/Patou-Tips/Patou-Tips>

Don't forget!

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

## Patou Tips



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