Power BI

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About the Tutorial

Power BI is a Data Visualization and Business Intelligence tool that converts data from different data sources to interactive dashboards and BI reports. Power BI suite provides multiple software, connector, and services - Power BI desktop, Power BI service based on Saas, and mobile Power BI apps available for different platforms. These set of services are used by business users to consume data and build BI reports.

This tutorial covers all the important concepts in Power BI and provides a foundational understanding on how to use Power BI.

Audience

This tutorial has been prepared for beginners to help them understand the basic concepts of Power BI. This tutorial will give you enough understanding on Power BI, from where you can take yourself to a higher level of expertise.

Prerequisites

Before proceeding with this tutorial, you should be familiar with Microsoft Excel, data modeling, and have some knowledge of DAX language.

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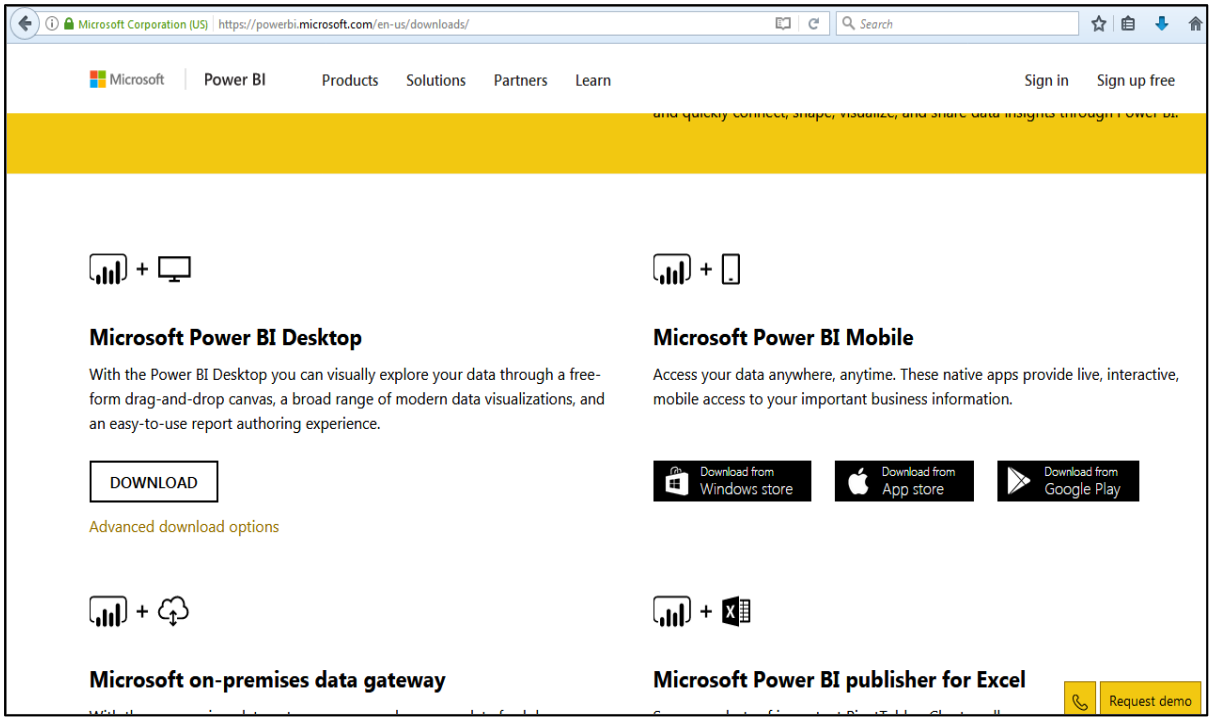
1. Power BI – Introduction

Power BI is a Data Visualization and Business Intelligence tool that converts data from different data sources to interactive dashboards and BI reports. Power BI suite provides multiple software, connector, and services - Power BI desktop, Power BI service based on Saas, and mobile Power BI apps available for different platforms. These set of services are used by business users to consume data and build BI reports.

Power BI desktop app is used to create reports, while Power BI Services (Software as a Service - SaaS) is used to publish the reports, and Power BI mobile app is used to view the reports and dashboards.

Power BI Desktop is available in both 32- and 64-bit versions. To download the latest version, you can use the following link -

https://powerbi.microsoft.com/en-us/downloads/



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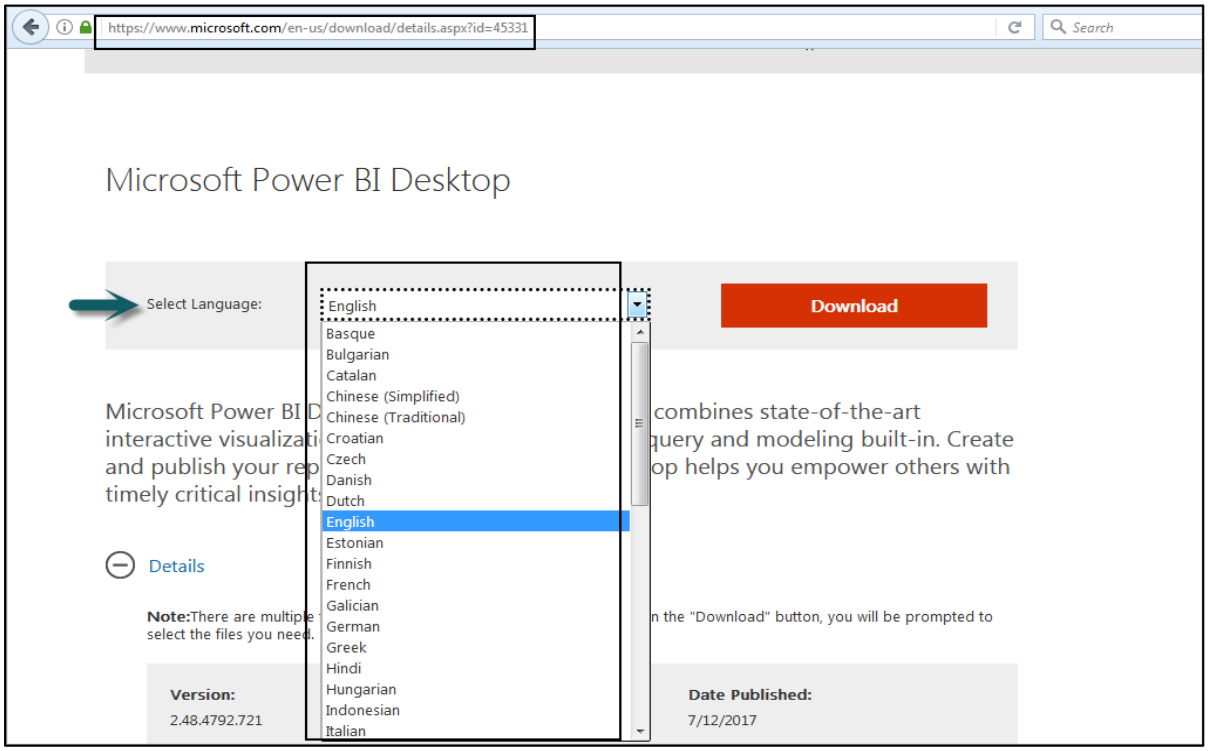
2. Power BI – Installation Steps

To check the system requirements, installation files detail, users have to navigate to "Advanced download options". Following are the system requirements to download Power BI tool -

Supported Operating Systems

- Windows 10, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2012 R2
- Microsoft Power BI Desktop requires Internet Explorer 9 or higher
- Microsoft Power BI Desktop is available for 32-bit (x86) and 64-bit (x64) platforms

Users can select a language in which they want to install Power BI and following files are available for download.



This is the link to directly download Power BI files - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=45331

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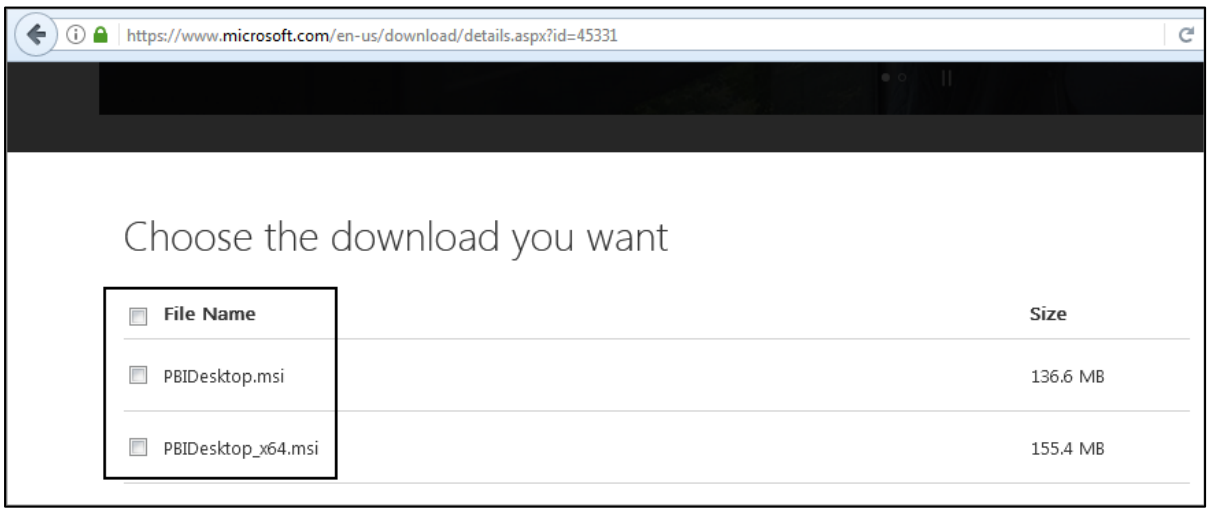
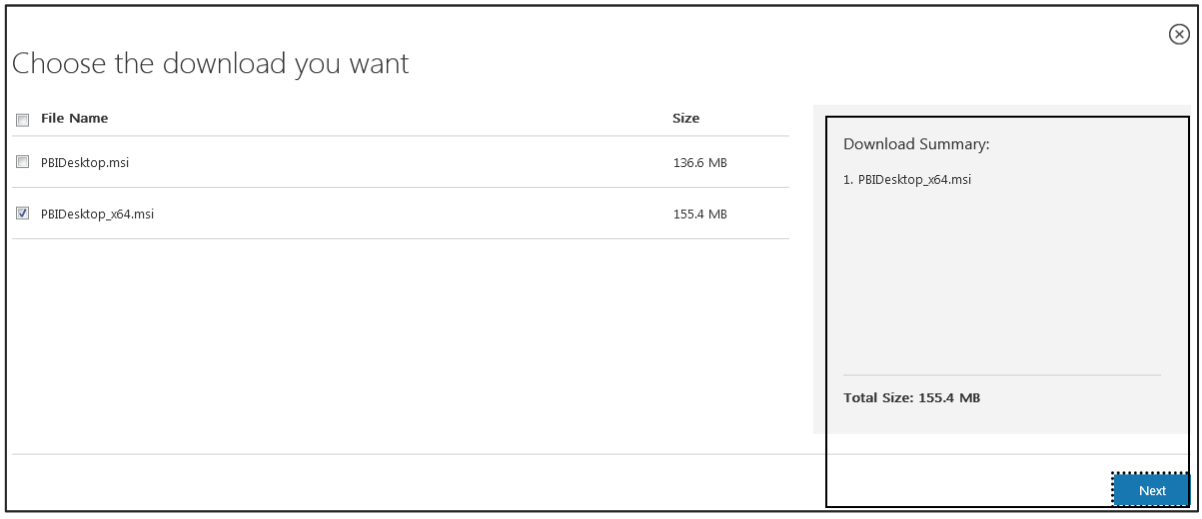


PBIDesktop_x64.msi shows a 64-bit OS file. Select the file you want to install as per OS type and click Next. Save the installation file on the local drive.



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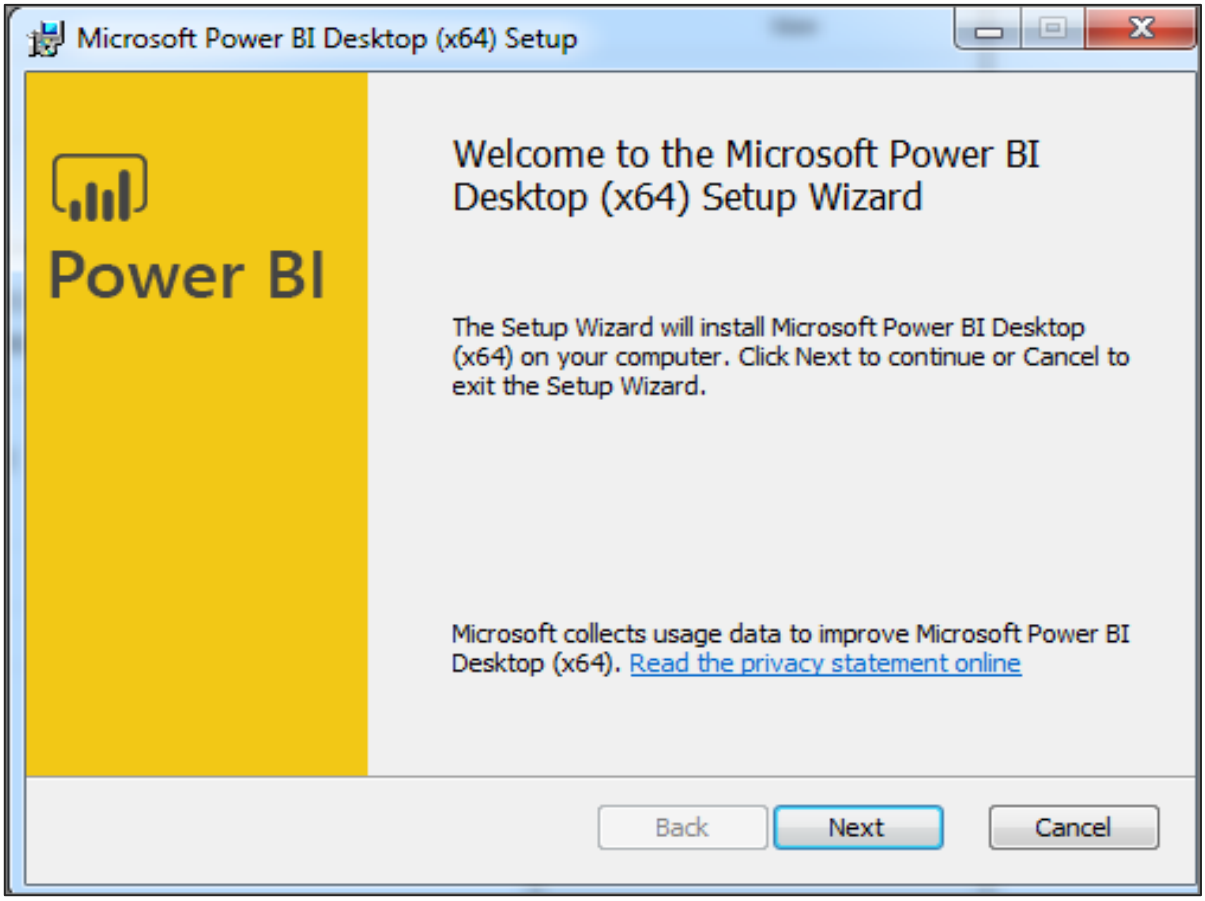
When you run the installation file, following screen is displayed.



Accept the license agreement and follow the instructions on the screen to finish the installation.

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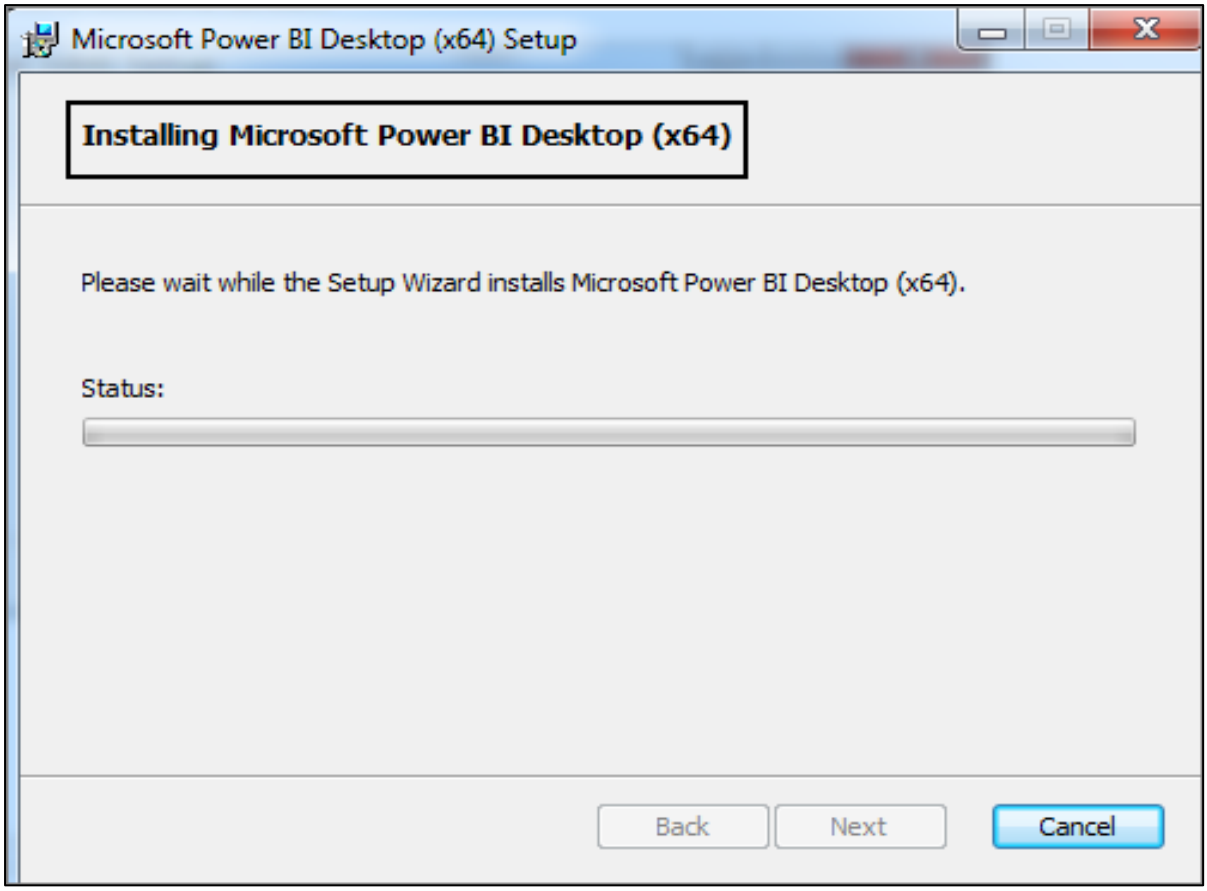
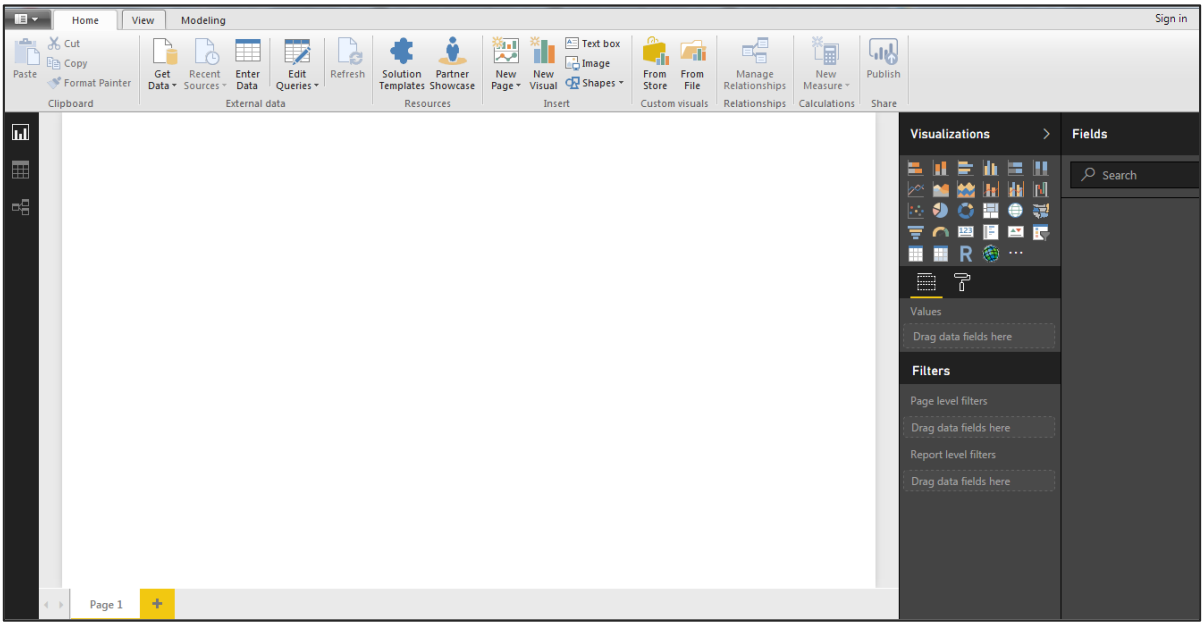


When Power BI is installed, it launches a welcome screen. This screen is used to launch different options related to get data, enrich the existing data models, create reports as well as publish and share reports.



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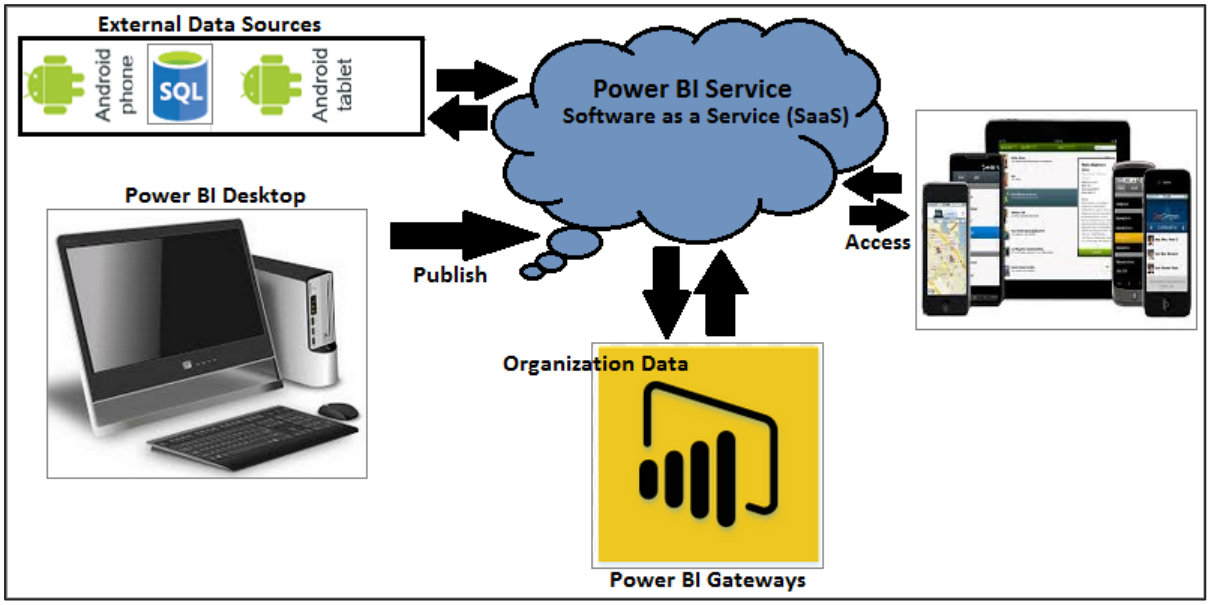
3. Power BI – Architecture

Power BI includes the following components -

- **Power BI Desktop** – This is used to create reports and data visualizations on the dataset.
- **Power BI Gateway** – You can use Power BI on-premises gateway to keep your data fresh by connecting to your on-premises data sources without the need to move the data. It allows you to query large datasets and benefit from the existing investments.
- **Power BI Mobile Apps** – Using Power BI mobile apps, you can stay connected to their data from anywhere. Power BI apps are available for Windows, iOS, and Android platform.
- **Power BI Service** – This is a cloud service and is used to publish Power BI reports and data visualizations.



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