

Publishing and Sharing in Power BI

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

Power BI Desktop is a Windows application used for building reports and dashboards. It allows data modeling, DAX, and visualization creation. Power BI Service (Online) is a cloud-based platform where published reports are stored, shared, and consumed. Desktop is for creation, Service is for sharing and collaboration.

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

After creating a report in Power BI Desktop, you click the 'Publish' button and select a workspace in the Online Service. The report and its semantic model (dataset) are then uploaded.

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

A workspace is a collaborative environment in the Power BI Service where reports, dashboards, and datasets are stored. There are two main types: 'My Workspace' (personal) and 'Workspaces' (shared, collaborative).

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

A workspace is where developers collaborate, while an app is a packaged, read-only version of the workspace shared with end-users. Apps provide a cleaner experience for business users.

Explain the different Power BI license types and their limitations.

Power BI Free: Basic use, publish to 'My Workspace' only. Power BI Pro: Required for sharing and collaboration in workspaces. Power BI Premium: Provides dedicated capacity, larger storage, paginated reports, and allows free users to view shared content.

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

You can publish reports to a Premium capacity workspace. Users without a Pro license can then view the reports. Alternatively, export to PDF or PowerPoint for offline sharing.

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

A semantic model (dataset) is the processed data model behind a report, including tables, relationships, and measures. It is stored in the Power BI Service workspace where the report was published.

How does Scheduled Refresh work in Power BI Online Service?

Scheduled refresh automatically updates datasets by connecting to data sources at defined intervals. Users can set the frequency (daily/hourly) and monitor refresh history in the Service.

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

A dataset is the semantic model used by reports, while a dataflow is a collection of ETL processes (Power Query transformations) stored in the cloud. Datasets are for reporting, dataflows are for data preparation.

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

Use a dataflow when you want to centralize data preparation, reuse transformations across multiple reports, and reduce redundancy. Datasets are more tied to individual reports.

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

Dashboards are single-page, high-level views composed of pinned visuals from different reports. Reports are multi-page and more detailed. Dashboards combine multiple sources, reports focus on one dataset.

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

In the Power BI Service, open a report, hover over a visual, and click the 'Pin' icon. Choose a dashboard or create a new one to pin the visual to.

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

The mobile view is a layout mode in Power BI Service that optimizes dashboards and reports for phone screens. It ensures users can view and interact with visuals effectively on mobile devices.

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

Paginated reports are pixel-perfect reports designed for printing or exporting. They handle large tables and are useful for financial statements, invoices, or regulatory reports.

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

Yes. In Power BI Service, open a report and select File > Export > PDF or PowerPoint. The exported file will contain report pages or visuals as static images.

What does 'Live Connection' mean in Power BI Service, and how does it work?

Live Connection means the report directly queries the data source (such as Analysis Services or a shared dataset) without importing the data. It ensures up-to-date results but requires an active connection to the source.

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

RLS restricts data access based on user roles. You define roles and DAX filters in Power BI Desktop, then publish. In the Service, assign users to roles. This ensures each user sees only the data they are authorized to view.

How can you test RLS roles in Power BI Service?

In Power BI Service, go to the dataset settings, select 'Security', and use the 'Test as role' feature to validate what different users will see.

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

Apps are packaged versions of workspaces, meant for distribution to end-users. You can publish an app from a workspace by selecting 'Publish app', configuring navigation and permissions.

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

Centralized collaboration, easy sharing, access control with RLS, integration with Microsoft 365, mobile access, and scheduled refresh. It also supports enterprise-scale governance and performance with Premium capacity.

