Most Asked Questions

POWER BI INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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BUSINESS & DATA ANALYST

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1. What is Power BI?

Power BI is a business analytics tool developed by Microsoft that helps you turn multiple unrelated data sources into valuable and interactive insights. These data may be in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or cloud-based/on-premises hybrid data warehouses. You can easily connect to all your data sources and share the insights with anyone.

2. Why should we use Power BI?

Because Power BI provides an easy way for anyone, including non-technical people, to connect, change, and visualize their raw business data from many different sources and turn it into valuable data that makes it easy to make smart business decisions.

3. Difference between Power BI and Tableau

Both Tableau and Power BI are the current IT industry's data analytics and visualization giants. Yet, there are a few significant differences between them. You will now explore the important differences between Tableau and Power BI.

Tableau	*Power BI*
Tableau uses MDX for measures and dimensions	Power BI uses DAX for calculating measures
Tableau is capable of handling large volumes of data	Power BI is qualified only to handle a limited amount of data

Tableau is best suitable for experts	Power BI is suitable for both experts and beginners
Tableau User Interface is complicated	Power BI User Interface is comparatively simpler
Tableau is capable of supporting the cloud with ease.	Power BI finds it difficult, as its capacity to handle large volumes of data is limited.

4. Difference between Power Query and Power Pivot

The differences between Power Query and Power Pivot are explained as follows:

Power Query	Power Pivot
Power Query is all about analysing data.	Power Pivot is all about getting and Transforming data.
Power Query is an ETL service tool.	Power Pivot is an in-memory data modelling component

5. What is Power BI Desktop

Power BI Desktop is an open-source application designed and developed by Microsoft.

Power BI Desktop will allow users to connect to, transform, and visualize your data with ease. Power BI Desktop lets users build visuals and collections of visuals that can be shared as reports with your colleagues or your clients in your organization.

6. What is Power Pivot?

Power Pivot is an add-on provided by Microsoft for Excel since 2010. Power Pivot was designed to extend the analytical capabilities and services of Microsoft Excel.

7. What is Power Query?

Power Query is a business intelligence tool designed by Microsoft for Excel. Power Query allows you to import data from various data sources and will enable you to clean, transform and reshape your data as per the requirements. Power Query allows you to write your query once and then run it with a simple refresh.

8. Describe the components of Microsoft's self-service BI solution.

Self-service business intelligence (SSBI) is divided into the Excel BI Toolkit and Power

BI.

9. What is self-service BI, anyway?

SSBI is an abbreviation for Self-Service Business Intelligence and is a breakthrough in business intelligence. SSBI has enabled many business professionals with no technical or coding background to use Power BI and generate reports and draw predictions successfully. Even nontechnical users can create these dashboards to help their business make more informed decisions.

10. What is DAX?

DAX stands for Data Analysis Expressions. It's a collection of functions, operators, and constants used in formulas to calculate and return values. In other words, it helps you create new info from data you already have.

11. What are Filters in Power BI?

The term "**Filter**" is self-explanatory. Filters are mathematical and logical conditions applied to data to filter out essential information in rows and columns. The following are the variety of filters available in Power BI:

- **Manual filters Auto**
- **filters Include/Exclude**
- **filters! Drill-down**
- **filters! Cross Drill**
- **filters Drill Down**
- **filters! Drill through**
- **filters! URL filters–**
- **transient Pass-Through**
- **filters**

12. What are Custom Visuals in Power BI?

Custom Visuals are like any other visualizations, generated using Power BI. The only difference is that it develops the custom visuals using a custom SDK. The languages like jQuery and JavaScript are used to create custom visuals in Power BI.

13. What is Get Data in Power BI?

Get Data is a simple icon on Power BI used to import data from the source.

14. Mention some advantages of Power BI.

Some of the advantages of using Power BI:

- It helps build an interactable data visualization in data centres
- It allows users to transform data into visuals and share them with anyone.

- It establishes a connection for Excel queries and dashboards for fast analysis.
- It provides quick and accurate solutions.
- It enables users to perform queries on reports using simple English words.

15. List out some drawbacks/limitations of using Power BI.

Here are some limitations to using Power BI:

- Power BI does not accept file sizes larger than 1 GB and doesn't mix imported data accessed from real-time connections.
- There are very few data sources that allow real-time connections to Power BI reports and dashboards.
- It only shares dashboards and reports with users logged in with the same email address.
- Dashboard doesn't accept or pass user, account, or other entity parameters.

16. What are some differences in data modelling between Power BI Desktop and Power Pivot for Excel?

Power Pivot for Excel supports only single directional relationships (one to many),
calculated columns, and one import mode. Power BI Desktop supports bi-directional cross-filtering connections, security, calculated tables, and multiple import options.

17. Name the different connectivity modes available in Power BI?

There are three main connectivity modes used in Power BI.

SQL Server Import

An SQL Server Import is the default and most common connectivity type used in Power BI. It allows you to use the full capabilities of the Power BI Desktop.

Direct Query

The Direct Query connection type is only available when you connect to specific data sources. In this connectivity type, Power BI will only store the metadata of the underlying data and not the actual data.

Live Connection

With this connectivity type, it does not store data in the Power BI model. All interaction with a report using a Live Connection will directly query the existing Analysis Services model. There are only 3 data sources that support the live connection method - SQL Server Analysis Services (Tabular models and Multidimensional Cubes), Azure Analysis Services (Tabular Models), and Power BI Datasets hosted in the Power BI Service.

18. What are the various types of refresh options provided in Power BI?

Four important types of refresh options provided in Microsoft Power BI are as follows:

- **Package refresh** - This synchronizes your Power BI Desktop or Excel file between the Power BI service and OneDrive, or SharePoint Online.
- **Model or data refresh -** This refreshes the dataset within the Power BI service with data from the original data source.
- **Tile refresh** - This updates the cache for tile visuals every 15 minutes on the dashboard once data changes.
- **Visual container refresh** - This refreshes the visible container and updates the cached report visuals within a report once the data changes.

19. Name the data sources can Power BI can connect to?

Several data sources can be connected to Power BI, which is grouped into three main types:

- Files

It can import data from Excel (.xlsx, .xlsm), Power BI Desktop files (.pbix) and Comma-Separated Values (.csv).

- Content Packs

These are a collection of related documents or files stored as a group. There are two types of content packs in Power BI:

- ● Content packs from services providers like Google Analytics, Marketo, or Salesforce and Content packs are created and shared by other users in your organization. ● Connectors

Connectors help you connect your databases and datasets with apps, services, and data in the cloud.

20. What is a dashboard in Power BI?

A **dashboard** is a single-layer presentation sheet of multiple visualizations reports. The main features of the Power BI dashboard are:

- ● It allows you to drill through the page, bookmarks, and selection pane and also lets you create various tiles and integrate URLs.
- ● A dashboard can also help you set report layout to mobile view.

21. Explain how relationships are defined in Power BI Desktop?

Relationships between tables are defined in two ways:

- ● Manually - Relationships between tables are manually defined using primary and foreign keys.
- ● Automatic - When enabled, this automated feature of Power BI detects relationships between tables and creates them automatically.

22. Can you have more than one functional relationship between two tables in a Power Pivot data model?

No. There can be multiple inactive relationships, but only one active relationship between two tables in a Power Pivot data model. Dotted lines represent inactive relationships, and continuous lines represent active relationships.

23. Can you have a table in the model which does not have any relationship with other tables?

Yes. There are two main reasons why you can have disconnected tables:

- The table is used to present the user with parameter values to be exposed and selected in slicers.
- It uses the table as a placeholder for metrics in the user interface.

24. What is the CALCULATE function in DAX?

The CALCULATE function evaluates the sum of the Sales table Sales Amount column in a modified filter context. It is also the only function that allows users to modify the filter context of measures or tables.

Moving ahead, you will step up to the following Power BI Interview Questions from the Intermediate Level.

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