# Chapter 1: Introduction to Power BI & Installation Guide

## What is Power BI?

Power BI is a business analytics tool developed by Microsoft that allows you to:

- Connect to various data sources (Excel, SQL Server, SharePoint, APIs, etc.)

- Transform and clean data using Power Query

- Build interactive dashboards and reports

- Share insights with stakeholders securely across devices

It’s widely used by data analysts, business analysts, and professionals to make data-driven decisions through interactive visualizations.

## Key Components of Power BI

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| Component | Description |
| Power BI Desktop | Windows-based application to create reports and dashboards |
| Power BI Service | Cloud platform to publish and share reports |
| Power BI Mobile | Mobile app to view dashboards on the go |
| Power BI Gateway | Bridge to connect on-premises data sources with Power BI Service |
| Power Query | ETL tool inside Power BI to clean and shape data |
| DAX (Data Analysis Expressions) | Formula language used for creating measures and calculated columns |

## How to Install Power BI Desktop

### Step 1: Download

Go to the official Microsoft Power BI site: https://powerbi.microsoft.com/desktop

Click on "Download Free".

### Step 2: Install via Microsoft Store (Recommended)

It will redirect you to the Microsoft Store.

Click "Get" to install Power BI Desktop (auto-updates via store).

### Alternative: Install via .msi Installer

Scroll to the bottom of the download page and click "Advanced Download Options".

Choose the correct version (x64 or x86) based on your system.

Run the installer and follow the on-screen instructions.

## System Requirements

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| Requirement | Minimum |
| OS | Windows 10 or 11 |
| RAM | 2 GB (Recommended: 4+ GB) |
| Disk Space | 1.5 GB |
| .NET Framework | Version 4.7.2 or later |

⚠️ Power BI Desktop is only available for Windows. Mac users need a VM or cloud setup (like Azure Virtual Desktop).

## Next Step:

Once installed, launch Power BI Desktop and in the next chapter we’ll connect to a sample dataset and explore the interface.