

Power BI FAQs

1 Difference Between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service

Power BI Desktop is a free, Windows-based application for designing and building reports and dashboards locally. It offers robust data modeling, visualization, and transformation tools, ideal for creating reports offline. Power BI Online Service, hosted in the cloud, is a platform for sharing, publishing, and collaborating on reports. It enables features like scheduled refreshes, sharing, and app distribution, requiring a license for full functionality.

2 Publishing a Power BI Report from Desktop to Online Service

1. Open the report in Power BI Desktop.
2. Click **Home** > **Publish** in the ribbon.
3. Sign in to your Power BI account if prompted.
4. Select a workspace in the Power BI Service to publish the report to.
5. Click **Select**, and the report and its dataset are uploaded to the chosen workspace.
6. View the report in the Power BI Service under the selected workspace.

3 Workspaces in Power BI

A workspace in Power BI is a collaborative environment in the Power BI Service for storing, managing, and sharing reports, dashboards, and datasets. Types include:

- **My Workspace:** A personal workspace for individual use.

- **Workspaces:** Group workspaces for team collaboration, requiring a Pro or Premium license for sharing.

4 Difference Between a Workspace and an App in Power BI

A workspace is a container for creating and managing content like reports and datasets, used by creators for collaboration. An app is a packaged collection of reports and dashboards from a workspace, designed for end-users to consume content without editing access. Apps provide a streamlined, read-only experience.

5 Power BI License Types and Limitations

- **Free License:** Limited to Power BI Desktop and personal use in My Workspace. Cannot share reports or access premium features.
- **Pro License:** Enables collaboration, sharing, and publishing to workspaces and apps. Limited to 1 GB dataset size and 8 daily refreshes.
- **Premium Per User (PPU):** Includes advanced features like larger datasets (up to 100 GB) and more frequent refreshes (up to 48 daily).
- **Premium Capacity:** Organization-wide license for large-scale deployments, supporting unlimited sharing and advanced AI features.

For pricing details, visit <https://x.ai/grok> for SuperGrok or <https://help.x.com/en/using-x/x-premium> for X Premium.

6 Sharing a Report with Someone Without a Pro License

- **Publish to Web:** Share a public link (not secure, use cautiously).
- **App Sharing:** Publish the report to an app in a Premium workspace, allowing Free users to view.
- **Direct Sharing in Premium:** Share reports in a Premium capacity workspace with Free users.
- **Embed in Secure Portal:** Embed reports in a secure portal like SharePoint with Premium capacity.

7 Semantic Model (Dataset) in Power BI

A semantic model (dataset) is a data model containing tables, relationships, and measures used for reporting. In the Power BI Service, it is stored in the cloud within a workspace, accessible for report creation and refresh.

8 Scheduled Refresh in Power BI Online Service

Scheduled Refresh automates data updates for datasets in the Power BI Service:

1. Configure a data source with a gateway (for on-premises data) or cloud credentials.
2. In the workspace, go to the dataset's settings.
3. Set up a refresh schedule (e.g., daily, weekly) and specify times.
4. Save the settings, and the dataset refreshes automatically as scheduled.

Pro licenses allow up to 8 refreshes daily; Premium allows up to 48.

9 Difference Between a Dataset and a Dataflow in Power BI

A dataset is a ready-to-use data model for reporting, including tables, relationships, and calculations, stored in a workspace. A dataflow is a cloud-based data preparation tool that extracts, transforms, and loads data into Power BI's Common Data Model, stored in Azure Data Lake Storage. Dataflows are reusable across multiple datasets.

10 Using a Dataflow Instead of a Dataset

Use a dataflow when:

- Centralizing data preparation for reuse across multiple reports.
- Handling large-scale or complex transformations in the cloud.
- Integrating with Azure Data Lake for enterprise data management.
- Reducing dataset refresh times by pre-processing data.

11 Dashboards in Power BI Online

Dashboards are single-page, interactive summaries of key visuals pinned from reports, designed for quick insights. Reports are detailed, multi-page analyses with interactive visuals and filters. Dashboards aggregate visuals from multiple reports, while reports focus on in-depth data exploration.

12 Pinning a Visual to a Dashboard from a Report

1. Open the report in the Power BI Service.
2. Hover over the visual you want to pin.
3. Click the **Pin** icon.
4. Select an existing dashboard or create a new one.
5. Save, and the visual appears on the dashboard.

13 Mobile View in Power BI

Mobile view is a layout in Power BI Service optimized for mobile devices, ensuring reports and dashboards are responsive and readable. It's useful for on-the-go access, providing touch-friendly navigation and compact visuals for smaller screens.

14 Paginated Reports in Power BI

Paginated reports are pixel-perfect, printable reports designed for fixed-format outputs (e.g., invoices, statements). Use them for operational reporting requiring precise layouts or when exporting to PDF/Word for distribution. They require a Premium license.

15 Exporting Reports from Power BI Service to PDF or PowerPoint

- **PDF:** In the Power BI Service, open the report, click **File > Export > Export to PDF**.
- **PowerPoint:** Open the report, click **File > Export > Export to PowerPoint**. This feature may require a Premium license.

Paginated reports can also be exported to PDF or other formats directly.

16 Live Connection in Power BI Service

Live Connection links a Power BI report directly to a dataset (e.g., in SQL Server Analysis Services or Power BI Service) without importing data. The report queries the dataset in real-time, ensuring data consistency and minimizing duplication. Changes to the dataset reflect immediately in the report.

17 Row-Level Security (RLS) in Power BI Online

RLS restricts data access at the row level based on user roles. For example, a sales manager sees only their region's data. To apply RLS:

1. In Power BI Desktop, create roles under **Modeling** > **Manage Roles**.
2. Define DAX filters (e.g., [Region] = "West").
3. Publish the report to the Power BI Service.
4. In the workspace, assign users to roles under **Dataset** > **Security**.

18 Testing RLS Roles in Power BI Service

1. In Power BI Desktop, go to **Modeling** > **View as** and select a role to test locally.
2. In the Power BI Service, go to the dataset's **Security** settings.
3. Click **Test as Role**, select a role, and view the report as that role's user.

19 Apps in Power BI

Apps are curated collections of reports and dashboards for end-users. To publish:

1. In a workspace, add desired reports and dashboards.
2. Click **Create App** in the workspace.
3. Configure app settings (e.g., navigation, permissions).
4. Publish the app to make it available to users.

20 Benefits of Power BI Online Service in Enterprise Environments

- Scalable collaboration and sharing via workspaces and apps.
- Automated data refreshes for real-time insights.
- Centralized governance with RLS and Premium features.
- Cloud-based accessibility for global teams.
- Integration with Azure services for advanced analytics.