Due to its ability to spot trends and save time, Excel is great for organizing data. It'll make it easier for you to see your data. Using a variety of graphs, charts, and illustrations, you may present your data to stakeholders and clearly convey your point of view. More current versions allow for creating data models using "M" Language and connecting to numerous data sources.

Therefore, the topic of why we need Power BI might come up.

Power BI can connect to a wide range of resources, including flat files, the cloud, relational databases, NoSQL databases, data warehouses, and big data technologies. Power BI's unique structure (both a desktop application and a web service) makes it reliable, easy to use, quick, and suitable for real-time analytics. It makes advantage of the robust DAX language for it. It also functions nicely on mobile devices.

For decades, Excel has been the only tool that can be used to create spreadsheets, but it is unrivaled for all types of tabular reporting. Aside from making graphs and charts, you may perform extensive data modeling. However, its functionality ends at that point, and Power BI will now handle all upcoming tasks.

Power BI processes data more quickly than Excel because it is a tool for business intelligence (BI) and data visualization. As opposed to Excel, it can manage a lot.

Power BI dashboards have a higher level of interactivity and allow for sharing with a large number of users.

You will discover the following ways that Excel and Power BI connect through Power BI Service in this post:

- Analyze in Excel: You can connect Excel and the Power BI Service using this method. Browse the Power BI Service and choose a report, dashboard, or data set to analyze using Excel. Click the three dots to select the Analyze in Excel option. When you use Excel in this manner, a file will be created on SharePoint's backend. One more thing: the file you produced will update every time you update your data in Power BI Desktop and publish it to the Power BI Service.

  Figure: Analyze in Excel without browsing the content (cropped)

  Moreover, data from a graphic or tile can be exported. The format in which you choose to export your data is up to you. It's good to know that Power BI currently offers 2 options for exporting data from a visual or tile: CSV and EXCEL. Excel is only capable of storing up to 150,000 rows. The maximum number of rows that CSV can process is 30,000.

  Figure: Export data from visual (cropped)

  Excel can still be used to evaluate data in one more method. This method of using Excel to analyze data functions in the exact same way as the first method. To do that, select Analyze in Excel from the export menu in the top ribbon. It will launch the Excel backend provided by SharePoint, allowing you to examine your data.

  Figure: Analyze in Excel by browsing the content (cropped)

Wow! Take a look at how easy it is to connect Excel to the Power BI Service. See the video below to find out more.

- Connect from Excel to Power BI Service: Additionally, you can link the Power BI Dataset from Excel to the Power BI Service in order to retrieve data. To do this, click Get Data on the Data ribbon and then select Power BI from the Power Platform menu. Check out the video below. You can also upload your excel document to the Power BI Service. Your data can also be uploaded to the Power BI Service using the Excel publish method.

Figure: Connect from Excel to Power BI Service (cropped)

By using Excel's publish option, you may also upload your data to the Power BI Service. The first option is to use "Upload your workbook to Power BI," and the second is to "Export workbook data to Power BI." In order to do that, open your excel file, select the publish option from the file menu, and then select "Publish to Power BI" from the list of options.

Figure: Publish to Power BI Service from Excel (cropped)

This is how we can leverage the use of Excel & Power BI and do more impactful analysis.