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Okay, so I'm trying to understand what Direct Query is in Power BI. I've heard the term before, but I'm not sure I fully grasp it.

I remember that when you connect to a data source in Power BI, you can either load the data into the model or use Direct Query.

So, what exactly is Direct Query? From what I've read before, Direct Query allows Power BI to connect directly to the data source.

Wait, but if the data isn't stored in the model, doesn't that affect performance? I think it might because each time a report is refreshed, it has to query the data source.

I also remember that Direct Query supports certain data sources. For example, SQL Server, Azure SQL Database, and some cloud storage solutions.

Another thing I'm a bit confused about is how Direct Query handles transformations and calculations. If the data is fetched on demand, how are these handled?

I should also consider when to use Direct Query. It seems like it's best for scenarios where you need real-time data or have very large datasets.

I wonder how scheduling refreshes works with Direct Query. Since the data isn't stored in Power BI, does it refresh the data in the source?

Also, I've heard about potential issues with Direct Query, like slower performance if the data source isn't optimized for queries.

To sum up, Direct Query in Power BI is a way to connect to a data source without importing the data into the model. It's useful for real-time data but has some performance considerations.

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****Answer:****

Direct Query in Power BI is a feature that allows you to connect to a data source without importing the data into the model.

****Key Points:****

1. ****Functionality****: Direct Query enables live querying of data sources such as SQL Server, Azure SQL Database, and some cloud storage solutions.
2. ****Performance Considerations****: Since data is fetched on demand, it can result in slower performance compared to imported data, especially for large datasets or complex queries.
3. ****Use Cases****: Ideal for real-time analytics and situations where data is too voluminous to store in the model.
4. ****Limitations****: May limit the use of certain advanced Power BI features that rely on the data model and calculated fields.
5. ****Refresh Mechanisms****: Unlike imported data, Direct Query doesn't require scheduled refreshes as it pulls data directly from the source.

In summary, Direct Query is a powerful option for real-time data access but should be used judiciously based on the specific requirements and data source capabilities.