

Tableau vs Power BI

Power BI

Limitations to the data points is 10,000

Power BI supports a small number of data sources (10 with 6 more in Beta) via direct query but there are product limitations when using that option.

During Live Query can only connect to a single source, can't join to a 2nd source

Not an enterprise dashboarding tool. Anyone can upload their dashboard and share it with whoever. There's no place to put in validation or change control. Even as the administrator you can't see all the dashboards your users have published.

Only Supported on Azure

Tableau

No Limitations to the data points.

Tableau has got 70+ Native data connectors.

During Live Query, you can connect to any number of data sources at the same time

Enterprise Level Reporting and Visualization. Security, Governance, Row Level Access, Monitoring the users and their activities is very much possible

Supported on AWS / Google Cloud / Azure / On Premises / On cloud

Tableau vs Power BI (Contd.)

Power BI

In order to keep the data in memory and schedule data refresh you need to use Microsoft's another tool called Microsoft SQL Server Services Analysis.

Start learning DAX. You need to memorize this query language to do anything like this.

More than one categorical field in a single view? Can't do it. This means if you want to see Year AND Quarter... you have to combine the two fields.

No user generated inputs. As another example, if you wanted to toggle between the Top 10 and Top 20, can't do it.

Tableau

No such complications in Tableau as using in memory data and schedule data refresh is allowed within Tableau without any need to buy any other service.

Tableau has one click calculations that make it simple to ask complex questions. What is the running total? Percent of total? Percent difference?

Can compare as many fields as you have in your data.

Parameters allow for every what if scenario you can think of, empowering your consumers and opening up analytics possibilities.

Tableau vs Power BI (Contd.)

Power BI

No details on demand. When you hover over sales for the eastern region, you see sales for the Eastern region. Pop ups are essentially useless. Cannot view underlying to learn more.

For forecasting you'll need Azure ML.

Microsoft Power BI requires knowledge of proprietary end-user languages such as DAX (for Excel) and MDX (for SSAS) as well as IT knowledge of Azure SQL DW, AS and integration with other Microsoft products, such as the Data Management Gateway, etc.

You need to invest Power BI Desktop, Power BI Service, Power BI Mobile, Power BI Report Server SQL Server Analysis Services, Azure, SharePoint, Microsoft Intune

Tableau

Load tooltips with as much information as you want... and customize them in whatever font, color and organization you think is most useful. Viewing underlying data is a click away.

Trend lines, forecasting, and other common business needs are all a drag and drop away.

Tableau is widely considered to be easier to use and hence requires less training

Only Tableau Desktop and Tableau Server

Tableau vs Power BI (Contd.)

Power BI

Tableau

No Web Edit Option for the viewers in the Power BI Server

Web Edit Option comes bundled in the Tableau Server

Can't do scheduled refreshes, leaves user needing to manually update extracts.

Automatic and Scheduled refresh saves time and manual efforts for a resource to sit and manually refresh

In Tableau, usage patterns and consumption preferences can be tracked and analyzed to provide an administrator an overall assessment of the environment and how it is being used.

Very limited. Even quite difficult to determine the # of users who've even logged in.

Power BI is cheaper Incorrect. Power BI software is less expensive but Tableau is on average 29% less expensive depending on the deployment than Power BI over a 3 year period. Considering Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) or all costs involved in implementing and supporting your deployments, including full time employees which are the biggest component of total cost.