

1. What is the difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service?

Power BI Desktop is for creating dashboards and transforming data while Power BI Online Service is for sharing, viewing and collaborating on reports(with cost). Power BI Desktop is an application and Power BI Service is web platform

2. How do you publish a Power BI report from Desktop to the Online Service?

Open your report in Power BI Desktop.

Click on Publish on the Home tab.

Sign in with your Power BI account (if not already signed in).

Choose a Workspace (e.g., "My Workspace" or a shared one).

Click Select Power BI uploads the report to the cloud.

3. What is a workspace in Power BI? What are the types of workspaces available?

A workspace in Power BI is a container where you can store, manage, and share reports, dashboards, datasets, and dataflows with others. It helps teams collaborate and control access to Power BI content.

4. What is the difference between a workspace and an app in Power BI?

**Workspace is for creating and managing content.**

**App is for sharing that content with users in a view-only format.**

5. Explain the different Power BI license types and their limitations.

Power BI Free => Free, for personal use – no sharing with others and can't publish to shared workspaces

Power BI Pro => Paid per User/month and for sharing and collaborating in workspaces, the limitation is that it can't share with free users

Power BI Premium => Paid for large-scale enterprises, advanced-AI and dataflows, View shared content without Pro license

6. How can you share a report with someone who doesn't have a Pro license?

You can share a Power BI report with someone who doesn't have a Pro license only if the report is published to a Premium capacity workspace — otherwise, both users must have Pro or Premium licenses.

7. What is a semantic model (dataset) in Power BI, and where is it stored in the service?

A semantic model (previously called a dataset) is the structured data model used in Power BI. It includes data tables, relationships, measures, and transformations used to build reports. In the Power BI Service, the semantic model is stored in the workspace where the report is published.

8. How does Scheduled Refresh work in Power BI Online Service?

Scheduled Refresh keeps your data up to date by automatically pulling fresh data at set times in the Power BI Service.

9. What is the difference between a dataset and a dataflow in Power BI?

A dataset is a data model used in reports. It contains tables, relationships, DAX measures, and loaded data. Datasets are usually created in Power BI Desktop and stored in the workspace when published.

A dataflow is used to perform data transformation and preparation in the Power BI Service. It uses Power Query to clean and shape data, and stores it in cloud storage


10. When and why would you use a dataflow instead of a dataset?

you can use a dataflow when you want centralized, reusable, and consistent data preparation across multiple datasets To save time, avoid duplication, and ensure consistency across reports.

11. What are dashboards in Power BI Online? How are they different from reports?

A dashboard in Power BI Online is a single-page view that displays key visuals and metrics by pinning tiles from one or more reports. It provides a quick overview or summary of important data. A report is a multi-page, interactive document built from a single dataset, containing various visuals for in-depth analysis.

12. How do you pin a visual to a dashboard from a report?

Open the report, click the  pin icon on a visual, and choose a dashboard to pin it to it.

13. What is the mobile view in Power BI and why is it useful?

The mobile view in Power BI is a layout optimized for phones and tablets. You can design it in Power BI Desktop or Power BI Service.

14. What is a paginated report in Power BI and when would you use it?

A paginated report is a highly formatted report designed to fit perfectly on a **page**, ideal for printing or PDF export for detailed, printable reports that need precise formatting and page control.

15. Can you export reports from Power BI Service to PDF or PowerPoint? How?

Yes — just open the report, go to **File > Export**, and choose PDF or PowerPoint.

16. What does “Live Connection” mean in Power BI Service, and how does it work?

A Live Connection means Power BI does not import data, but instead queries the data source directly in real time.

The report connects to a data model

Queries are sent live to the source when users interact with the report

No data is stored in Power BI — it's always current

17. Explain Row-Level Security (RLS) and how it's applied in Power BI Online.

Row-Level Security (RLS) restricts what data a user can see in a Power BI report based on filters you define.

In Power BI Desktop, define RLS roles using DAX filters (e.g., Region = "West").

Assign users to roles after publishing the report to Power BI Online:

Go to the dataset in the workspace

Click "Security", then add users to the appropriate roles

18. How can you test RLS roles in Power BI Service?

Go to the dataset's **Security** settings in Power BI Service, click **"Test as role"**, and preview the report with RLS applied.

19. What are Apps in Power BI and how do you publish one?

Apps let you bundle and share content with users. You publish one from a workspace using the “Publish app” button.

20. What are some key benefits of using the Power BI Online Service in enterprise environments?

Power BI Online Service enables secure, scalable enterprise reporting with team collaboration, automatic data refresh, easy sharing, mobile access, and built-in AI insights.