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Tableau PowerBI Interview QnAs

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1. What data sources can Power BI connect to?

Ans: The list of data sources for Power BI is extensive, but it can be grouped into the following:
Files: Data can be imported from Excel (.xlsx, xlxm), Power BI Desktop files (.pbix) and Comma Separated Value (.csv).
Content Packs: It is a collection of related documents or files that are stored as a group. In Power BI, there are two types of content packs, firstly those from services providers like Google Analytics, Marketo, or Salesforce, and secondly those created and shared by other users in your organization.
Connectors to databases and other datasets such as Azure SQL, Database and SQL, Server Analysis Services tabular data, etc.

2. What are the building blocks of Power BI?

The major building blocks of Power BI are:
Datasets: Dataset is a collection of data gathered from various sources like SQL Server, Azure, Text, Oracle, XML, JSON, and many more. With the GetData feature in Power BI, we can easily fetch data from any data source.
Visualizations: Visualization is the visual aesthetic representation of data in the form of maps, charts, or tables.
Reports: Reports are a structured representation of datasets that consists of multiple pages. Reports help to extract important information and insights from datasets to take major business decisions.
Dashboards: A dashboard is a single-page representation of reports made of various datasets. Each element is termed a tile.
Tiles: Tiles are single-block containing visualizations of a report. Tiles help to differentiate each report

3. How would you define Power BI as an effective solution ?

Power BI is a strong business analytical tool that creates useful insights and reports by collating data from unrelated sources. This data can be extracted from any source like Microsoft Excel or hybrid data warehouses. Power BI drives an extreme level of utility and purpose using interactive graphical interface and visualizations.

4. What is DAX in Power BI?

DAX stands for Data Analysis Expressions. It's a collection of functions, operators, and constants used in formulas to calculate and return values. In other words, it helps you create new info from data you already have.

5. What are the various types of refresh options provided in Power BI?

Package refresh - This synchronizes your Power BI Desktop or Excel file between the Power BI service and OneDrive, or SharePoint Online.
Model or data refresh - This refreshes the dataset within the Power BI service with data from the original data source.
Tile refresh - This updates the cache for tile visuals every 15 minutes on the dashboard once data changes.
Visual container refresh - This refreshes the visible container and updates the cached report visuals within a report once the data changes.

6. Explain how relationships are defined in Power BI Desktop?

Relationships between tables are defined in two ways:
Manually - Relationships between tables are manually defined using primary and foreign keys.
Automatic - When enabled, this automated feature of Power BI detects relationships between tables and creates them automatically.

7. What are the different views available in Power BI Desktop?

There are three different views in Power BI, each of which serves another purpose:
Report View - In this view, users can add visualizations and additional report pages and publish the same on the portal.
Data View - In this view, data shaping can be performed using Query Editor tools.
Model View - In this view, users can manage relationships between complex datasets.

8. How do you create a context filter in Tableau?

Pull your dimension onto Columns
Drag measure A to Rows and measure B to Rows next to A
You'll have SUM(A) next to SUM(B)
Right-click on SUM(B) and choose Dual Axis
The two axes on your chart will have two scales
If you want the axes to be synchronized, right-click on the B axis and select Synchronize Axis.

9. What is assume referential integrity in tableau?

Assume referential integrity is useful in cases where you know that two data sources have same references in a column. Then you can use the assume referential integrity feature to define the relation between both the data sources and perform a join on two data sources. To implement referential integrity, drop second table on side of the first table and then it will ask you to match the column to perform join then select the reference column and tableau will join based on the reference and type of join provided.

10. How to create stacked bar chart in tableau?

A stacked bar chart can be created by following steps:

Drag a dimension to columns shelf.
Use “Measure Names” on colour in the marks card.
Right click on “Measure Names” and make it as a filter and select the checkboxes for the measures to display.
Now drag “Measure Values” to rows shelf and change the chart type to bar in marks card.
Your stacked bar chart is ready now you can change the size and colours as per your creativeness.

11. What is Gantt chart in Tableau ?

A Tableau Gantt chart illustrates the duration of events as well as the progression of value across the period. Along with the time axis, it has bars. The Gantt chart is primarily used as a project management tool, with each bar representing a project job.

12. What is the use of cycle fields in tableau?

Cycle fields help in switching and trying different colour combinations or views in a cyclic order. It will work only if we have a chart that allows more than one measure such as stacked bar chart and we are unable to finalize the visualizations then we can use cycle fields. To use cycle field, click on analysis menu in the toolbar then select cycle fields to take a quick look at an alternative visualization.

13. What do Tableau's sets and groups mean?

Data is grouped using sets and groups according to predefined criteria. The primary distinction between the two is that although a set can have only two options—either in or out—a group can divide the dataset into several groups. A user should decide which group or sets to apply based on the conditions.

14. State some ways to improve the performance of Tableau?

Use an Extract to make workbooks run faster.
Reduce the scope of data to decrease the volume of data.
Reduce the number of marks on the view to avoid information overload.
Hide unused fields.
Use Context filters.
Use indexing in tables and use the same fields for filtering.
Remove unnecessary calculations and sheets.

15.What is cascading filter in tableau?

Cascading filters can also be understood as giving preference to a particular filter and then applying other filters on previously filtered data source. Right-click on the filter you want to use as a main filter and make sure it is set as all values in dashboard then select the subsequent filter and select only relevant values to cascade the filters. This will improve the performance of the dashboard as you have decreased the time wasted in running all the filters over complete data source.

16. What is the difference between joining and blending in Tableau?

Joining term is used when you are combining data from the same source, for example, worksheet in an Excel file or tables in Oracle databaseWhile blending requires two completely defined data sources in your report.

17. State some ways to improve the performance of Tableau?

- Use an Extract to make workbooks run faster
- Reduce the scope of data to decrease the volume of data
- Reduce the number of marks on the view to avoid information overload
- Try to use integers or Booleans in calculations as they are much faster than strings
- Hide unused fields
- Use Context filters
- Reduce filter usage and use some alternative way to achieve the same result
- Use indexing in tables and use the same fields for filtering
- Remove unnecessary calculations and sheets.

18. What is x-velocity in Power Pivot?

X-Velocity is the in-memory analytics engine behind Power Pivot that loads and handles huge data in Power BI. It stores data in columnar storage that results in faster processing.

19. Power BI can connect to which data sources?

The data source is the point from which the data has been retrieved. It can be anything like files in various formats (.xlsx, .csv, .pbix, .xml, .txt etc), databases (SQL database, SQL Data Warehouse, Spark on Azure HDInsight), or form content packets like Google Analytics or Twilio.

20. What is the Use of Dual-axis in Tableau?

Ans: Dual Axis allows you to compare measures, and this is useful when you want to compare two measures that have different scales.

21. Where is the data stored in Power BI?

Primarily, PowerBI uses two repositories to store its data: Azure Blob Storage and Azure SQL Database. Azure Blob Storage typically stores the data that is uploaded by the users. Azure SQL Database stores all the metadata and artifacts for the system itself.

22. What is a Stacked Column Chart in Tableau?

Stacked Column Chart, composed of multiple bars stacked vertically, one on another. The length of the bar depends on the value in the data point. A stacked column chart is the best one to know the changes in all variables. This type of chart should be checked when the number of series is higher than two.

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