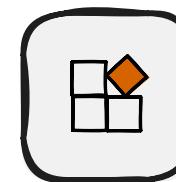
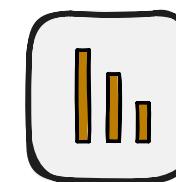


Workspaces, reports, apps: Power BI user access security galore!

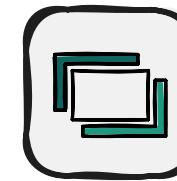
Francesco Milano



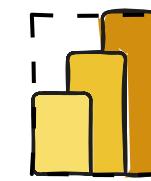
App



Report



Workspace



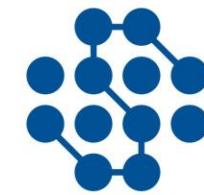
Power BI



Sponsor & Org



MINDMASH
KEEP THINKING



DATA SKILLS
UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

M D

massive
dynamic holding H



daniela
ma|visi
COMMUNICATION

Lucient[®]
ITALIA


Bi Factory
DATA KNOWLEDGE ADVISOR

About me

Solution Architect, Data & AI @ iCubed srl, part of Lodestar S.p.A.

Working with SQL Server since 2005 edition

Working with Azure Data Platform since 2012

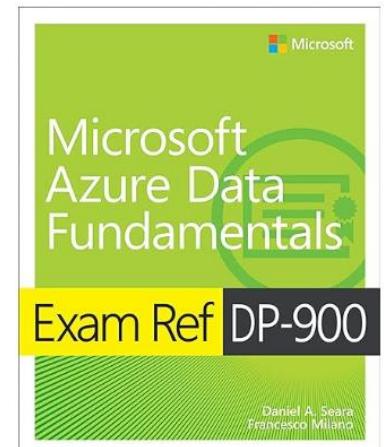
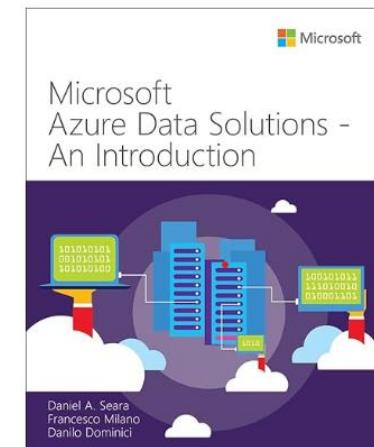
- ✓ Fabric Data Engineer Associate
- ✓ Fabric Analytics Engineer Associate



Email: francesco.milano@icubed.it

LinkedIn: <https://it.linkedin.com/in/fmilano>

Medium: https://medium.com/@_fmilano_



Agenda



The (typical) development process



Publish to Service



Share with Users

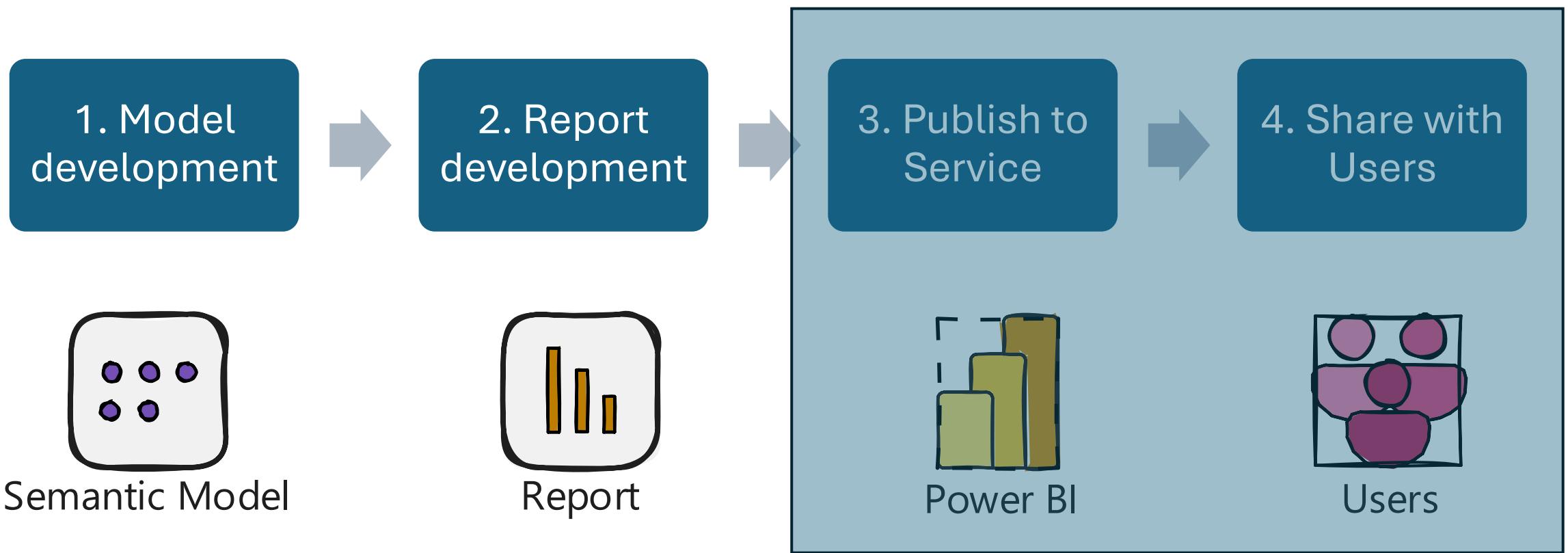


Demo

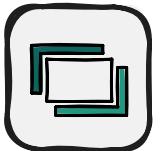


Q&A

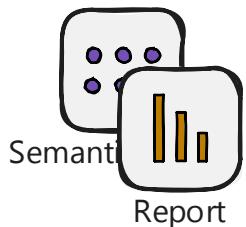
The (typical) development process



Publish to Service

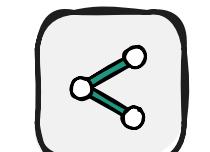


Workspace



Semantic Model

Report



Connection

The target of the deployment is a Workspace in the Power BI Service or Fabric

If the source file/project contains both the Semantic Model and the Report, they get separated

- When possible, better keep them separated from the development phase

	Name	Type
	Orders Dashboard	Report
	SemanticModel	Semantic model

Remember to re-map the connection(s) of your Semantic Model in its Settings pane

Gateway and cloud connections

You don't need a gateway for this semantic model, because all of its data sources are in the cloud, but you can use a gateway for enhanced control over how you connect. [Learn more](#)

Gateway connections

Use an On-premises or VNet data gateway



Cloud connections

Data sources included in this semantic model:

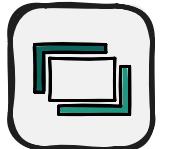
SqlServer("server":"sqls-demo-fm-01.database.windows.net","database":"sql-demo-01")

Maps to:

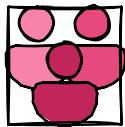
sqls-demo-fm-01

Share with Users

The old-fashioned way



Workspace



Users

Users are given direct access to the Workspace – either by their Username or a Security Group

Manage access
pbieg 01

+ Add people or groups

Search within workspace

Typical Workspace roles for a User includes

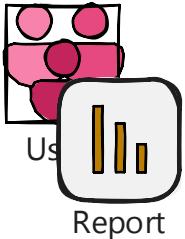
- **Viewer** – Can view and subscribe a report
- **Contributor** – Same as Viewer, plus the ability to create content and explore the Semantic Model (Analyze in Excel) among others

Drawbacks

- Not a fine-grained option: users can view/access almost everything inside the Workspace
- Nowadays, with also Fabric items in the picture, that's even worse
- Not a true “business-level” experience

Share with Users

The “so-so” way



Users are given direct access to the Report through a pre-generated link

The screenshot shows the 'Send link' dialog box for an 'Orders Dashboard'. It includes fields for selecting recipients ('People in your organization' is selected), entering a name or email address, adding a message, and sharing options ('Copy link', 'Mail', 'Teams', 'PowerPoint').

Send link
Orders Dashboard

Who would you like the link to work for? [Learn more](#)

People in your organization ✓

People with existing access

Specific people

Settings

Allow recipients to share this report

Allow recipients to build content with the data associated with this report

Apply **Cancel**

Drawbacks

- If a user has access to many reports, the situation can quickly become confusing
- As the number of reports grows, governance can become complex
- Not a true “business-level” experience

Share with Users

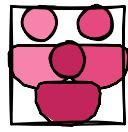
The best way



App

One or more Reports (or Dashboard) inside a Workspace are packed into an **App**, which is then published in the Organization.

- Apps introduce the concept of **Audiences**, which allow creators to tailor content visibility by defining specific groups of users who can see particular reports, dashboards, or other elements within the app.



Users

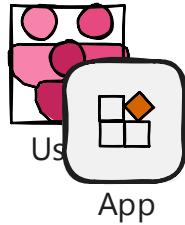
Users are assigned to one or more Audiences – either by their Username or a Security Group

- The app can be silently pushed to allowed users, or they can “install” it through the Apps marketplace or a provided link
- They can’t see or access the Workspace directly, unless explicitly permitted
- Apps are the ideal way to consume published content in the Power BI Mobile app

The screenshot shows the 'Power BI Apps' section of the Power BI service. At the top, there are tabs for 'Setup', 'Content', and 'Audience', with 'Audience' being the active tab. Below the tabs, the heading 'Audience' is displayed, followed by the instruction 'Manage your audiences and their permissions. Select wha...'. A table lists an audience named 'pbiug 01' with a blue circular icon containing a white 'A'. To the right of the table is a button labeled '+ New Audience'. At the bottom of the screen, a navigation bar includes links for 'Orders Dashboard' and a profile icon.

Share with Users

Apps & Security



Apps provide a “shortcut” to assign the proper permissions to involved Items

- But what do these options mean in practice?
- Which Items are targeted, and how?

Edit Audience

pbiug 01

Grant access to

- Entire organization [Learn more](#)
- Specific users or groups

Enter a name or email address

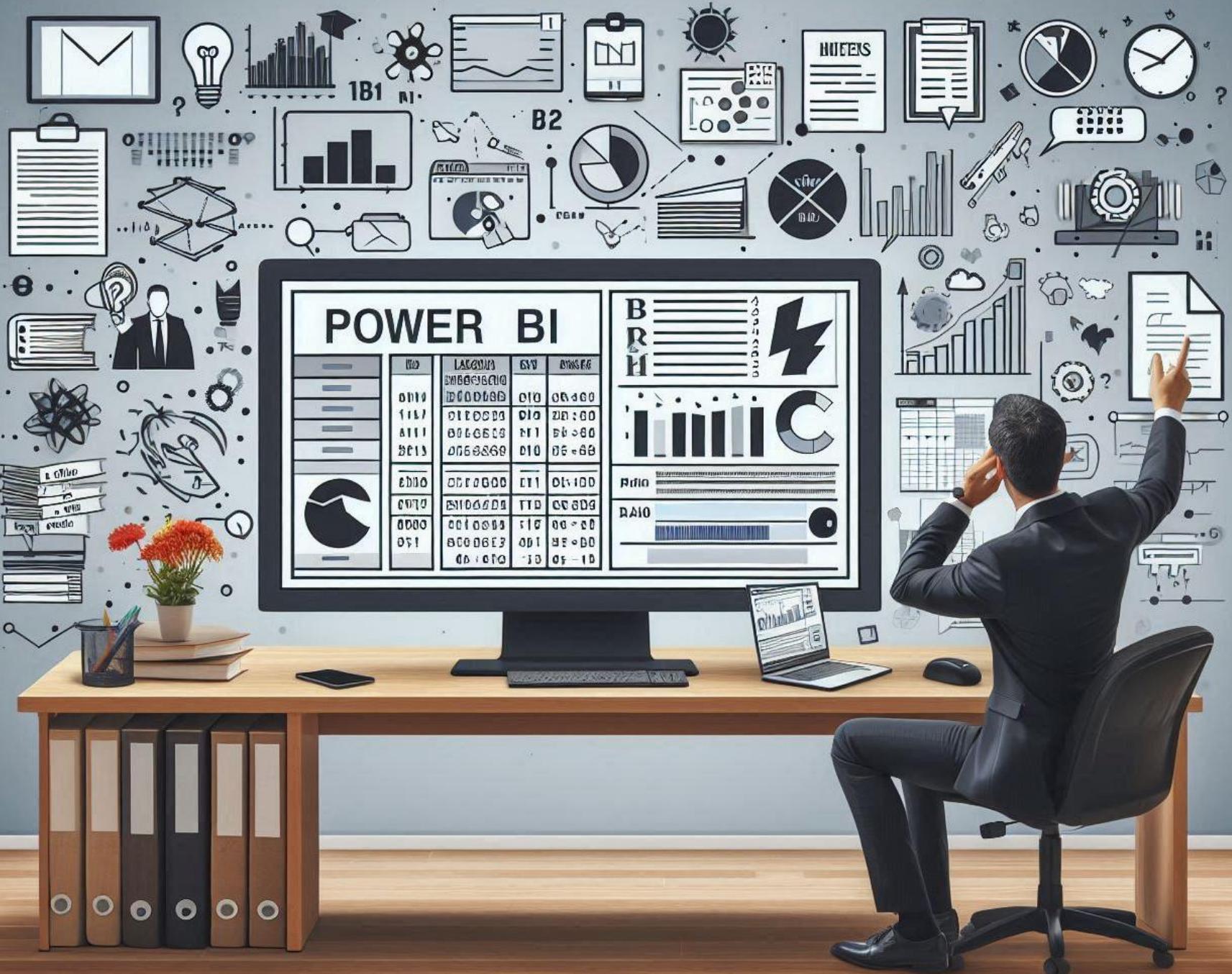
▼ Advanced

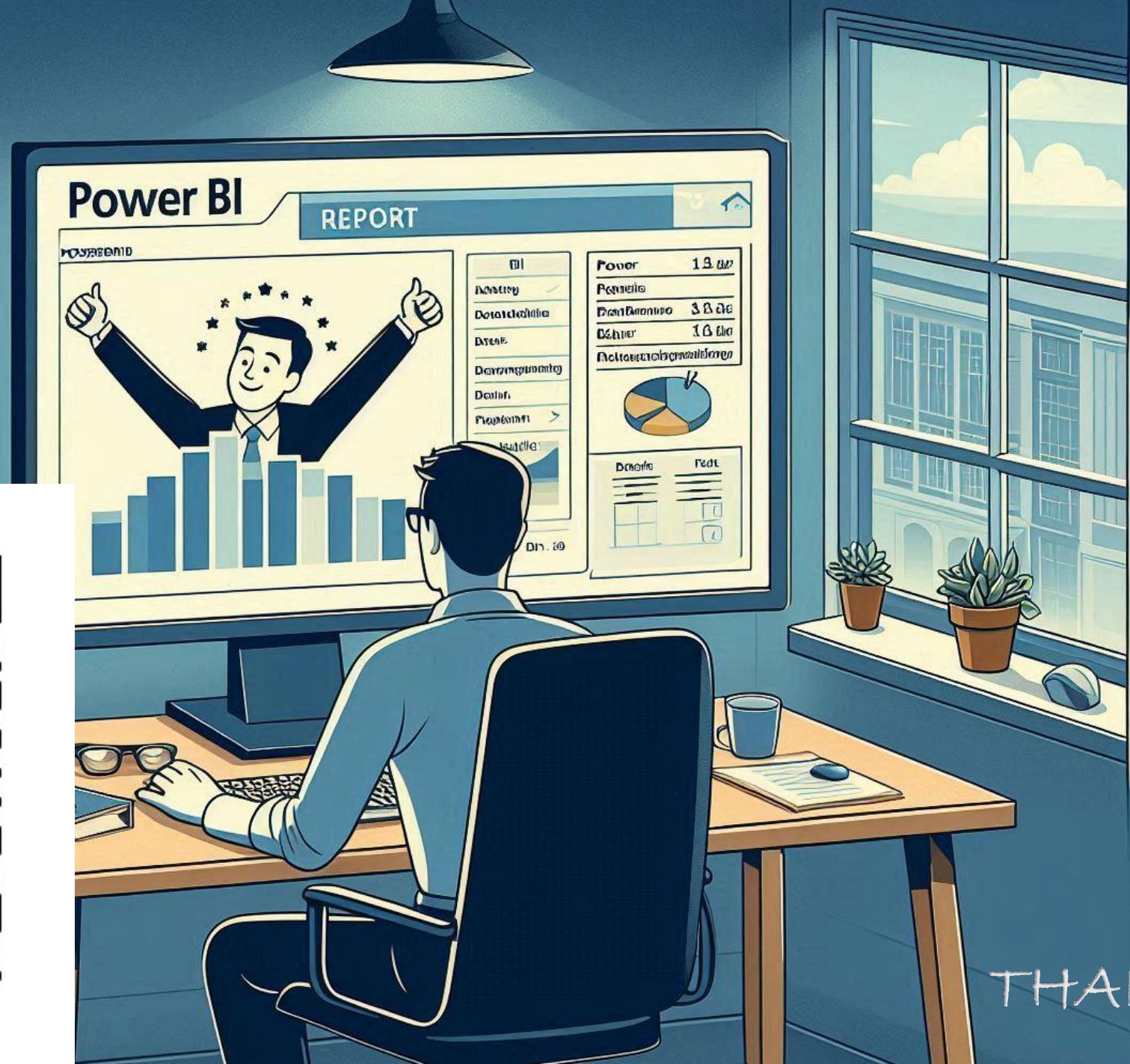
- Allow people to share the datasets in this app audience.
- Allow people to build content with the datasets in this app audience.

 Workspace users [\(i\)](#)

And above all, what possible side effects should I be aware of with these three methods?

DEMO





THANK YOU!

Resources

- [Separate reports from models in Power BI Desktop - Power BI | Microsoft Learn](#)
- [Roles in workspaces in Power BI - Power BI | Microsoft Learn](#)
- [Ways to collaborate and share in Power BI - Power BI | Microsoft Learn](#)
- [Publish an app in Power BI - Power BI | Microsoft Learn](#)
- [Excalidraw | Hand-drawn look & feel • Collaborative • Secure](#)
 - <https://libraries.excalidraw.com/libraries/mwc360/microsoft-fabric-architecture-icons.excalidrawlib>