Using the Power Query Features of Power BI Desktop

Lab Time: 40 minutes

Lab Folder: C:\Student\Modules\PowerQuery\Lab\

Lab Overview: In this lab you will begin by creating a new Power BI Desktop project and saving it as a PBIX file. Next, you will learn to work with the Power Query features of Power BI Desktop to extract data from a SQL Azure database and to transform the data as it is loaded into the data model. This is the first lab in a sequence of labs that continue with the same PBIX file. In other words, the labs that follow will build upon the work you do in this lab.

Exercise 1: Importing Data from a SQL Azure Database

In this exercise you will create and save a new Power BI Desktop project. After that, you will connect to a SQL Azure database and import data into Power BI Desktop using its Power Query features.

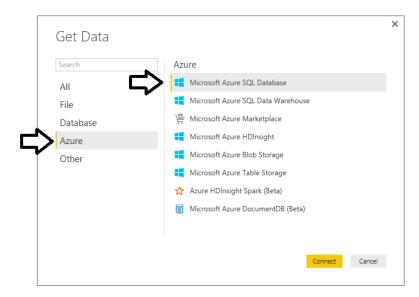
- Launch Power BI Desktop to start a new project.
- 2. Save the new project as WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix using the following path.

C:\Student\Projects\WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix

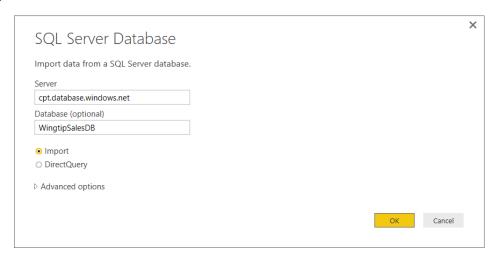
3. Drop down the Get Data menu button on the ribbon and click More....



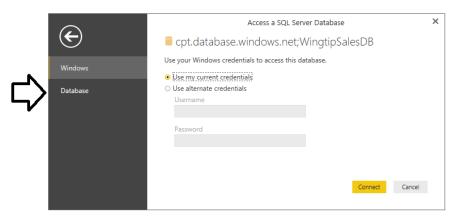
 On the Get Data dialog, select Azure in the list on the left. Next, select Microsoft SQL Azure Database on the right and then click the Connect button.



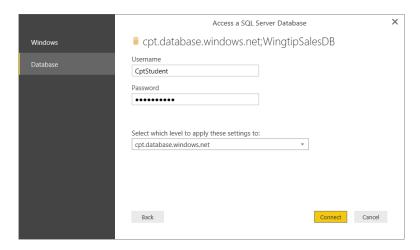
- 5. When you are prompted with the **SQL Server Database** dialog, complete the following tasks.
 - a) Enter a Server value of cpt.database.windows.net
 - b) Enter a Database value of WingtipSalesDB
 - c) Leave the option button with the default setting of Import and not DirectQuery.
 - d) Click the **OK** button to continue.



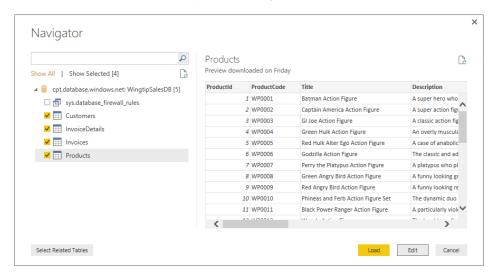
6. At this point, you will be prompted by the **Access a SQL Server Database** dialog. Click on **Database** on the left side of the dialog so that you can enter the credentials for a standard SQL account instead of using Windows authentication.



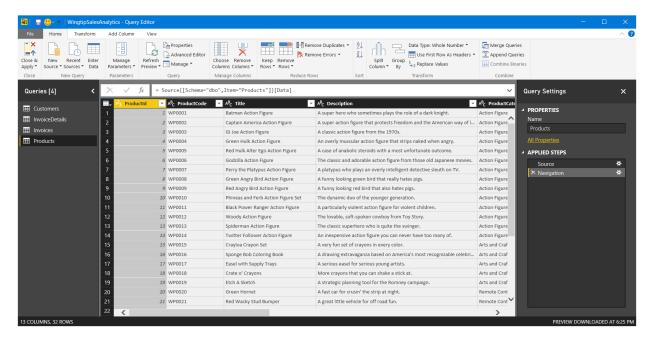
- 7. Enter the following credentials for a SQL user account that has been configured with read access to the database.
 - a) Username: CptStudent
 - b) Password: pass@word1
- 8. Once you have entered the credentials the Access a SQL Server Database dialog, click the Connect button to continue.



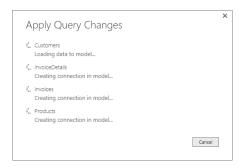
- 9. At this point, Power BI Desktop should be able to establish a connection to the database and then prompt you with the **Navigator** dialog. The **Navigator** dialog allows you to select the tables you would like to import into your PBIX project.
- 10. In the **Navigator** dialog, select the **Customers** table, the **InvoiceDetails** table, the **Invoices** table and the **Products** table as shown in the following screenshot. Once you have selected these four tables, click the **Edit** button to create a query for each of these tables and to open the **Query Editor** dialog.



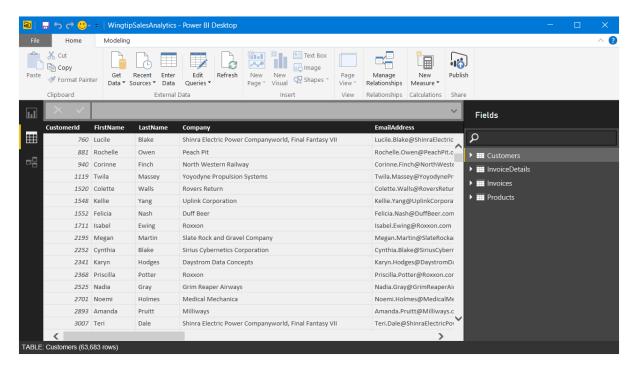
11. When you inspect the **Query Editor** window, you should now be able to observe that Power BI Desktop has created a new query for each of the four tables that you selected in the **Navigator** dialog. You will not begin to edit these queries until the next exercise. However, now you should take a moment to inspect each query by clicking on the query name in the **Queries** list on the left. You should be able to observe that each query is initially created to return the data just as it is defined in the underlying table.



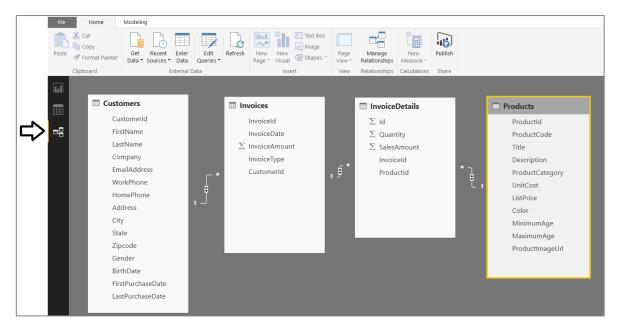
12. Click the Close and Apply button in the Query Editor window. This will close the Query Editor window and start the process of extracting the data from the SQL Azure database and importing it into the current project's data model using a local cache on your student workstation. The Apply Query Changes dialog will be displayed with spinning icons as Power BI Desktop imports that data.



13. Once the data from all four queries has been imported, examine the **Fields** list on the right-hand side of the Power BI Desktop window. You should be able to see that four tables have been created from the four queries.



14. Click on the bottom icon in the sidebar to navigate to relationship view. You should be able to see each of the four tables. You should also be able to see that Power BI Desktop has automatically created relationships between the tables as they were imported into the data model. Use your mouse to move and resize the tables in relationship view so you can see all the fields in each table.

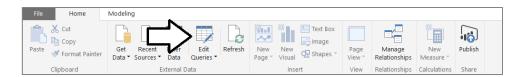


15. Save your work in the current project by clicking the Save button in the upper left corner of the Power BI Desktop window.

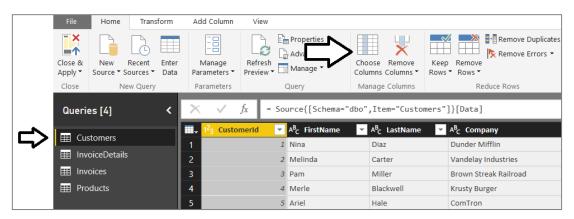
Exercise 2: Using Power Query to Transform and Reshape Customer Data

In the following exercise, you will use the **Query Editor** window to modify the **Customers** query to perform transforms on customer data as it is being loaded into the data model.

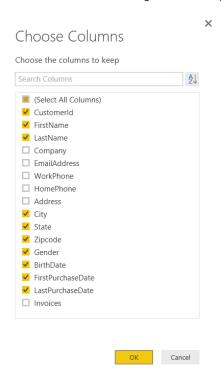
- 1. Make sure you have the WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix project open that you started in the previous exercise.
- 2. Click on the Edit Queries button in the ribbon to display the Query Editor window.



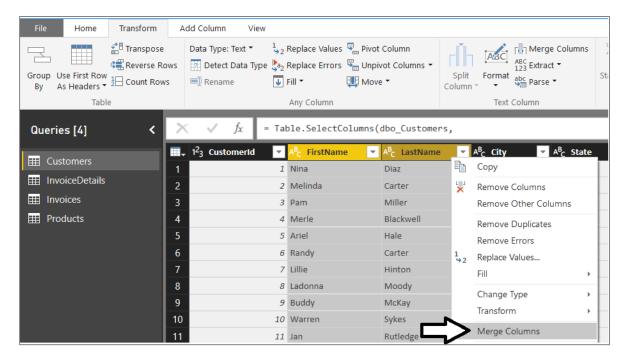
 Make sure the Customers query is selected in the Queries list on the left-hand side of the Query Editor window. Click the Choose Columns button in the ribbon to display the Choose Columns dialog.



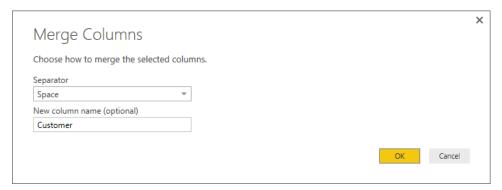
4. In the Choose Columns dialog, begin by clicking on the (Select all Columns) checkbox at the top to unselect all column. Next, select the checkboxes for CustomerId, FirstName, LastName, City, State, Zipcode, Gender, BirthDate, FirstPurchaseDate and LastPurchaseDate as shown in the following screenshot. Once you have these columns selected, click the OK button to close the Choose Columns dialog and to modify the underlying query.



- 5. You should be able to see that the Query Editor window now only shows the columns that you selected.
- 6. In this step you will merge the FirstName column and the LastName column together into a single column named Customer.
 - a) Select the FirstName column by clicking on its column header.
 - b) Next, hold down the SHIFT key and select the LastName column by clicking on its column header.
 - c) Right-click on the selected columns and click the Merge Columns menu command.



d) In the **Merge Column** dialog, drop down the **Separator** control and select a value of **Space**. Add a **New column name** value of **Customer** and click the **OK** button to modify the underlying query with your changes.



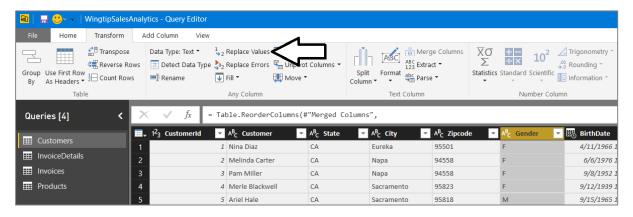
e) You should now be able to see that the **FirstName** column and the **LastName** column have been replaced with a single merged column named **Customer**.



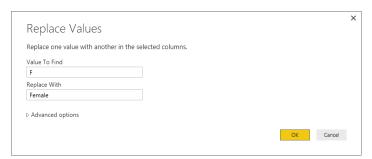
7. The **State** column is currently to the right of the **City** column. Move the **State** column so that it is repositioned to the left of the **City** column. Accomplish this by clicking on the column header for the **State** column and leaving the mouse button down. Drag the **State** column to the left of the **City** column and release the mouse button.



- 8. Modify the query so that the Gender column returns values of Male and Female instead of M and F.
 - a) Make sure the Transform tab is the active tab in the ribbon.
 - b) Select the Gender column by clicking its column header.
 - c) Click the Replace Values button in the ribbon to display the Replace Values dialog.



d) In the **Replace Value** dialog, enter a value of **F** in the **Value to Find** textbox and enter a value of **Female** in the **Replace With** textbox. Click to **OK** button add your changes to the underlying query.



e) You should be able to see that all values of **F** in the **Gender** column have been replaced with a value of **Female**.

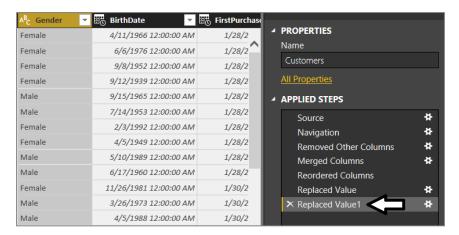


- f) Make sure the **Gender** column is still selected.
- g) Click the Replace Values button in the ribbon to display the Replace Values dialog.

h) In the **Replace Value** dialog, enter a value of **M** in the **Value to Find** textbox and enter a value of **Male** in the **Replace With** textbox. Click to **OK** button add your changes to the underlying query.



i) You should be able to confirm that all values in the Gender column have been replaced with a value of either Male or Female. If you inspect the APPLIED STEPS list in the Query Settings pane, you should be able to see that there are two steps at the end that have been given the generic names of Replaced Value and Replaced Value 1.



j) In order to promote higher levels of maintainability, it's often a good idea to rename steps with names such as of Replaced Value and Replaced Value 1. Rename the Replaced Values step by right-clicking it and clicking the Rename command to place the step name in edit mode. Modify the name of this step to Replaced Female Values.

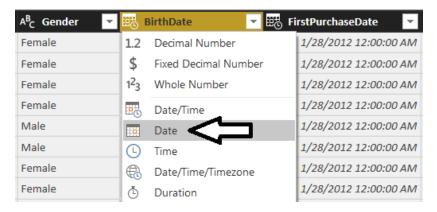


k) Using the same technique, rename the Replaced Value 1 step to Replaced Male Values.



You have now learned how to rename a query step. Note that this lab exercise will not continue to ask you to change the name of every step you add due to time constraints. However, when you are creating queries in larger, real-world projects that involve multiple team members, it might make sense to rename query steps to make your query logic easier for others to read and understand.

- 9. Change the column type of BirthDate, FirstPurchasedDate and LastPurchasedDate from Date/Time to Date.
 - a) Use the column type drop down on the left-hand side of the BirthDate column to configure the column using the Date type.



- b) Use the column type drop down of the FirstPurchaseDate column to configure the column using the Date type.
- c) Use the column type drop down of the LastPurchaseDate column to configure the column using the Date type.
- d) You should see that the three columns now show values with a date but without a time.

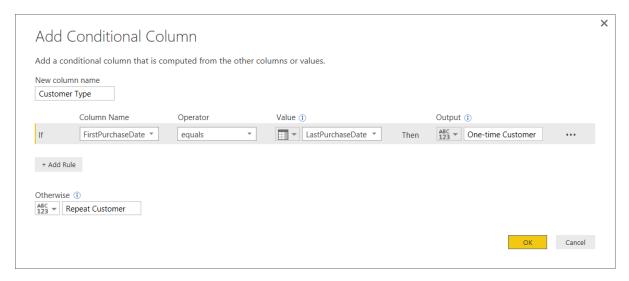


- 10. Add a new conditional column named **CustomerType** to indicates whether the customer is a repeat customer or not.
 - a) Make sure the Customers query is still selected as the active query.
 - b) Activate the Add Column tab in the ribbon.
 - c) Click the Conditional Column button in the ribbon to display the Add Custom Column dialog.



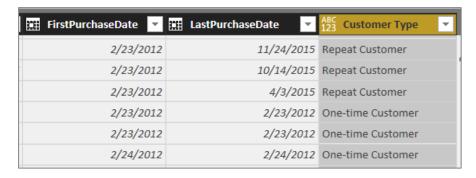
In this particular scenario, you are working under the assumption that the customer is a repeat customer when the **FirstPurchaseDate** column and the **LastPurchaseDate** column are not equal indicating the customer has made two or more purchases.

- d) In the Add Conditional Column dialog, enter a New column name value of Customer Type.
- e) Configure a rule to return a string value of "One-time Customer" if FirstPurchaseDate equals LastPurchaseDate.
- f) For the **Otherwise** evaluation, return a string value of "Repeat Customer".
- g) When the Add Conditional Column dialog matches the screenshot below, click the OK button to add the new column.



h) You should be able to verify that the new **Customer Type** column has a value of **Repeat Customer** when the current customer has a **FirstPurchaseDate** column value that is not equal to the **LastPurchaseDate** column value. When these column values are equal, the **CustomerType** column has a value of **One-time Customer**.

You might have to scroll down several pages of records in the Customers table before you begin to see repeat customers.



- 11. Now, that you have used the **FirstPurchaseDate** column and the **LastPurchaseDate** column to calculate the value of the **Customer Type** column, you can delete them because they are no longer needed.
 - a) Select the FirstPurchaseDate column by clicking its column header.
 - b) Hold down the SHIFT key and click the column header for LastPurchaseDate so that both columns are selected.
 - c) Right click the one of the selected columns and click the **Remove Columns**.



d) You should be able to confirm that the **FirstPurchaseDate** column and the **LastPurchaseDate** columns have been removed from the guery results. However, the **Customer Type** column is still there.

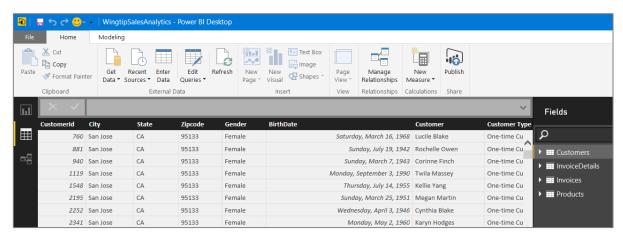


You are now done working with the **Customers** guery.

12. Click the Close and Apply button on the Home tab of the ribbon to execute the updated Customers query. Power BI Desktop will display the Apply Query Changes dialog while importing the data from the SQL Azure database and transforming it as it loads the customer data into the data model.



13. After the query changes have been applied, you should be able to see the results of your changes in the **Customers** table that has been loaded into the project's data model.

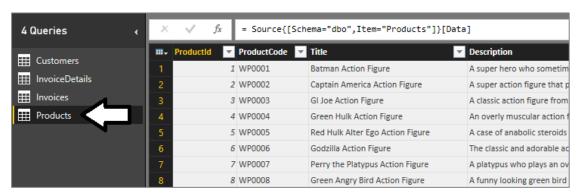


14. Save the work you have done to **WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix** by clicking the Save button in the upper left corner of the Power BI Desktop window.

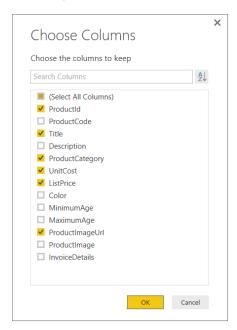
Exercise 3: Using Power Query to Transform and Reshape Product Data

In the following exercise, you will use the **Query Editor** window to modify the **Products** query to perform transforms on product data as it is being loaded into the data model.

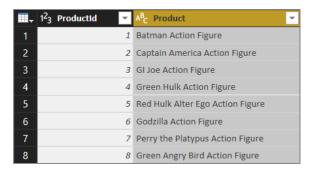
- 1. Make sure you have the WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix project open that you started in the previous exercise.
- 2. Click on the Edit Queries button in the ribbon to display the Query Editor window.
- 3. Make sure the Products query is selected in the Queries list on the left-hand side of the Query Editor window.



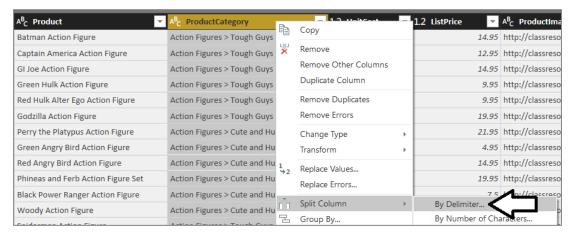
- 4. Remove the columns that are not required in the **Products** query results.
 - a) Click the Choose Columns button in the ribbon to display the Choose Columns dialog.
 - b) In the **Choose Columns** dialog, begin by clicking on the **(Select all Columns)** checkbox at the top to unselect all columns. Next, select the checkboxes for **ProductId**, **Title**, **ProductCategory**, **UnitCost**, **ListPrice** and **ProductImageUrI** as shown in the following screenshot. Once you have these columns selected, click the **OK** button to close the dialog and to modify the underlying query.



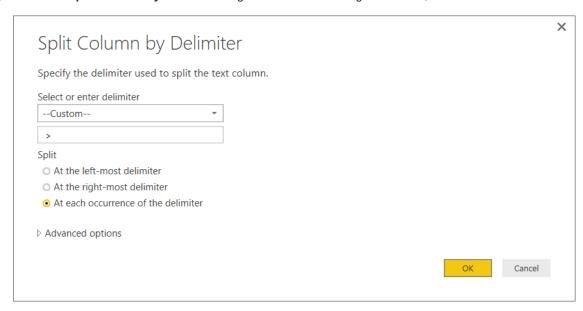
- Rename the **Title** column to **Product**.
 - a) Right-click on the Title column and click Rename.
 - b) Update the column name to Product.



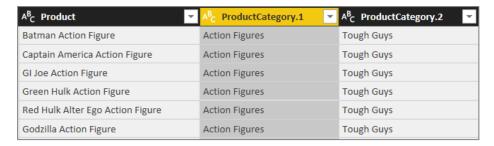
- 6. Split the ProductCategory column up into two separate columns named Category and Subcategory.
 - a) Right-click the ProductCategory column and then click the Split Column > By Delimiter command.



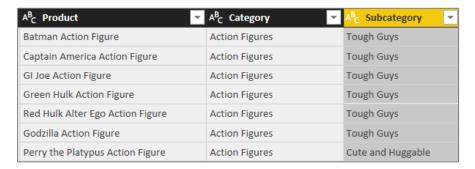
- b) In the Split Column By Column dialog, drop down the Select or enter delimiter combo box and select -- Custom ---.
- c) In the textbox enter a three-character text value which includes a space follow by the > character followed by another space.
- d) When the Split Column By Column dialog matches the following screenshot, click the OK button.



e) You should be able to confirm that Power BI Desktop has split the **ProductCategory** column into two separate columns named **ProductCategory.1** and **ProductCategory.2**.

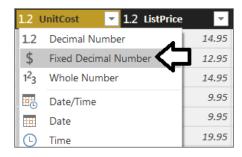


f) Rename the ProductCategory.1 column to Category and rename ProductCategory.2 to Subcategory.



When you have query columns based on numeric currency values, it is best to change their column type to Fixed Decimal Number.

- 7. Modify the column type of the UnitCost column and the ListPrice column to the Fixed Decimal Number type.
 - a) Use the dropdown column type menu to set the type of the UnitCost to Fixed Decimal Number.

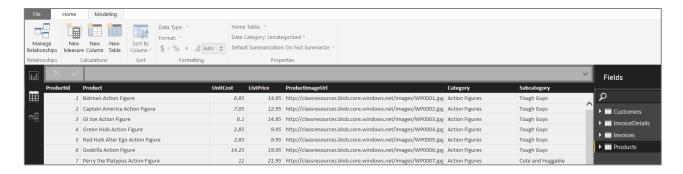


b) Use the dropdown column type menu to set the type of the ListPrice to Fixed Decimal Number.



You are now done working with the **Products** query.

- 8. Click the Close and Apply button on the **Home** tab of the ribbon to execute the updated **Products** query. Power BI Desktop will display the **Apply Query Changes** dialog while importing the data and transforming it to load it into the data model.
- 9. After the query changes have been applied, you should be able to see the results of your changes in the **Products** table that has been loaded into the project's data model.



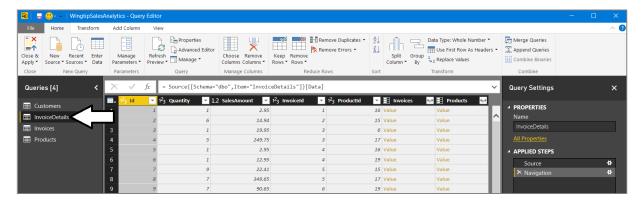
You might have noticed that the columns that are displayed in the **Products** table do not appear in the same order as they appear in the **Products** query. Power BI Desktop currently provides no ability to control and change the order of columns or fields as they are defined in a table. Microsoft is expected to address this limitation soon in a future update to the Power BI Designer.

10. Save your work by clicking the Save button in the upper left corner of the Power BI Desktop window.

Exercise 4: Using Power Query to Transform and Reshape Product Data

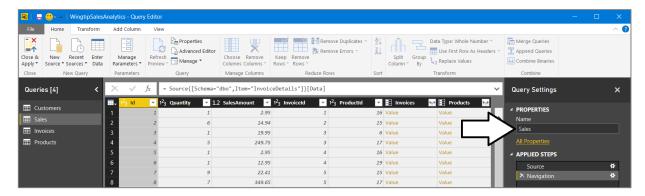
In the following exercise, you will use the Query Editor to modify the **InvoiceDetails** query to transform data related to sales data before it is loaded into the data model.

- 1. Make sure you have the WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix project open that you started in the previous exercise.
- 2. Click on the Edit Queries button in the ribbon to display the Query Editor window.
- 3. Make sure the InvoiceDetails query is selected in the Queries list on the left-hand side of the Query Editor window.



One important point of flexibility in the import process is that you can change the name of a query, and therefore the name of the resulting table to make the data model more intuitive and easier to understand. The **InvoiceDetails** query is returning data that will be used to calculate sales results at the most granular level. Therefore, the data model will be easier to understand if you change the name the name of the **InvoiceDetails** query to **Sales**. The will result in renaming the resulting table to the **Sales** table.

4. Update the name of the InvoiceDetails query to Sales by replacing the text in the Name textbox in the Query Settings pane.



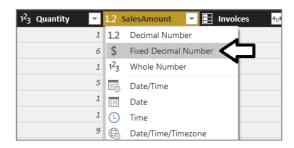
5. Using the mouse, drag and drop the column header for the **Invoiceld** column to move it to the immediate right of the **Id** column.



6. Using the mouse, drag and drop the column header for the **ProductId** column to move it to the right of the **InvoiceId** column.



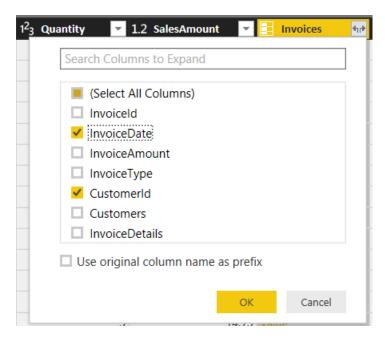
7. Modify the column type of the **SalesAmount** column to the **Fixed Decimal Number** type.



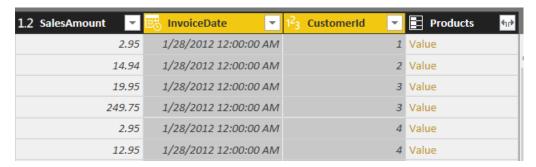
- 8. Expand the Invoices column to add the InvoiceDate column and the CustomerId column to the Sales query.
 - a) Click the **Expand** button inside the column header of the **Invoices** column to display the **Columns to Expand** dialog.



b) In the **Columns to Expand** dialog, begin by clicking on the **(Select all Columns)** checkbox at the top to unselect all columns. Next, select the checkboxes for the **InvoiceDate** column and the **Customerld** column. Also make sure to uncheck the checkbox with the caption **Use original column name as prefix**. Once the **Columns to Expand** dialog looks like the one shown in the following screenshot, click the **OK** button to close the dialog and to modify the underlying query.



c) You should see that the InvoiceDate column and the CustomerId column have now been added to the Sales query results.



9. Use the mouse to drag and drop the CustomerId column to move it to the right of the InvoiceId column.



10. Use the mouse to drag and drop the InvoiceDate column to move it to the right of the ProductId column.



11. Change the column type of the **InvoiceDate** to the **Date** type.



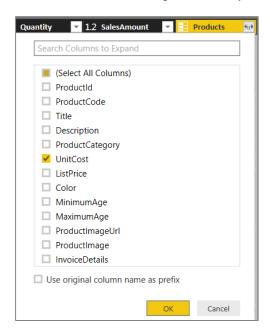
12. Change the name of the InvoiceDate column to PurchaseDate.



- 13. Expand the **Products** column to add the **UnitCost** column to the **Sales** query.
 - a) Click the Expand button inside the column header of the **Products** column to display the **Columns to Expand** dialog.



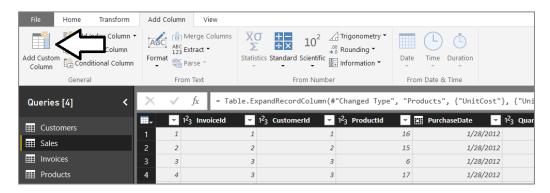
b) In the Columns to Expand dialog, begin by clicking on the (Select all Columns) checkbox at the top to unselect all columns. Next, select the checkbox for the UnitCost column. Also make sure to uncheck the checkbox with the caption Use original column name as prefix. Once the Columns to Expand dialog looks like the one shown in the following screenshot, click the OK button to close the dialog and to modify the underlying query.



c) You should see that the UnitCost column has now been added to the Sales query results.



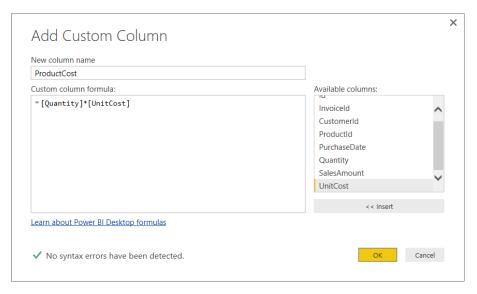
- 14. Add a new custom column named ProductCost to calculate the product of the Quantity field multiplied by the UnitCost field.
 - a) Activate the Add Column tab in the ribbon.
 - b) Click the Add Custom Column button in the ribbon to display the Add Custom Column dialog.



- c) In the Add Custom Column dialog, add a value of ProductCost in the New column name textbox.
- d) In the Custom column formula textbox, enter the following formula.

[Quantity] * [UnitCost]

e) When the Add Custom Column dialog appears as the following screenshot, click the OK button to add the new column.



f) You should be able to verify that the new **ProductCost** column has a value calculated by multiplying the value of the **Quantity** column together with the value of the **UnitCost** column.



Once the **UnitCost** column has been used to calculate the value for the **ProductCost** value, this column is no longer needed and can be removed from the results of the **Sales** query.

15. Remove the UnitCost column by right-clicking its column header and selecting the Remove command.

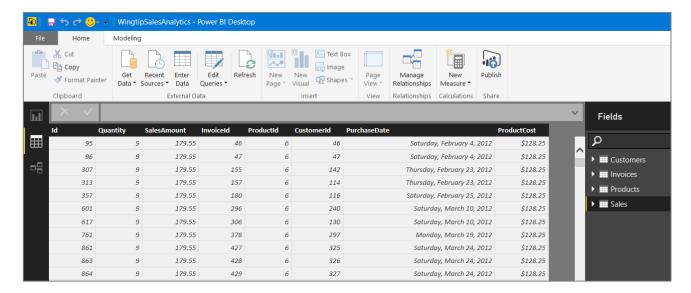


16. Modify the column type of the SalesAmount column and the ProductCost column to the Fixed Decimal Number type. Once you have done this, you should be able to see dollar signs to the left of the column names.



You are now done working with the **Sales** query.

- 17. Click the Close and Apply button on the Home tab of the ribbon to execute the updated Sales query. Power BI Desktop will display the Apply Query Changes dialog while importing the data and transforming it to load it into the data model.
- 18. After the query changes have been applied, you should be able to see the results of your changes in the **Sales** table that has been loaded into the project's data model.



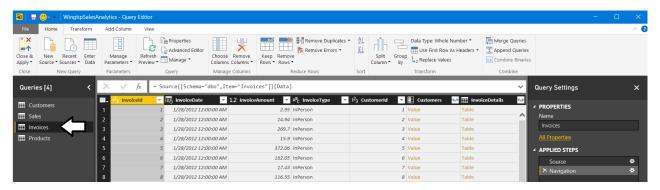
Unfortunately, the current version of Power BI Desktop does not retain the order of the columns that you configured in the Sales guery.

Save your work by clicking the Save button in the upper left corner of the Power BI Desktop window.

Exercise 5: Using Power Query to Transform and Reshape Purchase Data

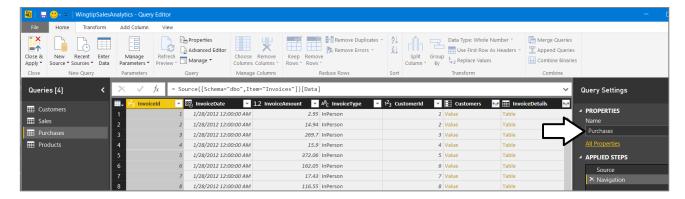
In the following exercise, you will use the **Query Editor** window to modify the **Invoices** query to transform invoice data as it is being loaded into the data model.

- 1. Make sure you have the WingtipSalesAnalytics.pbix project open that you started in the previous exercise.
- 2. Click on the Edit Queries button in the ribbon to display the Query Editor window.
- 3. Make sure the Invoices query is selected in the Queries list on the left-hand side of the Query Editor window.

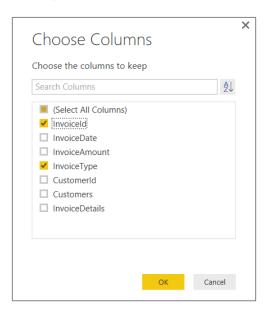


In the last exercise you changed the name of the **InvoiceDetails** to **Sales** to make the data model easier to understand. In this exercise you will change the name of the **Invoices** query to **Purchases** for the same reason.

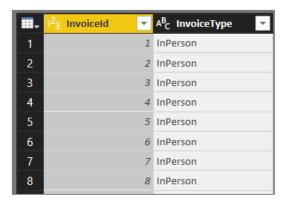
4. Update the name of the Invoices query to Purchases by replacing the text in the Name textbox in the Query Settings pane.



- Make sure the Purchases query is selected in the Queries list on the left-hand side of the Query Editor window. Click the Choose Columns button in the ribbon to display the Choose Columns dialog.
- 6. In the **Choose Columns** dialog, begin by clicking on the **(Select all Columns)** checkbox at the top to unselect all columns. Next, select the checkboxes for **InvoiceId** and **InvoiceType** as shown in the following screenshot. Once you have these columns selected, click the **OK** button to close the **Choose Columns** dialog and to modify the underlying query.



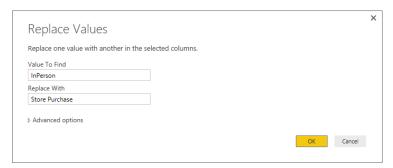
7. You should be able to see that the Query Editor window now only shows the columns that you selected.



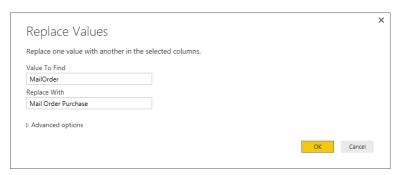
- 8. Modify the query so that the **InvoiceType** column returns values that are more human readable.
 - a) Make sure the **Transform** tab is the active tab in the ribbon.
 - b) Select the InvoiceType column by clicking its column header.
 - c) Click the Replace Values button in the ribbon to display the Replace Values dialog.



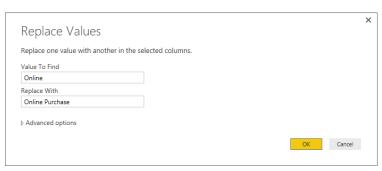
d) In the **Replace Value** dialog, enter a value of **InPerson** in the **Value to Find** textbox and enter a value of **Store Purchase** in the **Replace With** textbox. Click to **OK** button add your changes to the underlying query.



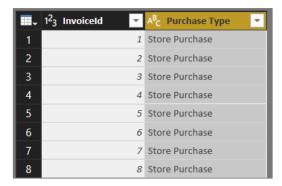
- e) Make sure the **InvoiceType** column is still selected.
- f) Click the Replace Values button in the ribbon to display the Replace Values dialog.
- g) In the **Replace Value** dialog, enter a value of **MailOrder** in the **Value to Find** textbox and enter a value of **Mail Order Purchase** in the **Replace With** textbox. Click to **OK** button add your changes to the underlying query.



- h) Make sure the **InvoiceType** column is still selected.
- i) Click the Replace Values button in the ribbon to display the Replace Values dialog.
- j) In the **Replace Value** dialog, enter a value of **Online** in the **Value to Find** textbox and enter a value of **Online Purchase** in the **Replace With** textbox. Click to **OK** button add your changes to the underlying query.

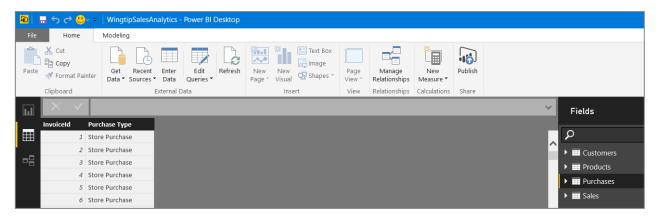


- k) If you scroll down and look at all the rows within the **Purchases** table, you should be able to see that each row has a **InvoiceType** column value of either **Store Purchase**, **Mail Order Purchase** or **Online Purchase**.
- 9. Change the name of the **InvoiceType** column to **PurchaseType**.

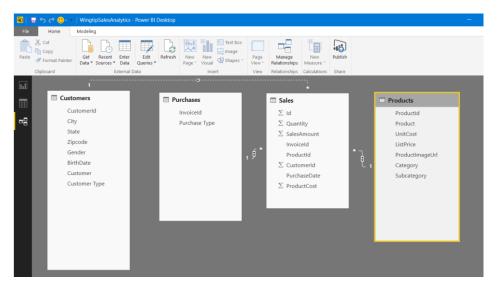


You are now done working with the Purchase query.

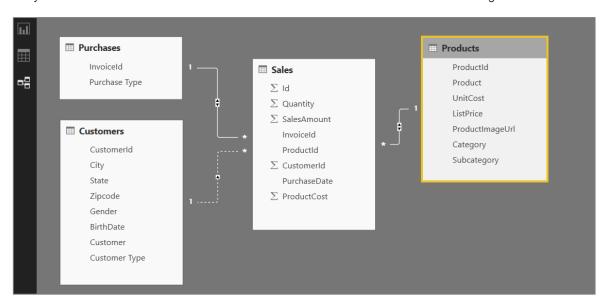
- 10. Click the Close and Apply button on the Home tab of the ribbon to execute the updated Purchases query. Power BI Desktop will display the Apply Query Changes dialog while importing the data and transforming it to load it into the data model.
- 11. After the query changes have been applied, you should be able to see the results of your changes in the **Purchase** table that has been loaded into the project's data model.



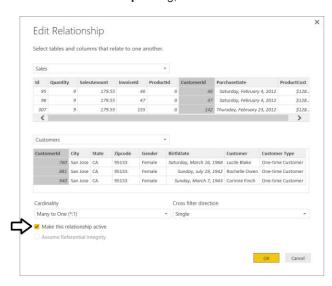
12. Navigate to relationship view to see how your updates to the queries in this project have affected the relationships between the tables. You should be able to see that there is no longer a relationship between the **Customers** table and the **Purchases** table. This is due to the fact that you removed the **CustomerId** column from the **Purchases** table.



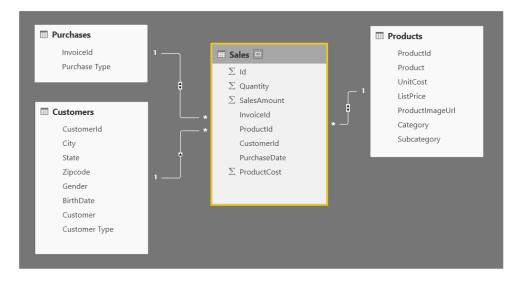
13. Use your mouse to move and resize the four tables in the data model to match the following screenshot.



- 14. Modify the relationship between the Customers table and the Sales table.
 - a) Notice the relationship between Customers and sales has a dotted line instead of a solid line. This means the relationship has been created but it has not been configured as an active relationship.
 - b) Double-click the dotted line between the Customers table and the Sales table to edit the relationship.
 - c) In the Edit Relationship dialog, click the Make this relationship active checkbox so it is checked and then click OK.



d) You should see a solid line between the **Customers** table and the **Sales** tables indicating that the relationship between these two tables in now an active relationship.



The tables in the data model have now been refactored into a "star schema" that is commonly used in data modeling for BI projects.

15. Save your work by clicking the Save button in the upper left corner of the Power BI Desktop window.

You are now done with your work modifying queries to transform data as it is being loaded into the data model of your project. Note that you will continue to work on the PBIX file with this project in the next lab and the ones that follow.