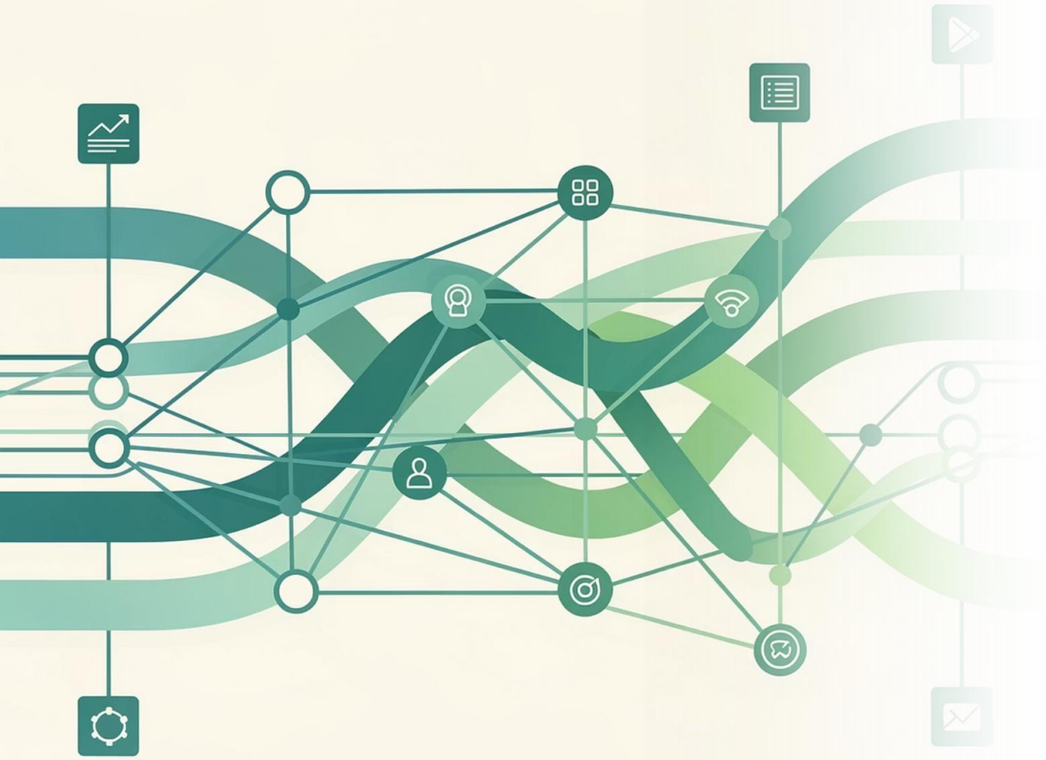


FEBRUARY 2026

Fabric for the Power BI User

Strategic Context: When and Why Fabric Makes Sense

NAVIGATION

Today's Journey

01

Strategic Context

You are here - understanding when Fabric makes sense

02

CI/CD & Git Integration

Platform decision in practice

03

Data Centralization & Lakehouses

Where your data lives

04

Dataflows & Pipelines

Learning curve territory

05

Direct Lake

The 1GB solution

06

Semantic Link

Advanced integration

07

Copilot & AI Features

Where Microsoft is investing

Strategy first. Then hands-on.

Want to Follow Along?

You'll Need

- Microsoft Fabric capacity (trial works)
- Power BI Desktop
- Azure DevOps or GitHub account
- Sample data (provided)

No access? Watch today, replicate later with our step-by-step guides.

Why Are You Here?

Someone told you to look into Fabric?

Leadership directive or team recommendation

You've hit a wall with Power BI?

Performance issues or size limitations

Worried about being left behind?

Keeping pace with industry evolution

All valid reasons.

Six Months From Now

You've made a call—Fabric or not Fabric.

1

Version A

- Drowning
- Half-migrated
- Team frustrated
- "Why did we rush?"

2

Version B

- Thriving
- Deliberate choice
- Team bought in
- Right call for your situation

Today is about getting to Version B.

KEY MESSAGE 1

Fabric is not a Power BI upgrade—it's a platform decision

You're not upgrading a tool
This is a fundamental shift in how you approach data

You're consolidating your data platform
Bringing together disparate systems and processes

You're breaking down silos
Between analysts and engineers, between teams

This is organizational change
Not just technical—it affects people, processes, and culture

KEY MESSAGE 2

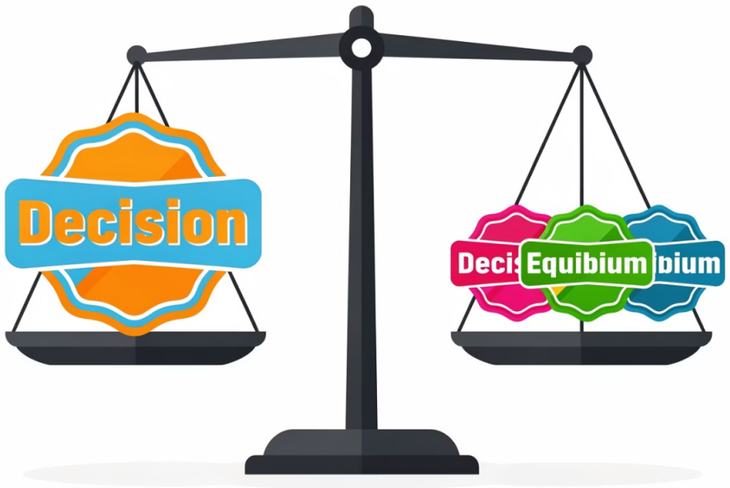
Power BI Pro is still the right answer for many organizations

Pro isn't "lesser." It's right-sized.

Stay on Pro if:

- Your reports work
- Your team is productive
- You don't have bandwidth for change

Don't let FOMO drive a migration you don't need.



KEY MESSAGE 3

The 1GB limit is a symptom—ask what's really driving the conversation

When someone says, "we need Fabric," dig deeper:

Data Volume?

Is it actually about data volume and performance?

Talent Retention?

Best people want modern tools and technologies

Governance Pressure?

Auditors asking questions about data security

Executive Expectations?

"Why aren't we on the latest platform?"

Future-Proofing?

Preparing for growth and evolution

The technical pain is often the excuse to address something bigger.

Pro vs Fabric: The Reality Check

Dimension	Power BI Pro	Microsoft Fabric
Model Size	1 GB	400 GB+
Storage	Import, DirectQuery	+ Direct Lake
Git / CI-CD	Limited	Native integration
Security Scope	Model-level (RLS)	Data-level (OneLake)
Copilot & AI	❌	✅ (F64+)
Cost Model	Per user ($14/mo)	Capacity-based
Team Skills	BI-focused	Platform-wide
Data Platform	Import/DQ/Dataflows	Lakehouse, Notebooks, Pipelines…

📸 Take a photo!

KEY MESSAGE 4

Migration isn't all-or-nothing—match the pace to your people

Incremental Approach

- Pro reports can connect to Fabric data
- Migrate incrementally
- Start with one use case, prove value, expand

Timeline Factors

- Team's capacity to learn
- Organization's appetite for change
- Budget cycles

A 6-month technical migration with 0% adoption is a failure.

KEY MESSAGE 5

Make the decision before it's made for you

The worst migrations happen when you hit a wall:

Crisis: Model Too Big
Everything's slow, users are frustrated, productivity tanks

Crisis: Audit Failed
Scrambling for governance, compliance pressure mounting

Crisis: Talent Loss
Best analyst quit for a company using modern tools

Today you're being proactive. That's a strategic advantage.

Should You Move to Fabric?

Leadership Push?

Expect modern platform?

Team Ready?

Ready for new skills?

High Needs?

Need large data + fast queries?

Check Limit

Is your data hitting 1GB?

📸 Another photo!

DISCUSSION

Quick Discussion

Turn to your neighbor. Pick one scenario:

Company A

Size: 15 people
Data: 50 MB
Situation: Cost-conscious

Company B

Size: 2,000 people
Data: 15 GB
Situation: Hitting limits

Company C

Size: 50 people
Data: 500 MB
Situation: 10x growth expected

Discuss: Stay on Pro? Move to Fabric? Hybrid?

SCENARIO 1

Show of Hands

Marketing Agency

15 people • 50MB • Cost-conscious

🙋 Raise your hand:

Stay on Pro

Fabric

Hybrid

SCENARIO 2

Show of Hands

Healthcare System

2,000 people • 15GB • Hitting limits

🙋 Raise your hand:

- Stay on Pro
- Fabric
- Hybrid

SCENARIO 3

Show of Hands

E-commerce Startup

50 people • 500MB • 10x growth expected

🙋 Raise your hand:

Stay on Pro

Fabric

Hybrid

What I'd Recommend

Scenario 1 - Agency

Stay on Pro

No pain point. Don't create problems you don’t have.

Scenario 2 - Healthcare

Move to Fabric

15GB already past Pro. Budget exists. Do it right.

Scenario 3 - Startup

Hybrid / Evaluate

Data fits today, won't soon. Start learning before crisis.

Key insight: It's rarely about the tech alone.

Now Let's See It In Action

Today you'll experience:

- **CI/CD & Git**
  What "platform decision" looks like in practice
- **Lakehouses**
  Where your data actually lives
- **Dataflows & Pipelines**
  Where learning curves hit
- **Direct Lake**
  The 1GB solution
- **Copilot**
  Where Microsoft is investing

By end of day: You'll know if Fabric is right for YOU.

Quick Break

Next up: CI/CD & Git Integration

Back in 10 minutes