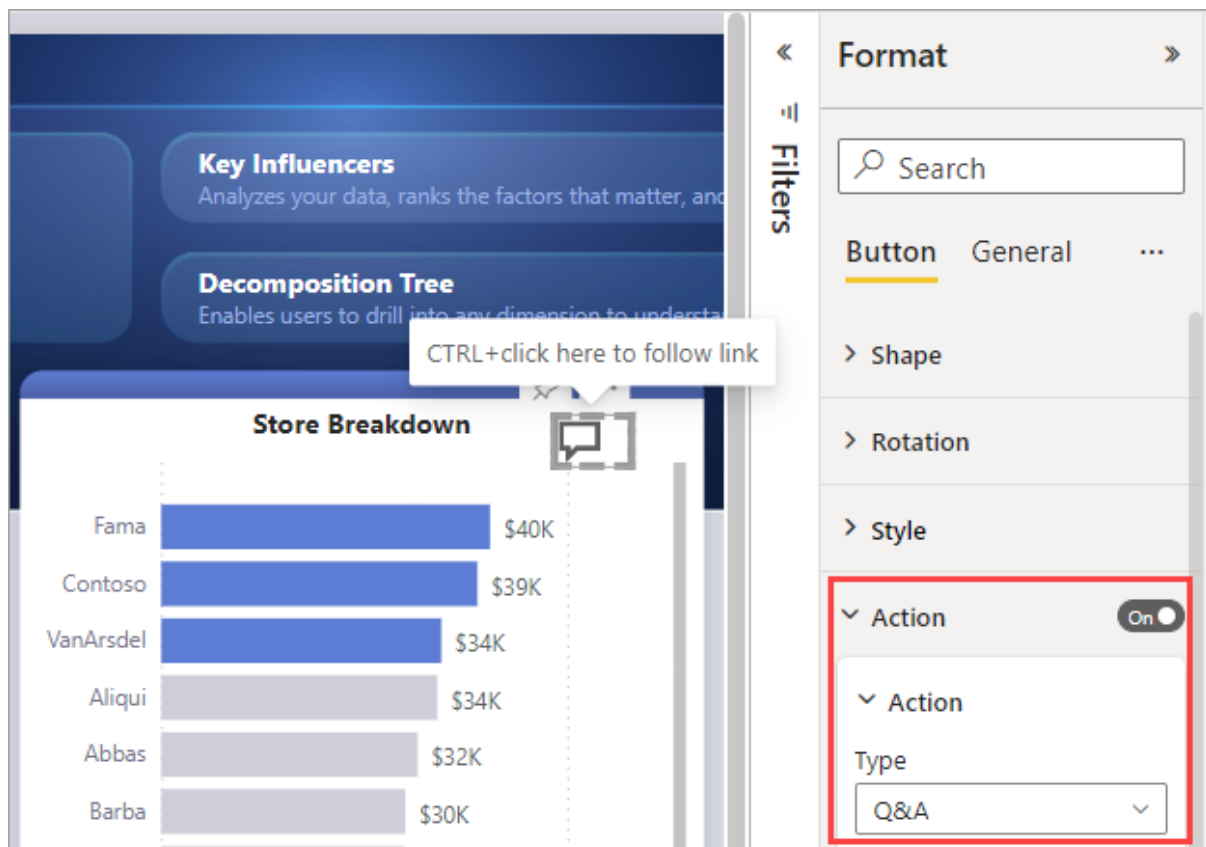# Create buttons in Power BI reports

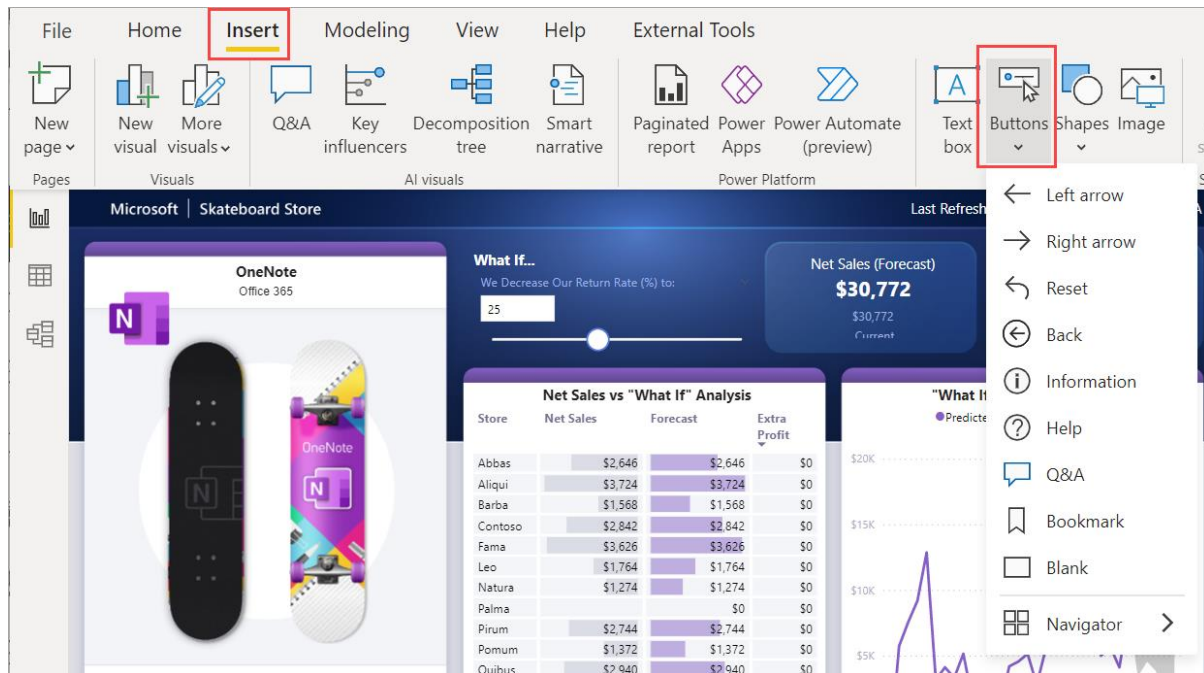**APPLIES TO:** ✔ Power BI Desktop ✔ Power BI service

With *buttons* in Power BI, you can create reports that behave similarly to apps, and create an environment where users can hover, click, and further interact with Power BI content. This article explains how to add buttons to reports in Power BI Desktop and in the Power BI service. When you share your reports in the Power BI service, buttons provide an app-like experience.
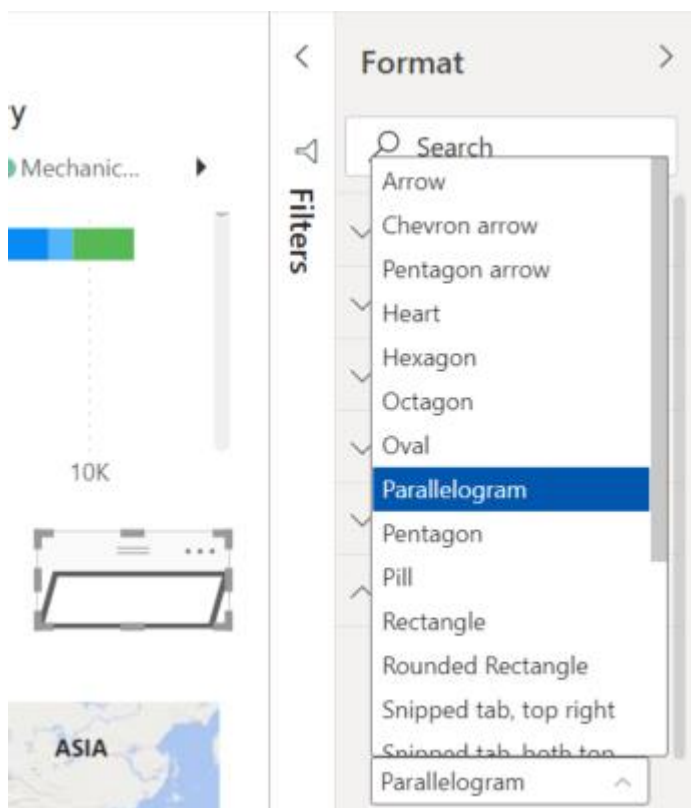

Create buttons in reports

In Power BI Desktop, on the **Insert** ribbon, select **Buttons** to reveal a drop-down menu, where you can select the button you want from a collection of options.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

Customize a button

Whether you create a button in Power BI Desktop or the Power BI service, the rest of the process is the same. When you select a button on the report canvas, the **Format** pane shows you the many ways you can customize the button to fit your requirements. For example, you can customize the shape of a button.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

For more information, see [Customize buttons in Power BI reports](#).

Button states

Buttons in Power BI have four possible states:

- **Default**: How buttons appear when not hovered over or selected.
- **On hover**: How buttons appear when hovered over.
- **On press**: How buttons appear when selected.
- **Disabled**: How buttons appear when they can't be selected.

You can modify many of the cards in the **Format** pane individually, based on these four states, which provides plenty of flexibility for customizing your buttons.

The following cards in the **Format** pane let you adjust formatting of a button for each of its four states:
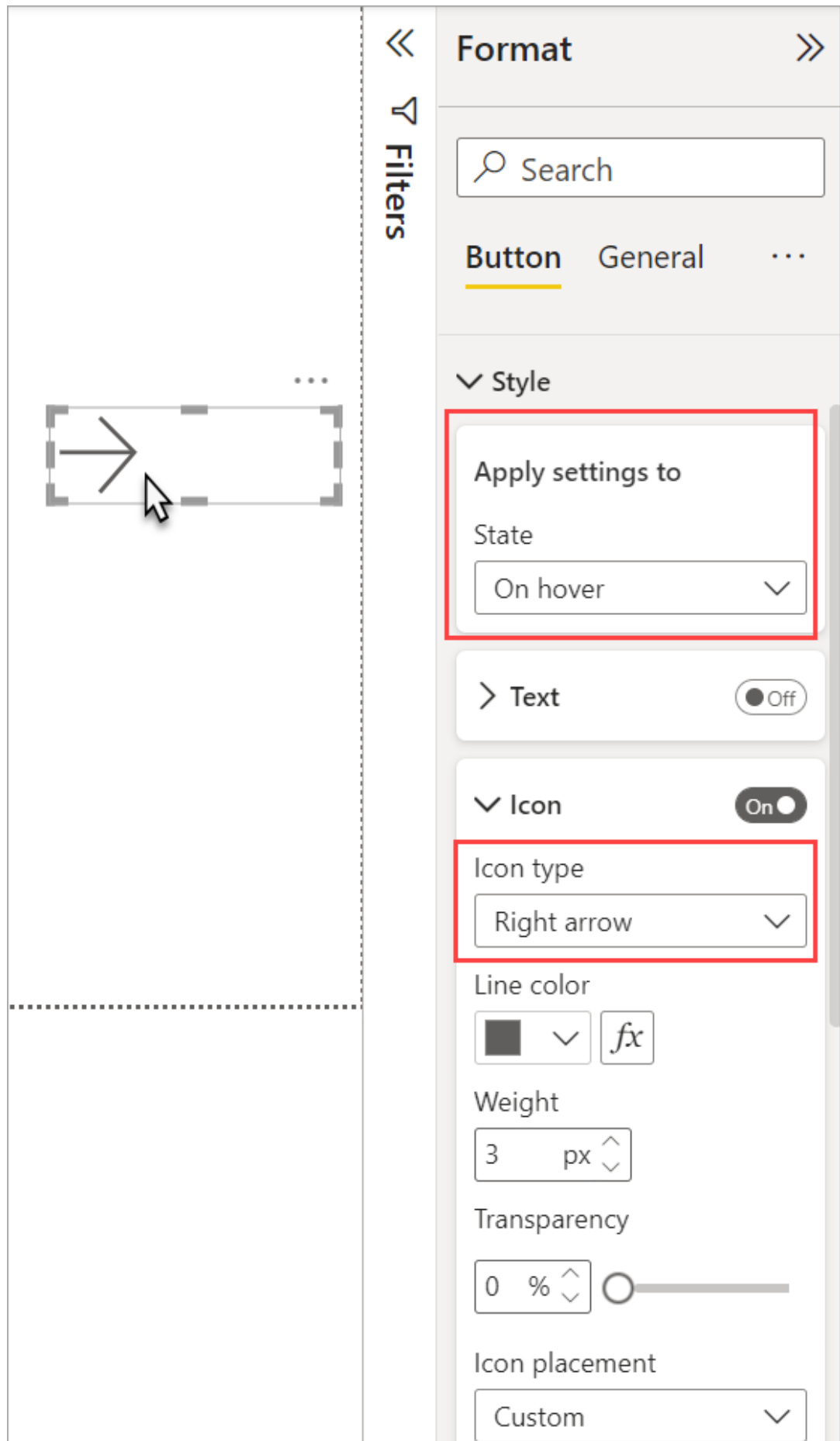
- Shape
- Style
- Rotation (applies to all states automatically)

To select how a button should appear for each state:

1. In the **Format** pane, select the **Button** tab, and then expand the **Shape** or **Style** card.
2. Select **State** under **Apply settings to** at the top of the card, and then select the settings you want to use for that state.

   In the following image, you see the **Style** card and **Icon** expanded. The **State** is **On hover**, and the **Icon type** is **Right arrow**.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

Create buttons in Power BI reports

Select the action for a button

You can select which action is taken when a user selects a button in Power BI.

Here are the options for button actions:

- **Back** returns the user to the previous page of the report. This action is useful for drillthrough pages.
- **Bookmark** presents the report page that's associated with a bookmark that is defined for the current report. Learn more about [bookmarks in Power BI](#).
- **Drillthrough** navigates the user to a drillthrough page filtered to their selection, without using bookmarks. Learn more about [drillthrough buttons in reports](#).
- **Page navigation** navigates the user to a different page within the report, also without using bookmarks. See [Create page navigation](#) for details.
- **Q&A** opens a **Q&A Explorer** window. When your report readers select a Q&A button, the Q&A Explorer opens, and they can ask natural-language questions about your data.
- **Web URL** opens a web page in a browser.

Certain buttons have a default action that's selected automatically. For example, the **Q&A** button type automatically selects **Q&A** as the default action.
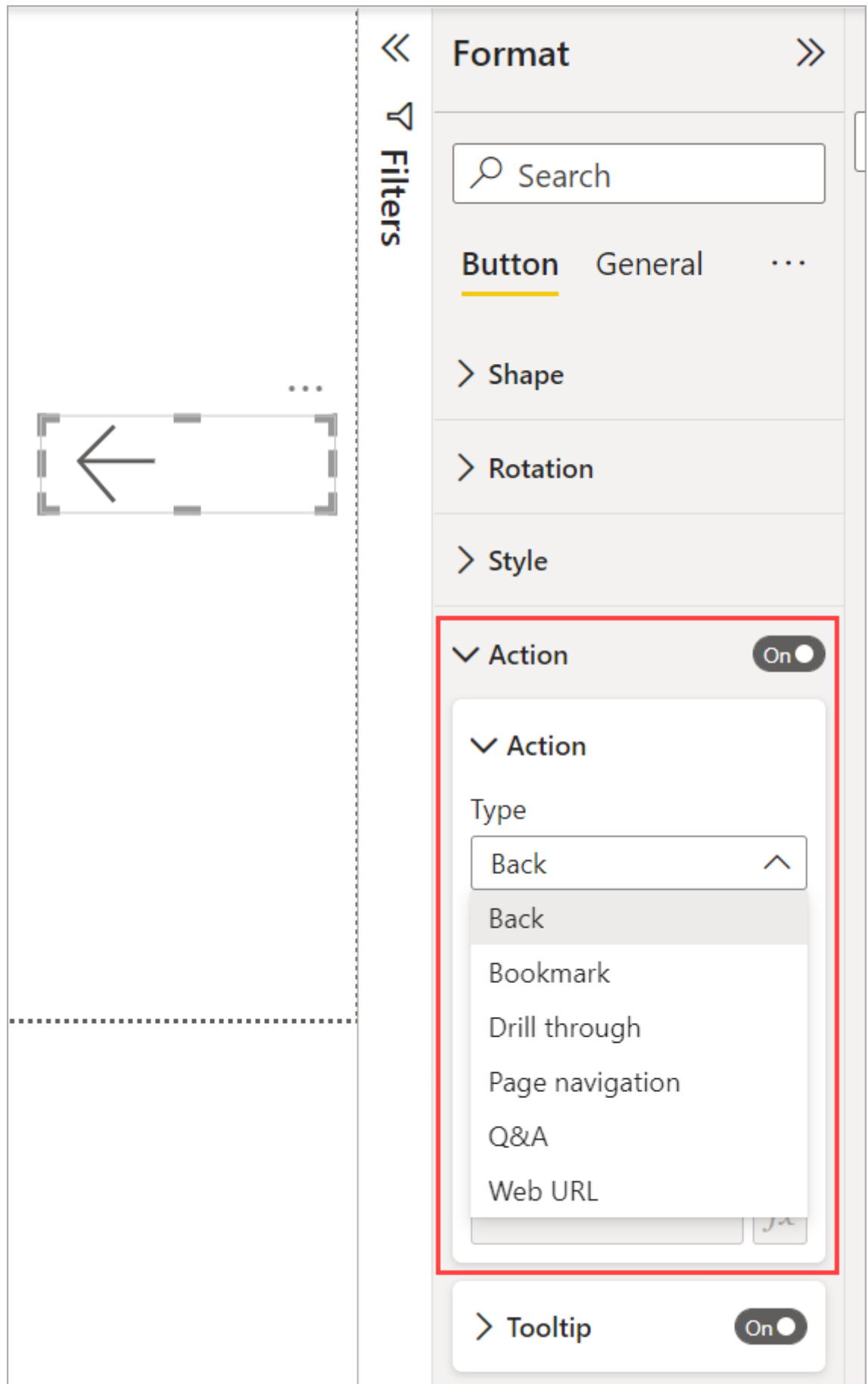
 Note

An action can't have a numeric measure as the value of any of its fields.

To select a button action:

1. On the **Button** tab of the **Format** pane, turn the **Action** to **On**, and then expand the card.
2. Expand **Action**, and then select the **Type** of button action.

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3. Test the buttons you create for your report by selecting `Ctrl` and the button.

Create page navigation

With the **Type** of an **Action** set to **Page navigation**, you can create a button that links to another page in your report, without creating a bookmark.

 Tip

If you want to build an entire navigation experience for the report, without having to save or manage any bookmarks, **create page and bookmark navigators** instead of individual buttons.

To set up a single-page navigation button:

1. Create a button with **Page navigation** as the **Type** of its **Action**, and then select a page for the **Destination**.
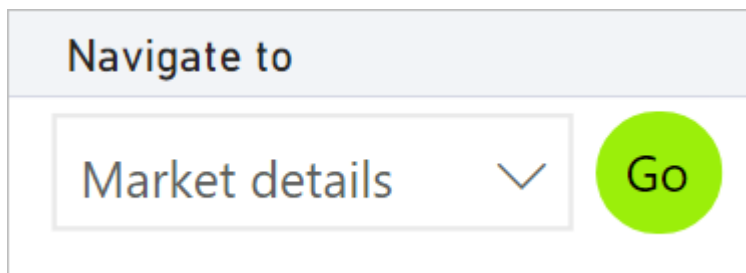
Create buttons in Power BI reports

2. Optionally, you can conditionally format the **Tooltip** under **Action** as you can do with other button types.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

3. If you want a custom navigation pane, [create page and bookmark navigators](#) instead of individual buttons.

Set the page navigation destination conditionally

You can use conditional formatting to set the navigation destination, based on the output of a measure you create in Power BI Desktop. For example, you may want to save space on your report canvas by having a single button to navigate to different pages based on the user's selection:
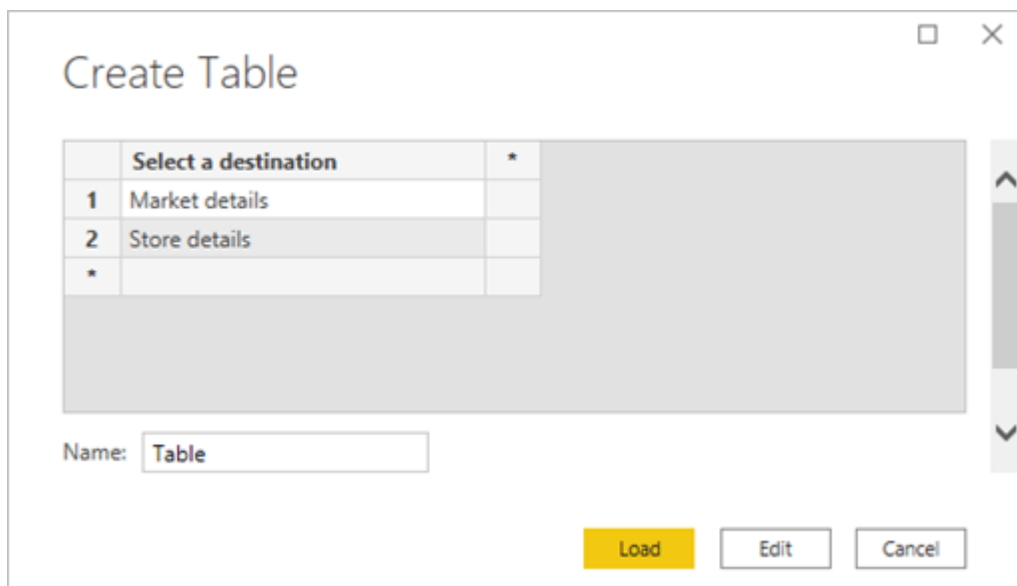

To create this example, start by creating a single-column table in Power BI Desktop with the names of the navigation destinations:
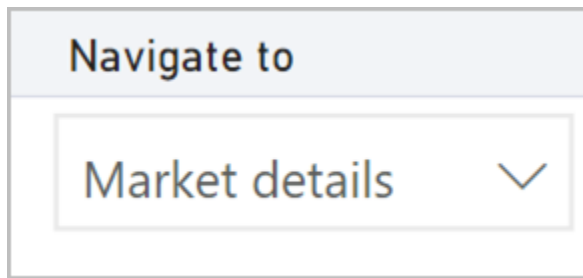
1. On the **Home** tab, select **Enter data**.

   The **Create Table** dialog box opens.

2. In the **Create Table** dialog box, enter the names of your pages in the column. Power BI uses an exact string match to set the drillthrough destination, so ensure that the values you entered exactly match your drillthrough page names.
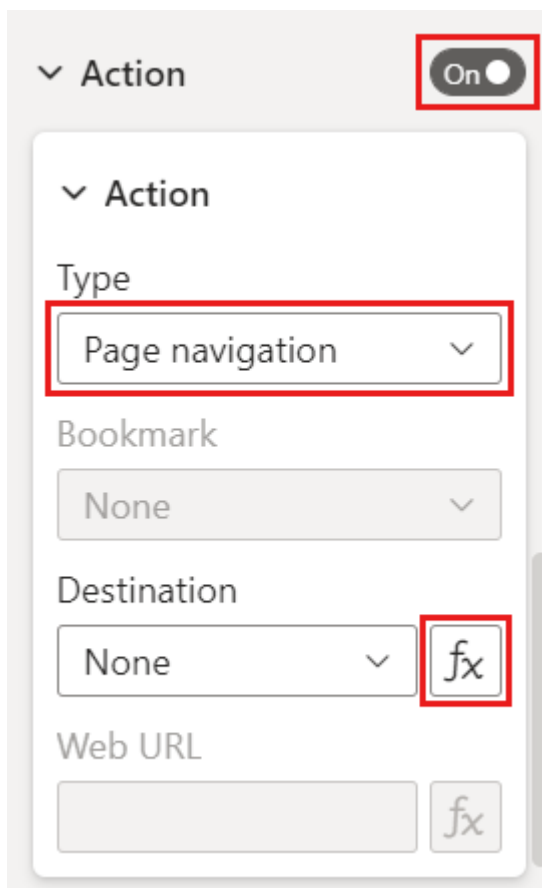
Create buttons in Power BI reports

3. After you've created the table, add it to the page as a single-select slicer:

Create a page navigation button and select the conditional formatting option for the destination:

1. Under **Style**, set **Action** to **On**, and then expand **Action**. Select **Page navigation** for **Type**, and then select the **Conditional formatting** (**fx**) icon next to the **Destination**.

2. On the **Destination - Action** page, select the name of the column you created. In this case, it's **Select a destination**.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

Destination - Action

Format style

| Field value | ∨ |

What field should we base this on?   Summarization

| First Select a destination | ∨ | | First | ∨ |

Now the button can navigate to different pages, depending on the user's selection.
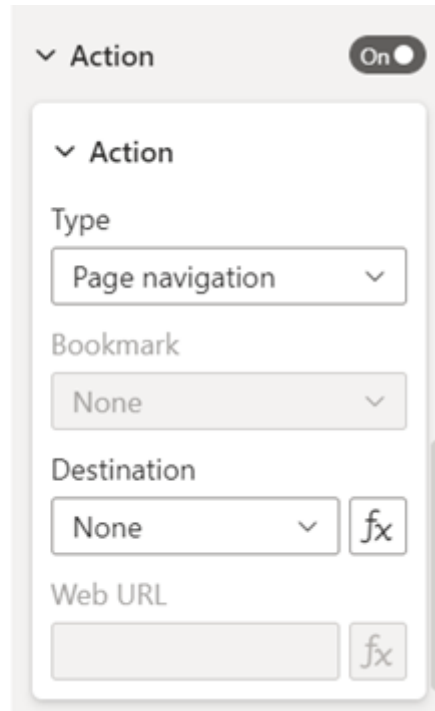
Navigate to

| Market details | ∨ | Go

Shapes and images for navigation

Page navigation action is also supported for shapes and images, not just buttons. Here's an example using one of the built-in shapes:
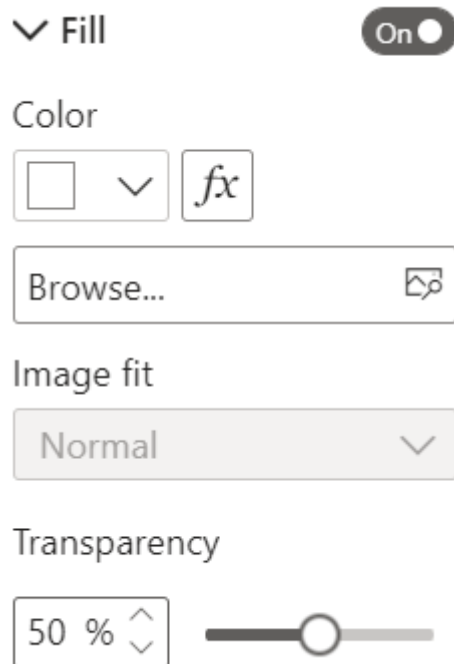
Create buttons in Power BI reports

Buttons support fill images

Power BI buttons support fill images. With fill images, you can customize the look and feel of your button, combined with the built-in button states: default, on hover, on press, and disabled (for drillthrough).

Under **Style**, set **Fill** to **On**, and then **Browse** for an image for each style state.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

Fill ⌄   On ⬤

Color

⬜ ⌄ *fx*

Browse... 🖼

Image fit

Normal ⌄

Transparency

50 % ⌃⌄ ━━━━━⭘─────
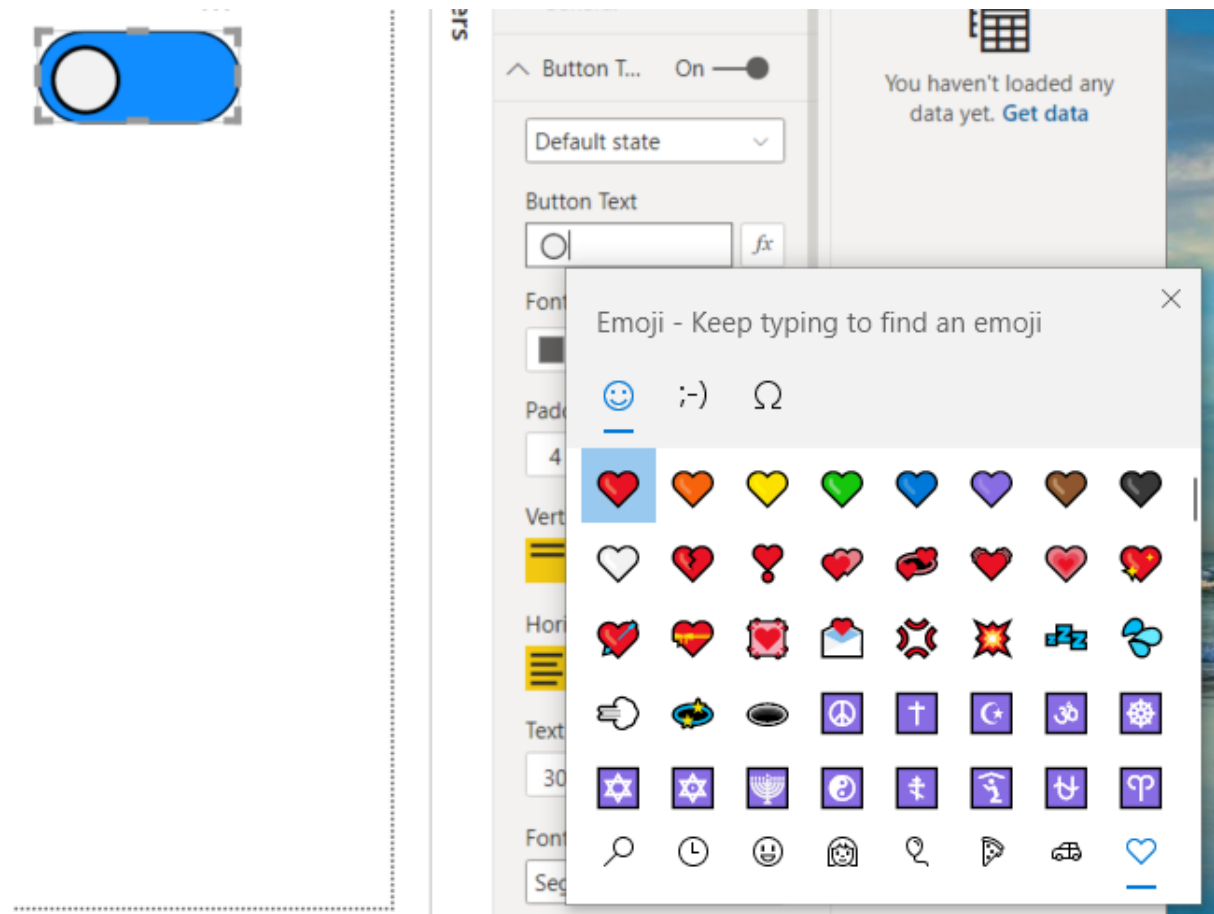
The next tip is not my own, I must share this post from Havens Consulting, it was an amazing find. Here we use a button to create a toggle, that acts as a switch between visuals or pages, or any use you may have for it.

Insert blank button.
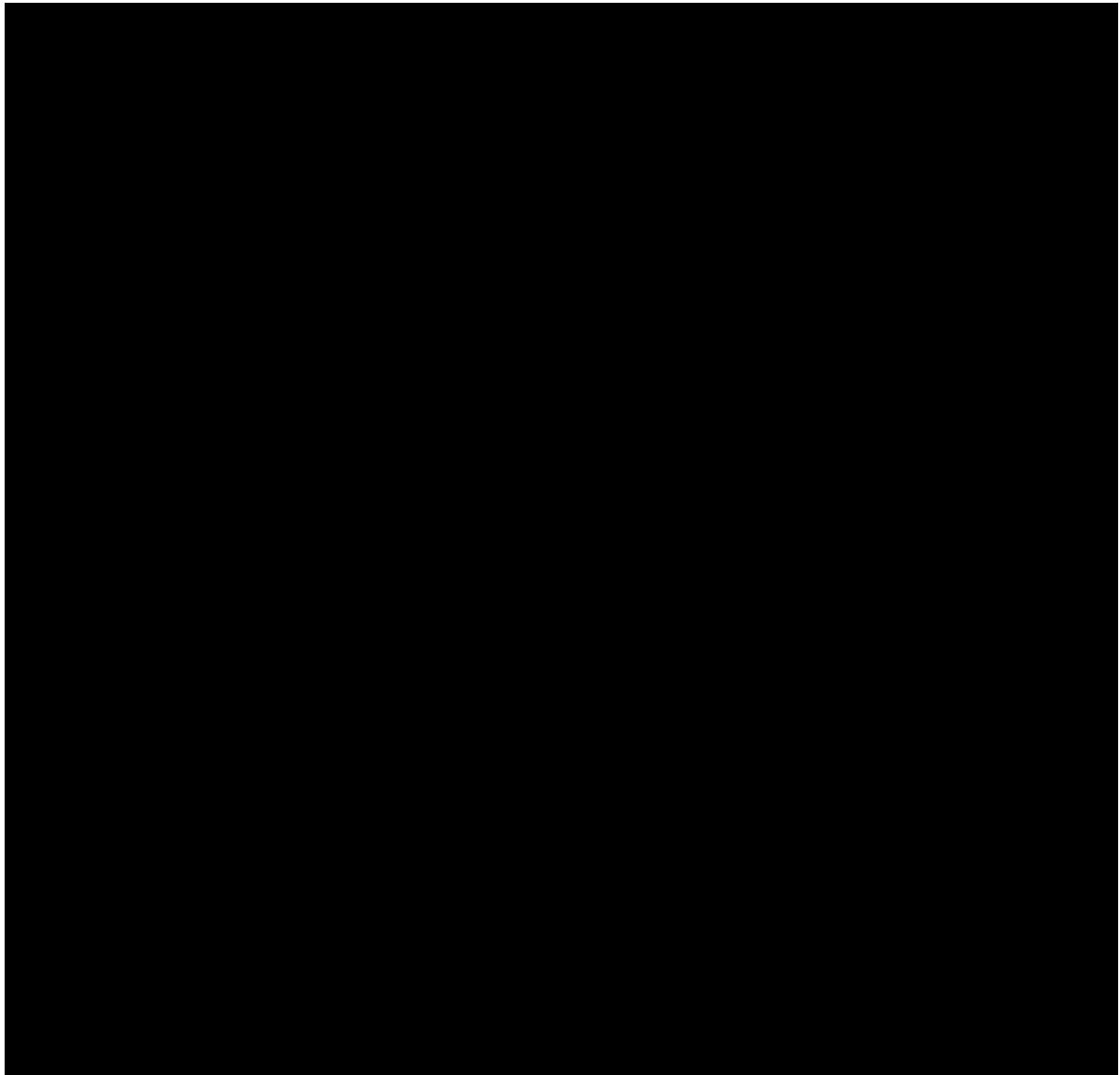
Round edges to about 70

Add a circle windows emoji. To get the emoji window open press the Window key and semicolon. Choose the circle emoji. This emoji size can be adjusted using the text sizer. Then on you can change the positioning of the circle to be either left, right, or center aligned. Then on hover make it move to the other side.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

It gives you this nice effect upon hover.

Create buttons in Power BI reports

3. URL links

This is a nice seamless way to add links in your reports, perhaps for some extra information. This is a really easy one. You can customize your button any way you like, add a picture and then you simply add the URL into the action part of the button formatting section. That's it.

Create buttons in Power BI reports