**Background and Timeline**

**Previous Setup (Before January 25, 2025)**

1. **Pipeline Context**:
   * Our pipeline deployed Power BI reports to workspaces and attached them to semantic models using the Fabric REST API.
   * We used the following approach for linking reports to semantic models:

powershell

CopyEdit

Import-FabricItem -workspaceId $workspaceID -path $rFolder -itemProperties @{

semanticModelId = $importedModel.id

}

* + This code successfully deployed reports and linked them to semantic models until **January 25, 2025**.

1. **Pipeline Functionality**:
   * The semanticModelId parameter in itemProperties worked without needing additional references like byConnection.

**The Problem (Starting January 25, 2025)**

1. **Issue Observed**:
   * The pipeline began failing when attempting to deploy reports. We received the following error:

python

CopyEdit

Cannot import directly a report using byPath connection. You must first resolve the semantic model id and pass it through the 'itemProperties.semanticModelId' parameter.

1. **Initial Debugging**:
   * We verified that the semanticModelId was being passed correctly to the API.
   * Despite this, the deployment consistently failed unless additional connection references were provided.

**Updated Setup (After January 25, 2025)**

1. **Resolution Attempt**:
   * Based on trial and error and research, we updated the pipeline to include the byConnection reference in the itemProperties parameter.
   * Here is the updated code that resolved the issue:

powershell

CopyEdit

Import-FabricItem -workspaceId $workspaceID -path $rFolder -itemProperties @{

semanticModelId = $importedModel.id

datasetReference = @{

byConnection = @{

modelId = $importedModel.id

connectionType = "pbiServiceXmlaStyleLive"

pbiModelVirtualServerName = "sobe\_wowvirtualserver"

}

}

}

1. **Changes Made**:
   * We added a datasetReference parameter with the following subfields:
     + byConnection:
       - modelId: Identifies the semantic model ID.
       - connectionType: Specifies the connection type, set to "pbiServiceXmlaStyleLive".
       - pbiModelVirtualServerName: Defines the virtual server name (sobe\_wowvirtualserver).
2. **Outcome**:
   * After making this change, the pipeline started working as expected.

**Questions for Microsoft**

**1. Deprecation of byPath**

* Can you confirm if the byPath method (implicit linking using just semanticModelId) was deprecated? If so:
  + When was this change introduced?
  + Why was this change made, and is it documented in any release notes?
  + Is this change applicable to all deployment scenarios or only specific cases?

**2. Details on byConnection**

* Why is byConnection now mandatory when linking reports to semantic models?
* Can you provide a detailed explanation of the parameters within byConnection?
  + connectionType: What other values (besides pbiServiceXmlaStyleLive) can this take?
  + pbiModelVirtualServerName: How do we determine the correct value for this field in other environments?

**3. Backward Compatibility**

* Previously, the pipeline worked without byConnection. Could this change be due to a recent update in the Fabric REST API?
* Are there scenarios where the older semanticModelId method (without byConnection) is still valid?
* Why didn’t this breaking change trigger warnings or notifications?

**4. Documentation**

* Can you point us to the official documentation or release notes that explain:
  + The deprecation of the old method.
  + The introduction of the byConnection method.
  + Best practices for implementing byConnection.

**5. Future Stability**

* Are there any other planned changes to the Fabric REST API or Power BI pipelines that might cause similar issues?
* How can we stay informed about future breaking changes to avoid disruptions like this?