

Basic Introduction of Power Bi

1. What is Power BI?

- Power BI is a business intelligence (BI) and data visualization tool developed by Microsoft.
- It allows users to connect to multiple data sources, transform raw data, and create interactive dashboards and reports for decision-making.

2. Who developed Power BI?

- Power BI was developed by Microsoft.
- It was initially created by Ron George in 2010 as “Project Crescent” and released as Power BI in 2013.

3. Why do we use Power BI?

- To analyse and visualize data in an interactive way.
- To create dashboards, reports, and charts for better insights.
- To connect to multiple data sources (Excel, SQL, Cloud, APIs, etc.).
- To share data insights across organizations securely.

4. What are the main components of Power BI?

- Power BI Desktop – Windows application for creating reports.
- Power BI Service (Cloud) – Online SaaS platform for sharing and collaboration.
- Power BI Mobile – Mobile app for viewing reports on iOS & Android.
- Power BI Gateway – Connects on-premises data sources with cloud services.
- Power BI Report Server – On-premises server for hosting and sharing reports.
- Power BI Embedded – For embedding dashboards into custom apps.

5. What is Power BI Desktop?

- A free Windows application used for data modelling, visualization, and report creation.
- It is mainly used by developers/analysts to design dashboards.

6. What is Power BI Service?

A cloud-based SaaS service where reports and dashboards are published, shared, and collaborated on.

7. What is Power BI Mobile?

A mobile app (iOS, Android, Windows) to access Power BI dashboards and reports anytime, anywhere.

8. What is the difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Service?

- Platform → Desktop is a Windows application; Service is a cloud-based (web) platform.
- Usage → Desktop is for creating and designing reports, Service is for sharing and collaborating on reports.
- Users → Desktop is mainly for analysts/developers, Service is for business users/teams.
- Cost → Desktop is free, Service requires a Pro or Premium license for full features.
- Connectivity → Desktop connects to local & cloud data sources; Service works mostly with published or cloud data sources.

9. What are the key features of Power BI?

- Easy data connectivity (Excel, SQL, APIs, Cloud).
- Drag-and-drop report creation.
- Interactive dashboards & real-time analytics.
- AI-powered insights.
- Data sharing & collaboration.
- Strong data security (row-level security, role-based access).

- Cross-platform support (Desktop, Cloud, Mobile).

10. What types of data sources can Power BI connect to?

- Files → Excel, CSV, XML, JSON.
- Databases → SQL Server, Oracle, MySQL, PostgreSQL.
- Cloud services → Azure, Google Analytics, Salesforce, AWS.
- Web sources & APIs.
- Big data sources → Spark, Hadoop.

11. What is a visualization in Power BI?

A visualization is a graphical representation of data in Power BI (charts, maps, tables, KPIs, etc.).

Examples: Bar chart, Line chart, Pie chart and Maps