1.Power BI Desktop

It is the main Power BI Application where an Analyst can connect application to multiple data sources and analyze data to create reports to business stakeholder.

Power BI service

It is a product where stakeholders can get access to reports created by developers/Analyst to see performance of their business or whatever task assigned to the Team. stakeholders can get access to them analyst publishes them in the shared workspace. They can also create and modify dashboards of their own.

Power BI Mobile

It is similar to Power BI Service. Stakeholders can access the reports and dashboards through Mobile/Tablet device and view them. It is meant only for viewing contents which means users can't create dashboards in this platform.

2. The maximum number of rows and columns is limited in Excel. Power BI doesn't limit users on dimension of data.

- Power BI exceeds Excel feature in Data sources. Power BI can get multiple static, dynamic and streaming data. There 80+ available data sources.

- The charts and visualizations are much advanced and interactive in Power BI.

- The analytical engine is Power BI is much more faster than Excel which can save hours in processing.

- Power BI allows users to share reports and data and collaborate with organization where excel cannot.

3.Power Query Editor allows user to transform data and create queries in much faster way and load them to main window.Power Query is just one piece of the suite of Power BI and Excel products from Microsoft.

These data transformations could include tasks like:

- Remove columns, rows, blanks

- Convert data types – text, numbers, dates

- Split or merge columns

- Sort & filter columns

- Add calculated columns

- Aggregate or summarize data

- Find & replace text

- Unpivot data to use for pivot tables

4.Power Map feature comes with Power BI as well as Excel from Microsoft. It is a data 3D-visualization tool that lets you map your data and plot more than a million rows of data visually on Bing maps in 3-D format. It is used to plot geo-spacial data in 3D mode. Based on a geographical location, the data can be highlighted.

5.There has been a lot of buzz and questions around connecting your Office 365 tenant to data located on Premises. This is a common requirement and is now made possible with PowerBI.

Connecting to your data source is made possible with the Data Management Gateway(DMG) The awesome part of the DMG is that is makes the connection outside the firewall. That means, no reverse proxies, custom web services or firewalls to deal with!

Overall, there are few requirements and caveats that I encountered while setting up my demo environment. FYI, I set this up in under and hour, including the time is took to spin up a PowerBI trial.

- The DMG must be installed on a non-SQL server in your on premises environment. I could not get anything to work on my SQL server so I am thinking this has to be done on a member server.

- A new Gateway must be created via your bi admin center.

- You must register the gateway with the on premises DMG client.

6.Admin & governance

Email subscriptions access via Admin API

Allow sharing links to include your changes to the report