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Reports Vs. Dashboards

TRANSFORM YOUR DATA INTO DECISIONS!



Power BI Reports

Reports in Power BI are comprehensive and allow for deep data exploration. They serve as the main tool for performing detailed analysis.

Main Features:

- **Multiple Pages:** Like worksheets in Excel, each page can focus on different aspects or topics.
- **Multiple Visualizations:** Users can add various visuals such as bar charts, maps, tables, and custom visuals to convey specific insights.
- **Interactive Controls:** Filters, slicers, and visual interactions allow for in-depth data exploration.
- **Drill-Down Capabilities:** You can navigate from summary-level data to detailed views using drill-through and drill-down functionalities.
- **Customizability:** Layouts, themes, and even calculated fields using DAX can be tailored for specific business needs.



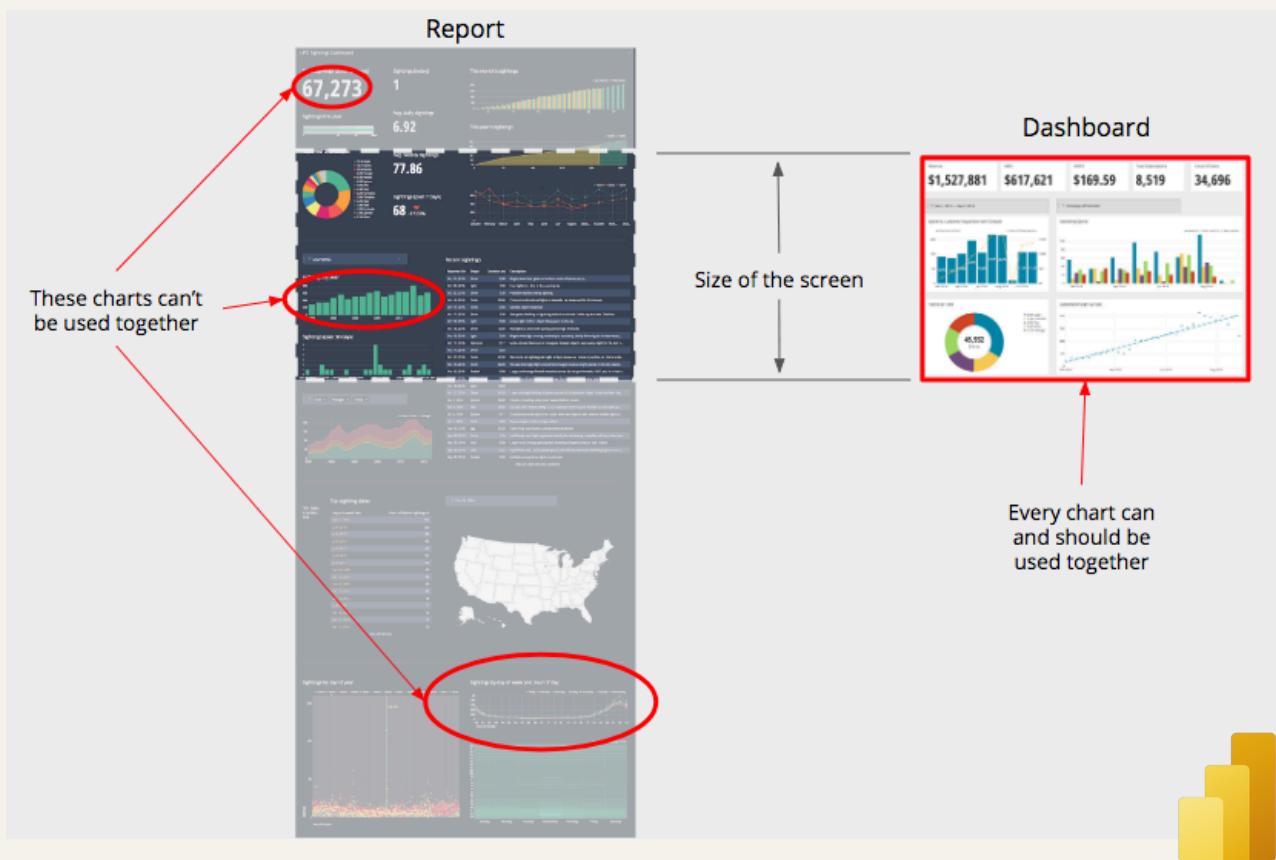
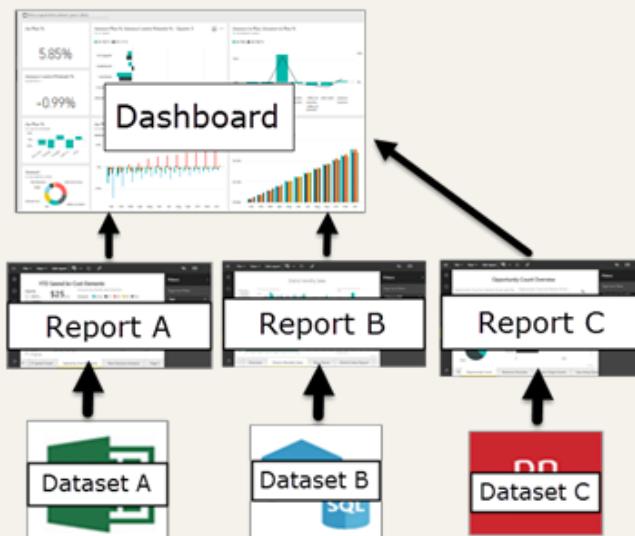
Power BI Dashboards

Dashboards are more concise, designed to present a high-level view of KPIs and metrics. They are meant to give business users quick insights into the performance of their organization.

Main Features:

- **Single Canvas:** Dashboards are limited to one page, promoting simplicity and clarity.
- **Tiles:** Each tile represents a pinned visualization (like a KPI, chart, or gauge) from a report or dataset.
- **Cross-Source Integration:** Combine visuals from multiple reports into one cohesive view.
- **Basic Interactivity:** Clicking a tile redirects you to the source report for deeper analysis, but direct interaction (like filtering) is limited.
- **Live Data Support:** Dashboards can include real-time streaming tiles to monitor ongoing business activity.





When to Use What

When to Use Reports:

- You need to analyze large or complex datasets.
- You want users to interact with the data through filters or slicers.
- You need to provide various data views and narratives across multiple pages.
- You want to enable detailed exploration using drill functionalities.

When to Use Dashboards:

- You need to share a quick summary of performance indicators.
- You want to consolidate insights from different reports.
- You need a high-level view for executives or decision-makers.
- You want to monitor real-time data metrics.



Reports Vs. Dashboards

Aspect	Power BI Report	Power BI Dashboard
Layout	Multi-page layout with numerous visual elements	Single-page overview using pinned visual tiles
User Interaction	Highly interactive with filters, slicers, drill-downs, etc.	Minimal interaction - mostly used for navigating to reports
Visual Variety	Wide range of customizable visualizations on each page	Tiles are pinned visual elements from existing reports
Source of Data	Tied to a single dataset per report	Can integrate visuals from multiple reports or datasets
Live Data Support	Only updates in near real-time if refresh is scheduled	Can reflect live updates using streaming visuals
Primary Purpose	Used for in-depth data analysis and exploration	Best for summarizing key metrics and performance snapshots
Intended Users	Analysts and data professionals	Business users and decision-makers
Drill-Down Capability	Offers drill-through and drill-down features for detail navigation	Not supported directly - tiles redirect to full reports
Custom Metrics	Supports calculated columns and complex measures using DAX	Doesn't support custom calculations directly



Use Case Comparison

Reports Example: A retail analytics team builds a report with pages dedicated to sales trends, customer insights, profitability analysis, and supply chain metrics. It allows deep filtering, comparison, and trend evaluation.

Dashboards Example: The same company creates a dashboard for senior leadership showing current sales figures, sales goal progress, and top-performing regions - all in one glance, updated live.

Integration of Both

Power BI reports and dashboards are not mutually exclusive - they often complement each other. A dashboard can serve as the entry point, offering a high-level summary. Clicking on a tile then brings the user to a more detailed report for further insights.



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