# Hong Kong Baptist University **Department of Computer Science**

COMP 7810/4096 Business Intelligence (2019-20)

## SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS)

#### Introduction

By using SQL Server Data Tools (SSDT) Analysis Services, you can build a **multidimensional model** to perform **OLAP** (**online analytical processing**) **analysis**. OLAP performs multidimensional analysis of business data and provides the capability for complex calculations, trend analysis, and sophisticated data modeling. The basic concepts of OLAP include:

Cube:	Cube is the basic unit of storage and analysis in Analysis Services.	
	A cube is a collection of data that's been aggregated to allow	
	queries to return data quickly. Cubes are ordered into dimensions	
	and measures.	
Dimension	A dimension table contains hierarchical data by which you'd like to	
table:	summarize. It contains a primary key and other attributes that	
	describe the entities stored in the table.	
<b>Dimension:</b>	Each cube has one or more <i>dimensions</i> , each based on one or more	
	dimension tables.	
Fact table:	A <i>fact table</i> contains the basic information that you wish to summarize. This might be order detail information, payroll records etc.	
Measure:	Every cube will contain one or more <i>measures</i> , each based on a column in a fact table that you'd like to analyze.	
Schema:	There are two basic OLAP schemas: star and snowflake. In a <i>star</i>	
	schema, every dimension table is related directly to the fact table.	
	In a snowflake schema, some dimension tables are related	
	indirectly to the fact table.	

This tutorial describes how to use SSDT to develop and deploy an Analysis Services project, using the fictitious company Adventure Works Cycles for all examples.

## **Learning Outcomes**

By finishing this lab session, you should be able to

- Develop a database for data warehousing
- Create an Analysis Service project using SSDT for OLAP analysis.

## **Tools**

- Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio 2012
- Visual Studio 2010 with SQL Server Data Tools (SSDT)

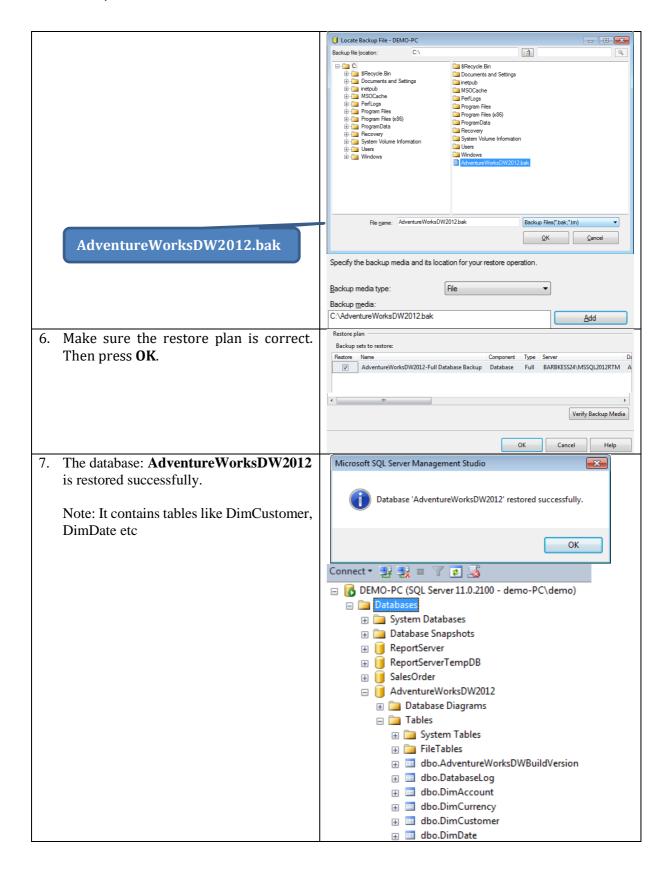
## **Source files required**

• AdventureWorksDW2012.bak (save it in C:\)

## Part A: Use SQL Server Analysis Services to create OLAP cube

#### I. Recover a database into SQL Server

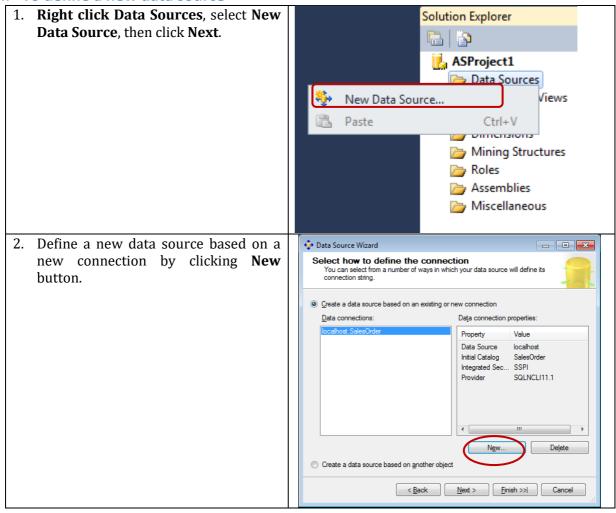
1. Open SQL Server Management Studio Connect to Server × and connect to localhost / default SQL Server 2012 server Database Engine Server type: DEMO-PC Server name: Authentication: Windows Authentication demo-PC\demo User name: Password: Remember password Cancel Help "Databases" 2. Right click under localhost, select Restore Database Object Explorer Connect 🕶 👺 🕎 🔳 🝸 💋 3. Select Device. In the dialog Select ☐ DEMO-PC (SQL Server 11.0.2100 - demo-PC\demo) backup devices, click Add □ Databases Syste New Database... 4. Select the AdventureWorks DW backup Attach... file (AdventureWorksDW2012.bak) in the location you just save. Restore Database. Restore Files and Filegroups... ⊕ ■ Sales 5. Press **OK**.And **OK**. Script - Help \_ - X Select backup devices Specify the backup media and its location for your restore operation Backup media type File Backup media: OK Cancel Help

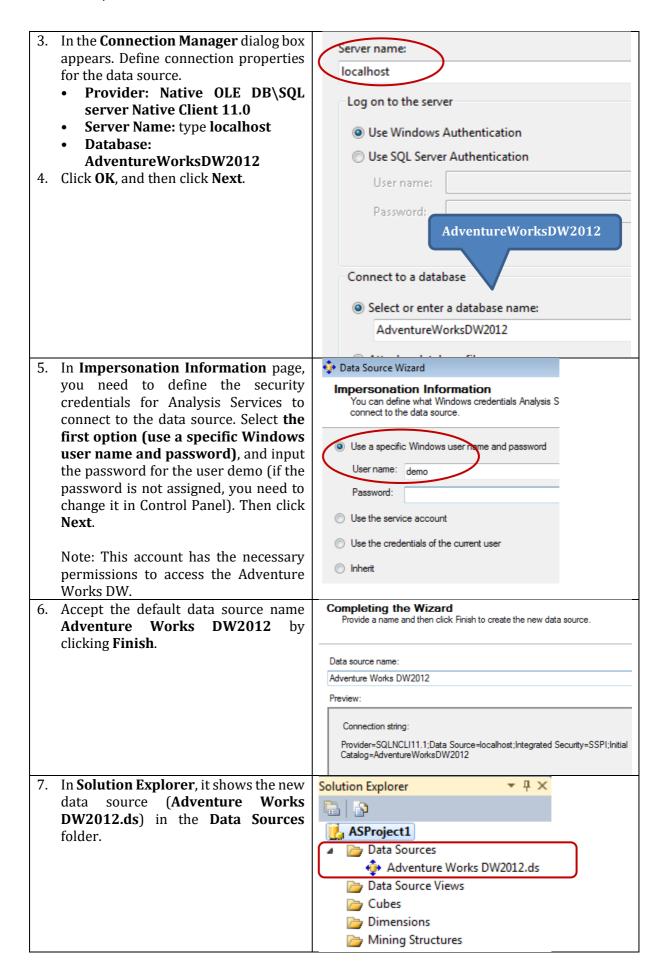


## II. Create a new Analysis Services project

Open the program Visual Studio with Recent Templates SSDT. Installed Templates Analysis Services Multidimensional and Data Mining Project ■ Business Intelligence 2. Select File  $\rightarrow$  New  $\rightarrow$  Project. Import from Server (Multidimensional and Data Mining) Integration Services Reporting Services Analysis Services Tabular Project 3. Expand **Business Intelligence** → ▶ Visual C# Import from PowerPivot SQL Server Analysis Services, and then click Dother Project Types **Analysis Services Multidimensional** ASProject1 and Data Mining Project. Name: ASProject1 4. Change the project name to **ASProject1**, Location: c:\users\demo\documents\visual studio 2010\projects which also changes the solution name, a Solution: Create new solution new directory will be created for the Solution name: ASProject1 solution. Press OK.

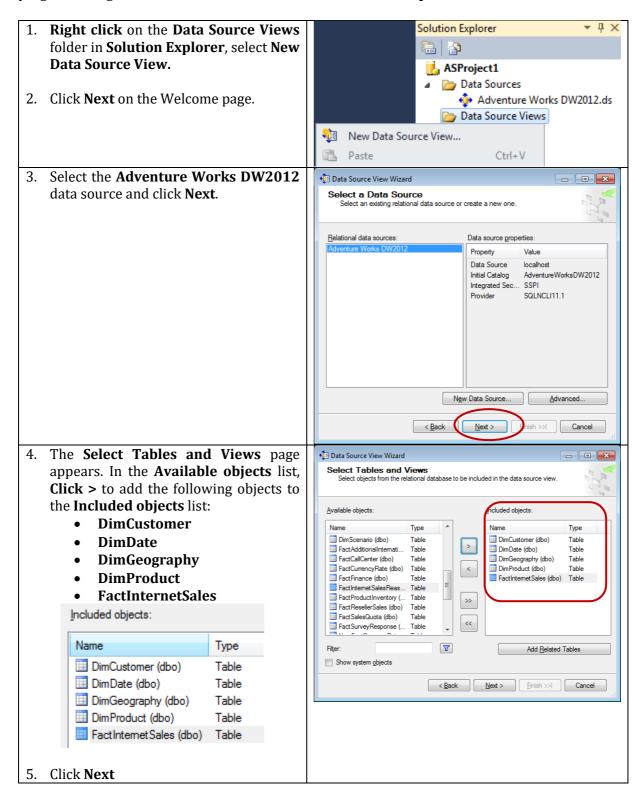
#### III. To define a new data source

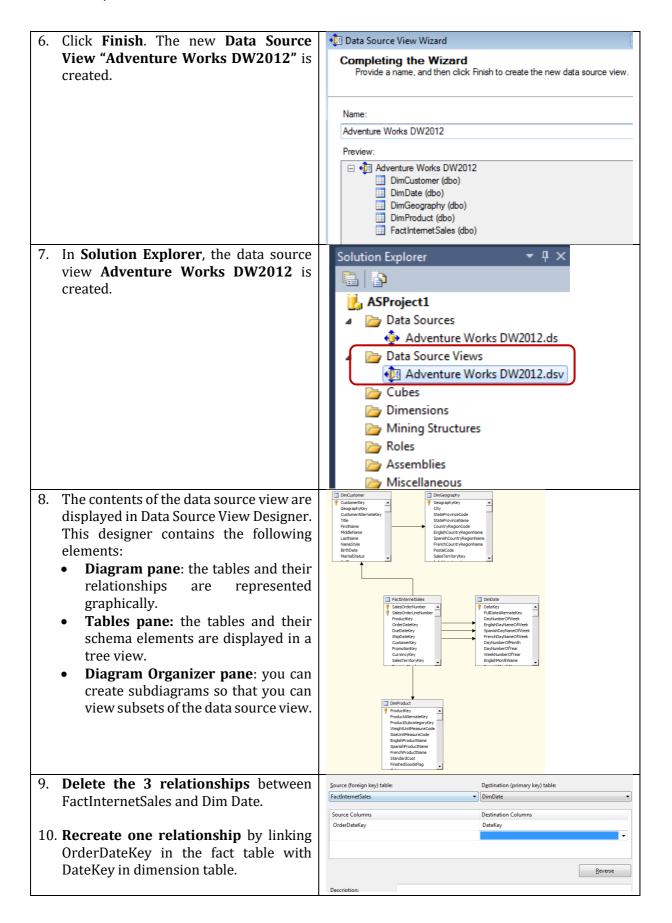




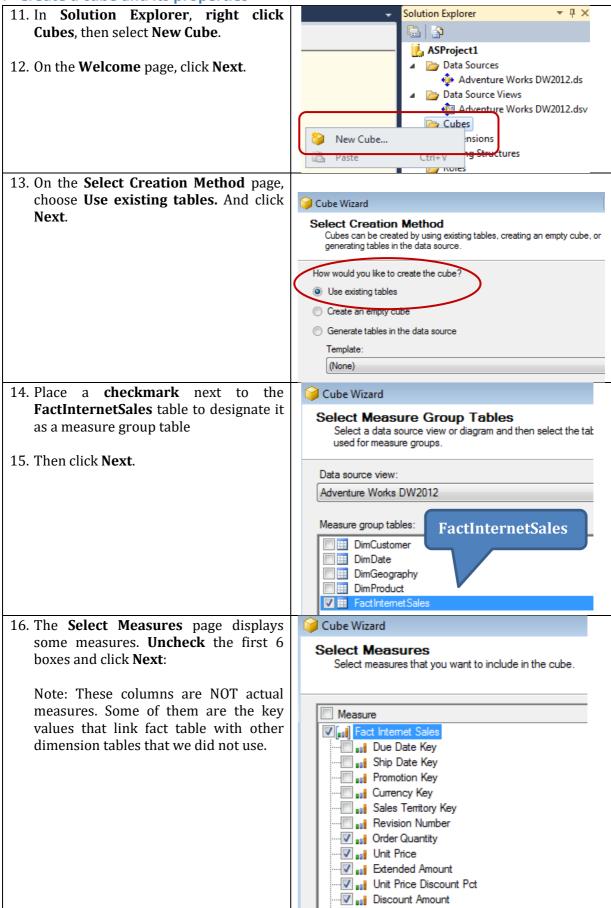
## IV. Defining a Data Source View

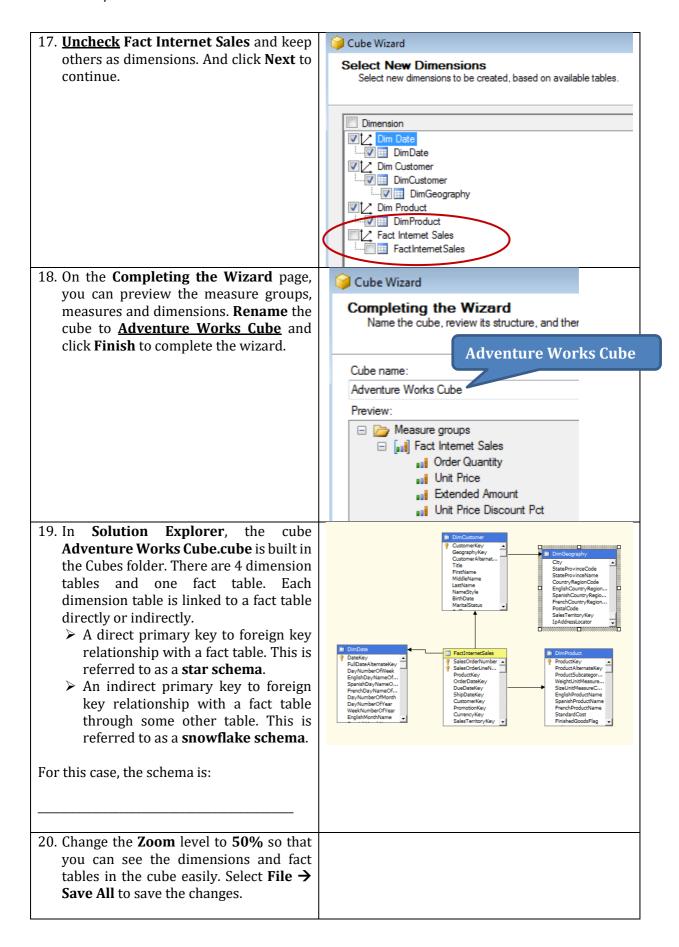
A data source view is a persistent set of tables from a data source that supply the data *for a particular cube*. SSDT also includes a wizard for creating data source views, which you can invoke by right-clicking on the **Data Source Views** folder in **Solution Explorer**.





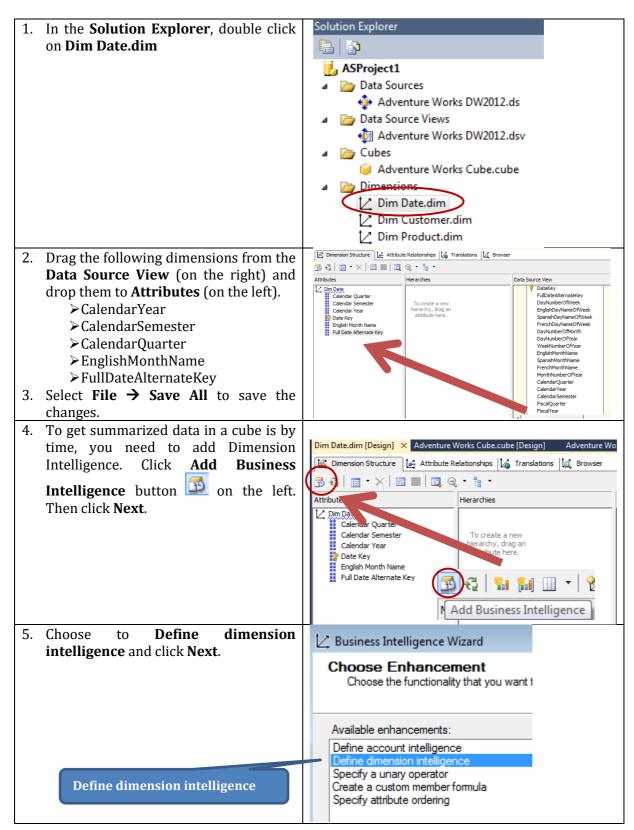
V. Create a cube and its properties

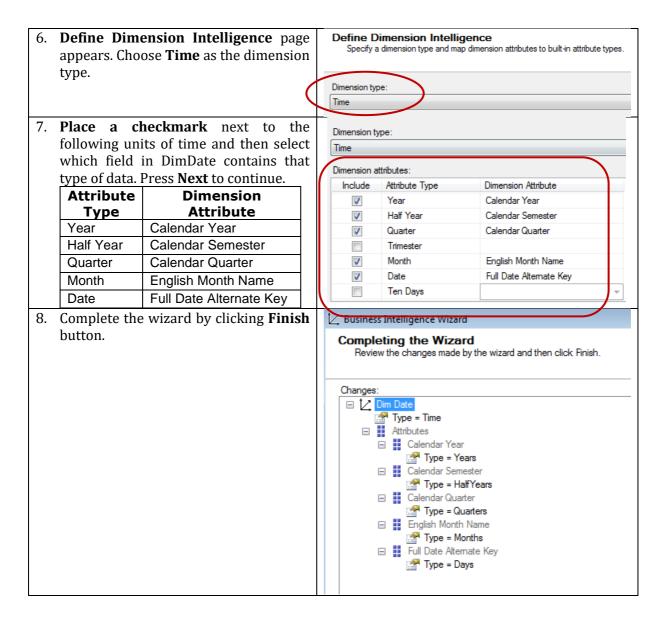




## VI. Defining Dimension Intelligence

The cube wizard defines dimensions based upon your choices, but it doesn't populate the dimensions with attributes. You will need to edit each dimension, adding any attributes that your users will wish to use when querying your cube.

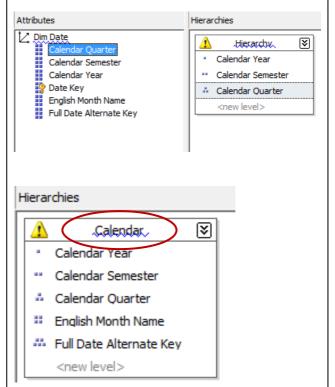




#### VII. Define Hierarchies

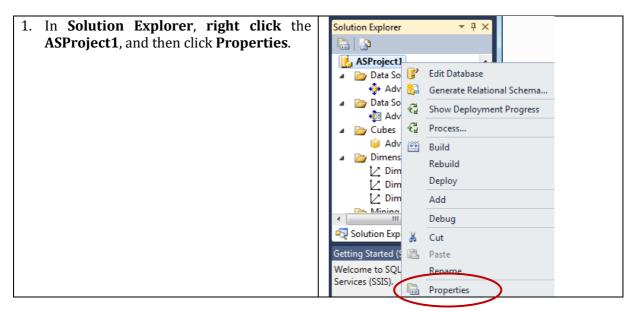
If you consider a dimension as a table, all the fields in this table can be perceived as attributes. **Hierarchy** in a dimension is a group of attributes/fields logically related to each other with a defined cardinality.

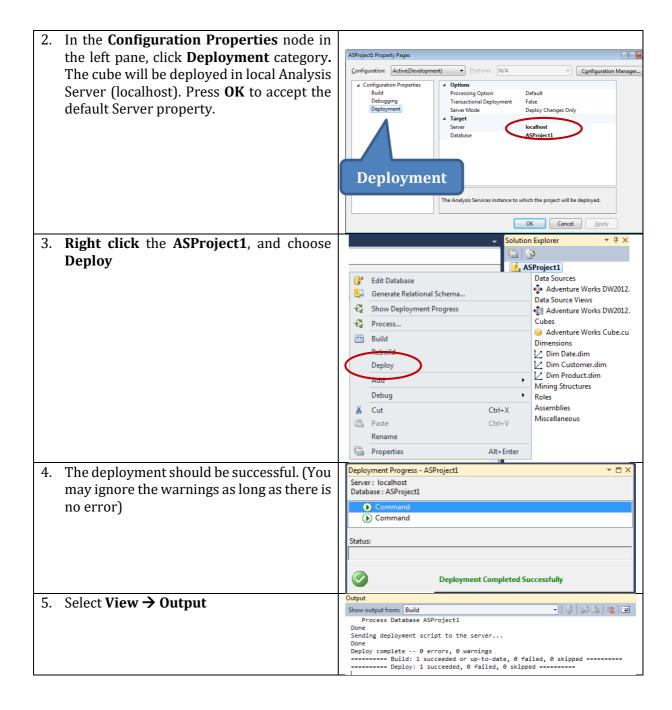
- Open Dim Date.dim (if it is not opened). Create a new hierarchy by dragging the Calendar Year field from the Attributes panel and drop it in the middle pane (called Hierarchies)
- 2. Add a second level by dragging the **Calendar Semester** field from the Attributes panel and drop it on the <new level> spot in the Hierarchies panel.
- 3. Repeat the previous step to create a third level **Calendar Quarter**.
- 4. Add two more levels as shown here. **Right click** on the hierarchy name and rename it to **Calendar**.
- 5. The user-defined hierarchy "Calendar" is created. There are \_\_\_\_\_ levels.
- 6. Select **File** → **Save All** to save the changes in ASProject1.



#### VIII. Deploying and Processing a Cube

At this point, you've defined the structure of the new cube - but there's still more work to be done. You still need to deploy this structure to an Analysis Services server and then process the cube to create the aggregates that make querying fast and easy.

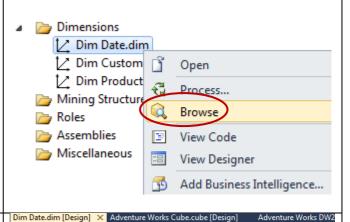




## IX. Exploring Date Dimension and add another hierarchy

**Visual Studio** includes a built-in **Cube Browser** which lets you interactively explore the data in the cube that has been deployed and processed. The Cube Browser is a drag-and-drop environment.

1. In **Solution Explorer**, **right click** on the dimension **Dim Date.dim** and select **Browse** option. The user-defined hierarchy **Calendar** appears in the Hierarchy list.



Dimension Structure Attribute Relationships Attribute Translations

🐔 | 👺 🗿 🚰 🔷 漏 🂷 簅 | Hierarchy: 🛕 Calendar

Current level: - (All)

± 🥝 2005

**±** 2006

± 2009

**3 2011** 

± 🥝 2012

⊞ ② 2014

⊟ 🍑 All

- 2. Expand **All** member to display the members of the **Calendar Year** level.
- 3. Expand the **2007** member to display the members of the **Calendar Semester** level.
- 4. Expand the **1** member to display the members of the **Calendar Quarter** level.
- 5. Expand the **2** member to display the members of the **English Month Name** level.
- 6. Expand the **June** member to display the members of the **Full Date Alternate Key** level.

Note: *Level* is a type of summary that can be retrieved from a single dimension.

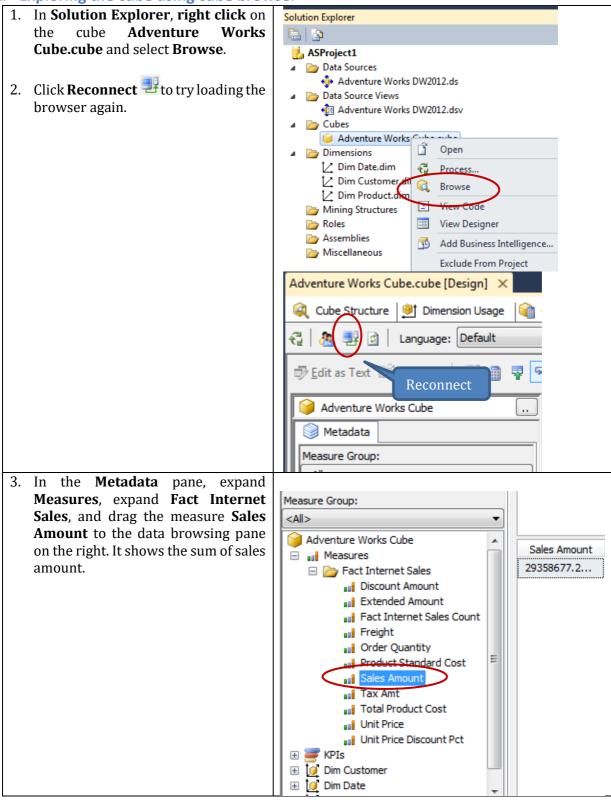
- 7. **Double click** the **Dim Customer.dim**, **add** the **MaritalStatus** field as an attribute.
- 8. Add 3 more fields in Dim Customer.dim to create another user defined hierarchy
  - EnglishCountryRegionName
  - StateProvinceName
  - City

Rename the hierarchy to Country-State-City.

- 9. Also edit **Dim Product.dim** to add the fields:
  - EnglishProductName
  - Color
  - ProductLine
- 10. Select **File** → **Save All** to save the changes. **Deploy** the cube again.



X. Exploring the cube using cube browser



To show the sales amount in each country, drag the English Country Adventure Works Cube Dimension Hierarch<sup>\*</sup> <Select dimension > Metadata Region Name attribute (under Dim Measure Group: Customer) to the data browsing pane. <All> ■ Freight English Country Region Name Order Quantity 9061000.58... Product Standard Cost Australia Sales Amount Canada 1977844.86... ■ Tax Amt 2644017.71... France Total Product Cost 2894312.33... ull Unit Price United Kingdom 3391712.21... ull Unit Price Discount Pct KPIs United States 9389789.51... ☐ I Dim Custome City geography key Marital Status State Province Name Country-State-City 5. To show the sales amount by country English Country Region Name Product Line Sales Amount and by product line, expand Dim Australia М 2906994.44... Product, right click Product Line, Australia R 5029120.40... and click Add to Query Australia s 127128.610... Т 997757.119... Australia Canada Μ 672429.314... R 948943.347... Canada s 82736.0700... Canada Canada Т 273736.129... France Μ 917158.250... France R 1323295.80... France s 55001.2099... 6. To show the sales amount by country □ 1 Dim Date and by product line in the first Calendar Quarter + Calenda quarter, expand **Dim Date**, right click Add to Query Calenda Calendar Quarter. Choose Add to Add to Filter Date Ker **Filter** English N Сору Full Date 7. Filter the result by choosing **first** Dimension Hierarchy Operator Filter Expression quarter. Dim Date Calendar Qu... Equal <Select dimension> Note: you are actually showing the **V 3** 1 sales amounts for the first calendar quarter of every calendar year, NOT English Country Region Name Product Line Sales Am 2906994. Australia for any particular calendar year. Australia R 5029120. Australia S 127128.6 Australia т 997757.1 Canada M 672429.3 R Canada 948943.3 82736.07

To show the sales amount by country Metadata and by product line for first quarter Measure Group: in the year 2012 only, expand Dim <All> Date → Calendar Year → Members → All. Right click the 2012 member □ 1 Dim Date and click Add to Filter. Calendar Semester Calendar Year 2005 2006 2007 2008 Ε 2009 2010 2011 Add to Query 2013 2019 Add to Filter 9. The result will be similar to this one. English Country Region Name Sales Amount Australia 123503.927 10. Select **File** → **Save All** to save the Australia R 272817.89 project. М 14455.2944 Canada R Canada 120967.395 France М 34968.5978 R 97388.0325 France М 18508.848 Germany R Germany 86045.325 М United Kingdom 41205.178 United Kingdom R 119381.265 United States 103035.2664 United States R 343564.3

#### XI. Exercise 1

1. Use the *Cube Browser* to browse the following results, save the results for each question using screen capture (e.g. in **jpg** or **png** format) and put <u>all the screenshots</u> in a MS Word file named **lab2B-ans.docx** 

- A. Total order quantity for each country
- B. Total order quantity by country and product line
- C. Total order quantity for each product color
- D. Total sales amount by country and product line for married customers only
- E. Total sales amount by country by product line in 2014 only
- F. Total sales amount by country in 2012 Quarter 2 only
- G. Compare sales amount quarter-by-quarter in each year
- H. Compare sales amount for Q1 and Q2 in 2012

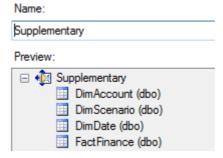
#### XII. Answer Submission

- 1. **Zip** your Analysis Services projects (**ASProject1 folder with ASProject1.sln**) that you created in C:\Users\demo\Documents\Visual Studio 2010\Projects. The default file name is **ASProject1.zip**
- 2. Submit the following files to the site <a href="http://buelearning.hkbu.edu.hk/">http://buelearning.hkbu.edu.hk/</a>
  - lab2B-ans.docx
  - ASProject1.zip

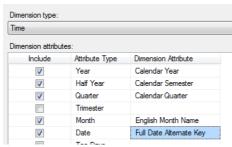
#### XIII. Supplementary (no need to submit)

Follow the steps below to create another cube which displays year-to-year budgets by account.

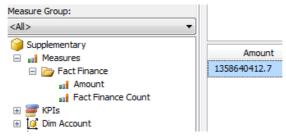
1. Create a *new Data Source View* named **Supplementary** which contains **FactFinance**, **DimAccount**, **DimDate**, **DimScenario**.



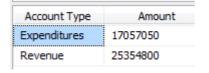
- 2. Create a *new cube* and select a suitable *measure group table*. (you may need to uncheck certain keys)
- 3. Add AccountType attribute to Dim Account.dim
- 4. Add ScenarioName attribute to Dim Scenerio.dim
- 5. Create a user defined hierarchy named **Calendar2** containing 5 levels for **Dim Date 1.dim**. Add *time dimension intelligence* as shown below.



6. Use Cube browser to calculate total amount.



- 7. **Deploy** the project.
- 8. Expand the **Dim Account** node and add the **Account Type** to data browsing pane.
- 9. Expand the **Dim Scenario** node and add the **Scenario Name** to the Field area.
- 10. Select Budget scenario name only.



## Part B: How to deploy a tabular model to Azure (Demonstration)

## I. What is Azure Analysis Service and Tabular model?

**Azure** is an open, flexible, enterprise-grade cloud computing platform. It provides many cloud computing services such as analysis service, data storage and management, virtual computing, machine learning and much more.

**Azure Analysis Services** is one of the services provided by Azure. It is an online analytical engine use in decision support and business analytics. It is a fully managed platform as a service (PaaS) that provides enterprise-grade data models in the cloud. The overall cost will be lower as the resources are allocated on demand and servers are automatically updated.

**Tabular model** was introduced in SQL Server 2012. It uses a different engine (xVelocity) and it is designed to be faster for queries based in columns. This engine **compresses** and **stores the data in memory** at runtime. It uses DAX for scripting which is similar to using excel formulas. Therefore, it is **faster to design, test, and deploy**. If you want to deploy/migrate a model to the cloud using Azure Analysis Services, you need to use **tabular model**. \*\*Multidimensional model is NOT supported by Azure Analysis Service.

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-overview

## II. Create Azure free account and create Analysis Service using Azure portal.

Create Azure free account (https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/free/students/)

Create a resource (**Analysis Service**) in Azure portal and **start** the service. Azure Analysis Service allows you to create a semantic model of your data that users can access directly with visualization tools like Power BI or Excel. It is built on the SQL Server Analysis Services tools that run on-premises with SQL Server.

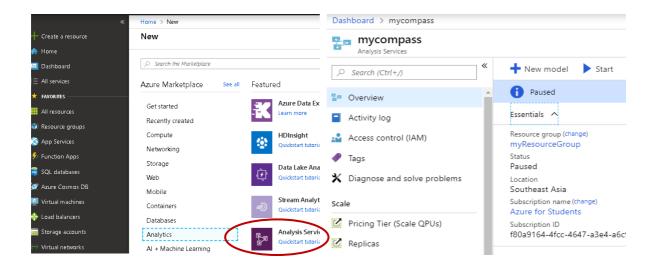
- Click + Create a resource > Analytics > Analysis Services
- Create new **resource group** for managing a collection of Azure resources
- Specify the **location**, which is the datacenter location that hosts the server (Better choose one that is nearest to you). Later, you need to connect to **the same** location via On-premise data gateway

Setting up the Azure analysis service:

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-create-server

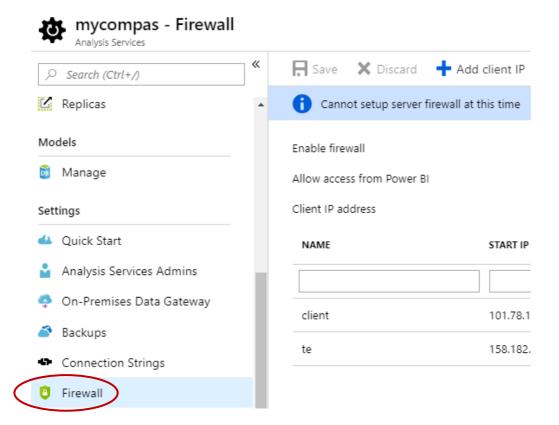
Pricing of Analysis Service:

https://azure.microsoft.com/en-au/pricing/details/analysis-services/

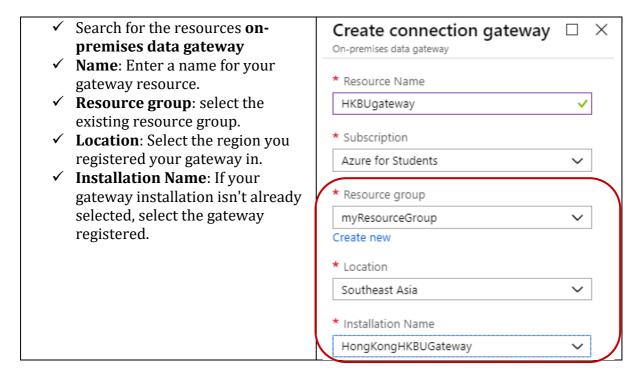


## III. Azure Analysis Services Firewall setting

Azure Analysis Services Firewall blocks all client connections other than those IP addresses specified in rules. Therefore, you need to add the IP address of your local machine in Azure portal.



## IV. Create on-premises data gateway in Azure portal

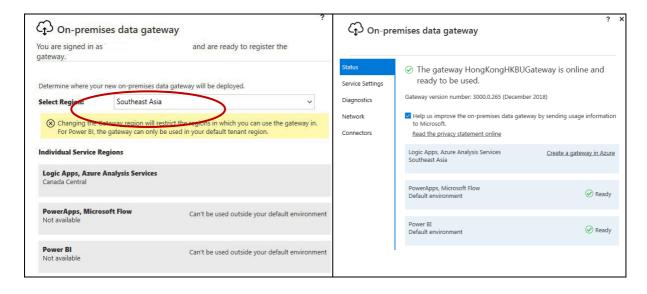


## V. Download and install on-premises data gateway

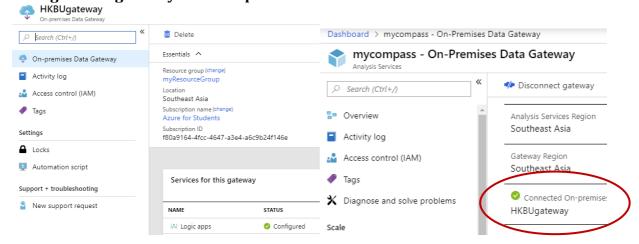
**Install** and configure **on-premises data gateway in your local machine** so that it can connect with the Azure cloud. This gateway creates an outbound connection to Azure Service. \*\*Remember to select the location you set before in section II.

#### To download the gateway:

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-gateway-install



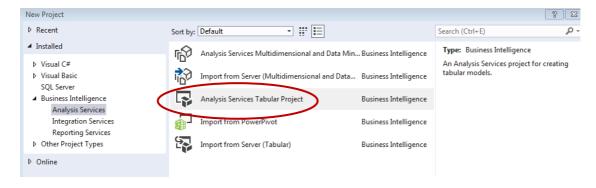
## Configure the gateway in Azure portal:



https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-gateway

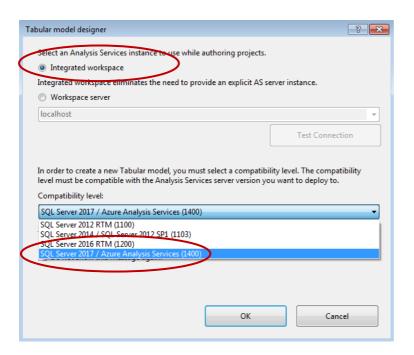
#### VI. Install the latest version of SSDT

In the latest version of SSDT, it supports **Tabular** Project. But if you are using the current version of SSDT in your VM with Visual Studio 2010 in FSC801 or RRS638, you may encounter a problem that workspace database server is not running in tabular mode. Therefore, using the latest version of SSDT is suggested. (e.g. Visual studio 2017 with SSDT)



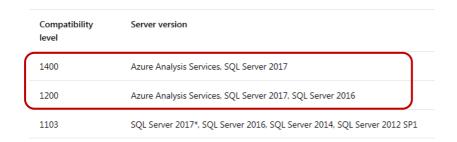
Choose **Integrated workspace** to eliminate the need for installing a Tabular instance for development purposes. **Integrated workspace** should be chosen so that you can deploy your model to Azure Analysis Services. (Visual Studio 2015 and Visual Studio 2017 offer integrated workspace server)

When creating a new tabular model project in SQL Server Data Tools (SSDT), you have to specify the compatibility level on the **Tabular model designer**. Azure Analysis Services supports tabular models at the 1200 and higher compatibility levels. In order to deploy the model to the Azure cloud, **compatibility level 1400** is suggested.



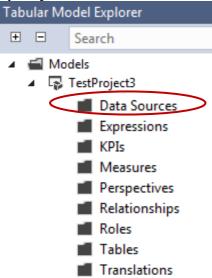
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/analysis-services/tabular-models/compatibility-level-for-tabular-models-in-analysis-services?view=sql-server-2017

## Supported compatibility levels by version

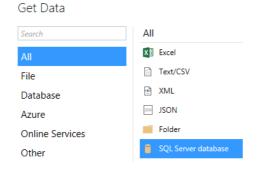


## VII. Create a tabular model using SSDT

a) Specify the data sources in Tabular Model Explorer



b) Get data from SQL Server Database



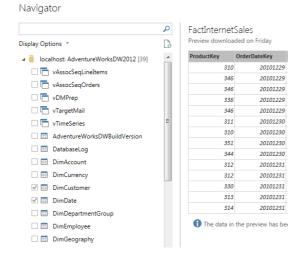
c) Enter credentials and select database

SQL Server database

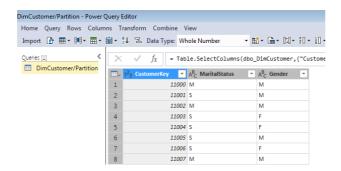
Server (i)		
localhost		
Database (optional)		
AdventureWorksDW2012		

Advanced options

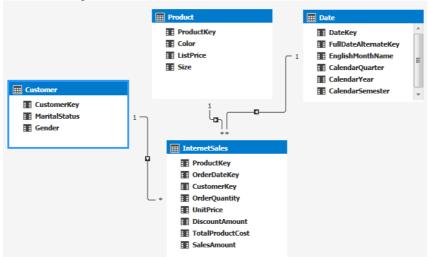
d) Import some tables and load the data into Tabular Data Model



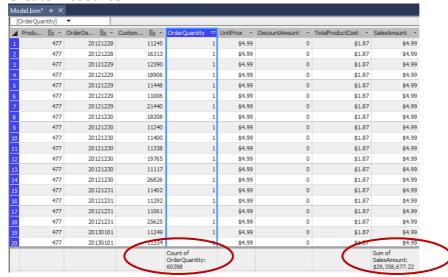
e) Edit the tables, choose columns, rename tables



f) Relationship:

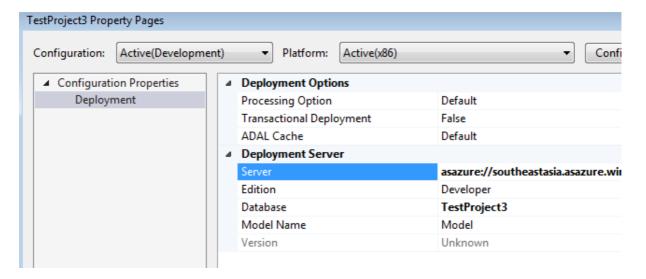


g) Create measures



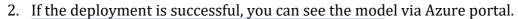
## VIII. Change deployment properties

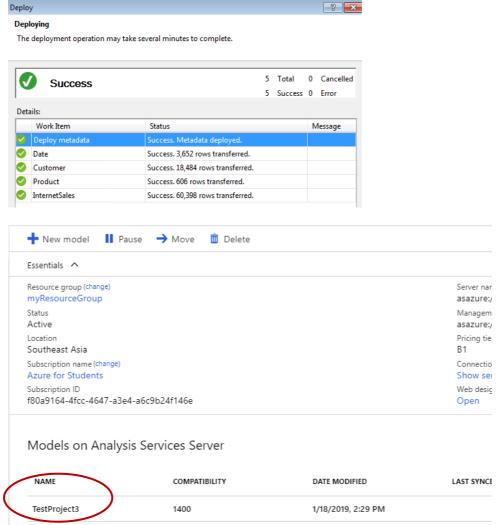
Change the deployment server to Azure Analysis service server



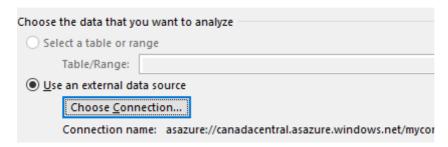
## IX. Deployment

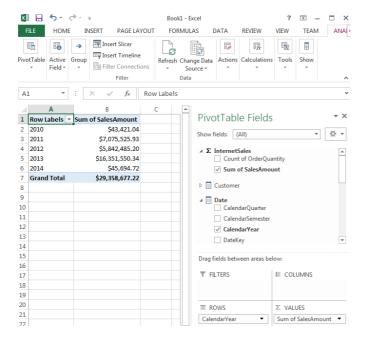
1. Grant the rights to some users under *NT SERVICE* group for connecting to the SQL server DW on your local machine.





- 3. Once you have deployed a tabular model on cloud, clients can connect and begin exploring data using some client tools like Power BI or Excel.
  - a) Connect with excel: <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-connect-excel">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-connect-excel</a>
    Change PivotTable Data Source





b) Connect with Power BI: <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-connect-pbi">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/analysis-services/analysis-services-connect-pbi</a>

#### X. Install the latest version of SSMS to manage the tabular project

To manage the Analysis Services project, you also need to install **latest version of SSMS**, you can delete a certain model with the SSMS.

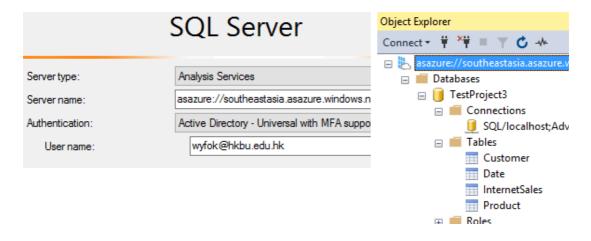
#### To download the latest version of SSMS:

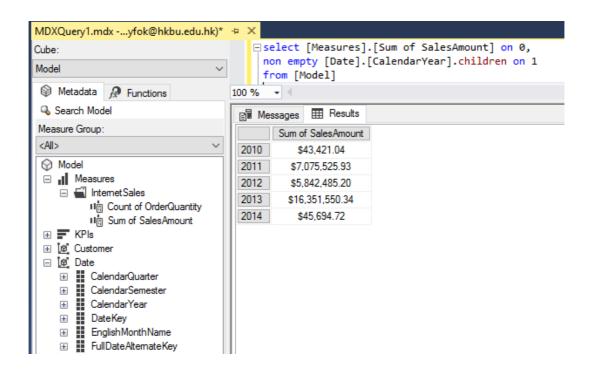
https://docs.microsoft.com/sql/ssms/download-sql-server-management-studio-ssms

#### To connect Azure with SSMS:

Before connecting to your server the first time, make sure your username is included in the Analysis Services Admins group, check the server name from Azure portal.

- 1. In SSMS > Object Explorer, click Connect > Analysis Services.
- 2. In the **Connect to Server** dialog box, paste in the server name, then in **Authentication**, choose **Active Directory Universal with MFA support**
- 3. **Username:** must be in your Azure Active Directory and must be specified by organizational email address (e.g. your school email address)





## XI. Reminder

**Pause the Azure Analysis Services** when you are not using it, thereby minimizing the costs.