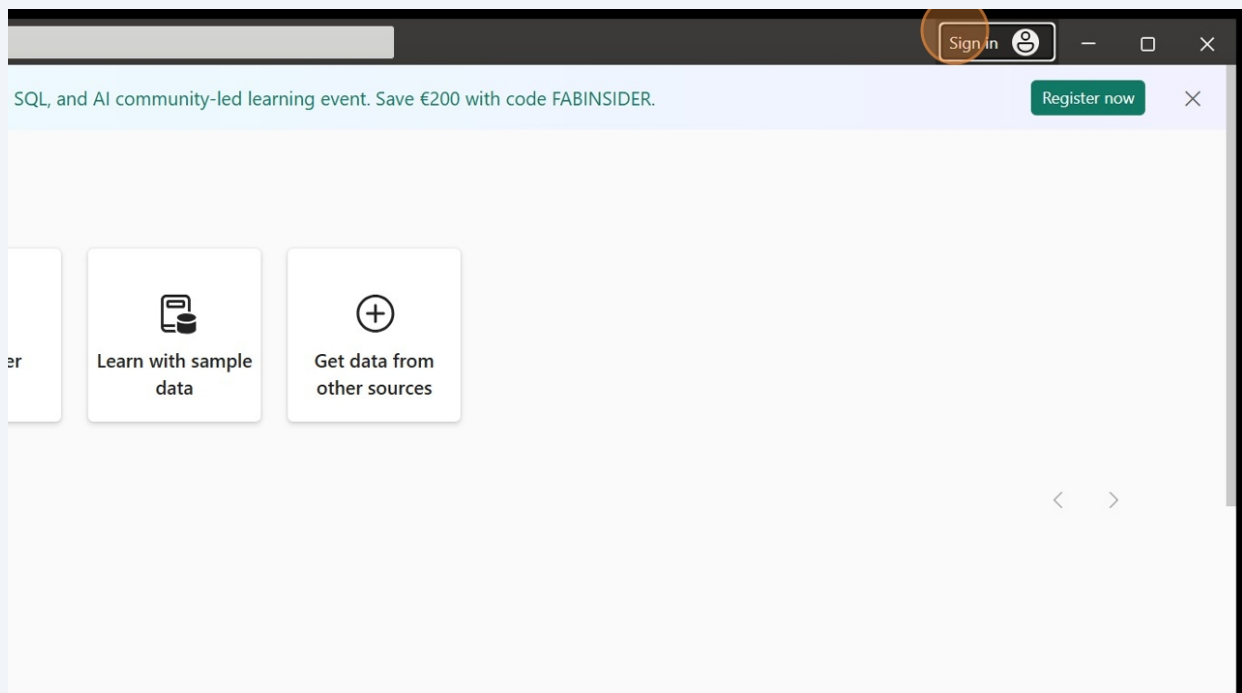# 4a. Option 1 - Create semantic model connections with Power BI desktop

Training. _tips_

Sign in to Power BI Desktop

1 Open Power BI desktop and click "Sign in".

2 Enter your workshop email address and click "Continue". You'll have to enter your email address one more time and then the password.

Enter your email address

Power BI Desktop and the Power BI service work better together. Sign in to enhance your collaboration and access organizational content.
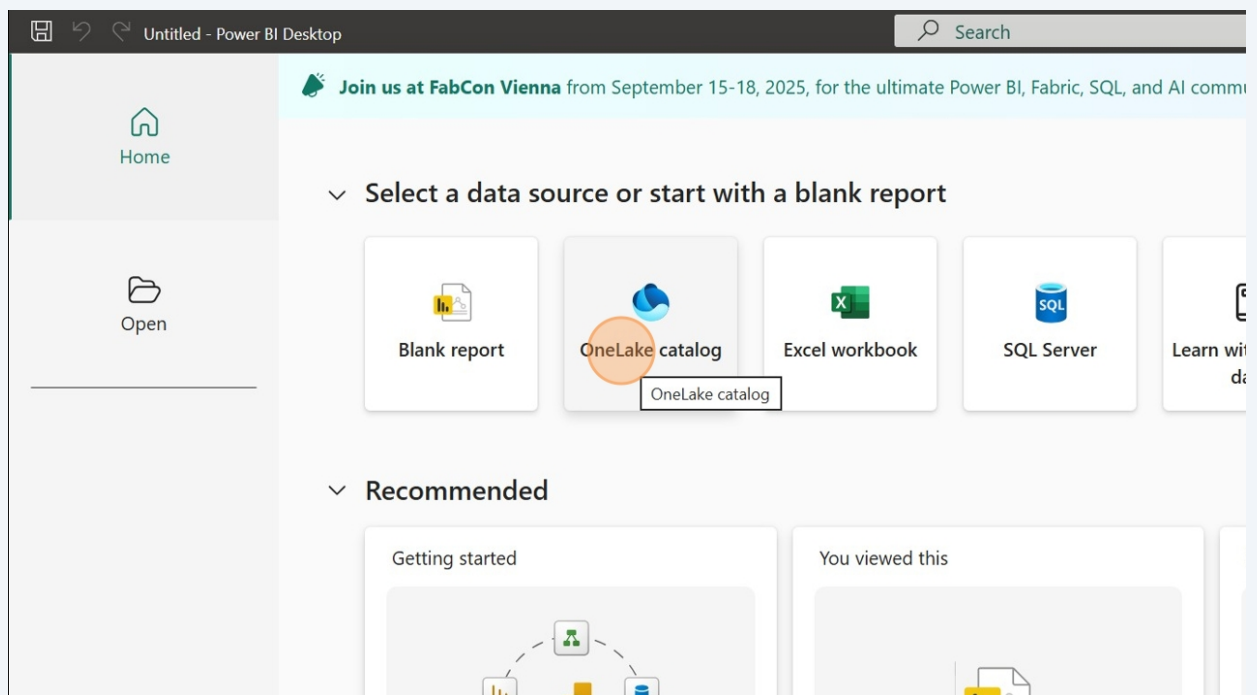
Email:
GSMF.user0XX@fabcon25eu.onmicrosoft.com

Continue   Cancel

Connect to the lakehouse - Import mode

3 We'll start by getting data from the lakehouse. Click the "OneLake catalog" button.

Untitled - Power BI Desktop   🔍 Search

Home

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Open

∨ Select a data source or start with a blank report

Blank report   OneLake catalog   Excel workbook   SQL Server   Learn wit
                 OneLake catalog   da

∨ Recommended

Getting started   You viewed this

4 Navigate to your lakehouse in your workspace and click the name of the lakehouse.

	Name	Owner	Refreshed	Location	Endorsement
	fabcon info	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—
	FabCon Sessions	Stephanie Bruno	9/8/25, 12:03:23 PM	Public	—
	udf_fabcon_session_attendees	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—
	fabcon sessions dl2	Stephanie Bruno	9/10/25, 12:23:36 P...	Public	—
	fabcon_info	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—
	Fabric Chargeback Reporting	Stephanie Bruno	9/13/25, 12:07:50 ...	Fabric Chargeback R...	—
	Fabric Capacity Metrics	Stephanie Bruno	9/13/25, 12:15:04 ...	Microsoft Fabric Cap...	—
	skiing	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—

Learn more about c

⚠ Alert! On the next step, do not click the "Connect" button, rather click the down arrow next to the "Connect" button.

5   Don't just click the big green Connect button, because then you'll connect in Direct Lake mode. We want to import this data today. Click the down arrow next to the Connect button and then select "Connect to SQL endpoint."

	Owner	Refreshed	Location	Endorsement	Sensitivity
	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—	—
s	Stephanie Bruno	9/8/25, 12:03:23 PM	Public	—	—
ion_attendees	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—	—
dl2	Stephanie Bruno	9/10/25, 12:23:36 P...	Public	—	—
	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public	—	—
ck Reporting	Stephanie Bruno	9/13/25, 12:07:50 ...	Fabric Chargeback R...	—	—
Metrics	Stephanie Bruno	9/13/25, 12:15:04 ...	Microsoft Fabric Cap...		
	Stephanie Bruno	—	Public		

Connect to OneLake ⓘ

Connect to SQL endpoint ⓘ

Connect ⌄   Cancel

Learn more about connection options ⬀

6   Check the boxes next to both the "sessions" table and the "speakers" table. (If you weren't able to get through the Dataflow Gen2 lab, you can alternatively connect to the two "raw_" tables instead, but your report just won't be quite as nice.) Click the "Load" button.

- ☐ 🖿 queryinsights.frequently_run_queries
- ☐ 🖿 queryinsights.long_running_queries
- ☐ 🖿 sys.managed_delta_table_checkpoints
- ☐ 🖿 sys.managed_delta_table_forks
- ☐ 🖿 sys.managed_delta_table_log_files
- ☐ 🖿 sys.managed_delta_tables
- ☐ 🖿 sys.sys_dw_checkpoint_files
- ☐ 🖿 sys.sys_dw_manifest_files
- ☐ 🖿 sys.sys_dw_physical_table_forks
- ☐ 🖿 sys.sys_dw_physical_tables
- ☐ 🖿 sys.sys_dw_schemas
- ☐ ▦ raw_2025_europe_sessions
- ☐ ▦ raw_2025_europe_speakers
- ☐ ▦ session_tags
- ☑ ▦ sessions
- ☑ ▦ speakers

Preview is evaluating...

Select Related Tables   Load   Transform Data   Cancel

7 Leave this checked as "Import" and click the "OK" button.

Connection settings

You can choose how to connect to this data source. Import allows you to bring a copy of the data into Power BI. DirectQuery will connect live to this data source.

- ⦿ Import
- ◯ DirectQuery
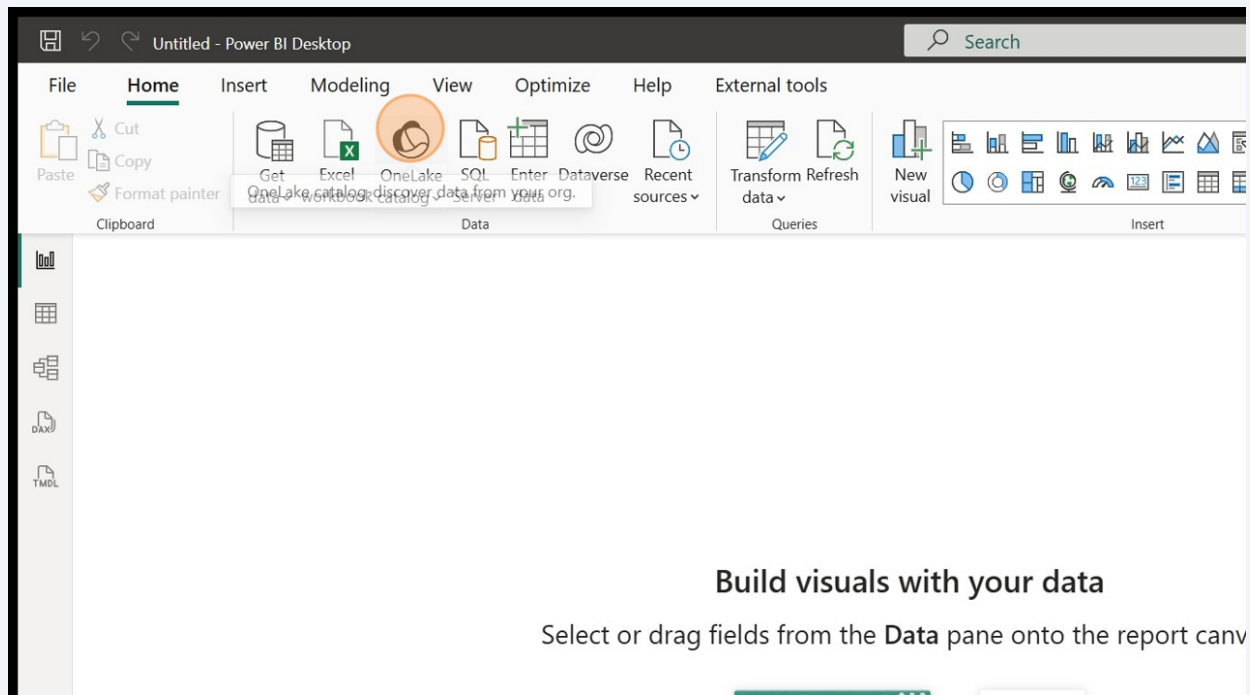
Learn more about DirectQuery

OK   Cancel

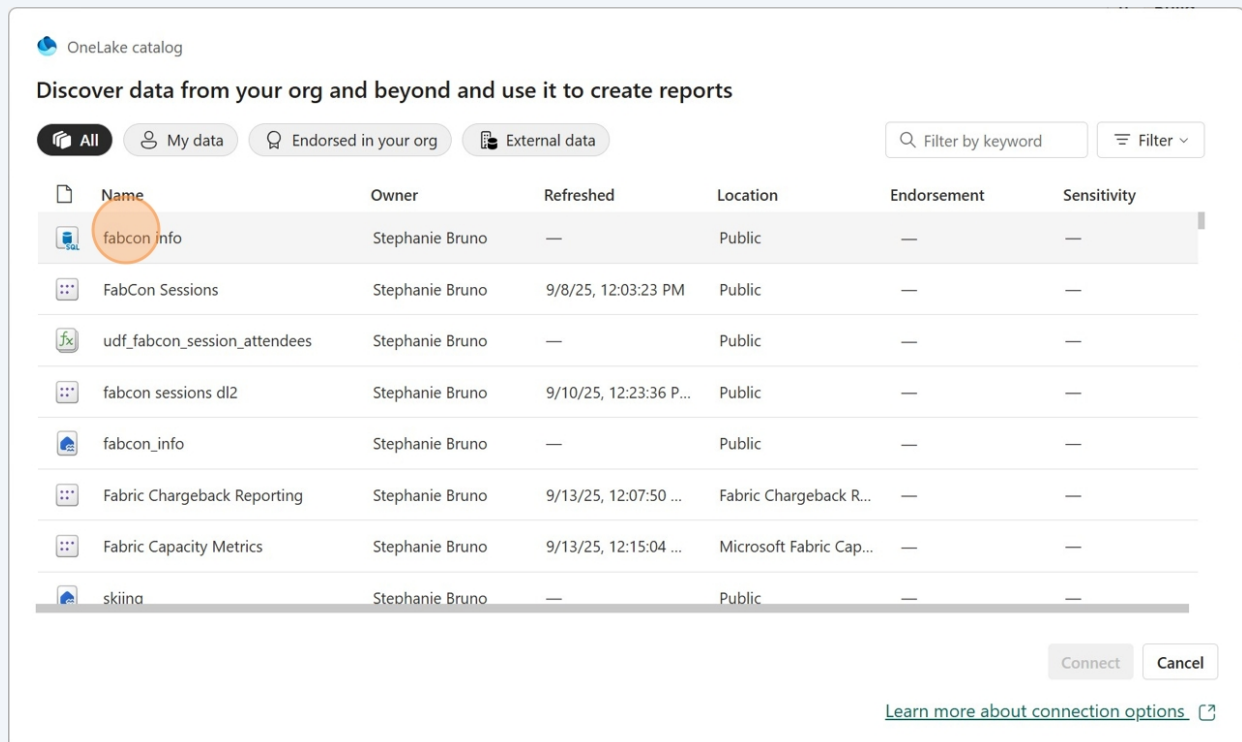# Connect to the SQL database - DirectQuery mode

8 Now we'll get the attendees table from the SQL database. Click the "One Lake catalog" button again.

9 Now navigate to your SQL database and click it. Click the "Connect" button.

10 Check the box next to the "attendees" table and click the "Load" button.
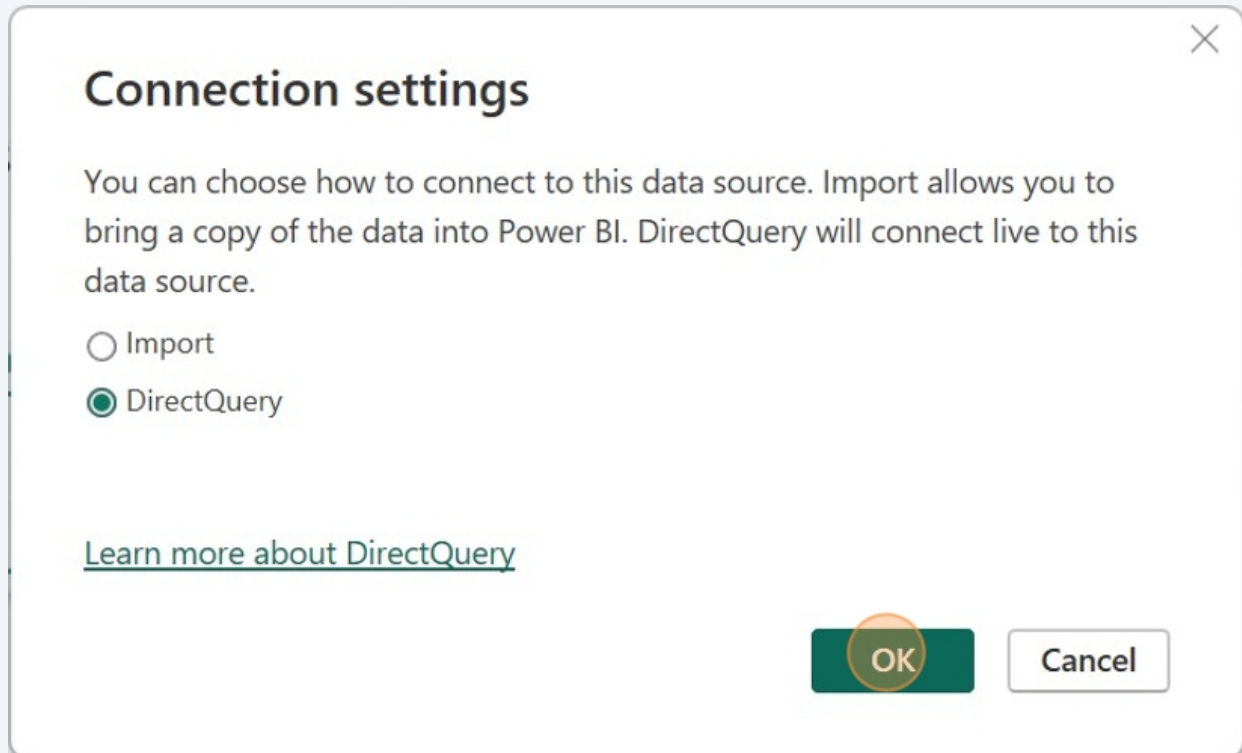

Alert! Make sure to choose DirectQuery for the next step.

11 For this table, we want the mode to be "DirectQuery" so we can do our write-back and have the updates automatically show in the report. Click "DirectQuery" and then the "OK" button.

Connection settings

You can choose how to connect to this data source. Import allows you to bring a copy of the data into Power BI. DirectQuery will connect live to this data source.

○ Import

● DirectQuery

Learn more about DirectQuery

OK   Cancel

12 Click "OK"

Potential security risk

When you add a second data source, information from one data source might be included in queries that are sent to other data sources. Only add another source if you trust the owners and admins with the data.
Do you want to build this model?

Learn more

OK   Cancel

Publish to Fabric

13 Now we have three tables in a new model. We'll publish it to the Power BI service before making any more changes. Click the "Publish" button.

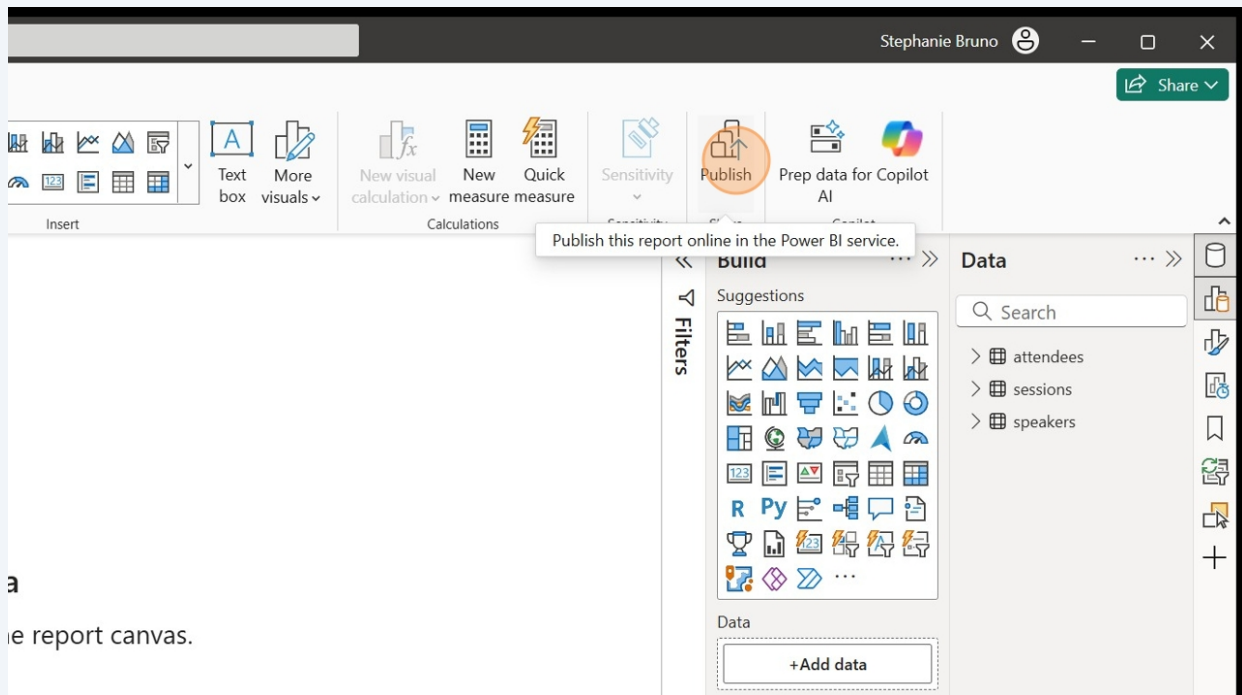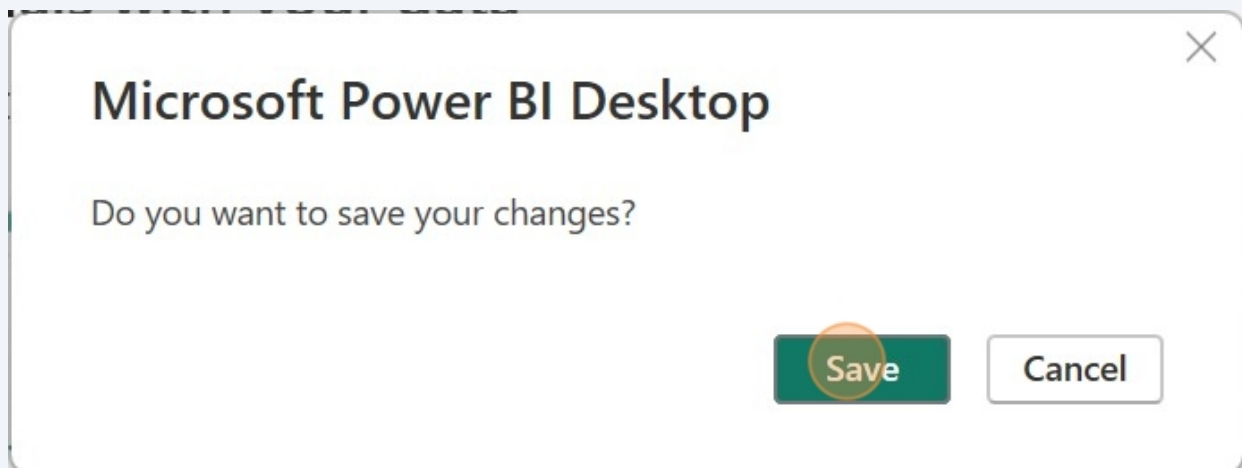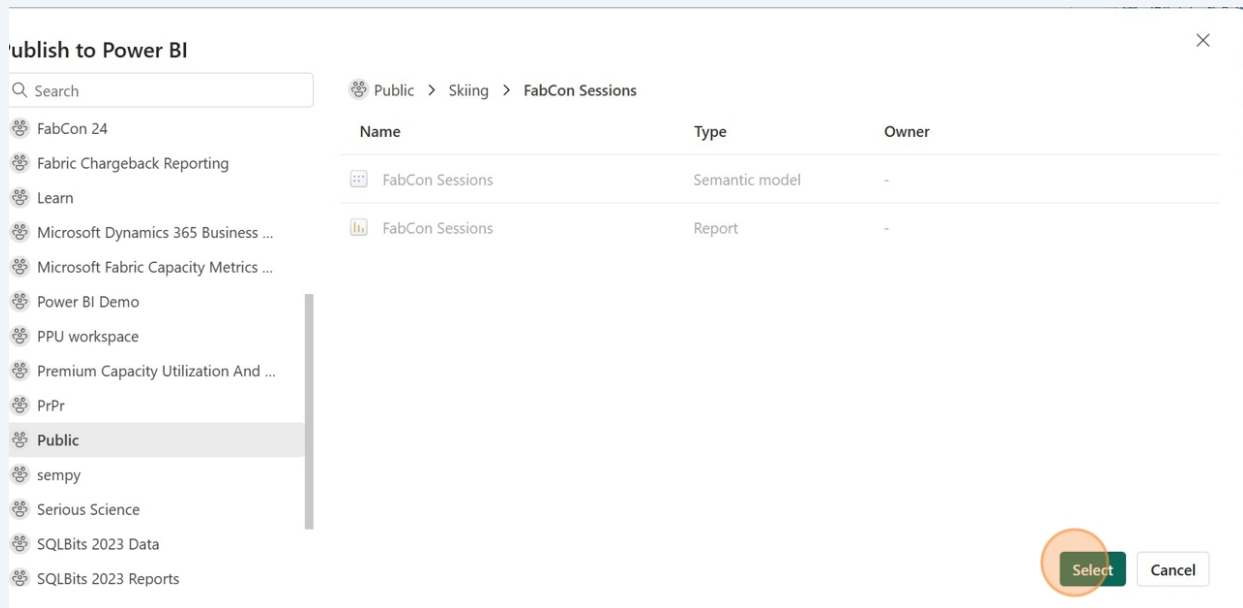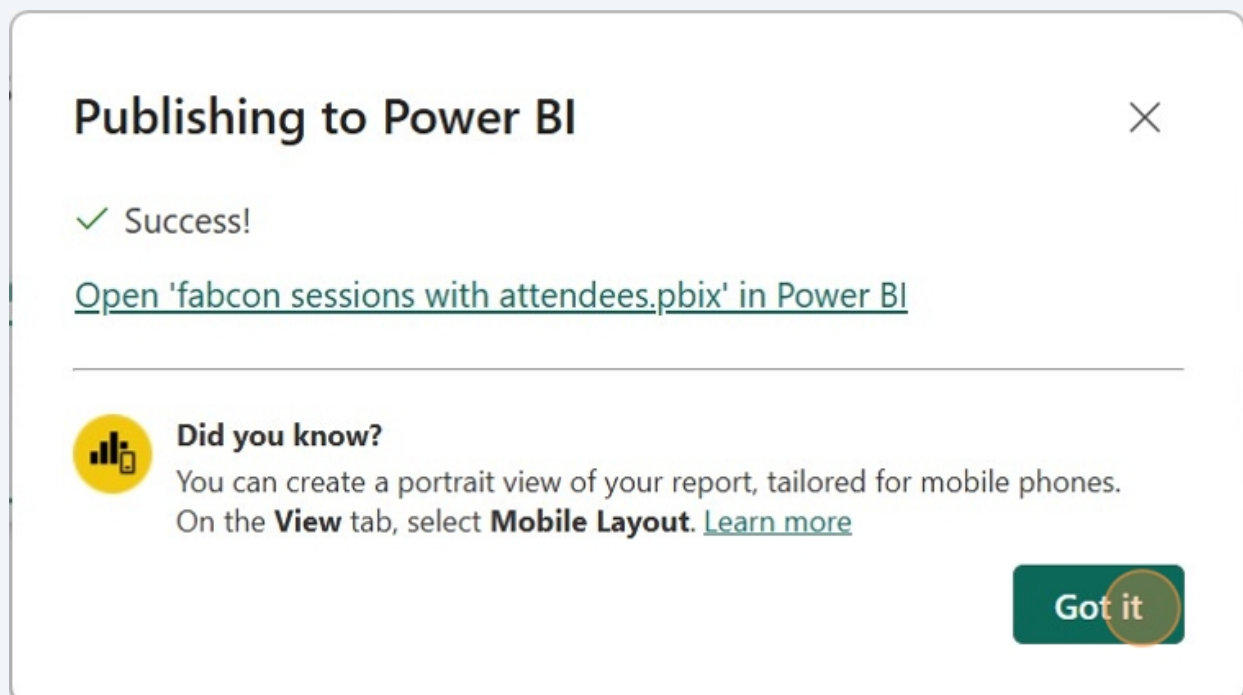**14** When you get a message asking you to Save the file, click the "Save" button and select a location.

15 Navigate to your workspace and click the "Select" button. This is where the model will be published.

Publish to Power BI   ✕

🔍 Search

👥 FabCon 24 | 👥 Public > Skiing > FabCon Sessions
👥 Fabric Chargeback Reporting
👥 Learn | Name   Type   Owner
👥 Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business ... | 🔲 FabCon Sessions   Semantic model   -
👥 Microsoft Fabric Capacity Metrics ... | 📊 FabCon Sessions   Report   -
👥 Power BI Demo
👥 PPU workspace
👥 Premium Capacity Utilization And ...
👥 PrPr
👥 **Public**
👥 sempy
👥 Serious Science
👥 SQLBits 2023 Data   [Select] [Cancel]
👥 SQLBits 2023 Reports

16 Click "Got it"

Publishing to Power BI   ✕

✓ Success!

Open 'fabcon sessions with attendees.pbix' in Power BI

Did you know?
You can create a portrait view of your report, tailored for mobile phones.
On the **View** tab, select **Mobile Layout**. Learn more

[Got it]

17 Great! Now we have a starter semantic model published to the workspace. We'll continue to edit it in the workspace.