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# GET TO KNOW AZURE DATA STUDIO

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BY MARGARITA NAUMOVA

# About the e-book

This e-book introduces Azure Data Studio and helps you discover the main ADS features you can use for your daily job. It starts with installing and using the basic querying features in ADS and goes through more advanced concepts in an easy and exciting way by using examples and visuals. It goes beyond the basics explaining your next steps of developing modules and using notebooks. You will understand how to organize your files in workspace and even customize your ADS environment. The book is a good starting companion of your ADS journey.

## About the author

**Margarita Naumova** is a well-known Bulgarian SQL Expert. Magi has achieved the highest possible SQL Server Technical Certification in the field – Microsoft Certified Master, making her one of the best SQL Server Experts Worldwide, among the top one percent of IT professionals in the World.

She has almost 20 years of SQL Server and BI technologies experience delivering consulting and training in Bulgaria and abroad (UK, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Cyprus, Norway) and is a trusted advisor for major Bulgarian customers in SQL Server Platform Area.

She works in the area of Designing and Architecting SQL Server and BI Platform Solutions, SQL Server Performance Tuning and Optimization, High Availability and Disaster Recovery SQL Server Solutions, and Azure Data Platform solution design.

Magi Naumova is a leader and founder of Bulgarian SQL & BI User Group “Let’s SQL Together!” and is a regular presenter of the largest IT events in Bulgaria and in Europe.

She is a CEO of two companies - Inspirit LTD located in Sofia and Inspir-IT AS located in Oslo. Both are Data platform companies delivering services in Bulgaria and Norway. She is an author and founder of SQL Master Academy – a SQL Training Program that has helped hundreds of specialists to feel knowledgeable in their daily work or to find an inspirational career path in the world of SQL Server.

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# Introduction to ADS

When it comes to tools it is easy to say that we are in the age of developers' heaven. There are so many tools it is hard to choose the right one to work with. When you work with SQL Server and Azure, the thinks are not different. We have SSMS, VS, Visual Studio Code, ML Studio and Azure Data Studio. It's time to differentiate Azure Data Studio among the others.

Azure Data Studio goes further then all those tools and can be a great choice for those who work with data, develop code in T-SQL but also use Python, Scala and R. It works with many data sources and on different platforms, it comes with Intellisense, code snippets, integration for source control and an integrated terminal.

Azure Data Studio is a cross platform and cross database tool which offers a modern editor experience for managing data across multiple sources with fast intellisense, code snippets, source control integration, and an integrated terminal. Azure Data Studio is engineered with the data platform user in mind, with built-in charting of query result-sets and customizable dashboards.

(<https://azure.microsoft.com/en-ca/updates/azure-data-studio-is-now-available/>)

The Azure Data Studio is not an entirely new tool, it has its predecessor called SQL Operations Studio, which was developed with an idea of having a cross platform tool to work with SQL Server not only under OS Windows like SSMS or VS do, but on Linux and MAC as well. As part of the SQL Server Linux age, starting SQL Server 2017 and above the releasing of the tool back in November 2017, which covers many aspects of this multi-platform work with monthly releases since then.

This was how the tool officially released back in the late 2017. Many features have been added and improved since its first release, but a primary focus of the tool remains the same as a best tools developer can use on Mac and Linux (even Windows) to develop and manage their SQL data stored on premises and in Azure.

You probably have already gotten the main difference this tool has comparing to the one we already know but let me emphasize the most important.

ADS run not only on Windows but currently installs on macOS and Linux. You can choose the platform when you download the ADS from the official download page: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/azure-data-studio/download?view=sql-server-ver15>

In Azure Data Studio you can connect to multiple data systems, not just SQL Server. These are: All SQL Server data sources on premise and in Azure cloud including Azure Managed Instance, Azure SQL database and Azure Synapse (Azure SQL Datawarehouse), as well as Apache Hadoop HDFS, Apache Spark™, Postgre SQL Servers. You can create more sources, because the tool is extendable, which is yet another big advantage of it.

Development environment includes many options a data professional or a database developer would need in his daily job. Some of them are IntelliSense keyword completion, code snippets, code navigation for creating and deploying T-SQL code, as well as many options for tuning the environment, starting from choosing color schema, going through organizing connections in groups and ending up with workspaces, which are very similar to project experience we have in VS, but is more flexible in including many files located in different places in a single workspace. The editor experience includes working with extended object and code search, replacing all occurrences of a code, and multiple integrated terminals running at the same time, which help us avoid switching in out of the editor each time you want to do some command line work. By using terminals, we can have PowerShell and CMD running, or even an Azure Command-line interface (CLI) shell quick command.

There's support for Git in Azure Data Studio inherited from VS Code. ADS ships with a Git source control manager (SCM). We still need to install Git (version 2.0.0 or later) before these features are available in ADS.

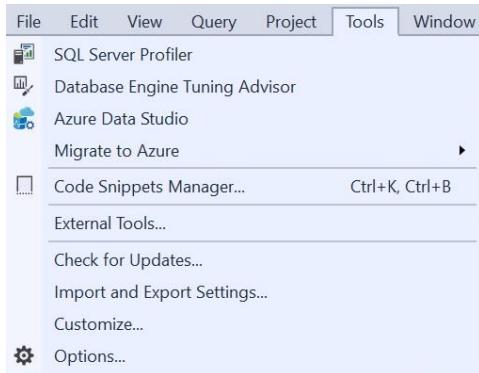
Extensibility is probably one of the great benefits of ADS. You use JSON for tuning configuration settings and customizing the environment including workspaces or adding custom snippets, and creating widgets to show information about your system. But there is more than that, the tool is built with the extensibility in mind and adding extensions comes as a new and exciting task.

This allows the tool to work as a platform, which we can extend and customize according to our needs. Extensions come as additional installations we perform from inside the tool by downloading them from Git, or we can add extensions from VS Code, we can even develop our own extension. Some extensions examples coming in the product are SQL Server Agent for managing jobs, SQL Server 2019 (Preview)

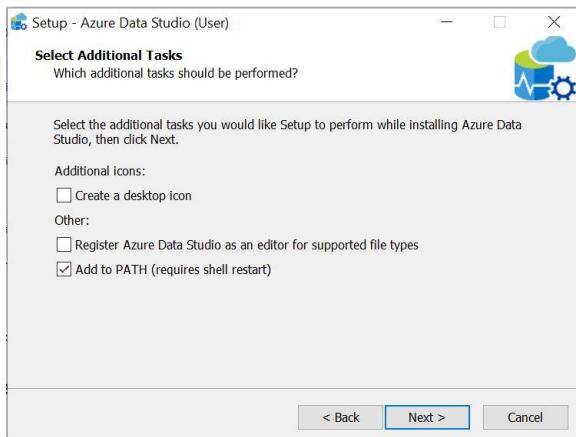
from connecting to Big Data Cluster, Admin Pack for SQL Server containing SQL Server Agent, Import from text files, SQL Server Profiler and SQL Server dacpac, SQL Server Schema Compare and many more.

# First steps in ADS – installing and defining connections

Installation of ADS is rather simple. We need to download the latest product version first. We can find the link in SSMS 18. Once the ADS is installed on the machine clicking on the command runs it.

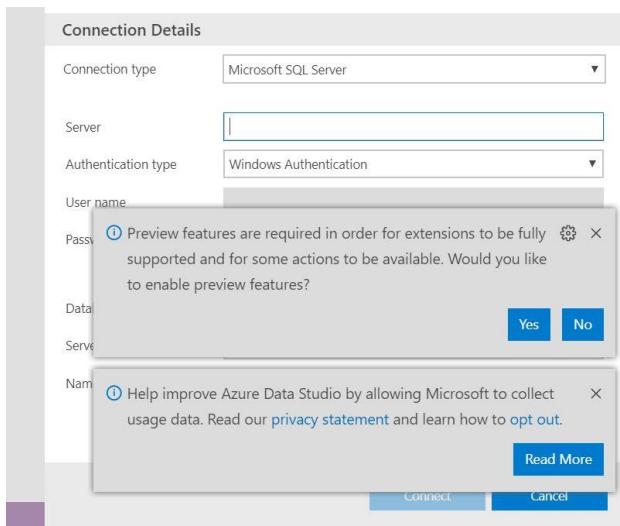


After downloading the product from the official download link, we need to just specify the default folder and the default choice of creating the Azure Data Studio Start menu folder. It is good to perform an installation of both Git and Tortoise Git first so that we have this support later in the tool.

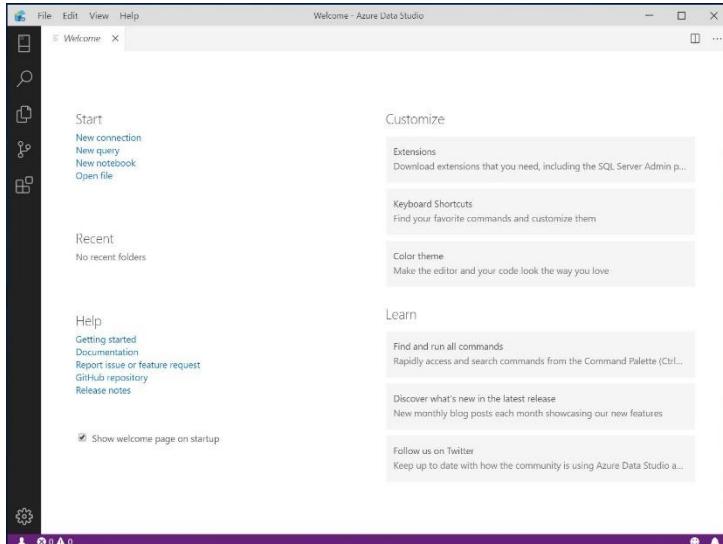


The default installation directory is located under the local user's profile. Also, you will need about 400 MB of free space to complete the install.

When we first start the product, we are asked to enable the preview features. It is a very good idea to click **Yes**, because we will have more support on new features and extensions.



Then we are welcomed in the tool. From its first screen we can start using the ADS by choosing to customize the appearance, learn how to find and run commands, getting help or just starting a new connection or a new query.

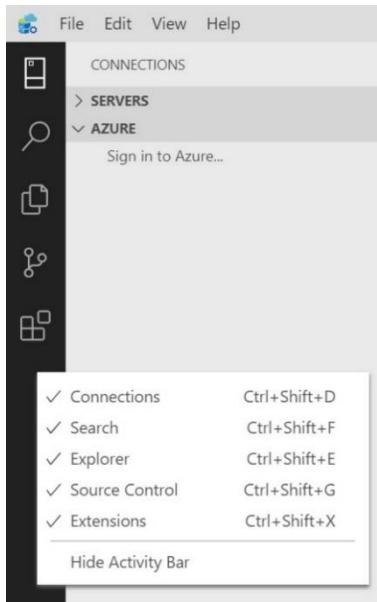


The left side of the window is the Activity bar, which contains five important features:

- Connections
- Search
- Explorer

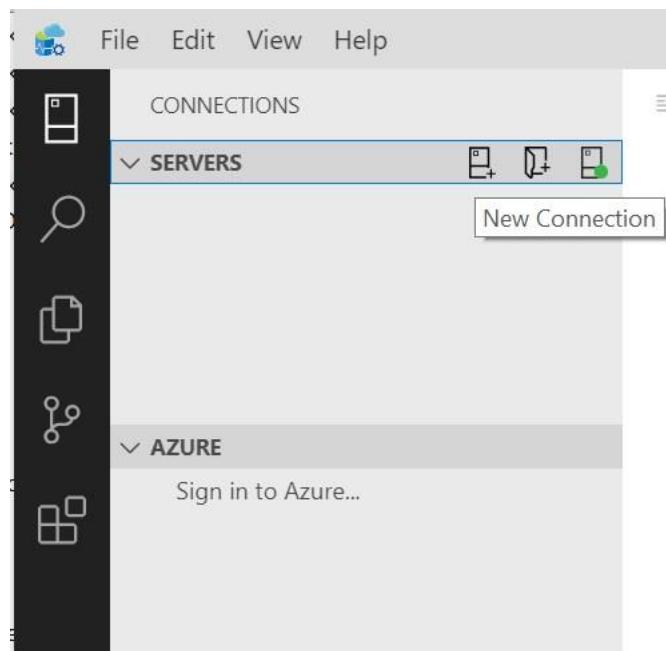
- Source Control
- Extensions

All of them have short keys. Right clicking on the activity bar can show or hide them.

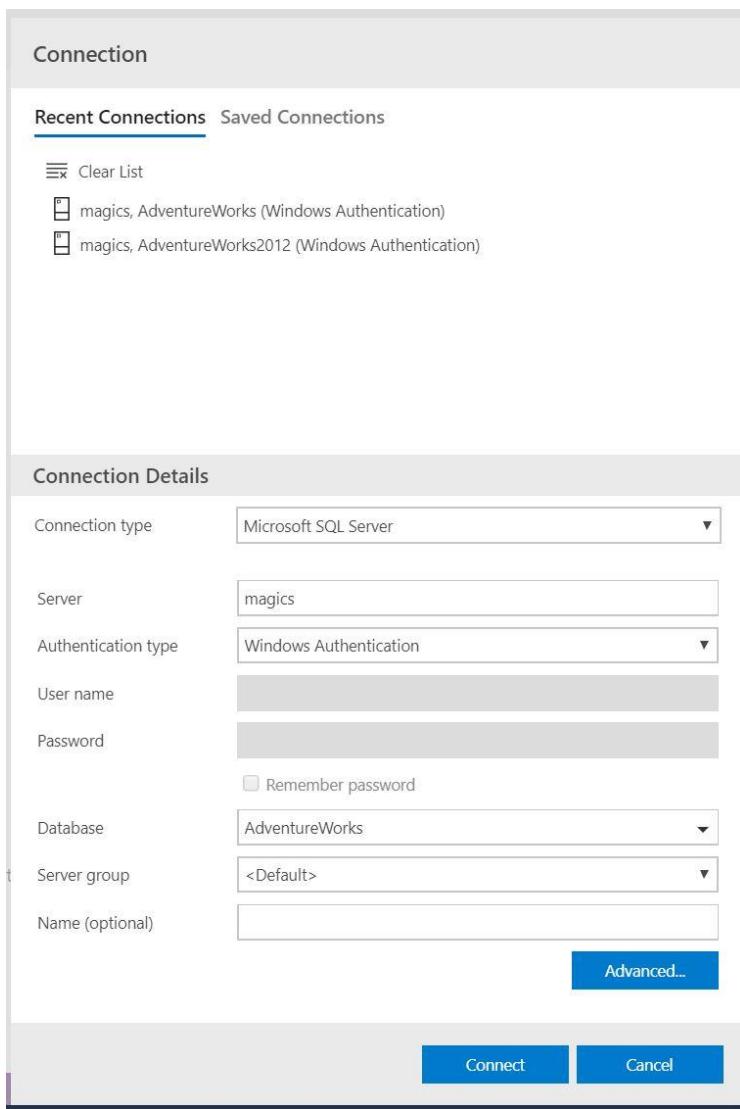


Let us start by discovering connections first and then let's run a simple query in SQL Server database and in Azure SQL Database.

We can start creating a connection from multiple places in ADS. The most common is by clicking New Connection button next to SERVERs group in Connections menu



Not surprisingly creating a connection requires providing the server name and the credentials. We can optionally select a specific database. In this case the connection will always be associated with this database, and we will have it as a default once we need to create a query.



A connection can optionally have a name which will appear in the server list. The tool shows a list of all recent connections performed.

When start working with one server, we define a connection and it appears in the SERVERS group, then we will be able to find it easy and reuse it. But what if we have many servers, databases from different servers, and Azure database connections. It could be useful to be able to group them. This is what Server Groups are in ADS. Let's add two server groups with names TEST and PROD and then move our newly created connection to the TEST server group.

To add a new server group, we use the New Group command button next to SERVERs group in Connections menu, we choose the color and press OK.

Add server group

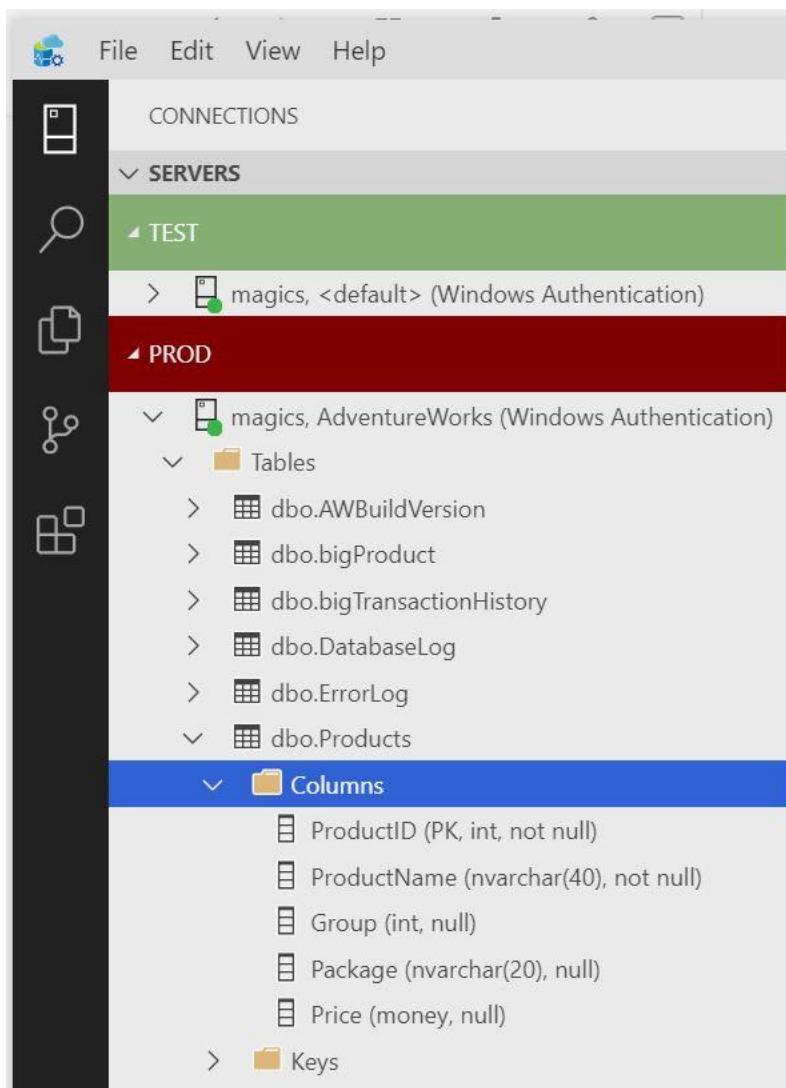
Server group name

Group description

Group color  


We create the second server Group PROD with a red color. Then in order to move our existing connection to newly created PRDO Group we drag the connection and drop it over the target server group name bar.

We create another connection in the TEST Server Group by right clicking on the header of the Server group. An alternative is to specify the server group in connection properties. Now we have our connections ordered and in groups. And as expected exploring a connection shows all objects just like SSMS does, so I can see tables and columns.

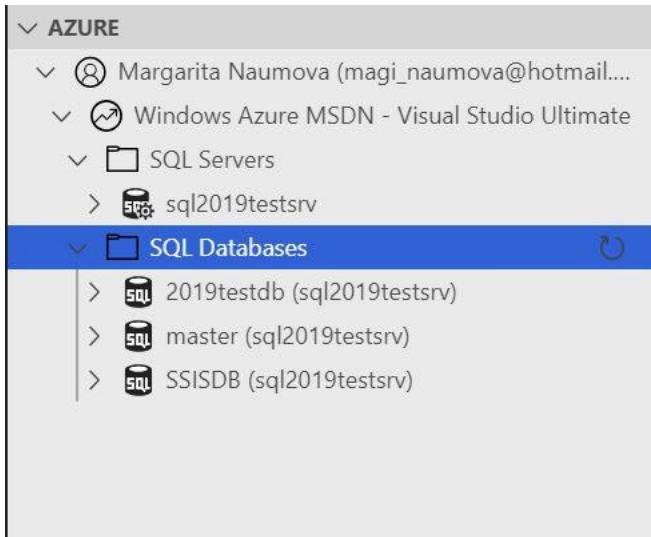


What is still missing is Azure connection. The azure connection group allows the ADS to scan the available servers and databases in a subscription. But before doing so a signing is required and a registration of the device, which means I need to authenticate my computer using the device login URL and a user code provided by ADS. Instructions are easy to follow by clicking Copy&Open button.

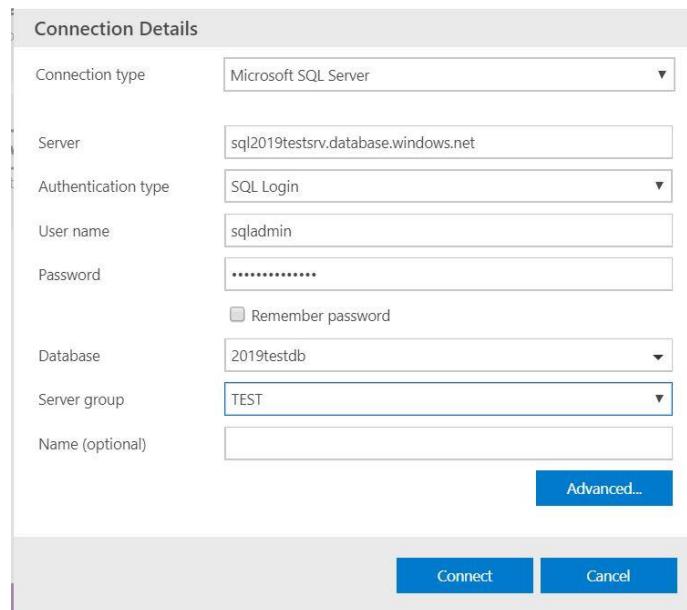
Once I register my computer, ADS can scan my subscriptions and lists all possible SQL Connections. This doesn't mean we can connect yet. I still need to be sure I have my IP address added to Azure SQL Server which I need to connect to. Security configuration of Azure connections is outside of ADS scope, but you need to make sure the IP address is added to the SQL Server firewall list, you can do it in azure portal.

The first time I click on the Azure SQL Server or any database it contains, the ADS Opens the connection

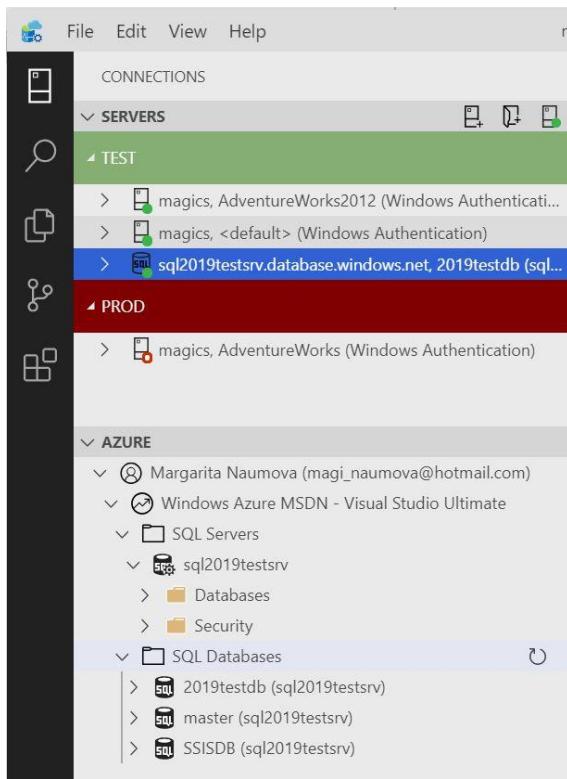
menu for me asking for the account password. It's better to save it for having smooth experience with it later.



Azure connection can be moved to SERVERS group or any other custom created server group. We click on Add to Servers button on the right of Azure Database Connection name, which opens the connection, then we type the password and we specify the server group which we want to have that connection in.



We have all connections grouped and places properly now:

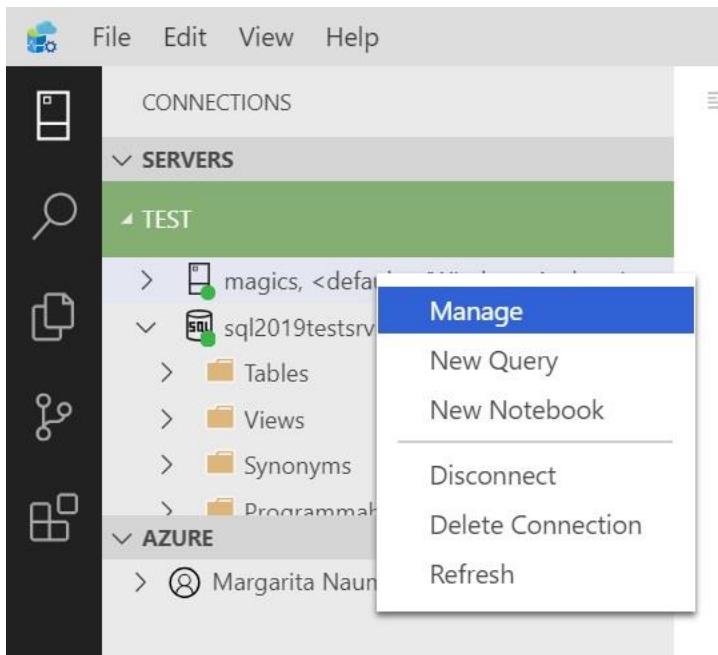


Now its time to see how we can use these connections to query data and write code.

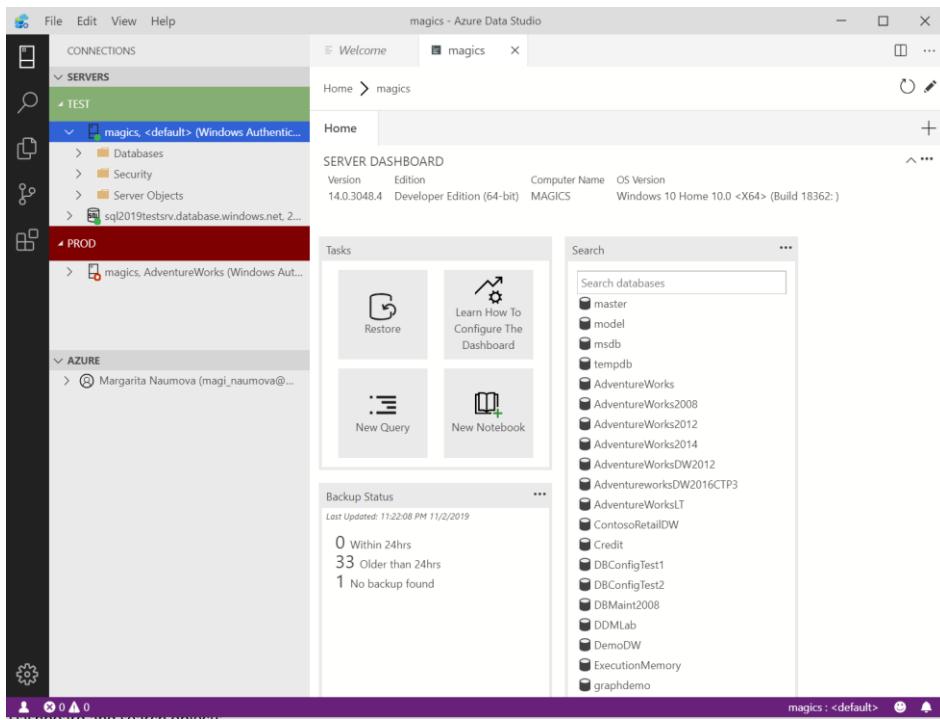
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# Getting further – writing queries in ADS Query Editor

Let us continue our journey by performing queries and data analysis by using ADS Query Editor. We need to understand the concept of server and database dashboards first. Right clicking on the connection or a database provides us with two commands – Manage and New Query. The Manage command opens a dashboard, either server or database dashboard depending on what we have right clicked.



Dashboard is a combination of widgets for a database or a server. The widgets we have in the dashboard by default are Tasks and Search, and a header information.



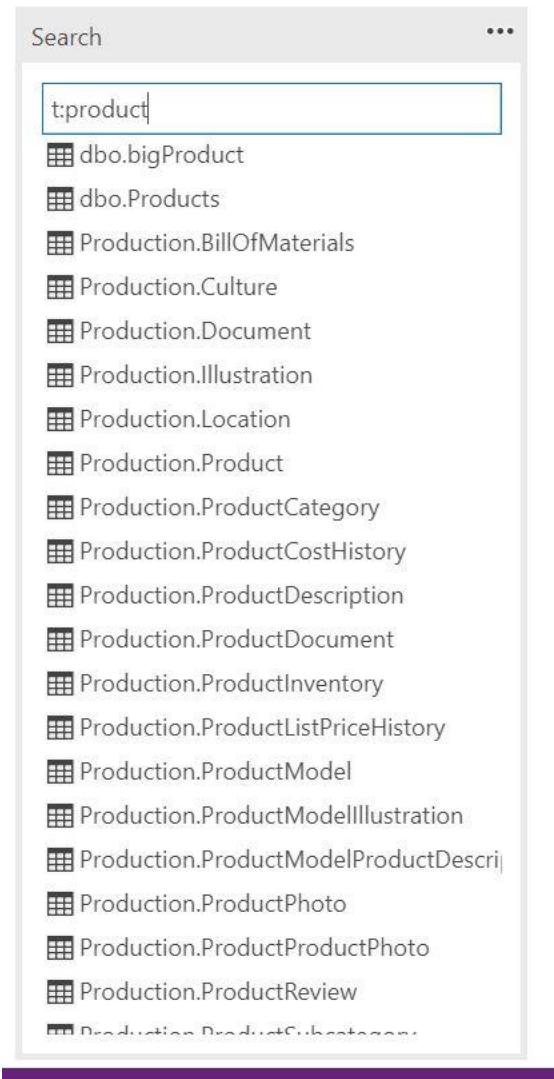
We can customize the dashboard by including widgets coming from the queries we type or using sample insight widget we are provided with like *the five slowest queries* sample widget or *table space usage* widget. We can also customize SERVER dashboard by adding metrics to our server to measure resource utilization or workload intensity. Let us do the thinks one step at a time.

Lets assume we need to perform analysis. The purpose of our analysis is to analyze product prices so we can decide how to optimize the price or the profit of some of our products. We need to have this analysis as a persistent module in our database, so we can reuse it. Let's find tables we will work with first. Double clicking on the AdventureWorks database in the SEARCH widget will get us to the database dashboard. We can search by object type there or by object name or by both. To search for tables we need to type t:, we type v: for views, sp: for stored procedures and f: for functions.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Power BI Database Dashboard for the AdventureWorks database. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home' selected. Below it, the 'DATABASE DASHBOARD' section displays basic database properties: Recovery Model (Full), Last Database Backup (8/1/2019 11:37:17 AM), Last Log Backup (Never), Compatibility Level (140), and Owner (Owner). To the right is a search bar with the letter 't' typed in, which lists various database objects starting with 't'. On the left, there's a 'Tasks' panel with four buttons: 'New Query', 'New Notebook', 'Backup', and 'Restore'. Below the tasks is a link to 'Learn How To Configure The Dashboard'. The main area shows a list of database objects:

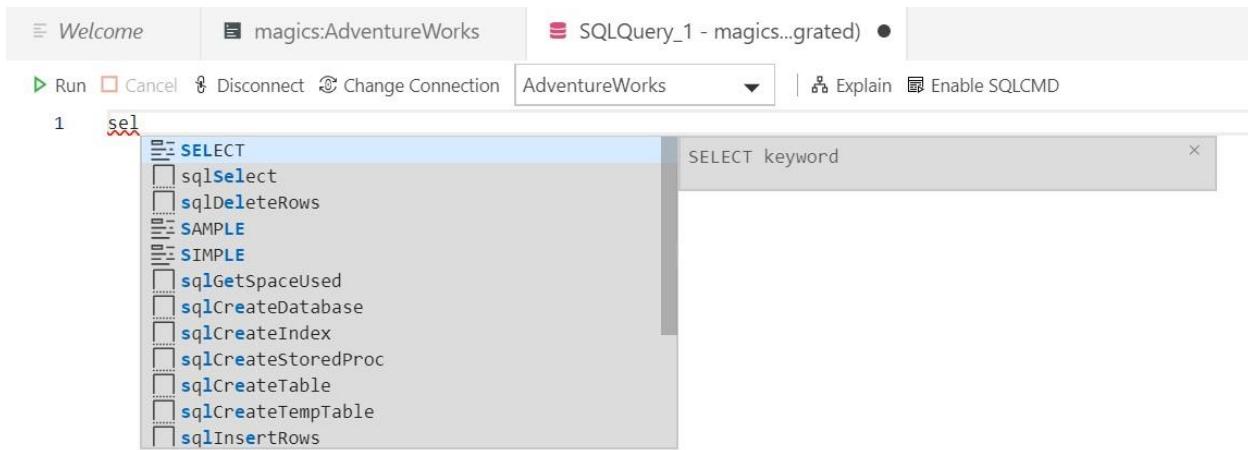
- dbo.AWBuildVersion
- dbo.bigProduct
- dbo.bigTransactionHistory
- dbo.DatabaseLog
- dbo.ErrorLog
- dbo.Products
- dbo.SalesOrdersTest
- dbo.ShoppingCart
- dbo.t1
- dbo.TEST
- dbo.UserSession
- HumanResources.Department
- HumanResources.Employee
- HumanResources.EmployeeAddress
- HumanResources.EmployeeDepartment
- HumanResources.EmployeePayHistory
- HumanResources.JobCandidate
- HumanResources.Shift

The database has many objects, so we need to filter our search by name. Typing a name of the object, we are looking for immediately after the object type will get us there. Now we got all the tables which contain product in their name or schema:



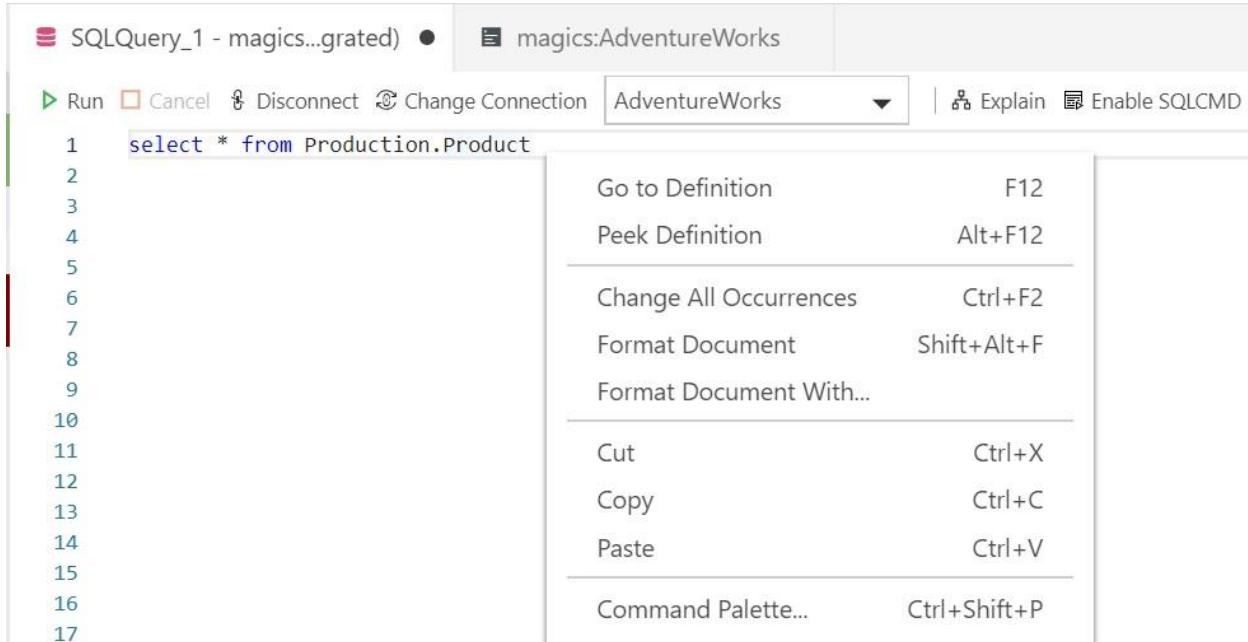
Search widget provide very good experience when we need to find an object fast. Table Production.Product looks like the one we need for our analysis, so we use it. The first step is to build the query and then based on the result we will decide to enclose it into a stored procedure in our database.

By selecting New Query or pressing Ctrl+N we get our T-SQL Query editor. Starting code typing already feels the difference in the intelisence.



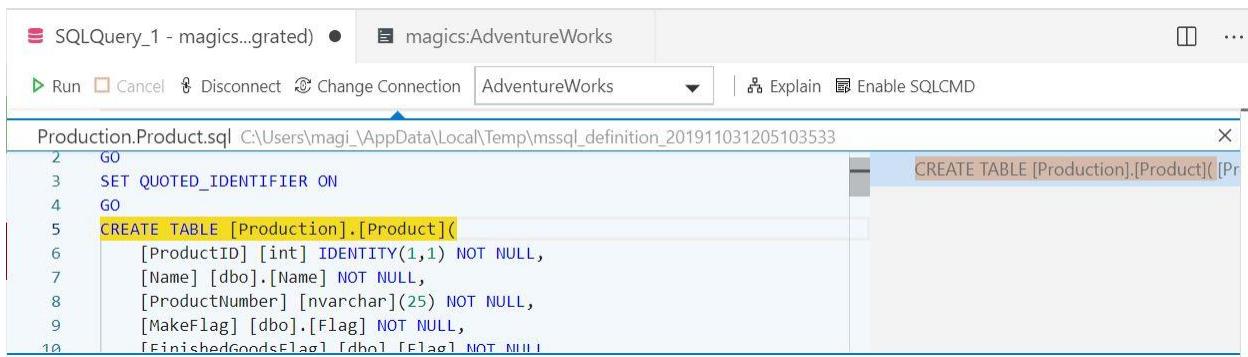
It lists key words we can choose from, recognizes schemas, object names and provides a great help on typing, we can build a simple query to get all the data from Production.Product table.

Select \* is probably not the best query we can run, so we need to be sure the table doesn't have hundred of columns and to specify just what we are looking for – price, quantity or any other columns which will be of potential help in ours analysis.



We have a very good help in exploring object definitions. GO TO Definition (or pressing F12 key) will open the CREATE table script in a new query window without using the same connection meaning it is in a disconnected state.

Peek definition on the other hand will provide us with an in-query editor window of the create table command, from which we can explore the list of columns, and once we finish our check we can close the window and we can continue to work in our query editor. I would say this is very convenient and give a great experience in constructing queries, and we have short key combination for every command.



The screenshot shows the SQL Server Management Studio interface. The title bar indicates the session is 'SQLQuery\_1 - magics...grated' and the database is 'magics:AdventureWorks'. The toolbar includes 'Run', 'Cancel', 'Disconnect', 'Change Connection' (set to 'AdventureWorks'), 'Explain', and 'Enable SQLCMD'. The main pane displays a script named 'Production.Product.sql' with the following content:

```
2 GO
3 SET QUOTED_IDENTIFIER ON
4 GO
5 CREATE TABLE [Production].[Product](
6     [ProductID] [int] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,
7     [Name] [dbo].[Name] NOT NULL,
8     [ProductNumber] [nvarchar](25) NOT NULL,
9     [MakeFlag] [dbo].[Flag] NOT NULL,
10    [FinishedGoodsFlag] [bit] NOT NULL)
```

A tooltip 'CREATE TABLE [Production].[Product]( [Pr...' is visible over the 'CREATE TABLE' keyword. The code is syntax-highlighted, with 'CREATE TABLE' in orange and column definitions in blue.

We can safely run our query and seems we have columns we can use for our analysis. Let us run the query to explore them. We will continue with constructing the query by selecting just Subcategory, List Price and quantity. We will make a join with Production.SubCategories table to include Subcategory name. Our final query looks ready to run. We can press Shift+Alt+F to apply code formatting or we can choose Format Document from the context menu:

SQLQuery\_1 - magics...grated) ●

Run Cancel Disconnect Change Connection AdventureWorks ▾ Explain

```

1 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice)
2 JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
3 on p.ProductSubcategoryID=ps.ProductSubcategoryID
4 group by ps.Name

```

	Name	NumberOfProducts
1	Mountain Bikes	32
2	Road Bikes	43
3	Touring Bikes	22
4	Handlebars	8

Go to Definition F12  
 Peek Definition Alt+F12  
 Change All Occurrences Ctrl+F2  
 Format Document Shift+Alt+F  
 Format Document With...  
 Cut Ctrl+X  
 Copy Ctrl+C  
 Paste Ctrl+V  
 Command Palette... Ctrl+Shift+P

Run Cancel Disconnect Change Connection AdventureWorks ▾ Explain Enable SQLCMD

```

1 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
2 from Production.Product P
3 JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
4 on p.ProductSubcategoryID=ps.ProductSubcategoryID
5 group by ps.Name

```

Let us explore the results to find out the data and if the query needs some corrections. The results pane does not have anything surprising at a first look, we have data in grid with execution time statistics. Pretty much like SSMS experience.

The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface. The top bar includes File, Edit, View, Help, and a connection dropdown set to SQLQuery\_1 - magics.AdventureWorks (Integrated) - Azure Data St... The main area has tabs for SQLQuery\_1 - magics...grated and magics:AdventureWorks. Below the tabs are buttons for Run, Cancel, Disconnect, Change Connection, Explain, and Enable SQLCMD. The connection dropdown is set to AdventureWorks. The query window contains the following T-SQL code:

```

1 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
2 from Production.Product P
3     JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
4         on p.ProductSubcategoryID=ps.ProductSubcategoryID
5 group by ps.Name

```

The Results tab is selected, displaying a table with the following data:

	Name	NumberOfProducts	AveragePrice
1	Mountain Bikes	32	1683.3650
2	Road Bikes	43	1597.4500
3	Touring Bikes	22	1425.2481
4	Handlebars	8	73.8900
5	Bottom Brackets	3	92.2400
6	Brakes	2	106.5000
7	Chains	1	20.2400
8	Cranksets	3	278.9900
9	Derailleurs	2	106.4750
...	Forks	3	184.4000
...	Headsets	3	87.0733
...	Mountain Frames	28	678.2535
...	Pedals	7	64.0185
...	Road Frames	33	780.0436
...	Saddles	9	39.6333

The bottom status bar shows Spaces: 4, UTF-8, CRLF, SQL, MSSQL, 37 rows, 00:00:00, magics : AdventureWorks, a smiley face icon, and a bell icon with 2 notifications.

Results    Messages

2:14:57 PM    Started executing query at Line 1  
                   (37 rows affected)  
                   Total execution time: 00:00:00.048

BUT let's look at the buttons on the right side of the results pane. We have several options for exporting and working with the result set. We have Export to excel, CSV and JSON, everyone of each creates a

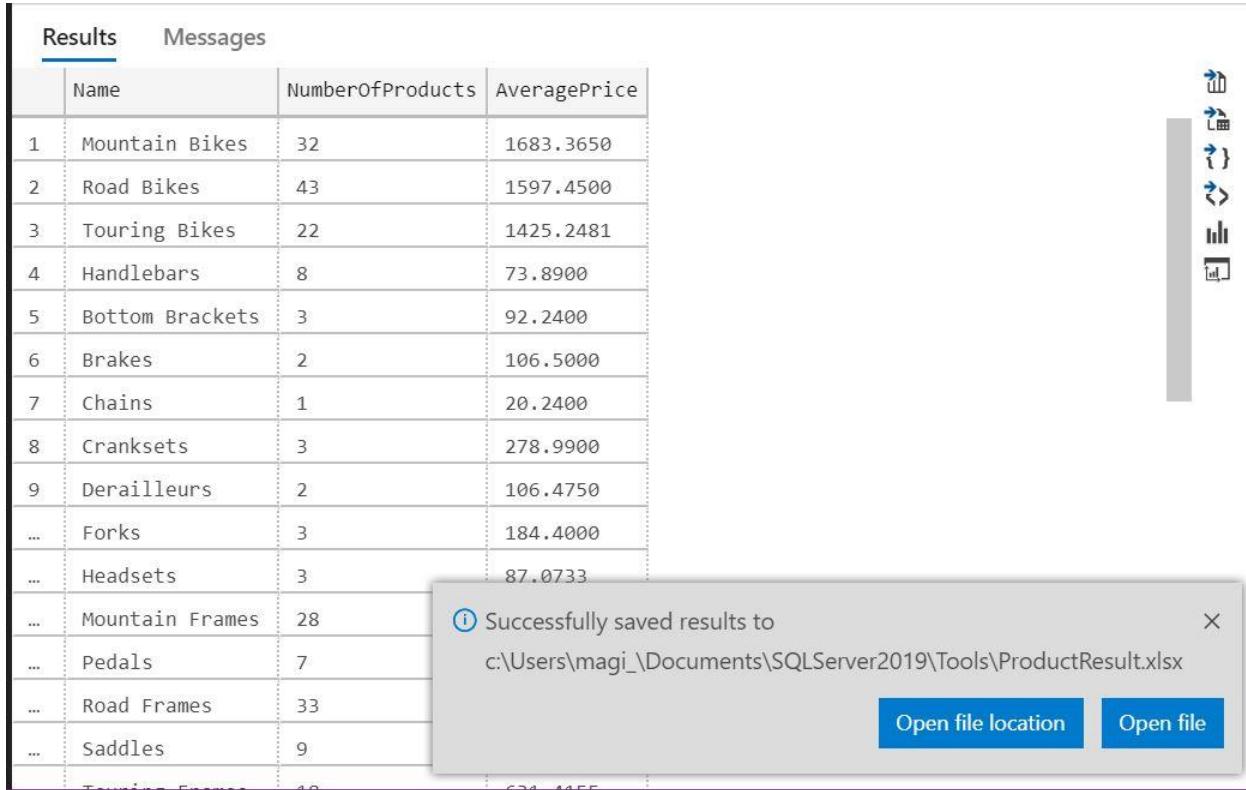
corresponding file type file and for xlsx and csv it includes column headers in file! Something we don't have in SSMS.

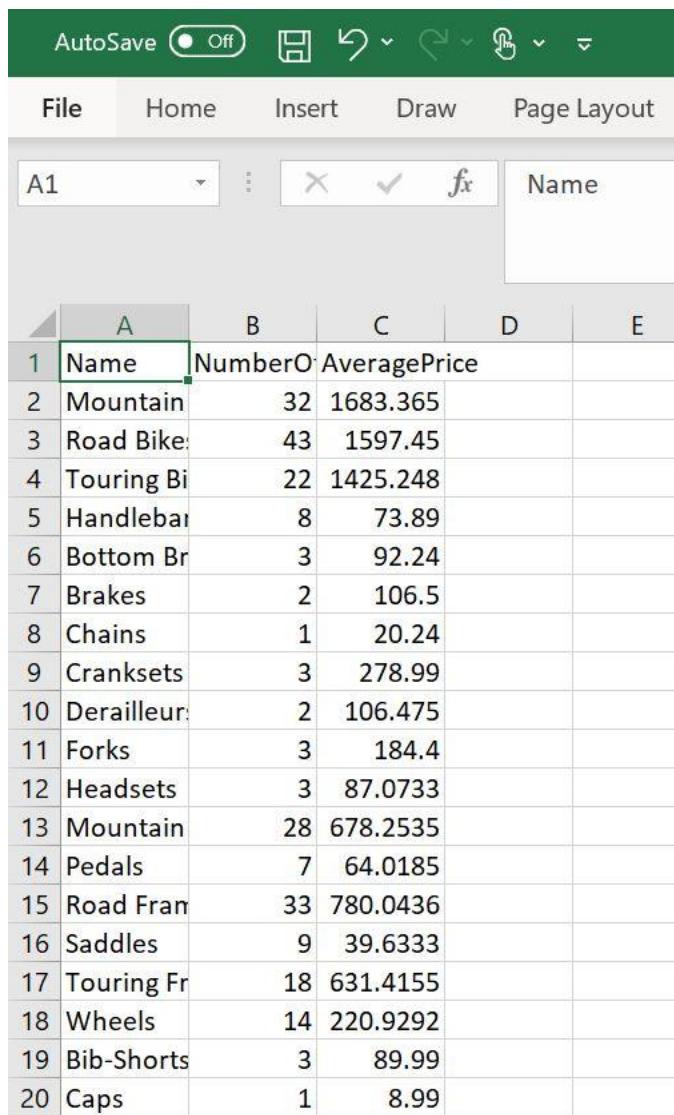
Results    Messages

	Name	NumberOfProducts	AveragePrice
1	Mountain Bikes	32	1683.3650
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3	Touring Bikes	22	1425.2481
4	Handlebars	8	73.8900
5	Bottom Brackets	3	92.2400
6	Brakes	2	106.5000
7	Chains	1	20.2400
8	Cranksets	3	278.9900
9	Derailleurs	2	106.4750
...	Forks	3	184.4000
...	Headsets	3	87.0733
...	Mountain Frames	28	
...	Pedals	7	
...	Road Frames	33	
...	Saddles	9	
...	Touring Frames	10	624.4455

Successfully saved results to  
c:\Users\magi\_\Documents\SQLServer2019\Tools\ProductResult.xlsx

[Open file location](#) [Open file](#)





A screenshot of Microsoft Excel showing a table of bicycle component data. The table has columns labeled 'Name', 'NumberO', and 'AveragePrice'. The data includes various bicycle parts like Mountain Bikes, Road Bikes, Touring Bikes, Handlebars, Brakes, Chains, Cranks, Derailleurs, Forks, Headsets, Mountains, Pedals, Road Frames, Saddles, Touring Frames, Wheels, Bib-Shorts, and Caps. The first row is a header, and the second row shows the average price for Mountain Bikes.

	Name	NumberO	AveragePrice
1	Mountain	32	1683.365
2	Road Bike	43	1597.45
3	Touring Bi	22	1425.248
4	Handlebar	8	73.89
5	Bottom Br	3	92.24
6	Brakes	2	106.5
7	Chains	1	20.24
8	Cranksets	3	278.99
9	Derailleur	2	106.475
10	Forks	3	184.4
11	Headsets	3	87.0733
12	Mountain	28	678.2535
13	Pedals	7	64.0185
14	Road Fran	33	780.0436
15	Saddles	9	39.6333
16	Touring Fr	18	631.4155
17	Wheels	14	220.9292
18	Bib-Shorts	3	89.99
19	Caps	1	8.99

We can select just one row by clicking on the row header and we can export it to JSON, this will help a lot in having a correct JSON template of just one row we can use in developing further modules.

The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface. The title bar says "ProductResult.json - Azure Data Studio". There are two tabs: "SQLQuery\_1 - magics...grated" and "ProductResult.json". The "ProductResult.json" tab is active, displaying the following JSON content:

```

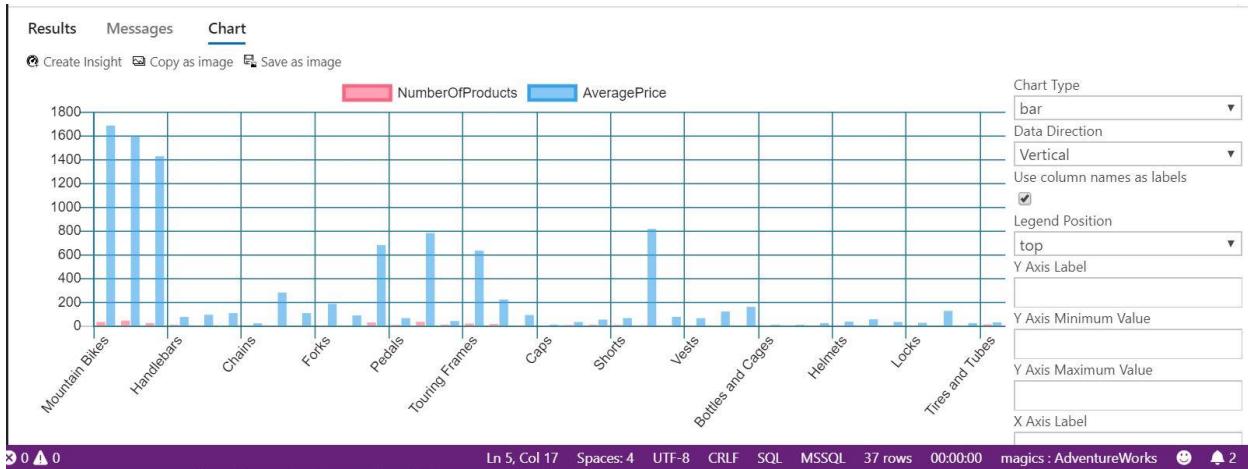
1  {
2    "Name": "Mountain Bikes",
3    "NumberOfProducts": 32,
4    "AveragePrice": 1683.3650
5  }

```

The left sidebar has icons for File, Edit, View, Help, and a search bar. The main area shows the JSON file content.

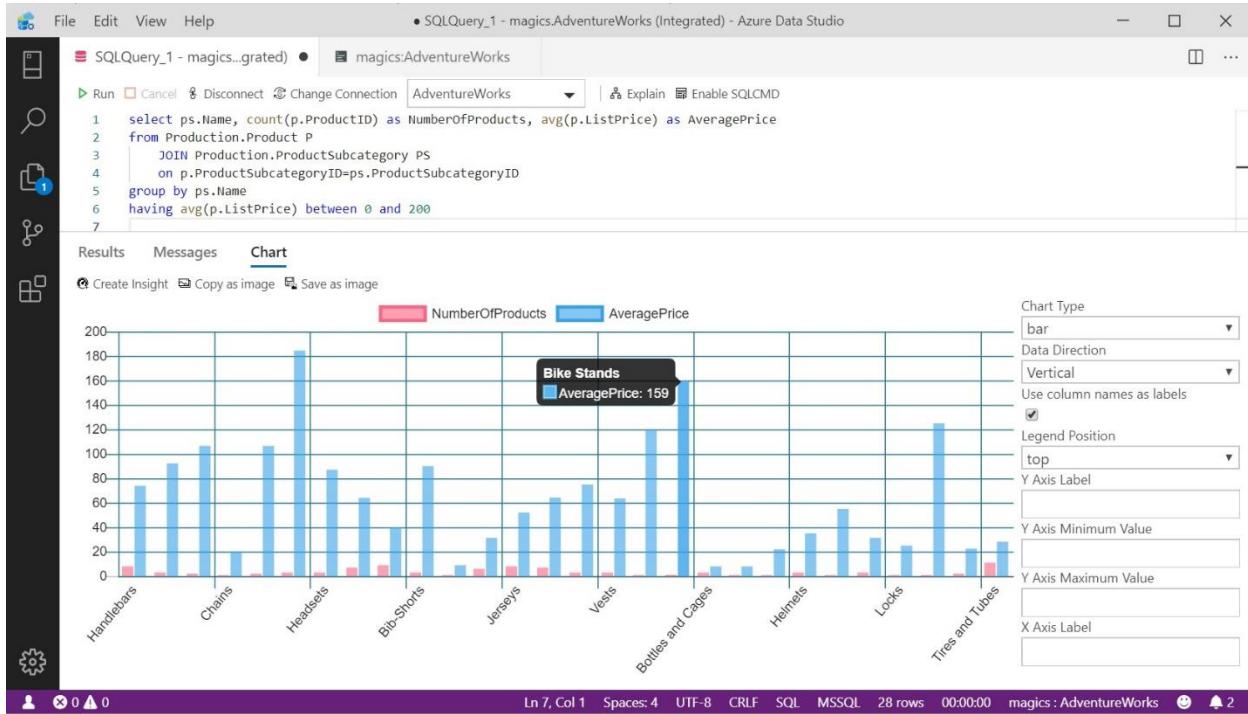
We have chart button as well; it provides us with a valuable option of exploring the data by using simple data visualizations. Clicking on chart adds a tab in the results pane showing the result in a visual.

We tune the data direction to vertical and we got a chart showing our number of products and average of their price by categories. Easy and fast!



Discovering the data shown in the chart lead us to probably defining tree groups of average pricing levels, which is worthy to perform analysis on. These are the most expensive categories having average price level between 800 and 1800, middle range price level between 200 and 800, and low-level price

range of categories with product price levels up to 200. We can test this and how the data look like by putting additional HAVING Clause in our query.



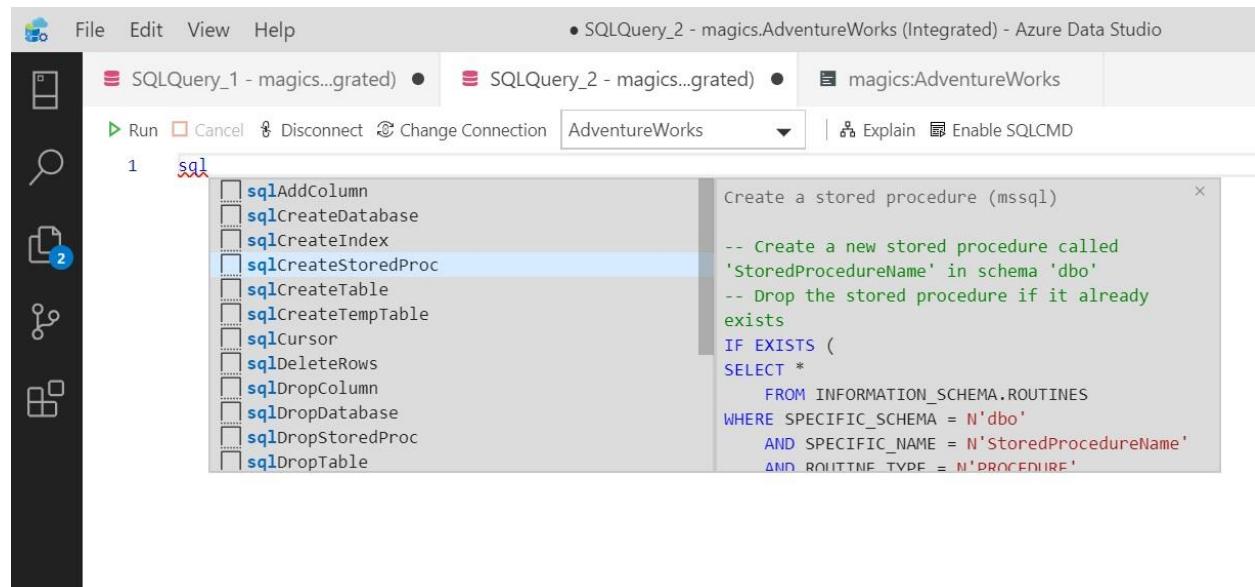
The chart shows the quantity and average price of products by categories fitting in the low-level price range. It gives interesting view of the data and probably a starting point of discovering is it a good idea to increase the quantity of some products fitting in this range, this could lead to increasing the profit. We can Copy the image or even save it a png image file by clicking on Save as image button.

We are ready to include our query into a stored procedure and provide it as a module a user can use for source of data analysis. Query Editor and its result pane helped us to get a proper query construct fast and easy.

# Mastering Development – using snippets and notebooks

We will use code snippets to create a stored procedure, this will help us re-use our fancy query. Code snippets are block of reusable code which we can insert or load in our code window by using a command or hot key combination. ADS makes no exception in providing this experience to us. To load a snippet, we open a new query window (Ctrl+N) and type sql. This opens a list which we can navigate in and locate a snippet we want to use.

We Select the item to load, and press ENTER, and the code snippet loads into the window:



We choose `sqlCreateStoredProc` and the snippet inserts into our query window.

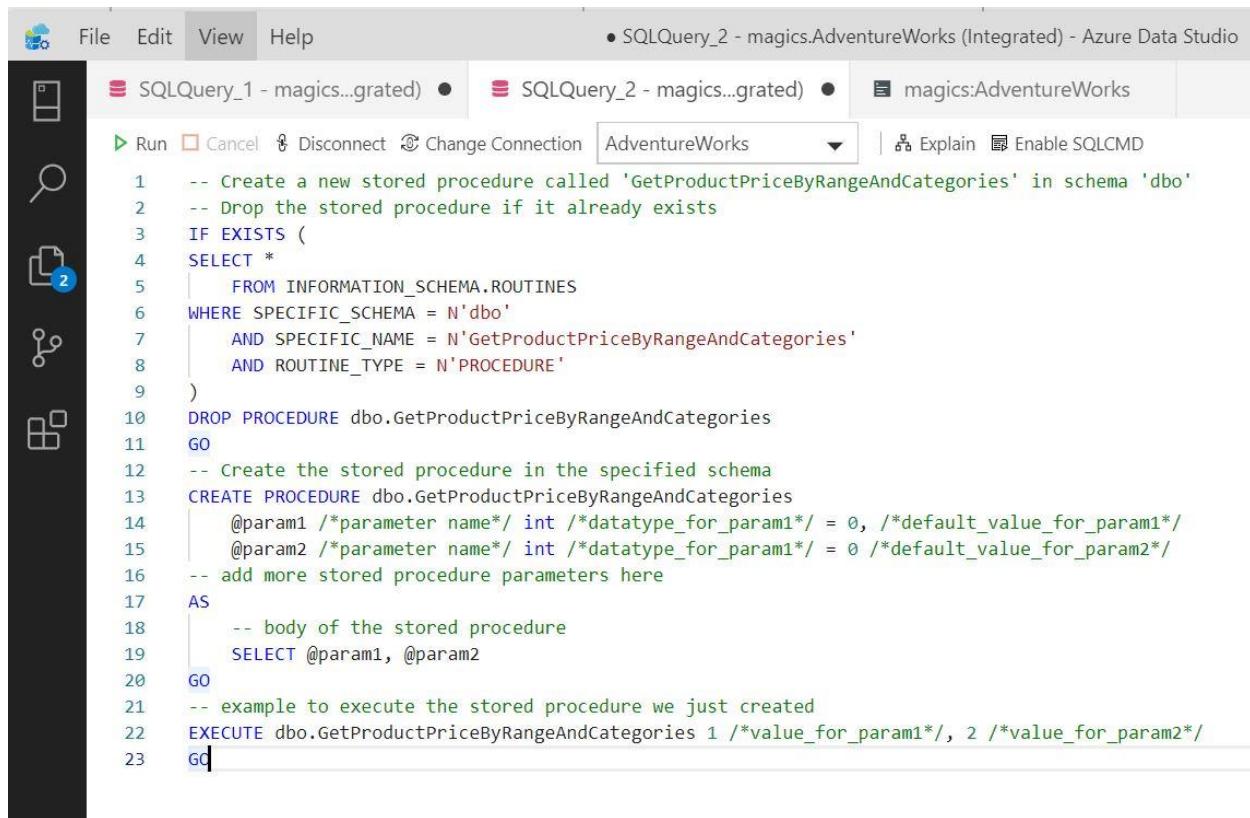
```

1 -- Create a new stored procedure called 'StoredProcedu...
2 -- Drop the stored procedure if it already exists
3 IF EXISTS (
4     SELECT *
5         FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.ROUTINES
6         WHERE SPECIFIC_SCHEMA = N'dbo'
7             AND SPECIFIC_NAME = N'StoredProcedureName'
8             AND ROUTINE_TYPE = N'PROCEDURE'
9 )
10 DROP PROCEDURE dbo.StoredProcedureName
11 GO
12 -- Create the stored procedure in the specified schema
13 CREATE PROCEDURE dbo.StoredProcedureName
14     @param1 /*parameter name*/ int /*datatype_for_para...
15     @param2 /*parameter name*/ int /*datatype_for_para...
16 -- add more stored procedure parameters here
17 AS
18     -- body of the stored procedure
19     SELECT @param1, @param2
20 GO
21 -- example to execute the stored procedure we just created
22 EXECUTE dbo.StoredProcedureName 1 /*value_for_param1*/, 2 /*value_for_param2*/
23 GO

```

We need to fill the *StoredProcedureName* and *SchemaName*. To make it easy select *StoredProcedureName*, right-click, and select **Change All Occurrences** or type **Ctrl+F2**. We type the proc name as **GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories** and all *StoredProcedureName* entries change to **GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories**.

We keep the schema as **dbo**, so we end up with **Dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories** as a consistent name used in the entire script

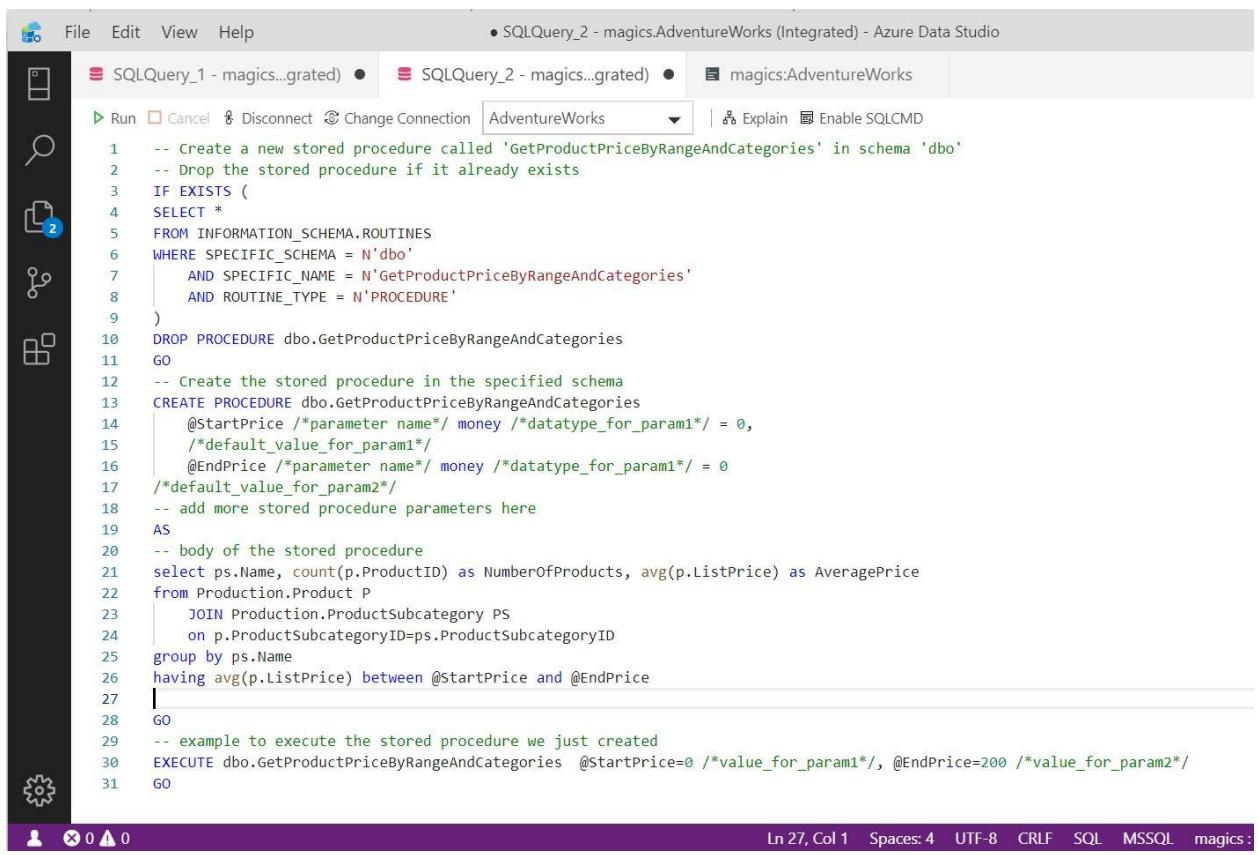


The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface with a dark theme. On the left is a sidebar with icons for file operations like Open, Save, and Refresh. The main area has a title bar "SQLQuery\_2 - magics.AdventureWorks (Integrated) - Azure Data Studio". Below the title bar are tabs for "SQLQuery\_1" and "SQLQuery\_2", both showing the same content. A toolbar below the tabs includes "Run", "Cancel", "Disconnect", "Change Connection", a dropdown for "AdventureWorks", "Explain", and "Enable SQLCMD". The code editor contains the following T-SQL script:

```
1 -- Create a new stored procedure called 'GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories' in schema 'dbo'
2 -- Drop the stored procedure if it already exists
3 IF EXISTS (
4     SELECT *
5         FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.ROUTINES
6     WHERE SPECIFIC_SCHEMA = N'dbo'
7         AND SPECIFIC_NAME = N'GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories'
8         AND ROUTINE_TYPE = N'PROCEDURE'
9 )
10 DROP PROCEDURE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories
11 GO
12 -- Create the stored procedure in the specified schema
13 CREATE PROCEDURE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories
14     @param1 /*parameter name*/ int /*datatype_for_param1*/ = 0, /*default_value_for_param1*/
15     @param2 /*parameter name*/ int /*datatype_for_param1*/ = 0 /*default_value_for_param2*/
16 -- add more stored procedure parameters here
17 AS
18     -- body of the stored procedure
19     SELECT @param1, @param2
20 GO
21 -- example to execute the stored procedure we just created
22 EXECUTE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories 1 /*value_for_param1*/, 2 /*value_for_param2*/
23 GO
```

The snippet contains placeholder parameters and body text that needs updating. The *EXECUTE* statement also contains placeholder text because it does not know how many parameters the procedure will have. We will parameterize our HAVING Clause such as user could run the procedure for a price range. Using the same hot key combination of Change All Occurrences we replace parameters with their new names. We copy our query and paste it in the body of the stored procedure. A useful feature of query editor is it shows the type of the column once you hover over it. In ours case the p.ListPrice is of type money, so we need to align the parameters and change the int to money type.

We change the EXECUTE stored proc row and we are ready for creating and testing our stored proc.



The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface with the following details:

- File Edit View Help** menu at the top.
- SQLQuery\_2 - magics.AdventureWorks (Integrated) - Azure Data Studio** tab title.
- SQLQuery\_1 - magics..grated** tab is also open.
- Run**, **Cancel**, **Disconnect**, **Change Connection** buttons.
- AdventureWorks** connection selected.
- Explain** and **Enable SQLCMD** options.
- Code Area:**

```
1 -- Create a new stored procedure called 'GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories' in schema 'dbo'
2 -- Drop the stored procedure if it already exists
3 IF EXISTS (
4     SELECT *
5     FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.ROUTINES
6     WHERE SPECIFIC_SCHEMA = N'dbo'
7         AND SPECIFIC_NAME = N'GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories'
8         AND ROUTINE_TYPE = N'PROCEDURE'
9 )
10 DROP PROCEDURE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories
11 GO
12 -- Create the stored procedure in the specified schema
13 CREATE PROCEDURE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories
14     @StartPrice /*parameter name*/ money /*datatype_for_param1*/ = 0,
15     /*default_value_for_param1*/
16     @EndPrice /*parameter name*/ money /*datatype_for_param1*/ = 0
17 /*default_value_for_param2*/
18 -- add more stored procedure parameters here
19 AS
20 -- body of the stored procedure
21 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
22 from Production.Product P
23     JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
24     on p.ProductSubcategoryID=ps.ProductSubcategoryID
25 group by ps.Name
26 having avg(p.ListPrice) between @StartPrice and @EndPrice
27
28 GO
29 -- example to execute the stored procedure we just created
30 EXECUTE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories @StartPrice=0 /*value_for_param1*/, @EndPrice=200 /*value_for_param2*/
31 GO
```
- Status Bar:** Ln 27, Col 1 | Spaces: 4 | UTF-8 | CRLF | SQL | MSSQL | magics :

We run the code up to line 28 to create our stored proc and then we test it by running the EXECUTE command

```

29  -- example to execute the stored procedure we just created
30  EXECUTE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories  @StartPrice=0 /*value_for_param1*/, @EndPrice=200 /*value_for_param2*/
31  GO

```

Results    Messages    Chart

	Name	NumberOfProducts	AveragePrice
1	Handlebars	8	73.8900
2	Bottom Brackets	3	92.2400
3	Brakes	2	106.5000
4	Chains	1	20.2400
5	Derailleurs	2	106.4750
6	Forks	3	184.4000
7	Headsets	3	87.0733
8	Pedals	7	64.0185
9	Saddles	9	39.6333
...	Bib-Shorts	3	89.9900
...	Caps	1	8.9900
...	Gloves	6	31.2400
...	Jerseys	8	51.9900

3 0 ▲ 0    Ln 29, Col 1 (183 selected)    Spaces: 4    UTF-8    CRLF    SQL    MSSQL    28 rows    00:00:00    mag

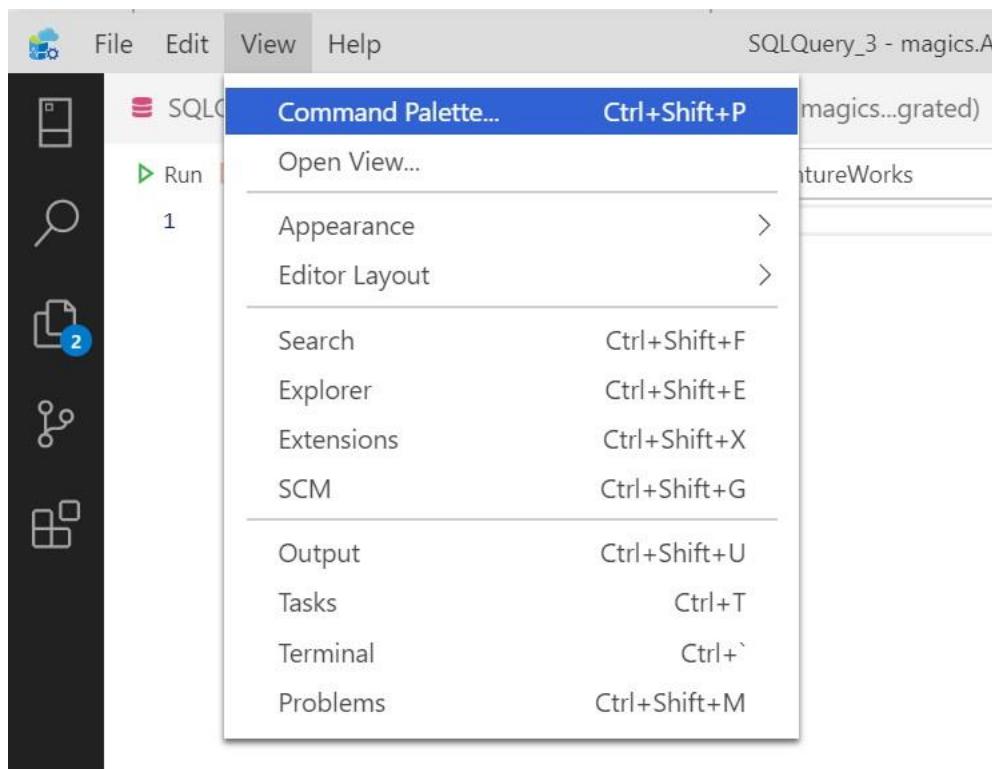
Great experience up until now and seems that we have completed our task of creating a module in the database for product price analysis. Let's get one step further and create a SQL Notebook to tell the story of our data discovery and module creation.

A notebook is a new term, coming in an open source initiative called Project Jupiter. Notebooks are created for sharing text code, images, data insights in the same document.

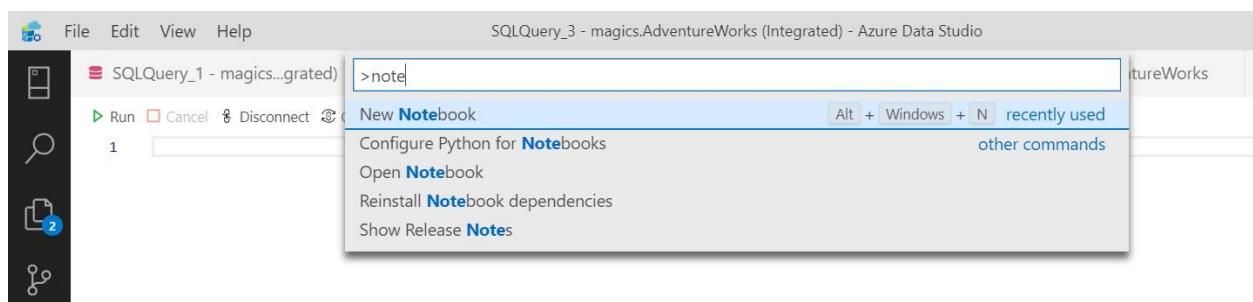
The text in notebook is formatted using MD Language (MarkDown language), which is also used for producing .md files in GitHub. MD language is a cross-platform language.

Notebooks are featured in Azure Data Studio, which makes them available with T-SQL kernel. This allows us to create and share documents which contain text, T-SQL code, query results, and even images and charts to share database insights and to tell a story or to create runbooks.

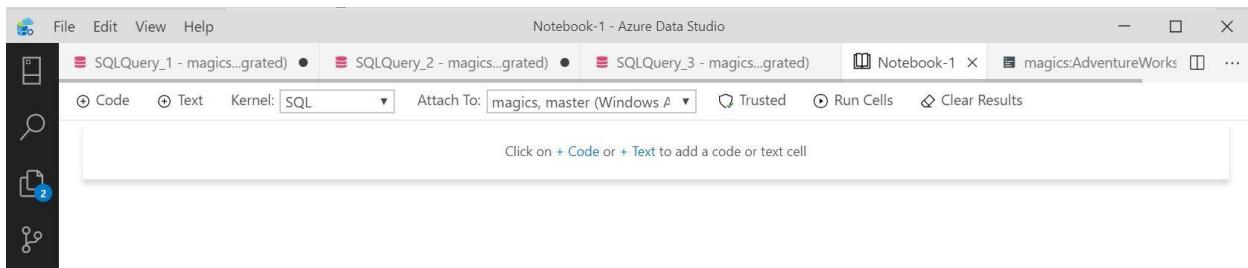
To create a new notebook we can use the Command Palette. We can run it from the View Menu or by pressing its hot key Ctrl+Shift+P. The Command palette is very useful in code typing when you need to find a command.



You start typing and the tool provides you with the list of possible commands to choose from. Trying to find how to create a new notebook leads us to the New Notebook command which we can choose from the list or its shortkey combination Alt\_Windows+N



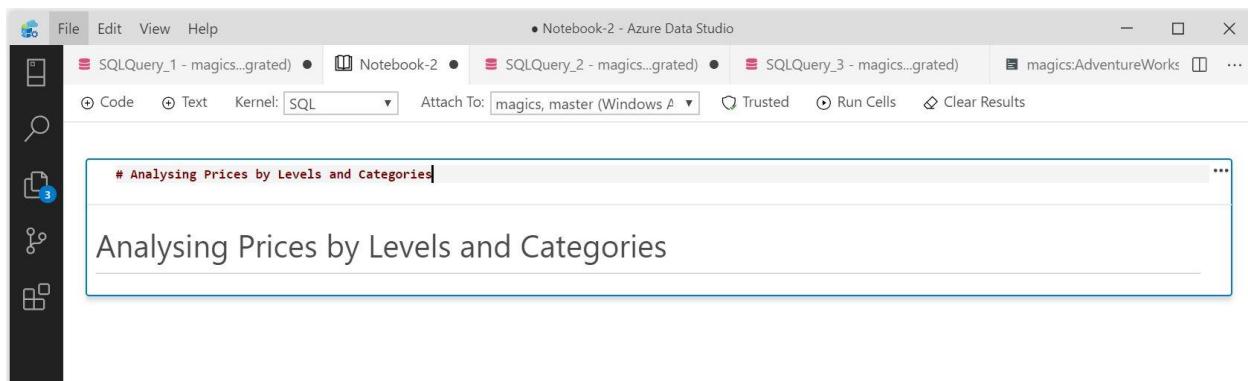
A new Notebook opens and we are ready to put our story here.



Let's take a look at notebook components first. We have *Kernel*, which specifies the language we will write the code in this notebook and forces the engine that will execute it. It will be SQL in our new notebook. *Attach to* sets the connection from the list of connections we work with in this notebook. *Code and Text* add snippets for typing the corresponding content in our notebook. We can use *Run Cells* to run the code and *Clear Results* to delete all the table results which we can potentially have stored in the notebook.

Our notebook can be stored as an .ipynb file. We can share it to other users, so we need to be sure it is trusted, meaning there is no malicious code inside.

Creating content in a notebook can be an exciting experience, but it requires getting to know the MD language or at least some basic concepts of its syntax. Even if it is not that complex it still has a long list of elements. As diving into them is far beyond the scope of this book, I am going to use just # element for formatting Headings of the new notebook.



Code snippets allow to paste or type a code, and this comes with a fully functional code editor and intelisense.

A screenshot of the Azure Data Studio interface. The top navigation bar shows multiple tabs: Notebook-2 (active), SQLQuery\_1, SQLQuery\_2, SQLQuery\_3, and magics:AdventureWorks. The left sidebar has icons for file operations, search, and refresh. The main area contains the following text:

```
1 use advew
```

The dropdown menu for the 'use' command lists several databases:

- Adventureworks
- Adventureworks2008
- Adventureworks2012
- Adventureworks2014
- Adventureworks2016CTP3
- AdventureworksDW2012
- AdventureworksLT
- AdventureworksDW2016CTP3
- sqlListTablesAndViews

A screenshot of the Azure Data Studio interface, identical to the one above but with a completed query in the code editor:

```
1 use AdventureWorks
2 GO
3 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
4 from Production.Product P
5     JOIN Production.Productsubcategory PS
6     on p.ProductSubcategoryID=ps.ProductSubcategoryID
7 group by ps.Name
8 having avg(p.ListPrice) between 0 and 200
9 GO
10 |
```

The results pane shows a single row of data:

Name	NumberOfProducts	AveragePrice
Adventure Works Lamps	10	100.0000

A code snippet has a run button on the top left corner, which allows us to run the code of this snippet only, and even to include the results in the notebook. If we don't want the results to appear or be preserved in the code snippets then we can click the *Clear Results* button in the command line of the notebook.

The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface with a notebook titled "Analysing Prices by Levels and Categories". The notebook contains the following T-SQL code:

```
1 use AdventureWorks
2 GO
3 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
4 from Production.Product P
5 JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
6 on p.ProductSubcategoryId=ps.ProductSubcategoryId
7 group by ps.Name
8 having avg(p.ListPrice) between 0 and 200
9 GO
10
```

Commands completed successfully.  
(28 rows affected)

Total execution time: 00:00:00.026

	Name	NumberOfProducts	AveragePrice
1	Handlebars	8	73.8900
2	Bottom Brackets	3	92.2400
3	Brakes	2	106.5000
4	Chains	1	20.2400
5	Derailleurs	2	106.4750
6	Forks	3	184.4000
7	Headsets	3	87.0733
8	Pedals	7	64.0185

Combining text and code snippets allow us to create a very simple but still good looking T-SQL notebook

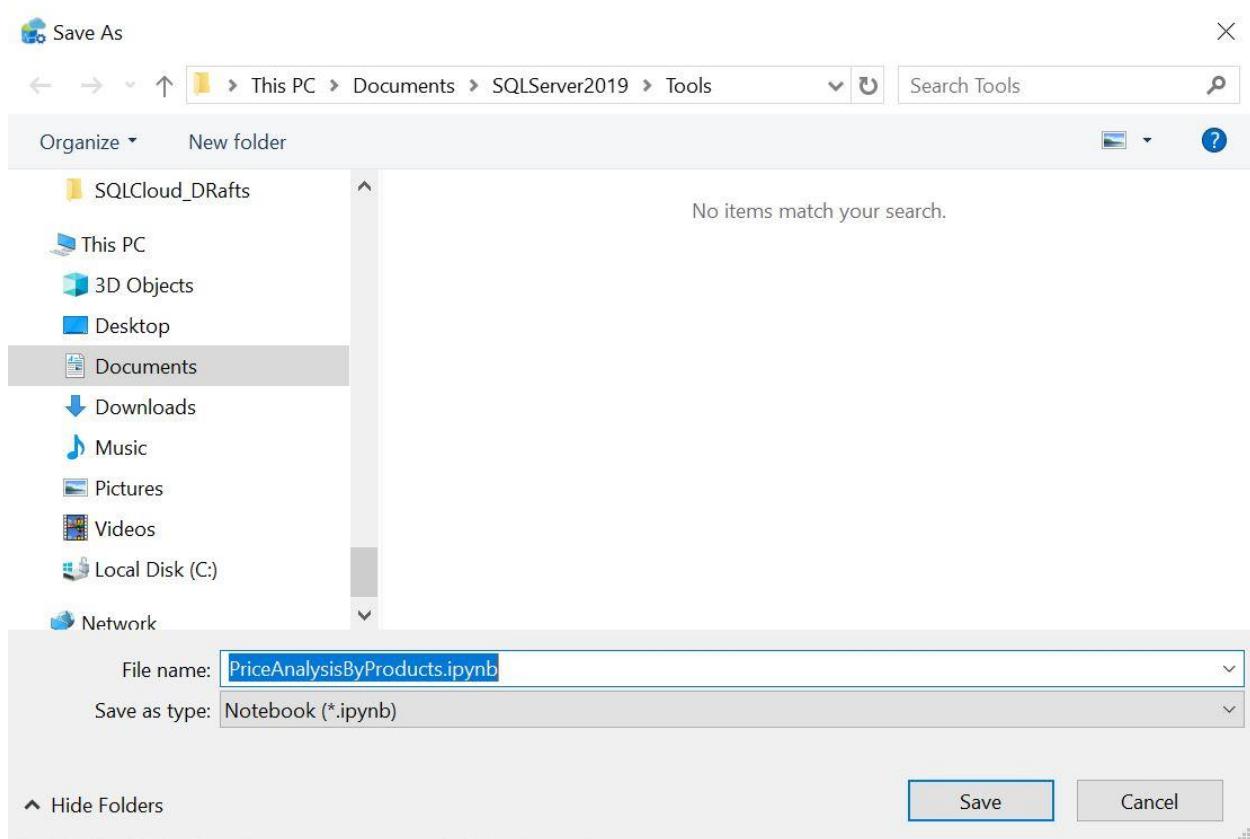
The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface. At the top, there are tabs for Notebook-2 - Azure Data Studio, SQLQuery\_1 - magics...grated, Notebook-2, SQLQuery\_2 - magics...grated, SQLQuery\_3 - magics...grated, and magics:AdventureWorks. The main area displays a notebook titled "Analysing Prices by Levels and Categories". Below the title, the text "Identifying query first" is visible. A code cell contains the following SQL query:

```
1 use Adventureworks
2 GO
3 select ps.Name, count(p.ProductID) as NumberOfProducts, avg(p.ListPrice) as AveragePrice
4 from Production.Product P
5     JOIN Production.ProductSubcategory PS
6         on p.ProductSubcategoryId=ps.ProductSubcategoryId
7 group by ps.Name
8 having avg(p.ListPrice) between 0 and 200
9 GO
10
```

Below the code cell, the text "Then we develop the module to enclose the query in, so you can start it by providing parameters" is displayed. Another code cell shows the following T-SQL code:

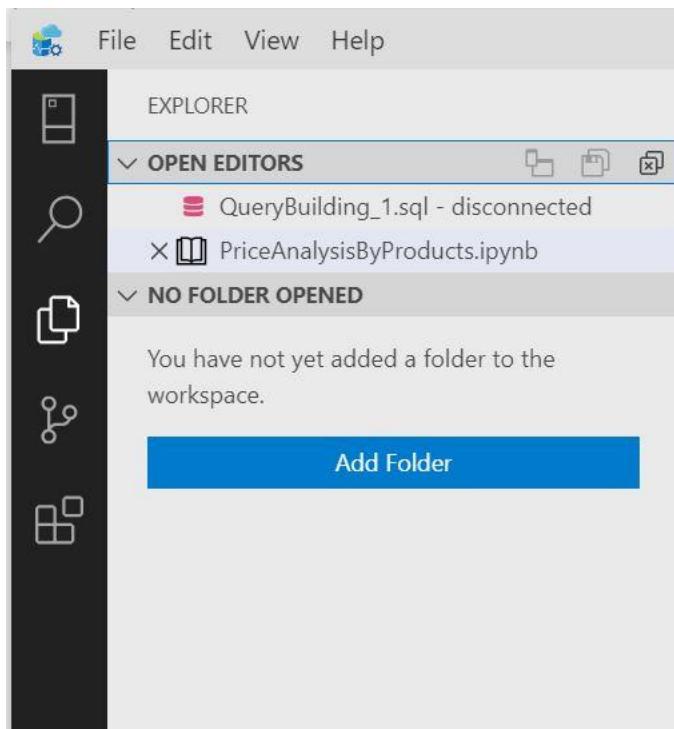
```
[ ] 1 use Adventureworks
2 go
3 EXECUTE dbo.GetProductPriceByRangeAndCategories @StartPrice=0 /*value_for_param1*/, @EndPrice=200 /*value_for_param2*/
4 GO
```

As soon as we are ready we can save our notebook with a name Price AnalysisByProduct.ipynb

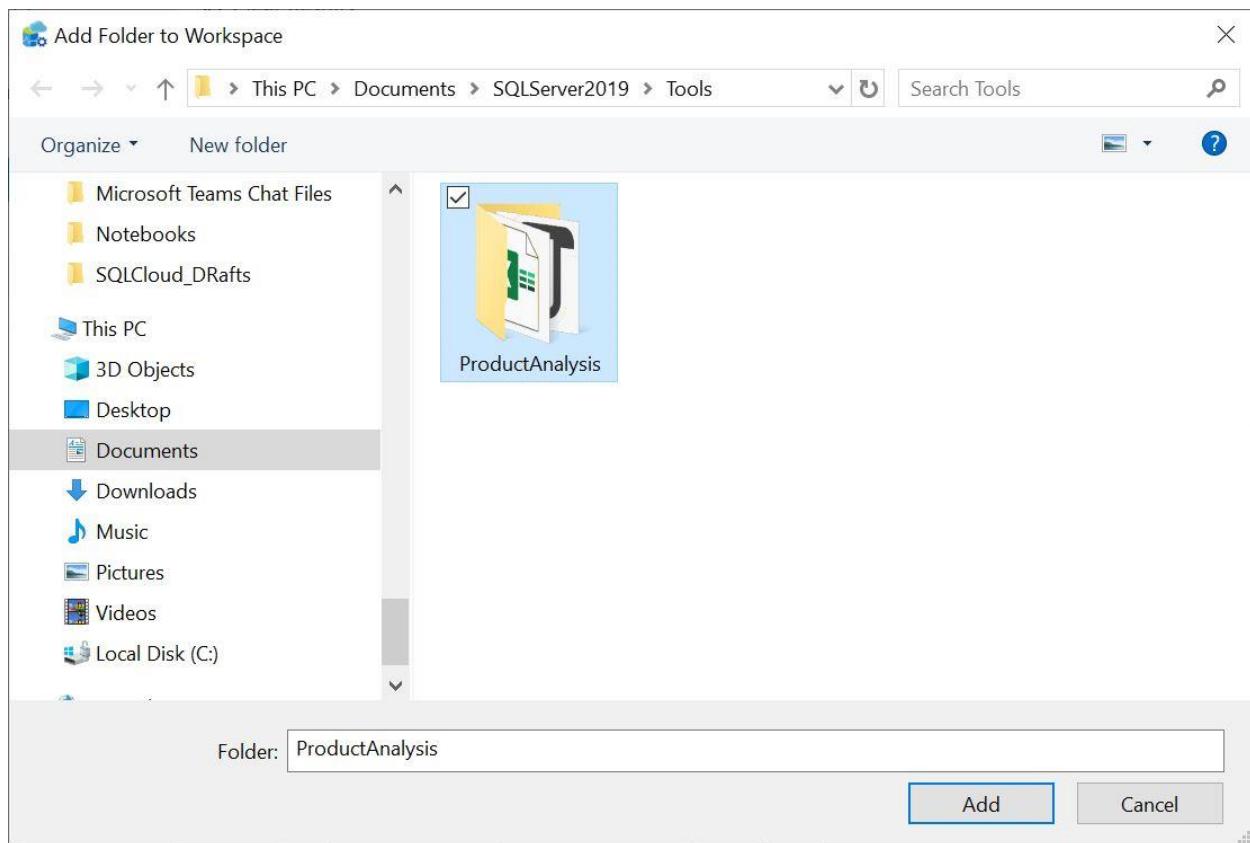


# Getting organized – using workspaces

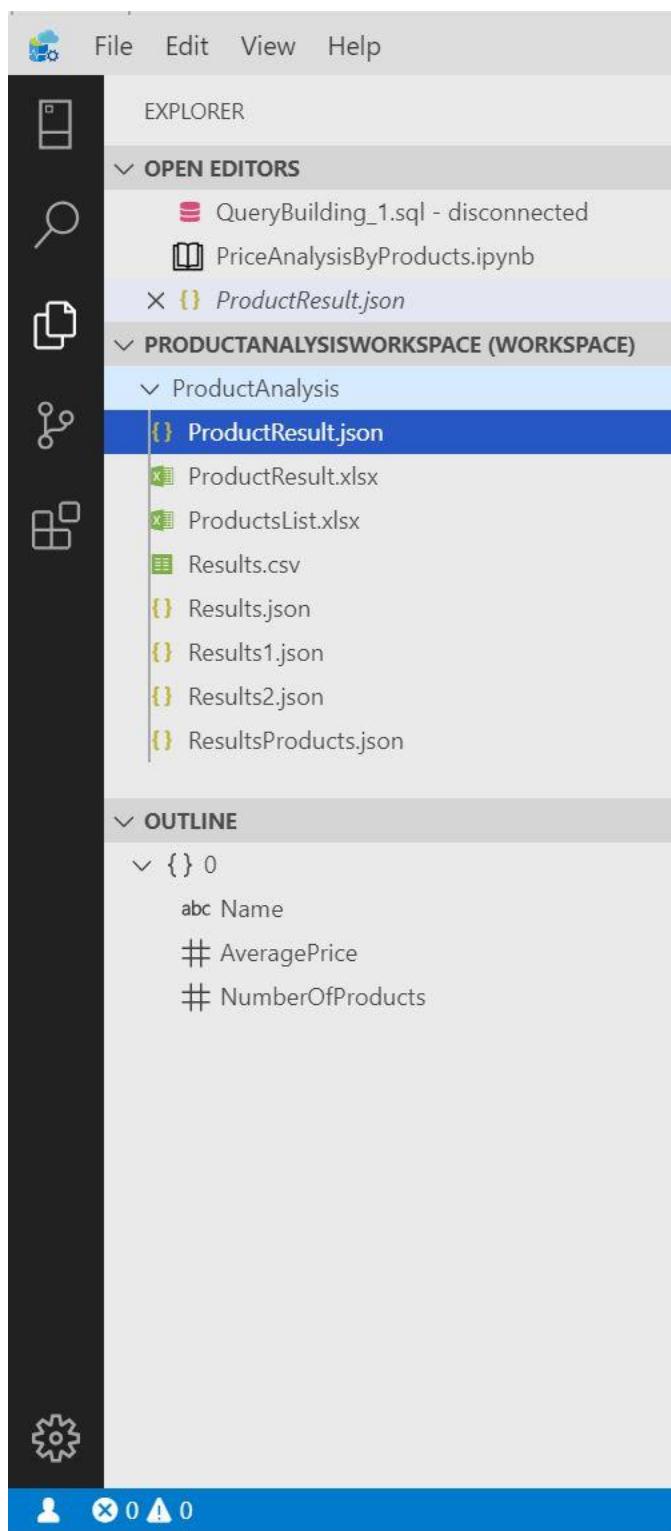
Workspace is a great way of storing all the files and queries we work with as a single store group. We can add more files later, or we can add even a folder to a workspace. This will make the task of working with files in it easy and we can open any of them by just clicking on it. We have Explorer menu on the left side of the tool under the Connections and Search menu. We work with *Explorer* Menu to organize files and folder in our workspace. We put all the files including JSON and CSV in a folder ProductAnalysis, so I can add it to the workspace by clicking on the *Add Folder* button.



We add the folder and then it appears in the list of workspace folders



We can click on files and see outline



It is not necessary all the files of a workspace to be in the same folder. Saving the workspace is simple, we Select Save Workspace from the File menu and provide name and location.

# Going extra mile - ADS Extensions and customizations

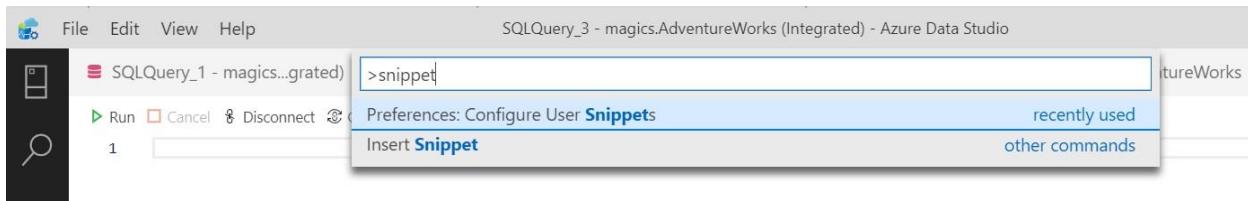
Customizing Azure Data Services is one of its greatest benefits making it rather development platform for working with SQL Databases rather than just a T-SQL tool. We have many options to customize and extent the product, all of them intuitive and easy to perform. Customizations usually contain editing or typing JSON configurations not only using T-SQL Scripts. Let's get through some examples.

## Custom code snippet

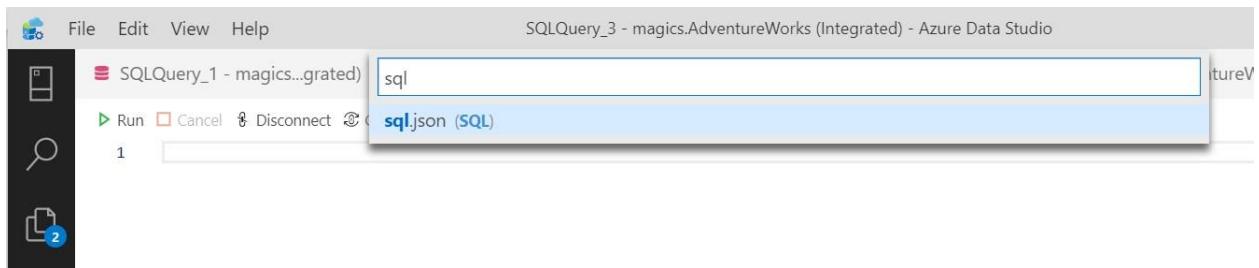
We discovered code snippets earlier when we created our stored procedure for product price analysis. We found that using code snippets is practical and convenient in ADS. We can create our own code snippets. Let us create a snippet for updating statistics of a table.

Adding a simple custom T-SQL Snippet is possible at it is very easy to perform. Let's create a custom snippet

By calling the Command Palette (Ctrl+Shift+P) and searching for Configuring User Snippets. We click on the Preferences: Configure User Snippets command from the list which lead us to type of snippet we want to create



We type sql which lists the only option to configure a custom sql snippet – to create our snippet code in sql.json file. We choose the sql.json option and we are ready to type the create statistics snippet code.



Snippet is defined in a JSON format and it has the following main elements:

- Prefix – what triggers the snippet and what we see as a sql. Command when we search for sql snippets
- body – this is the t-sql code we type and we can use variables and placeholders in the way the instruction suggests
- description – short explanation which user will see when it hovers over the snippet

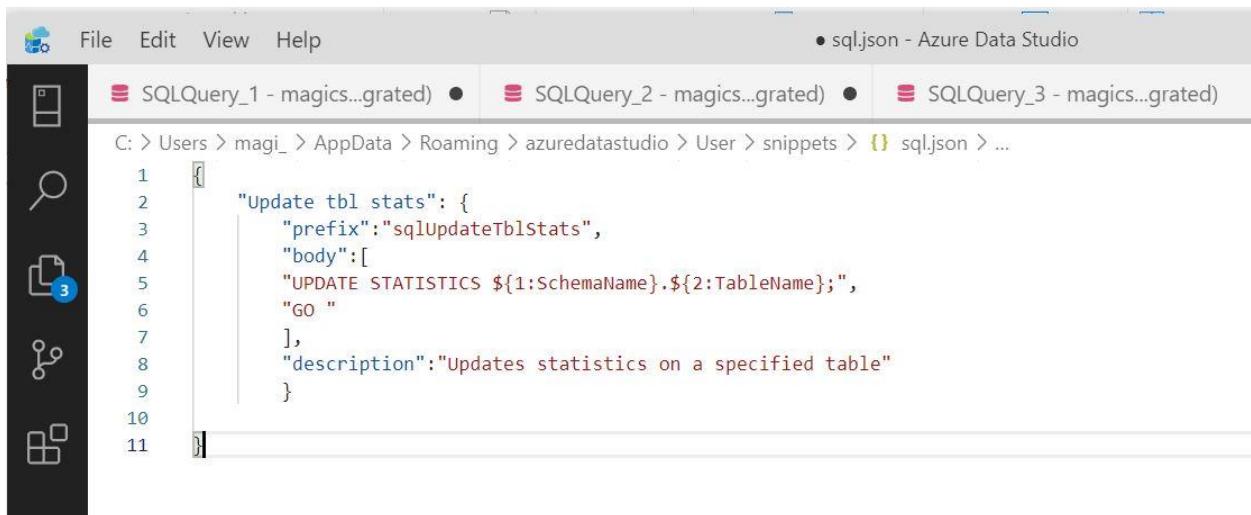


According to the instructions and the elements needed, the JSON code of our Update statistics on a user table snippet will look like this:

```
{
  "Update tbl stats": {
    "prefix": "sqlUpdateTblStats",
    "body": [
      "UPDATE STATISTICS ${1:SchemaName}.${2:TableName};",
      "GO "
    ]
  }
}
```

```
],
"description":"Updates statistics on a specified table"
}
}
```

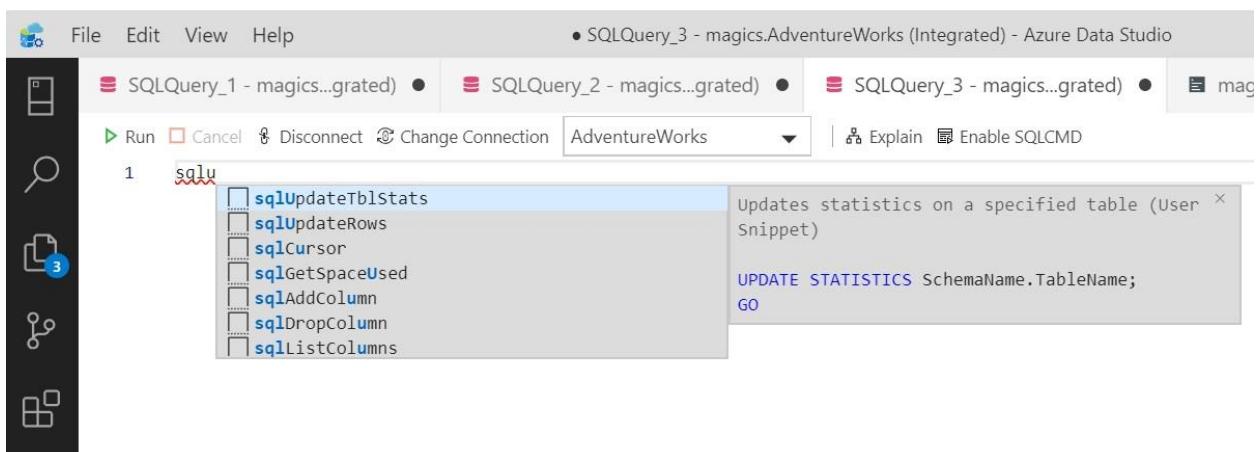
We type the elements in the sql.json file. And all we need to do is to save the file.



A screenshot of the Azure Data Studio interface. The title bar shows "sql.json - Azure Data Studio". The left sidebar has icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, Copy, Paste, and Snippets. The main editor area shows the JSON code for the snippet:

```
1  {
2      "Update tbl stats": {
3          "prefix": "sqlUpdateTblStats",
4          "body": [
5              "UPDATE STATISTICS ${1:SchemaName}.${2:TableName};",
6              "GO "
7          ],
8          "description": "Updates statistics on a specified table"
9      }
10
11 }
```

We have the snippet listed in our sql snippets list. We can find it by typing `sqlu` (coming from UPDATE), it appears first in the list and we can choose it, fill the SchemaName and TableName and run the command to update stats



A screenshot of the Azure Data Studio interface. The title bar shows "SQLQuery\_3 - magics.AdventureWorks (Integrated) - Azure Data Studio". The left sidebar has icons for file operations like Open, Save, Find, Copy, Paste, and Snippets. The main editor area shows the command `sqlu` typed in, and a dropdown menu lists several suggestions:

- `sqlUpdateTblstats`: Updates statistics on a specified table (User Snippet)
- `sqlUpdateRows`
- `sqlCursor`
- `sqlGetSpaceUsed`
- `sqlAddColumn`
- `sqlDropColumn`
- `sqlListColumns`

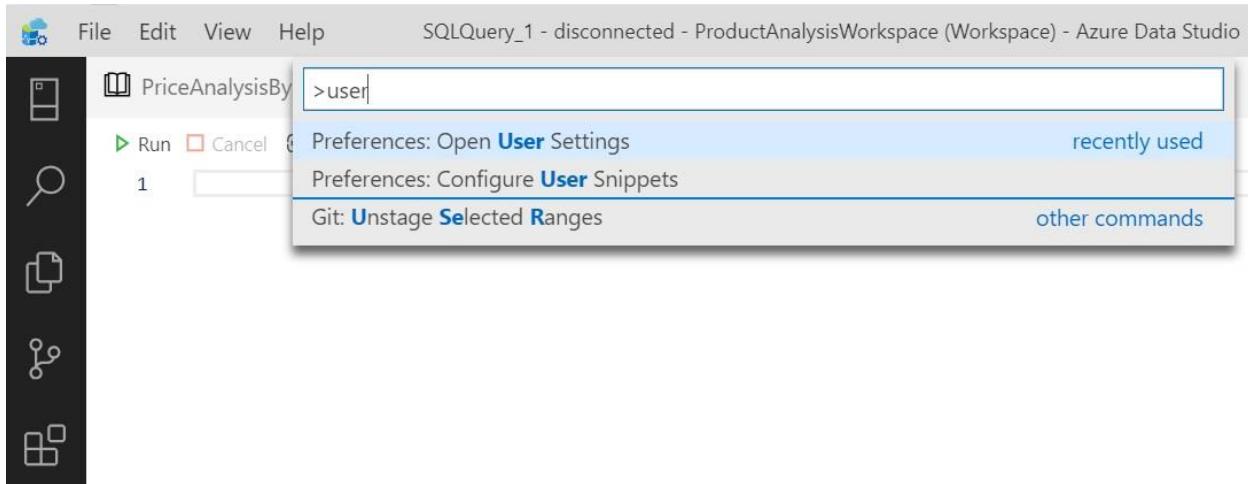
The suggestion for `sqlUpdateTblstats` includes the documentation: "Updates statistics on a specified table (User Snippet)" and the SQL command: `UPDATE STATISTICS SchemaName.TableName;` followed by `GO`.

## Adding widget

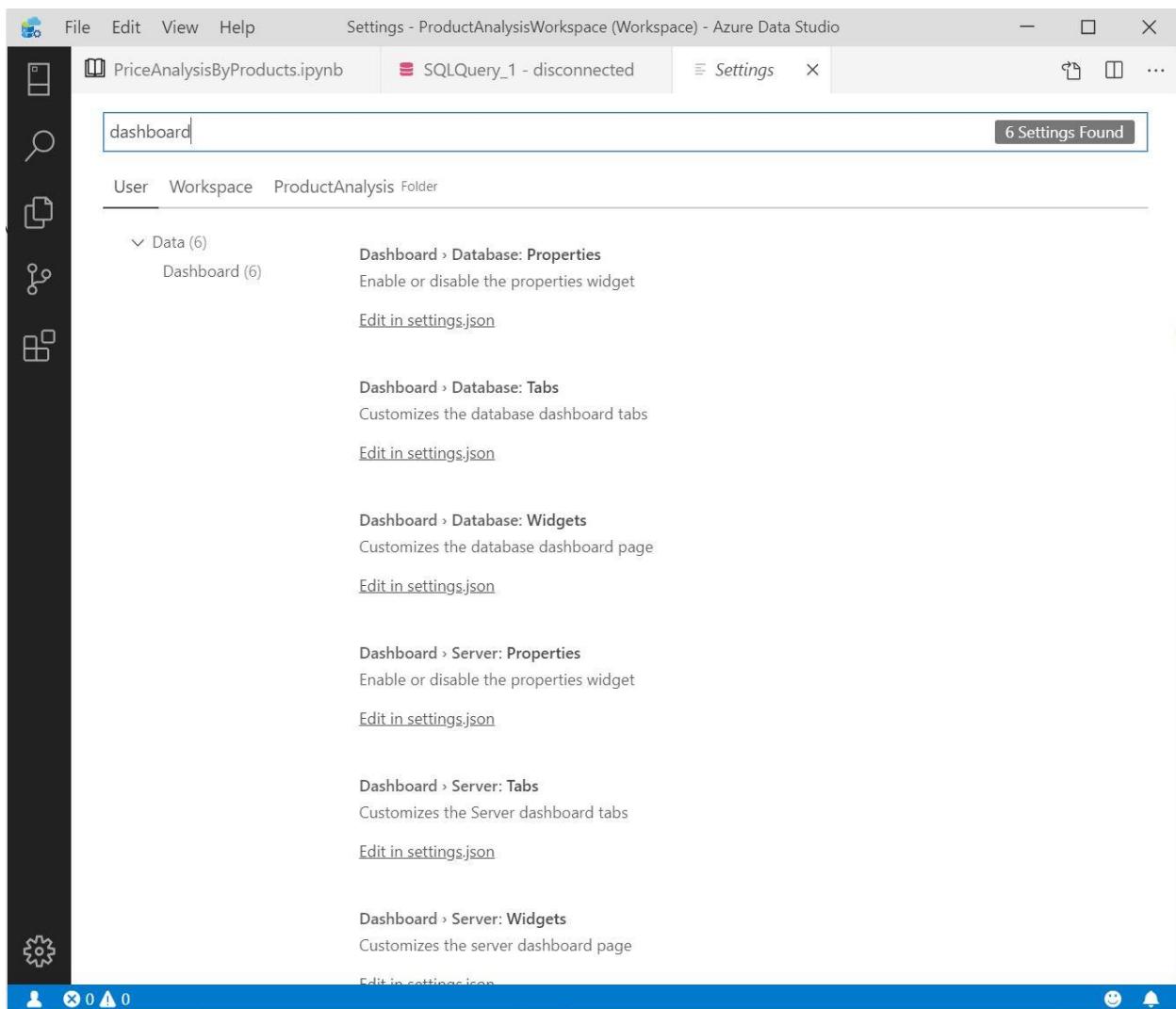
Widgets are yet another customizable element in ADS. They can appear in dashboards as data insights, providing an at-a-glance view about object status, resource usage, workload intensity or any other important measure, including those coming from queries on data in tables.

Azure Data Studio has a built-in sample widget to monitor the space used by tables in a database. We need to just add it to the user configuration settings JSON file.

To do that we start Command Palette and search for User settings command



We open User Settings and search for dashboard until we find Dashboard>Database Widgets.



We click on Edits in settings.json to add the widget description. Typing “`dashboard.database.widgets`” will help us to find the place in the file where we need to insert the widget elements. We insert the description and save the settings.json file

```
{  
  "name": "Space Used by Tables",  
  "gridItemConfig": {  
    "sizex": 2,
```

```

    "sizey": 1
},
"widget": {
    "table-space-db-insight": null
}
},

```

Azure Data Studio screenshot showing the settings.json file open in a tab. The file content is displayed below:

```

File Edit View Help • settings.json - ProductAnalysisWorkspace (Workspace) - Azure Data Studio
PriceAnalysisByProducts.ipynb SQLQuery_1 - disconnected Settings settings.json ...
C: > Users > magi_ > AppData > Roaming > azuredatadistro > User > settings.json > [ ] dashboard.database.widgets
1   "groupId": "dc98809c-07ee-4492-805d-ec46/def231a",
2   "providerName": "MSSQL",
3   "savePassword": true,
4   "id": "0d9f8390-7a15-43a9-9566-0bceccb83891"
5 },
6 ],
7 "dashboard.database.widgets": [
8 {
9     "name": "Tasks",
10    "gridItemConfig": {
11        "sizex": 1,
12        "sizey": 2
13    },
14    "widget": {
15        "tasks-widget": [
16            "newQuery",
17            "mssqlCluster.task.newNotebook",
18            {
19                "name": "backup",
20                "when": "!mssql:iscloud"
21            },
22            {
23                "name": "restore",
24                "when": "!mssql:iscloud"
25            },
26            "configureDashboard"
27        ]
28    }
29 },
30 {
31     "name": "Search",
32     "gridItemConfig": {
33         "sizex": 1,
34         "sizey": 2
35     },
36     "widget": {
37         "explorer-widget": {}
38     }
39 }
40 ],
41 "sizey": 1
42 }
43 ],
44 "sizey": 1
45 }
46 }
47 }
48 }
49 }
50 }
51 }
52 }
53 }
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106 }
107 }
108 }
109 }
110 }
111 }

```

The status bar at the bottom shows: Ln 78, Col 9 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF JSON with Comments

Then it is just a matter of showing the dashboard of our AdventureWorks database to find the new table space widget there

The screenshot shows the Azure Data Studio interface for the AdventureWorks database. At the top, the "Home" tab is selected, displaying the "DATABASE DASHBOARD". Below it, key database properties are listed: Recovery Model (Full), Last Database Backup (8/1/2019 11:37:17 AM), Last Log Backup (Never), Compatibility Level (140), and Owner (Owner).

The main area features a "Space Used by Tables" chart. The legend includes: rows\_count (pink), total\_pages (blue), used\_pages (yellow), data\_pages (light gray), total\_space\_MB (teal), used\_space\_MB (dark blue), and data\_space\_MB (gray). The chart lists several tables and their storage metrics:

Table	rows_count	total_pages	used_pages	data_pages	total_space_MB	used_space_MB	data_space_MB
bigTransactionHistory	~32,000,000	~32,000,000	~32,000,000	~32,000,000	~32,000,000	~32,000,000	~32,000,000
SalesOrderDetailEnlarged	~5,000,000	~5,000,000	~5,000,000	~5,000,000	~5,000,000	~5,000,000	~5,000,000
SalesOrderHeaderEnlarged	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000
Individual	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000
SalesOrderDetail	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000	~1,000,000

Below the chart, the "Tasks" pane contains icons for "New Query", "New Notebook", "Backup", and "Restore". The "Search" pane lists database objects:

- dbo.AWBuildVersion
- dbo.bigProduct
- dbo.bigTransactionHistory
- dbo.DatabaseLog
- dbo.ErrorLog
- dbo.Products
- dbo.SalesOrdersTest
- dbo.ShoppingCart
- dbo.t1
- dbo.TEST

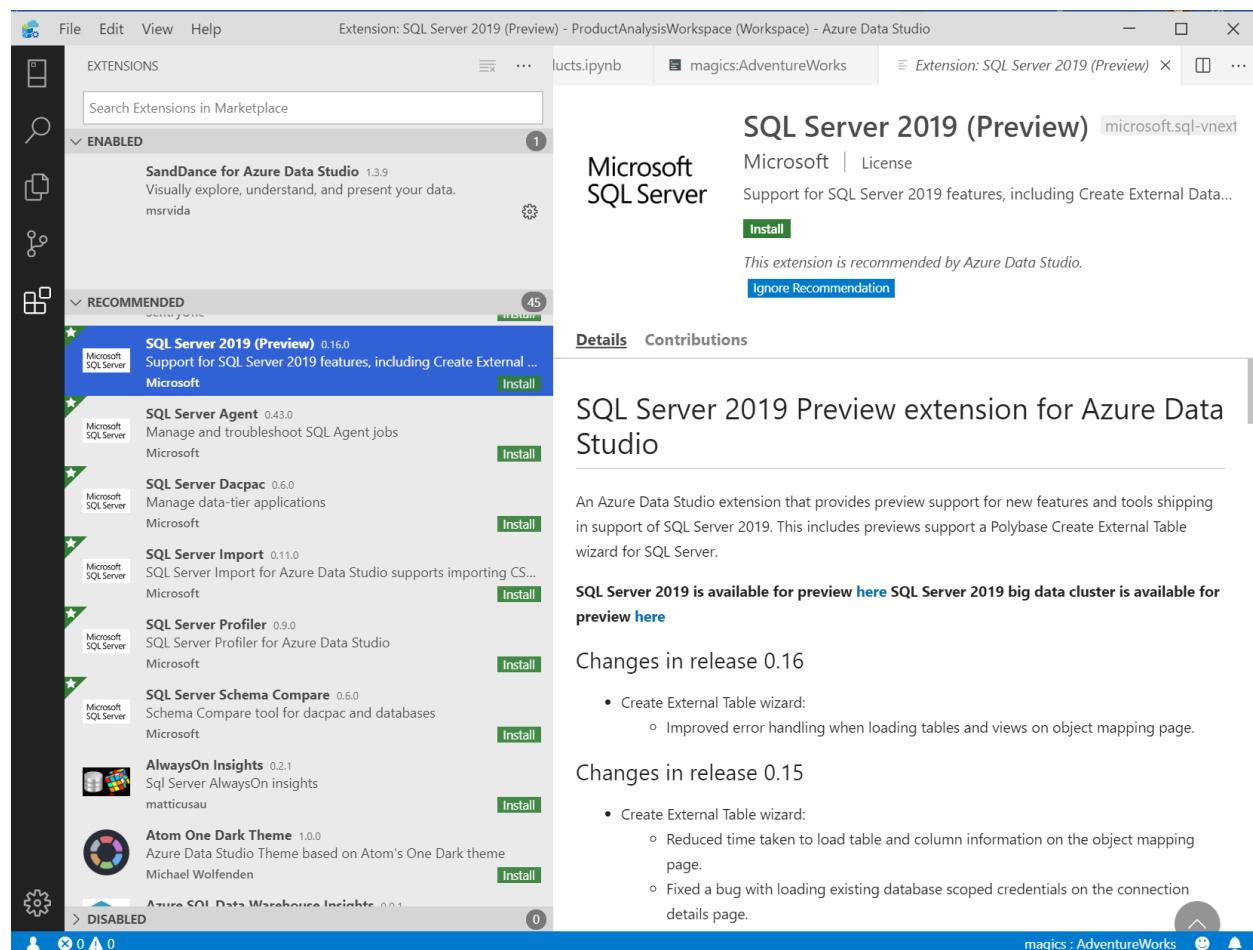
At the bottom, the status bar shows "magics : AdventureWorks" and icons for a smiley face and a bell.

At the time of writing there is one more out of the box widget for analyzing the top five slowest queries based on Query Store execution statistics. We can still develop our own custom widgets.

## Extensions

Extensions is yet another way of customizing ADS. They provide additional features to the product and are listed in Extensions command on the left side of the screen. While some of the extensions are listed within Azure Data Studio. Others you'll need to go to the Visual Studio Code marketplace to get. For example, here's the PowerShell extension: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=ms-vscode.PowerShell>

Just download the \*.vsix file and install that.



Every extension contains a detailed description, recommendations and an installation button. In the description we can find a detailed information on what the extension does and how to use it. We can even develop extension

# Conclusion

Based on everything we saw Azure Data Studio is a great tool providing data management and exciting coding experience for database developers. It is best suited for those who Query SQL databases like SQL Server, Azure SQL Databases including Managed Instance and PostgreSQL. ADS is the tool when you work on Linux or MAC, why not on Windows also. Its highly extensible, probably not very mature yet, but still a great option for those seeking light and flexible coding tool.