

← Takaisin välilehdelle

✓ Tehty: Käy oppitunti läpi loppuun asti

Power BI Desktop and Power BI Service

This course is intended for those who wish to learn the basic, core components of the Power BI ecosystem, namely the following:

- **Power BI Desktop**, including Power Query and DAX
- The **Power BI service**, including the data gateway

Click [link](#) to watch a video about Power BI Desktop and Power BI service.

Power BI Desktop

Power BI Desktop, or simply Desktop, is a free Windows-based application that can be installed on a local desktop or laptop computer. Desktop is the primary tool used by analysts to ingest, shape, analyze, and visualize data. Power BI Desktop is useful for the following tasks:

- Getting data
- Creating a data model
- Analyzing data
- Creating and publishing reports

Getting data

The first step in working with Power BI Desktop is to **connect to data sources**. There are currently over 100 connectors that can be used to connect to different data sources, including many general-purpose connectors, such as the web connector, OData Feed, and the JSON connector, which enable connections to hundreds, if not thousands, of different sources of data.

Creating a data model

Connecting to a data source **creates a query within a tool called the Query Editor**. The Query Editor utilizes Power Query technology and provides a graphical interface that allows the user to create a series of steps that are recorded and then replayed every time data is loaded or refreshed from the source. This means your data always ends up in your desired form.

Queries load data into structured data tables within Power BI Desktop. Once these tables of data have been loaded, a data model can be constructed by relating these tables to one another.

Analyzing data

The data that's used within the model does not have to come solely from data sources. **Power BI uses a technology called DAX, which allows users to create calculations** in the form of calculated columns, measures, and even entire tables. This allows analysts to create simple measures, such as gross margins and percentage of totals, as well as more complex measures, such as year-over-year revenue.

Creating and publishing reports

Once a data model has been built and analyzed, **visuals can be created on report pages** by dragging and dropping fields onto the report canvas. Visuals are graphical representations of the data within the model. There are 37 default visuals within Power BI Desktop, but hundreds more can be imported from Microsoft AppSource and used within Power BI Desktop. Multiple visuals can be combined on one or more pages to create a **report**. These visuals and pages can interact with one another as users click within the report. Once the reports have been finalized, the **reports can be published to the Power BI service**. These reports can then be shared with other users.

The Power BI service

The Power BI service is a hosted web application that runs on Microsoft's cloud platform, Azure. The service is also free to use, with restrictions around the sharing of reports as covered previously. The service is useful for the following tasks:

- Viewing and editing reports
- Creating dashboards
- Sharing and collaborating with others
- Accessing and creating apps
- Refreshing data

Viewing and editing reports

Reports that are published to the service can be viewed within a web browser. This provides the same interactive experience as Desktop. In addition, reports can be marked as favorites, subscribed to for email delivery, and downloaded as PDFs or PowerPoint files. Existing reports can be edited, and new reports can be created from the published datasets.

Creating dashboards

The Power BI service allows visuals from one or more reports to be combined into **dashboards**. Dashboards highlight the most important information and metrics. Dashboards can be marked as favorites, subscribed to for email delivery, and have alerts created that notify the user when thresholds have been exceeded.

Sharing and collaborating with others

Reports and dashboards can be shared with others. This allows a report author's published work to be easily distributed to a wider audience. Other users can set their own personal report bookmarks, as well as engaging in discussions about dashboards. Multiple individuals can even collaborate together within workspaces to create reports and dashboards. The security settings allow authors and collaborators to control exactly who sees precisely which dashboards, reports, and data.

Accessing and creating apps

Microsoft and third parties have created built-in apps within the service that provide bundles of data, reports, and dashboards. These apps can be subscribed to from within the service and added to your personal Power BI workspace. Authors can even bundle their own data, reports, and dashboards into an app and distribute it to other users in their organization.

Refreshing data

The service allows users to schedule automatic refreshes of online and on-premises data. This means that once a refresh has been configured for a published report, the data is always current, with no further work required by the author. The service provides its own refresh gateway for online data. On-premises data requires an on-premises data gateway to be installed on a local network.

Microsoft Excel is the number one most popular computer program in the world. While Excel is an amazing tool, the millions of users using it to analyze their data are thirsty for more. Many of the skills collected over time while designing Excel solutions still apply in Power BI. Concepts like modeling data, writing Excel formulas, and building PivotTables, all have comparable features in Power BI.

End-of-Lesson

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Exercise 1 ▶

Olet kirjautunut nimellä Janne Bragge. (Kirjaudu ulos)

PowerBI

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