

# How to Diagnose a Slow Power BI Report



**SQL Saturday Jacksonville**

May 2025

# Jason Romans

**Principal Consultant**  
**P3 Adaptive**



## The Dax Shepherd



**Lives in Nashville, Tennessee, United States**



**Started as SQL Server DBA**



**Transitioned to the Microsoft BI Stack**



**SSIS, SSAS, SQL Server Database, and Power BI**



**Simple Talk Author at Redgate**



**Favorite Data Model**



Thank you to ALL of our sponsors! - Be sure to stop by all tables!



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College of Computing,  
Engineering and Construction



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OC

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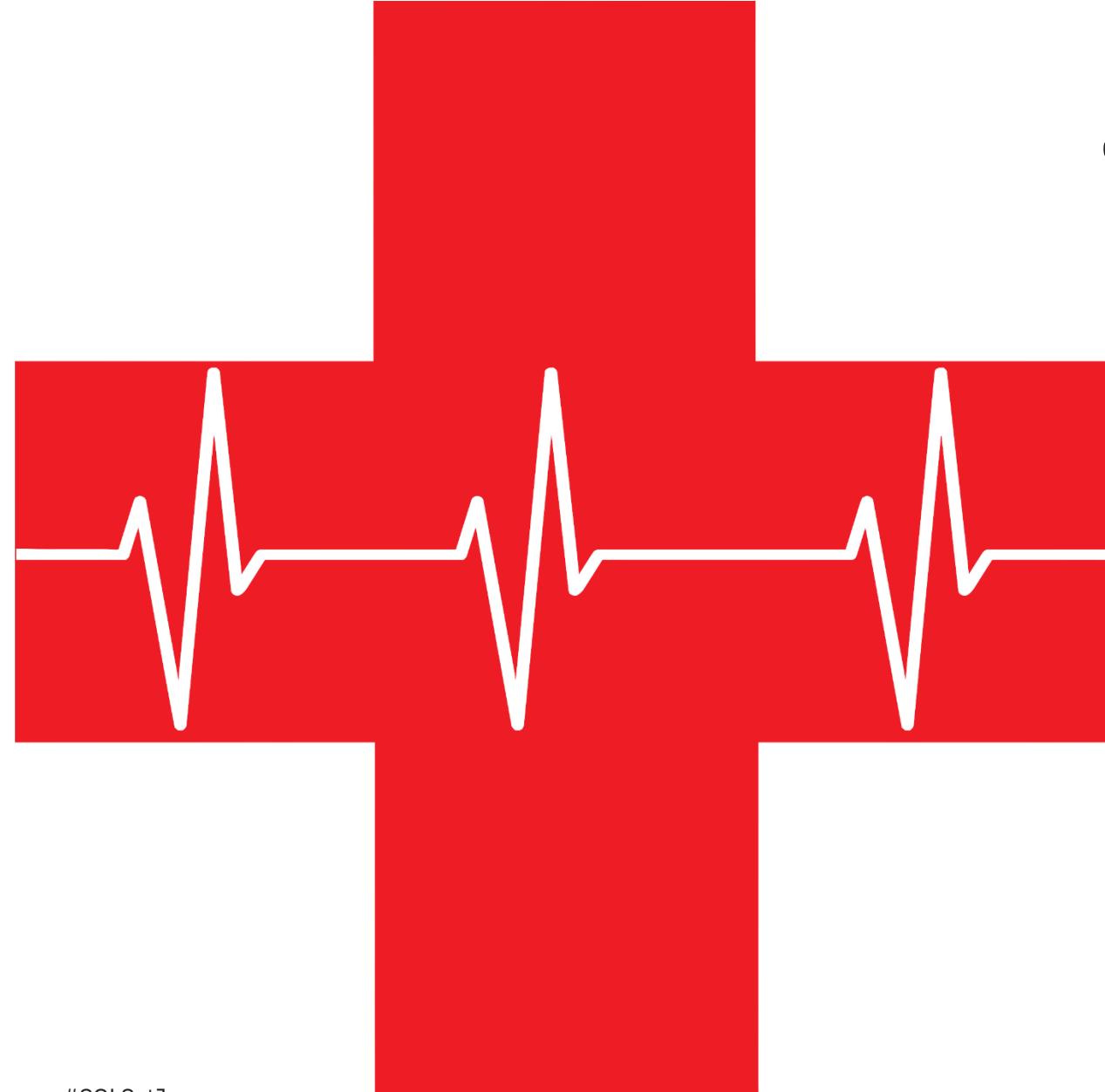
O'REILLY®





Monthly Meetings  
3rd Wednesday of each month

[jssug.org](http://jssug.org)



# SQL Clinic

**Get your SQL questions answered here  
by our SQL experts during our breaks!**

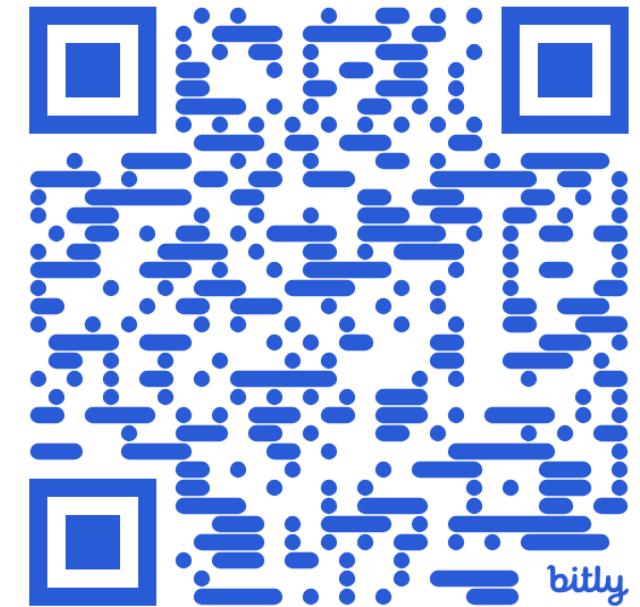
(Across from Registration)

# 501 Legion Charitable Donation For Housing

Thank the 501 Legion for Supporting Our Event!

JSSUG Will Match Donations up to \$500

Donation Bucket on Registration Table



Our vision for Ft. Barnabas is to one day be a bastion of hope and stability in guiding veterans on their path to stability. Fort Barnabas will be constructed as a mixture of portable tiny homes, or "Barnabas Bungalows," and brick-and-mortar condo-style family homes. <https://operationbarnabas.com/get-involved/>

# Session Evaluations

**Your feedback is important to us!**

**Please fill out and hand to speaker after the session!**

# Event Evaluation

**Fill out event evaluation card in your bag and visit all sponsors to be entered  
to win an Xbox Series X – (Must be present to win)**



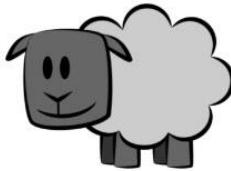
**See you in Seattle!  
Get \$150 off a 3-day ticket!**

**Use code: SQLSATJACKS150**

**Register now!**

[passdatacommunitysummit.com](http://passdatacommunitysummit.com)

# www.thedaxshepherd.com



## The DAX Shepherd

Musings on the Microsoft BI Stack



[Home](#) [About Me](#) [Simple Talk](#) [Presentations](#) [A Speaker's Journey](#)

## Presentations

### Sessionize

This is my [Sessionize Profile](#) that has the conferences I have spoken at along with future events. It has a couple of my most popular sessions.

### Presentation Slides

This is my [GitHub Repository](#) with the presentation slides for each event.

### Recorded Sessions

Simple Talks Podcast | Episode 4 – Coffee chat with Jason Romans

### About Jason Romans



I love working with the Microsoft BI Stack. I am passionate about learning.

### A Speaker's Journey

# Shoulders of Giants



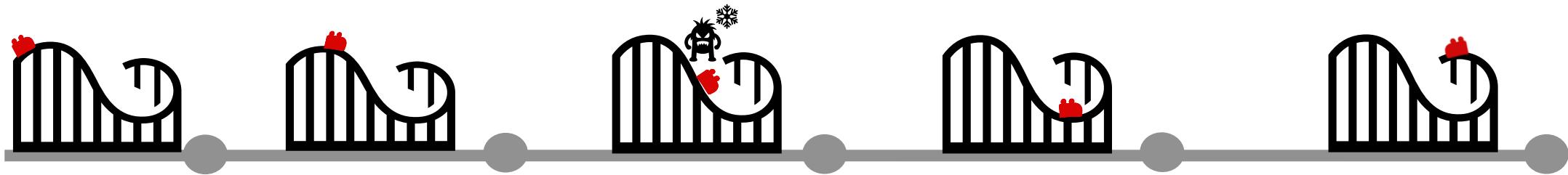
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)



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# Our Journey

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- 1. Intro**
- 2. Performance Analyzer**
- 3. DAX Studio**
- 4. Tabular Editor**
- 5. Conclusion**

# Our Journey

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- 1. Intro**
2. Performance Analyzer
3. DAX Studio
4. Tabular Editor
5. Conclusion

# **Power BI is Part of Fabric**

- If you have a Fabric capacity
  - Enhances what you can do with Power BI
    - OneLake
    - Warehouse & Lakehouse
    - Semantic Link Labs - Best Practice Analyzer
  - What we cover applies to Power BI Pro, Power BI Premium, and Fabric

# **Exam DP-600: Implementing Analytics Solutions Using Microsoft Fabric**

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# **Exam DP-600: Implementing Analytics Solutions Using Microsoft Fabric**

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## **Design and build semantic models**

- Identify use cases for DAX Studio and Tabular Editor 2

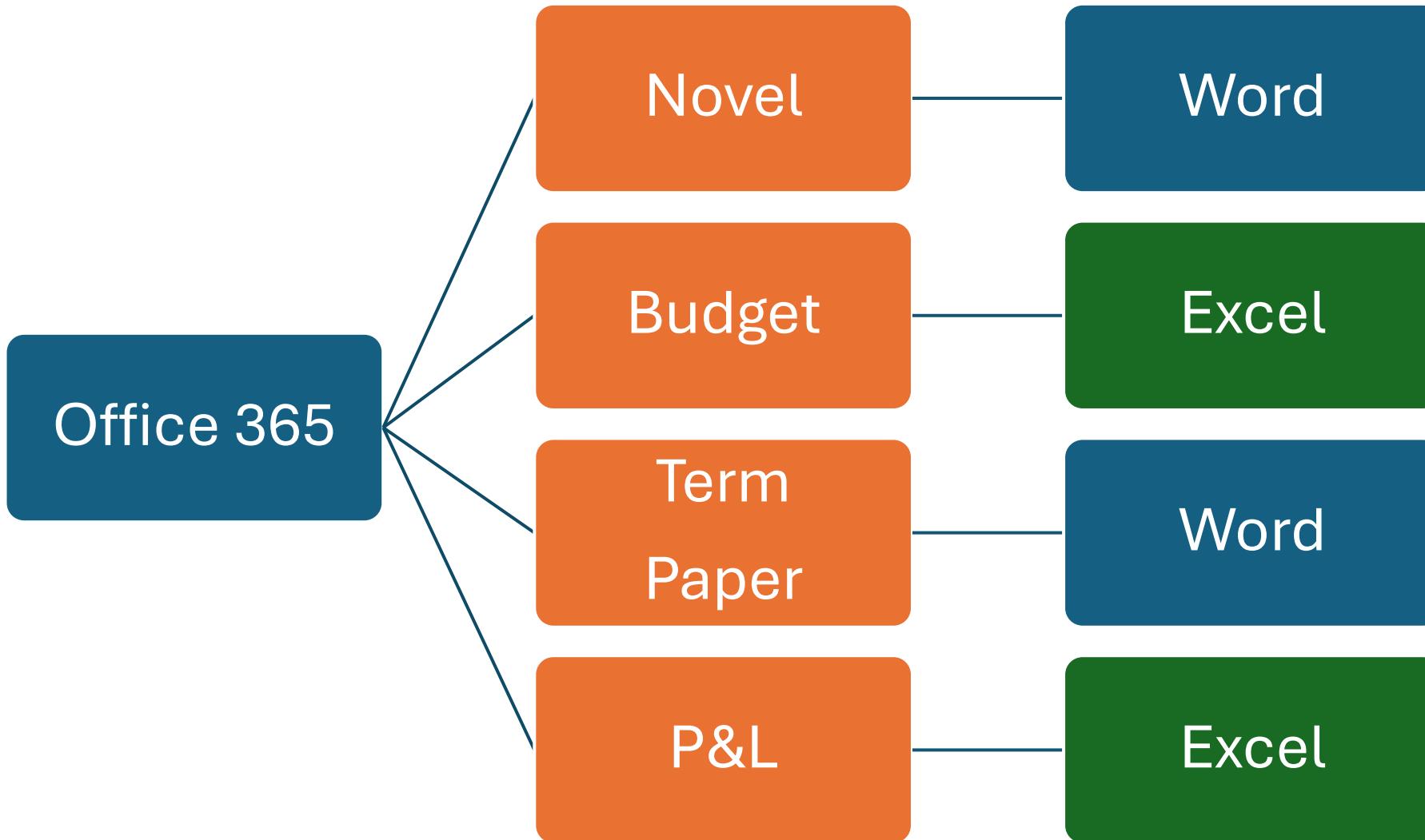
## **Optimize enterprise-scale semantic models**

- Improve DAX performance by using DAX Studio
- Optimize a semantic model by using Tabular Editor 2

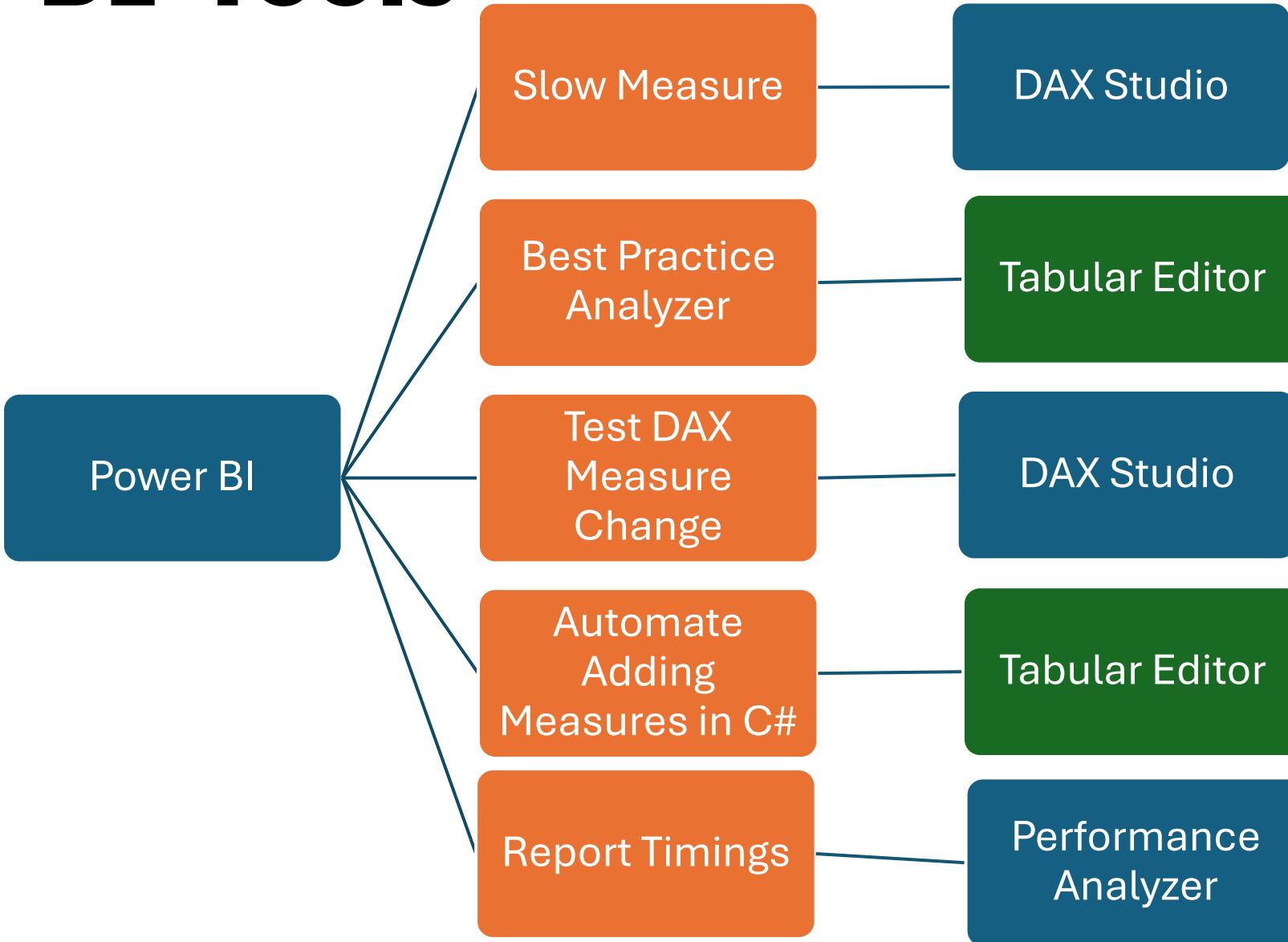
# Why is my report slow?

- Motivating Factor
- This can have a lasting impact
  - Power BI Developer Skills
  - Career Development

# Office 365

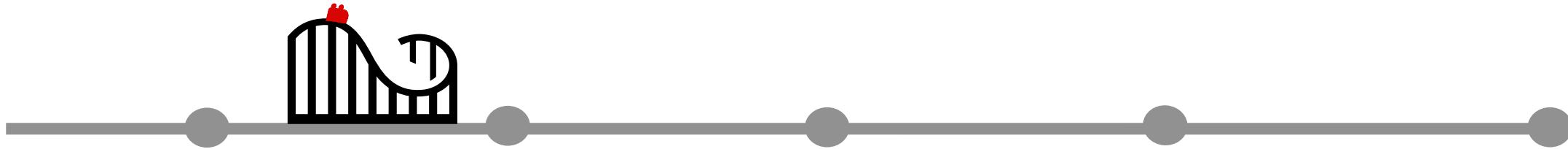


# Power BI Tools



# Our Journey

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1. Intro

**2. Performance Analyzer**

3. DAX Studio

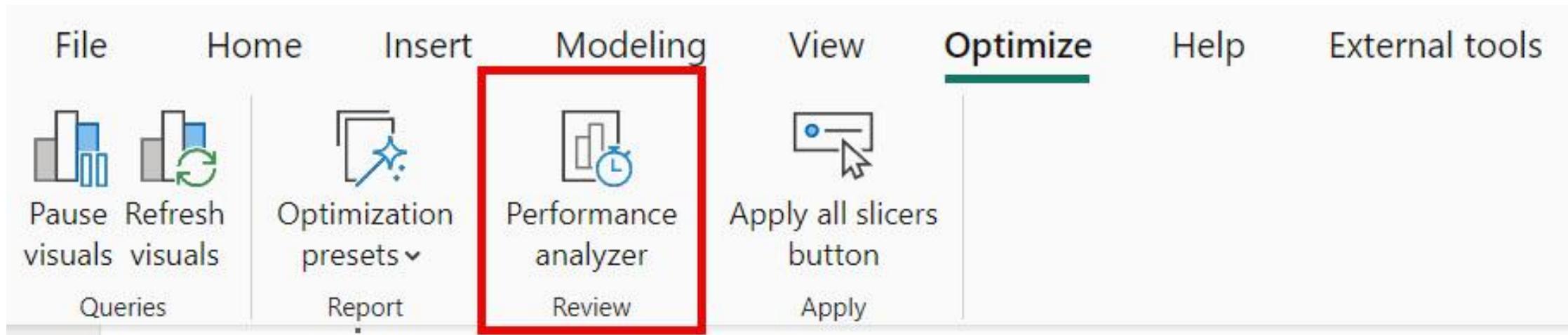
4. Tabular Editor

5. Conclusion

# **Performance Analyzer**

- Not an External Tool
- Built into Power BI Desktop

# Performance Analyzer



# Performance Analyzer

## Start Recording

**Filters** »

Search

Filters on this page ...

Add data fields here

Filters on all pages ...

**Year**  
is 2020

Add data fields here

**Performance analyzer** »

Start recording Refresh visuals Stop

Start monitoring your report to see details about the time taken by each visual to query for its data and render the result.

**Visualizations** »

Build visual



...

**Data** »

Search

>  Sales

>  Customer

>  Date

>  Product

>  Store

# Performance Analyzer Recording

Performance analyzer [»](#)

[Start recording](#) [Refresh visuals](#) [Stop](#)

---

[Clear](#) [Export](#)

Name	Duration (ms) ↓
<a href="#">⌚ Recording started (5/1/2...</a>	-
<i>Interact with your report t...</i>	-

# Performance Analyzer

## Refresh Visuals

Performance analyzer >

( Start recording ( Refresh visuals) ( Stop)

( Clear) ( Export)

Name	Duration (ms)
Recording started (5/1/2... Interact with your report t...	-

# Individual Refresh Button

Note: Values for Other will be different

Date	Total Quantity	
Wednesday, January 01, 2020	7,759	
Thursday, January 02, 2020	8,256	
Friday, January 03, 2020	5,482	
Saturday, January 04, 2020	8,608	
Sunday, January 05, 2020	1,144	
Monday, January 06, 2020	3,823	
Tuesday, January 07, 2020	4,414	

# List of Visuals

Performance analyzer »

▶ Start recording      ⟳ Refresh visuals      □ Stop

⟲ Clear ⤒ Export

Name	Duration (ms)
<span style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle;">⟳</span> Refreshed visual	-
<span style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle;">+ Card</span>	65
<span style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle;">+ Card</span>	66
<span style="font-size: 1.5em; vertical-align: middle;">+ Table</span>	102

# Expanded View

Performance analyzer >>

( Start recording      ( Refresh visuals      @ Stop

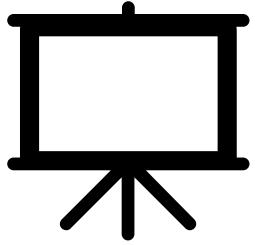
Clear Export

Name	Duration (ms)
( Refreshed visual	-
Card	65
DAX query	3
Visual display	3
Other	59
Copy query	
DAX Run in DAX Query View	
Card	66
DAX query	3
Visual display	4
Other	59
Copy query	
DAX Run in DAX Query View	
Table	102
DAX query	29
Visual display	31
Other	42
Copy query	
DAX Run in DAX Query View	

# Detail on Card

 Refreshed visual	-
 Card	65
DAX query	3
Visual display	3
Other	59
 Copy query	
 Run in DAX Query View	

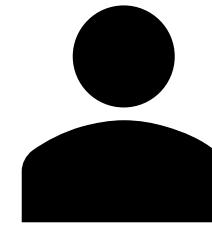
# 3 Numbers



Visual Display



Other



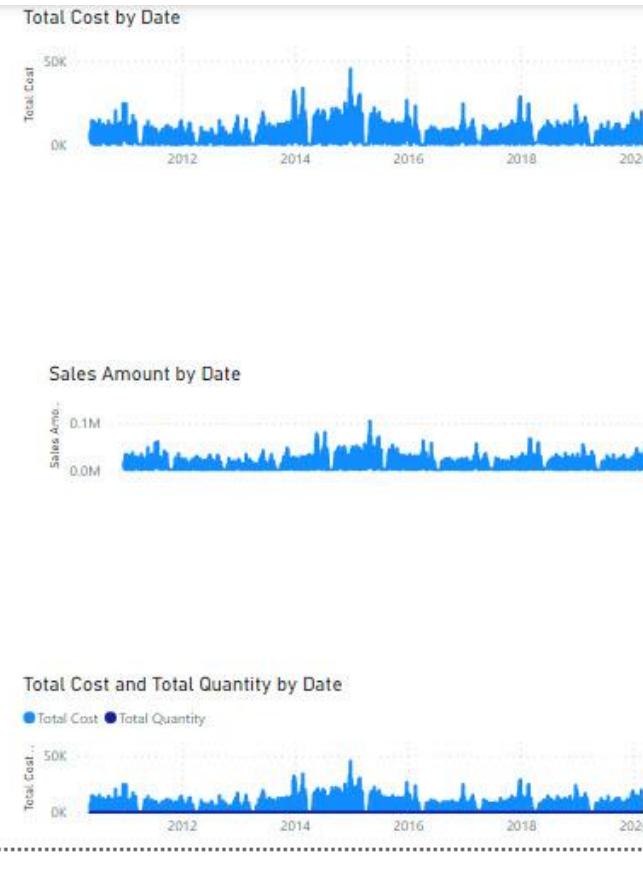
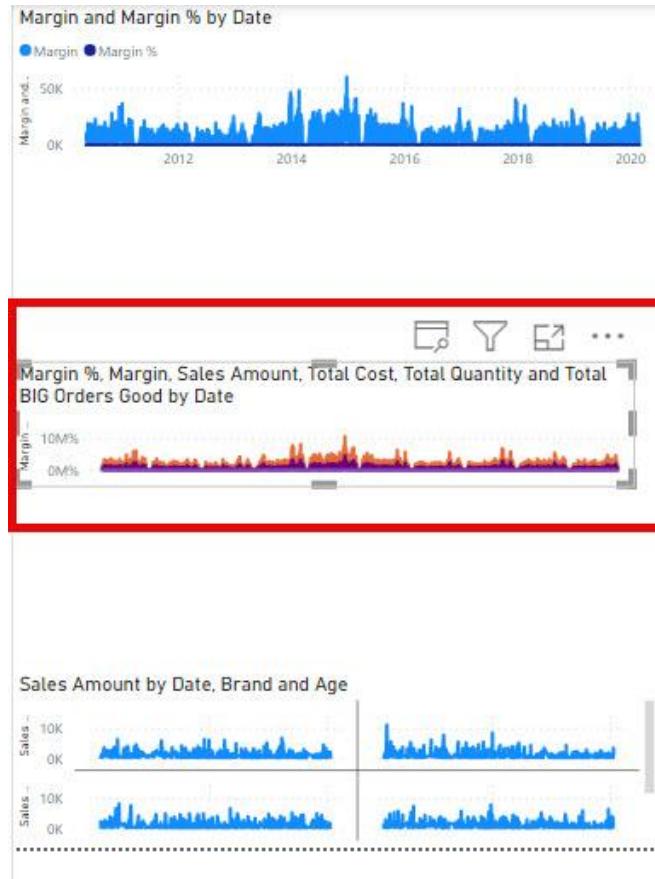
DAX Query

# Visual Display



- Visual Display
  - Time spent on producing the visual
- Restaurant
  - Plating

# Slow Visual



Performance analyzer

Start recording Refresh visuals Stop

Clear Export

Name	Duration (ms)
Refreshed visual	-
Margin and Margin % by Date	725
Total Cost by Date	724
Sales Amount by Date	152
Margin %, Margin, Sales Amount, Total Co...	723
DAX query	10
Visual display	526
Other	187
Copy query	
Run in DAX Query View	
Sales Amount by Date, Brand and Age	927
Total Cost and Total Quantity by Date	722

# **Visual Display - Solutions**

- Reduce the complexity of visual
  - Granularity of visual
- Use a Background Image
- More in Resources

# Other

⌚ Refreshed visual	-
✉ Card	65
DAX query	3
Visual display	3
Other	59
Copy query	
Run in DAX Query View	

- Other
  - Time waiting until DAX Query can be executed
- Restaurant
  - Waiting to order

# Other - Solutions

- Reduce Visualizations on the Page
  - Scrollbar?
- Evaluate where the bottleneck is
  - May be a combination of other factors

# DAX Query



- DAX Query
  - Time it takes to execute the DAX query
- Restaurant
  - Time to make the food

# Slow DAX Query

Performance analyzer [»](#)

[Start recording](#) [Refresh visuals](#) [Stop](#)

[Clear](#) [Export](#)

Name	Duration (ms) ↓
⟳ Refreshed visual	-
+ Card	52
+ Card	52
⊖ Table	28059
DAX query	27992
Visual display	30
Other	37
<a href="#">Copy query</a>	
<a href="#">Run in DAX Query View</a>	

# DAX Query - Solutions



- Investigate query
  - Where is most of the query time spent
  - Can the DAX code be optimized?
  - Rewrite the DAX code

# Run in DAX Query View

Table	102
DAX query	29
Visual display	31
Other	42
 Copy query	
 Run in DAX Query View	

DAX queries will be saved to your model. They won't be visible when published in the Power BI service. [Learn more](#)

Run

DAX

```
1 DEFINE
2     VAR __DS0Core =
3         SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(
4             ROLLUPADDISSUBTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"),
5             "Margin", 'Sales'[Margin]
6         )
7
8     VAR __DS0PrimaryWindowed =
9         TOPN(502, __DS0Core, [IsGrandTotalRowTotal], 0, 'Product'[Category], 1, 'Product'[Brand], 1)
10
11    EVALUATE
12        __DS0PrimaryWindowed
13
14    ORDER BY
15        [IsGrandTotalRowTotal] DESC, 'Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]
```

Results | Result 1 of 1 ▾ | Copy

	Product[Category]	Product[Brand]	[IsGrandTotalRowTotal]	[Margin]
1			True	1267049808.67
2	Audio	Contoso	False	5547636.55
3	Audio	Northwind Traders	False	5276681.88
4	Audio	Wide World Importers	False	21868862.18
5	Cameras and camcorders	A. Datum	False	28002980.67
6	Cameras and camcorders	Contoso	False	19656707.45
7	Cameras and camcorders	Fabrikam	False	71111794.44
8	Cell phones	Contoso	False	22490172.07
9	Cell phones	The Phone Company	False	174204193.03
10	Computers	Adventure Works	False	189547913.31

Query 1 +

Success (27.3 ms) | Query 1 of 1 | Result 1 of 1 | 4 columns, 30 rows

# Query from Visual

# Query View

- Queries are saved with the model
- Share or preserve slow query
- First exposure to DAX Queries
- Has many uses - i.e. validations
- Not good for diagnosing slow queries

# DAX Query View for Web

<https://powerbi.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/deep-dive-into-dax-query-view-for-web/>

- Use against models in Workspace

# **Power BI Demo**

## **Performance Analyzer**

# Performance Analyzer

- Informed Decisions
- Don't underestimate this tool
- You can isolate where the issue is
- Why spend all day optimizing DAX if it isn't the issue

# What about that slow DAX Query?

Performance analyzer

»

Start recording Refresh visuals Stop

Clear Export

Name	Duration (ms)
Refreshed visual	-
Table	61668
DAX query	61617
Visual display	23
Other	28

Copy query Run in DAX Query View



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# DAX

# External Tools



# Installation

- Full Install
- Power BI Desktop
  - External Tools Tab

# External Tools Tab

A screenshot of a software application's ribbon interface, specifically focusing on the "External tools" tab. The ribbon tabs include File, Home, Insert, Modeling, View, Optimize, Help, External tools (which is underlined in green), Format, and Data / Drill. Below the tabs, there are icons and labels for external tools: ALM Toolkit (green cube icon), Bravo (red cube icon), Model Documenter (yellow document icon), DAX Studio (blue cube with gear icon), Tabular Editor (teal cube icon), and Tabular Editor (green cube icon). A page number "3" is visible at the bottom right.

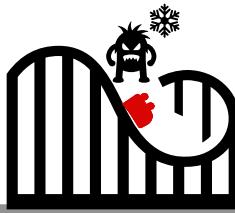
File      Home      Insert      Modeling      View      Optimize      Help      **External tools**      Format      Data / Drill

ALM Toolkit      Bravo      Model Documenter      DAX Studio      Tabular Editor      Tabular Editor

External tools

# Our Journey

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- 3. DAX Studio**
4. Tabular Editor
5. Conclusion

# What if the DAX Query is Slow?



# DAX Studio

- Download
  - <https://daxstudio.org/>
- Author Measures and Queries
- Connect to Semantic Models
- Performance Tuning
  - Details on how the query is processed

# Slow DAX Query

Performance analyzer [»](#)

[Start recording](#) [Refresh visuals](#) [Stop](#)

[Clear](#) [Export](#)

Name	Duration (ms)
Refreshed visual	-
Table	61668
DAX query	61617
Visual display	23
Other	28
<a href="#">Copy query</a>	
<a href="#">Run in DAX Query View</a>	

# Copy query

Performance analyzer >>

( Start recording    ( Refresh visuals)    (@ Stop)

Clear Export

Name	Duration (ms)
( Refreshed visual	-
Table	61668
DAX query	61617
Visual display	23
Other	28
Copy query	
Run in DAX Query View	

# Copied

Performance analyzer »

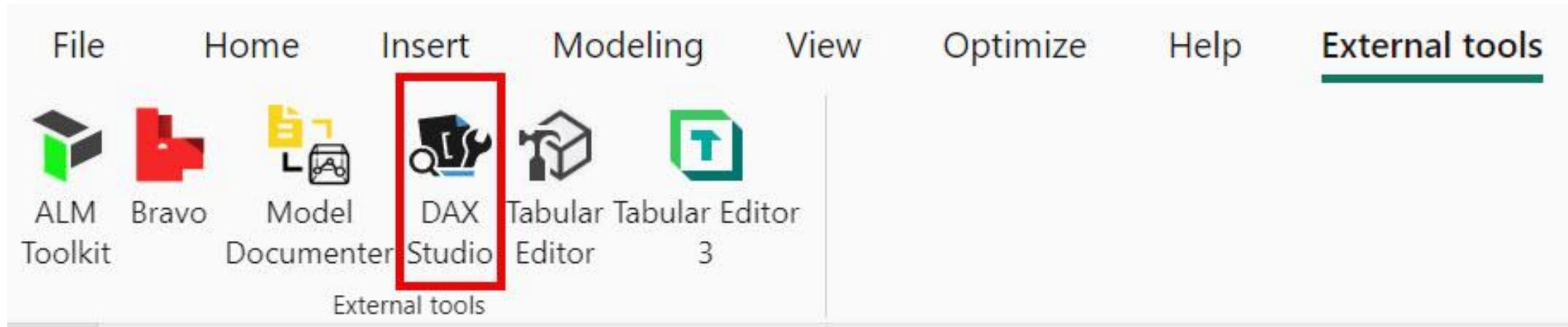
(+) Start recording ↻ Refresh visuals @ Stop

---

◊ Clear Export

Name	Duration (ms)
⟳ Refreshed visual	-
⊖ Table	61668
DAX query	61617
Visual display	23
Other	29
✓ Copied	
DAX Run in DAX Query View	

# Power BI - Open DAX Studio



# Paste in DAX Studio

DAX Studio - 3.0.11

File Home Advanced Help

Run Cancel Query Builder Clear Cache Clear on Run Results Output Edit Format Query A To Upper Comment Find Power BI

Cache

Copy Undo Redo To Lower Uncomment Replace

Format Comma Debug Commas Merge XML

Find All Queries Power BI

Load Perf Data Traces

Query Plan Server Timings Connection

Metadata Functions DMV

Contoso1M\_Docker\_BPATEst Model

Search

Customer Date Product Sales Store

```
1 DEFINE VAR __DSOCore =
2     SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(
3         ROLLUPADDISSUBTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"),
4         "Margin", 'Sales'[Margin]
5     )
6
7     VAR __DSOPrimarywindowed =
8         TOPN(502, __DSOCore, [IsGrandTotalRowTotal], 0, 'Product'[Category], 1, 'Product'[Brand], 1)
9
10    EVALUATE
11        __DSOPrimarywindowed
12
13    ORDER BY
14        [IsGrandTotalRowTotal] DESC, 'Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]
```

Log Results History

	Start	Duration ⓘ	Message
ⓘ	16:34:01		Establishing Connection
ⓘ	16:34:01		Connected

# Let's Run It

DAX Studio - 3.0.11

The screenshot shows the DAX Studio interface version 3.0.11. The toolbar at the top includes icons for File, Home, Advanced, Help, Run (highlighted with a red box), Cancel, Query Builder, Clear Cache, Clear on Run, Results, Cut, Undo, Copy, Redo, Paste, Format Query, To Upper, To Lower, Comment, Uncomment, Debug Commas, Merge XML, Find, Replace, Load Perf Data, All Queries, Query Plan, Server Timings, Connect, and Refresh Metadata. Below the toolbar is a sidebar with tabs for Metadata, Functions, and DMV. The Metadata tab is selected and shows a dropdown menu with 'Contoso1M\_Docker\_BPATEst' and 'Model' options, along with a search bar. The main area contains a DAX query:

```
1 DEFINE  
2 VAR __DSOCore =  
3     SUMMARIZECOLUMN(  
4         ROLLUPADDISSUBTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"),  
5         "Margin", 'Sales'[Margin]  
6     )  
7  
8     VAR __DSOPrimarywindowed =  
9         TOPN(502, __DSOCore, [IsGrandTotalRowTotal], 0, 'Product'[Category], 1, 'Product'[Brand], 1)  
10  
11 EVALUATE  
12     __DSOPrimarywindowed  
13  
14 ORDER BY  
15     [IsGrandTotalRowTotal] DESC, 'Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]
```

At the bottom, there are tabs for Log, Results, and History. The Log tab displays a table with columns Start, Duration, and Message, showing two entries: 'Establishing Connection' at 16:34:01 and 'Connected' at 16:34:01.

	Start	Duration ⓘ	Message
ⓘ	16:34:01		Establishing Connection
ⓘ	16:34:01		Connected

# Results - Like Query View

The screenshot shows the Power BI Query Editor interface. The top navigation bar includes File, Home, Advanced, Help, and various toolbar icons for running queries, canceling, clearing cache, and managing results.

The left sidebar displays the 'Metadata' tab, showing the current model and a search bar. Below this, a tree view lists the data sources: Customer, Date, Product, Sales, and Store.

The main area contains a DAX query:

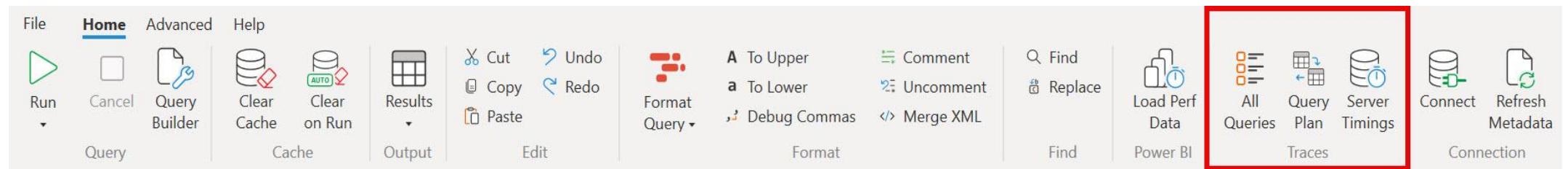
```
1 DEFINE  
2     VAR __DS0Core =  
3         SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(  
4             ROLLUPADDISSUBTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"),  
5             "Margin", 'sales'[Margin]  
6         )  
7  
8     VAR __DS0Primarywindowed =  
9         TOPN(502, __DS0Core, [IsGrandTotalRowTotal], 0, 'Product'[Category], 1, 'Product'[Brand], 1)  
10  
11 EVALUATE  
12     __DS0Primarywindowed  
13  
14 ORDER BY  
15     [IsGrandTotalRowTotal] DESC, 'Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]
```

The results pane, highlighted with a red border, displays the output of the query as a table:

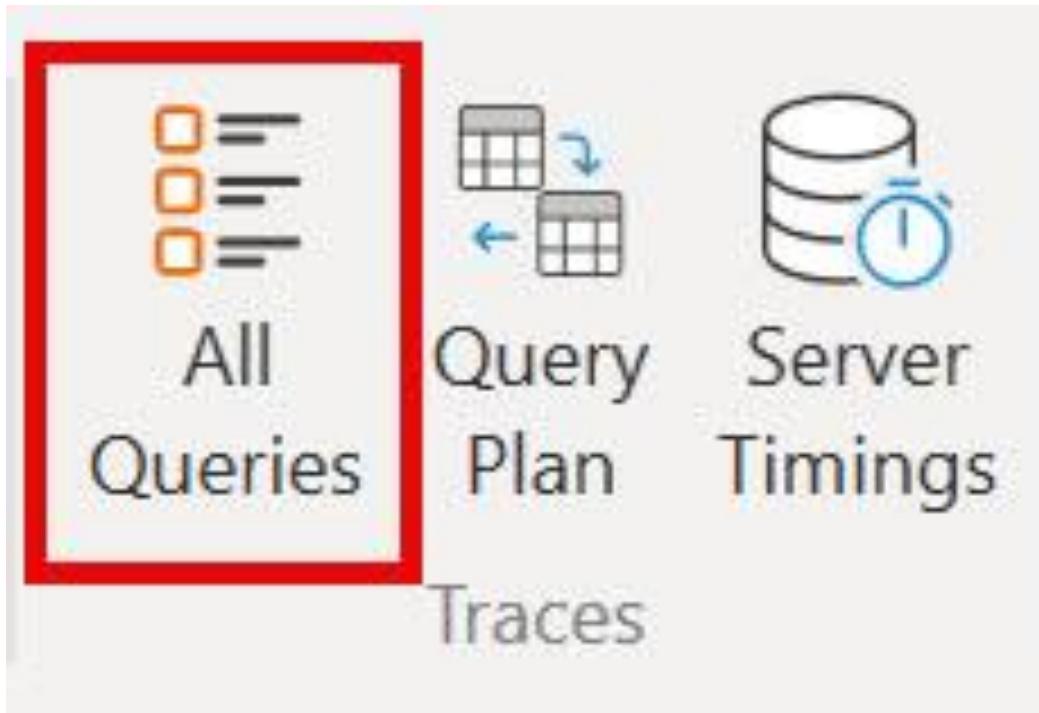
Category	Brand	IsGrandTotalRowTotal	Margin
		True	1267049808.6663
Audio	Contoso	False	5547636.5545
Audio	Northwind Traders	False	5276681.882
Audio	Wide World Importers	False	21868862.1847
Cameras and camcorders	A. Datum	False	28002980.6738
Cameras and camcorders	Contoso	False	19656707.4536
Cameras and camcorders	Fabrikam	False	71111794.4404
Cell phones	Contoso	False	22490172.075
Cell phones	The Phone Company	False	174204193.028
Computers	Adventure Works	False	189547913.3088

The bottom status bar indicates the query is ready, with details like line 15, column 50, and 30 rows processed.

# Traces



# DAX Studio - All Queries



Like SQL Server Profiler

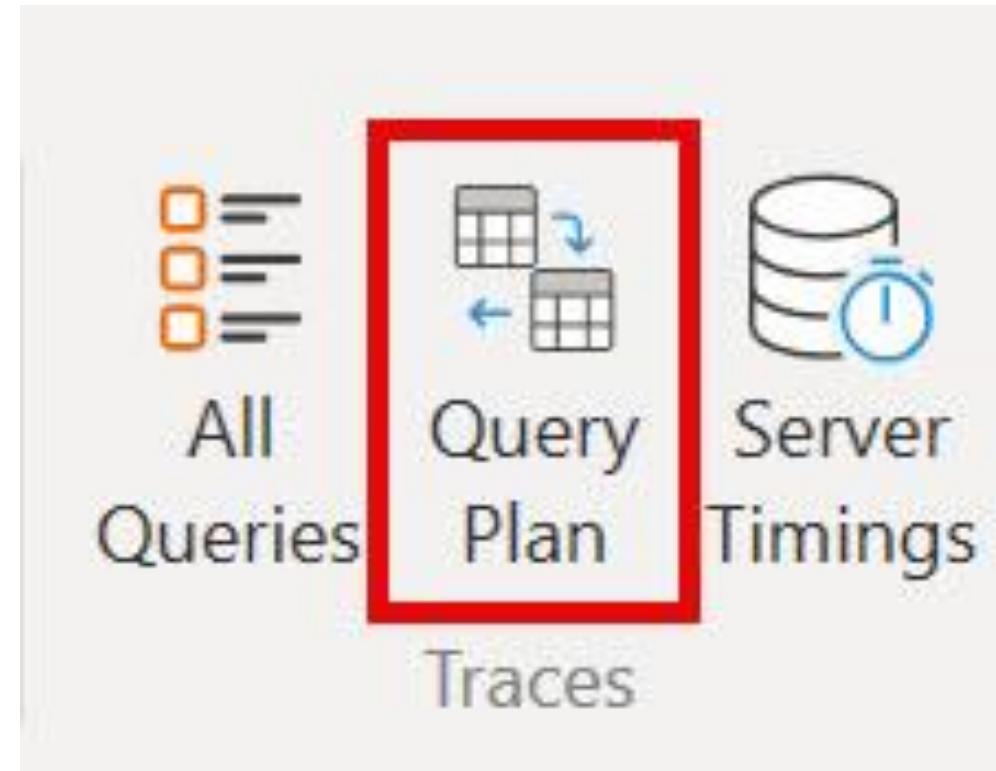
# DAX Studio - All Queries

Log Results History **All Queries** ... X

Record  Pause  Stop  Clear  Copy  Export  Info  Filters

StartTime	Type	Duration	User	Database	Query
10:12:54	DAX	10ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = SUMMARIZECOLUMNS( ROLLUPADDISSTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"), "Margin", 'Sa...
10:12:51	DAX	0ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = SUMMARIZE('Product', 'Product'[Category], 'Product'[Brand]) VAR __DSOPrimaryWindowed = TOPN(501, __DSOCore, 'Product'[Category], 1, 'Pro...
10:12:50	DAX	2ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = DISTINCT('Product'[Category]) VAR __DSOPrimaryWindowed = TOPN(501, __DSOCore, 'Product'[Category], 1) EVALUATE __DSOPrimaryWindowed
10:11:45	DAX	187ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = SUMMARIZECOLUMNS( ROLLUPADDISSTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Date'[Year Month], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"), "Total_BIG_Or...
10:11:39	DAX	9ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = SELECTCOLUMNS( KEEPFILTERS( FILTER( KEEPFILTERS( SUMMARIZECOLUMNS('Date'[Year Month], 'Product'[Brand], "CountRowsSales", COUNT...)
10:11:24	DAX	6ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	EVALUATE ROW( "MinBrand", CALCULATE(MIN('Product'[Brand])))
10:10:33	DAX	31,984ms	MSI\roman	Contoso1M_Docker_BPATest	DEFINE VAR __DSOCore = SUMMARIZECOLUMNS( ROLLUPADDISSTOTAL(ROLLUPGROUP('Date'[Year Month], 'Product'[Brand]), "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"), "Total_BIG_Or...

# Query Plan



# Query Plans

## Two Types

- Logical
- Physical

# DAX Studio – Query Plan

[Log](#)[Results](#)[History](#)[Server Timings](#)[Query Plan](#)[Record](#)[Pause](#)[Stop](#)[Clear](#)[Export](#)[Info](#)

Line	Records	Physical Query Plan
------	---------	---------------------

1 PartitionIntoGroups: IterPhyOp LogOp=Order IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good], "[])) #Groups=1 #Rows=120  
2 1 AggregationSpool<Order>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=1  
3 Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good], "[]))  
4 Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good], "[]))  
5 Union: IterPhyOp LogOp=Union IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good], "[]))  
6 GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good])  
7 119 Spool\_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhyOp LogOp=DistinctCount\_Vertipaq IterCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) #Records=119 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1  
8 119 ProjectionSpool<ProjectFusion<Copy>>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=119  
9 **Cache: IterPhyOp #FieldCols=1 #ValueCols=1**  
10 GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good])  
11 1 Spool\_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhvOn IterOn=DistinctCount\_Vertipaq #Records=1 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1

Line	Logical Query Plan
------	--------------------

1 \_\_DS0Core: Union: RelLogOp VarName=\_\_DS0Core DependOnCols() 0-3 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good], "[]))  
2 GroupSemiJoin: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-2 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total\_BIG\_Orders\_Good])  
3 Scan\_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-0 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])  
4 Constant: ScaLogOp DependOnCols() Boolean DominantValue=false  
5 Calculate: ScaLogOp MeasureRef=[Total BIG Orders Good] DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK  
6 DistinctCount\_Vertipaq: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK  
7 Scan\_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) 2-2 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])  
8 Filter\_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])  
9 Scan\_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])  
10 GreaterThan: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Boolean DominantValue=NONE  
11 'Sales'[Net Price]: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Currency DominantValue=NONE

**What the French Toast**

# Query Plan – One Useful Thing

Line	Records	Physical Query Plan
1		PartitionIntoGroups: IterPhyOp LogOp=Order IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[])) #Groups=1 #Rows=120
2	1	AggregationSpool<Order>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=1
3		Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
4		Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
5		Union: IterPhyOp LogOp=Union IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
6		GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
7	119	Spool_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhyOp LogOp=DistinctCount_Vertipaq IterCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) #Records=119 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1
8	119	ProjectionSpool<ProjectFusion<Copy>>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=119
9		<b>Cache: IterPhyOp #FieldCols=1 #ValueCols=1</b>
10		GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
11	1	Spool_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhyOp LogOp=DistinctCount_Vertipaq IterCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) #Records=1 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1

Line	Logical Query Plan
1	_DS0Core: Union: RelLogOp VarName=_DS0Core DependOnCols() 0-3 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
2	GroupSemiJoin: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-2 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
3	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-0 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])
4	Constant: ScaLogOp DependOnCols() Boolean DominantValue=false
5	Calculate: ScaLogOp MeasureRef=[Total BIG Orders Good] DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK
6	DistinctCount_Vertipaq: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK
7	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) 2-2 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])
8	Filter_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])
9	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])
10	GreaterThan: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Boolean DominantValue=NONE
11	'Sales'[Net Price]: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Currency DominantValue=NONE

# DAX Studio – Records

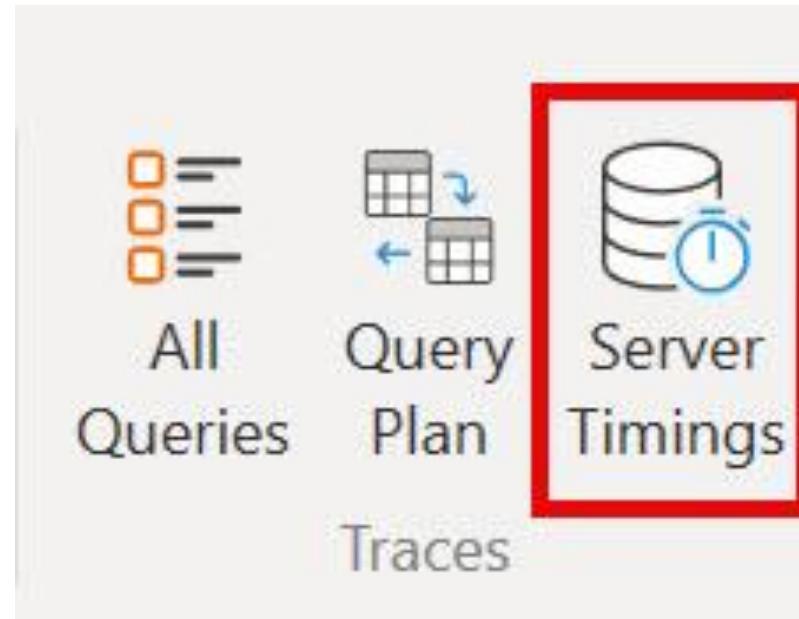
[Log](#)[Results](#)[History](#)[Server Timings](#)[Query Plan](#)[Record](#)[Pause](#)[Stop](#)[Clear](#)[Export](#)[Info](#)

Line	Records	Physical Query Plan
1		PartitionIntoGroups: IterPhyOp LogOp=Order IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[])) #Groups=1 #Rows=120
2	1	AggregationSpool<Order>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=1
3		Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
4		Proxy: IterPhyOp LogOp=TableVarProxy IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
5		Union: IterPhyOp LogOp=Union IterCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
6		GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
7	119	Spool_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhyOp LogOp=DistinctCount_Vertipaq IterCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) #Records=119 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1
8	119	ProjectionSpool<ProjectFusion<Copy>>: SpoolPhyOp #Records=119
9		<b>Cache: IterPhyOp #FieldCols=1 #ValueCols=1</b>
10		GroupSemijoin: IterPhyOp LogOp=GroupSemiJoin IterCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
11	1	Spool_Iterator<SpoolIterator>: IterPhyOp LogOp=DistinctCount_Vertipaq IterCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) #Records=1 #KeyCols=70 #ValueCols=1

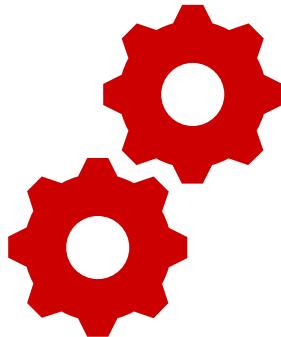
  

Line	Logical Query Plan
1	_DS0Core: Union: RelLogOp VarName=_DS0Core DependOnCols() 0-3 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2, 3)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good], "[]))
2	GroupSemiJoin: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-2 RequiredCols(0, 1, 2)('Date'[Year Month], "[IsGrandTotalRowTotal], "[Total_BIG_Orders_Good])
3	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 0-0 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])
4	Constant: ScaLogOp DependOnCols() Boolean DominantValue=false
5	Calculate: ScaLogOp MeasureRef=[Total BIG Orders Good] DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK
6	DistinctCount_Vertipaq: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) Integer DominantValue=BLANK
7	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols(0)('Date'[Year Month]) 2-2 RequiredCols(0)('Date'[Year Month])
8	Filter_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])
9	Scan_Vertipaq: RelLogOp DependOnCols() 1-1 RequiredCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price])
10	GreaterThan: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Boolean DominantValue=NONE
11	'Sales'[Net Price]: ScaLogOp DependOnCols(1)('Sales'[Net Price]) Currency DominantValue=NONE

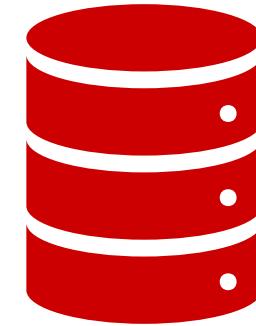
# DAX Studio – Server Timings



# A Tale of Two Engines



**Formula Engine**



**Storage Engine**

# Formula Engine

- Conductor
- Does not cache
- Single threaded
- Complex Operations

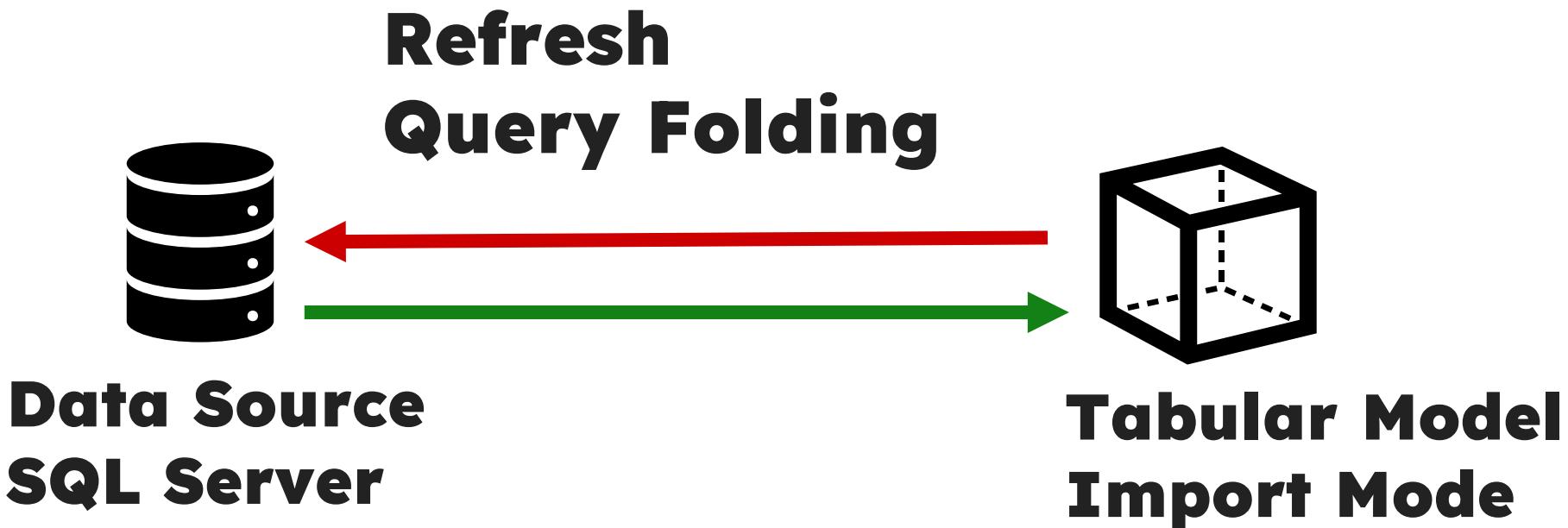
# Storage Engine

- Ability to cache
- Ability to Multithread
- Operations depend on the storage engine
  - Vertipaq is very limited
  - But optimized

# **Vertipaq (Import)**

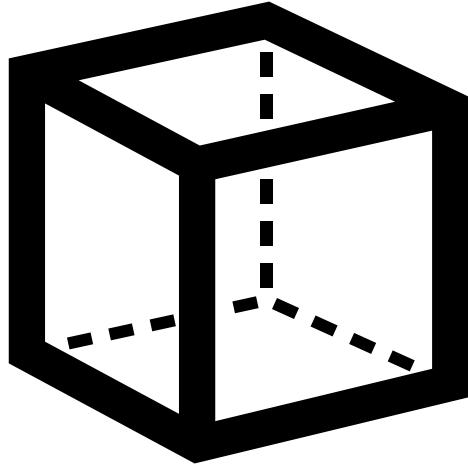
- Column Based
- Encoded
- Compressed

# Step 1: Refresh



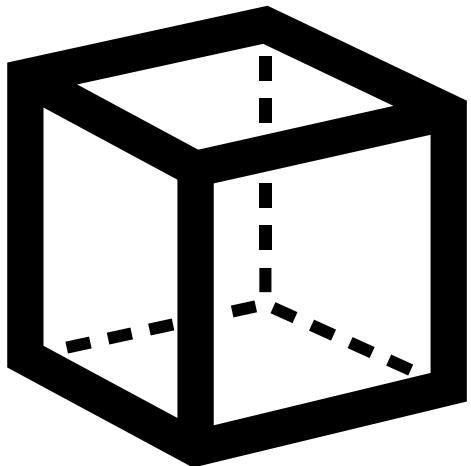
# **Step 2: Process**

**Processed**

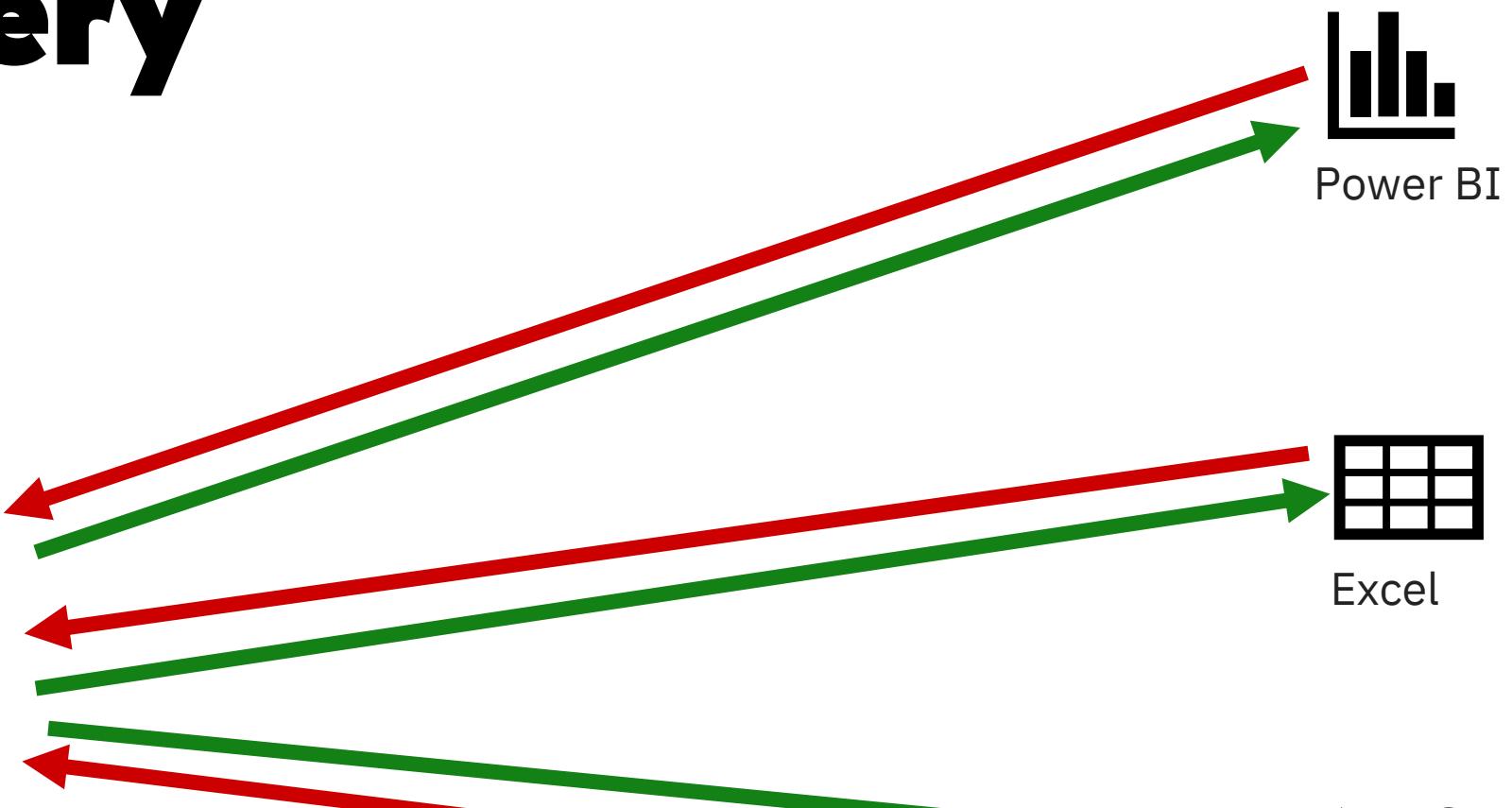


**Tabular Model  
Import Mode**

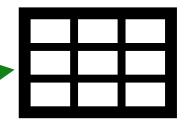
# Step 3: Query



**Tabular Model  
Import Mode**



Power BI



Excel



External  
Tools

# Beyond the Scope



# Cache

File    **Home**    Advanced    Help

Run ▶    Cancel    Query Builder

▼

Query

**Cache**

# Location of Query and Server Timings

Metadata Functions DMV

Contoso1M\_Docker\_BPATEst ▾

Model ▾

Search

Customer

Date

Product

Sales

Store

```
1 // DAX Query
2 DEFINE
3     VAR __DSOFilterTable =
4         TREATAS({2020}, 'Date'[Year])
5
6     VAR __DSOCore =
7         SUMMARIZECOLUMNS(
8             ROLLUPADDISSTOTAL('Date'[Date], "IsGrandTotalRowTotal"),
9             __DSOFilterTable,
10            "Total_Quantity", 'Sales'[Total_Quantity],
11            "Total_BIG_Orders_Good", 'Sales'[Total_BIG_Orders_Good],
12            "Total_BIG_Orders_Bad", 'Sales'[Total_BIG_Orders_Bad]
13        )
14
15     VAR __DSOPrimarywindowed =
16         TOPN(502, __DSOCore, [IsGrandTotalRowTotal], 0, 'Date'[Date], 1)
17
18 EVALUATE
19     __DSOPrimarywindowed
20
21 ORDER BY
22     [IsGrandTotalRowTotal] DESC, 'Date'[Date]
```

Log Results History Server Timings Query Plan

	Start	Duration ⓘ	Message
ⓘ	14:06:42		Establishing Connection
ⓘ	14:06:43		Connected
ⓘ	14:31:47		Query Trace Started
ⓘ	14:31:48		Query Started
ⓘ	14:31:49		Query 1 Completed (64 rows returned)
✓	14:31:49 66		Query Batch Completed
ⓘ	14:32:00		Query Trace Started

# **DAX – Return Product Table**

**EVALUATE**

'Product'

# Storage Engine Query

The screenshot shows the Storage Engine Query interface with the following details:

- Top Bar:** Shows the command `1 EVALUATE` and the object `2 'Product'`.
- Toolbar:** Includes Log, Results, History, and Server Timings tabs. The Server Timings tab is active.
- Server Timings Panel:** Displays performance metrics:
  - Total: 37 ms (FE), 0 ms (SE CPU)
  - FE: 36 ms (97.3%)
  - SE: 1 ms (2.7%)It also shows the number of SE Queries (1) and SE Cache (0).
- Timeline View:** A table showing query details. The second row is highlighted with a red border and shows a "Scan" operation. The columns are: Line, Subclass, Duration, CPU, Par., Rows, KB, Timeline, and Query. The Timeline bar indicates the execution time for each query.
- SQL Editor:** Displays the generated SQL code:

```
SET DC_KIND="AUTO";
SELECT
    'Product'[RowNumber],
    'Product'[ProductKey],
    'Product'[Product Code],
    'Product'[Product Name],
    'Product'[Manufacturer],
    'Product'[Brand],
    'Product'[Color],
    'Product'[Weight Unit Measure],
    'Product'[Weight],
    'Product'[Unit Cost],
    'Product'[Unit Price],
    'Product'[Subcategory Code],
    'Product'[Subcategory],
    'Product'[Category Code],
    'Product'[Category]
FROM 'Product';
```

Estimated size: rows = 2,517 bytes = 151,020
- Buttons:** Record, Pause, Stop, Clear, Copy, Export, Info, Copy SE query, Scan, Cache, Batch, Internal, and a Print icon.

# Vertipaq - xmSQL

**SELECT**

```
'Product'[RowNumber],  
'Product'[ProductKey],  
'Product'[Product Code],  
'Product'[Product Name],  
'Product'[Manufacturer],  
'Product'[Brand],  
'Product'[Color],  
'Product'[Weight Unit Measure],  
'Product'[Weight],  
'Product'[Unit Cost],  
'Product'[Unit Price],  
'Product'[Subcategory Code],  
'Product'[Subcategory],  
'Product'[Category Code],  
'Product'[Category]  
FROM 'Product';
```

# Storage Engine Query - Timeline

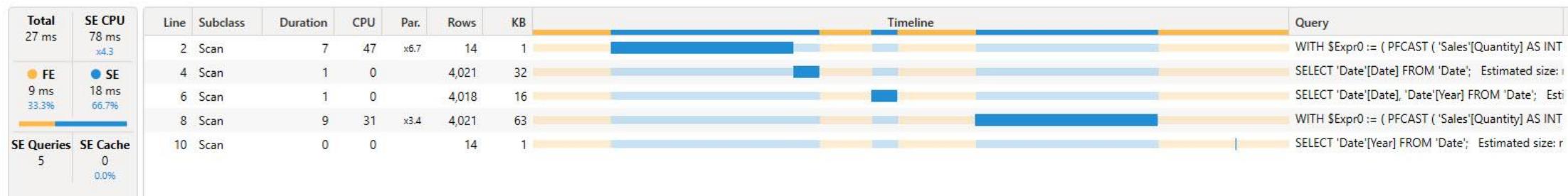
This one is mainly in FE.  
Blue shows where SE comes into the timeline

Line	Subclass	Duration	CPU	Par.	Rows	KB	Timeline	Query
2	Scan	0	0		4,021	32		SELECT 'Date'[Date] FROM 'Date'; Estimated size: rows = 4,021 bytes = 32,168
4	Scan	0	0		4,021	32		SELECT 'Date'[Date] FROM 'Date'; Estimated size: rows = 4,021 bytes = 32,168
6	Scan	0	0		4,021	63		SELECT 'Date'[Date], MAX ('Date'[Date]) FROM 'Date'; Estimated size: rows = 4,021 bytes = 64,336
8	Scan	7	31	x4.4	4,021	63		WITH \$Expr0 := ( PFCAST ( 'Sales'[Quantity] AS INT ) * PFCAST ( 'Sales'[Net Price] AS INT ) ) SELECT 'Date'[Date], SUM ( @Expr0 ) FR

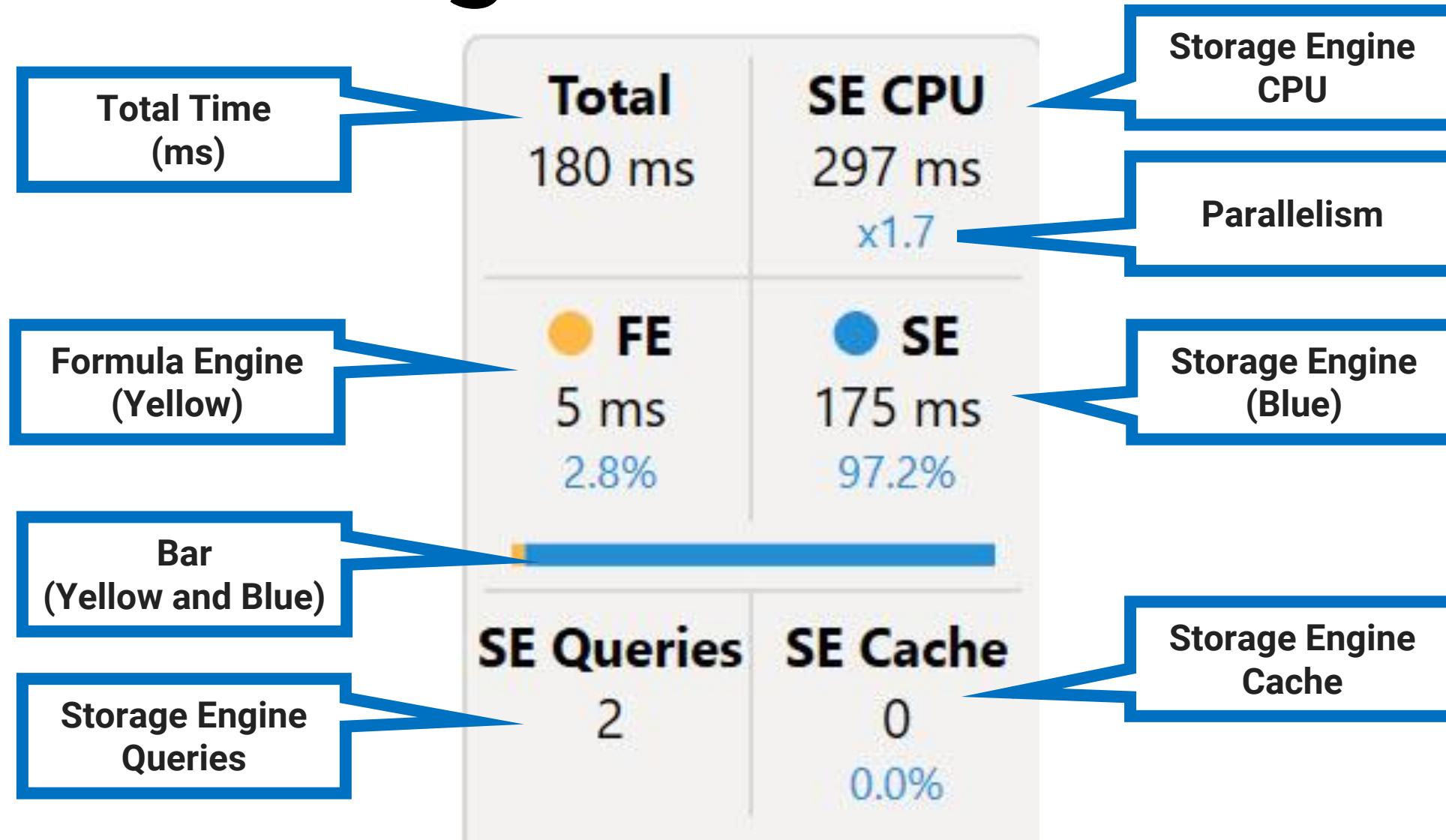
# Storage Engine Query - Timeline

# This one 33% in FE.

Blue shows where SE comes in the timeline.



# Server Timings

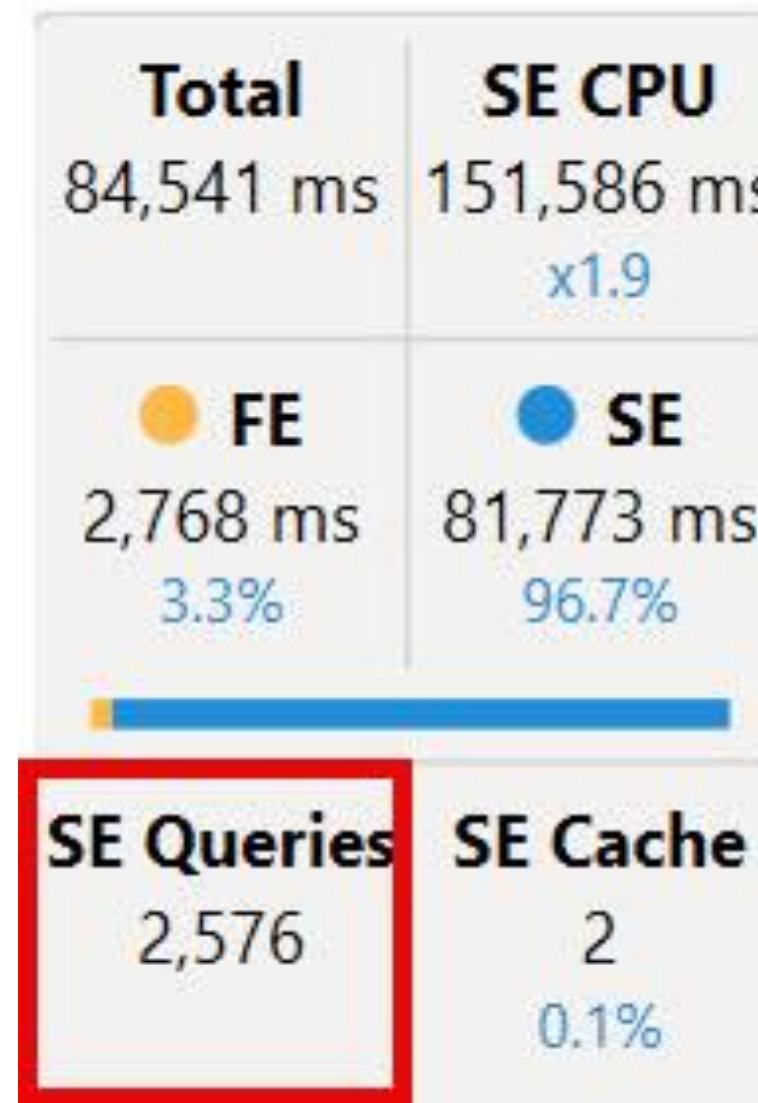


# Simple way to increase Query Time

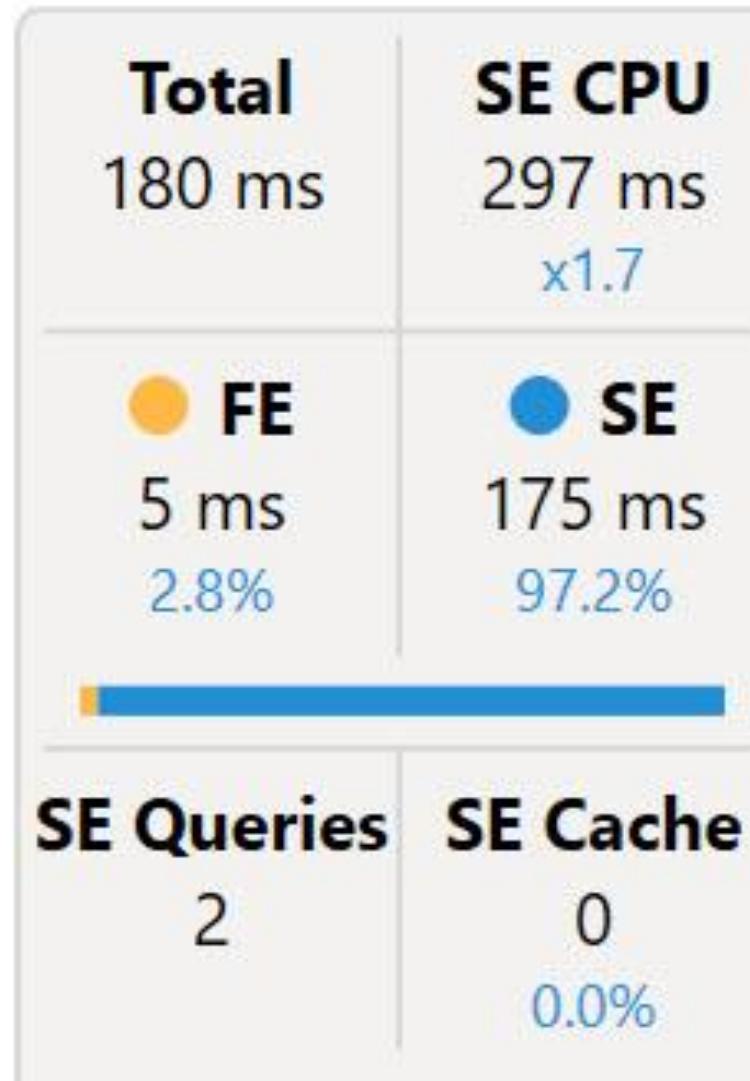
## Apply a Table Filter

```
CALCULATE (
    [Sales Amount],
    FILTER (Sales, Sales[Quantity] > 1)
)
```

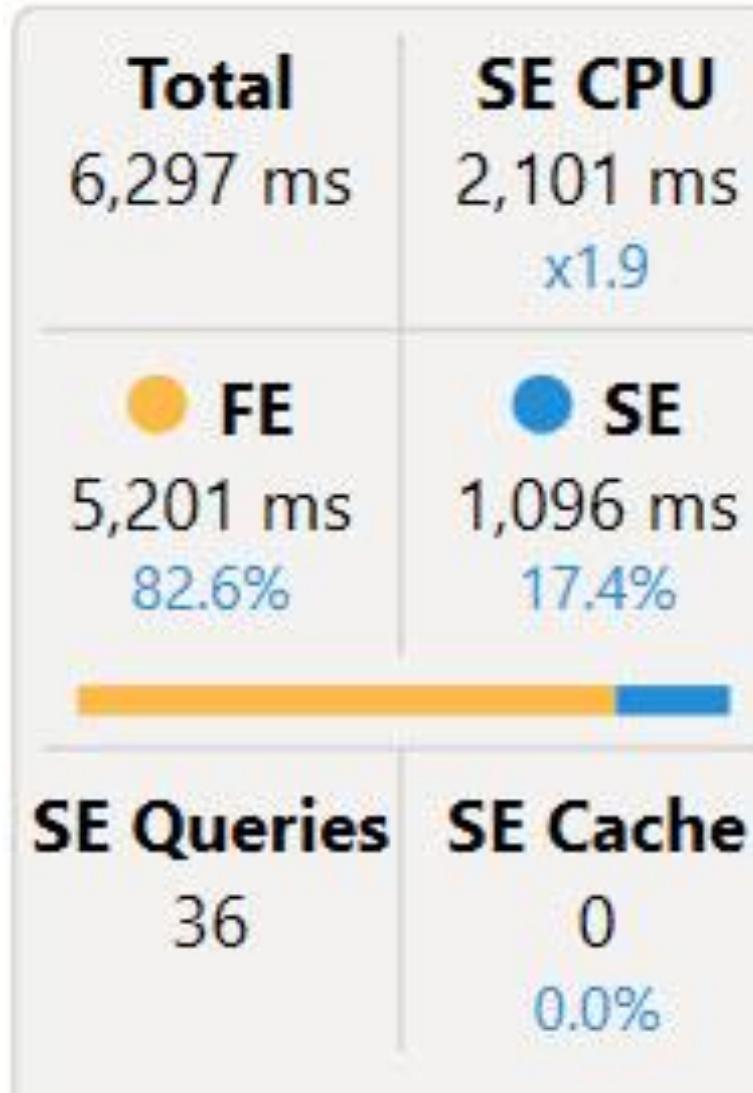
# DAX Studio – Server Timings - Bad



# DAX Studio – Server Timings - Good



# DAX Studio – Heavy Formula Engine



# **Ways to invoke Formula Engine (Vertipaq)**

- **IF Statements**
- **CONCATENATE**

# **CallbackDataID**

**WHERE**

```
( COALESCE ( [CallbackDataID] ( IF (  
'Product'[Color] = "Blue", 1,0 ) ) ) ]  
( PFDATAID ( 'Product'[Color] ) ) ) <> 0 );
```

# The more you know...

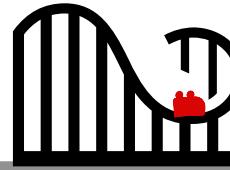
- If you can think like the engines
  - You can anticipate performance issues

# **Power BI Demo**

## **DAX Studio**

# Our Journey

---



1. Intro
2. Performance Analyzer
3. DAX Studio
4. Tabular Editor
5. Conclusion

# **Proactive Measures\***

**(\*no pun intended)**

- How do we find issues with the Model and DAX ahead of time

# Tabular Editor

- Main Uses
  - Develop the model
  - Make changes
  - Audit the model
  - Best Practice Analyzer

# **Tabular Editor 2.x**

- Download
  - <https://github.com/TabularEditor/TabularEditor>
- Free version
- Version that was listed in DP-600 Study

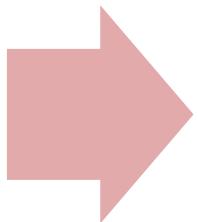
Guide

# **Tabular Editor 3.x**

- Paid Version
- Extra Features
  - DAX Debugger
  - Script DAX

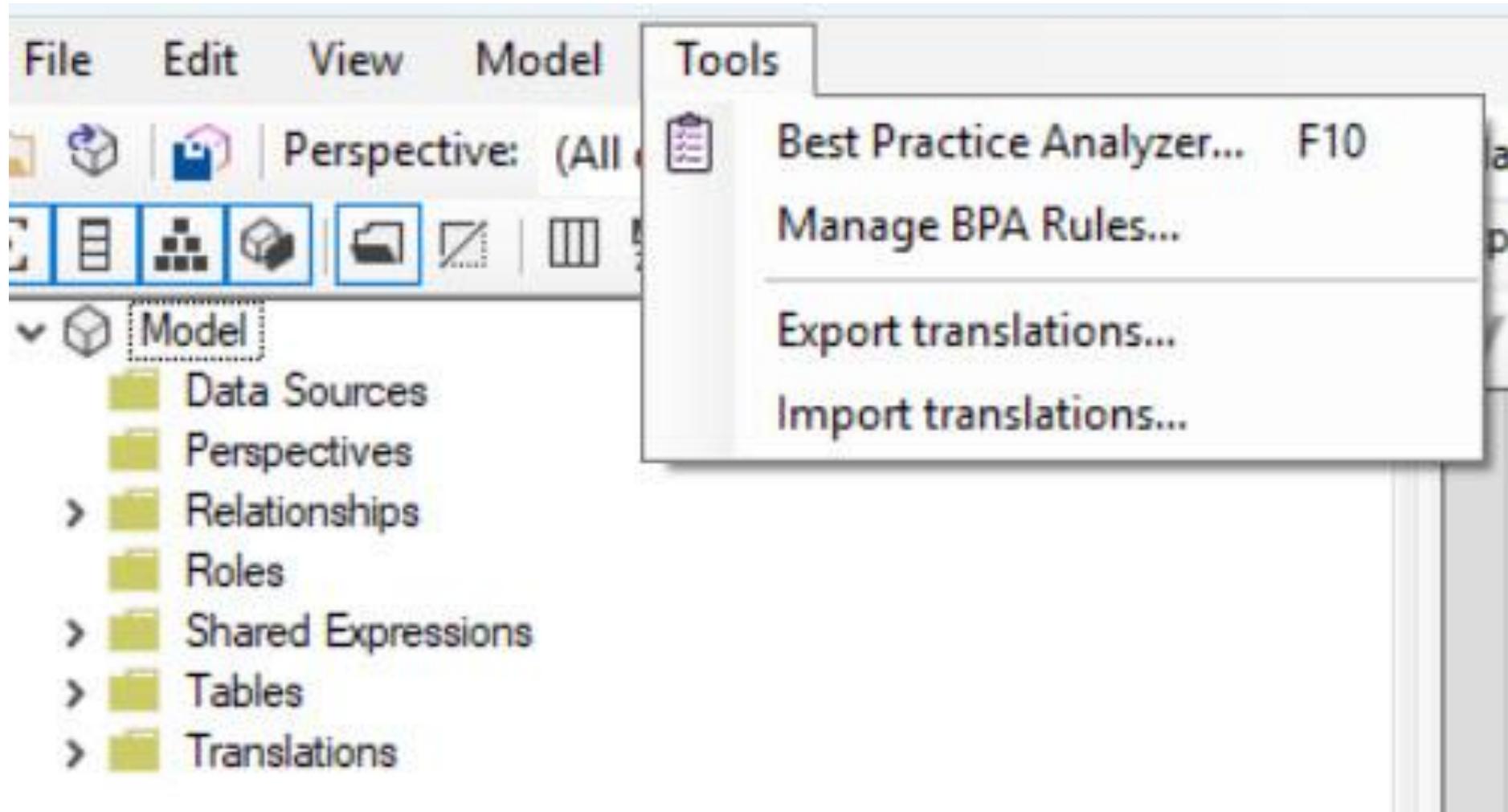
# Tabular Editor 2

Optimize a semantic  
model by using  
Tabular Editor 2

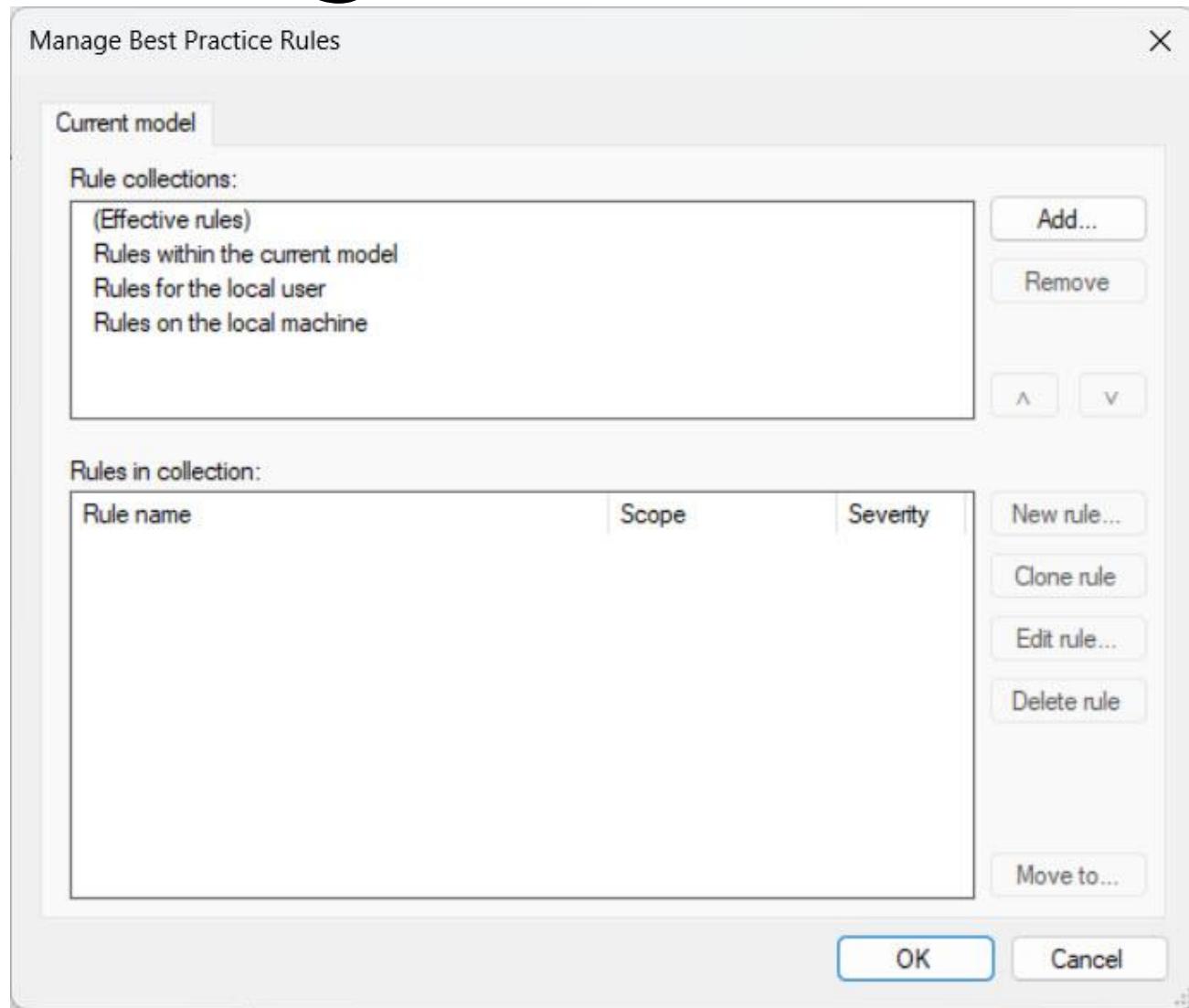


Best Practice Analyzer

# Best Practice Analyzer Location



# Add and Manage Rules



# Best Practice Analyzer – C# Script Download

```
System.Net.WebClient w = new System.Net.WebClient();

string path = System.Environment.GetFolderPath(System.Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationData);
string url = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/Analysis-Services/master/BestPracticeRules/BPARules.json";
string version = System.Windows.Forms.Application.ProductVersion.Substring(0,1);
string downloadLoc = path + @"\TabularEditor\BPARules.json";

if (version == "3")
{
    downloadLoc = path + @"\TabularEditor3\BPARules.json";
}

w.DownloadFile(url, downloadLoc);

/*
// Italian
string url = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/Analysis-Services/master/BestPracticeRules/Italian/BPARules.json";

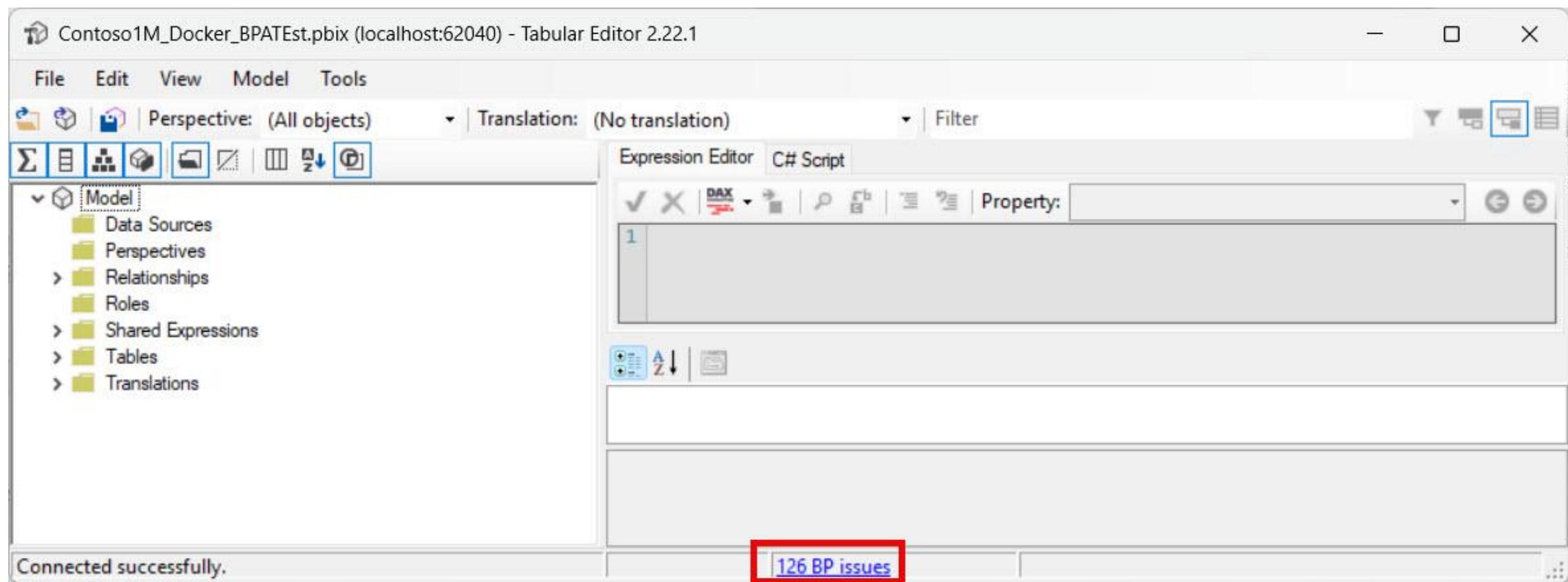
// Japanese
string url = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/Analysis-Services/master/BestPracticeRules/Japanese/BPARules.json";

// Spanish
string url = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/Analysis-Services/master/BestPracticeRules/Spanish/BPARules.json";
*/
```

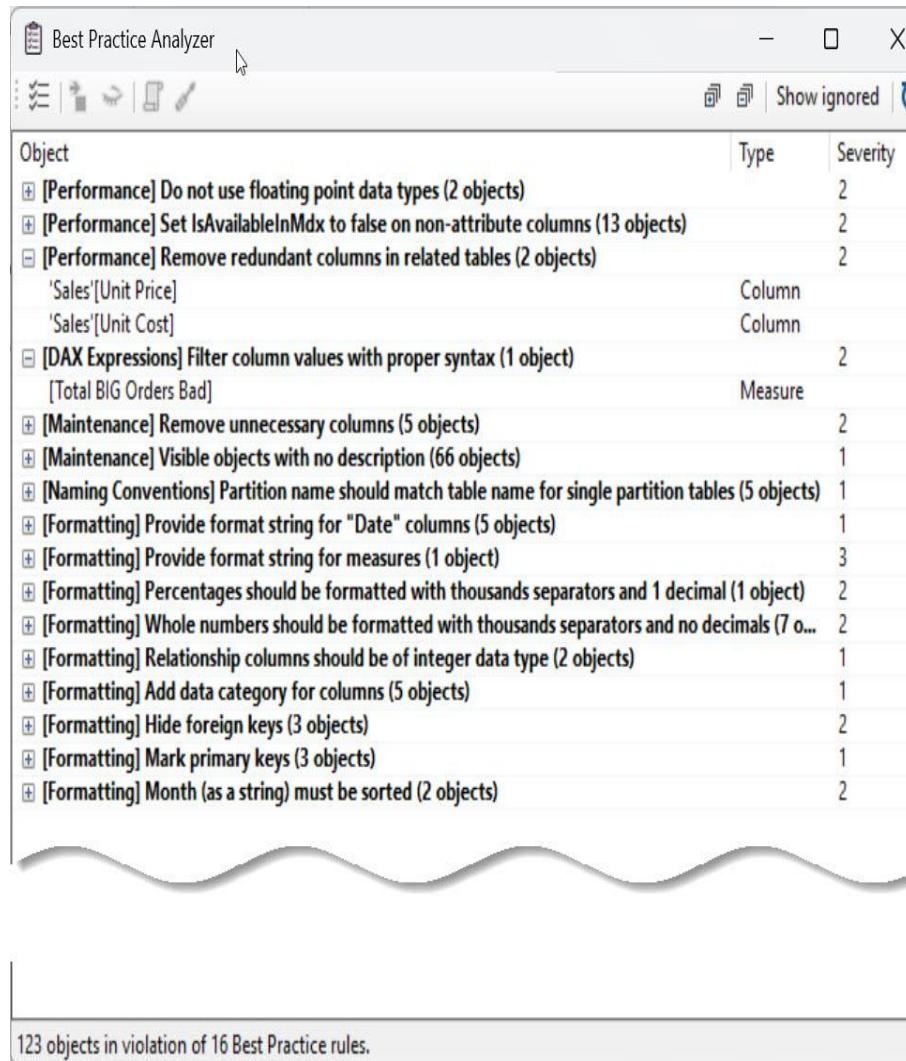
# Nope – Not Running a Script

- Alternate Method
  - Microsoft Analysis-Services – Best Practice Rules
    - <https://github.com/microsoft/Analysis-Services/tree/master/BestPracticeRules>
    - Other languages besides English

# BPA – Rule Exceptions for model



# BPA – Rule Exceptions for model



The screenshot shows the 'Best Practice Analyzer' window with a list of rule violations. The table has three columns: Object, Type, and Severity. The 'Object' column lists various DAX and MOLAP objects with their respective rule names. The 'Type' column indicates the category of the violation, such as Column or Measure. The 'Severity' column shows the level of the violation, ranging from 1 to 3.

Object	Type	Severity
[Performance] Do not use floating point data types (2 objects)		2
[Performance] Set IsAvailableInMdx to false on non-attribute columns (13 objects)		2
[Performance] Remove redundant columns in related tables (2 objects)		2
'Sales'[Unit Price]	Column	
'Sales'[Unit Cost]	Column	
[DAX Expressions] Filter column values with proper syntax (1 object)		2
[Total BIG Orders Bad]	Measure	
[Maintenance] Remove unnecessary columns (5 objects)		2
[Maintenance] Visible objects with no description (66 objects)		1
[Naming Conventions] Partition name should match table name for single partition tables (5 objects)		1
[Formatting] Provide format string for "Date" columns (5 objects)		1
[Formatting] Provide format string for measures (1 object)		3
[Formatting] Percentages should be formatted with thousands separators and 1 decimal (1 object)		2
[Formatting] Whole numbers should be formatted with thousands separators and no decimals (7 o...		2
[Formatting] Relationship columns should be of integer data type (2 objects)		1
[Formatting] Add data category for columns (5 objects)		1
[Formatting] Hide foreign keys (3 objects)		2
[Formatting] Mark primary keys (3 objects)		1
[Formatting] Month (as a string) must be sorted (2 objects)		2

123 objects in violation of 16 Best Practice rules.

# BPA – Manage Rules

## DAX Expressions

Rules in collection:	Scope	Severity
Rule name		
<input type="checkbox"/> DAX Expressions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Avoid using '1-(x/y)' syntax	Measures,Calculated Columns,Calculation Items	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Avoid using the IFERROR function	Measures,Calculated Columns	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Column references should be fully qualified	Measures,KPIs,Table Permissions,Calculation Items	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Filter column values with proper syntax	Measures,Calculated Columns,Calculation Items	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Filter measure values by columns, not tables	Measures,Calculated Columns,Calculation Items	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Inactive relationships that are never activated	Relationships	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Measure references should be unqualified	Measures,Calculated Columns,Calculated Tables,KPIs,Calculation Items	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Measures should not be direct references of other measures	Measures	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] No two measures should have the same definition	Measures	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] The EVALUATEANDLOG function should not be used in production models	Measures	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Use the DIVIDE function for division	Measures,Calculated Columns,Calculation Items	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [DAX Expressions] Use the TREATAS function instead of INTERSECT for virtual relationships	Measures,Calculation Items	2

What about that slow pattern?



# Filter by the Whole Table

```
CALCULATE (
    [Sales Amount],
    FILTER (Sales, Sales[Quantity] > 1)
)
```

# Edit Rule

Edit Best Practice Rule X

Name	[DAX Expressions] Filter measure values by columns, not tables	Severity	2	Category	DAX Expressions
ID	FILTER_MEASURE_VALUES_BY_COLUMNS				
Description	Option 1: FILTER(VALUES(Table'[Column]).[Measure] > Value) Option 2: FILTER(ALL(Table [Column]).[Measure] > Value)				
<p>Reference: <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/power-bi/guidance/dax-avoid-avoid-filter-as-filter-argument">https://docs.microsoft.com/power-bi/guidance/dax-avoid-avoid-filter-as-filter-argument</a></p>					
Applies to	Calculated Columns, Calculation Items, Measures	satisfying the following criteria:			
<p>Rule Expression Editor</p> <pre>RegEx.IsMatch(Expression, "(?i)CALCULATE\s*\((\s*[^\,]+,\s*(?i)FILTER\s*\((\s*\'*[A-Za-z0-9\ ]+\'*\s*,\s*\[[^\]]\]+\])") or RegEx.IsMatch(Expression, "(?i)CALCULATETABLE\s*\(([^\,]*,\s*(?i)FILTER\s*\((\s*\'*[A-Za-z0-9\ ]+\'*,\s*\[")</pre>					
Minimum Compatibility Level	CL 1200 (SQL Server 2016 / Azure AS)	<span>OK</span> <span>Cancel</span>			

# Description with help link

- Instead of using this pattern FILTER('Table','Table'[Column]="Value") for the filter parameters of a CALCULATE or CALCULATETABLE function, use one of the options below. As far as whether to use the KEEPFILTERS function, see the second reference link below.
- Option 1: KEEPFILTERS('Table'[Column]="Value")
- Option 2: 'Table'[Column]="Value"
- Reference: <https://docs.microsoft.com/power-bi/guidance/dax-avoid-avoid-filter-as-filter-argument>
- Reference: <https://www.sqlbi.com/articles/using-keepfilters-in-dax/>

# Another Source

## 9. Filtering a column

The FILTER function is often overused. Its main purpose is for filtering columns based on measure values. If you're just filtering a column value, there's generally no need to use this function. In fact, using it in that scenario often degrades performance.

Don't use this logic:

US Revenue = **CALCULATE** ( [Revenue], **FILTER** ( 'Geography', 'Geography'[Area] = "United States" ) )

Option 1:

US Revenue 1 = **CALCULATE** ( [Revenue], 'Geography'[Area] = "United States" )

Option 2:

US Revenue 2 = **CALCULATE** ( [Revenue], **KEEPFILTERS** ( 'Geography'[Area] = "United States" ) )

[Top 10 Power BI mistakes and their best practice solutions](https://www.elegantbi.com/post/top10bestpractices)  
(<https://www.elegantbi.com/post/top10bestpractices>)

# **Change Description**

- Link to company best practices
- Link to SharePoint that has more information

# **Power BI Demo**

## **Tabular Editor**

# Our Journey

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1. Intro
2. Performance Analyzer
3. DAX Studio
4. Tabular Editor
5. Conclusion

# Conclusion

- Slow Report?
  - Start with the report
    - Performance Analyzer
    - DAX Studio
    - Tabular Editor

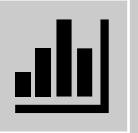
# Take Away

- Time Invested in these tools
  - Can only enhance your skillset
  - Can make you more productive
- Power BI Desktop can only do so much

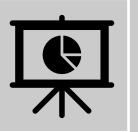
# Resources



[Tabular Editor – Wonderful Training Free](#)



[Tabular Editor – Blog Posts](#)



[DAX Studio](#)



[Tabular Editor 2.x](#)

# Resources



[Data Goblins - Sample Datasets](#)



[Data Mozart - Lots of DP-600 Resources](#) [Visual Speed](#)

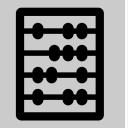


[The Definitive Guide to DAX - 2nd Edition](#)



[Optimizing DAX Book 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#)

# Resources



[Elegant BI Blog \(Excellent Source\)](#)



[Microsoft Best Practice Rules Blog](#)



[Microsoft Github Best Practice Rules](#)



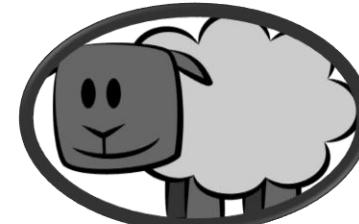
[DP-600 Exam Prep Book](#)

# Thank you

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**The Dax Shepherd**



