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BIDD 310
Assignment 04

Cloud Databases and Storage

Intro

This week, we explored a few Cloud hosting solutions for data, Azure Blob Storage and Azure SQL Databases. We then created a few different report types linked to these Cloud hosted data solutions. This workflow has a number of uses, especially for team collaboration and for adding security to datasets that are going to be shared publicly.

Reports using a Azure database or Azure Blob storage file

First we created 2 kinds of reports from an Azure SQL Database. We created an Azure SQL database and then used Azure Data Studio to run a SQL script that created the tables and the reporting view. Easy.

The 2 reports we generated were an Excel report made of 2 pivot tables and a Report Builder report. Linking them to the Azure SQL Database required copying the public url for the database and logging in with SQL Authentication, which we had setup when we generated the database in the Azure portal. The next step after connecting to the server was linking to the simplepubs database and importing the vRptSalesData view. Then it was a snap to create 2 pivot tables from the existing connection. The process was very similar for Report Builder.

Then we created an Excel report from Azure Blob Storage, using a csv generated from the vRptSalesData we had stored in blob storage earlier. This required linking to data on the web. I had made an oversight during blob storage setup with the security settings, so initially I could not make anonymous connections to this storage bucket. After a little googling, and finding where in the settings I could update this setting, and supplying an additional IP address into the Azure portal, I was able to connect Excel to this storage bucket, import the csv, and generate a few pivot tables. Easy!

Summary

There are so many ways to make data available to collaborators, or to yourself, using local or cloud based options. Getting some practice with a few more was really to prepare for whatever might get thrown at you in the workplace.