

1. What is the difference between Power BI Desktop and Power BI Online Service?

Power BI Desktop is a Windows application used for building reports, creating data models, writing DAX, and transforming data.

Power BI Online Service is a cloud-based platform used for sharing, viewing, collaborating, scheduling refreshes, and managing workspaces and apps.

2. How do you publish a Power BI report from Desktop to the Online Service?

In Power BI Desktop, go to **Home → Publish**, sign in, and choose a **workspace**. The report and its dataset will appear in the selected workspace in Power BI Service.

3. What is a workspace in Power BI? What are the types of workspaces available?

A **workspace** is a shared environment in the Power BI Service where reports, dashboards, and datasets are stored and managed.

Types:

- **My Workspace** – personal storage, private to the user
- **Workspace (App Workspace)** – collaborative space for teams

4. What is the difference between a workspace and an app in Power BI?

- A **workspace** is where content is created, edited, and managed.
- An **app** is a published, read-only package of dashboards and reports made for end users.

5. Explain the different Power BI license types and their limitations.

- **Free** – personal use only, no sharing
- **Pro** – sharing, collaboration, workspaces, apps
- **Premium Per User (PPU)** – advanced features, large models
- **Premium Capacity** – organizational-level dedicated capacity, Free users can view content

6. How can you share a report with someone who doesn't have a Pro license?

Place the report in a **Premium Capacity workspace**. Free users can view reports hosted on Premium.

7. What is a semantic model (dataset) in Power BI, and where is it stored in the service?

A **semantic model (dataset)** is the combination of tables, relationships, calculations, and imported data used to power reports.

In Power BI Service, it is stored inside the **workspace** where the report is published.

8. How does Scheduled Refresh work in Power BI Online Service?

Scheduled Refresh automatically updates the dataset by connecting to its data source at scheduled intervals.

- Pro: up to **8 refreshes/day**
- Premium: up to **48 refreshes/day**

9. What is the difference between a dataset and a dataflow in Power BI?

- **Dataset** – the data model imported/uploaded from Power BI Desktop
- **Dataflow** – cloud-based ETL process created using Power Query, reusable across multiple datasets

10. When and why would you use a dataflow instead of a dataset?

Use a **dataflow** when:

- Many reports use the same data
- You want centralized, reusable cleaned data
- You want heavy data transformations to run in the cloud instead of the desktop

11. What are dashboards in Power BI Online? How are they different from reports?

A **dashboard** is a single page that shows pinned visuals from different reports.

A **report** can have multiple pages and is more interactive and detailed.

12. How do you pin a visual to a dashboard from a report?

1. Open a report in Power BI Service
2. Select the visual
3. Click **Pin visual**
4. Choose an existing dashboard or create a new one

13. What is the mobile view in Power BI and why is it useful?

Mobile View is a layout optimized for phones.

It helps users see key KPIs clearly on mobile devices.

14. What is a paginated report in Power BI and when would you use it?

A **paginated report** is a highly formatted, printable report designed to fit standard page sizes like A4.

Used for invoices, financial statements, regulatory reporting, or any document requiring perfect pagination.

15. Can you export reports from Power BI Service to PDF or PowerPoint? How?

Yes.

Open a report → **Export** → choose **PDF** or **PowerPoint**.

16. What does "Live Connection" mean in Power BI Service, and how does it work?

Live Connection connects a report directly to an existing dataset in Power BI Service.

The data model stays in the cloud, and the report only uses it — no data is imported.

17. Explain Row-Level Security (RLS) and how it's applied in Power BI Online.

RLS restricts which data each user can see.

Roles and filters are created in Desktop, published to Service, and users are assigned to those roles in dataset **Security** settings.

18. How can you test RLS roles in Power BI Service?

Go to the dataset → **Security** → choose a role → click **View as** to simulate how that user sees the report.

19. What are Apps in Power BI and how do you publish one?

Apps are packaged groups of dashboards and reports created from a workspace and shared with end users.

To publish:

Workspace → **Publish App** → add details → select audience → Publish.

20. What are some key benefits of using the Power BI Online Service in enterprise environments?

- Easy sharing and collaboration
- Secure access with RLS
- Scheduled Refresh automation
- Centralized workspaces
- Premium capacity for large-scale performance
- Accessible from anywhere via the cloud
- Apps for distributing content professionally