

1. What does DAX stand for?

DAX stands for Data Analysis Expressions. It's a formula language used in tools like Power BI, Excel Power Pivot, and SQL Server Analysis Services for creating custom calculations in data models.

3. What is the difference between a calculated column and a measure?

- **Calculated Column:** Evaluated row-by-row when the data model is refreshed. It adds a new column to a table with values computed for each row (e.g., using row context). It's stored in the model, consuming memory, and is useful for static values like categorizing rows.
- **Measure:** Evaluated dynamically at query time based on the current filter context. It doesn't add columns or store data; instead, it computes aggregates on the fly (e.g., totals or averages). Measures are more efficient for aggregations and don't increase model size.

5. What does COUNTROWS() do in DAX?

COUNTROWS() returns the number of rows in a table or table expression. It's often used in measures to count visible rows after filters are applied, like counting distinct items in a filtered context:

Row Count = COUNTROWS(TableName)

9. What is a circular dependency error in a calculated column?

A circular dependency occurs when two or more calculated columns reference each other directly or indirectly, creating an infinite loop (e.g., Column A depends on Column B, which depends on Column A). DAX detects this during model refresh and throws an error to prevent unresolved calculations. To fix, break the loop by rethinking dependencies or using measures instead.

10. Explain row context vs. filter context.

- **Row Context:** Exists during row-by-row evaluations, like in calculated columns or iterator functions (e.g., SUMX). It refers to the current row's values, allowing access to that row's data.
- **Filter Context:** Applied during query time by slicers, filters, or visuals. It determines which data is visible for aggregation (e.g., measures use filter context to compute totals over filtered rows). Functions like CALCULATE() can modify filter context, while row context can transition to filter context in certain scenarios.

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