

# Power BI + Microsoft Fabric: Better together for smarter business insights

How Fabric builds on Power BI to unify your  
data and support faster decisions with AI



# Table of Contents

|                                               |          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                           |          |
| <b>From insight to intelligence</b>           | <b>3</b> |
| What is Power BI?                             | 3        |
| What is Microsoft Fabric?                     | 3        |
| <b>The value of Fabric</b>                    | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Fabric in action</b>                       | <b>6</b> |
| <b>How Microsoft Fabric enhances Power BI</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>Get started with Microsoft Fabric</b>      | <b>8</b> |
| <b>Next steps</b>                             | <b>9</b> |

This eBook explains how Power BI fits within Microsoft Fabric – and how Fabric expands its functionality as your data and insight needs grow.

# From insight to intelligence

Growing businesses have to address new data challenges as they expand. They must answer questions like:

- ✓ How can I securely manage sensitive data at scale?
- ✓ What manual tasks can we automate to boost productivity?
- ✓ How can we improve data reliability?
- ✓ Where can we integrate AI in our analytics to accelerate decision-making?

Finding the right answer to these questions can help your business thrive. You likely have the data you need for informed answers to these questions – you just need the tooling to uncover insights from that data.

With Power BI, you can bring all your data together to visualise performance, track KPIs and share insights to your stakeholders.

The next evolution for your data builds on the strengths of Power BI. Microsoft Fabric is a secure AI-powered data platform designed to help your business unify data, automate workflows and turn insights into informed action.

**Microsoft Fabric helps growing businesses do more with their data:**



Integrate data silos



Get AI-powered insights



Automate routine tasks



Boost data security

## What is Power BI?

Power BI is a leading business analytics platform that helps turn data from multiple sources into coherent, visually immersive and interactive visualisations that help drive actionable insights.

Power BI's intuitive interface, affordable entry point and seamless integration with Microsoft 365 empowers everyone across the business to explore data. For many businesses, adopting Power BI is the first step toward empowering those teams to leverage data more effectively, uncover insights and drive impactful business outcomes.

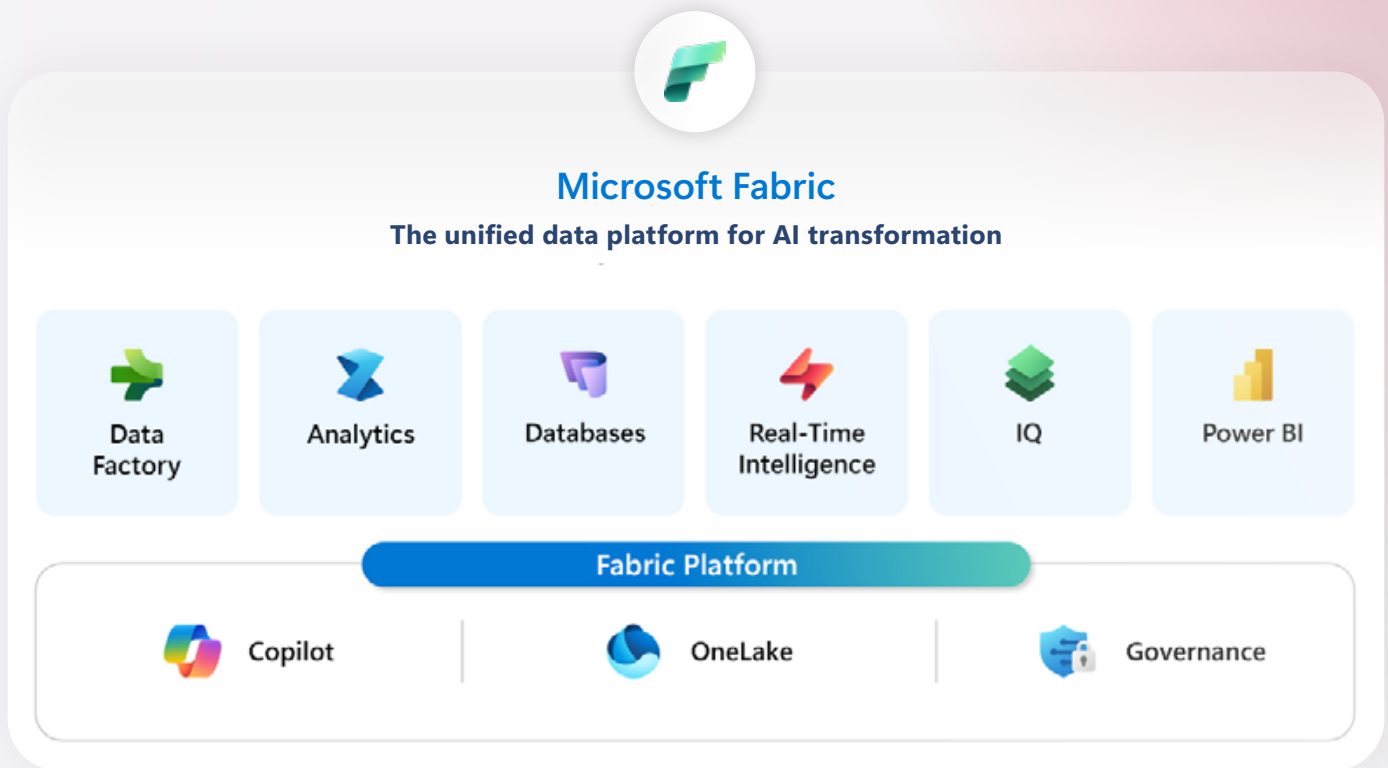
Power BI is a core component of Microsoft Fabric, providing analytics and visualisation capabilities.

## What is Microsoft Fabric?

Microsoft Fabric is a unified data intelligence platform, the foundation for your data and analytics capabilities. Fabric supports end-to-end data workflows, including data ingestion, transformation, real-time stream processing, analytics and reporting. It fully incorporates Power BI, supporting all premium Power BI functions, while providing more integration, automation and data security.

With Fabric, you can create a single source of truth, using OneLake to unify your data across on-premises and multiple clouds. You can eliminate complexity and data duplication, empowering your teams with low-code tools, automation and built-in AI. Fabric provides integrated experiences with solutions like Power BI, Real-Time Intelligence, Data Warehouse and Databases.

To sum up: Fabric provides the data platform that helps equip your business to scale data management securely as you grow, incorporate AI capabilities that save you time and investment and accelerate decision-making with deeper insights. Power BI is the visualisation powerhouse that can either stand alone or be accessed within Fabric.



## The value of Fabric

Microsoft Fabric users have realised substantial business value with Fabric, including:

**20×**

operational efficiency gains<sup>1</sup>

**6–8 hours**

Eliminating **6–8 hours** a day in manual tasks like data reconciliation<sup>2</sup>

**52%**

A **52%** reduction in operational costs by switching to a unified solution<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carne's data & analytics solution CAMDA gets a boost from Microsoft Fabric

<sup>2</sup> Health non-profit organisation ARcare expands care in rural communities with Microsoft Fabric

<sup>3</sup> Seair Exim Solutions delivers data at lightning speed with Microsoft Fabric Real-Time Analytics

## Here are a few key ways that Fabric delivers value:

### ✓ **Safeguarding critical business data**

Confidently deploy and manage Fabric with category-leading performance, instant scalability, shared resilience and built-in security, governance and compliance.

### ✓ **Single source of truth**

Create one unified place for your data. Microsoft Fabric's OneLake connects systems without silos and reduces duplication.

### ✓ **Copilot and AI integration**

See what's happening as it happens by ingesting live data, asking business questions in real time for instant insights and taking action faster.

### ✓ **Real-time intelligence**

Speed up analytics with Copilot in Microsoft Fabric. Using plain-language prompts, Copilot helps bring data in, prepare it, create reports and uncover insights faster – reducing manual work across your analytics projects.

### ✓ **Data foundation for AI apps**

Streamline AI app development with simple, intuitive autonomous databases helping you build reliable, scalable applications on a secure foundation.

Fabric is designed to grow with your business, bringing your data together, adding advanced analytics and opening the door to AI-driven insights.

### **Already using Power BI? Moving your Power BI workspace to Fabric is easy:**

- ✓ **No migration needed.** Your Power BI content and workspaces remain unchanged.
- ✓ **Keep your accounts.** Use your existing Power BI or Microsoft 365 account to sign in.
- ✓ **Familiar experience.** Fabric adds new capabilities, but Power BI's interface and user experience remain the same.



# Fabric in action

To get a clearer picture of how Fabric works in the real world, imagine a boutique brick-and-mortar store that also has an online shop. Both the physical and digital sides of the business are growing, so the owners need their data capabilities to grow, too. Here's how Fabric helps support the shop now and prepare it for future growth.

- ✓ **Centralise data.** Fabric consolidates data from sales, inventory, customer service, point-of-sale systems, online stores and CRMs.
- ✓ **Real-time insights drive value.** Using Power BI dashboards, the owners can use Real-Time Intelligence in Fabric to track live customer purchase trends, engagement, loyalty scores and more. They use the data to enhance customer relationships: For example, finding the right inactive customers to target with an automated, personalised comeback message.
- ✓ **Automated reporting fuels faster collaboration.** Fabric generates a daily report that summarises sales trends, customer activity and inventory levels. It also provides a shared workspace to align teams on sales priorities, restocking needs and upcoming promotions.
- ✓ **AI-powered decision-making.** The owners can use Fabric's predictive analysis to plan ahead. Real-time insights inform decisions like restocking, adjusting staffing for peak hours and making sure promotions meet customer demands.



Essentially, Fabric can help businesses of any size accelerate and better inform decision-making, increase efficiency and productivity and build strong customer loyalty.

# How Microsoft Fabric Enhances Power BI

|                                |  <b>Power BI</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  <b>Microsoft Fabric</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purpose</b>                 | Business analytics and data visualisation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | End-to-end intelligent data analytics solution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Core capabilities</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Turn raw data into interactive dashboards and reports</b><br/>Transform complex datasets into dynamic dashboards and detailed reports that provide a clear, actionable view of your business</li> <li>→ <b>Visualise data</b><br/>Bring your data to life with rich, customisable visuals that make trends and patterns easy to understand</li> <li>→ <b>Share insights</b><br/>Collaborate seamlessly by sharing reports and dashboards across teams, ensuring everyone has access to the same insights</li> <li>→ <b>Make data-driven decisions</b><br/>Empower confident decision-making with advanced analytics and AI-driven insights that guide strategic actions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Role-specific workloads</b><br/>Tailored tools for data engineers, data scientists, business analysts and database administrators</li> <li>→ <b>One place for all your business data</b><br/>All Fabric tools can access central data storage through OneLake, eliminating the need to copy data between services</li> <li>→ <b>Integrated Copilot support</b><br/>An AI assistant that helps write code, generate insights, automate reporting and handle repetitive tasks</li> <li>→ <b>Built-in integration with Microsoft 365</b><br/>Connect Fabric data to Excel, Teams and other Microsoft 365 applications</li> <li>→ <b>Unified data management and governance</b><br/>Fabric provides centralised data discovery, access control and governance capabilities to help manage data access, sharing and compliance across workloads</li> <li>→ <b>Microsoft Foundry integration</b><br/>Connect clean, governed Fabric data with Foundry to power accurate, intelligent AI solutions</li> </ul> |
| <b>Governance and security</b> | Strong security and governance for BI reports, datasets and more                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Expands security with advanced platform-wide, enterprise-grade security and governance designed to keep data compliant and protected, powered by a deeper Microsoft Purview integration and OneLake                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AI capabilities</b>         | <b>AI features designed to make analysis easier for the user:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Limited AI capabilities designed to make report creation easier for users</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Copilot capabilities to automate reporting with built-in insights:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Create with conversation. Use natural language prompts to explore data, create visuals and launch full reports</li> <li>→ Automate data ingestion, transformation and cleansing to speed up projects</li> <li>→ Get insights, build visuals and automate analytics without manual effort</li> <li>→ Use generative AI to design Power BI reports, create data pipelines and write SQL – no technical expertise needed</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Simply put, Microsoft Fabric incorporates Power BI and expands outward to bring together your entire data landscape.

# Get started with Microsoft Fabric

Microsoft makes it easy to get started with Fabric, whether you're already using Power BI or starting from scratch. Both approaches give you access to the full Fabric experience, with slightly different set-up steps depending on where you're starting.

## Existing Power BI users

If you already have a Power BI account, you can enable and start using Fabric directly from the Power BI service.

**1** Sign in to Power BI Service:  
Go to <https://app.powerbi.com> and log in with your existing credentials

**2** Enable Fabric Preview (Admin Portal)  
a. Navigate to **Admin Portal > Tenant Settings**  
b. Locate **Microsoft Fabric (Preview)** and enable it  
c. If you're an admin, you can allow specific security groups or the entire organisation

**3** Assign Fabric Capacity  
a. Go to **Workspaces**  
b. Create or select an existing workspace  
c. Assign a Fabric trial capacity (F64) to the workspace

**4** Start Using Fabric Features  
a. In your workspace, click **New**  
b. Explore Fabric items like **Lakehouse, Dataflows Gen2, Pipelines** and **Notebooks**  
c. Begin building your analytics solution using familiar Power BI tools enhanced by Fabric capabilities

Take the tutorial →

## New users via Fabric App

If you're new to Power BI and Microsoft Fabric, you can start fresh by signing up through the Fabric app.

**1** Go to the Fabric Portal:  
Visit <https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-fabric/getting-started>

**2** Create a Microsoft Account or Use an Existing Microsoft 365 Account  
Sign up or log in using your organisational or personal Microsoft account

**3** Start Free Trial  
a. Select the **Free Trial** option to activate a 60-day trial with F64 capacity  
b. This gives access to all Fabric workloads, including **Real-Time Intelligence, Databases** and **Copilot**

**4** Explore the Fabric Environment  
a. Create a workspace  
b. Start building with Lakehouse, Dataflows Gen2, Pipelines and more  
c. Use task flows to guide your analytics journey

Learn more →

# Next steps

Find a trusted Microsoft partner to help you accelerate Fabric implementation and achieve the best possible results.

[Find a partner →](#)

Explore how Azure Accelerate helps your teams deliver solutions faster, with zero-cost support from Cloud Accelerate Factory.

[Azure Accelerate →](#)

Learn more about Microsoft Fabric and start a 60-day free trial.

[Get started →](#)

