NACM'S 129TH
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Data Modeling Done Right

Presented by: Rebekyah Brewer
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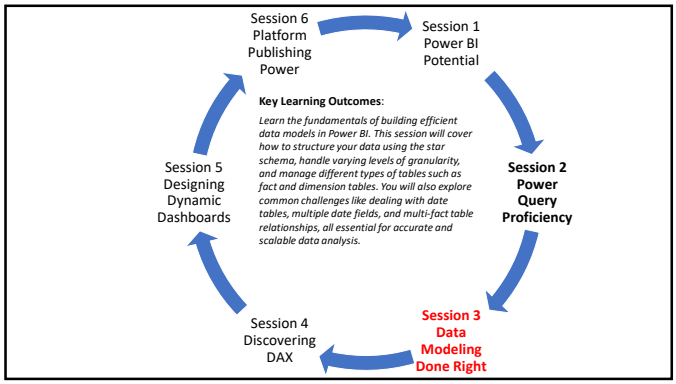
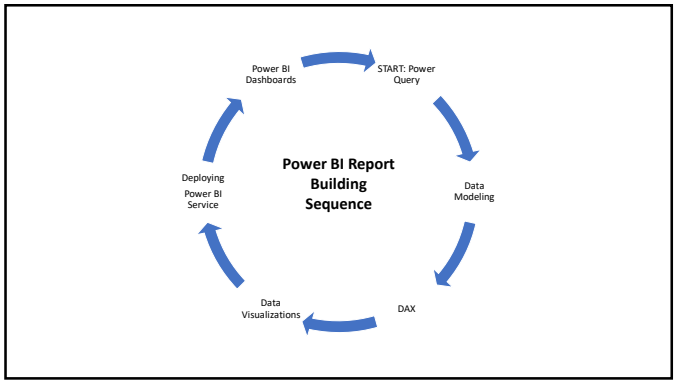
Session: #37043





Prerequisites – Technical

Software Requirements

- **Power BI Desktop** (Free) – Power Query is built into Power BI for data transformation.
- **Excel (2016 and later, or Microsoft 365)** – Power Query is available in the "Get & Transform" section.
- **Windows OS (Windows 10 or later recommended)** – Power Query in Power BI is optimized for Windows.

Optional:

- **Power BI Service (Pro or Premium Per User License)** – If publishing reports online, you'll need a Power BI account

Prerequisites – Technical

Computer Capabilities & Performance Considerations

Power Query processes data transformations, and performance can be impacted by your system specs.

- **RAM** – 8GB minimum; 16GB+ recommended for handling large datasets.
- **Processor** – Intel i5/i7 or AMD Ryzen 5/7 or higher for better performance.
- **Storage (SSD Recommended)** – Faster SSD drives improve data processing speed compared to HDD.
- **Internet Speed** – If working with cloud data, a stable internet connection is necessary.

Prerequisites

Excel & Power Query Basics

Power Query is integrated into Excel and Power BI, so a solid understanding of **Excel functionalities** will be helpful:

Excel Tables & PivotTables & Power PivotTables

- If you've worked with Excel PivotTables, the transition to Power BI data modeling is easier.

Power Query (ETL Process)

- Extracting data from different sources.
- Transforming and shaping data using Power Query (e.g., removing duplicates, merging tables, unpivoting data)

Basic Data Modeling Concepts

Before diving into Data Modeling, a beginner needs a good grasp of:

Relational Databases & Tables

- Familiarity with concepts like tables, columns, rows, primary keys, and foreign keys
- Knowing how different tables relate to each other (one-to-many, many-to-one, many-to-many).

Data Types & Formatting

- Understanding text, numbers, dates, Boolean (True/False), and how they impact calculations.

Data Cleaning & Transformation Basics

- Basic knowledge of handling missing data, duplicates, and inconsistencies.

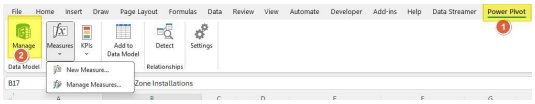
Who is Data Modeling For?

	User Group	How Data Modeling Benefits Them
1	**Power BI Develops**	Data modeling is essential for structuring Power BI datasets efficiently using star schema for optimal performance.
2	**BI Analysts & Report Designers**	Helps create models that support fast, accurate, and scalable reporting in tools like Power BI.
3	**DAX Users**	A strong data model minimizes the complexity of DAX formulas and improves report performance.
3	**Financial Analysts and Accountants**	A well-designed financial data model supports profitability analysis, forecasting, and budgeting.
4	**Credit Managers & Sales Teams**	Helps structure customer and transaction data for segmenting audiences and tracking key metrics.
5	**Decision Makers & Executives**	Understanding data models helps in financial reporting and operational efficiency.

Benefits of Learning Data Modeling in Excel:

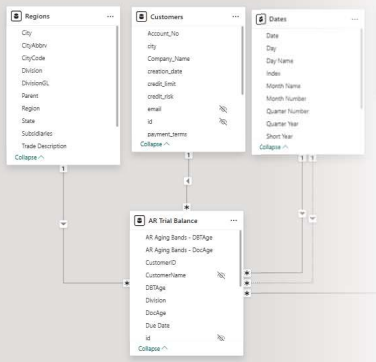
1. Excel is familiar territory for all of us
2. Increased opportunities for internal use leads to wider application
3. Increased usage cases leads to increased experience
4. Small quick wins will encourage motivation to learn more.
5. Logical transition to Power PI through PowerPivot

Loading Power Pivot



Why is a Data Model Important?

- **Optimized Performance –** Reduces redundancy and improves efficiency.
- **Scalability –** Allows easy expansion of data as your model grows.
- **Accurate Insights –** Prevents errors and inconsistencies.
- **Better Data Relationships –** Enables complex queries and drill-downs.
- **Better DAX Performance & Simplicity** – Makes DAX Measures easier to write and troubleshoot.



Building a good data model is one of the most important things you can do in Power BI. - *Pragmatic Works*

Importance of the Data Model

1. Performance Optimization

- A well-structured data model ensures faster query performance by reducing redundancy and improving compression.
- Proper relationships and indexing reduce the load on DAX calculations, improving responsiveness.
- Avoiding unnecessary calculated columns and instead using measure-based calculations ensures efficiency.

2. Data Accuracy & Consistency

- A properly normalized data model prevents duplicate data and inconsistencies.
- Correctly defining relationships (one-to-many, many-to-one) ensures that data aggregates accurately without errors.
- Using surrogate keys instead of composite keys avoids ambiguity in relationships.

Importance of the Data Model

3. Better DAX Performance & Simplicity

- A well-designed model simplifies DAX formulas, making them easier to write and troubleshoot.
- Flat or poorly structured models can lead to complex, slow DAX queries.
- Keeping a star schema instead of a "snowflake" or "spaghetti" model improves the readability and maintainability of DAX calculations.

4. Scalability & Flexibility

- As the business requirements and personnel change, modifying a solid model is easier to understand and restructure than a messy one.
- A structured model makes it easier to scale as data volume grows. It allows for the addition of new tables and data sources without breaking existing reports.

Importance of the Data Model

5. Improved Report Performance

- The right relationships and calculated fields reduce the need for **excessive visuals and filters**, leading to faster dashboards.
- A model optimized for **import mode** or **DirectQuery** enhances report performance by minimizing unnecessary calculations.

6. Security & Row-Level Security (RLS) Implementation

- A well-structured model supports **role-based access** and **Row-Level Security (RLS).**
- Poorly designed models can lead to security loopholes or data leakage.

Importance of the Data Model

7. Easier Maintenance & Collaboration

- A clean model helps other analysts understand and build on it without confusion.
- If multiple developers work on the model, a structured approach ensures team collaboration without causing disruptions.

8. Efficient Storage & Reduced File Size

- A normalized model with proper relationships results in better **compression and reduced memory consumption**.
- Flattened models with excessive columns increase file size and slow down queries.

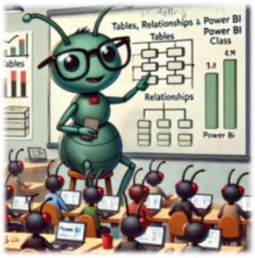
Importance of the Data Model

9. Data Reusability

- A well-structured data model can serve multiple dashboards and reports. Cross Reporting Drill Through.
- Rather than reinventing data structures for every new report, a good model supports different business needs efficiently.

10. Business Logic Centralization

- Keeping business logic in the model (through measures and relationships) ensures consistency across all reports.
- If logic is embedded in visuals, it becomes harder to manage and leads to inconsistencies.



Data Modeling Done Right

OVERVIEW

- Prerequisites
- Basic Data Modeling Concepts
- Basic Power BI Navigation
- Data Modeling in Power BI
- Data Modeling in Power Pivot Excel

Basic Data Modeling Concepts

Organizing Your Analytical Data

Fact vs. Dimension Tables

- Learning the Star Schema and Snowflake Schema structures.

Relationships in Power BI

- Cardinality (one-to-many, many-to-one, many-to-many).
- Direction of relationships (single vs. both directions)
- Active vs. inactive relationships

What is a Data Model

A data model is an structured framework that defines how data is stored, organized, and related within a system.

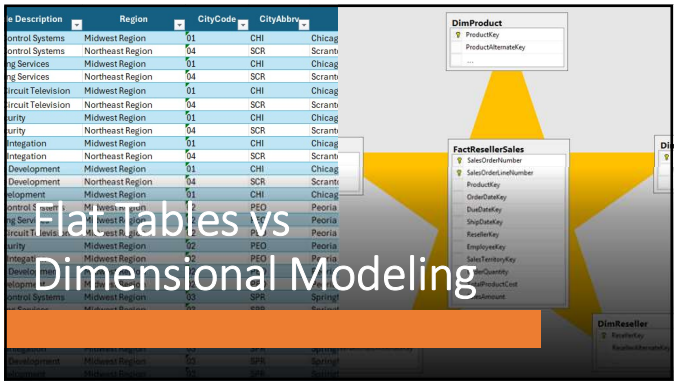
In the context of Power BI, a data model consists of tables, relationships, and calculations (measures, calculated columns) that help transform raw data into meaningful insights.

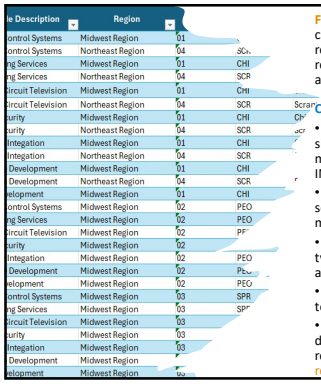
Different Data Model Types are:

- Flat Model – A single table with all data (inefficient for large datasets).
- Relational Model – Multiple tables with defined relationships. (most common in Power BI).
- Star Schema – A central **fact table** surrounded by multiple **dimension tables** (ideal for reporting). Often called dimensional data modeling.
- Snowflake Schema – A more normalized version of the star schema with further breakdown of dimensions.

Key Components of Dimensional Data Modeling

- **Fact Tables** – Store measurable numerical data (e.g., sales, revenue, credit limits).
- **Dimension Tables** – Store descriptive data (e.g., customers, products, regions)
- **Relationships** – Define how dimensions relate to facts (typically one-to-many)
- **Surrogate Keys** – Unique identifiers used in dimension tables instead of **Natural keys**.
- **Hierarchies** – Logical drill-down structures (e.g., Year → Quarter → Month → Day).





Flat Table also called a **denormalized table,** is a table that contains all relevant data in a single, wide structure without requiring joins to other tables. Each row in the table represents a complete dataset record, with all necessary attributes included as columns.

Characteristics of a Flat Table:

- **No Relationships or Joins Required** – All data is stored in a single table, removing the need for complex queries that join multiple tables. (No VLOOKUP/XLOOKUP, SUMIFS or INDEX/MATCH needed)
- **Redundant Data** – Since all information is in one place, some data fields (e.g., customer names, product descriptions) might be repeated across multiple rows.
- **Easy to Query** – Since all data is in one table, queries are typically simpler and run faster for basic reporting and analysis. All columns needed in one place.
- **Wide Table Structure** – The table may have many columns to store all necessary attributes.
- **Lack of Normalization** – Unlike a normalized relational database structure, flat tables do not follow principles like reducing redundancy through primary and foreign key relationships.

Typical Flat AR Trial Balance Table

Id	CustomerID	CustomerName	OrderID	SalesRep	Division	TermsID	InvoiceNo	Invoice Date	Due Date	Invoice_Amount	Invoice_Balance	Today's Date
5	8418695	Wiza-Greenfelder	1002666	2182	CCT-V-SPR	DR	INV100266600	5/23/2024	5/23/2024	$ 216,142.00	$ 216,142.00	12/31/2024
7	9203958	Sawayn-Schowalter	1002744	1114	SYSI-SCR	DR	INV100274400	7/3/2024	7/3/2024	$ 87,267.00	$ 3.50	12/31/2024
12	6953788	Nolan-McClure	1002797	4101	HWD-SPR	DR	INV100279700	7/8/2024	7/8/2024	$ 477,848.00	$ 477,848.00	12/31/2024
9	5853162	Graham-Collins	1002769	1433	ACS-PEO	N60	INV100276900	7/10/2024	9/9/2024	$ 196,237.00	$ 5,000.00	12/31/2024
10	4928941	Hand, Bruen and Fa	1002780	4634	MON-CHI	N90	INV100278000	7/15/2024	10/13/2024	$ 481,413.00	$ 100,000.00	12/31/2024
16	6487377	Trantow-Kris	1002822	1076	CYB-SPR	N30	INV100282200	7/19/2024	8/18/2024	$ 428,037.00	$ 428,037.00	12/31/2024
15	1195833	Daugherty Inc	1002820	4003	SWD-SPR	N90	INV100282000	7/19/2024	10/17/2024	$ 39,772.00	$ 39,772.00	12/31/2024
20	9546985	Mertz LLC	1002844	4641	SWD-CHI	N30	INV100284400	7/29/2024	8/28/2024	$ 332,564.00	$ 332,564.00	12/31/2024
41	1742275	Hoeger, Quitzon an	1002893	4202	SWD-PEO	N60	INV100289300	8/3/2024	10/2/2024	$ 272,625.00	$ 272,625.00	12/31/2024
22	9879585	Raynor-Ebert	1002858	3581	MON-CHI	N90	INV100285800	8/3/2024	11/1/2024	$ 395,059.00	$ 395,059.00	12/31/2024
23	5553979	McCullough-Reynol	1002861	3407	CYB-SPR	DR	INV100286100	8/4/2024	8/4/2024	$ 342,737.00	$ 342,737.00	12/31/2024
24	1680902	Willms Group	1002866	1306	ACS-CHI	DR	INV100286600	8/6/2024	8/6/2024	$ 407,142.00	$ 407,142.00	12/31/2024
25	6803991	Smitham, Koch and	1002869	2676	CCT-V-SCR	N30	INV100286900	8/7/2024	9/6/2024	$ 196,971.00	$ 196,971.00	12/31/2024
28	1032609	VonRueden Group	1002877	1051	MON-PEO	DR	INV100287700	8/11/2024	9/30/2024	$ 57,543.00	$ 57,543.00	12/31/2024
33	1752145	Baumbach-Wilkins	1002884	4818	ACS-CHI	N90	INV100288400	8/18/2024	11/16/2024	$ 367,536.00	$ 367,536.00	12/31/2024
36	3460752	Mayer-Kozey	1002888	1115	MON-CHI	N60	INV100288800	8/19/2024	10/18/2024	$ 322,423.00	$ 322,423.00	12/31/2024
42	2446050	Kohler-Nolan	1002894	4077	CYB-PEO	N60	INV100289400	8/21/2024	10/20/2024	$ 321,975.00	$ 321,975.00	12/31/2024
49	3160691	Swaniawski-Weissi	1002901	4116	ACS-PEO	N60	INV100290100	8/23/2024	10/22/2024	$ 336,570.00	$ 336,570.00	12/31/2024
51	1195833	Daugherty Inc	1002903	4003	SWD-SPR	N90	INV100290300	8/27/2024	11/25/2024	$ 438,170.00	$ 438,170.00	12/31/2024
54	1632070	Hansen-McGlynn	1002906	1254	ACS-PEO	DR	INV100290600	8/30/2024	8/30/2024	$ 327,898.00	$ 327,898.00	12/31/2024
55	6655263	Harber-Parisian	1002907	1290	SYSI-SCR	N90	INV100290700	9/2/2024	12/1/2024	$ 39,553.00	$ 39,553.00	12/31/2024
58	6850075	Mertz, Kub and Bart	1002910	2496	HWD-PEO	N60	INV100291000	9/4/2024	11/3/2024	$ 412,417.00	$ 412,417.00	12/31/2024
109	4934876	Wunsch Inc	1002961	2680	SWD-SPR	N60	INV100296100	9/5/2024	11/4/2024	$ 112,190.00	$ 112,190.00	12/31/2024
120	8054195	Abernathy, Kuhlma	1002972	4490	ACS-CHI	N60	INV100297200	9/5/2024	11/4/2024	$ 380,343.00	$ 380,343.00	12/31/2024
121	1597766	Walsh-Batz	1002973	1433	MON-PEO	N60	INV100297300	9/5/2024	11/4/2024	$ 493,666.00	$ 493,666.00	12/31/2024
60	1043931	Purdy, Ortiz and Ro	1002912	4866	ACS-CHI	N90	INV100291200	9/5/2024	12/4/2024	$ 41,467.00	$ 41,467.00	12/31/2024
85	2657814	Halvorson, Predovi	1002937	2354	HWD-SCR	N90	INV100293700	9/5/2024	12/4/2024	$ 105,388.00	$ 105,388.00	12/31/2024
123	1630489	Wehner, Sanford ar	1002975	4814	HWD-PEO	DR	INV100297500	9/6/2024	9/6/2024	$ 488,791.00	$ 488,791.00	12/31/2024
87	4616344	O'Kon-Schmidt	1002939	4003	MON-SPR	N30	INV100293900	9/6/2024	10/6/2024	$ 236,051.00	$ 236,051.00	12/31/2024

Normalized Table

A **normalized table** is a part of a relational database design. It follows the principles of, database normalization *(organized data)* . Essentially it is a process used to organize data to reduce redundancy and improve data integrity.

Normalization involves breaking down large, complex tables into smaller, related tables that follow specific normal forms (rules) to minimize data duplication and ensure consistency.

Customers Table

CustomerID	CustomerName	CustomerAddress
C001	ABC Corp	123 Elm St
C002	XYZ Inc	456 Oak St

Invoices Table

InvoiceID	CustomerID
101	C001
102	C002

InvoiceDetails Table

InvoiceID	ProductID	Quantity	Price
101	P001	2	800
101	P002	5	20
102	P001	1	800

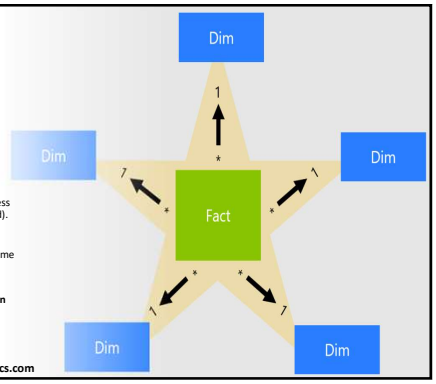
Products Table

ProductID	ProductName
P001	Laptop
P002	Mouse

InvoiceID	CustomerName	CustomerAddress	ProductID	ProductName	Quantity	Price
101	ABC Corp	123 Elm St	P001	Laptop	2	800
101	ABC Corp	123 Elm St	P002	Mouse	5	20
102	XYZ Inc	456 Oak St	P001	Laptop	1	800

Star Schema

- **Dimensional modeling** is based on organizing data into two main types of tables:
- **Fact Tables** – Store quantitative business metrics (e.g., sales revenue, quantity sold).
- **Dimension Tables** – Store descriptive attributes that provide context to facts (e.g., customer details, product names, time periods).
- This structure enables **denormalization** (reducing complex joins) to speed up queries.



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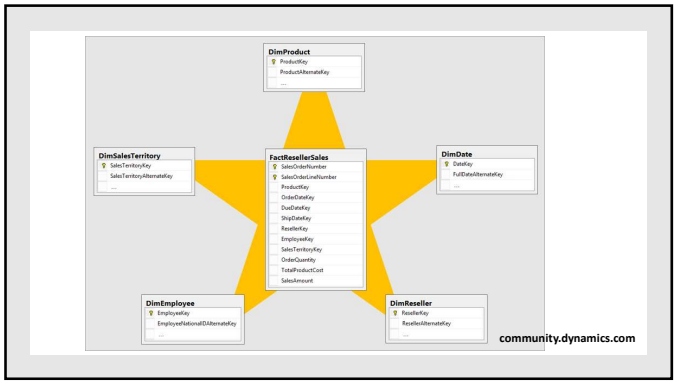
DimProduct
ProductKey
ProductAlternateKey
DimSalesTerritory
SalesTerritoryKey
SalesTerritoryAlternateKey
FactResellerSales
SalesOrderNumber
SalesOrderLineNumber
ProductKey
OrderDateKey
DueDateKey
ShipDateKey
ResellerKey
EmployeeKey
SalesTerritoryKey
OrderQuantity
TotalProductCost
SalesAmount
DimDate
DateKey
FullDateAlternateKey
DimEmployee
EmployeeKey
EmployeeNationalIDAlternateKey
DimReseller
ResellerKey
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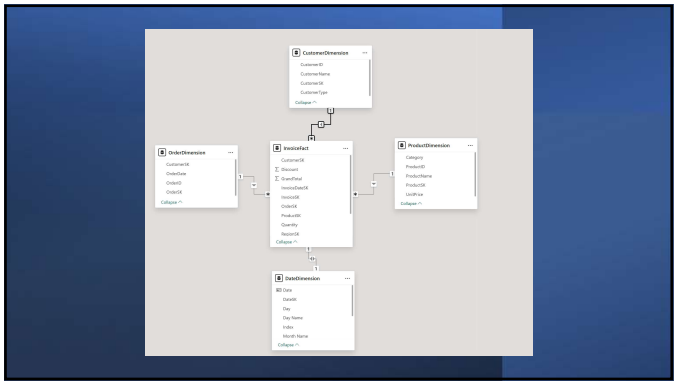
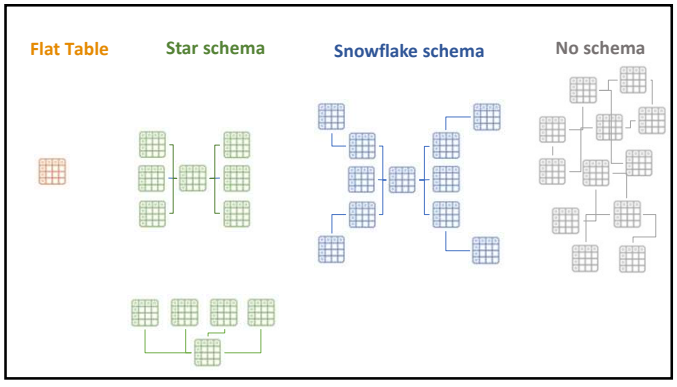

CustomerDimension
OrderDimension
InvoiceFact
ProductDimension
DateDimension


Flat Table
Star schema
Snowflake schema
No schema

1. One-to-Many (1:M) Relationship (Dimension to Fact)

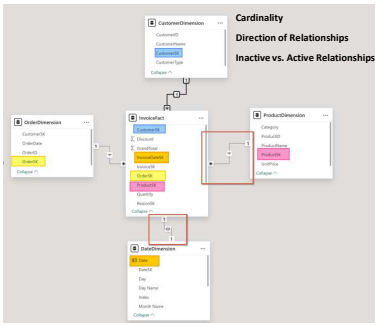
- Most common relationship in a star schema.
- Each Dimension Table has a Unique Value, Primary Key, Natural Key, Surrogate Key.
- The Fact table has a Foreign key referencing the dimension table that tie them together.
- One row in a dimension table can relate to many rows in the fact table.
- Dimension Tables filter Fact tables.
- One Way relationship.
  - Fact tables do not filter dimension tables. If a fact table filtered a dimension table, ambiguity is introduced. Think of a single row in an Excel spreadsheet that contained many rows, attempting to filter its own header row. It can be misleading.

For Example:

- - A Date dimension table has a unique Date Key.
- - The Sales fact table has a Date Key as a foreign key. (Several Date Column in fact)
- - One date in the Date table can relate to many sales transactions

2. Many-to-One (M:1) Relationship (Fact to Dimension)

- This is the reverse perspective of the one-to-many relationship.
- Each fact record refers to a single related dimension record or another table record.



3. One-to-One (1:1) Relationship (Rare)

- This is less common in a star schema but may occur in cases where a dimension is split into multiple tables for performance or security reasons.

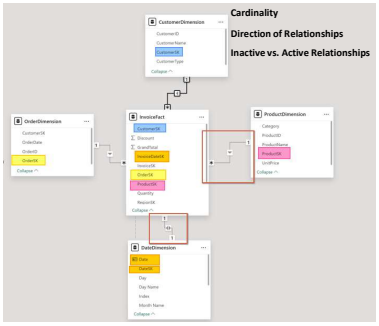
For Example:
A Customer table may store general information, while a Customer Details table stores sensitive information (like credit scores) in a separate, restricted table or if there is a junk table .

4. Many-to-Many (M:M) Relationships (Not Directly in Star Schema)

- Star schemas avoid direct many-to-many relationships. The Traditional star schema does not natively support **many-to-many relationships.**

These relationships are typically resolved using **bridge tables** (also called **junction tables**) in more complex data models.

For Example:
If Employees can be associated with multiple Roles, and each Role can belong to multiple Employees, a Role-Employee Bridge Table is used to break the many-to-many relationship into two one-to-many relationships.



Key Difference Between Fact & Dimensions Tables

Feature	Fact Table	Dimension Table
Purpose	Stores measurable business data (metrics)	Stores descriptive attributes (context)
Data Type	Contains numerical and aggregatable data	Contains categorical or descriptive data
Granularity	High granularity (transactions, events)	Lower granularity (business entities)
Examples	Sales, Revenue, Quantity, Profit	Product, Customer, Region, Date
Keys	Contains foreign keys referencing dimensions	Contains a primary key used in fact tables
Data Changes	Frequently updated with new transactions	Less frequently updated, usually static
Usage in BI	Used for calculations, KPIs, trends	Used for filtering, slicing, and dicing
Relationships	Connects to multiple dimension tables	Connected to fact tables using primary key
Data Size	Larger (stores high volume of records)	Smaller (stores descriptive data only)
Attributes	Narrow Width and Long Length	Wide Width, and Short Length

Fact Table
Stores measurable business data (metrics)
Contains numerical and aggregatable data
High granularity (transactions, events)
Sales, Revenue, Quantity, Profit
Contains foreign keys referencing dimensions
Frequently updated with new transactions
Used for calculations, KPIs, trends
Connects to multiple dimension tables
Larger (stores high volume of records)
Narrow Width and Long Length

Fact Table - Orders

OrderIndex_SK	OrderDate	OrderID	OrderAmount	CustomerID_FK	Salesperson_ID_FK	DivisionID_FK	Order_StartDate	Order_CompletionDate
1	1/1/2021	1000000	$ 392,880.00	2821130	4350ACS		1/31/2021	2/14/2021
2	1/1/2021	1000001	$ 249,312.00	6806888	3672SWD		1/31/2021	2/14/2021
3	1/1/2021	1000002	$ 283,777.00	2827187	1470CCTV		1/31/2021	2/14/2021
4	1/2/2021	1000004	$ 417,563.00	1318704	1722SYSI		2/1/2021	2/15/2021
5	1/3/2021	1000005	$ 411,681.00	6471969	2680HWD		2/2/2021	2/16/2021

Fact Table - Invoices

InvoiceIndex_SK	CustomerID_FK	OrderID_FK	SalesRepID_FK	Division_FK	TermsID	InvoiceNo_NK	Invoice Date	Due Date	Invoice_Amount	Invoice_Balance
1	6402978	1002460	1783ACS-SPR	N90		INV100246000	2/21/2024	5/21/2024	$ 216,266.00	$ 216,266.00
60	1043931	1002912	4866ACS-CHI	N90		INV100291200	9/5/2024	12/4/2024	$ 41,467.00	$ 41,467.00
454	1043931	1000328	4866ACS-CHI	N90		INV100032800	7/12/2021	10/10/2021	$ 91,300.00	$ -
559	1043931	1000433	4866ACS-CHI	N90		INV100043300	8/22/2021	11/20/2021	$ 291,049.00	$ -

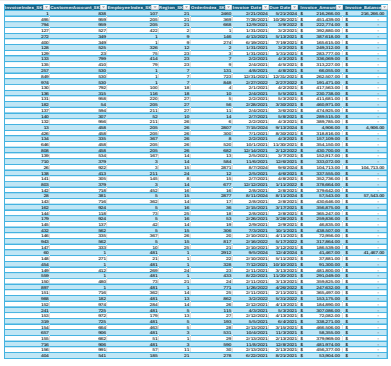
Fact Table – Payment

PaymentDocID	Payment Date	Method	PaymentAmount	ApplyAmount	ApplyBalance	BankID	BatchID
PMT10000000	5/1/2021	Check	$ 392,880.00	$ 392,880.00	$ -	Chase-Op	20210501-CHK
PMT10004240	11/16/2021	ACH	$ 343,421.00	$ 343,421.00	$ -	Chase-Op	20211116-ACH
PMT10005400	1/8/2022	ACH	$ 379,493.00	$ 379,493.00	$ -	Chase-Op	20220108-ACH

Fact Table - Products

Invoice_SK	InvoiceID_NK	CustomerSK_FK	OrderID_SK	Productt_SK	InvoiceDate	Qty	UnitPrice	Discount	TotalAmt	TaxAmount	ItemTotal
1099	INV100097300	908	1000973	201	4/16/2022	5	$ 20.00	5%	$ 95.00	$7.60	$ 102.60
2156	INV100203000	417	1002030	202	7/31/2023	3	$ 15.00	0%	$ 45.00	$.60	$ 48.60

FactTable for Invoicing Transactions using Surrogate Keys Only



Dimension Table - Customer

CustomerID_SK	CreationDate	CustomerID_NK	Company_Name	Credit_limit	Credit_risk	Terms	SalesPersonIDFK
1	3/10/2001	1043931	Purdy, Ortiz and Rodriguez	$ 100,000.00	High Risk	N30	4866
2	5/1/2004	8338926	Kuhn Group	$ 100,000.00	High Risk	N30	4207
3	1/4/2009	48061221	Braun and Sons	$ 500,000.00	Moderate Risk	N60	2459
4	3/31/2007	99655231	Jast, Langworth and Hodkiewicz	$ 1,000,000.00	Low Risk	N30	4860

Dimension Table - Salesperson

Employee_SK	EmployeeID_NK	EmployeeName	Position	Location	Start Date	Phone_No	EmailAddress
1	1001	Steven Webb	Salesperson	Chicago	8/20/2019	210-6270	swebb@safecore.us
2	1011	Jennifer Burke	Service Field	Peoria	4/26/2020	210-5539	jburke@safecore.us
3	1019	Chad Cobb	Salesperson	Peoria	10/19/2020	210-9462	jcobb@safecore.us
4	1032	Mr. Keith Hernandez	Service Field	Chicago	3/24/2015	210-2264	mkeith@safecore.us

Dimension Table - Regions

OrgIndex_SK	Parent	Subsidiaries	Division_NK	TradeCode	TradeAbbrv	Trade Description	Region
1	SafeCore Holdings, LLC	SafeZone Installations	ACS-CHI	01	ACS	Access Control Systems	Midwest Region
2	SafeCore Holdings, LLC	SafeZone Installations	ACS-SCR	01	ACS	Access Control Systems	Northeast Region
3	SafeCore Holdings, LLC	SafeZone Installations	MON-CHI	05	MON	Monitoring Services	Midwest Region
4	SafeCore Holdings, LLC	SafeZone Installations	MON-SCR	05	MON	Monitoring Services	Northeast Region
5	SafeCore Holdings, LLC	SafeZone Installations	CCTV-CHI	02	CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television	Midwest Region

Dimension Table
Stores descriptive attributes (context)
Contains categorical or descriptive data
Lower granularity (business entities)
Product, Customer, Region, Date
Contains a primary key used in fact tables
Less frequently updated, usually static
Used for filtering, slicing, and dicing
Connected to fact tables using primary key
Smaller (stores descriptive data only)
Wide Width, and Short Length

Role Playing Dimension – Date Table

Index	Date	Day	Day Name	Month Number	Month Name	Quarter Number	Quarter Year	Short Year	Year
1872	2/14/2025	14	Fri	2	Feb	1	2SQ01	25	2025
1871	2/13/2025	13	Thu	2	Feb	1	2SQ01	25	2025
1870	2/12/2025	12	Wed	2	Feb	1	2SQ01	25	2025
1869	2/11/2025	11	Tue	2	Feb	1	2SQ01	25	2025

Date Table – Time Intelligence

Index	Date	Day	Day Name	Month Number	Month Name	Quarter Number	Quarter Year	Short Year	Year
1872	2/14/2025	14	Fri	2	Feb	1	25Q01	25	2025
1871	2/13/2025	13	Thu	2	Feb	1	25Q01	25	2025
1870	2/12/2025	12	Wed	2	Feb	1	25Q01	25	2025
1869	2/11/2025	11	Tue	2	Feb	1	25Q01	25	2025

- **Continuous Date Range** - no missing oe duplicate dates, typically spans from the earliest to the latest transaction date in your dataset. To support future forecasts, it will need to extend beyond the current date (e.g., 2–3 years into the future).
- **One Row per Day** - Each row should represent a single date (no duplicates).
- **Must Include a Column of Type 'Date'** - At least one column formatted as Date (not DateTime)as the Primary Key.
- **Must be Mark as a Date TableIn Power BI** - Table Tools > Mark as Date Table > Select Date Column
- **Sort By Other Columns** – You will want to Sort Month Name by Month Number, so your visual months are in order.
- **Standard Date Attributes** - The table should include additional columns to support various time-based filtering and grouping: Year: Qtr, YYYY-MM, Full Month Name, Period, Weeks, Date Calculations, Supports Fiscal Year
- **No Relationships to Fact Tables with Duplicate Date Columns** - Only the Date column from the Date Table should be used to create relationships with fact tables. Avoid using multiple date fields from fact tables—use USERELATIONSHIP() in DAX for alternate date fields (e.g., Order Date vs. Invoice Date).

Date Table – DAX Method

```
DateTable =
ADDCOLUMNS (
    CALENDAR (DATE(2015,1,1), DATE(2030,12,31)),
    "Year", YEAR([Date]),
    "Month", FORMAT([Date], "MMMM"),
    "Month Number", MONTH([Date]),
    "Quarter", "Q" & FORMAT([Date], "Q"),
    "Day of Week", FORMAT([Date], "dddd"),
    "Day of Year", FORMAT([Date], "DDD"),
    "Week Number", WEEKNUM([Date])
)
```

Date Table – 'M' Method

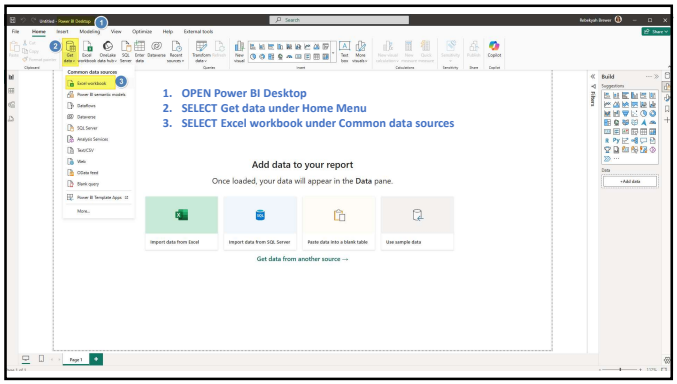
```
let
Source = List.Dates,
#"Invoked FunctionSource" = Source(#date(2020, 1, 1), Duration.Days(DateTime.Date(DateTime.FixedLocalNow()) - #date(2020,1,1)), #duration(1, 0, 0, 0)),
#"Table from List" = Table.FromList(#"Invoked FunctionSource",Splitter.SplitByNothing(), null, null, ExtraValues.Error),
#"Added Index" = Table.AddIndexColumn(#"Table from List", "Index", 1, 1),
#"Renamed Columns" = Table.RenameColumns(#"Added Index",{{"Column1", "Date"}}),
#"Added Custom" = Table.AddColumn(#"Renamed Columns", "Year", each Date.Year([Date])),
#"Added Custom1" = Table.AddColumn(#"Added Custom", "Month Number", each Date.Month([Date])),
#"Added Custom2" = Table.AddColumn(#"Added Custom1", "Day", each Date.Day([Date])),
#"Added Custom3" = Table.AddColumn(#"Added Custom2", "Day Name", each Date.ToText([Date],"ddd")),
#"Added Custom4" = Table.AddColumn(#"Added Custom3", "Month Name", each Date.ToText([Date],"MMM")),
#"Reordered Columns" = Table.ReorderColumns(#"Added Custom4",{"Date", "Index", "Year", "Month Number", "Month Name", "Day", "Day Name"}),
#"Added Custom5" = Table.AddColumn(#"Reordered Columns", "Quarter Number", each Date.QuarterOfYear([Date])),
#"Duplicated Column" = Table.DuplicateColumn(#"Added Custom5", "Year", "Copy of Year"),
#"Renamed Columns1" = Table.RenameColumns(#"Duplicated Column",{{"Copy of Year", "Short Year"}}),
#"Changed Type" = Table.TransformColumnTypes(#"Renamed Columns1",{{"Short Year", type text}}),
#"Split Column by Position" = Table.SplitColumn(#"Changed Type","Short Year",Splitter.SplitTextByRepeatedLengths(2),{"Short Year.1", "Short Year.2"}),
#"Changed Type1" = Table.TransformColumnTypes(#"Split Column by Position",{{"Short Year.1", Int64.Type}, {"Short Year.2", Int64.Type}}),
#"Removed Columns" = Table.RemoveColumns(#"Changed Type1",{"Short Year.1"}),
#"Renamed Columns2" = Table.RenameColumns(#"Removed Columns",{{"Short Year.2", "Short Year"}}),
#"Added Custom6" = Table.AddColumn(#"Renamed Columns2", "Quarter Year", each Number.ToText([Short Year]) & "Q" & Number.ToText([Quarter Number],"00")),
#"Reordered Columns1" = Table.ReorderColumns(#"Added Custom6",{"Index", "Date", "Day", "Day Name", "Month Number", "Month Name", "Quarter Number",
"Quarter Year", "Short Year", "Year"}),
#"Changed Type2" = Table.TransformColumnTypes(#"Reordered Columns1",{{"Date", type date}, {"Day", Int64.Type}, {"Index", Int64.Type}, {"Month Number",
Int64.Type}, {"Quarter Number", Int64.Type}, {"Month Name", type text}, {"Quarter Year", type text}, {"Year", Int64.Type}})
in
#"Changed Type2"
```

Basic Power BI Navigation

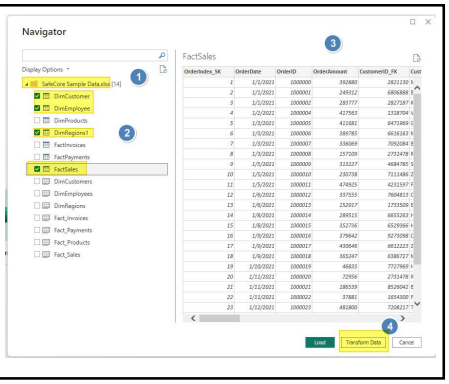
Importing Data
- Connecting Power BI to dataset.

Building Simple Data Model
- Connect our Data Model
- Create a Date Table
- Mark our Date Table

Building Simple Reports
- Dragging fields into visuals.
- Formatting charts and tables.



1. **OPEN** Example File: *SafeCore Sample Date.xlsx*
2. **SELECT** Tables to import:
   - DimCustomer
   - DimEmployee
   - DimRegions
   - FactSales
3. **PREVIEW** Sample Data
4. **CLICK** Transform Data to open Power Query



Step 1
Create Group Folders to organize your data sources:
- *Datasources*
- *Staging Table (Optional)*
- *DataModel*

Step 2
- Move your date source files to your Datasource folder
- Disable load for each

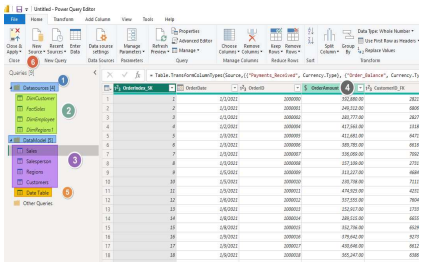
Step 3
- Reference each of your tables to create copies. (Right Click choose reference)
- Move to your DataModel folder
- Rename for user friendliness.

Step 4
- Set your data types.
- Rename your Columns to make them user friendly in natural language.
- Remove Extra Columns.
- Perform additional transformations as needed.

Step 5
- Create Your Date Table

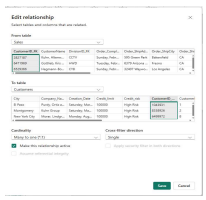
(Use .txt file/Select Blank Query/Advanced Editor)

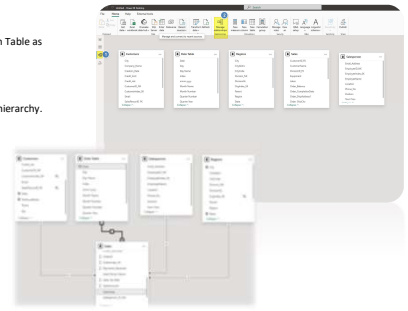
Step 6
- Click Close and Apply

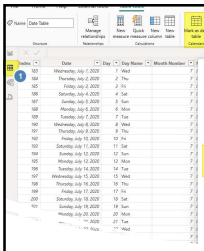


Create your star schema

1. Select DataModel
2. Select Manage relationships
3. Select Fact Table as "From". Your Dimension Table as "To" for each.
4. Verify your Cardinality is M:1
5. Verify Relationship Direction is Single.
6. Verify relationship is Active
7. Arrange Your tables as a Star Schema or as hierarchy.





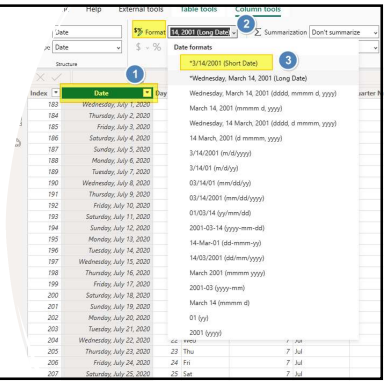


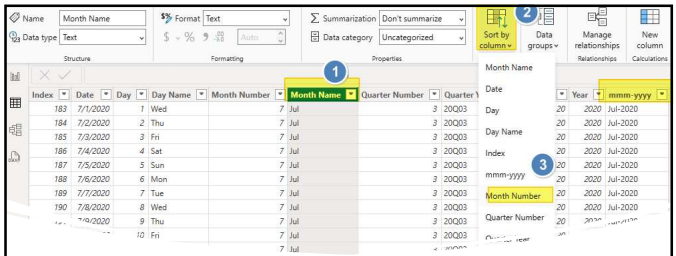
Mark Your Date Table

1. Select Tables
2. Select Date Table
3. Click 'Mark as date table' under Table tools menu
4. Select 'On'
5. Select your Primary Date Column. Must be consecutive.
6. Click Save

Format Your Date Table

- Select Date Column
- Select Column tools and Format
- Choose (Short Date)
- Repeat on other columns as needed.

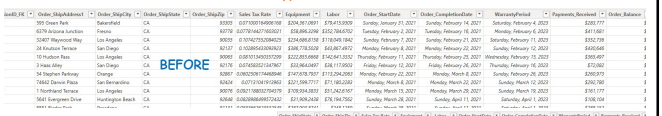


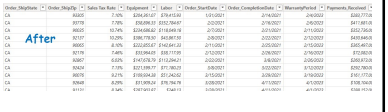


Sort your Calendar Columns Correctly

1. Select a column that needs a specific order. i.e… Month Name or mmm-yyyy column. You do not want these to display alphabetical in visuals.
2. Select Sort by Column
3. Select the corresponding numeric value to use as sort order.
4. Create a visual to validate

Format All Your Other Tables Data Types in Power BI





Tips:

- Use short dates
- Set all Currency & Percentage formats to 2 decimals instead of 'Auto' default.
- Select Numeric values that will not be aggregated to ' Don't Summarize' in Column Tools.
- You may need to return to Power Query to fix some columns data types that cannot be fixed in Power BI
- Set any data Categories for State, Address, Zip clms.
- 'Hide in Report View' Columns for Surrogate 'Keys' in Fact Tables and Dimensions.
- **'Hide in Report View' All Implicit Measure Fields, Fields that auto sum that you will create Explicit Measures for to replace unless you need them to filter.

Date Table – DAX Method

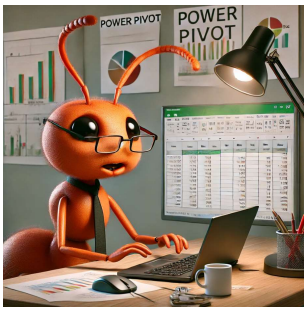
```
DateTable =
ADDCOLUMNS (
   CALENDAR (DATE(2015,1,1), DATE(2030,12,31)),
   "Year", YEAR([Date]),
   "Month", FORMAT([Date], "MMMM"),
   "Month Number", MONTH([Date]),
   "Quarter", "Q" & FORMAT([Date], "Q"),
   "Day of Week", FORMAT([Date], "dddd"),
   "Day of Year", FORMAT([Date], "DDD"),
   "Week Number", WEEKNUM([Date])
)
```

PowerPivot Excel Comparison

Importing Data
- Connecting Power BI to dataset.

Building Simple Data Model
- Connect our Data Model
- Create a Date Table
- Mark our Date Table

Building Simple Reports
- Dragging fields into visuals.
- Formatting charts and tables.

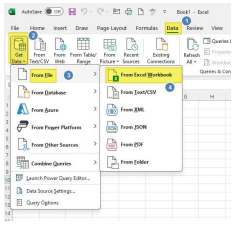


Benefits of Learning Power Pivot in Excel:

1. Excel is familiar territory for all of us
2. Increased opportunities for internal use leads to wider application
3. Increased usage cases leads to increased experience
4. Small quick wins will encourage motivation to learn more.
5. Logical transition to Power PI through PowerPivot

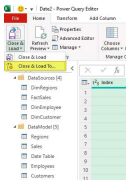
Loading Power Pivot

Step 1. Load Data into Power Query from Excel

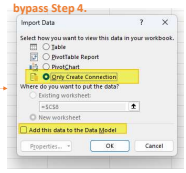


Step 2. Transform Data in Power Query as Needed for Dimension and Fact Tables then 'Close & Load To..' option.

Note Original Tables in DataSources have no option not to load.

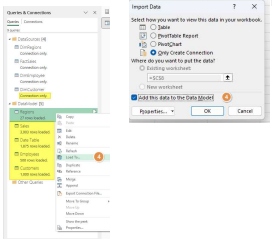


Step 3. Select Only Create Connection. If working with just DataModel Tables select 'Add this data to the Data Model to bypass Step 4.

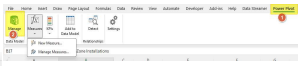


Loading Power Pivot

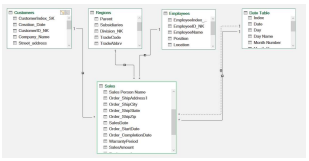
STEP 4. All your tables will be under 'Connection only' under Queries & Connections on Tata Tab. Select each of the Tables under your Data Model and click 'Load To:' and then select "Add this data to Data Model." This avoided loading all tables and only the tables you need. For a visual copy, select 'Table' to create an Excel Table of your data.



STEP 5.Open Power Pivot to edit your tables in Power Pivot and create your data model. Click Manage to access Power Pivot area of Excel.

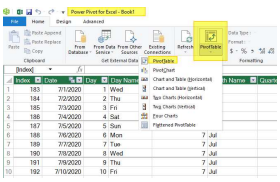


STEP 6. Set your date table, format your column values, create calculated columns. Connect your relationships for your Data Model.

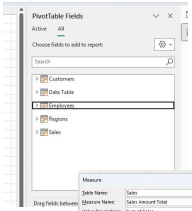


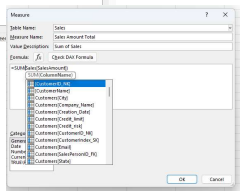
Loading Power Pivot

STEP 7. Under Home on Menu, Select PivotTable or PivotChart to begin creating your PowerPivot Table and PowerPivot Charts.



STEP 8. Begin adding fields to your PowerPivot Table as you would a normal Pivot Table, except now you have Multi-tables.

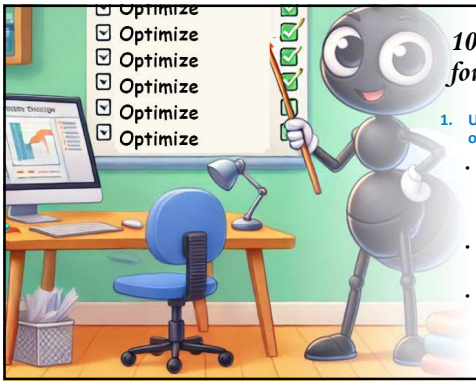




STEP 9. Create your DAX measures if needed for additional calculations. (Sign up for next class: Discovering DAX!)

Excel Power Pivot vs Power BI Considerations

Feature/Aspect	Power Pivot in Excel	Power BI
Purpose	Enhances Excel's data modeling and analysis capabilities Good for small scale, one time, ad-hoc analysis reports.	A full-fledged BI and reporting tool for analytics Power BI is better when the analysis needs to be repeated, refreshed, or shared with others dynamically.
Data Modeling	Supports data modeling with DAX and relationships	More advanced modeling, including DAX, M
Data Sources	Limited connectivity (Excel, SQL, Access, OData, etc.)	Extensive support (SQL, APIs, cloud sources, etc.)
User Interface	Excel-based, uses Power PivotTables & Power Query integration	Dedicated UI with visuals, slicers, dashboards
Visualization	Basic (PivotTables, PivotCharts)	Advanced (interactive dashboards, custom visuals) Creating interactive dashboards
Data Refresh	Manual or scheduled via Power Query and Excel features	Automated refresh via Power BI Service
Data Volume	Limited to Excel's memory constraints (~1M rows)	Can handle billions of rows with efficient compression
Sharing & Collaboration	Via Excel file sharing or OneDrive	Cloud-based sharing via Power BI Service
Security	Limited security controls (password, OneDrive settings)	Row-level security (RLS), role-based access
Advanced Features	Some support for DAX, Measures, KPIs	Advanced AI, predictive analytics, Python, R
Deployment	Local desktop use only	Can be deployed to cloud, Power BI Service, Power BI Report Server
Automation	Limited (Excel Macros, VBA, Power Automate)	Supports Power Automate, APIs, AI-driven insights
Updates & Support	Slow updates (dependent on Excel updates)	Frequent updates with new features monthly
Licensing	Included in Excel (with Power Pivot enabled)	Requires Power BI Free, Pro, or Premium



10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

1. Use a Star Schema instead of a flat table

- A star schema consists of a central fact table surrounded by dimension tables, reducing redundancy and improving performance.
- Avoid a snowflake schema unless necessary, as it increases complexity.
- Power BI performs best with denormalized data structures optimized for reporting.

10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

2. Reduce Relationships & Cardinality Issues

- Use one-to-many relationships rather than many-to-many to prevent performance issues.
- Reduce high-cardinality columns in relationships (e.g., avoid using unique transaction IDs unless necessary).
- Avoid bidirectional filtering unless essential—it can introduce ambiguity and slow down calculations.

3. Keep the Model as Simple as Possible

- Remove unnecessary tables and columns that don't add value.
- Create a single source of truth by defining clear measures and relationships.
- Consolidate multiple fact tables if they serve the same purpose.

10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

4. Optimize Table Relationships

- Ensure fact tables are on the "many" side and dimension tables are on the "one" side.
- Use integer keys instead of text keys for relationships (e.g., use CustomerID instead of CustomerName).
- Use surrogate keys where possible to improve relationship efficiency.

5. Use Aggregated Columns & PreCalcs in Data Transformation

- Perform aggregations (e.g., totals, averages) before loading data into Power BI to reduce DAX calculations. (Do in SQL or PowerQuery)
- Avoid row-by-row transformations in Power Query when table-wide calculations are more efficient.
- Remove unnecessary decimal precision in numerical columns.

10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

6. Use Measures Instead of Calculated Columns

- Measures are dynamic and computed at query time, whereas calculated columns increase memory usage.
- Use DAX measures for calculations that involve aggregations (e.g., SUM, AVERAGE, COUNT).
- Only create calculated columns when they are required for relationships or filters.

7. Leverage Power BI's Performance Optimization Features

- Enable query reduction options to minimize unnecessary queries.
- Use aggregation tables for large datasets.
- Utilize composite models when working with large datasets in DirectQuery mode.

10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

8. Use Role-Based Security Properly

- Implement Row-Level Security (RLS) to restrict data access by users or to make reports more region or user specific.
- Avoid hardcoding filters in RLS—use role-based tables instead.
- Test RLS configurations thoroughly to ensure security and performance balance.

9. Index & Partition Large Datasets

- Partition large fact tables in the data source to improve query performance.
- Use **indexes** on foreign keys in your SQL source system for faster joins.
- Leverage **incremental refresh** for large datasets to optimize load times.

10 Best Practices for Data Modeling

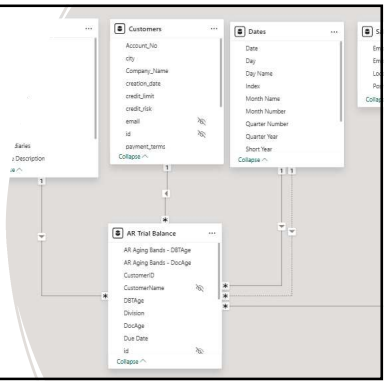
10. Document Your Data Model

- Use clear naming conventions for tables, columns, and measures
- Create a **data dictionary** explaining key business logic.
- Add descriptions in Power BI for datasets, relationships, and measures.

Remember:

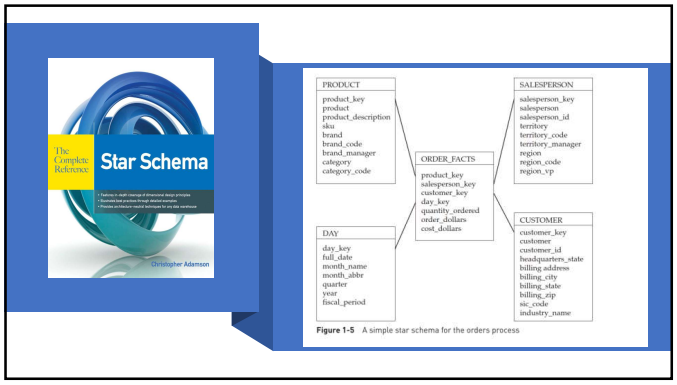
Good Data Models Provide:

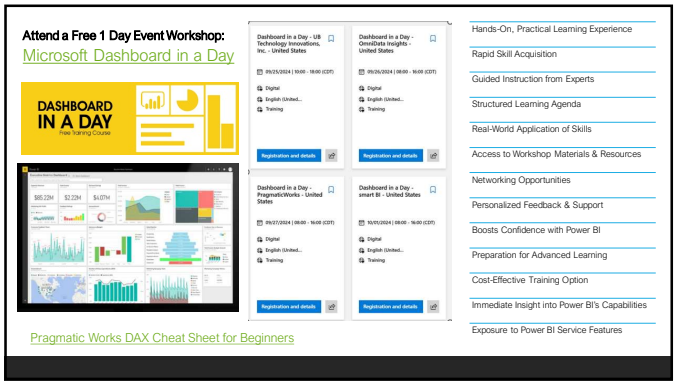
- *Performance Optimization*
- *Data Accuracy & Consistency*
- *Better DAX Performance & Simplicity*
- *Scalability & Flexibility*
- *Improved Report Performance*
- *Security & Row-Level Security (RLS) Implementation*
- *Easier Maintenance & Collaboration*
- *Efficient Storage & Reduced Data Size*
- *Data Reusability*
- *Business Logic & Centralization*

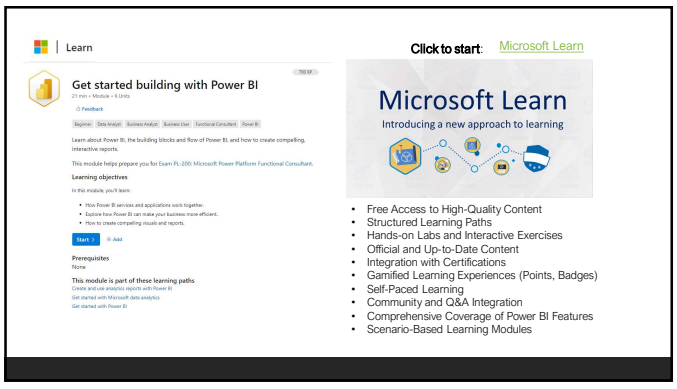


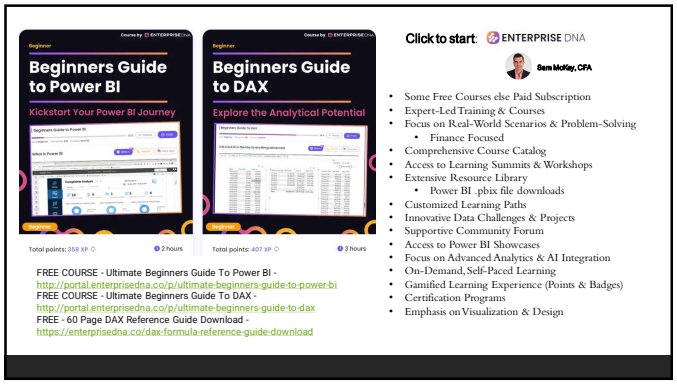
Next Steps for Learning

✓ K.I.S.S. – Keep it Simple Stupid.
✓ Start with **small datasets** (Excel or CSV) before working with large databases.
~~with different online data sources~~
✓ **Follow guided tutorials** (Microsoft Learn, YouTube, blog posts).
✓ **Work on real-world projects** to reinforce concepts, even if its just for you.


The Complete Reference
Star Schema
Christopher Adamson
PRODUCT
product_key
product
product_description
sku
brand
brand_code
brand_manager
category
category_code
ORDER_FACTS
product_key
salesperson_key
customer_key
day_key
quantity_ordered
order_dollars
cost_dollars
SALESPERSON
salesperson_key
salesperson
salesperson_id
territory
territory_code
territory_manager
region
region_code
region_vp
DAY
day_key
full_date
month_name
month_abbr
quarter
year
fiscal_period
CUSTOMER
customer_key
customer
customer_id
headquarters_state
billing address
billing_city
billing_state
billing_zip
sic_code
industry_name
Figure 1-5 A simple star schema for the orders process


Attend a Free 1 Day Event Workshop:
Microsoft Dashboard in a Day
DASHBOARD IN A DAY
Free Training Course
Hands-On, Practical Learning Experience
Rapid Skill Acquisition
Guided Instruction from Experts
Structured Learning Agenda
Real-World Application of Skills
Access to Workshop Materials & Resources
Networking Opportunities
Personalized Feedback & Support
Boosts Confidence with Power BI
Preparation for Advanced Learning
Cost-Effective Training Option
Immediate Insight into Power BI's Capabilities
Exposure to Power BI Service Features
Pragmatic Works DAX Cheat Sheet for Beginners


Learn
Get started building with Power BI
Click to start: Microsoft Learn
Microsoft Learn
Introducing a new approach to learning
Free Access to High-Quality Content
Structured Learning Paths
Hands-on Labs and Interactive Exercises
Official and Up-to-Date Content
Integration with Certifications
Gamified Learning Experiences (Points, Badges)
Self-Paced Learning
Community and Q&A Integration
Comprehensive Coverage of Power BI Features
Scenario-Based Learning Modules


Beginners Guide to Power BI
Kickstart Your Power BI Journey
Beginners Guide to DAX
Explore the Analytical Potential
Click to start: ENTERPRISE DNA
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Access to Power BI Showcases
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Gamified Learning Experience (Points & Badges)
Certification Programs
Emphasis on Visualization & Design
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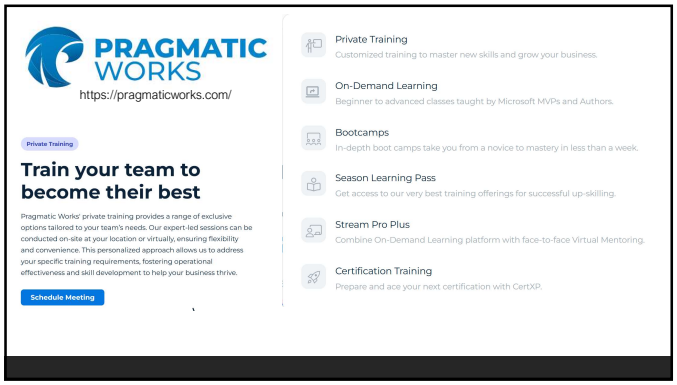
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Combine On-Demand Learning platform with face-to-face Virtual Mentoring.
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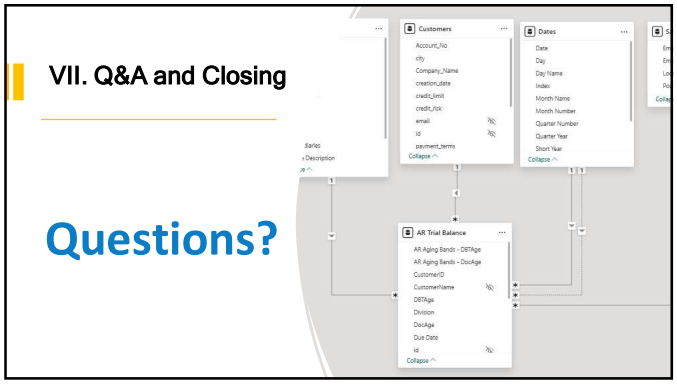
Prepare and ace your next certification with CertXP.


VII. Q&A and Closing
Questions?
Customers
Dates
AR Trial Balance