Power BI

2021 release wave 2

October 2021-March 2022

In this guide, you will be able to learn the most important things about this release wave.

Top things to know

Release overview

Microsoft business intelligence helps drive a data culture where everyone at every level of an organization can make confident decisions with data at any scale. To enable organizations to drive a data culture, we're investing in three key areas:

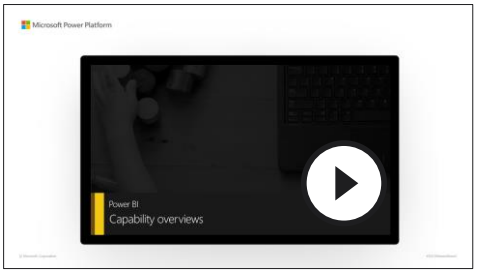
- **Empower every individual** with instantly familiar experiences and AI infused insights.
- **Empower every team** with BI woven into the fabric of where teams work, making data a standard part of every decision and turning insights into actions.
- **Empower every organization** to meet the most demanding enterprise needs for scalability and governance.

Read the release plan

Explore the entire set of new capabilities planned for 2021 release wave 2.
Visit: aka.ms/Plan/2021RW2/PowerBI

Learn more about latest updates

Watch latest capability overview videos.
Visit: aka.ms/Updates/PowerBI



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Overview

Microsoft business intelligence helps drive a data culture where everyone at every level of an organization can make confident decisions with data at any scale. To enable organizations to drive a data culture, we're investing in three key areas:

- **Empower every individual** with instantly familiar experiences and AI infused insights.
- **Empower every team** with BI woven into the fabric of where teams work, making data a standard part of every decision and turning insights into actions.
- **Empower every organization** to meet the most demanding enterprise needs for scalability and governance.

Empower every individual

Power BI continues to innovate and make it easier than ever for everyone to work with data. To build a data culture, every single individual needs to have instantly familiar experiences combined with easy to discover insights. Whether that is authors creating reports using the free Power BI Desktop tool, or consumers exploring data in the Power BI service and mobile applications, or individuals in Office using data to make better decisions, Power BI makes it easy and delightful to work with data. Power BI has leveraged a lot of the AI advancements in Microsoft Research to help our users find patterns in the vast amounts of data and insights that are readily available to use. Power BI will continue to empower every business user and business analyst to get amazing insights with AI infused experiences. To ensure that those insights are available to everyone in the organization, wherever they are and in context, we developed the world leading mobile BI app and embedding capabilities for your applications, websites, and portals. This empowers individuals across an organization to drive and grow the data culture.

Empower every team

Power BI makes data a standard part of every team's decision making by deeply integrating BI into the places where teams work and infusing it into the most common collaboration experiences. Power BI integration in Microsoft Teams will continue to mature, deepening the integration in channels, chats, and notifications within Teams. In addition, customers have told us they value the ability to quickly move from insight to action to automation. Microsoft Power Platform makes this uniquely possible with Power BI, Power Apps, and Power Automate. These products are natively designed to work together to make it easy for customers to adapt quickly to changing business requirements. Insights become more valuable as they are shared, and by integrating Power BI deeply with Office 365 – Microsoft Teams, Excel, PowerPoint, and more, we bring insights to where everyone works and collaborates.

Empower every organization

Power BI can scale to meet the most demanding needs of large enterprise customers. With the centralized administration, governance, and industry-leading security capabilities in Power BI, IT always has full visibility and control. Power BI Premium provides unmatched capabilities in a single integrated BI platform without requiring customers to string together and integrate multiple products with high costs and disjointed experiences. With Power BI Premium we bring capabilities that were previously only available to professional data engineers in IT organizations to analysts, accelerating time to value, and helping put more power in the hands of business. This balance between business and IT is one of the reasons why the world's largest organizations are increasingly standardizing Power BI and moving away from expensive, legacy BI products. With each release, Microsoft Power BI Premium adds features that help organizations accelerate the delivery of insights at scale. These investments span many areas such as Microsoft-owned resource management, auto-scale and pay-as-you-go pricing, advanced self-service data prep, interactive experiences over big data, and meeting advanced security and governance requirements.

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What's new and planned

Power BI Pro
In order to build a data culture, everyone needs to be able to discover and collaborate on insights. Whether that is authors creating reports using the free Power BI Desktop tool, consumers exploring data in the Power BI service or mobile applications, or users in Office using data to make better decisions, Power BI will continue to evolve to make it easier than ever to work with data. To help organizations foster that data culture, we'll invest in the following:

- Instantly familiar experiences and AI infused insights: Power BI will continue to advance our creator experiences, making it easier than ever to create beautiful and engaging content for the entire organization. This includes new report authoring tools such as sparklines for table and matrix visuals, artifact level access for managing Power BI apps, and continued improvements to the datasets hub.
- Amazing consumer experiences: Consumer experiences will continue to evolve, both in the Power BI service and the Power BI mobile applications. This includes improvements to Excel export from table and matrix visuals and easy creation from Dataverse and Dynamics.
- BI woven into the fabric of the organization: Power BI integration in Microsoft Teams will continue to evolve, deepening the integration in channels, chats, and notifications within Teams.

Power BI Premium
With each release, Microsoft Power BI Premium continues to deliver features that help organizations accelerate the delivery of insights at scale, meeting the most demanding needs of an enterprise. The 2021 release wave 2 investments will span the following areas:

- Microsoft-owned resource management: You won't have to worry about workload spikes and capacity utilization that can impact the speed of work.
- Auto-scale and pay-as-you-go pricing: Ability to scale beyond resource capacity without experiencing drops in performance.
- Advanced self-service data prep. Seamlessly ingest, prepare, and refresh data and reuse the data prep building blocks across Microsoft Power Platform and Azure.
- Interactive experiences over big data. Build reports on massive volumes of data in big data sources, such as Azure Synapse Analytics. Your reports are automatically made highly performant and the full solution can be monitored end-to-end with ease.
- Operational reporting and distribution. Author and distribute pixel perfect operational reports to millions of users.
- Advanced security. As data becomes more accessible, preventing risk of data leaking is critical. Secure and protect your data with Microsoft Information Protection labels. Discover and govern your data assets via Azure Purview.

Power BI Embedded
Power BI Embedded enables developers to offer world-class analytics without developing it themselves. Developers can quickly and easily provide customer-facing reports, dashboards, and analytics in their own applications by using and branding Power BI as their own. Power BI Embedded reduces developer resource needs by automating the monitoring, management, and deployment of analytics, while maintaining full control of the application, of Power BI features, and intelligent analytics.

To learn more about the entire set of capabilities being delivered during this release wave, visit:
aka.ms/Plan/2021RW2/PowerBI

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For application administrators

End-user impacting features to the user experience enabled automatically

End-user impacting features should be reviewed by application administrators. This facilitates release change management and enables successful onboarding of new capabilities released to market. For the complete list, look for all features tagged "End users, automatically" in the release plan.

Features that must be enabled by application administrators

This release wave contains features that must be enabled or configured by administrators, makers, or business analysts to be available for their end users. For the complete list, look for all features tagged "End users by admins, makers, or analysts" in the release plan.

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Get the most out of Power BI

Release plan
View all capabilities included in this release. aka.ms/Plan/2021RW2/PowerBI

Product updates
Stay up to date on latest product updates. aka.ms/Updates/PowerBI

Release calendar
Know important release milestones. aka.ms/Updates/Calendar/PowerBI

Licensing
Improve your understanding of how to license Power BI. aka.ms/Licensing/PowerBI

Product documentation
Find documentation for Power BI. aka.ms/Documentation/PowerBI

User community
Engage with Power BI experts and peers in the community. aka.ms/Community/PowerBI

Upcoming events
Find and register for in person and online events. aka.ms/Events/PowerBI

Product trials
Get started with Power BI. aka.ms/Trials/PowerBI

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