

Stop Repeating Your Data Work.



What Are Dataflows?

- A Power BI feature for data preparation.
- Lets you build reusable data transformations.
- Centralizes your ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) logic.
- Creates a single source of cleansed data.
- Dataflows are built and managed in the Power BI service.
- Think of them as a shared data kitchen.



The Repeating Problem

- Same data prep is often done for multiple reports.
- This wastes valuable time and effort.
- Leads to inconsistencies in calculations and definitions.
- Makes it hard to maintain and update logic.
- One change requires updating many reports.
- Creates a fragmented and messy data landscape.



How Dataflows Help

- Build your transformation logic just once.
- Any report can then use this prepared data.
- Ensures everyone uses the same definitions.
- Simplifies report development significantly.
- Makes maintenance and updates much easier.
- Creates a single source of truth for data.



Key Benefits

- Saves significant time and development effort.
- Improves data consistency and accuracy across reports.
- Empowers self-service for business users.
- Simplifies data governance and management.
- Faster to build new reports on trusted data.
- Reduces load on source systems.



Building a Dataflow

- **Connect to your original data source.**
- **Apply necessary transformations and cleansing steps.**
- **Define computed columns and new measures.**
- **Create relationships between different entities.**
- **Schedule a refresh to keep data current.**
- **Publish it to your Power BI workspace.**



Connecting Your Reports

- From Power BI Desktop, get data from Power BI.
- Select the published dataflow as your source.
- Choose the specific entities you need.
- The data is imported, already transformed and ready.
- Build your reports on this consistent foundation.
- No more starting from raw, messy data.



Ideal Use Cases

- **Standardizing fiscal periods and date tables.**
- **Combining data from multiple source systems.**
- **Applying complex business logic and rules.**
- **Cleansing customer or product information.**
- **Creating certified, gold-standard datasets.**
- **When many reports need the same base data.**



Get Started Today

- Identify a common transformation you repeat often.
- Open the Power BI service in your browser.
- Create a new dataflow in your workspace.
- Connect to a data source and build your ETL.
- Publish and share with your team.
- Start building smarter, more consistent reports.



Follow for More



Like this post? Repost!

Share your thoughts in the comments!

I share little hacks and tips I actually use in
Data & AI — follow if you wanna see more!



Shoaib Akthar
@theshoaibakthar

Follow for more Data Analytics, Data Science and AI insights