



PROMISE
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Licensing

Power BI and Microsoft Fabric

Essential guide for leaders

Table of contents

Introduction	3
1. Microsoft Fabric – Revolution In Data Management	4
2. Microsoft Fabric Licensing Benefits	5
3. Power BI And Microsoft Fabric Licensing Options	6
3.1. Individual User Licenses	7
Power BI Pro	7
Power BI Premium Per User	7
Fabric Free Licence	7
3.2. Licenses For Organizations	7
Fabric Capacity Pay-As-You-Go	7
Fabric Capacity Reservation	8
Fabric Trial Capacity	9
Power BI Embedded	9
SQL Server Enterprise Edition z Software Assurance	9
4. License Comparison Table	11
5. Key Changes To Power BI Premium Licensing	13
6. Migrating From Powerbi To Microsoft Fabric?	14
Contact us	15

Introduction

This year, Microsoft made key changes to Power BI licensing, significantly impacting its use. They introduced Microsoft Fabric, a platform combining Power BI, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Azure Data Factory. This marks a new era in data management and business analytics. Old licenses like Power BI Premium per Capacity (P-SKUs) are being replaced with more flexible options under Fabric.

Much like the shift from traditional licensing to “Pay As You Go” in cloud services, Microsoft Fabric brings flexible resource management, allowing for dynamic scaling and cost control. Power BI is still available, but now with enhanced features. In this post, we outline the new licensing options and explain how Microsoft Fabric can improve data analysis in your business.



Microsoft Fabric – a revolution in data management

1

Microsoft Fabric is an advanced platform that significantly expands the functionality of traditional and well-known Business Intelligence tools, such as Power BI. Fabric offers significant improvements by streamlining access to reports and data, as well as integrating and simplifying the entire data analysis process in an organization.

A key advantage of Fabric is that it combines a variety of services into a single, cohesive platform that comprehensively supports all aspects of data management. While Power BI remains the central tool in the Fabric ecosystem, the platform itself offers much more than just reporting capabilities.

The platform allows you to:



Data Collection



Processing (ETL)



Data Analysis



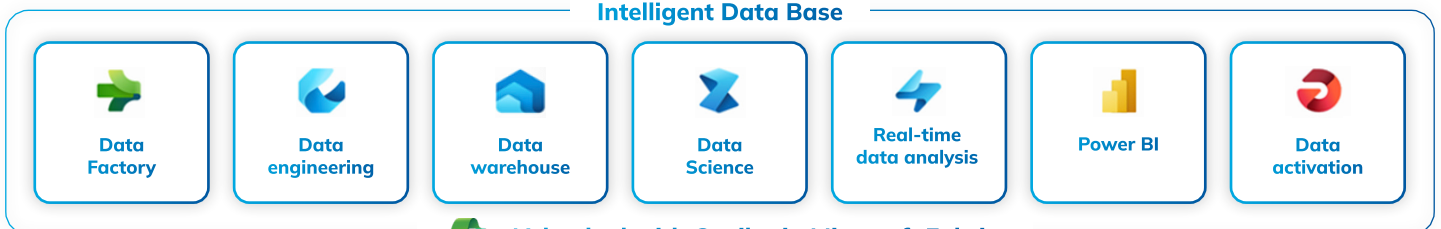
Machine Learning (ML)



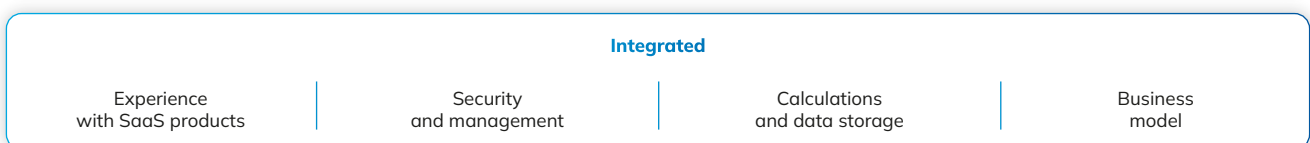
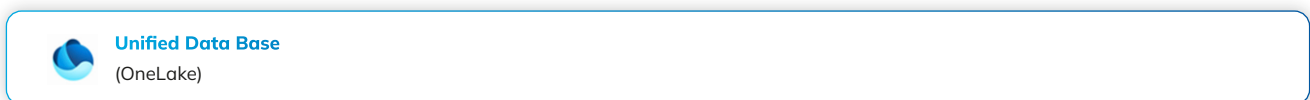
Reporting And Visualization In BI

Fabric integrates these processes into one coherent platform, significantly streamlining and optimizing the way data is managed in the organization. Instead of using many different tools, there is a single, integrated solution that simplifies data management at every stage. All data and analytics processes are centrally managed, which not only facilitates access to information, but also increases data security.

Intelligent Data Base



AI-backed with Copilot in Microsoft Fabric





"With Microsoft Fabric, you don't have to spend all your time connecting services from different vendors. Instead, you can use one product that is intuitive to use."

Microsoft Fabric Licensing Benefits

2

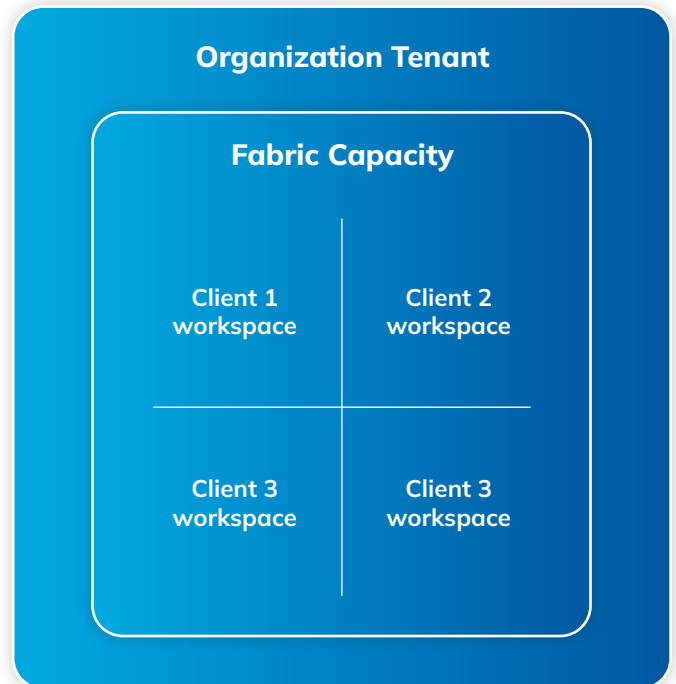
For managers, a key convenience that Microsoft Fabric offers is a simplified payment model that consolidates fees for individual services. This makes budget planning easier and allows you to better control your IT budget.

Gain:

-  **Integrated Cost Management:**
Data and compute management costs are bundled into a single bill, simplifying billing and financial management.
-  **New "Pay As You Go" Billing Model:**
The "Pay As You Go" model for capacity allows you to pay only for the resources you use, which eliminates overpaying for unused capacity and adjusts costs to meet changing business needs.

What's more, dynamically scaling based on actual resource consumption enables efficient cost management and simplified invoicing.

Client



Power BI And Microsoft Fabric Licensing Options

3

Power BI and Microsoft Fabric license types are divided into two types:



Single-User Licenses:

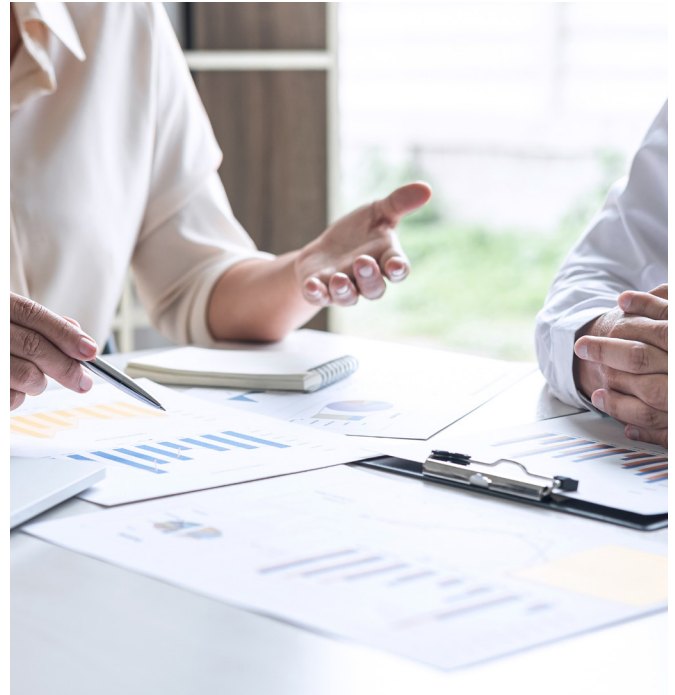
Ideal for smaller organizations where creating and sharing internal reports is crucial. They are perfect for an environment where flexibility in working on reports and analyses is needed.



Organizational Licenses:

Designed for larger businesses that need advanced analytics and better control over their data. They offer extensive capabilities to share reports with customers and manage the entire ecosystem of data processing tools for higher performance and better security.

Later in this chapter, we'll break down all of the available licensing options, broken down into user and organization licenses.



3.1. Individual User Licenses



Power BI Pro

The license allows you to create and share reports and dashboards in Power BI within the organization, provided that other users also have a Pro or Power BI Premium per User (PPU) license. It's ideal for teams that require full integration and collaboration in data analysis.

Cost: \$10 per month.

The license is also available as part of Microsoft 365 E5 or Office 365



Power BI Premium Per User

a premium license for a single user, offering much more capabilities than the standard Power BI Pro license. The license costs only \$20 per month. The PPU provides access to a range of advanced features, including:

Higher Data Processing Limits:
Allows you to handle larger datasets, up to 100 GB per dataset.

Dedicated Resources:
Guarantees faster reporting performance with dedicated compute resources.

Advanced Analytics Tools:
Offers AI features like AutoML and text analytics.

Paged Reports:
Create and share paged reports, ideal for printing and exporting.

Report Lifecycle Management:
Simplify management with Deployment Pipelines.



Fabric Free License

A free license within MS Fabric, offering basic access to Power BI functions. Users can view reports and dashboards created by the team in organizations with a minimum Fabric Capacity F64 license, without the need for a PPU or Pro license.

3.2. Licenses For Organizations



Fabric Capacity Pay-As-You-Go

A flexible licensing model that allows you to pay only for what resources are consumed. It offers the full set of Fabric platform functionalities, including: data integration, data engineering, data science, real-time analytics, and business intelligence, all within one integrated platform. The model is ideal for organizations with variable workloads, providing effective cost management (including simplified invoicing) and dynamic scaling (based on actual consumption).

Fabric Capacity gives you a much wider range of choice of SKU

SKU*	Capacity Units (CU)	Power BI SKU	Power BI v-cores
F2	2	-	0.25
F4	4	-	0.5
F8	8	EM/A1	1
F16	16	EM2/A2	2
F32	32	EM3/A3	4
F64	64	P1/A4	8
Trial	64	-	8
F128	128	P2/A5	16
F256	256	P3/A6	32
F512	512	P4/A7	64
F1024	1024	P5/A8	128
F2048	2048	-	256

*SKUs that are smaller than F64 require a Pro or Premium Per User (PPU) license, or a Power BI individual trial to consume Power BI content.

Source: Microsoft.

Licencja PRO
wymagana dla
użytkowników
końcowych

Licencja PRO **nie**
jest wymagana
dla użytkowników
końcowych



Fabric Capacity Reservation

A licensing model that allows organizations to reserve dedicated resources for a specific period of time, usually for 1 or 3 years. It offers access to advanced Fabric Capacity features such as data integration, real-time analytics, and business intelligence at a lower cost compared to the Pay-As-You-Go model. This model is an ideal choice for organizations with predictable compute needs that want to reduce costs and maintain full performance. You save up to 41% of costs.

Advantages of Fabric Capacity Reserved:



Lower Costs: Resource reservation allows you to significantly reduce costs thanks to attractive discounts for a longer reservation period.



Dedicated Resources: Provides more efficient and scalable resources than shared options, resulting in better performance for handling large data sets.



Increased Cost Predictability: Enables better IT budget planning and avoidance of unexpected costs.



Long-Term Stability: Ensures operational stability, which is important for critical analytics systems.



Fabric Trial Capacity

A free 60-day trial period that allows you to fully test the features of the Microsoft Fabric platform. During this period, users have access to all tools and services, such as data integration, data engineering, real-time analytics, and advanced business intelligence capabilities. This is an excellent option for (free) testing the full functionality of the platform for IT and BI teams before deciding on implementation. Importantly, after the trial ends, the organization can smoothly transition to the full license, continuing to work with the data and reports created during the trial period.



Power BI Embedded

a special licensing model, created for developers and companies wishing to embed interactive Power BI reports and visualizations into their applications. Recommended for companies that plan to integrate Power BI analytics into their own apps, offering users access to dynamic reports and visualizations while optimizing licensing costs.



SQL Server Enterprise Edition z Software Assurance

Power BI license is included with your SQL Server Enterprise Edition license through Software Assurance. It offers access to Power BI Report Server, which allows you to host Power BI reports on on-premises servers. This allows companies to keep data inside their own infrastructure at no additional cost.

Power BI Report Server allows you to take advantage of advanced reporting and data analysis features, such as integration with R and Python, and to process large data sets using SQL Server resources. Users can create reports in Power BI Desktop and publish them to Power BI Report Server, making it easier to collaborate and control data.

SQL Server Enterprise Edition customers with active Software Assurance can use Power BI Report Server at no additional cost, enabling efficient deployment of Business Intelligence solutions internally.



Pay As You Go

Reserved

		West Europe	West US	West India			
Capacity Units	SKU	COST (ESTIMATED/MONTH)	COST (ESTIMATED/MONTH)	COST (ESTIMATED/MONTH)	West Europe	West US	West India
2	F2	€300.66	€273.33	€341.66			
4	F4	€601.32	€546.66	€683.32			
8	F8	€1,202.65	€1,093.32	€1,366.65			
16	F16	€2,405.30	€2,186.64	€2,733.30			
32	F32	€4,810.59	€4,373.27	€5,466.59			
64	F64	€9,621.19	€8,746.54	€10,933.18	€5772	€5247	€6559
128	F128	€19,242.38	€17,493.09	€21,866.36			
256	F256	€38,484.76	€34,986.18	€43,732.72			
512	F512	€76,969.52	€69,972.36				
1024	F1024	€153,939.04	€139,944.71				
2048	F2048	€307,878.07	€279,889.43				
OneLake storage (per 1GB/monthly)		€0.0185	€0.0194	€0.0185			

Up to **40%** discount
over pay as you go

Reservation for Fabric capacity doesn't cover storage or networking charges associated with the Microsoft Fabric usage; it only covers Fabric capacity usage.

Source: Microsoft.



License Comparison

4

Here's a full breakdown of the different Power BI and Microsoft Fabric license models:

LICENSES FOR INDIVIDUAL USERS				
License	Use	Cost	Who Is It For?	Key Functionalities
Power BI Pro	Create and share reports with your organization	\$10/mo	Teams in need of basic collaboration in Power BI	Reporting, collaboration within the organization, access to basic Power BI functions.
Power BI Premium per User	Advanced analytics and premium reporting	\$20/mo	Companies in need of more advanced analytics	Higher data caps, advanced AI features, paged reports, dedicated resources.
Fabric Free License	Basic access to Power BI features	Free	Users who need basic analytics	Basic access to reports, creating reports in a personal workspace, working in the cloud.

LICENSES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

License	Use	Cost	Who Is It For?	Key Functionalities
Fabric Capacity - Pay-As-You-Go	Flexible management of advanced fabric functions	Wear-dependent	Businesses with rapidly changing computing needs	Dedicated resources, scalability, access to Premium features, effective cost management.
Fabric Capacity Reservation	Dedicated resources for a specific period of time	Lower for longer bookings	Companies with predictable resource requirements	Lower costs, dedicated resources, operational stability, cost predictability.
Fabric Trial	Test the full features of Microsoft Fabric	Free for 60 days	Microsoft Fabric testing organizations before buying	Full access to Microsoft Fabric features, free testing, ease of transition to a full license.
Power BI Embedded	Embed Power BI reports in apps	Wear-dependent	Developers integrating Power BI into apps	Flexibility, integration with applications, cost savings, simple management.
SQL Server Enterprise Edition z Software Assurance (Power BI Report Server)	Hosting Power BI reports on on-premises servers	Included with SQL Server Enterprise	Companies that need full control over on-premises data	Hosting reports on-premises, integration with SQL Server, no additional costs.

379%

Forrester Total Economic Impact™ study: Microsoft Fabric delivers 379% ROI over three years | Microsoft Fabric Blog

Which License To Choose – Form

Fill out our short form to help you choose the license that best suits your needs.

You don't need to be an expert – just answer 6 simple questions about your needs in terms of data management, report viewing and integration with other tools.

[Form](#)

Key Changes In Power BI Premium Licensing

5



New Customers: As of July 1, 2024, new customers can't purchase Power BI Premium per capacity (P SKU) licenses. All features of this license are available under Fabric Capacity (F SKU).



Non-Enterprise Agreement (EA) Customers: Existing non-EA customers can renew their Power BI Premium subscriptions until January 1, 2025. After this date, they will need to switch to Fabric Capacity at their next renewal.



EA Customers: Customers with an active EA can renew Power BI Premium annually until the end of the contract. Once it's over, if it's after January 1, 2025, they'll need to switch to Fabric Capacity to continue using Microsoft Fabric.

These changes are designed to simplify the licensing process and provide more flexibility with a new Pay-As-You-Go model.



Migrating From Power BI To Microsoft Fabric?

6

You don't have to worry about the migration process – your Power BI environment has been automatically moved to Microsoft Fabric. All workspaces have already been moved without your intervention, so you can use the new platform immediately.

Do You Have Power BI Premium Capacity?

If you're using a Power BI Premium Capacity license, you now have full access to the capabilities of Microsoft Fabric. This includes advanced data integration, real-time analytics, and data management capabilities. Your existing Power BI Premium investments are now enhanced with even more powerful analytics tools, allowing you to get the most out of all available features.

To estimate the cost of purchasing a Fabric license, use the official calculator, which will allow you to make a rough calculation.



Need Help With Fabric License Costing? If:

- ✓ You don't have time to do your own calculations
- ✓ You don't know what values to enter in the calculator
- ✓ You need a precise cost analysis

Contact us and we will be happy to help you.

We have an advanced calculator that will allow for a more accurate analysis and help you choose the optimal license solution tailored to your needs.

Find out which license best suits your requirements and get full support in choosing the best solution.

Contact us and arrange a free consultation.

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