

AppSource Power BI Apps - Customization, Development and Consulting Practice



Cognitive Convergence

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Cognitive Convergence is Subject Matter Expert in Office 365, Dynamics 365, SharePoint, Project Server, Power Platform: Power Apps-Power BI-Power Automate-Power Virtual Agents.

We offer Power BI consulting services covering solution architecture refinement, customization, integration, transformation, visualization and analytics to uncover insights hidden within data and enhance data exploration.

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OBJECTIVES

This paper will discuss different apps of Power BI, available on AppSource. A brief introduction along with their usage and development will discuss here.

BACKGROUND

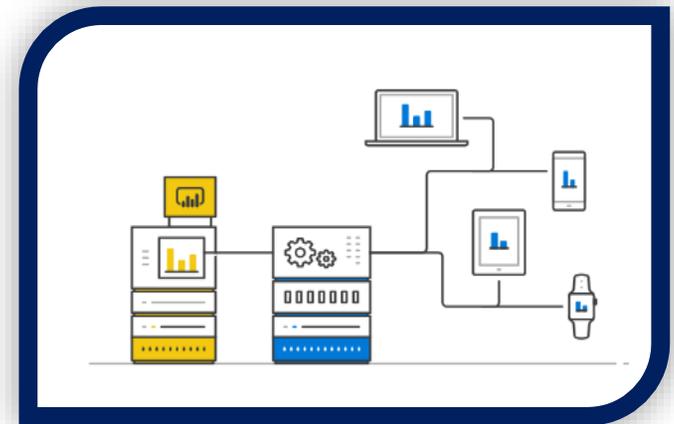
Business users often need multiple Power BI dashboards and reports to run their business. With Power BI apps, create collections of dashboards and reports and publish these collections as apps to whole organization or to specific people or groups. For report creator or admin, apps make it easier to manage permissions on these collections. Access data from anywhere with the Power BI app. Get notifications, annotate, and share, and dive deep into data with powerful features for decision making on the go. View all important data in one place. Make informed decisions with Power BI's industry-leading data analytics, business intelligence, and data visualization tools. Get the full Power BI suite and never miss a beat with Power BI Desktop, the Power BI web service, and Power BI Mobile.

APPSOURCE POWER BI APP

Microsoft and community members contribute Power BI Apps for organization benefit and publish them to the AppSource. Download these apps and a Power BI report from them or find and install apps from Microsoft AppSource. Only apps that can access are displayed.

What is AppSource?

AppSource is the place for apps, add-ins, and extensions for Microsoft software. AppSource connects millions of users of products such as Microsoft 365, Azure, Dynamics 365, Cortana, and Power BI, to solutions that help them get work done more efficiently and insightfully than before.

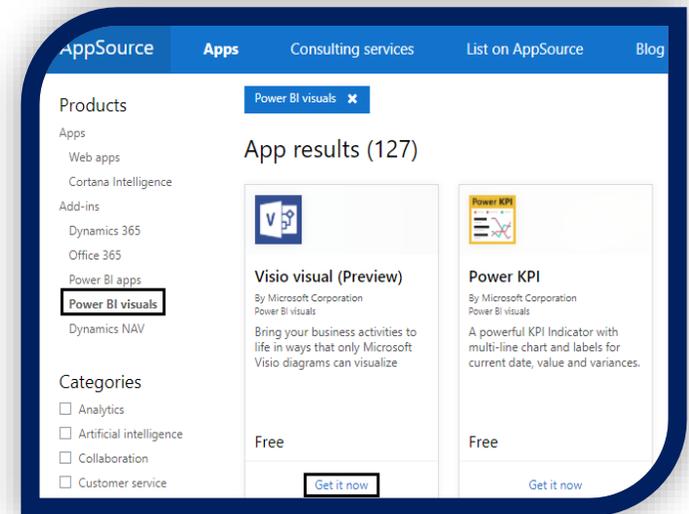


Power BI Apps

An *app* is a Power BI content type that combines related dashboards and reports, all in one place. An app can have one or more dashboards and one or more reports, all bundled together. Apps are created by Power BI *designers* who distribute and share the apps with *consumers*. Apps are organized in the Apps content list. Just select apps to display organizational apps. Hover over an app to see the last updated date and the owner. Apps in Power BI. The use of the apps feature requires a Power BI Pro license or for the app to be stored in Premium capacity.

App designers and app consumers

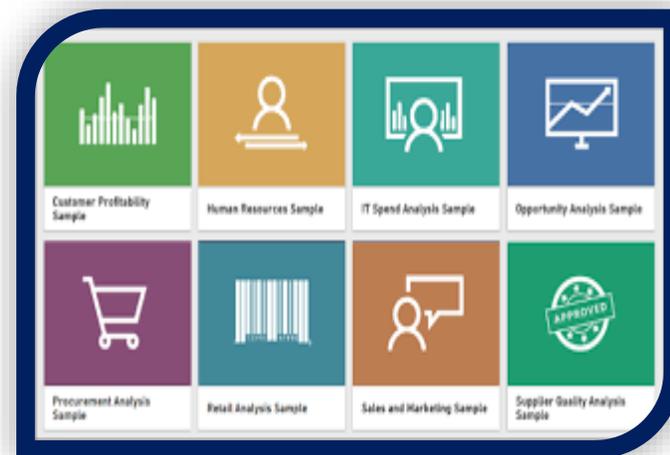
Depending on role, someone who creates apps for own use or to share with colleagues is an app designer. Someone who receives and downloads apps created by others is an app consumer.



GET THE APP FROM MICROSOFT APPSOURCE

Power BI tenant admins govern and control who in their organization can use apps, and who can install them. Those users who are authorized can install app, In order to download and import Apps from AppSource in Power BI following steps are required.

- Sign in to AppSource.
- Open Microsoft AppSource website.
- Select the Apps tab from the bar on the top.
- Select Power BI Apps options.
- The page will show more than 200 results of Power BI Apps accessed (i.e., the app author has given permission). Browse the list of available custom apps.
- Select the app needed for report. Select Get it now and agree to the terms of use.
- Confirm that want to install this app.



Usage and customization of APP

- The Power BI service will display a success message once the app is installed. Select "Go to app" to open the app.
- Apps can directly open from app content list by selecting Apps and choosing the downloaded one.
- Choose whether to explore or customize and share new app.
- New app opens with a dashboard. The app *designer* could've set the app to open to a report instead.
- Whenever a new version of app arrives, it gives notification bar to update app every time it opens.
- Select "Get it to update".
- When prompted to install the updated app, select "Install".
- This app can be used by uploading own data source.

Get the right app for your business needs

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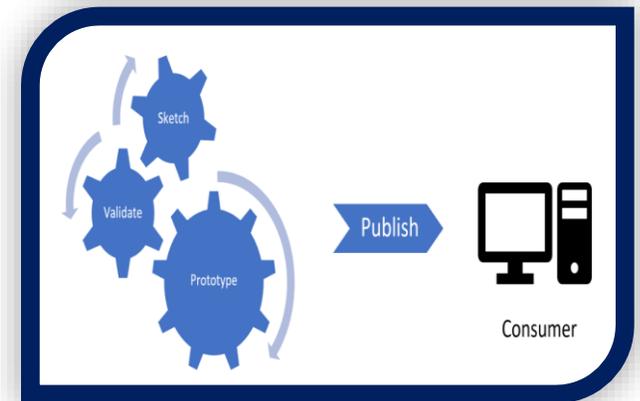
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SOLUTION DESIGN

An app is a Power BI content type that combines related dashboards and reports. An app can have one or more dashboards and one or more reports, all bundled together. These apps can deploy to other Power BI tenants through any available platform, such as AppSource, or by using it in own web service. As a builder have the possibility to create a protected analytics package for distribution.

DEVELOPMENT STEPS

Creating an app (converting packages analytical content into an *app*) and deploying it on any other Power BI tenant platform such as AppSource requires Power BI Pro tenant. Power BI tenant admins govern and control who in their organization can use Apps, and who can install them. Those users who are authorized can install App. As a workspace member, if make changes to the app, they will not be deployed to users until publish them, so in effect to have a staging environment for development.



App Workspace

App Workspaces are a place to collaborate in Power BI and also create new Power BI Apps. When the app workspace is created a new Office 365 group is created. Users can add the app by going to Get Data.

- Create a Report on Power BI Desktop.
- Open Power BI Services.
- Go to App Workspaces in powerbi.com and select Create app workspace

Creating Group

- Enter group details and add group members.
- Select either want to make it public or private.
- Save the group. A new workspace is created.

Publish Power BI App on AppSource

- Open a Power BI Desktop project and publish to the new group.
- Pin a report to a new dashboard in the app workspace
- Now publish an app. Select Publish App.

Setup

- App name
- Description
- Support site (link is presented under app info after redistributing template app as org app)
- App logo (45K file size limit, 1:1 aspect ratio, .png .jpg .jpeg formats)
- App theme color

Access

In the test phase, it is decided the organizations and individuals who can have access to App.

Create app

A message that the test app is ready, with a link to copy and share with app testers.

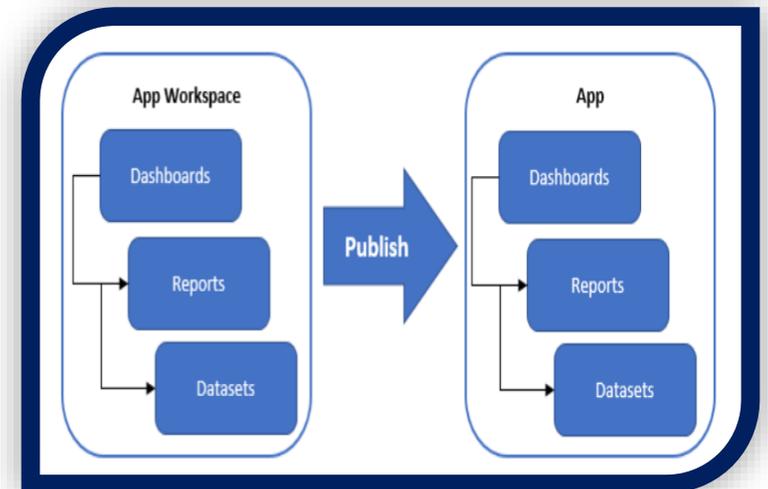
Navigation

Select the content to be published as part of the app. Then add app navigation, to organize the content in sections.

Permissions

Decide who has access to the app, and what they can do with it.

- Finish and Publish.



- Click Go To App.
- Click Add.
- The app will appear in workspace.

Direct Link

Copy the URL that's a direct link to the app.

Edit or leave group

Select group will display both options of either to leave a group or edit it. Send that direct link to the people shared it with, or they can find app on the Apps tab by going to Download and explore more apps from AppSource.

Update an app

From time to time, app creators may release new versions of their apps. How get the new version depends on how received the original.

Organization App

If got the app from organization, the update to the new version is entirely transparent.

AppSource App

If got the app from AppSource, the next time open the app it will display a notification banner. The notification lets know that a new version is available.

- Select Get it to update.
- When prompted to install the updated app, select Install.
- Since already have a version of this app, decide whether to replace the existing version or whether to install the updated app in a new workspace.
- Once installed the updated version, select Update app to complete the update process.



Un-publish an app

Any member of a workspace can un-publish the app. When un-publish an app, app users lose their customizations. They lose any personal bookmarks, comments, or subscriptions associated with content in the app.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POWER BI TEMPLATE APP AND POWER BI APP

Template App	Power BI App
<i>Template Apps</i> are integrated packages of pre-built Power BI dashboards and reports, configured to connect to specific data sources. With them, Microsoft partners can quickly access analytics for the apps and services they provide. Partners can also manage the Template Apps development lifecycle, from dev to marketplace to updates	An app is a Power BI content type that combines related dashboards and reports, all in one place. An app can have one or more dashboards and one or more reports, all bundled together. Apps are created by Power BI designers who distribute and share the apps with consumers
The Template Apps are developed by partners (outside of organization) and can be installed in tenant and be customized.	Apps were designed as the main organizational consumption experience. They are published by Power BI developers in organization from their Power BI workspaces
Template Apps provide the option to explore the app with sample data or we can use our own data, it also provide the facility to customize the app and save it as an organizational app	Power BI Apps does not provide any such facility, these apps are designed for organizational use with organizational data.

BENEFITS

Apps are an easy way to share different types of content at one time. App *designers* create the dashboards and reports and bundle them together into an app. The *designers* then share or publish the app to a location where, the *consumer*, can access it. Because related dashboards and reports are bundled together, it's easier to find and install in both the Power BI service and on mobile device. After installation of an app, names of a lot of different dashboards or reports are not needed to remember because they're all together in one app, in browser or on mobile device. With apps, whenever the app author releases updates, automatically changes appear. The author also controls how often the data is scheduled to refresh, so don't need to worry about keeping it up to date.



RISK ANALYSIS

Creating own custom App to meet the requirements of our organization as well as data and upload it on AppSource is a good approach. But it has some risks too.

Risk Analysis	Solutions
The permissions page doesn't change permission on datasets in other workspaces. It gives warning reminding grant access to those datasets independently	Contact the dataset owner before starting to build app to ensure it is OK to give all app users access those datasets.
It allow to have at most 100 users or groups in the access list for the app. However, give more than 100 users access to the app	Use one or more user groups that contain all the desired users.

CONCLUSION

In this paper different visuals of Power BI, available on AppSource is discussed. A brief introduction along with their usage and solution architecture and development steps is discussed.

Cognitive Convergence will provide consulting services that help in designing, deploying, managing, enhancing or troubleshooting on-premises, cloud-based or hybrid Power BI environment. Cognitive Convergence will provide help to start fresh with Power BI to modernize current business analytics solution or revamp existing Power BI deployment by incorporating new data sources or adding new services.

