



Microsoft Power BI Proof of Concept



5 DAY ON-SITE IMPLEMENTATION

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Overview

G Com Solutions' one-week Power BI Proof of Concept (PoC) is designed for organisations who are considering the adoption of Microsoft Power BI. It helps IT departments and data analysts to demonstrate Power BI's features and benefits to key stakeholders, enabling them to gauge how well Power BI addresses their business needs.



Preparation

To prepare for this on-site implementation, you will need to provision a suitable meeting room for the duration of the project with a large screen, whiteboard and wifi access, both for your own staff and for G Com Solutions' consultant. You may also need to create a temporary Power BI user account for our consultant for use during the demonstration and training sessions. This account should be disabled at end of each day and deleted at the end of the project.

The team of people participating in the Power BI PoC project will normally consist of two type of delegate: hands-on and hands-off.

Hands-on Delegates

Hands-on delegates are those team members who will be using Power BI; whether for data preparation and cleansing, report creation or administration. These delegates will need to bring a laptop to each session and ensure that they have the latest version of Power BI Desktop installed.

Hands-off Delegates

Hands-off delegates are those team members who will be involved in decision making and the design of corporate policies rather than in Power BI report creation or administration. These delegates will not require laptops.

Power BI Tenant Provision

Using your own Tenant

If you already have a corporate Office 365 tenant, especially the E5 subscription which includes Power BI Pro licenses, you may prefer to use your live tenant for the PoC project. This means that the tenant used for the PoC project will become the production tenant after the project is completed.

This option is recommended if you plan to use live, actual data for the project rather than a historical or specially adapted dataset.

Using a Temporary PoC Tenant

If the IT effort involved in provisioning Power BI licensing within your corporate framework is significant, you can opt to use a temporary Power BI tenant provisioned free of charge by G Com Solutions. This tenant will have up to 25 licenses which will expire after 60 days. This option is useful if you plan to use dummy data for the PoC project prepared by G Com Solutions to suit your specification.

Format

The precise format of this implementation can be decided by prior discussion and customised to suit your requirements. However, we recommend that each day has the following basic structure.

Training and demonstration

As we reach each stage of the project, we will demonstrate the relevant capabilities of Power BI and how they can benefit your business. We will also provide delegates with practical working examples of each feature and, if necessary, give them the opportunity to practice key techniques via hands-on sessions.

Discussion and Q & A

Your team discusses how key Power BI features should be implemented within your organisation and obtain clarification of Power BI's capabilities and features.

Implementation

With our assistance, your team will implement the Power BI features discussed in the manner which suits your organisational policies.

Schedule

Day One: Capabilities and Scoping

We recommend starting the project by allowing us to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the capabilities of Power BI and its key moving parts. We provide a demonstration of the main components of the product: Power BI Desktop, the Power BI service and Power BI mobile apps. This will enable you to make final decisions on the content you will create during the week.

The key topics addressed on day one are typically the following:

- The key Power BI features to be implemented
- The nature of the report(s) to be created
- The dashboard(s) to be created
- The data source(s) to be used
- Customisation of tenant settings
- Collaboration and sharing
- The design and creation of app workspaces
- How content is to be shared
- With whom content will be shared
- The creation of security groups.

Day Two: Data Preparation

A key part of this day is demonstration and discussion of Power BI data workflows and features which avoid duplication of effort and allow for the creation of one version of the truth. You will create a sample dataset consisting of data with which all stakeholders can identify. This would typically comprise data from one or more of the following data sources:

- SQL Server database
- Analysis Services cube
- Excel tables
- CSV files.

If, like most organisations, you plan to use Power BI to analyse on-premises data, you will need an on-premises data gateway to connect to your data sources and refresh datasets uploaded to the Power BI service. Features which can be demonstrated and deployed include the following:

- Installation and configuration of an on premises data gateway cluster
- Adding data sources to the gateway cluster in the Power BI service
- Configuration of data refresh schedules
- The use of a data gateway to refresh datasets containing on-premises file sources
- The use of a gateway to refresh data imported from SQL Server databases
- Using a gateway to connect to a SQL Server database in DirectQuery mode
- Using a gateway to make a live connection to an Analysis Services database

Days Three and Four: Content Creation

Your team will create one or more reports demonstrating key features of Power BI and the capabilities of both built-in and custom visuals. Reports will showcase the following features:

- The ability to drill down into hierarchical data using a variety of visuals.
- The ability to drill through to pages providing more detailed insights on a particular aspect of the data.
- The control of the interaction between visuals, so that, as a user interacts with a visual, other visuals on the page respond in the most logical manner.
- The use of bookmarks to add a narrative element to reports.

Delegates will also be given the opportunity to create dashboards providing summary information for specific groups of users within your organization. These dashboards will showcase the following features:

- The creation of self-contained, single page dashboard/reports
- The use of natural language queries to navigate your data
- The optimisation of the Q & A experience using synonyms
- The creation of featured Q & A questions
- The creation of dashboard alerts which trigger when a metric hits a specified level.
- The use of dashboards as a launchpad or table of contents to which the user can continually return as they explore an app.

Day Five: Content Sharing and Testing

On day five, we will ensure that the content you have created will be consumed and appreciated by its intended audience. We will publish one or more apps and demonstrate the different types of content which can be included and how to assign privileges to app consumers. We will then test the published apps on all devices used within your organisation. And we will end the day by reviewing the PoC project and the deliverables produced.

Features encountered on day five will include the following:

- Publishing an app
- Consuming an app
- Updating an app
- Unpublishing an app
- Customising reports for mobile
- Customising dashboards for mobile

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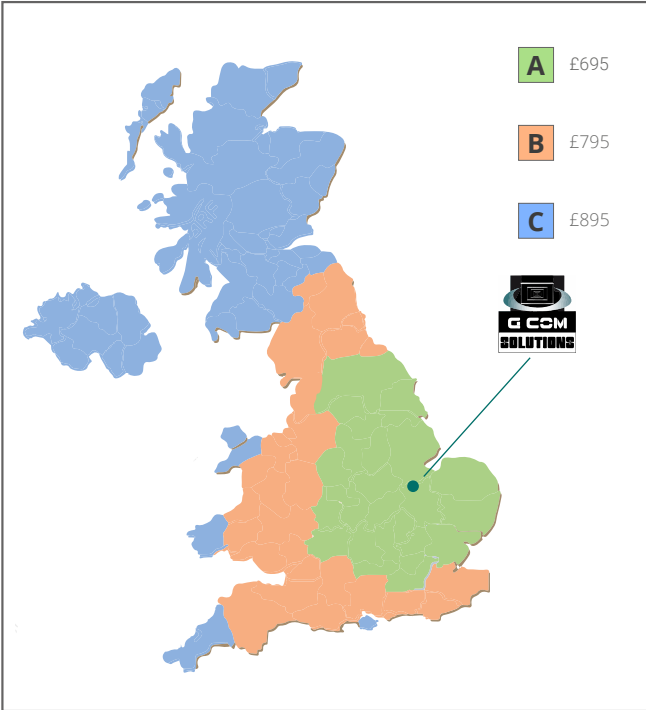
G Com Solutions are based in Peterborough. We charge a flat rate for on-site consultancy based on the proximity of your offices to our location. This gives rise to three UK pricing zones which we label A, B and C. The cost of delivering the Power BI One Week Proof of Concept in the three zones is shown in the following table.

Zone A	£3,475, plus VAT
Zone B	£3,975, plus VAT
Zone C	£4,475, plus VAT

Although we recommend five days for the Power BI PoC implementation, it is not always possible to complete the project in five days. The steps which are most likely to require more time than specified in our schedule are data preparation and report creation.

If, based on our discussions, we both decide that more than five days will be required, the remaining days will be charged at our standard daily rate. The map on the right shows the daily rate which applies in each of the three zones.

This simplified pricing structure means that you know all our charges up front and that we do not need to pass on any of the costs incurred in delivering consultancy throughout the UK.



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