EXCEL VS. POWER BI

WHICH IS BETTER FOR DATA VISUALIZATION

Whitepaper By

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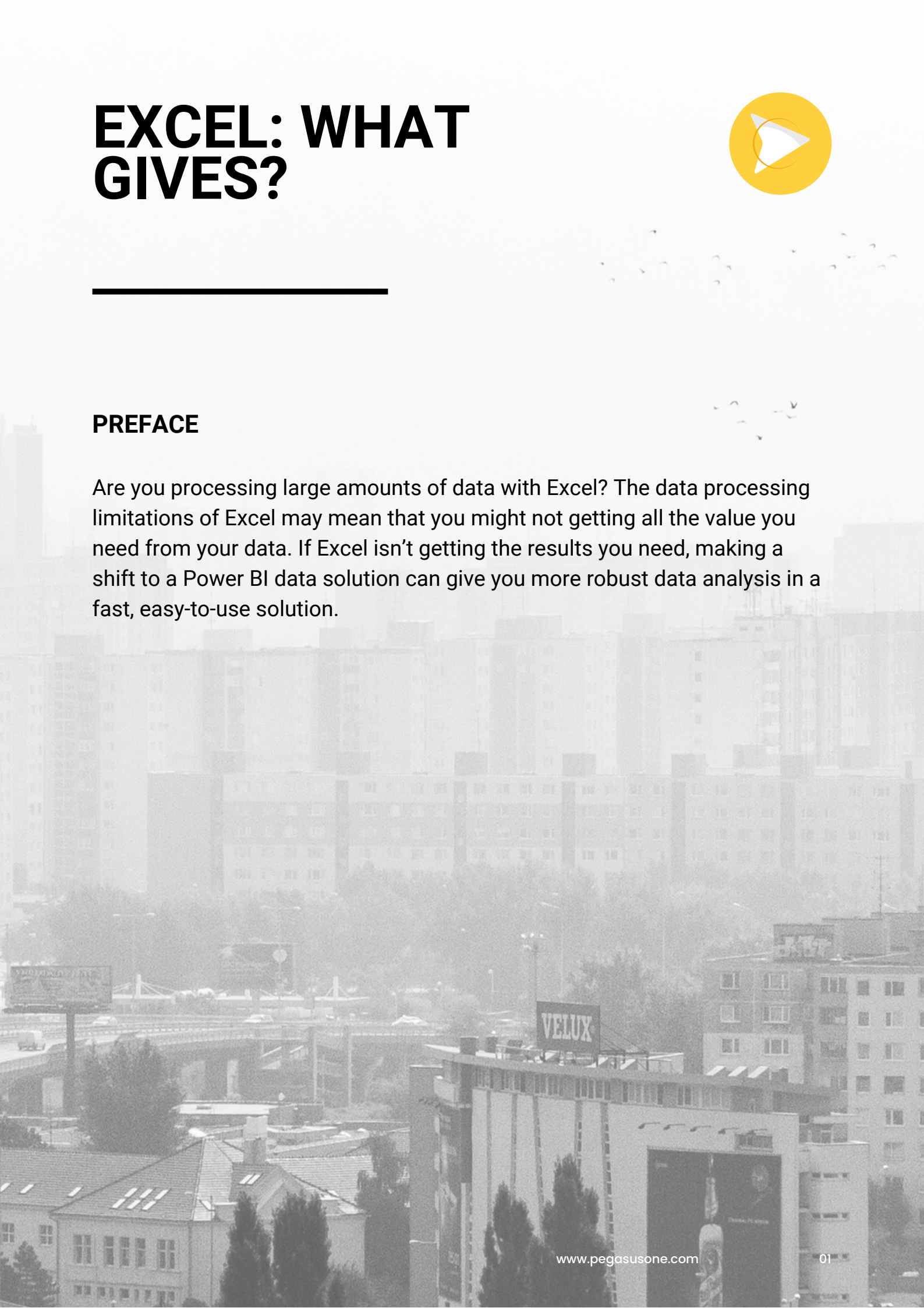
EXCEL: WHAT GIVES?

PREFACE

Are you processing large amounts of data with Excel? The data processing limitations of Excel may mean that you might not getting all the value you need from your data. If Excel isn't getting the results you need, making a shift to a Power BI data solution can give you more robust data analysis in a fast, easy-to-use solution.



WHAT CAN EXCEL DO?

First, let’s look at what Excel can and can’t do when it comes to data. Using a spreadsheet format, Excel organizes data into rows and columns. It performs calculations and executes mathematical formulas easily and quickly and can be used to transform data sets into visual information.

LIMITATIONS

Because of the way it was designed, Excel has a number of key limitations that may make it impractical for use for collaboration or with Big Data:

- **Difficult to analyze unstructured and semi-structured data**
- **Dashboards show only static data and high-level trends**
- **Excel doesn't update in real time**
- **Local storage with Excel is a security risk**
- **Customization options are limited**
- **Excel is primarily designed for individual-use worksheets**
- **Must be hosted in the cloud for version control**
- **No capacity for real-time collaboration**

POWER BI AND DATA

PREFACE

Power BI offers a three-part service: Power BI Desktop, Power BI Service (a SaaS product), and Power BI Mobile. Let take a look at how Power BI works with data.

Power BI connects a variety of data sources (including Excel) and provides a holistic dashboard of business intelligence for users. It can access both on-premises and cloud-based data storage, and refreshes in real time whenever cloud-based data is updated.

ADVANTAGES OVER EXCEL

Power BI has a number of important advantages over Excel when it comes to data. The most noticeable thing may be that Power BI offers measurably faster processing than Excel. It's also more powerful than Excel in terms of delivering comparisons between tables, reports. or data files. From a user standpoint, Power BI is much more user friendly than Excel, and its interactive, customizable dashboards are much more visually appealing than those in Excel.

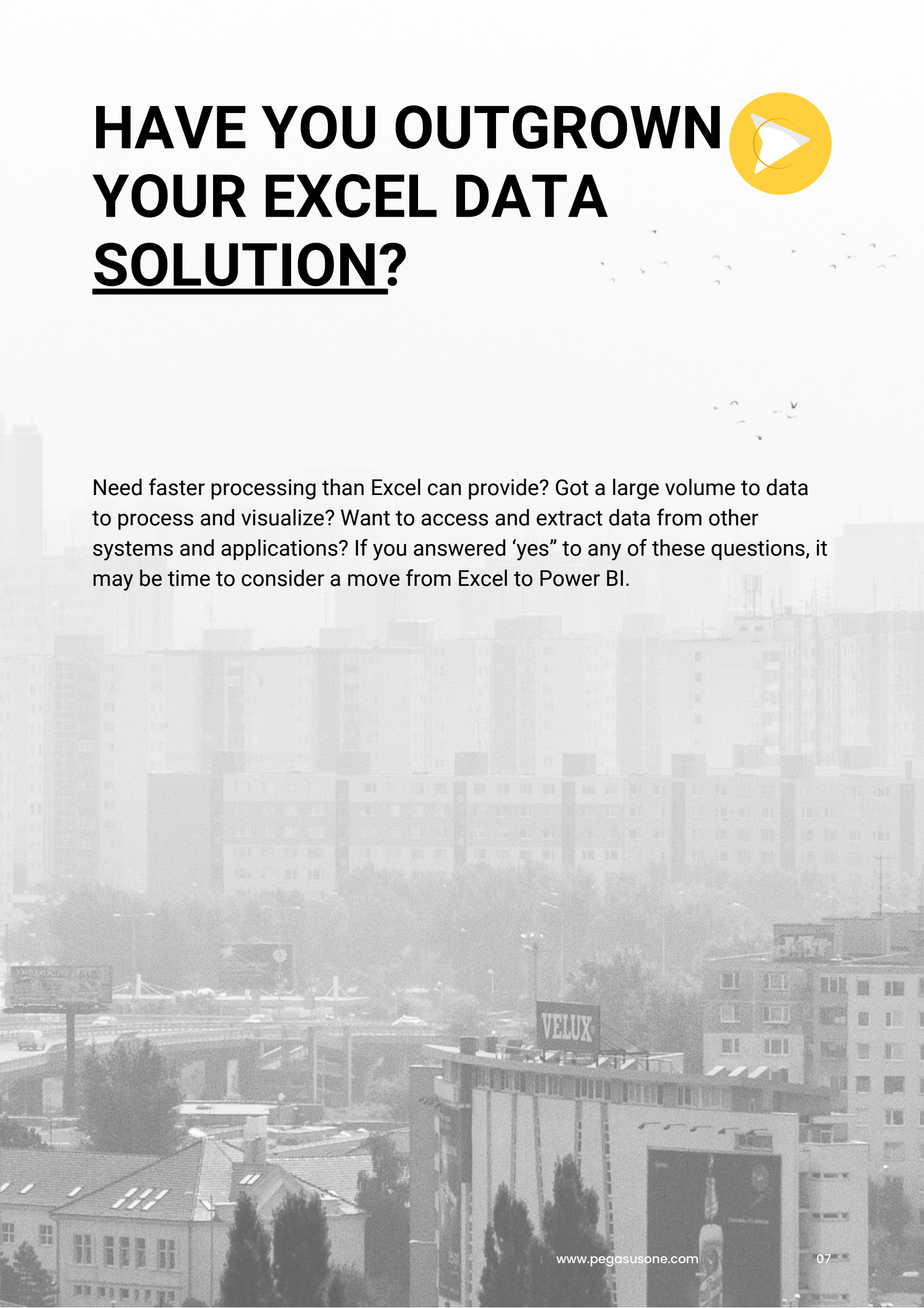
POWER BI SECURITY FEATURES

Power BI also offers additional security features that Excel cannot match, including:

- **Compliance support - Meet privacy and regulatory requirements with oversight of sensitive data through bring your own key (BYOK)**
- **Sensitivity labeling - Use Microsoft Information Protection in Microsoft 365 to apply sensitivity labels to Power BI data**
- **Data loss prevention - Extend data loss prevention and governance to Power BI users with Microsoft Cloud App Security**

HAVE YOU OUTGROWN YOUR EXCEL DATA SOLUTION?

Need faster processing than Excel can provide? Got a large volume to data to process and visualize? Want to access and extract data from other systems and applications? If you answered ‘yes” to any of these questions, it may be time to consider a move from Excel to Power BI.



It might be time to make a move to Power BI if:

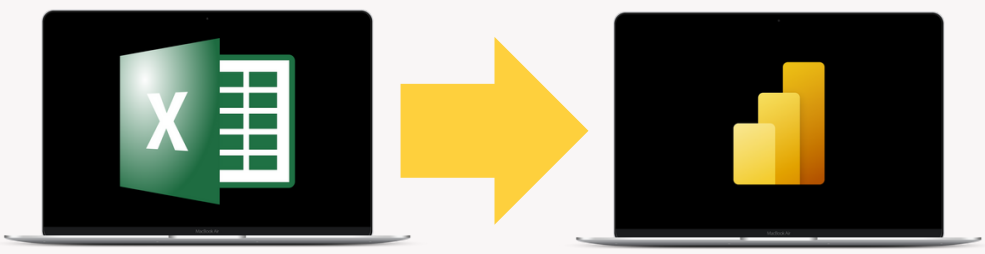
- you're working with large-volume (more than 500 MB) datasets that your Excel solution can no longer support
- you need to collaborate without worries about version control
- you need to identify and act on data trends quickly
- you want to set email alerts to notify you of changes
- you want to publish and share dashboards and reports securely to the cloud
- you want to automate refreshes of underlying data
- you need Row-Level Security that can be set up without having to know how to code
- you want to be able to go beyond basic just graphs and charts when building data visualizations

UBER
Total Trips
821
Average Travel Time
2.74K
Travel Time Gauge
Traffic Level
$62.3K
200
87 %
$320M
Sydney Metro Bus Contract 5
-30%
Newcas
YoY Comparison
Monthly Variance
Fare Type
Passenger Trend YoY
Relative Change
Absolute Change
Select your service below to see the utilisation rate
28%
COVID-19 NSW Transport Impact – 2020 vs 2019
Info
Help
Reset
OVERVIEW
$5.3M
$5.3M
$2.6M
$2.3M
$3.3M
$21.8M

MIGRATING TO POWER BI

The pre-migration steps for a move from Excel to Power BI are all about up-front planning to get your ready for each stage of migration. Most of the pre-migration steps are one-offs, but if an organization is large, it will be necessary to repeat the steps as Power BI is rolled out for each business unit or department.

- **Perform a cost/benefit analysis and evaluation**
- **Identify stakeholders and establish executive support**
- **Generate an initial governance model**
- **Conduct initial deployment planning**
- **Establish the initial architecture**
- **Define success criteria**
- **Prepare a report inventory**
- **Explore automation options**



PERFORM A COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

Get clarity on your business case and BI strategy, how you'll measure success, cost estimates, and ROI

1

IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS AND ESTABLISH EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

Get executive sponsorship in place, aligning with stakeholders on business case and BI strategy, understanding motivations and concerns of business units, identifying and including BI champions, and creating an internal communication plan

2

GENERATE AN INITIAL GOVERNANCE MODEL

Set goals for adoption, Power BI, the all-up BI strategy, BI admin(s), achieving trusted data, data privacy, and compliance

3

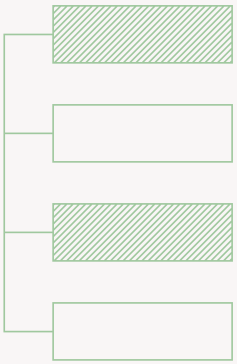
CONDUCT INITIAL DEPLOYMENT PLANNING

Plan Power BI tenant setting, workspace management, data and content distribution methods, dataset mode preferences, security and access, shared dataset reusability, data certification, reporting, change management, training plans, content author support, and user requirements management

4

ESTABLISH THE INITIAL ARCHITECTURE

Set up Power BI tenant and Azure Active Directory, defining administrators, user licensing, tenant settings, workspace roles, and data gateway cluster configuration



5

DEFINE SUCCESS CRITERIA

Determine what migration success will look like, including the objectives behind the migration; expected cost, benefit, or ROI; and outline KPIs you'll use to measure success

6

PREPARE A REPORT INVENTORY

Build an inventory of reports and data sources, including data from your Excel audit log

7

EXPLORE AUTOMATION OPTIONS

While isn't possible to completely automate a Power BI conversion process automation can be used for some portions of the migration process, depending on your toolset

8

Pegasus One: Helping bring your data to life

Pegasus One Power BI implementation services deliver the robust data discovery, dashboards, visualization, business reporting, and self-service analytics you need to level up your data visualization. We offer support for Power BI Desktop, Mobile, Premium, and Embedded, creating solutions that deliver unprecedented insight into data to fuel smart strategies that deliver business value.

OUR POWER BI SERVICES

PLANNING AND DESIGNING

Assessing data architecture and building strategic roadmaps

EXPERTS ON-DEMAND

Our certified, best-in-class solution architects provide remote on-call troubleshooting

DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT

Auditing existing reports and dashboards, analyzing business requirements, and developing dashboards and reporting functionality

UPGRADES & MIGRATIONS

Performing data modeling and data mapping, and migrating reports and dashboards from other platforms to Power BI

SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE

Offering options including hybrid engagements, incident support, and high-precision ticketed resolutions

CUSTOM DASHBOARDS

Creating accessible and customized dashboards that are designed for easy adoption

TALK TO US

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