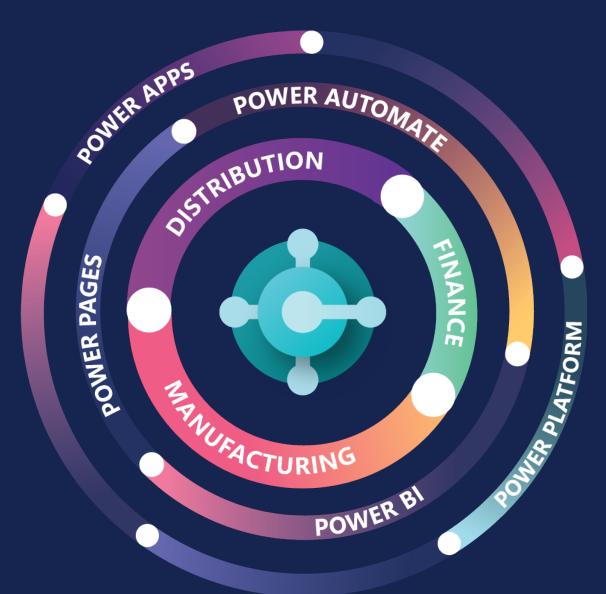
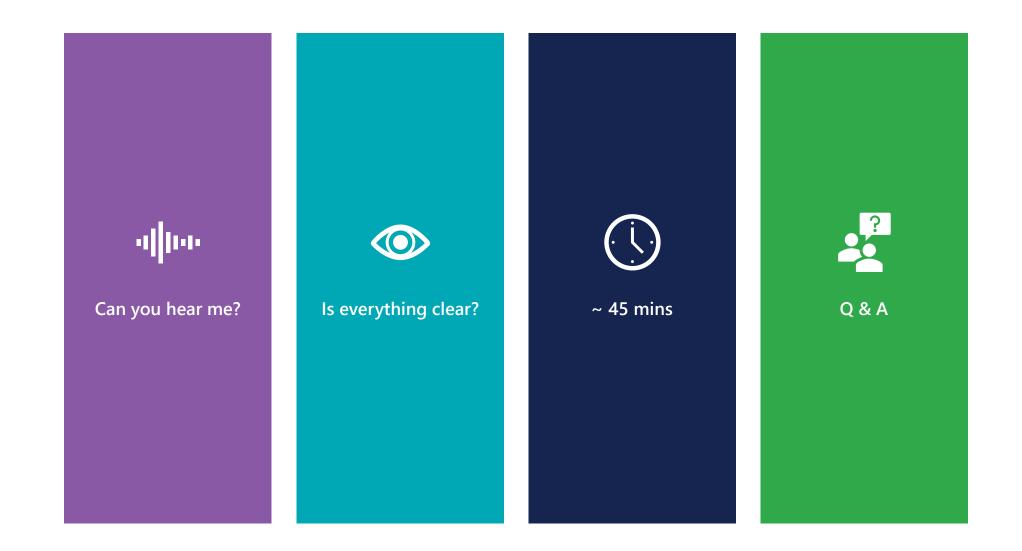


BUSINESS CENTRAL CONNECT

Reporting – is the core product enough?
Understand your options





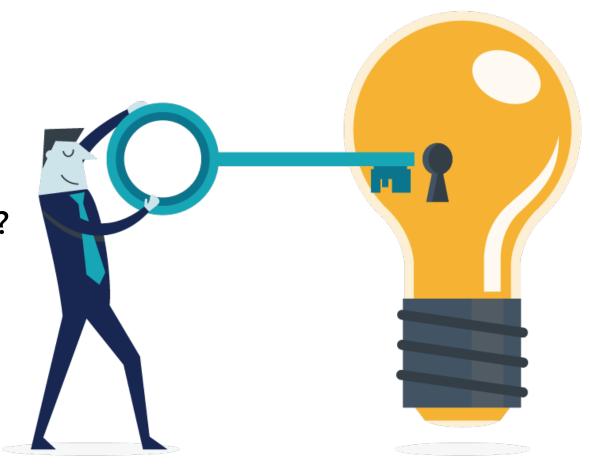
Hi!

George Murcott & Isobel Bowers

What we'll cover

Exploring the options:

- 1. What are the options?
- 2. Jet the old friend?
- 3. Power BI the Emperor's new clothes?
- 4. Cosmos the Young Pretender?
- 5. Next steps
- 6. Resources





Jet Reports: The old friend?



Everyone loves Excel!

- Large, well-established company
- Long standing product, track record and significant knowledge base out there
- Uses common Excel skills
- Prices held for next year
- Allows multiple connectors to help with upgrades from NAV to BC
- Suited to transactional reporting
- Variety of tools and wizards to create reports
- Can easily incorporate into/with existing reports

BUT...

- Requires work!
- Performance issues have arisen
- Not everyone is an expert in Excel 'tricks'
- Requires knowledge of BC tables and relationships
- Concerns over development of product and commitment by Insight Software, roadmap published but all talk?
- Some issues with recent releases



2024 Product Roadmap Updates



Investment themes: Modernize tech, work from anywhere capabilities, and new features and tools.



AI-Assisted Analysis



Jet Hub Locally Hosted



Excel Online Integration

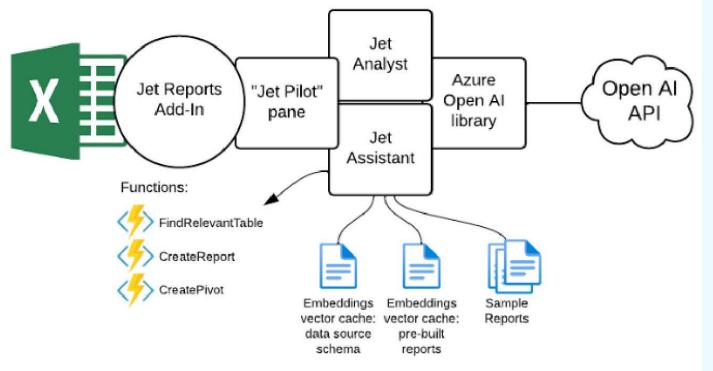


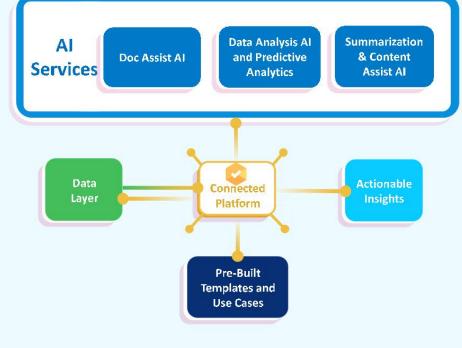
Azure Data Lake Connector



Unlocking the Value of AI for Customers







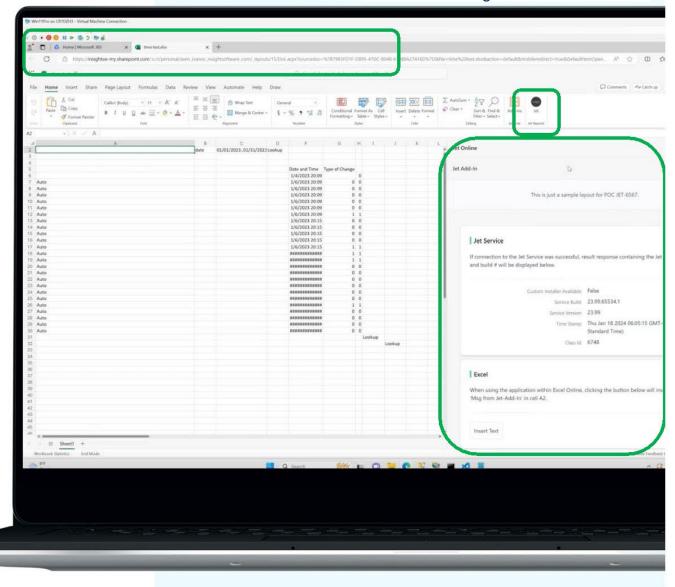




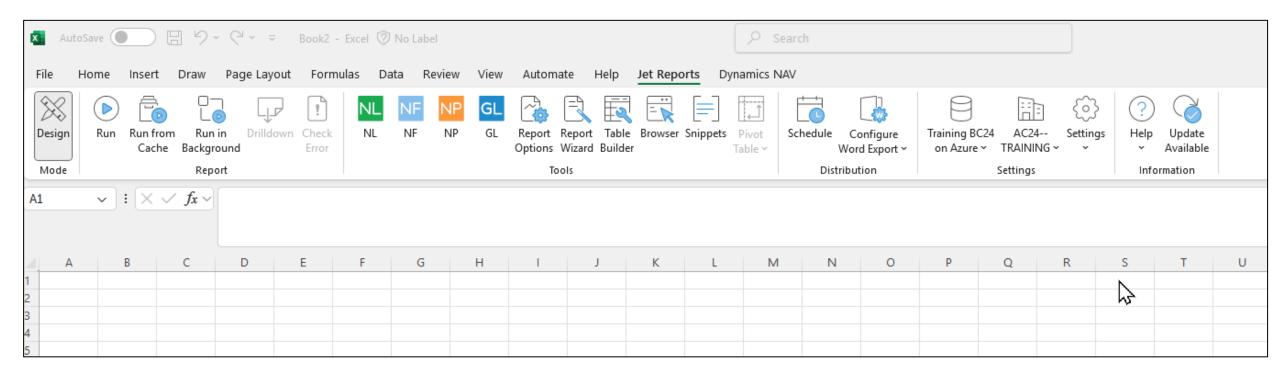
3-Easy Steps

- 1 Users navigate to excel online
- 2 Jet Reports will appear in the task ribbon
- 3 Jet Add-in window will open

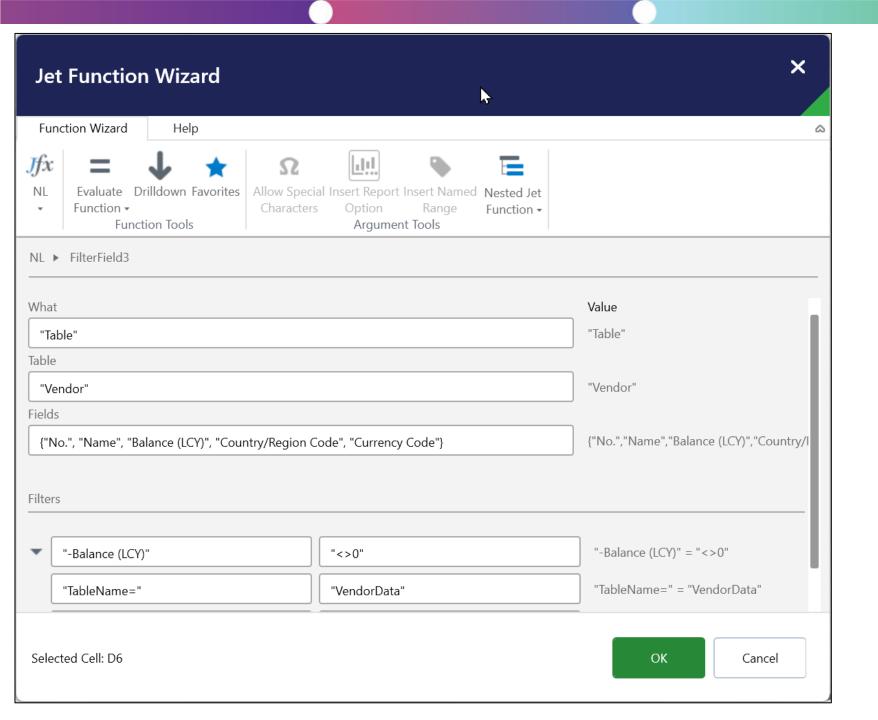








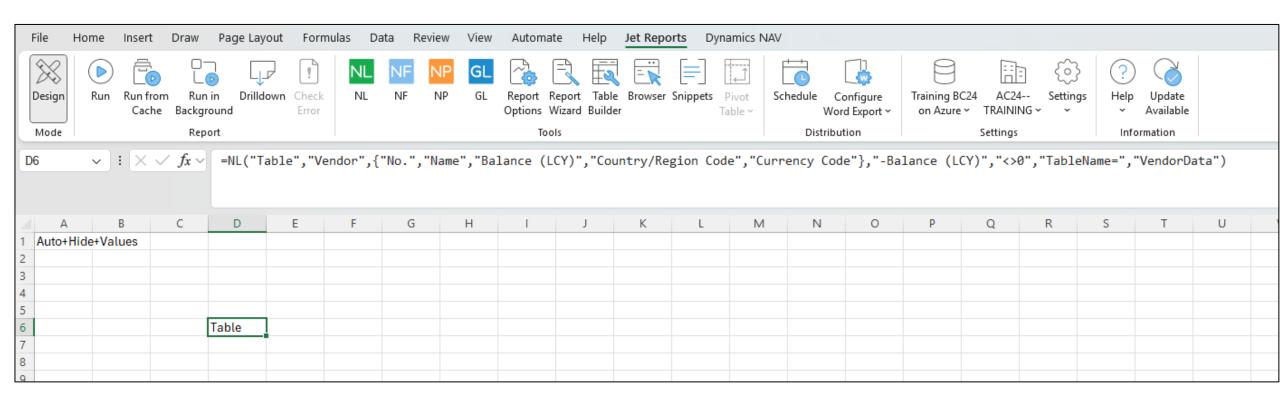




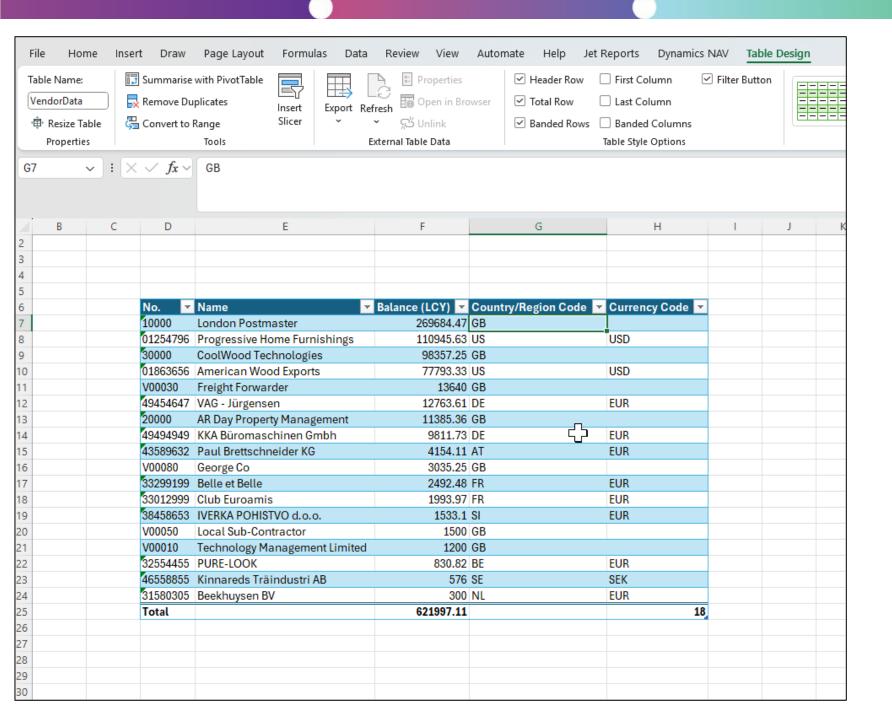






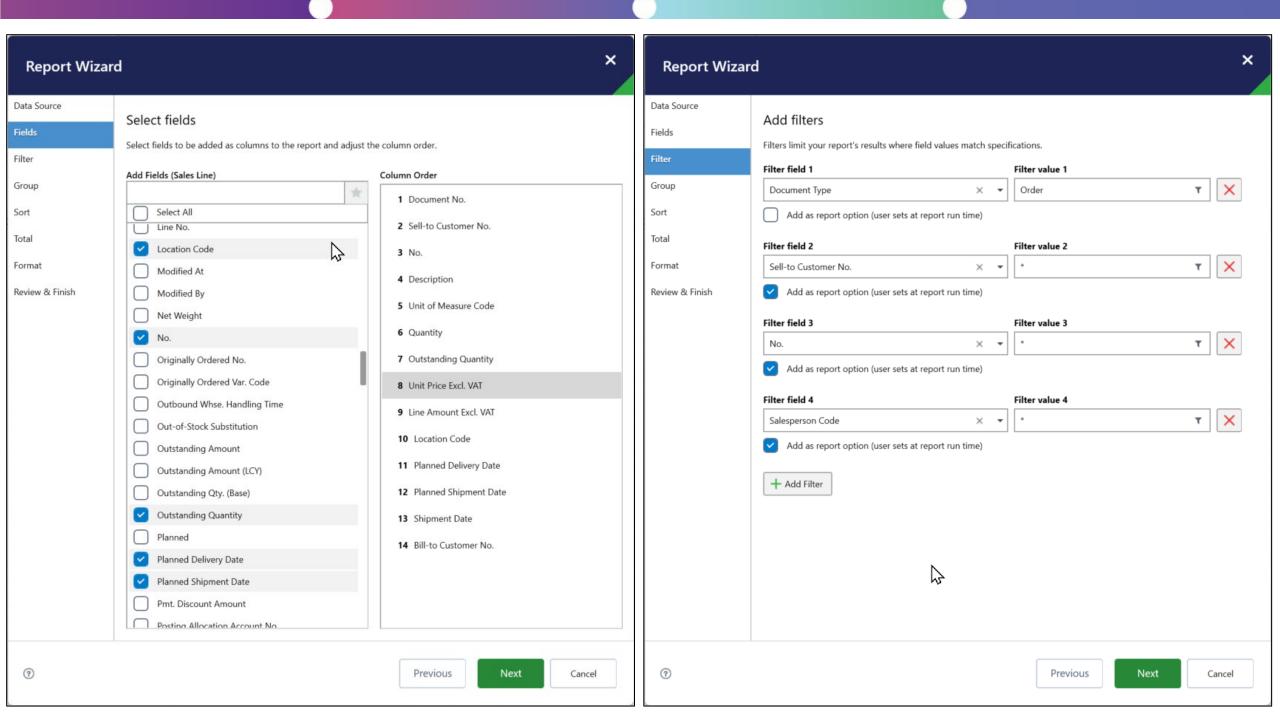


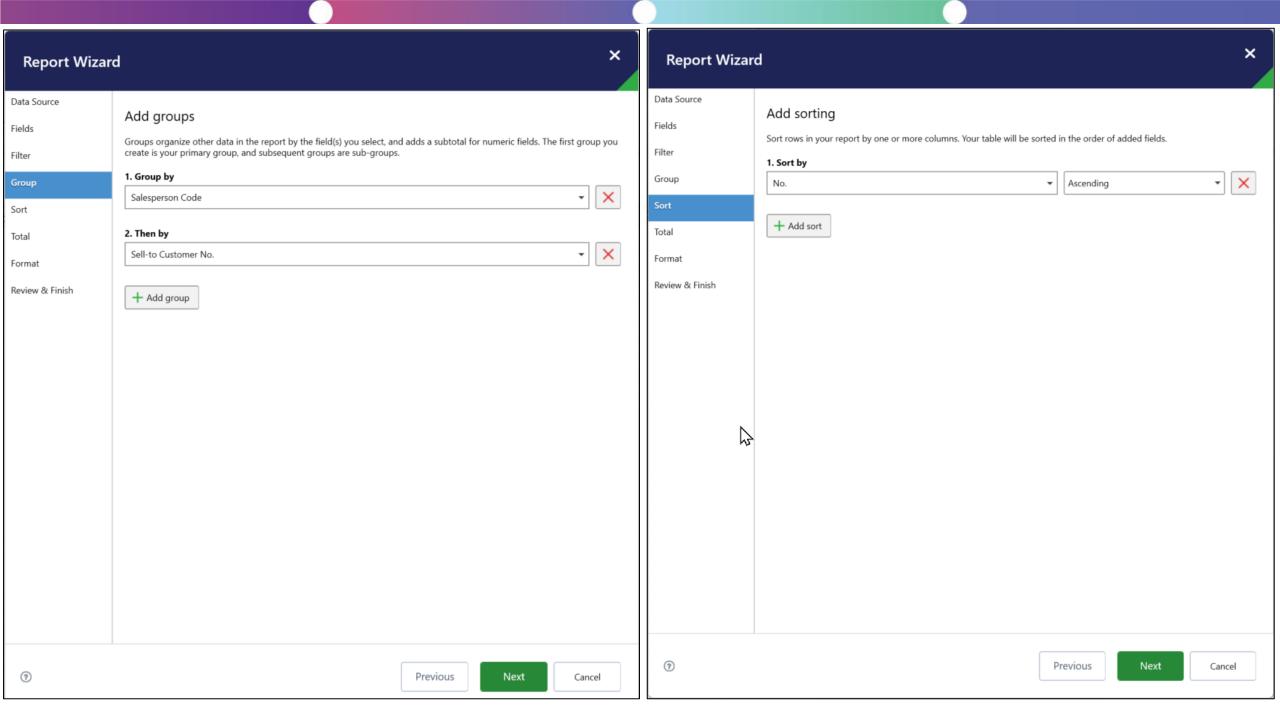


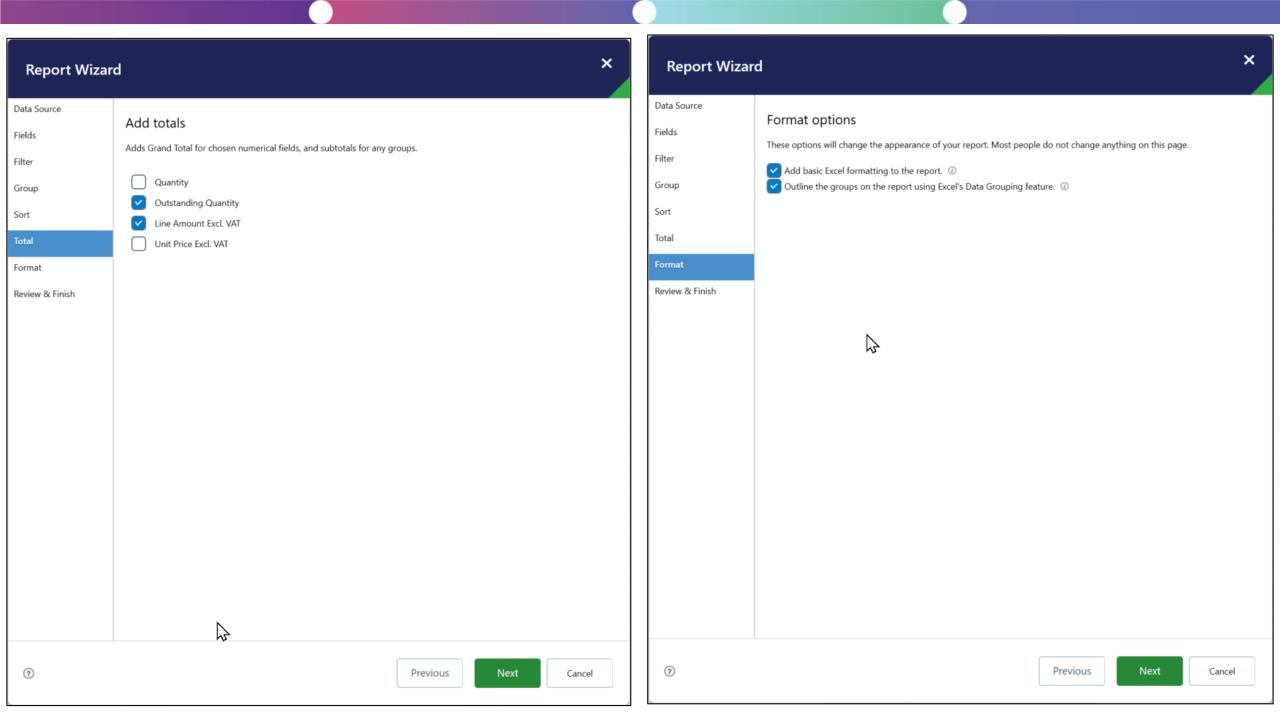


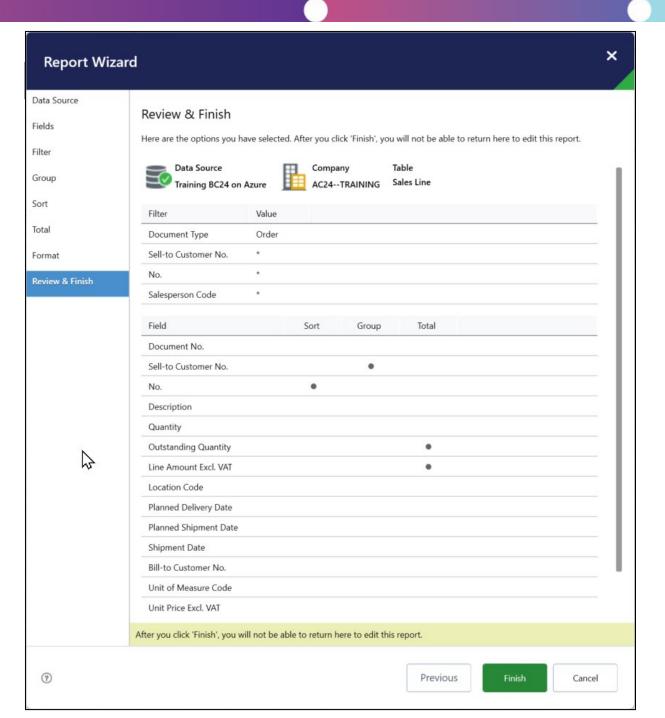








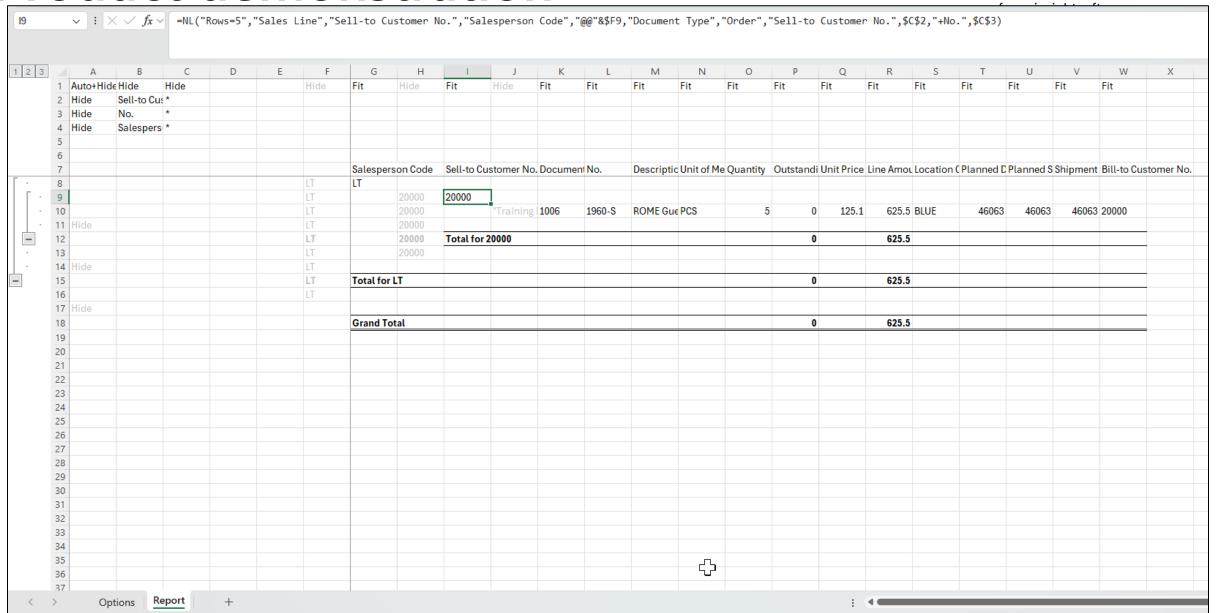




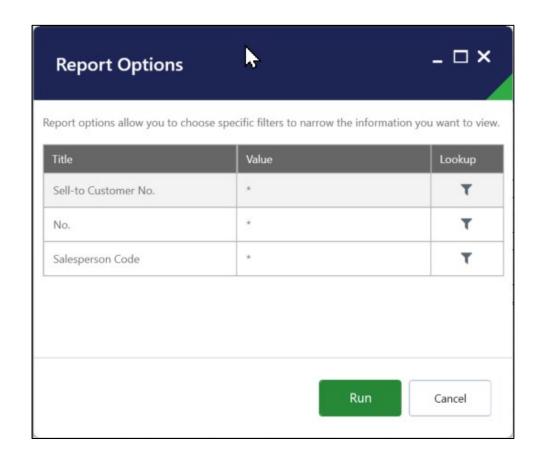


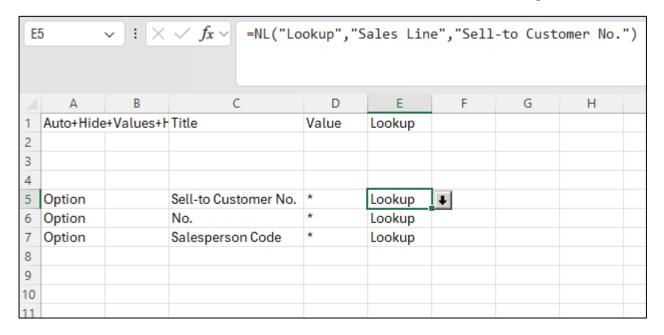






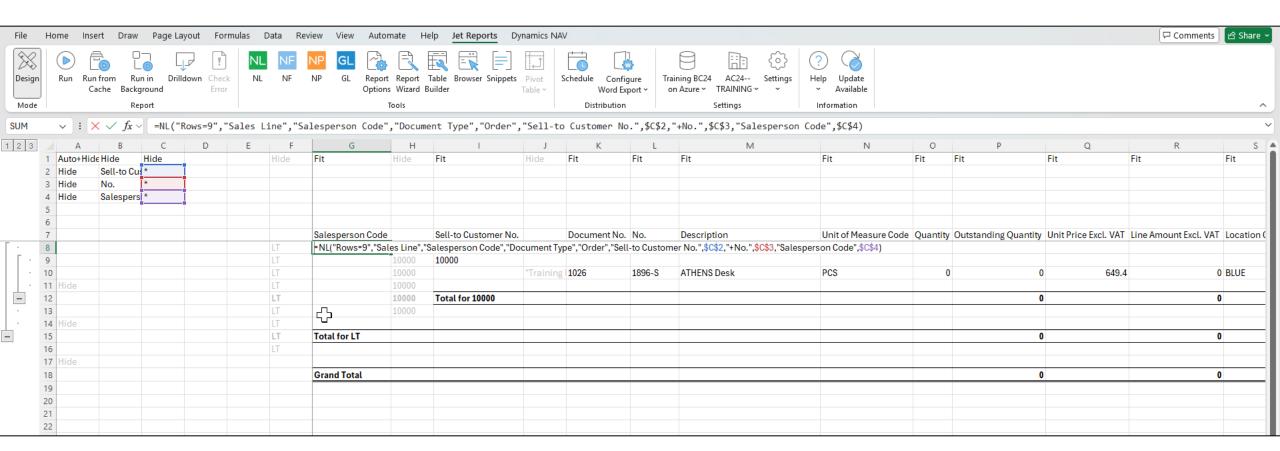






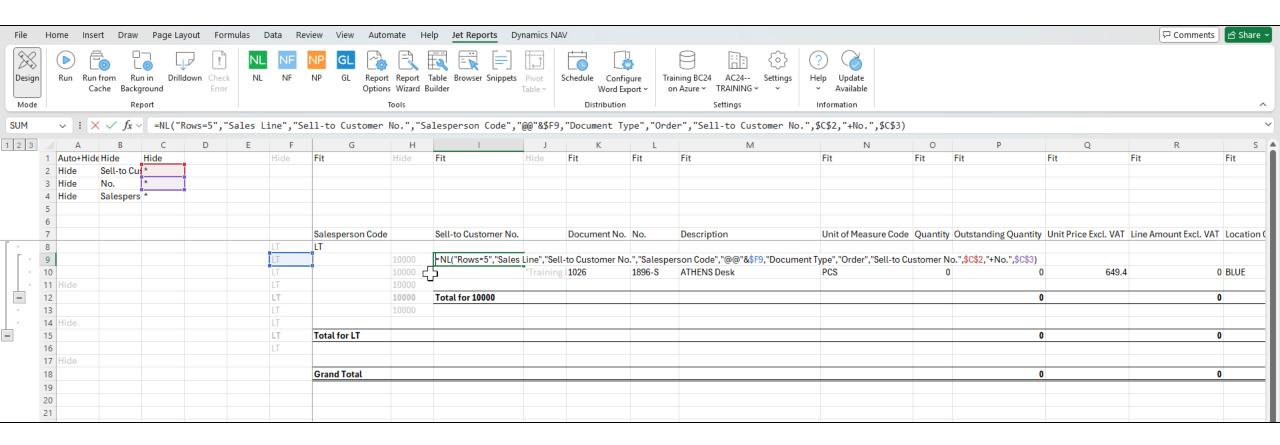






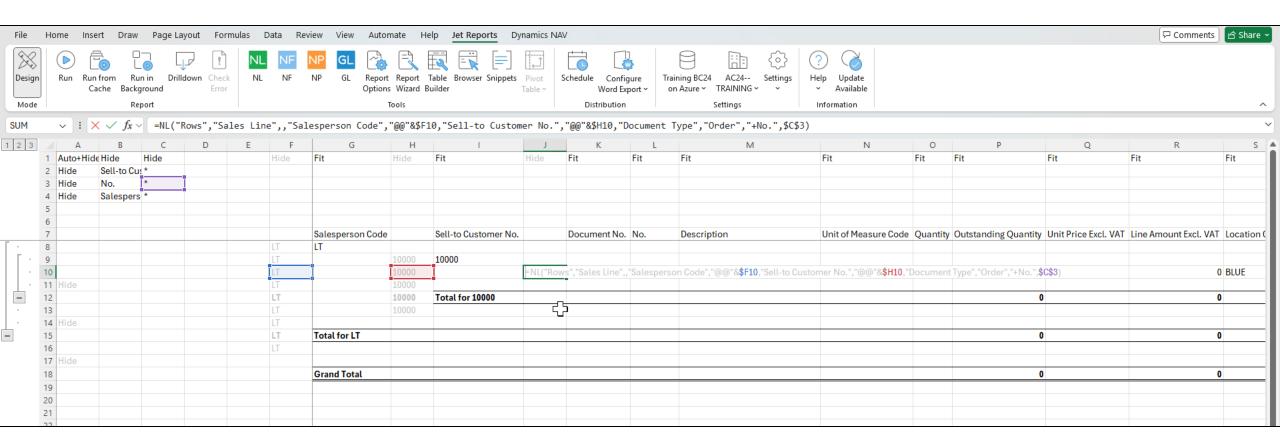




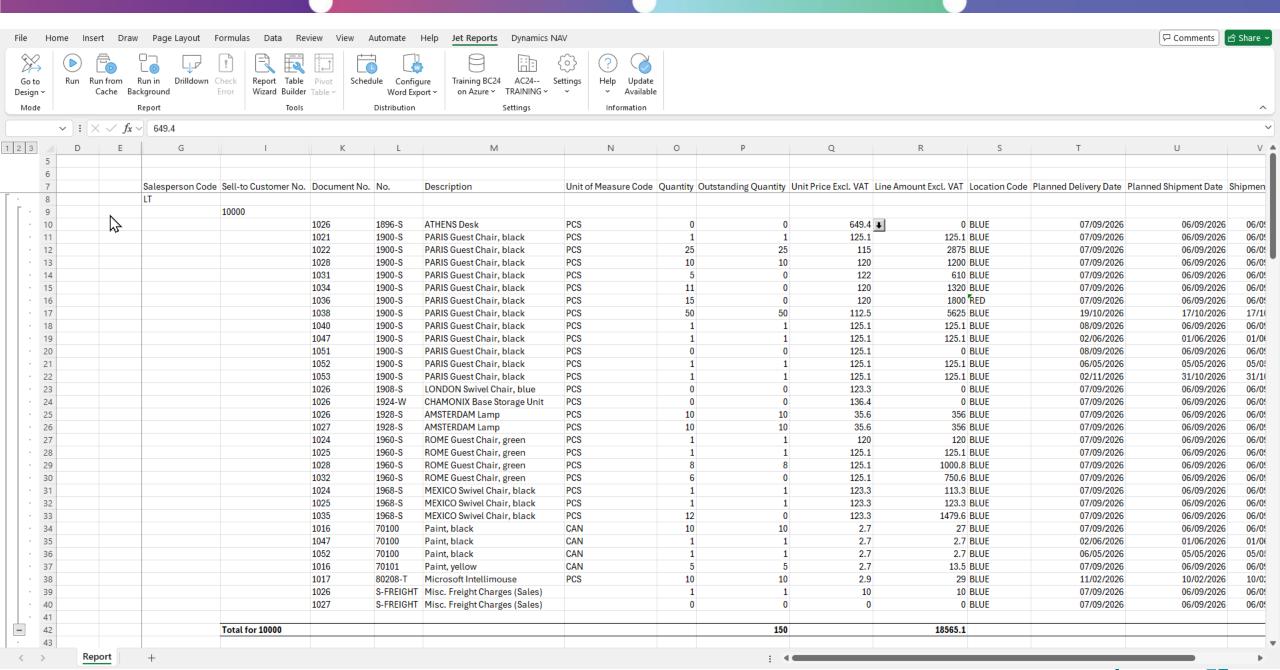














F	File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Automate Help Jet Reports Dynamics NAV													
	Design	Run Rur	n from Run in Drilldov ache Background		NP NP	GL Report Repo Options Wizar		Wor		gure Training BC24 AC24 Settings F port > on Azure > TRAINING > >	? Update Available			
	Mode		Report			Tools		Distribu	ıtion	Settings	Information			
F1	F13 \checkmark : $\times \checkmark f_x \checkmark$ =NL("Rows", "G/L account", "no.", "No.", Sheet1!\$C\$6, "Income/Balance", Sheet1!\$C\$4, "Account Type", Sheet1!\$C\$5)													
		Α	В	С		D	Е		F	G	Н	1	J	K
1	Auto+Hi	de+Values	Title+Fit	Value+Fit		Lookup+Hide	Tooltip+Hide	Fi	t F	Fit	Fit	Fit	Fit	
2				Report Options										
3	Option		DateRange	01/01/202631/12/2026		Lookup	Choose a date range							
4	Option		Income/Balance	Income StatementBala	nce Sheet	Lookup	Choose: Income Statement, Bala	ance Sheet (or	sele	ct both)				
5	Option		Account Type	Posting	End-Tota	Lookup	Choose an account type: Posting	/ Total / End To	otal,	/ Begin Total / Total / Heading (multiple can b	e selected)			
6	Option		G/L Account (Nominal)		80008999	9	Choose an account number or rai	nge						
7	Option		Period Type		Month	Lookup	Choose a period type: Week, Mo	nth, Quarter o	r Yea	ar				
8	Option		G/L Budget		2026	Lookup	Pick a budget							
	hide										01/01/20			
10	hide										31/01/20			
11											01/01/202631/01/202			
12									_	<u>Name</u>	Jan-2026	Budget	Difference	
13								81	110	Cleaning	£6,8	74 £4,000	-£2,874	
14														
15														
16														
17														
18														





Fi	ile Hom	me Insert	Draw Page	Layout Formula	s Data	a Review V	View Automate Help	Jet Report	ts Dynamics NAV											PC	Comments	🖄 Share 🕶
D	Go to design ~	Run Run fror Cache		Drilldown Check Error	Report Wizard	Table Pivot Builder Table V	Schedule Configure Word Export >	Training BC on Azure		~		odate silable										^
B1:	$ B13 \qquad \lor \ \ \vdots \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \$																					
4		В	Report Optio	C	F	:	G		Н		1	J	K	L	M	N	0	Р	Q		R	S
3 [DateRange		01/01/20263																			
	Income/Ba			ementBalance She	oot																	
5	•	Account Type		PostingEnd-T																		
6		unt (Nominal)		80008																		
7	G/LACCOU	Period Type			onth																	
8		G/L Budget			2026																	
11		o, c buuget		•					01/01/202631/01/202	6			01/02/202628/02/2026			01/03/202631/03/2026			01/04/202630/04/2	026		
12					No	. Name			Jan-2026		ıdaet F	Difference	Feb-2026	Rudget	Difference	Mar-2026		Difference	Apr-2026		Rudget	Difference
13						0 Operating Ex	ynenses			£0	£0	£0					0 £0		•	£0	£0	£0
14							intenance Expenses			£0	£0	£0					0 £0			£0	£0	£0
15						O Cleaning	intendince expenses				£4,000	-£2,874	£900							£200	£4,000	£3,800
16						20 Electricity an	nd Heating				£8,000	£7,372					0 £5,000			£0	-	£5,000
17						Repairs and I					30,000	£29,826	£0	-	•		0 £25,000					£25,000
18							Maint. Expenses				42,000	£34,324		£34,000			0 £34,000				£34,000	£33,800
19						00 Administrati	•			£0	£0	£0			-		0 £0	-		£0	£0	£0
20						Office Suppli					£8,500	£8,489	£200							£0		£6,000
21						80 Phone and Fa					£2,000	£2,000	£300				0 £2,000			£0	£2,000	£2,000
22						10 Postage	un.				£400	£206	£0				0 £350	-		£0	£350	£350
23							nistrative Expenses				10,900	£10,695	£500			_				£0	£8,350	£8,350
24						00 Computer Ex	•			£0	£0	£0					0 £0			£0	£0	£0
25						0 Software	(perises				£5,550	£5,550	£0				0 £4,550			£0	£4,550	£4,550
26						20 Consultant S	Services			16	£220	£104			-					£0	£220	£220
27						0 Other Compu				£0	£0	£0					00 £0			£0	£0	£0
28						10 Broadband co	•			£0	£0	£0					0 £0			£0	£0	£0
29						0 Total Compu					£5,770	£5,654	£1,000							£0	£4,770	£4,770
30						00 Selling Exper	•			£0	£0	£0			-		00 £0			£0	£0	£0
31							(regrs Dim-Dept)			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	f	03 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
32							ent and PR (regrs Dim-Dept	t)	£1	74	£340	£166	£0	£0	£0	f	03 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
33					843	Travel (regrs	s Dim-Dept)			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	f	0 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
34					845	0 Delivery Exp	penses ((regrs Dim-Dept-Sa	ales-dflt)	f	21	£40	£19	£100	£0	-£100	f	03 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
35						00 Total Selling			£1	94	£380	£186	£100	£0	-£100	f	0 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
36					850	00 Vehicle Expe	enses			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	f	0 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
37					851	LO Fuel and Mot	otor Oil		£	52	£100	£48	£0	£0	£0	f	00 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
38					852	Registration	Fees			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	f	0 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
39					853	Repairs and I	Maintenance		£	37	£80	£43	£0	£0	£0	f	03 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0
40					859	70 Total Vehicle	e Expenses			89	£180	£91					03 £0			£0	£0	£0
41					860	Other Opera	iting Expenses			£0	£0	£0					03 £0			£0	£0	£0
42					861	0 Cash Discrep	pancies			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	f	0 £0	£0		£0	£0	£0 ▼
4	< >	Sheet1	+										: (-			_					Þ

Power BI: The Emperor's new clothes?



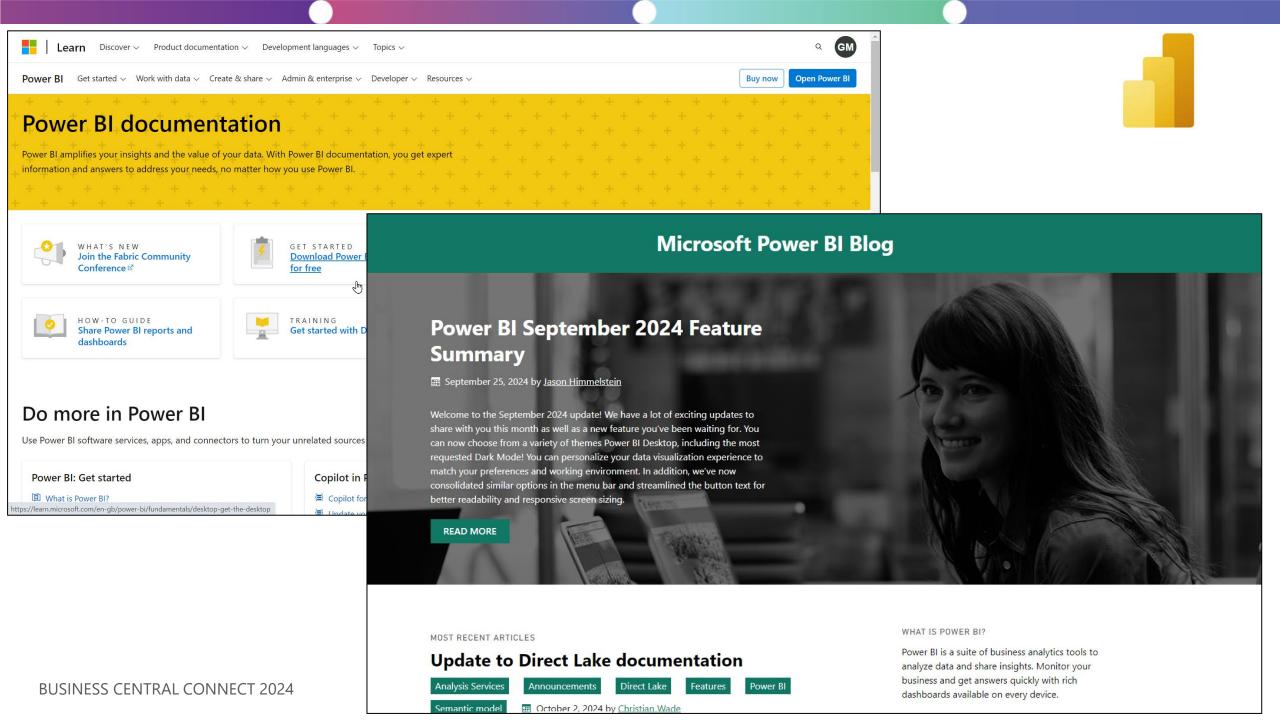
Power BI looks amazing!

- Lots of desire to use Power Bl amongst our customer base
- Grew out of Excel & Power Query/Pivot/Maps
- Not just BC reporting, a range of connectors available
- More engaging and interactive, visual focus
- Great for access, online, using Dashboards to target exactly what a user needs
- Advanced features like row level security
- Salesperson/manager, access anywhere via the mobile app when away from desk
- Great tools built in, like Power Query

BUT...

- Do you have a data specialist (or the time to become one)?
- A false start for some customers, expensive and clunky for others
- Getting at data in BC is usually the challenge!
- No direct access to the tables (even on prem), its Pages and Queries
- Big issue is getting to the data
- Some performance issues, vastly reduced if using read only database





Power BI resources (official)

Extensive online documentation

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/power-bi/?culture=en-us&country=us

Power BI Blog,

https://powerbi.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/

Great official YouTube channel, check Playlists section for 'hidden gems'

https://www.youtube.com/@MicrosoftPowerBI/playlists

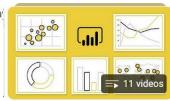
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1N57mwBHtN0JFoKSR0n-tBkUJHeMP2cP

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1N57mwBHtN0tyk_tTM3t4XR5SPh4cJO1



Analyze & Visualize Data with Power BI

View full play

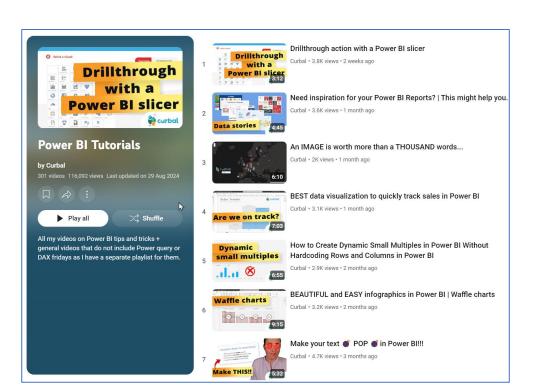


Getting Started with Power BI

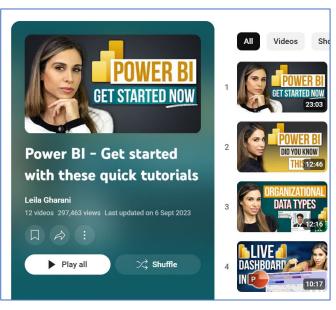
View full playlist

Power BI resources (unofficial)

- There are many MVPs who come from a Power Query background who have converted to be Power BI specialists, find them on YouTube
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmHVyfmcRKyzp9Mu-C-Zx8CsPSPelaDR8
- https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDz00l jz6zzttb28XH8GHZNL6vvpBlkQ









Power BI official roadmap



- Was developing so fast it was very hard to keep up with!
- Great Blog, monthly updates, lots of detail including videos
- Now part of "Fabric" the enterprise level solution for data storage and analysis, "Big Data", Data Lake/Data Warehouse/ Data Lakehouse

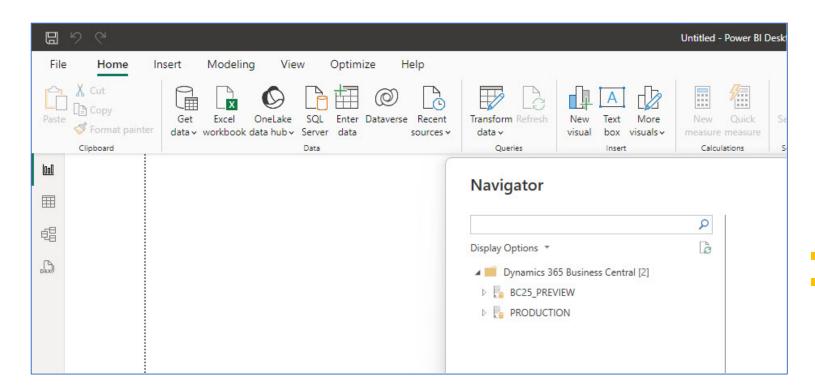
https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/paths/get-started-fabric/

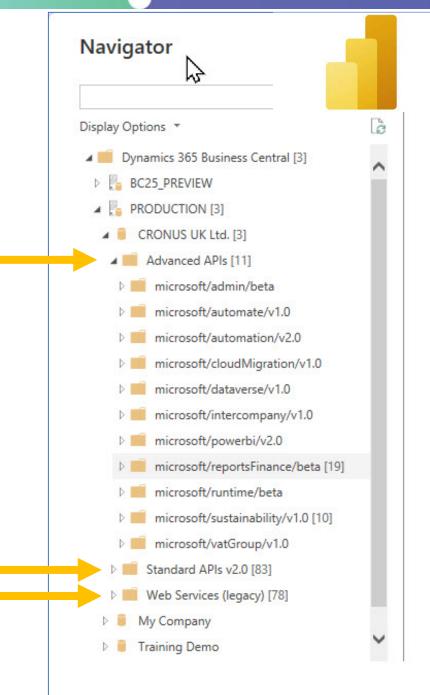
• Pricing is here: https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/power-platform/products/power-bi/pricing



Standard BC APIs

- You get what you get, but it has got better!
- Have to build the relationships yourself
- Won't have bespoke fields etc





Current Considerations - Web Services

• Make plans to switch if using , old technology, not recommended

∦C₀	ntoso Electronics	Dynamics 365 Business	s Central					BC Env 25 BC2
\leftarrow	Web Services							
	V #	00-1	1.19		I ADI de come estati			
	X If you want to set up an	OData connection, for per	rformance and stability reasons consider	using an API page instead. Don't show again	API documentati	on		
		New 🐯 Edit List 🧻 🛭	Delete 🥃 Reload 🔓 Download Me	tadata Document More options				
	Object Type ↑	Object ID	Object Name	Service Name↑	All Tenants	Published	OData V4 URL	SOAP URL
	Query	268	Project Ledger Entries	JobLedgerEntries		100	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	61	Power BI Cust, Item Ledg. Ent.	Power BI Cust. Item Ledg. Ent.		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	62	Power BI Cust. Ledger Entries	Power BI Cust. Ledger Entries			https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	50	Power BI Customer List	Power BI Customer List		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	53	Power BI GL Amount List	Power BI GL Amount List		E	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	58	Power BI GL Budgeted Amount	Power BI GL BudgetedAmount		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	52	Power BI Item Purchase List	Power BI Item Purchase List		[2]	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	57	Power BI Item Sales List	Power BI Item Sales List		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	54	Power BI Projects List	Power BI Jobs List		[2]	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	64	Power BI Purchase Hdr. Vendor	Power BI Purchase Hdr. Vendor		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	56	Power BI Purchase List	Power BI Purchase List		100	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	60	Power BI Sales Hdr. Cust.	Power BI Sales Hdr. Cust.		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	55	Power BI Sales List	Power BI Sales List		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	Query	59	Power BI Top Cust. Overview	Power BI Top Cust. Overview		10	https://api.businesscentral.dynamics.com/v2	Not applicable
	0	CE	Manufactions Ladaus Futiles	Danisa Di Vanal Hans Lada Est		89	http://with.ii	Makanaliaslala

Current Considerations - Read Scale-out

- Bespoke existing API Queries or API pages, changes possibly needed
- 'Read only' database option introduced in BC 2020 wave 1
- Change the **DataAccessIntent** from read/write to read-only in the VS code of the API Page/Query
- Available & automatically enabled in BC SaaS,
- Can be switched on in onprem
- https://learn.microsoft.com/enus/dynamics365/business-central/devitpro/administration/database-read-scaleout-overview

```
Report 18031805 "Sales Statistics NAVLAB_TZR"

DefaultLayout = RDLC;
RDLCLayout = './ReportLayouts/Sales Statistics NAVLAB.rdlc';
Caption = 'Sales Statistics';
ApplicationArea = All;
UsageCategory = ReportsAndAnalysis;
DataAccessIntent = ReadOnly;

dataset
{
    2 references
    dataitem(Customer; Customer)
    f
```

Power BI and BC25



- Looks promising but no details, wait till November
- Out-of-the-box Power BI reports for finance, sales, purchasing, inventory, manufacturing, and projects

Finance	Sales	Purchasing	I nventory	Manufacturing	Projects
14 reports	12 reports	13 reports	7 reports	11 reports	6 reports

- It's the new APIs that excite us! Use them to build your own reports
- Release notes here:

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/release-plan/2024wave2/smb/dynamics365-business-central/use-embedded-power-bi-reports-out-box





















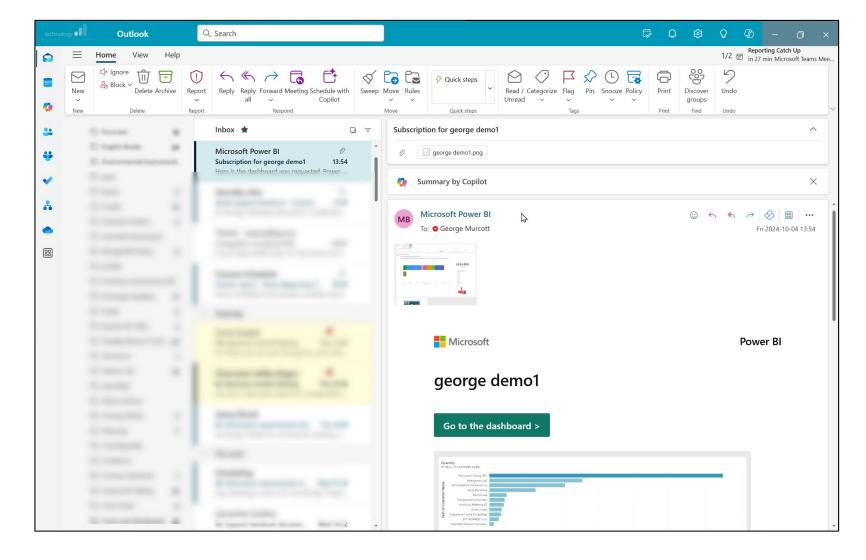
Product demonstration (live if time allows!)







Product demonstration (live if time allows!)







Cosmos: The Young Pretender?

COSMOS

Modern, quick, user friendly

- Built for the Cloud
- Removes performance issues (Datawarehouse)
- Developing rapidly, new features added
- Great end user reactions, modern interface
- Clear roadmap
- Comparable Price to Jet for the base package
- Opens up Power BI (cost saving)
- Great for scheduling, easy security
- Our default option for new BC projects
- Now proving itself with our customers

BUT...

- SaaS only (not for BC on prem)
- New kid on the block, but its people are not ©





COSMOS

Great website, lots of training videos and articles

https://www.cosmosdatatech.com/



Cosmos key features



- Quick to setup (30 mins)
- Easy user administration
- 'cleaner' data model
- Modern interface, reaction from one customer "That's more like it!"
- Fast, no performance impact on BC, incremental refresh
- Extra connectors for Excel, Azure SQL
- Viable option for historic data migration
- Cost effective Data Warehouse

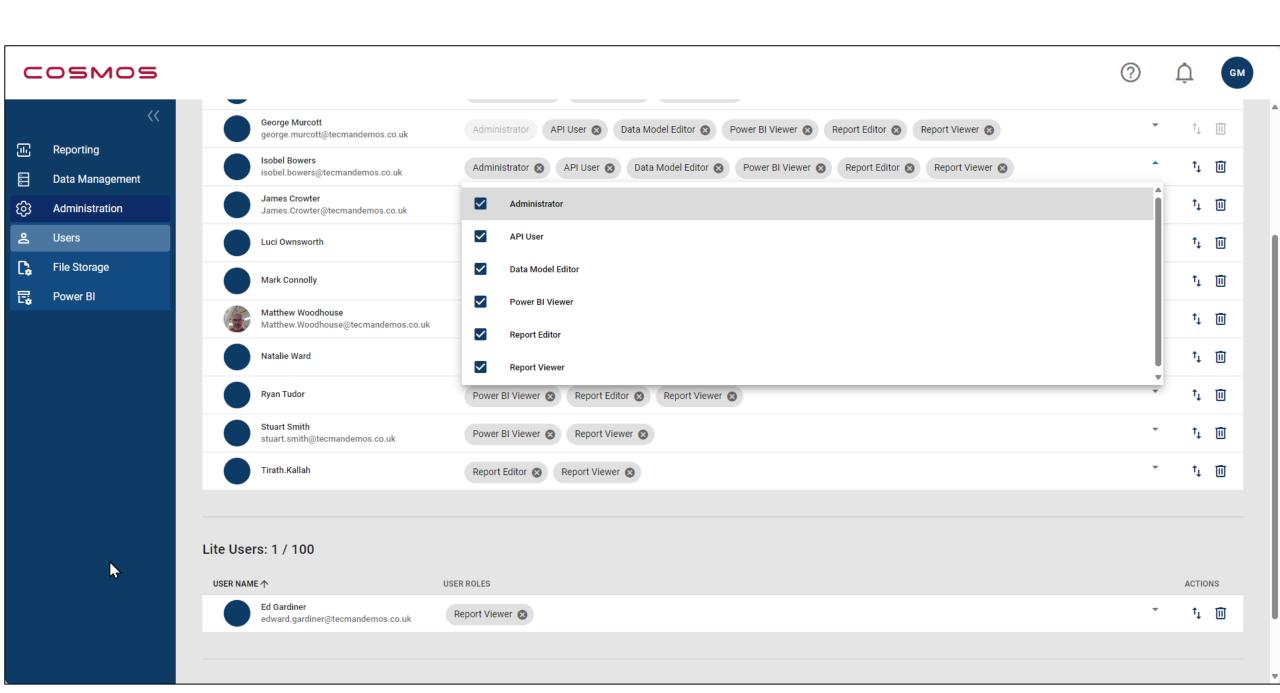


Product demonstration (Live if time allows!)













田

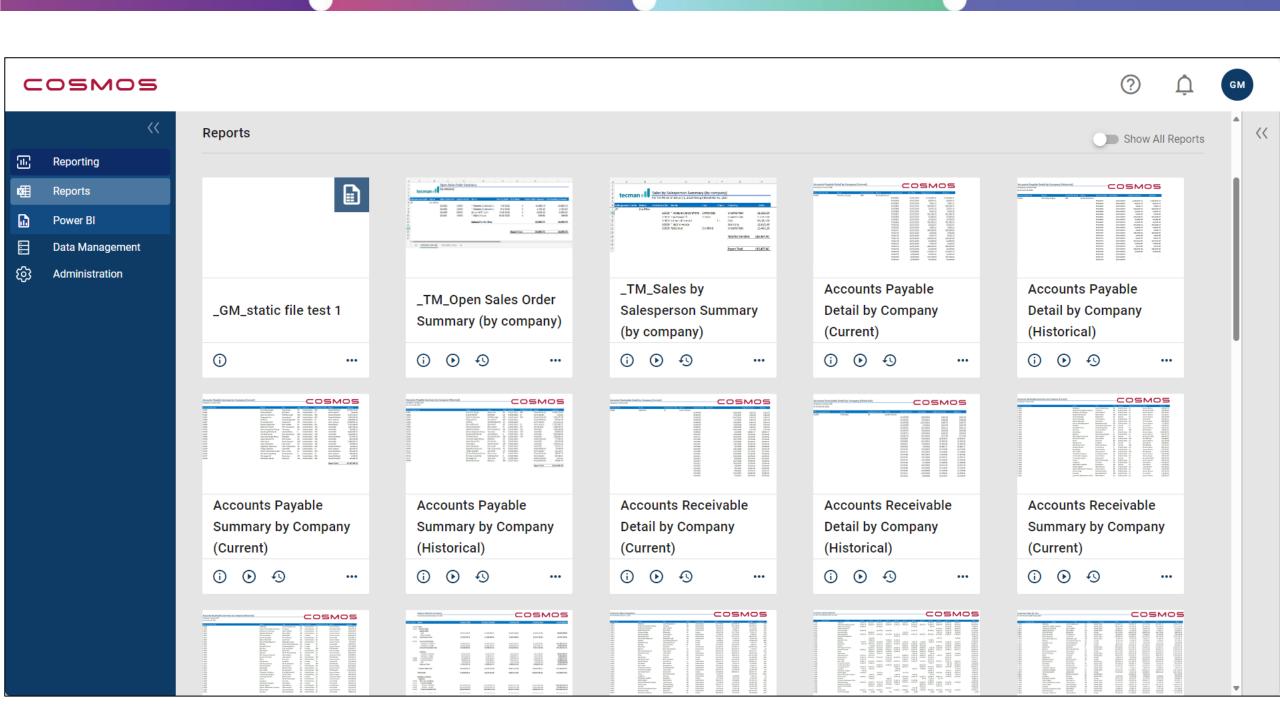
田

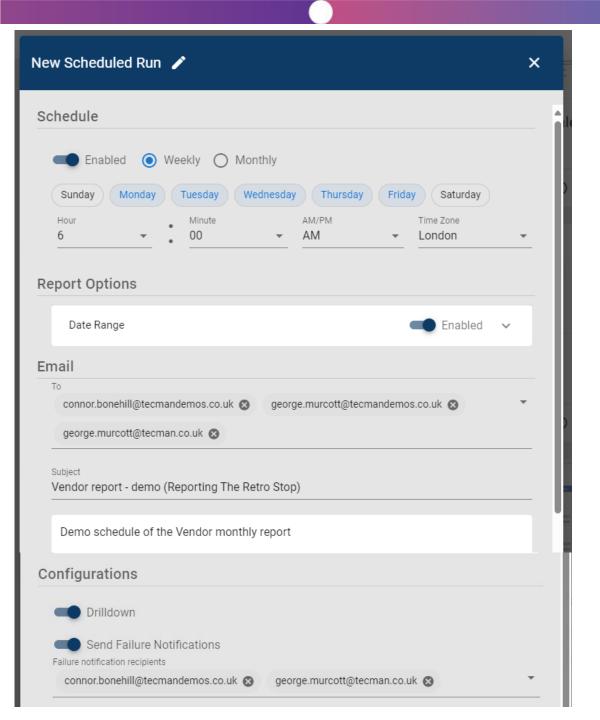
田

	< <	г		
Œ	Reporting		D	a
	Data Management	ı	Da	ita
€,	Manage	ı	•	(
8	Staging	ı	•	(
≠	Transformations	ı	•	(
5	Data Model	ı	>	I
(§)	Administration	ı	>	I
		ı	>	ľ
		ı	>	L
		ı	>	(
		ı	>	(
		ı	>	F
			>	F
			*	S
		П		

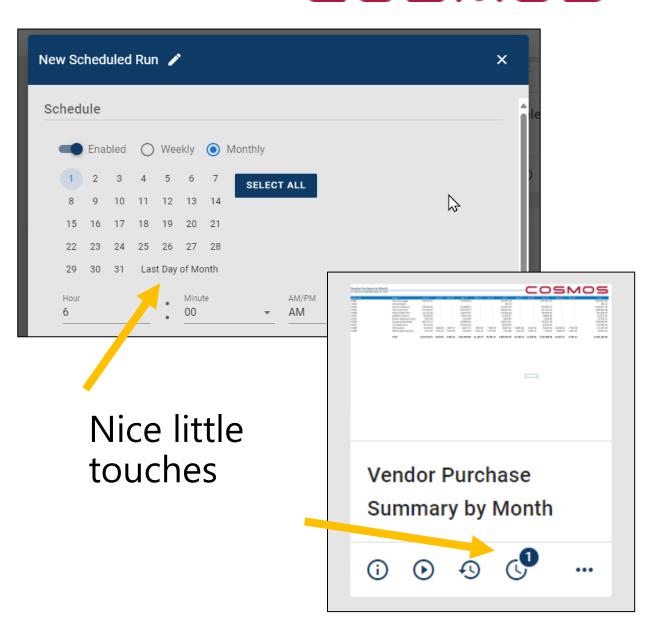
Da	ata Model	
Da	ta Model	
•	GL Transactions	^
•	Global Dimension 1	
•	Global Dimension 2	
•	Inventory Posting Group	
•	Inventory Transactions	
•	Item	
•	Location	Ш
•	Open Purchase Orders	Ш
•	Open Sales Orders	Ш
•	Product Posting Group	Ш
٠	Purchase Transactions	Ш
*	Sales Transactions	Ш
	▶ Fields	Ш
	▶ Relationships	П
•	Salesperson	

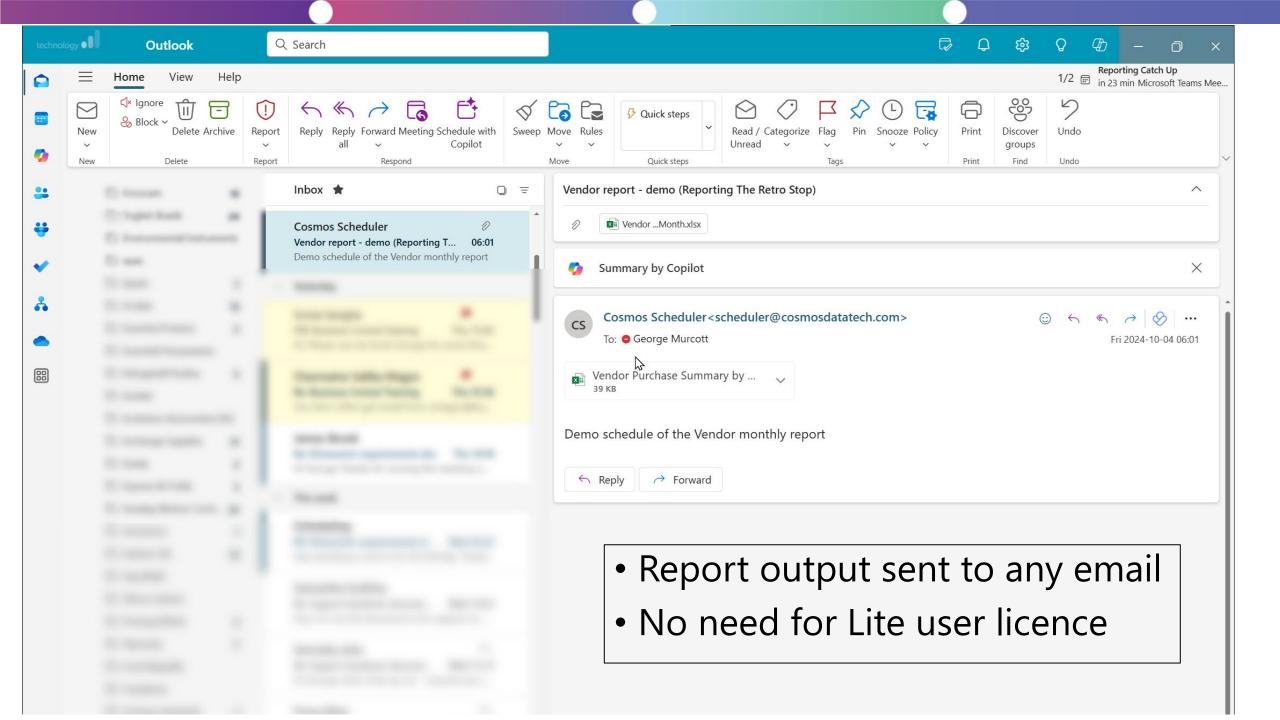
Selected Ta	able: Sa	ales Transa	actions						
Field Name	Key Field	Value Entry	Return Receipt Line (i)	Sales Cr.Memo Line ①	Sales Invoice Line (i)	Service Invoice Line (i)	Sales Shipment Line (i)	Service Cr.Memo Line	Service Shipment Line
Bill-to Customer No		Bill-to (▼	Bill-to Cι ▼	Bill-to Cu ▼	Bill-to C ▼	Bill-to Cι ▼	Bill-to Cu: ▼	Bill-to Cu ▼	Bill-to Cu: ▼
Business Posting Group		Gen. Bt ▼	Gen. Bu: ▼	Gen. Bus ▼	Gen. Bu ▼	Gen. Bu: ▼	Gen. Bus. ▼	Gen. Bus ▼	Gen. Bus. ▼
Company	~	Compa ▼	Compar 🔻	Company 🕶	Compar -	Compar -	Company 🕶	Company 🔻	Company -
Cost		Cost Aı ▼	Fixed Vε ▼	Cost ▼	Cost ▼	Cost ▼	Fixed Val 🔻	Cost ▼	Fixed Val 🔻
Discount		Discou ▼	Fixed Vε ▼	Discount •	Discoun ▼	Discoun ▼	Fixed Val 🔻	Discount •	Fixed Val 🔻
Document No		Docum ▼	Docume 🕶	Documer -	Docum∈ ▼	Docume 🕶	Documer •	Documer -	Documer -
Document Type		Docum ▼	Docume -	Documer -	Docum∈ ▼	Docume 🕶	Documer •	Documer -	Documer -
Entry No		Entry N 🔻			▼	▼			
Global Dimension 1 Code		Global 🔻	Shortcu: -	Shortcut -	Shortcu -	Shortcu -	Shortcut -	Shortcut -	Shortcut -
Global Dimension 2		Global ▼	Shortcu¹ ▼	Shortcut 🔻	Shortcu ▼	Shortcu ▼	Shortcut ▼	Shortcut ▼	Shortcut ▼

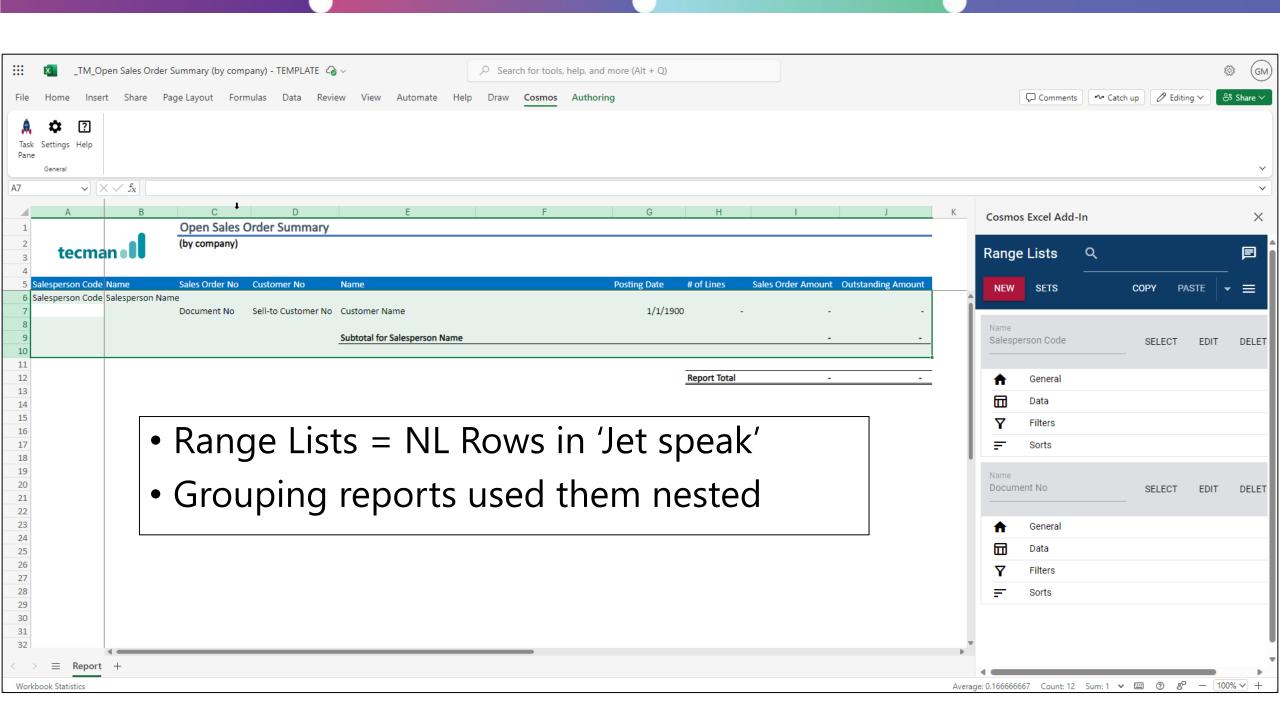


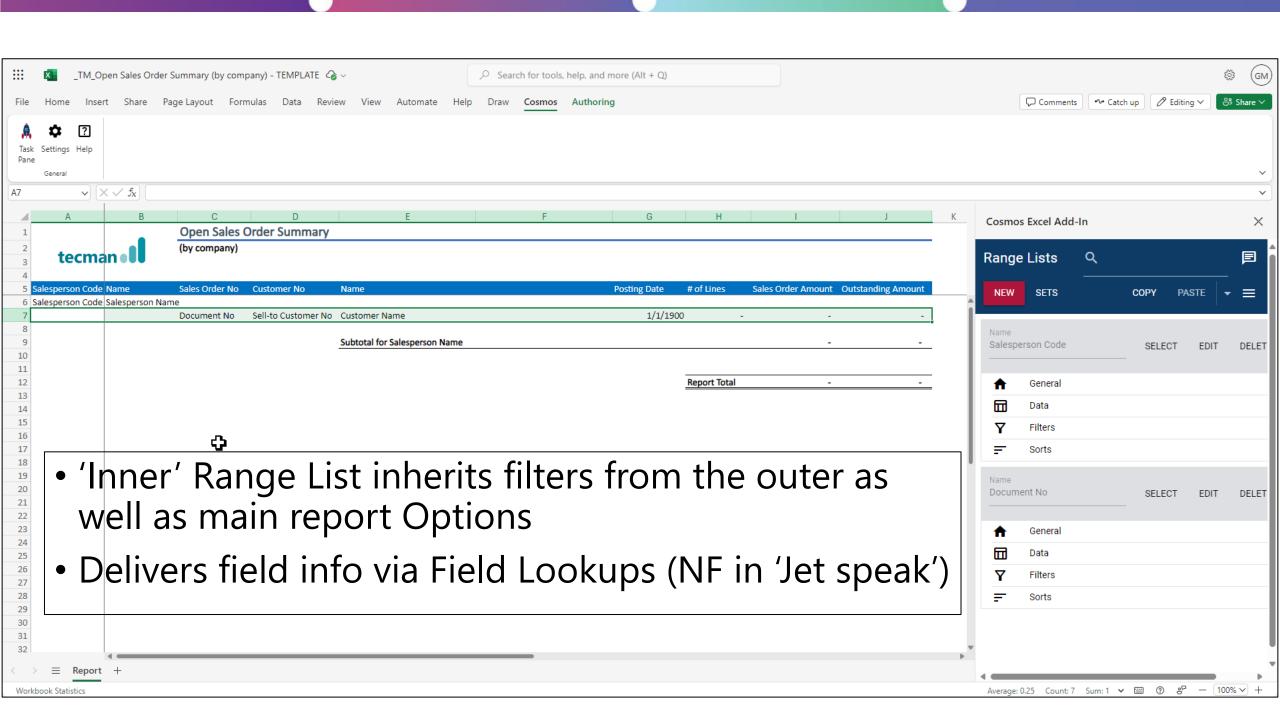


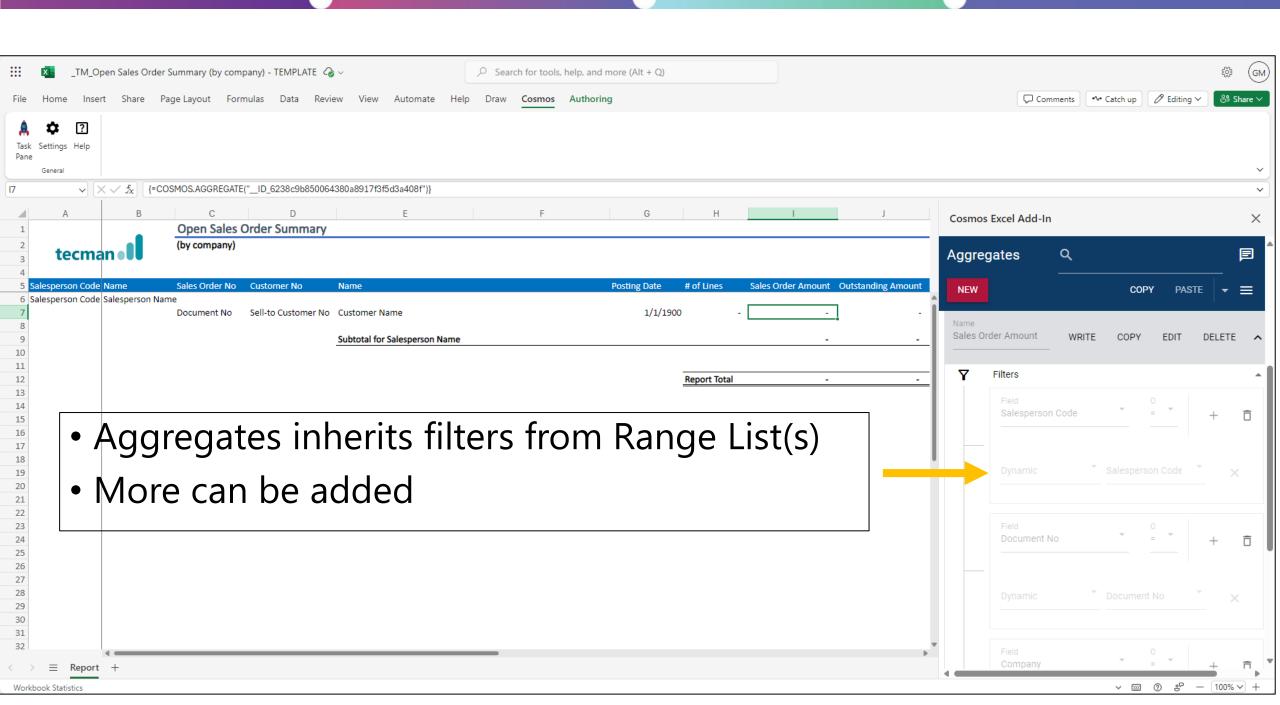
COSMOS

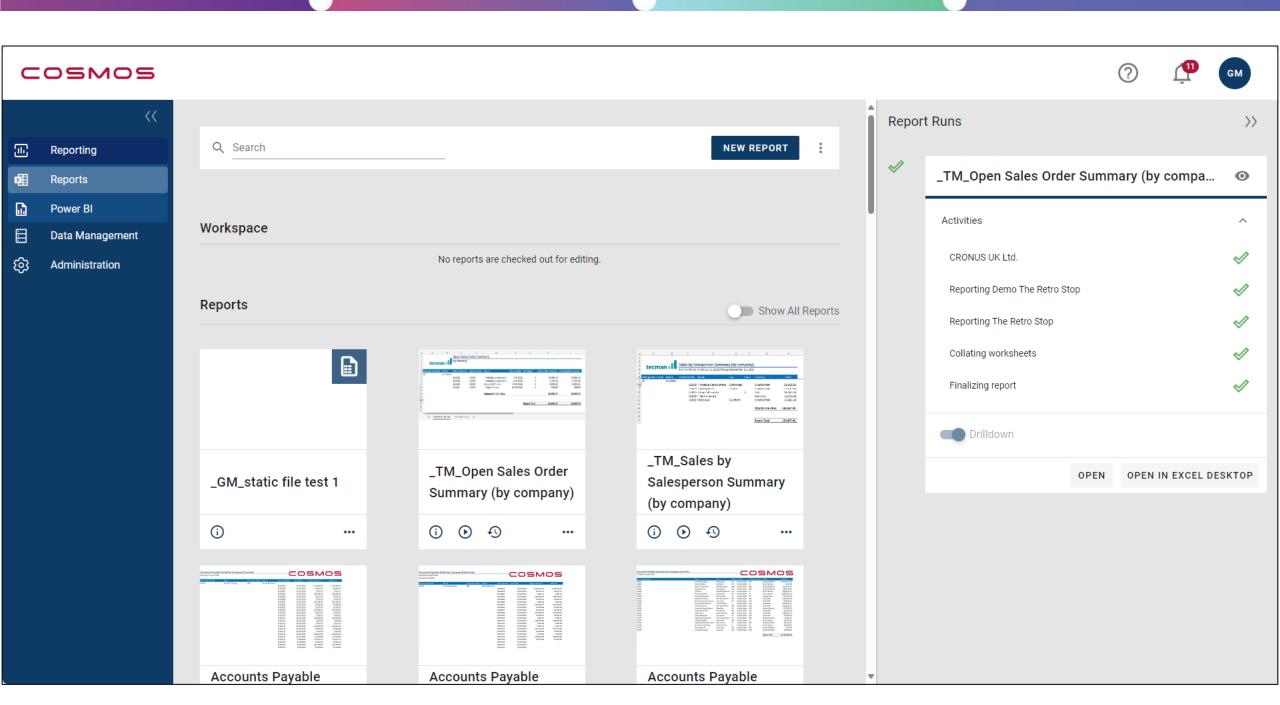


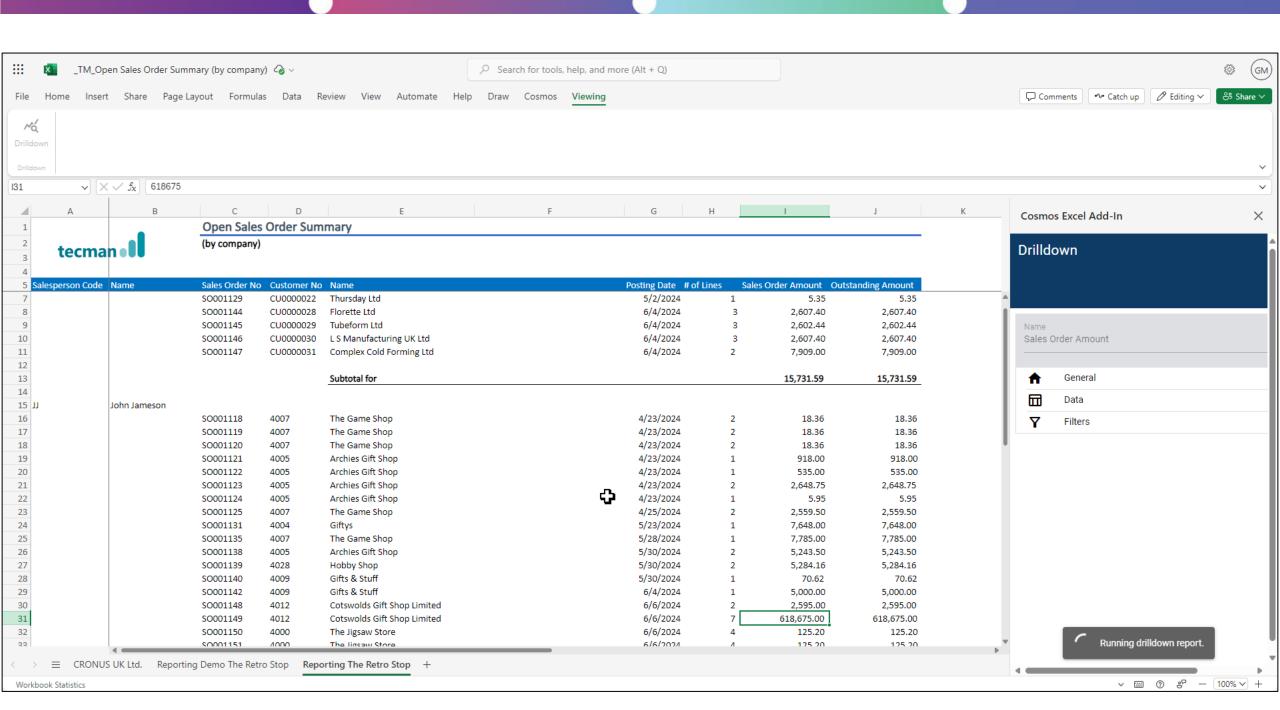


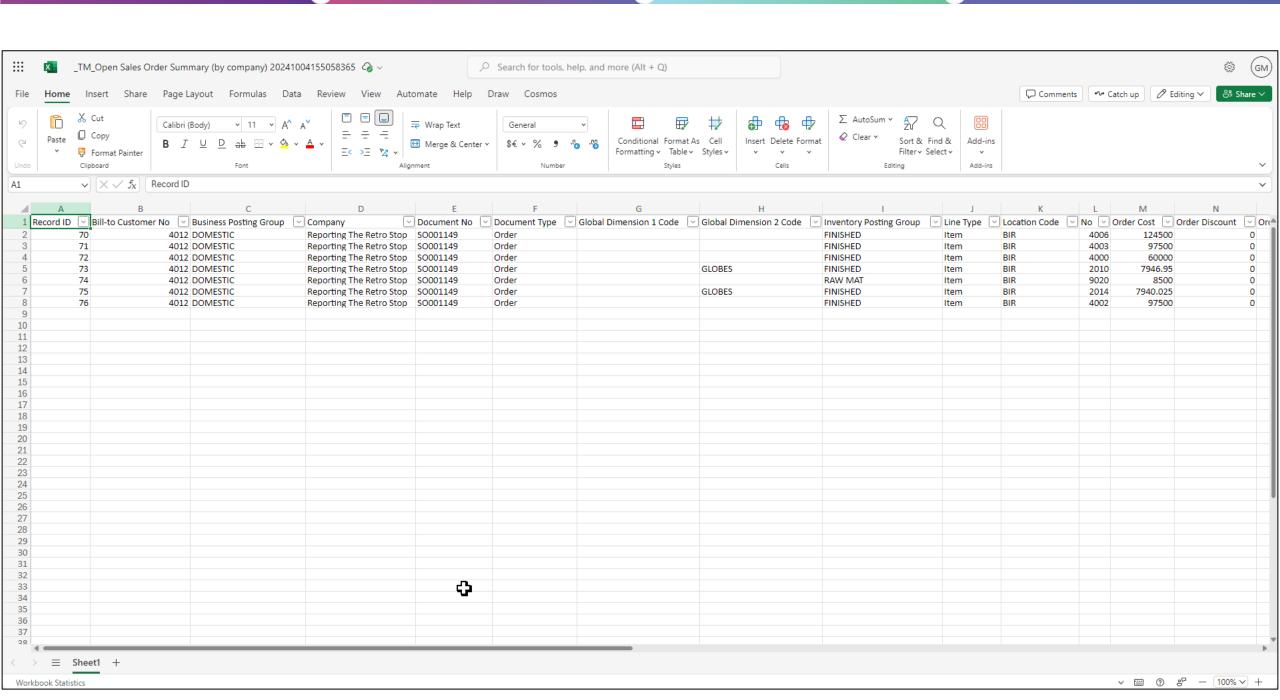


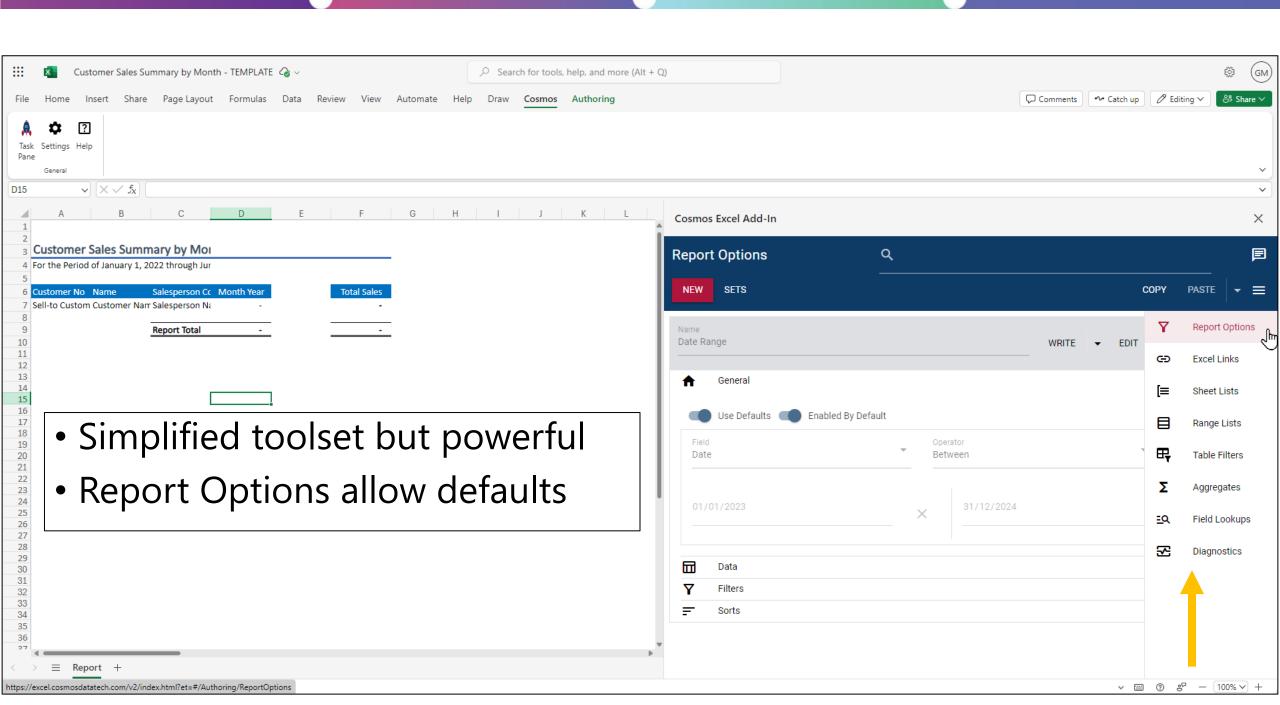


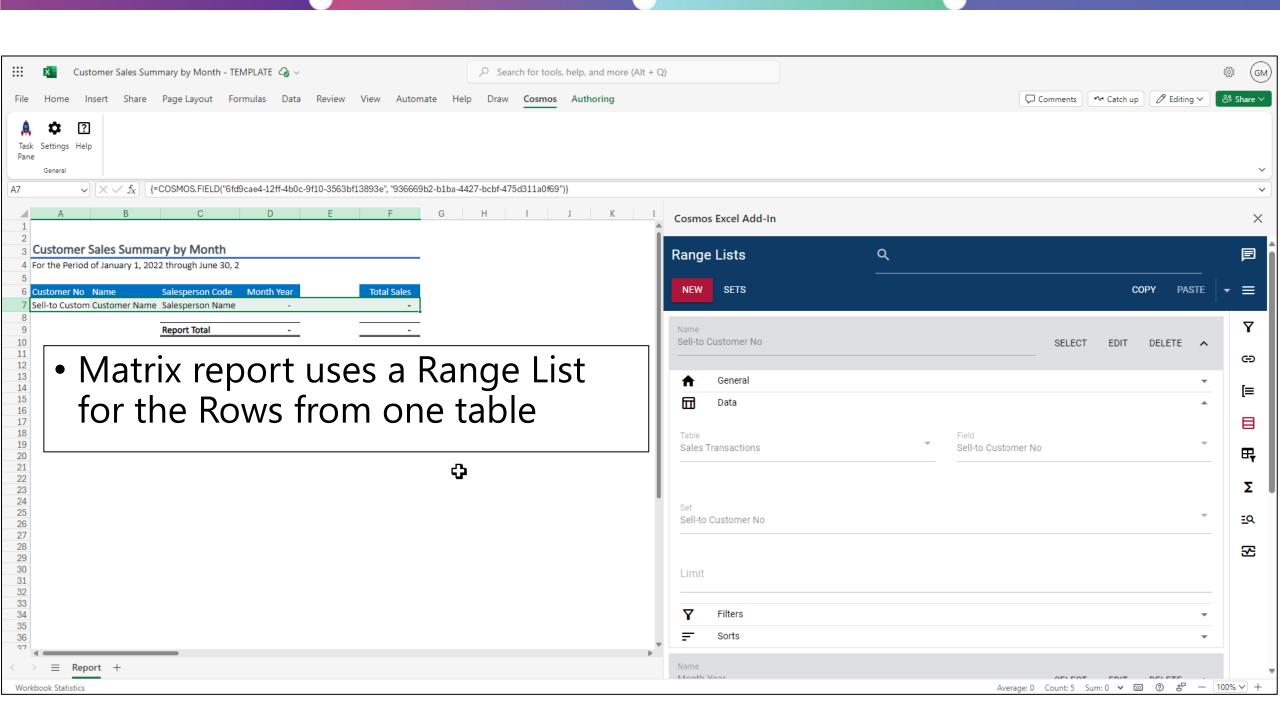


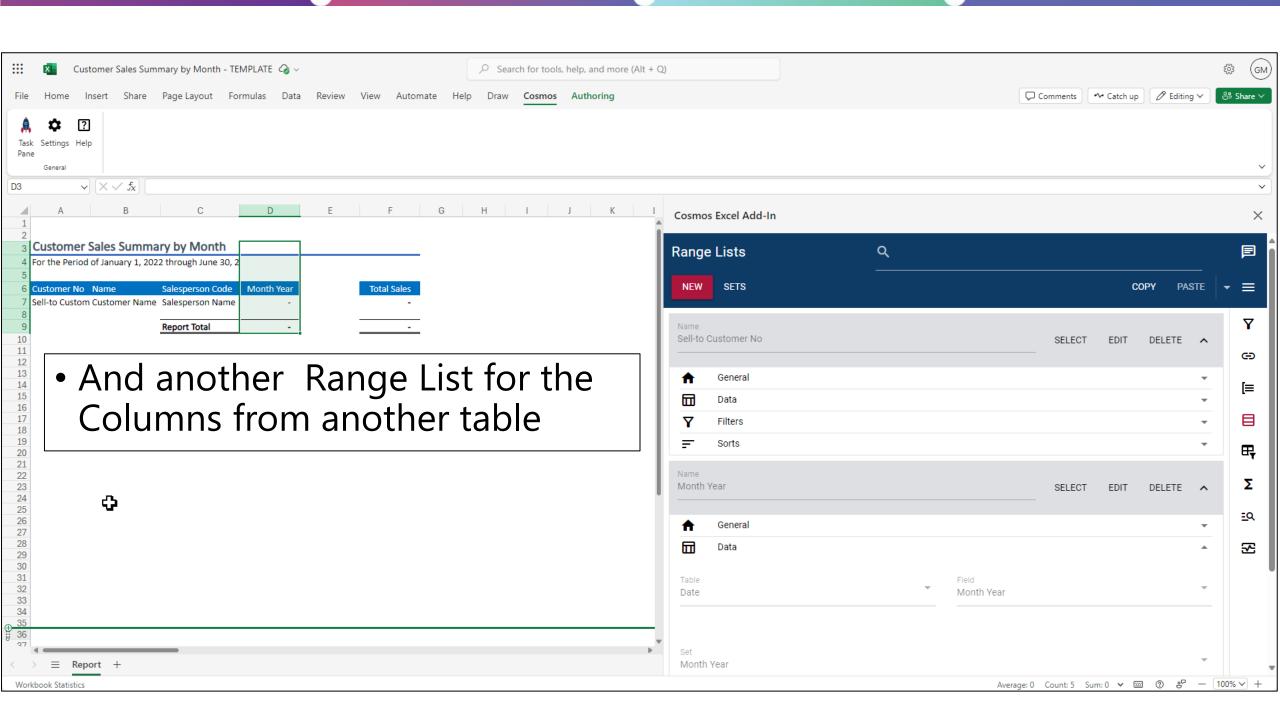


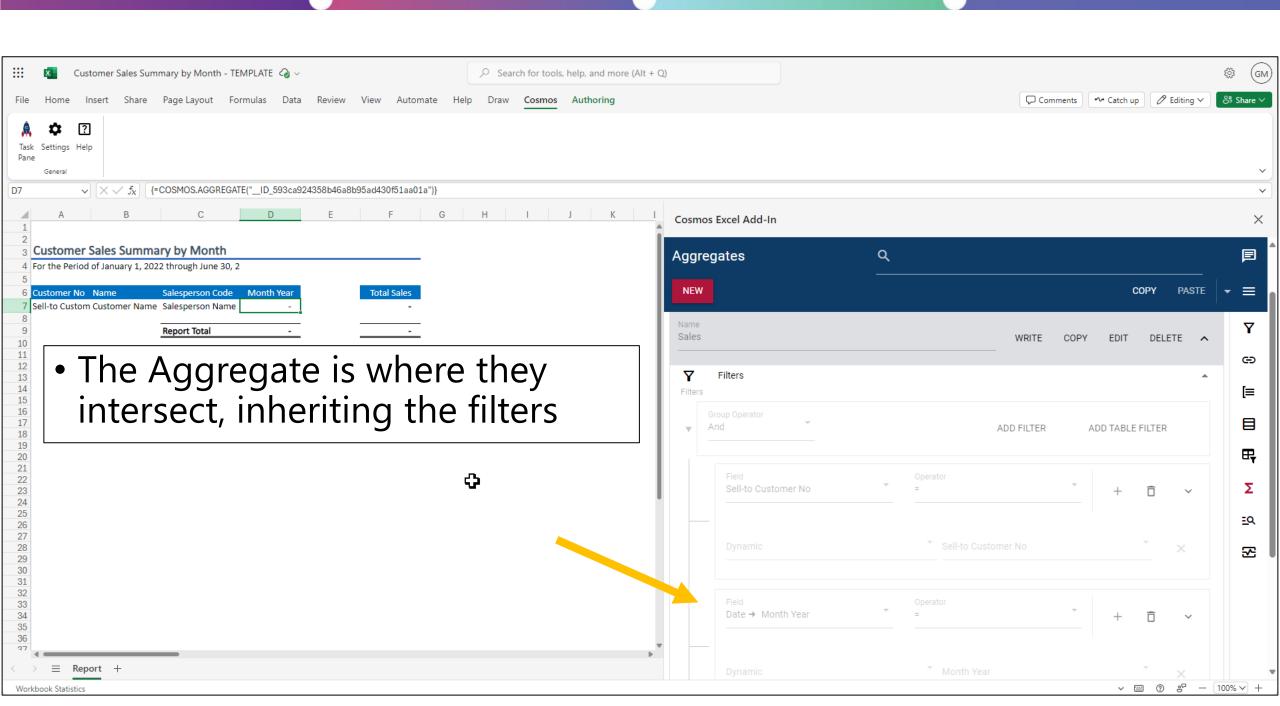


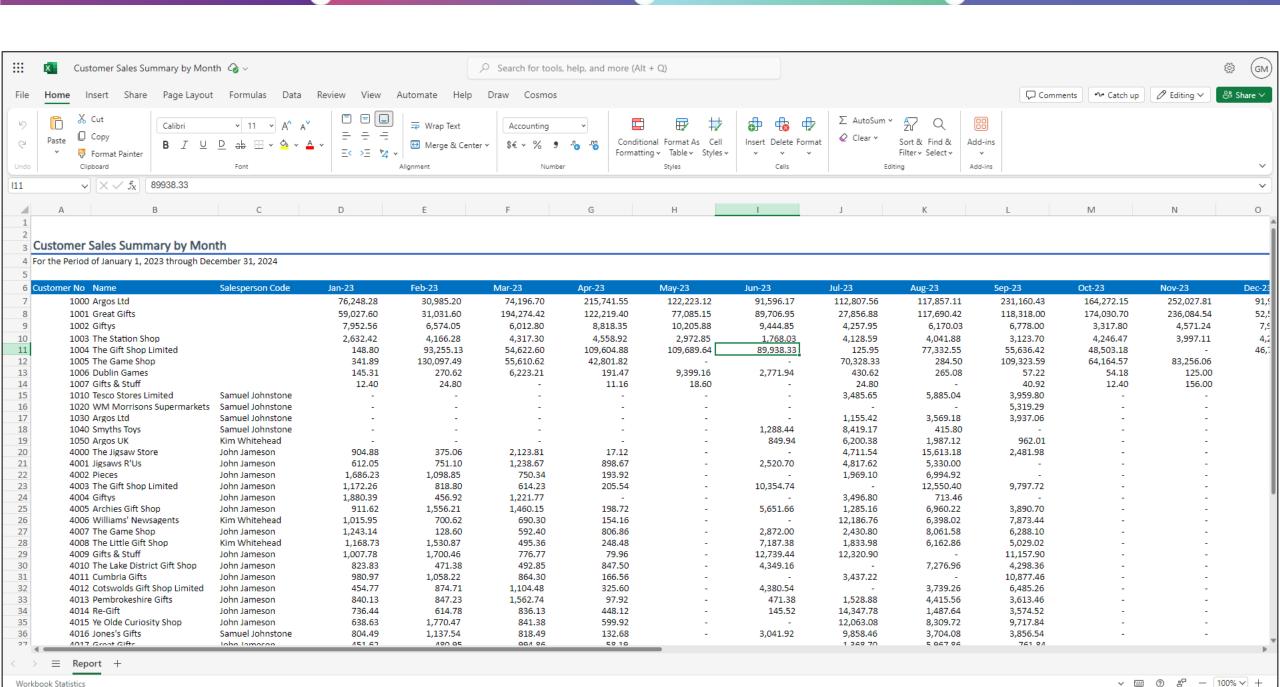












Drawing it all together

So, which is best?

- Depends on your platform
- Not mutually exclusive









Thank you.

BUSINESS CENTRAL

CONNECT

15th & 16th OCTOBER 2024

