TIP SHEET

4 Stages You Need to Properly Deploy Your Power BI Pipelines

Power BI Deployment Pipelines are a strategic feature that allows users to better manage content across their organizations. By leveraging this powerful tool, users can simplify the deployment process and ensure security of potentially sensitive data. With a quick glance, users can compare content across Development, Test, and Production stages within their environments and the straightforward user interface allows users to quickly pinpoint any differences between stages, as well as identify potential risks.

Deployment between stages is as simple as the click of a button and users can either deploy all the available content simultaneously or specify selected content between stages. Each deployment stage can have different parameters, allowing for data isolation and better protection of sensitive information. In this article, we'll break down the specifics of deployment pipelines, and discuss how you can best leverage this tool within your organization for optimal efficiency.

1 Creation Stage

Creating a deployment pipeline is a simple process - once you have a workspace in the first stage, Power BI Service creates a copy of that workspace into the next stage. Power BI only copies over the metadata of the content to the next stage, not the data itself. Specifically, Power BI copies over the data sources, parameters, report visuals/pages, and item relationships to the next stage, and then overwrite the content in the development stage. Since only the metadata is copied over to the next stage, you must do a full refresh on the dataset to populate the data itself into the next stage.

2 Development Stage

This stage is typically used for building and designing new content. Development data is typically a smaller subset of the Production dataset to allow report builders to work quickly without experiencing slow runtimes.

3 Test Stage

This is when you will test the new content created in Development and should target a small audience of quality assurance testers. In Test, users typically load larger amounts of data than in Development. The goal of Test is to troubleshoot the functionality and design of the app and prepare the app for the end users.

4 Production Stage

This is the final version to share with the business users. Production should hold the full dataset intended for the end users. Utilize the deployment pipelines production stage when making your content available for consumption.