Microsoft Power BI Desktop - Common Questions
(Last updated: 10/22/2025)

1. Why is DAS Datamart moving to a different query tool?
   a. The Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE) will go off extended support on **June 30, 2027**. Continuing to use an unsupported product increases the risk of system failure. OBIEE will be fully shut down on ***December 31, 2027***. After this date, users will no longer have access to OBIEE files.

2. When did the query tool replacement project officially start?
   a. Research to select a new query tool was started in 2024. In 2025, management approved the use of Power BI Desktop as the replacement tool.

3. How can I stay informed about project updates?
   a. [Subscribe](#) to the Datamart news list for periodic project updates.
   b. Visit the Datamart [website](#) for news, documentation, and resources.

4. Can I continue to use OBIEE?
   a. Yes. However, only until ***December 31, 2027***. After that, OBIEE will be retired, and any saved files will be inaccessible. Please plan to recreate your queries in another supported tool before this date.

5. What is the cost of the new application?
   a. No additional cost. Power BI is included with the state's existing Office 365 subscription.
   b. All State users have a G5 License with their Microsoft 365 account, this license includes Power BI Pro but usually needs to be enabled as it is off by default for many users. The Pro License does not cost any additional money to enable.
   c. Additional Power BI Licensing [facts](#).

6. Is the DAS Financial Datamart itself changing?
   a. No, the Datamart structure remains the same.
   b. Enterprise-wide querying tool support is changing from OBIEE to Power BI Desktop.
   c. Other querying tools such as Excel, Access, Toad, Tableau, etc., remain the same.
   d. Data load times follow the existing schedule (see the Datamart Processing Calendar on the website).

7. Where is Power BI Desktop installed?
   a. Power BI Desktop is installed on individual users' desktops by agency IT support.

8. Why was Power BI Desktop selected over other tools?
   a. One of the top factors is due to no additional cost, as the state already has a statewide license.
   b. Power BI is able to accommodate each of the top five priorities identified by our surveyed users. The top five priorities were the ability to: (1) query over 1 million rows of data; (2) works with all web browser applications; (3) query an agency's internal database; (4) integrate easily with Microsoft Office, including importing and exporting functions; and (5) have its connections be easily understood by agency technical staff.

9. When did the product go live?
   a. The official DAS Datamart go live was June 2025, following management approval.
   b. Some users were already using Power BI Desktop prior to this, as the state held a license before formal adoption by the DAS Datamart team.

10. Can my agency volunteer to test the new tool?
    a. Currently, no testing volunteers are needed. Power BI Desktop is a proven, widely used product.

11. Can my Agency IT install Power BI for users?
    a. Yes. Users should contact their agency IT department for installation.
    b. Some agencies offer Software Center, for self-installation.

12. How will I access the DAS Datamart with Power BI?
    a. There are three "Getting Started" guides available on the Datamart website. These documents walk users through:
       i. Connecting to the DAS Financial Datamart with Power BI.
       ii. Guide to ODBCs.
       iii. Power BI's stored user info.

13. Will there be training?
    a. Yes. Training is offered through Workday Learning. (New sessions are being added).
    b. The Datamart admin team is working on alternative training as well (Teams, in-person, etc.).

14. Are there any usage limits or restrictions with Power BI Desktop?
    a. No. The state holds a statewide license, and there are no usage restrictions.

15. Can agencies use Power BI Desktop to connect to internal databases?
    a. Yes. Agencies may use Power BI to access internal databases; however, DAS is unable to assist with this setup, due to resource limitation, therefore, support must come from agency IT departments.

16. Are there updated firewall requirements?
    a. The only requirement is that the **SFMSP ODBC** connection must be allowed through the firewall. Please review the *Guide to ODBCs* document on the Datamart website.
    b. For other firewall issues, work with your agency firewall team.

17. What kind of security does Power BI use for Datamart access?
    a. Power BI supports various database types that contain varying security.
    b. To access the DAS Financial Datamart, users must have RACF security.
       i. RACF access is requested through your Agency Security Officer (ASO) and completed by DAS System Security.
    c. The SFMSP ODBC must be installed to access the Datamart. Contact your Agency IT department for assistance. RACF security is used with the SFMSP ODBC.
    d. Other tools (e.g., Excel, Access, Toad, Tableau) also use RACF for Datamart access.

18. Does Power BI work with Microsoft office applications?
    a. Yes. As a Microsoft product, Power BI integrates smoothly with Excel, Word, and other Office applications. It also has the capability to export data to Microsoft applications.

19. Are there any new features in the application I should know about?
    a. Saved credentials: Power BI stores login credentials per data source. You must update these when your Datamart password changes. Datamart support recommends an Outlook pop-up reminder.
    b. DAX language: Power BI uses DAX (Data Analysis Expressions), which is different from OBIEE's syntax.
    c. File storage: Power BI reports are saved to your network drive, unlike OBIEE which was web-based.
    d. More features are covered in trainings—check Workday Learning.

20. Does Power BI Desktop have a scheduling feature similar to OBIEE?
    a. Power BI Desktop does *not* support scheduling data refreshes on its own — that feature is available only in the Power BI Service (cloud).
    b. To enable scheduled refresh:
        i. Publish your .pbix file from Power BI Desktop to the Power BI Service.
        ii. Go to your dataset in the Power BI workspace.
        iii. Set up a Scheduled Refresh under:
            Settings > Datasets > Scheduled refresh
        iv. You can:
            1. Choose frequency (daily, weekly, etc.)
            2. Set time zones and specific times
            3. Enter credentials for your data sources
            4. Monitor refresh history and failures
    c. If your data source is on-premises (e.g., Datamart, SQL Server, Excel files, etc.), you'll also need to:
        i. Install and configure an On-premises Data Gateway
        ii. Ensure credentials are stored securely in the Power BI Service
        iii. Use the gateway to allow scheduled refreshes from on-prem sources
    d. Each agency (should) have their own Data Gateway server and delegated admin(s) in their IT Department to help users add connections to their Data Gateway. Per DAS IT, the state currently has 15 agencies that have their own Data Gateway server(s) with more on the way.
        i. If an agency does not have their own Data Gateway server and would like one stood up, their IT department can submit an ISM Request for one through the "Power Platform" Service Catalog offering.
        ii. Please note that DAS-IT is currently in process of getting their own Data Gateway stood up for them and their approximate 10 client agencies that they support. This Data Gateway is separate from the EIS Data Gateway.

21. Will there be a Power BI Datamart Repository (like OBIEE)?
    a. Yes. A Power BI repository is in development.
    b. A connection guide is coming soon. Please be patient during this transition.
    c. The plan is to recreate many OBIEE repository files to include in Power BI's workspace.

22. The Datamart admin team created joins to the Datamart within OBIEE, will Power BI have automatic joins?
    a. No. Users will need to create joins within the Power BI - Transform Data section and verify these joins within the Model view.
    b. A join connection guide and training are coming soon. Please be patient during this transition.

23. What should I do if a Power BI query is running too long or not returning data?
    a. Try pressing Enter once — especially if a script or data load appears stuck. If nothing happens:
        i. Press Esc to cancel the current operation.
        ii. If you're in Power Query, click "Cancel" in the top-right corner of the preview window.
        iii. If Power BI becomes fully unresponsive:
            1. Use Task Manager (Ctrl + Shift + Esc) to force close Power BI.
            2. Reopen your file (Power BI usually autosaves your recent changes).
            3. If it hangs again, press the 'Enter' key to stop the process.
    b. Once unlocked:
        i. Check the Transform Data section again to help improve performance.
        ii. Include the necessary filters to limit the amount of data returned.
        iii. Limit the amount of columns/fields selected to help improve query performance.
    c. Visit the Datamart Maintenance site to fully stop a query.

24. Does Power BI Desktop work on Mac?
    a. No. Power BI Desktop does not natively run on a Mac.
    b. Microsoft has not released a macOS version of Power BI Desktop — it's only available for Windows.
    c. Alternative solution: Use Windows on your Mac
        i. If you want the full Power BI Desktop experience:
            1. Use Parallels Desktop (Recommended)
            2. Install Parallels to run a Windows VM on your Mac.
            3. Install Power BI Desktop inside the Windows environment.
            4. Best for M1/M2/M3 Macs (Apple Silicon).

25. If I am stuck when using Power BI, who do I turn to?
    a. Contact Datamart.Support@das.oregon.gov for Datamart and Power BI Desktop questions.
        i. Make sure to explain the issue in detail for best support.
    b. Datamart website resources.
    c. Use ChatGPT as a resource.
    d. There are many trainings and information available on the internet and YouTube.
    e. Set up a TEAMS meeting with Datamart Support. Walk the team through the issue.