Introduction to Power Query

Big Conversation Wednesday 5th March 2025







Welcome and introductions

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Agenda

- What Power Query is and how it can help
- Where if can be found in Microsoft's applications
- Power Query's key features
- Some key principles of using Power Query
- Demonstration of Power Query in action with examples that should be relevant to hospice data teams
- Some areas and ideas colleagues may want to investigate further



What is Power Query?



Engineer out human intervention

Extract

Retrieves and verifies data from various sources Transform

Processes and organizes extracted data so it is usable

Load

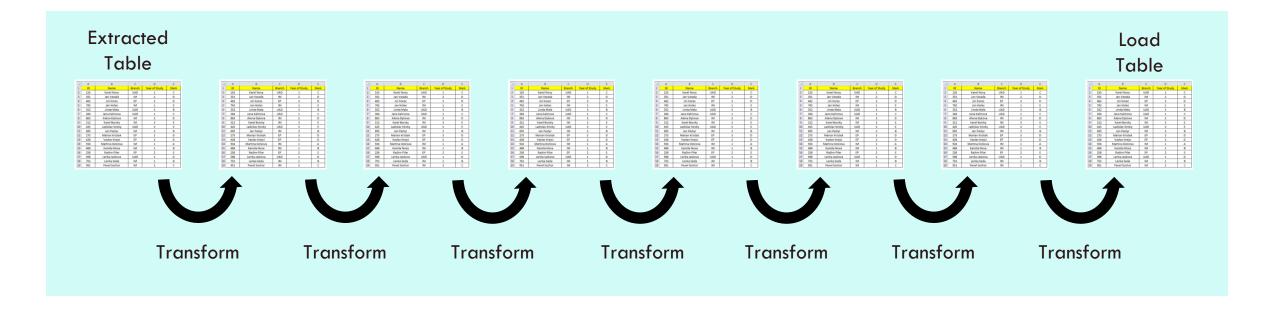
Moves transformed data to a data repository

Remove sensitive data



What does Power Query do?

Power Query transforms an initial data table (or set of tables) into a final table by stepping through a line of intermediate tables applying *functions* to the columns in the current table





Where can we find Power Query?



Excel



Power Bl Desktop



Dataflows Power Bl Service



Dataflows Power Apps



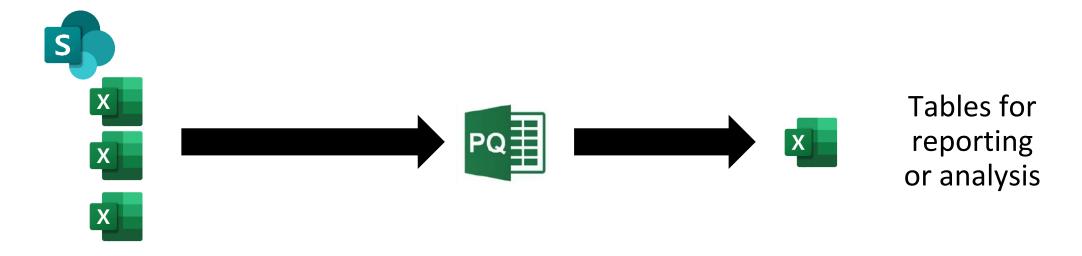
Resources

- Excel Guru: https://excelguru.ca/
- Cross Join: https://blog.crossjoin.co.uk/
- Microsoft Learning: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/power-query/

- Hospice Data Analysts
- Hospice Technology Network



What we're going to do



Raw data

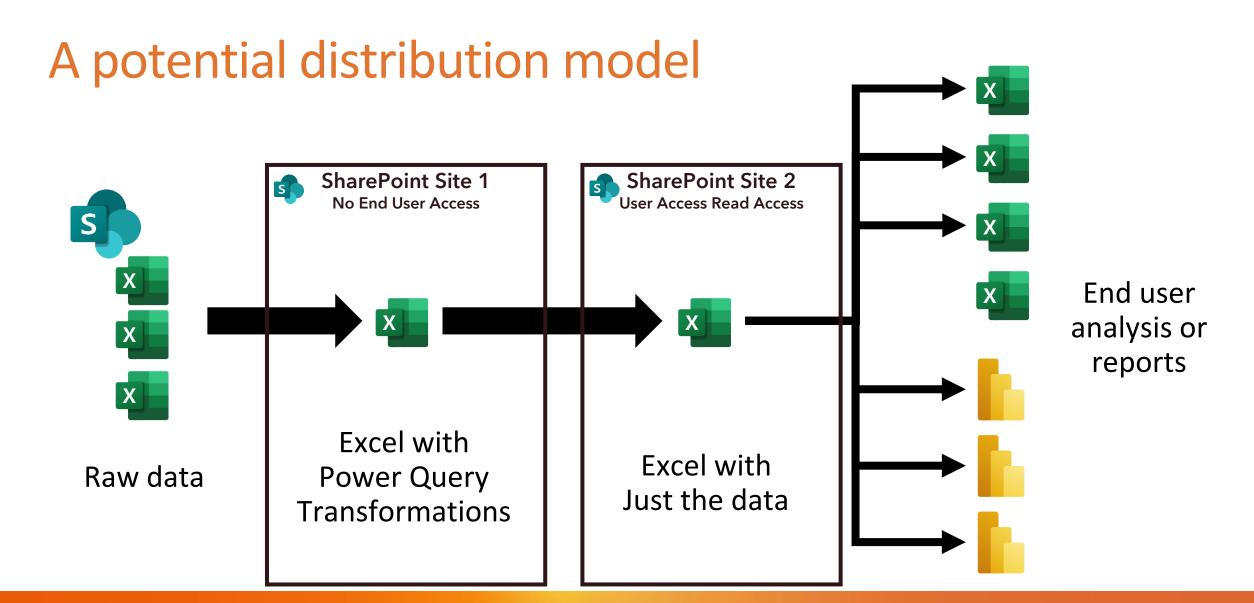


Some of the things we'll look at

- Calculate report date
- Patient numbers
- Length of stay
- Age profile (on admission)
- Phase of illness
- Demographic profile
- Location

- Add column
- Date calculation
- Conditional formulas
- Merge/Group
- Duplicate/Reference
- Removing data we don't want (or don't want users to see)







When should I use PQ rather than DAX or SQL?

- It depends.
- Most problems can be solved by SQL or PQ or DAX or multiple other ETL tools
- But they have different strengths (and weaknesses)

Keeping things simple and consistent helps you (and anyone who has to pick up your work) understand how the ETL process works for any given model



Questions?



Q&A



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