

# Power BI governance: Tuning your information engine in a data driven organisation

Power BI is a serious and complex set of tools for trained engineers and analysts to provide robust enterprise-wide, certified reporting to your business users and customers. But it is also a nice little tool for data savvy power users to pick up and throw data at when excel just won't do. Where's the balance? How do we optimally empower the end users at both extreme ends of this data delivery stack, while also pushing back on the madness of report sprawl?

## The key is governance

We are used to thinking of Power BI governance as being close in nature to the political definition: A system of laws and processes that tell you what you should, can and cannot do with role-based rights and obligations. But what if we thought about it from an engineering perspective?

In engineering, a governor, or speed limiter or controller, is a device used to measure and regulate the speed of a machine, such as an engine.

Information flows through your data-driven organisation like the fuel in an engine. Too much and you'll flood the engine. Too little and you'll choke. The right fuel type is critical, and the correct balance of oxygen is needed too. Under the bonnet of your turbo-charged "Vorsprung durch Technik" is a set of finely tuned regulators designed to provide just the right flow of combustibles at each point in the system, depending on the speed and the load.

## Unpacking this governance metaphor

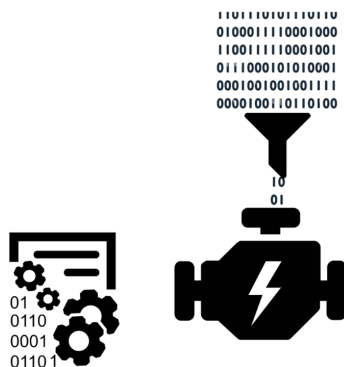
Certified, highly-cleaned and well-tested data sources are necessary for centrally provided reporting data. Having this kind of rich information source available on tap for end users to drive their own analytics will power-up your end users enormously. However, sourcing, cleaning, transforming and staging this data for consumption is a potentially expensive process, so it is vital that the right data is tapped.

It's no use having these premium quality data sources if your end users are unclear about or unaware of what is there and how to hit it. Data discoverability and end user empowerment through training, Communities of Practice and other key enablement structures is the oxygen that will help you ignite the power in your data sources.

Having high grade data staged and ready is great! But it should not however be an impediment to the generation of analytics built by power-users using their own sources. If the requirements for refinement and processing of data through official processes blocks this, you'll be blocking your users. However, it is very important that uncertified reporting not be mixed up with your premium data services.

Providing sandbox areas for user driven reporting helps with this balance by fostering an environment of creativity and insight sharing, while also keeping reporting streams clear and separate.

Since we are talking about user driven analytics, we also need to provide a system for promoting ad-hoc reporting to an enterprise level. Process must be put into place that allow analysts to level-up key reports into centralised data distribution for everyone to benefit from. This must be prioritised and scheduled according to demand and cost vs benefit in order to ensure the continued growth of your organisation's data capabilities.



## Conclusion

Yes, Power BI governance is a set of process controls, but it is also a mechanism for performance optimisation. We need to tune our metaphorical engine governor, regulators and control systems to ensure that our Power BI governance works for us.

If your business needs help with their Power BI governance, please contact a Fujitsu Data & AI specialist now.

## Contact

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