



# Boosting Power BI Productivity

with Tabular Editor

# About me

- › Daniel Otykier
- › Principal Architect @ [www.kapacity.dk](http://www.kapacity.dk)
- › Microsoft Data Platform MVP
- › Working with the MS BI stack for 12+ years
- › C# / .NET Developer for 15+ years
- › Author of Tabular Editor
- › Involved in Power BI Contributor Program

# What is Tabular Editor?

- > Offline editor experience for SQL Server 2016+/Azure Analysis Services Tabular Models
- > Open Source on GitHub for 3+ years
- > Used by thousands of Analysis Services professionals worldwide
  - > ...with PBI professionals steadily picking up
- > Lightweight WinForms application written in C#
- > Uses the Tabular Object Model (TOM) to browse and make changes to the model (metadata only = MUCH faster than PBI desktop)

# Power BI + Tabular Editor = Better together

## > Today:

- > **No official support** for editing Desktop
- > **Full support** for editing through XMLA write (PBI Premium or dedicated capacity)
  - > Note, you can't download the PBIX once you edit the model through XMLA

## > Coming soon:

- > **Support** for editing various elements of a Desktop model directly:
  - > Measures
  - > Calculation Groups(!!!)
  - > Metadata Translations
  - > Perspectives
- > Note: Requires Enhanced Metadata (V3) preview – some known bugs/limitations

## > Bottom line:

- > **Always keep a backup of your pbix files!**

# Why use Tabular Editor?

- › Shortcomings of standard tooling (SSDT, PBI Desktop)
- › WYSIWYG for Display Folders, Translations, Perspectives
- › Work offline / control workspace DB sync
- › Automate repetitive tasks using scripts
- › Enforce Best Practices
- › “Save to Folder”
- › It’s free and open-source – you can always go back to SSDT/Desktop if you don’t like it!
- › Endorced by sqlbi.com: “*There are no doubts that Tabular Editor is the more productive editor for Analysis Services Tabular models.*” – Marco Russo

# What's the catch?

- > Tabular Editor is **not** well-suited for people who are new to Tabular Modelling
- > No diagram view
- > No DAX IntelliSense
- > No data preview / processing capabilities
- > No 24/7 support (although I normally reply to GitHub issue posts within a few hours)
- > (Almost) no documentation

**My advice for new Tabular model developers:** Use and familiarize yourself with modelling in Power BI Desktop first. When your model reaches a certain size and complexity, that's when you switch to Tabular Editor, to truly appreciate the difference.

# UI Features

# Tip of the iceberg...

- › Tabular Object Model Explorer Tree with...
  - › Display Folders
  - › Multiselect
  - › Drag-and-drop
  - › Copy-and-paste (even between Tabular Editor instances)
  - › Contextual menus
  - › Edit translated object names / What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get
- › Property grid
  - › All changes are lightning fast
  - › Undo (Ctrl+Z) and redo (Ctrl+Y) works!
  - › Some advanced properties not available in SSDT...
- › DAX Editor
  - › DAX Formatter integration
  - › Dependency detection and automatic formula fix-up
  - › F12 (“Go to definition” – works for measures and DAX functions), as well as “navigate back”/“navigate forward”
- › Scripting
- › Best Practice Analyzer
- › Save to Folder
- › Command-Line Interface
- › ...and much more





# Demo

# Questions?

- › Blog, website:
  - › [tabulareditor.com](http://tabulareditor.com)
- › Feel free to leave suggestions, feature requests, bug reports on GitHub:
  - › <https://github.com/otykier/TabularEditor/issues>

Thank you!