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Why It's Time To Migrate From SSRS To Power BI?

GLOSSARY

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INTRODUCTION

In today's technologically disrupting environment business leaders consider data and analytics a top investment priority. The role data plays in enabling futuristic technologies like artificial intelligence and Internet of Things is crucial but the hygiene of data if of equal concern. This has created a need amongst businesses for modern analytics and BI platforms with augmented analytics and support for Mode 1 reporting in a single platform.

As businesses turn face to agility, scalability and profitability, it becomes imperative to have mature and refined analytical reports, statistical dashboards and KPI's to support the business decisions. To nurture these needs the modern analytics and BI platforms should be characterized as easy to use tools which can support full analytical workflows from data preparation and ingestion to visual exploration and insight generation. The emphasis here is on self-service, agility and low IT support. The crowded analytics and BI market offer a range of such tools to generate effective operational & statistical reports and visually interpret data with advance graphical components and charts.
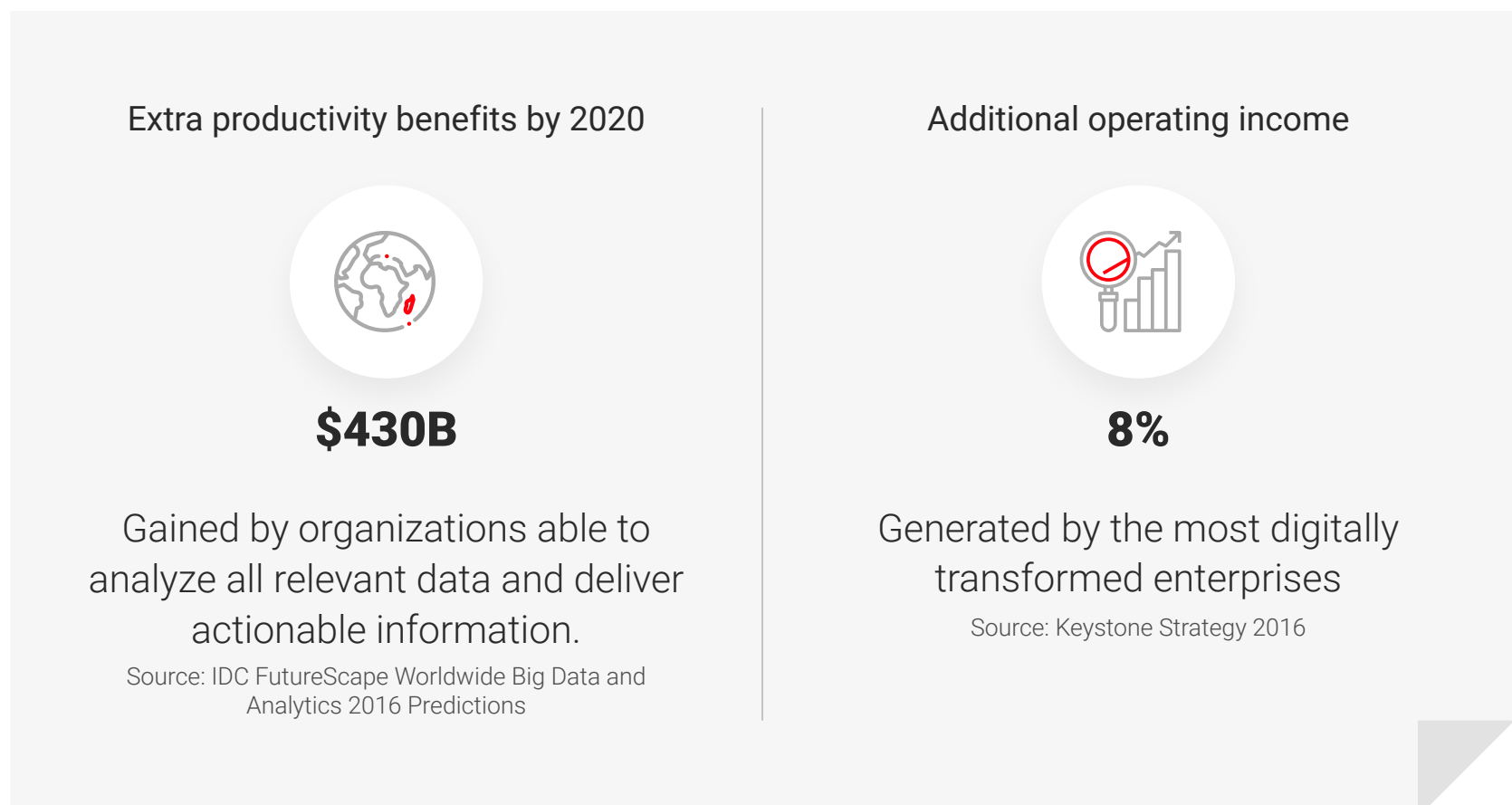
The CIO org of this digital transformation era needs to take a leap into modernized IT landscape leveraging business intelligence and analytics. This approach will certainly fuel the emerging business demands, enable leaders to take informed decisions and ensure data governance as a result of modernization of the legacy data architectures.

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YOU AND
YOUR DATA!

According to a data trend analysis almost 90% of the world's data was created in last two years. However, this raw data doesn't play a great deal in deciphering business decisions. To play with raw data and create meaning, organizations need to leverage BI Analytics tools and techniques, advance platforms and expert resources.

A STUDY FROM FORBES INSIGHTS DISCOVERED THAT POOR QUALITY DATA OR THE MISHANDLING OF DATA CAN LEAVE THE BUSINESSES AT RISK OF MONUMENTAL FAILURE. MOREOVER, POOR DATA QUALITY MANAGEMENT CURRENTLY COSTS BUSINESSES A COMBINED TOTAL OF $9.7 MILLION PER YEAR. *

The analytical tools based on flexible, adaptable and scalable architecture allow organizations to evolve and leverage data insights across their businesses by integrating it from disparate data sources. These tools help business users to do in-depth data analysis, drill-down reports and enable organization wide data sharing. Surveys predict, BI analytics & reporting tools will help the business users and CIOs to enhance productivity and operational excellence manifold.

Extra productivity benefits by 2020	Additional operating income
$430B	**8%**
Gained by organizations able to analyze all relevant data and deliver actionable information.	Generated by the most digitally transformed enterprises
Source: IDC FutureScape Worldwide Big Data and Analytics 2016 Predictions	Source: Keystone Strategy 2016

*Source: Forbes.com

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KEY
BI PLAYERS

There is a range of BI & analytics tools that function as self-service analytical platforms for the business users utilizing them as data scientists. These BI tools display smart visualizations and predictive analytics capabilities that help organizations to leverage the hidden business capabilities existing within their organizations. It enables them to capitalize on various market opportunities by using different factual & predictive metrics and data insights along with strategic & operational reports.

BY 2020, 50% OF ANALYTICAL QUERIES EITHER WILL BE GENERATED VIA SEARCH, NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING OR VOICE, OR WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED. *

The crowded BI landscape is comprised of long-standing and large technology players, as well as startups backed by venture capital and other privately held software groups. Traditional BI platform vendors have evolved their capabilities to include modern visual-based data discovery that also covers governance, and more recently, augmented analytics. A series of newer vendors continue to evolve their capabilities that once focused primarily on agility, by extending them to enable greater governance and scalability, as well as publishing and sharing. The need of the hour is to have both Mode 1 and Mode 2 capabilities in a single, seamless platform that draws on existing assets but also has emerging best-of-breed capabilities.

1 SISENSE

2 QLIKVIEW

3 TABLEAU

4 MICROSOFT POWER BI

5 ORACLE BI

6 MICROSRATEGY

7 IBM COGNOS INTELLIGENCE

8 SAP BI

*Source: Gartner.com

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KEY
BI PLAYERS (CONTINUED)

Gartner conducted a survey to evaluate modern analytics and BI platform providers with augmented analytics and support for Mode 1 reporting in a single platform. Their assessment was based on five use cases and 15 critical capabilities of an analytics and BI platform. Microsoft Power BI was revealed as the leader by Gartner 2019 Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms.

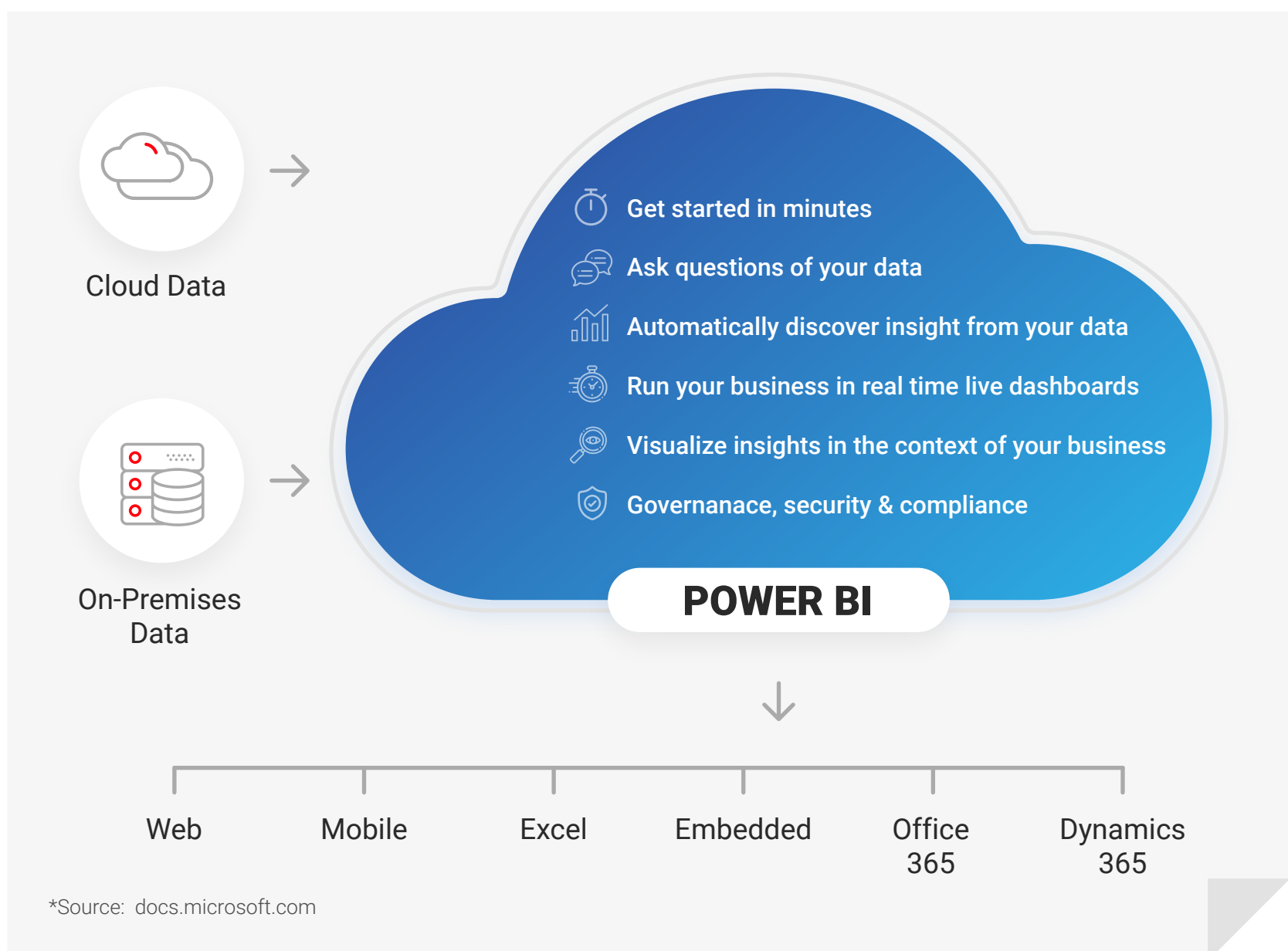**Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms**

*Source: Gartner.com
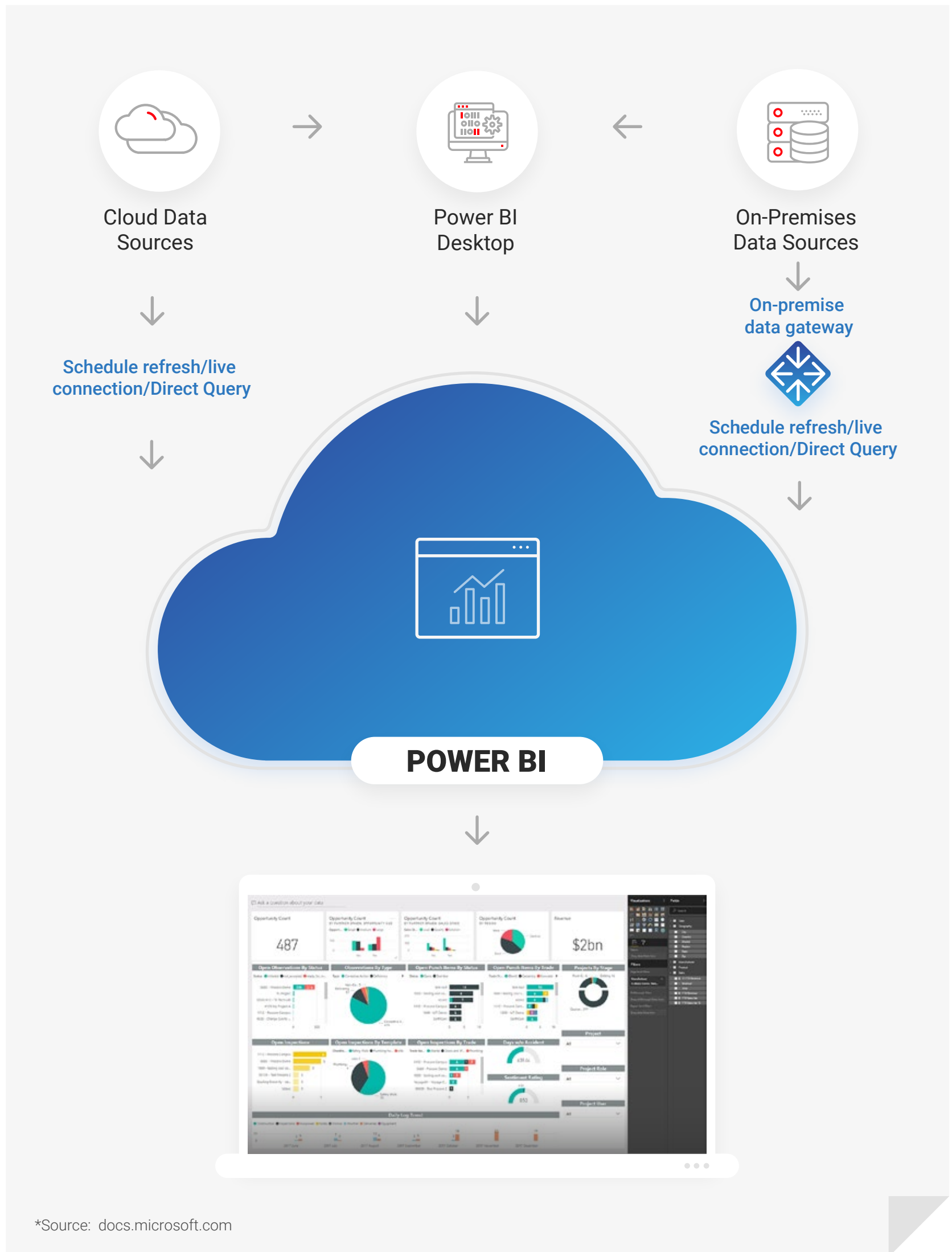
WHY YOU NEED
POWER BI?

Microsoft launched SSRS reporting tools in 2004 as a capable, minimalist reporting tool kit. Later to enable self-service reporting capabilities, Microsoft launched a standalone Report Builder for SSRS. This tool proved to be useful but lacked strong data visualizations like SSRS. At this juncture Microsoft realized the need for strong analytics and visualization tool which had self service capabilities. They introduced Power BI in 2017 with a strong foundation of augmented analytics and single platform reporting.

Power BI is progressively being used more for decentralized analytics and agile, centralized BI provisioning than just a self-service analytics and BI tool. It carries a comprehensive and visionary product roadmap which is aimed at globalizing and democratizing Power BI for all analytics use cases. At the same time, it continues to demonstrate strong uptake and global adoption of Power BI, with high levels of customer satisfaction.

Power BI is revolutionizing the way organizations use business intelligence. Power BI embeds intelligence in business applications, helps businesses to get in-depth data visualization and discover new business visions and insights.

Cloud Data

On-Premises Data

- Get started in minutes
- Ask questions of your data
- Automatically discover insight from your data
- Run your business in real time live dashboards
- Visualize insights in the context of your business
- Governanace, security & compliance

POWER BI

Web   Mobile   Excel   Embedded   Office 365   Dynamics 365

*Source: docs.microsoft.com

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ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW OF
SELF-SERVICE BI

Cloud Data Sources

Power BI Desktop

On-Premises Data Sources

On-premise data gateway

Schedule refresh/live connection/Direct Query

Schedule refresh/live connection/Direct Query

POWER BI

*Source: docs.microsoft.com

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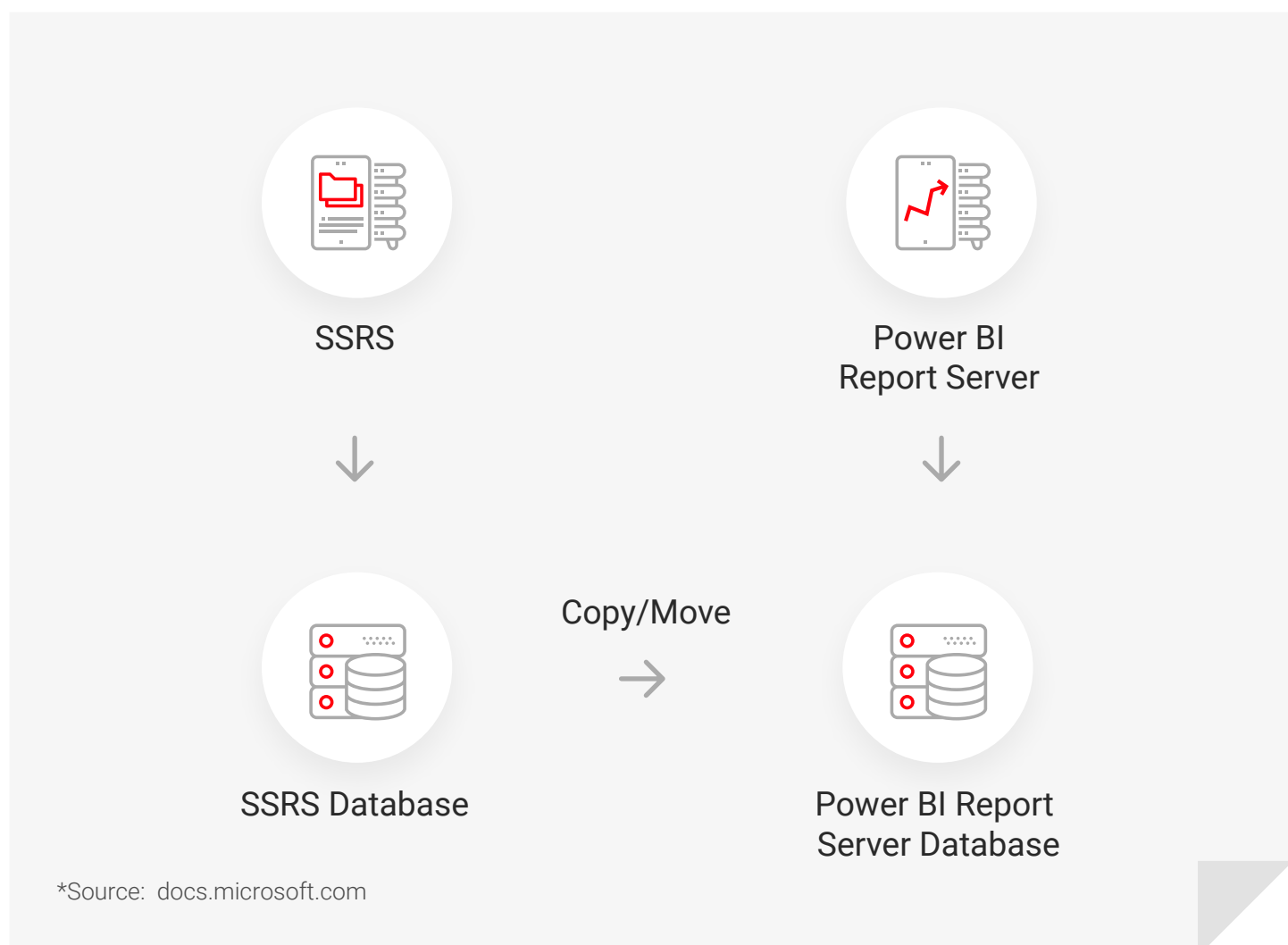
MIGRATING
SSRS TO POWER BI

Organization need to move their application data files to a new Power BI Report Server instance to migrate from SSRS to Power BI. Power BI Report Server is built upon SSRS framework which allows you to deploy SSRS reporting assets such as paginated reports, mobile reports, KPIs, and Excel workbooks to your Power BI Report Server.

There are primarily two approaches for the migration process- native mode or a SharePoint-integrated mode:
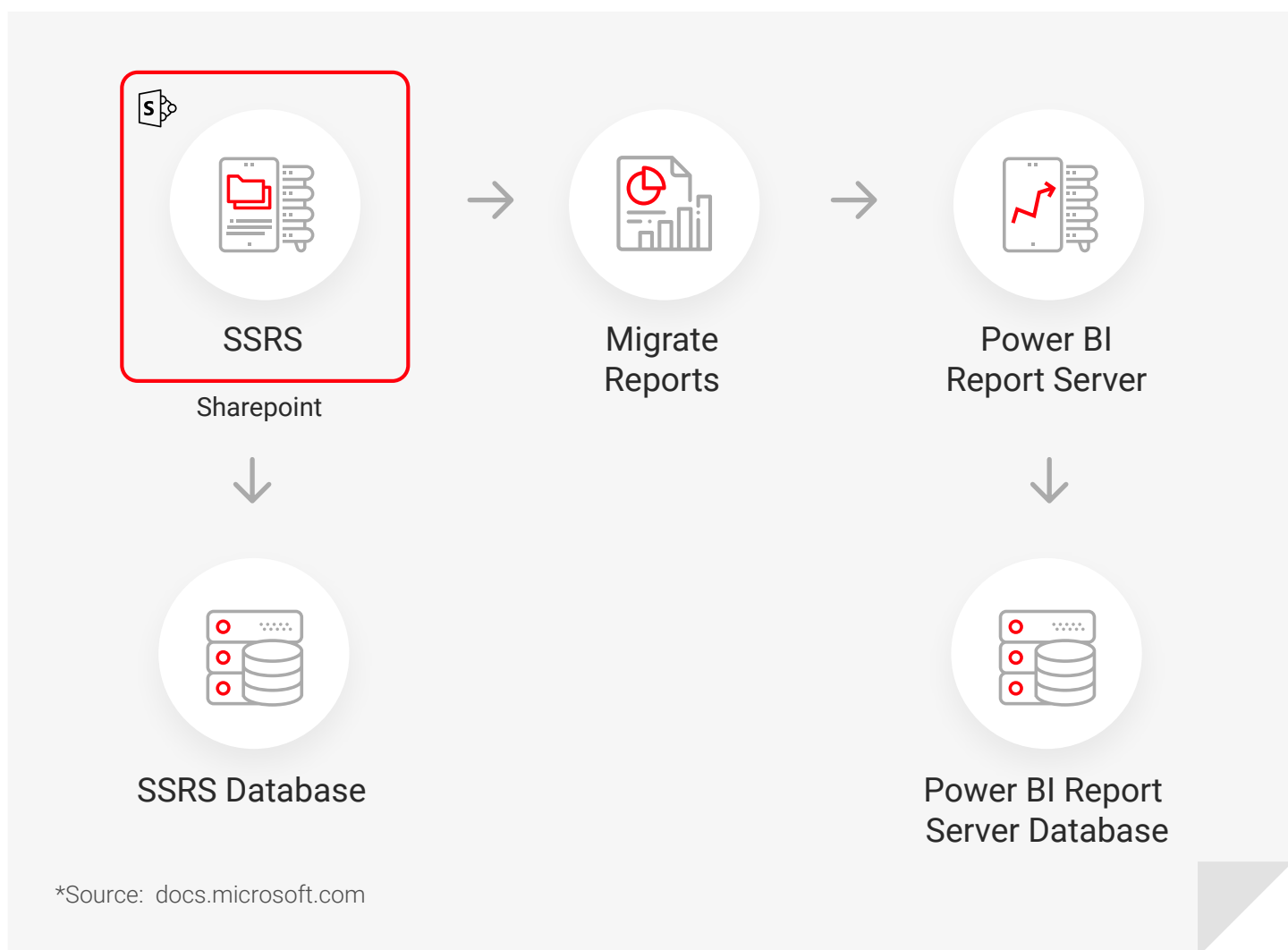
(1) **MIGRATE FROM SSRS (NATIVE MODE)**
Following are the steps involved in migrating an SSRS (Native mode) instance to a Power BI Report Server instance:

→ Clone the database hosting all your SSRS reports

→ Set up Power BI Report Server using the installation wizard

→ Connect Power BI Report Server to the cloned database via Report Server Configuration Manager

→ Perform any cleanup needed for the SSRS (Native mode) instance

SSRS

Power BI
Report Server

SSRS Database

Copy/Move →

Power BI Report
Server Database

*Source: docs.microsoft.com

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② MIGRATE FROM SSRS (SHAREPOINT-INTEGRATED MODE)

The migration process is identical to native mode migration when the SSRS reports are hosted on SharePoint. However, you need to install Power BI report server before proceeding with the migration. Following which you can copy the report server content from your SharePoint environment to Power BI Report Server. You can utilize tools such as rs.exe to copy this content.

SSRS
Sharepoint

→ **Migrate Reports** →

Power BI Report Server

↓ **SSRS Database**

↓ **Power BI Report Server Database**

*Source: docs.microsoft.com

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BENEFITS OF
MIGRATING TO POWER BI

Migrating from SSRS to Power BI delivers impeccable results and benefits to the business users. The various products offered range from free version Power BI desktop to licensed version of Power BI Pro. The enterprise version, Power BI Premium allows you to upgrade and scale providing entire control of the performance. Some of the business benefits delivered by Power BI suite are:

(1) **DATA GOVERNANCE**
It delivers complete control over governance to manage access to your data with end to end visibility of usage metrics and audit logs.

(2) **DATA SECURITY**
Power BI's inclusion in Microsoft Trust Center ensures data security, privacy and compliance. Encryption of data, at rest and in transit, also preserves confidentiality.

(3) **AUGMENTED ANALYTICS**
The cognitive capabilities of the platform deliver demand forecasting and predictive analytics using machine learning and natural language processing.

(4) **REDUCED COST**
For as low as $10 per month, it reduces total cost of ownership as you expand on cloud.

(5) **NATURAL LANGUAGE QUERY**
It has a natural language query tool that allows you to ask questions like "how much do we invest in each customer?" and the tool helps you.

(6) **SEAMLESS INTEGRATION**
It provides API access and easy integrations with most-used technology like salesforce, Google Analytics, AWS S3, Microsoft products, Big data and more.

(7) **EASE OF USE**
A simple sign-in process lets you use the tool with no set up or deployment necessary.

(8) **ENTERPRISE BI SOLUTION**
Power BI premium allows enterprises to allocate, control, and manage their dedicated server capacity with on premise deployment or cloud.

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WAY
FORWARD

The increasing pool of data and lack of confidence in business leaders to utilize this data for informed business decisions is encouraging the BI market to evolve. Within this market, Power BI is emerging as a clear leader. It is riding the wave of BI modernization with augmented analytics and a single platform for Mode 1 and Mode 2. The dynamic nature of Power BI reports and dashboards allows customization on the go, providing a consolidated and highly customizable canvas. The organizations looking for enhanced data visualization tools can migrate to Power BI, and those who have yet to experience the benefits of a BI tool can try Power BI's free version and scale up with Power BI Pro and Power BI Premium.

In this digital transformation journey, Compunnel Digital is your end-to-end BI services partner, helping with anything from environment setup to production-ready BI solutions. We retain a pool of highly experienced experts that can deliver Power BI consultation for your migration journey. We provide BI solutions to organizations looking to migrate their traditional reporting servers (SSRS) to highly intuitive Power BI, embedding Power BI analytics in their enterprise applications.

ABOUT
THE AUTHOR

Vishal Rustagi is Vice President, Digital Engineering and leads digital transformation services for Compunnel Digital across US geography. He has more than 18 years of experience and holds master's in business administration (MBA) in Systems & IT from IMT Ghaziabad. He has led various digital transformation journey augmented with next-gen capabilities (social, mobile, analytics and cloud) across all digital touchpoints.

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ABOUT
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Compunnel Digital is a global technology and professional services company which specializes in digital business transformation. For 25 years, we have made it simple for companies to navigate complex digital worlds. Our integrated strategy-to-execution capabilities optimize your customer experience, unlock the potential within your organization, and strategically leverage technology to accelerate the pace of your digital transformation. Ultimately, our objective is to deliver measurable performance improvements to our clients. Compunnel Digital provides a rapid return on investment for customers in banking and financial, insurance, technology, healthcare, manufacturing and other markets. Compunnel Digital drives innovation to improve the way world works.

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