



How to build a good semantic model

Save time and build better data models for...



Free guidance for building data models


Typical steps that you take

How Tabular Editor helps you make models **up to 60% faster**

1 Design your model

- Gather requirements to understand the business problems
- Answer questions about how the model will be used
- Investigate the data to identify issues and considerations
- Create a model design that could address the requirements

Create a model wireframe

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- Define the logical and conceptual model, then use it when you're ready to begin development

2 Connect to and transform data

- Identify potential issues with data or data quality
- Clean and shape data upstream, where feasible
- Limit data to only the columns and rows you need


Use the Import Tables wizard

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- Add new tables from supported data sources with a few simple button presses

3 Create relationships

- Identify missing or unexpected duplications in key fields
- Avoid advanced properties unless you understand them:
 - Role-playing relationships
 - Bi-directional and many-to-many relationships




Easily validate relationships

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- Test relationships with pivot grids, queries, or scripts to make sure that they work as you expect

4 Apply business logic and write DAX

- Add DAX measures and patterns (like currency conversion)
- Set data security and table or object permissions
- Add advanced objects if you need them:
 - Calculation groups & Field parameters (or dynamic range parameters)
 - Perspectives and Translations


Write better DAX more easily

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- Save and re-use patterns as scripts
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- Get help writing and using DAX
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- Debug complex DAX

5 Test and optimize your model

- Compare values to known baselines
- Validate calculations and logic work as you expect
- Optimize DAX to reduce performance issues
- Reduce model size and find / resolve any bad practices



Find and resolve issues quickly

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- Integrate with DAX Optimizer to find and fix DAX performance bottlenecks in a model
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- Test automatically with best practice rules and CLI integration in pipelines (if you use them)

6 Organize and document your model

- Add measures to a measure table or fact table
- Hide fields that aren't used in reports
- Organize fields into display folders
- Format code and add comments to explain it


Leverage scripts and shortcuts

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- Format DAX with a single button
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- Create custom scripts that can comment code or add descriptions using AI

7 Support and manage your model

- Monitor for changes in data size and quality
- Address new issues and requests from the business

Use a tool that fits your workflow

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- Pop out windows, connect to multiple models, and work securely offline with metadata saved in source control