

P R E D I C T . P R O T E C T . P E R F O R M .

Data first: the foundation for AI that actually works.

[Microsoft Fabric, and why it is moving higher up
the agenda.]

C O N T E N T S

Inside part one

A short read on the data foundation behind useful AI: what Fabric solves, what has just become available, and where to start.

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Why Fabric is moving higher up the agenda

Fabric is Microsoft's unified data and analytics platform. It brings together services for moving, transforming, storing, analysing and presenting data through Power BI. These services share OneLake as a common data foundation and use a more consistent approach to administration, security, governance and capacity.

Many organisations have built their data estate gradually. Each component may work well on its own, yet the overall estate becomes difficult to manage: data is copied into multiple locations, reports use different definitions, and business users wait for technical teams to answer relatively straightforward questions.

A Copilot or agent can only provide dependable answers when the underlying information is accurate, well-structured and properly governed.

The business problems Fabric can help address

Different teams report different figures

A shared data and semantic foundation where important measures are agreed, documented and reused, so reports, agents and applications work from the same definitions.

Reporting relies on manual preparation

Data Factory and data engineering capabilities automate the movement and transformation of information, so the dataset refreshes consistently instead of being rebuilt each month.

Data is spread across disconnected systems

Ingestion, replication, mirroring and shortcuts bring information together in OneLake, creating a more complete view without replacing every operational system at once.

Operational information arrives too late

Real-Time Intelligence processes events as they occur, so dashboards, alerts and automated actions respond to current conditions rather than yesterday's report.

AI cannot reach trusted business data

Fabric Data Agents give users and other agents a governed, natural-language route into structured information held in databases and operational systems.

What is new in Fabric

DATA AGENTS

GA

Data Agents in Microsoft 365 Copilot

Publish a Fabric Data Agent into the Copilot experience people already work in. A sales director can ask which customer segments declined last quarter; a finance lead can ask which areas account for the largest variance.

ONELAKE

PREVIEW

Storage tiers and cost visibility

Lifecycle policies move files into more cost-effective storage based on age or last access, and item-size reporting shows which Fabric items are consuming storage.

SQL REPLICATION

GA

Change Data Capture in Copy Job

Fabric captures inserts, updates and deletions from supported SQL sources and replicates those changes downstream, without you building incremental tracking yourself.

REAL-TIME

GA

Dashboard Live Refresh

An event-driven model refreshes affected visuals as data arrives. Useful for production quality, service response times, stock movements and fraud indicators.

FABRIC APPS

PREVIEW

Data-driven apps in the platform

Purpose-built interfaces for working with Fabric data, not only viewing it. Limited regional availability and an assigned capacity are required, so treat it as controlled testing.

FABRIC IQ

PREVIEW

Shared meaning for business data

Customers, products, assets, locations and orders described consistently, including the relationships between them. Work IQ and Foundry IQ are now generally available.

A well-designed data agent reduces the queue of reporting requests directed at IT — but someone still has to choose the trusted sources, model the information and test the answers.

Five starting points for Fabric

01	A trusted reporting foundation	Bring finance, CRM and operational data into a shared model. Replace manual monthly preparation with repeatable pipelines and common definitions.
02	A customer or service view	Connect sales, support, contract and finance information to give teams a more complete view of customer activity, service history and commercial value.
03	Operational and real-time monitoring	Monitor production, logistics, digital services or customer demand. Surface changes quickly and trigger alerts when thresholds are reached.
04	A governed Fabric Data Agent	Pick one well-understood business area. Measure question accuracy, time saved and the reduction in manual reporting requests.
05	Modernising a legacy SQL estate	Replicate from existing SQL platforms into Fabric, retain the operational application and move reporting onto a more modern foundation gradually.

Where Cybit can support you

DISCOVER

Map the data estate, reporting processes, pain points and AI ambitions.

PRIORITISE

Identify use cases with a clear owner, measurable value and realistic data dependencies.

DESIGN

Target architecture: OneLake, workspaces, security, integration, capacity and governance.

PROVE

A focused pilot: a consolidated report, a real-time dashboard or a Data Agent.

SCALE

Move successful use cases into production and establish reusable patterns.

OPERATE

Monitor capacity, performance, storage, security and adoption as workloads grow.

For organisations already using Power BI, Fabric may be a natural next step. Earlier in your data journey? A readiness assessment can identify a sensible first use case.

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SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT

Translating complex technology into practical outcomes

Peter is a Solutions Architect at Cybit and one of our leading Microsoft specialists, with deep expertise across Microsoft 365, Azure, Copilot and the broader modern workplace ecosystem. With over a decade of hands-on experience helping organisations modernise their environments, he is known for translating complex technology into clear, practical solutions that deliver measurable value.

He works closely with IT and business leaders to optimise Microsoft licensing, simplify architecture and unlock capabilities they already own but have not fully leveraged. Recently he has focused on helping customers prepare for AI-enabled operations, including Copilot readiness, data governance, automation and secure-by-design configuration.

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