My Thoughts

• End Users know their job better than anyone else.
• End Users learn by trial and error or word of mouth (Not the best training methods)
• Provide End Users the means to learn Microsoft products.
• Microsoft keeps making there Office Suite more and more user friendly. (Time is now)
Big Picture: MS Power Business Intelligence
It’s part of **Office 2016 Excel** (Microsoft is SMART)

- Get & Transform: (Alias: Power Query) Extract, transform, and load tool

- Power Pivot: Powerful in memory data analysis, **exceeds the 1,048,576 rows**

- Power View: Interactive data visualization tool

- Power Map: 3-D visualization tool overlaying data on 3D Bing Maps
What Is Power Query?
Extract Transform Load (ETL)

• Extract: Import data from many sources including:
  • Excel, CSV, TXT, XML, Folders!
  • Access, SQL Server, Oracle, ODBC, Azure
  • SharePoint, MS Exchange (Outlook), Web, Facebook, SAP (not GFEBS)

• Transform:
  • Cleaning: Filtering, splitting or combining columns, change cases, remove garbage
  • Integration: Table relationships (one to many), union like queries, combining multiple tables
  • Enrichment: Calculations and formulas, if statements, Select queries

• Load:
  • Excel tables, connection to be used by other queries, data model
PQ Has a Quick Learning Curve

(https://www.powerquery.training/)
What is Power Pivot?

1. The best new feature of Excel in 20 years

We agree wholeheartedly with this statement, but cannot claim credit for coining it. MrExcel himself, Bill Jelen, proclaimed this upon Power Pivot’s release in 2010:

“Power Pivot is the best new feature to happen to Excel in twenty years.”

-Bill Jelen, Founder of MrExcel.com and world’s most prolific author of Excel books.

That’s right, it’s part of Excel, and is built by Microsoft itself.

Power Pivot dramatically extends the powers of “normal” Excel, and more specifically, the powers of people who use it. Anyone who regularly uses PivotTables and/or VLOOKUP is very much the “target audience” for Power Pivot: those people who are already, ahem, “pivotal” to an org’s data workflow today. Power Pivot imbues those people with data superpowers.
• Take a deep breath and consider the following statement: the entire Business Intelligence industry is dysfunctional. BI projects’ already-massive “sticker costs” represent only a fraction of their actual costs. Those same projects are typically estimated to require execution times measured in months, and then tend to run even longer. Perhaps worst of all, the eventual results are underwhelming relative to initial expectations — an impression secretly held by the entire organization, but rarely shared out loud.

• Whether you are on the “Business” or “IT” side of the fence, we believe that story sounds familiar to you. But it is not our intent to point fingers or accuse anyone of failure, because that reality is ultimately no one’s fault. Yes, the shortcomings of BI projects do generate friction between Biz and IT, but in our wide experience, everyone involved in BI projects, on both sides, goes into the process in good faith.

• The problem is not the people. It’s the tools and methodologies. We no longer have to live in the world pictured here:

• And the results of these new tools and methodologies are dramatic, to say the least:

• With two weeks of Power Pivot work, we implemented an enterprise-wide scorecard project that had been estimated to take 1.5 YEARS using our traditional BI tools, and the quality of results we got is actually BETTER than what we would have gotten from the BI approach. There’s no such thing as a free lunch, but this is awfully close.