

A simple method to refresh a PowerPivot workbook in SharePoint Online

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Background

Microsoft has now released Power BI. An important issue is how to refresh an Excel workbook with PowerPivot which is uploaded to a catalogue in your SharePoint Online folder. Data is always updated and you want fresh data to examine. "Data sources supported for workbooks in SharePoint Online" <http://technet.microsoft.com/sv-se/library/dn169563.aspx> describes the situation. It is amazing how Microsoft neglect the fact that a lot of data people care of, are hidden in internal systems like the finance and logistic systems. You can use an OData feed. In order to do that you need to create a gateway which is a 10 step procedure described in: <http://office.microsoft.com/sv-se/install-configure-and-register-data-management-gateway-HA104093659.aspx>. But there is one drawback. The procedure will refresh an existing workbook it doesn't replace the workbook. So if you change the workbook like adding a sheet with some new pivot diagrams you have to load the new workbook and replace the old one.

Solution

But why "Cross the river to get some water" ? You can save an existing workbook in a SharePoint PowerPivot folder (if you run SharePoint Enterprise) with a save as command. You can refresh a workbook including the content PowerPivot database (Excel 2013) with a simple command in VBA (Visual Basic for Application) "ActiveWorkbook.RefreshAll". So why not save the workbook in your SharePoint Online folder with a VBA macro? A small macro will do it:

Option Explicit

```
Sub Refresh()  
  
Application.DisplayAlerts = False  
ActiveWorkbook.RefreshAll  
'Save workbook without macros  
ActiveWorkbook.SaveAs Filename:= _  
    "https://yourdomainname.sharepoint.com/Delade dokument/documentname.xlsx", _  
    FileFormat:=xlOpenXMLWorkbook, CreateBackup:=False  
'Then you use SaveAs the workbook change it's name  
'Close the workbook and open it again next time then to be refreshed.  
'ActiveWorkbook.Close.  
  
|  
End Sub
```

Replace yourdomainname and workbookname with actual names.

The refreshmacro can run on schedule (not described in this short article).

You need to be logged in into your SharePoint environment during the procedure. If not you will be prompted for credentials.