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# Dynamic Splunk Data Delivered Where Your Executives Live

PLA1122B

**Mary Cordova**  
Security Operations



splunk> .conf22



# Mary Cordova

## Security Operations

- SplunkTrust member & Splunk® Certified Architect
- Nearly a decade in SOC, SIEM, SOAR, IR, & Data Analytics
- B.S. Information Systems, 6xSANS, CCNA, SSCP, ISC<sup>2</sup> exam developer, CompTIAA+
- Talks for Splunk .conf® & User Groups, Shellcon, Women's Society of Cyberjutsu, San Diego DFIR Meetup

# Why Not Use Splunk for Everything?

How I learned to kinda love PowerBI®

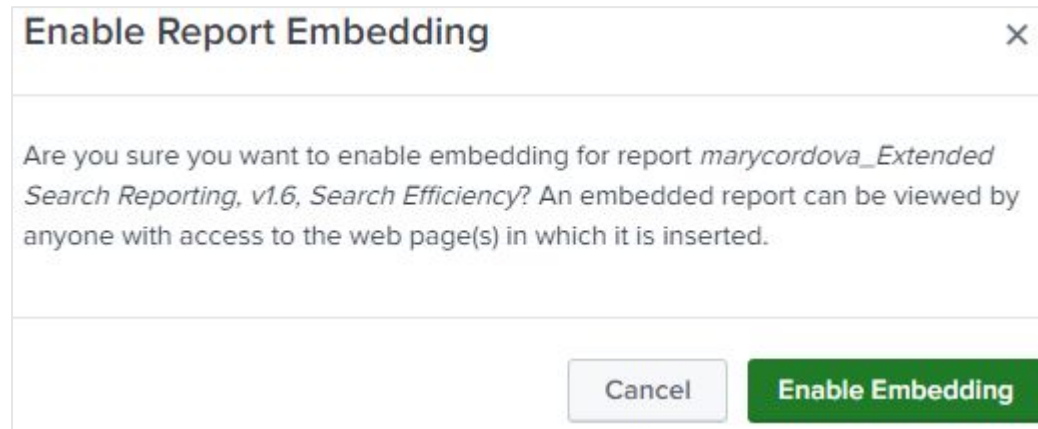
- **Access**
  - **Skills**
  - **Audience**
  - **Platform/Format**
- Not everybody had access to Splunk
  - There was a learning curve
  - They might need to share the content with someone else who didn't have access or skills
  - They just wanted a slide deck
  - **And the email, export, & iframe options in Splunk are** 😞



# What Options\* Did I Look Into?

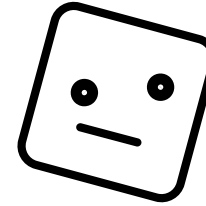


- Export & email dashboard
- Export & email reports
- Embed reports iframes



\*There's probably other options I don't know about and don't know how to use, but next year you can do that talk. 😊

# Dashboard Export



Search Scheduling Distribution By App

Search Scheduling Distribution

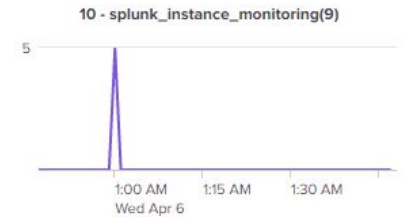
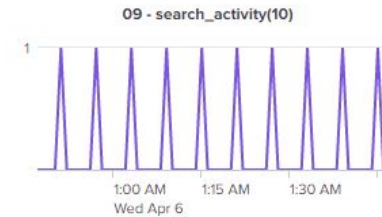
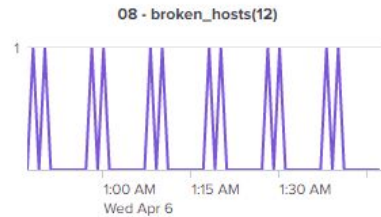
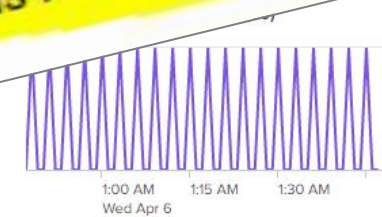
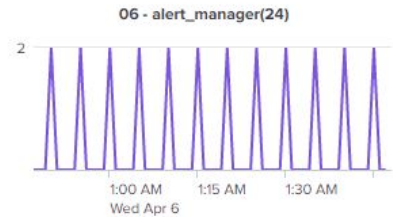
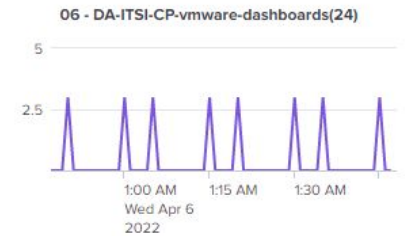
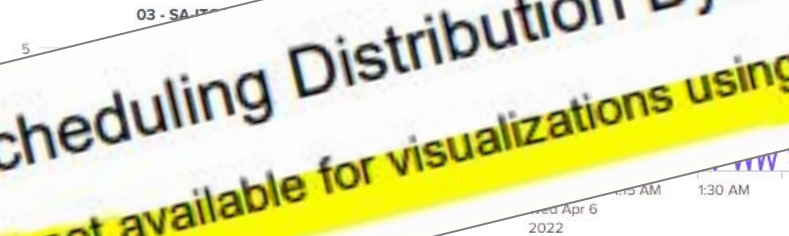
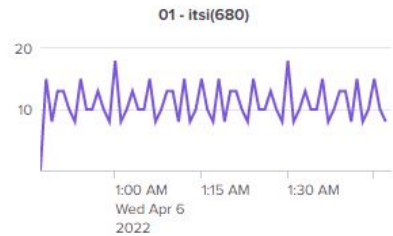
Select timechart span

Custom time

1 minute

5 minutes

60 minutes



Search Scheduling Distribution By App  
PDF export is not available for visualizations using trellis layout.

# Dashboard Export

Saved Search Name	User	Efficiency	App	Host
mus solar power to metric collector	mus	16601.70	Kia_Ora_001	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.spl
Splunk Instance Restart	my2ndhead	21273.30	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.sp
alert_splunkd_errors	my2ndhead	27578.66	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.?
mac_lookup_edit	westy	30680.26	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f
Westy Wifi Node Health	westy	46764.09	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2
lookup_cloudtrail_ip_history	firebus	54217.84	firebus	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b
Fault_Switch_State_Dryer	westy	61916.46	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354
Failure on the NAS	westy	617142.86	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab63

Efficiency Search (Columns 1-8 of 10)

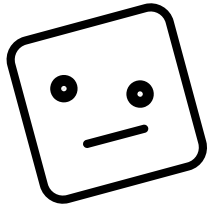
#	Saved Search Name	User	Efficiency	App	Host	Avg Runtime Secs	Weekly Count	Total Runtime Secs
1	mus solar power to metric collector	mus	16601.70	Kia_Ora_001	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f			
2	Splunk Instance Restart	my2ndhead	21273.30	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	1.82	20	36.430
3	alert_splunkd_errors	my2ndhead	27578.66	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	2.37	12	28.430
4	mac_lookup_edit	westy	30680.26	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	1.83	12	21.930
5	Westy Wifi Node Health	westy	46764.09	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	1.64	12	19.713
6	lookup_cloudtrail_ip_history	firebus	54217.84	firebus	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	6.47	2	12.933
7	Fault_Switch_State_Dryer	westy	61916.46	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	11.16	1	11.155
8	Failure on the NAS	westy	617142.86	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f	0.98	8	9.768

Mins	Avg Runtime In Mins
504.00	0.03
840.00	0.04
840.00	0.03
840.00	0.03
5040.00	0.11
10080.00	0.19
1680.00	0.03
10080.00	0.02

splunk>

Extended Search Reporting, v1.6

2022-04-06 01:53:21 UTC  
Page 1



Efficiency Search (Columns 9-10 of 10)

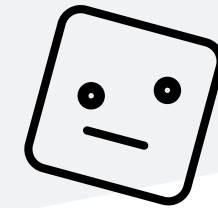
#	Ran Every X Mins	Avg Runtime In Mins
1	504.00	0.03
2	840.00	0.04
3	840.00	0.03
4	840.00	0.03
5	5040.00	0.03
6	10080.00	0.11
7	1680.00	0.19
8	10080.00	0.03

# iframe Embedding

Reports are based on single searches and can include visualizations, statistics and/or events. Click the name to view the report. Open the report in Pivot or Search to refine the parameters or further explore the data.

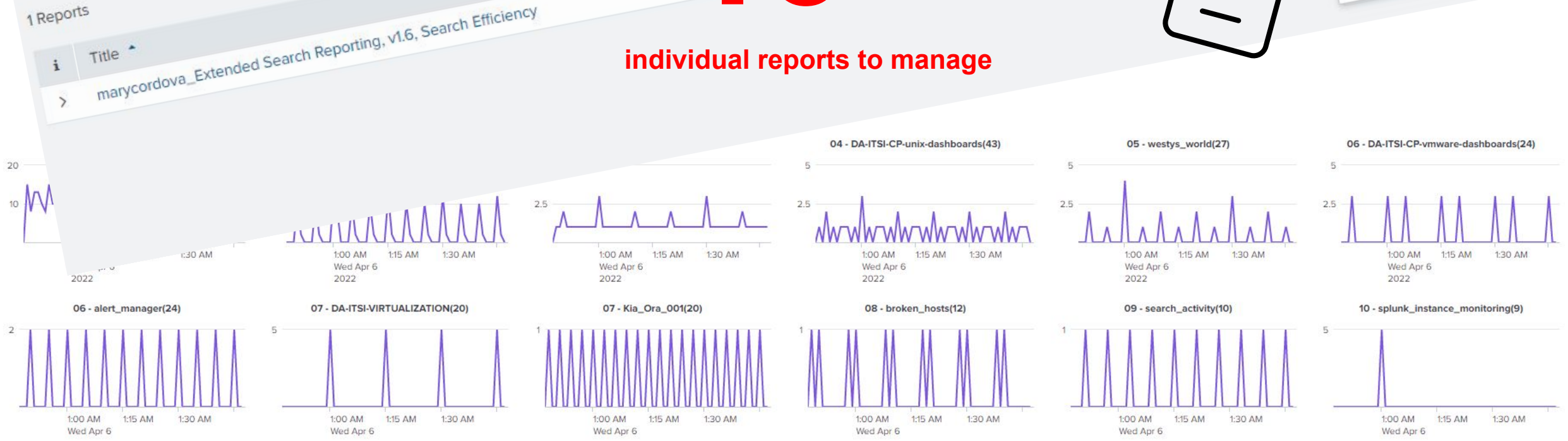
# 40+

individual reports to manage



Open in Search **Edit**

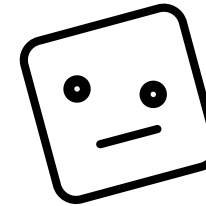
- Disable embedding to edit report.
- Clone
- Embed





# iframe Embedding

Report not available.



Efficiency Search

Exclusions

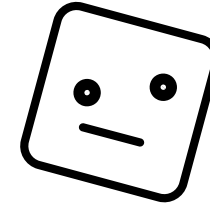
- Exclude Accelerations
- Searches not owned by admin
- Searches not owned by nobody

Saved Search Name	User
mus solar power to metric collector	mus
Splunk Instance Restart	my2ndhead
alert_splunkd_errors	my2ndhead




Saved Search Name	User	Owner	Efficiency	App	Host	Avg Runtime Secs	Weekly Count	Total Runtime Secs	Ran Every X Mins
mus solar power to metric collector	mus	arycordova	8846.63	xpac	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	2.85	24	68.365	420.00
Splunk Instance Restart	my2ndhead	my2ndhead	18217.96	Kia_Ora_001	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1.66	20	33.198	504.00
collector	my2ndhead	my2ndhead	20118.42	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	2.51	12	30.062	840.00
Splunk Instance Restart	my2ndhead	my2ndhead	30688.05	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1.64	12	19.708	840.00
alert_splunkd_errors	my2ndhead	my2ndhead	32812.50	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1.54	12	18.432	840.00
mac_lookup_edit	westy	westy	48852.99	firebus	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	12.38	1	12.380	10080.00
lookup_cloudtrail_in_history	firebus	firebus							

# Email



Splunk Report: marycordova\_Extended Search Reporting, v1.6, Search Efficiency

 Splunk Cloud <alerts@splunkcloud.com>  
To  Mary Cordova

[Reply](#)

ⓘ If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

 marycordova\_Extended\_Search\_Reporting\_v16\_Searc-2022-04-06.pdf 10 KB
  marycordova\_Extended\_Search\_Reporting\_v16\_Searc-2022-04-06.csv 2 KB

The scheduled report 'marycordova\_Extended Search Reporting, v1.6, Search Efficiency' has finished.

Report: [marycordova\\_Extended Search Reporting, v1.6, Search Efficiency](#)

[View results in Splunk](#)

Saved Search Name	Owner	Efficiency	App	Host	Alerts	Runtime Secs	Weeks	Count	Total Runtime Secs	Ran Every X Mins	Avg Runtime In Mins
mus solar power to metric collector	ms	17465.63	Kia_Ora_001	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	20	1	34.628	504.00	0.03	
Splunk Instance Restart	marycordova	19485.79	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	12	1	31.038	840.00	0.04	
alert_splunkd_errors	marycordova	26924.28	alert_manager	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	12	1	22.463	840.00	0.03	
mac_lookup_edit	westy	33294.80	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	17	1	18.165	840.00	0.03	
marycordova_Extended Search Reporting, v1.6, Search Efficiency	marycordova	34491.02	xpac	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	17	1	17.535	10080.00	0.29	
lookup_cloudtrail_ip_history	firebus	48852.99	firebus	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	1	1	12.380	10080.00	0.21	
Fault Switch State Dryer	westy	63837.87	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	6	1	9.474	1680.00	0.03	
Westy Wifi Node Health	westy	200530.50	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	2	1	3.016	5040.00	0.03	
Failure on the NAS	westy	1974.92	westys_world	sh-i-0d2202c2ab6354b2f.splunktrust.splunkcloud.com	1	1	1	0.957	10080.00	0.02	

If you believe you've received this email in error, please see your Splunk administrator.

splunk > the engine for machine data

# So What is it I Want?

- Data visibility
- Fast & easy to access
- Self-serve & on-demand
- Interactive
- Up-to-date & **fully automated**
- Nice looking
- Dynamically generated exports\*
- And I **don't** want to have to work every time someone asks me for something

\*Or stop doing that and just host the content somewhere



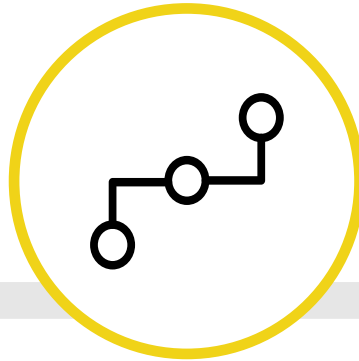
# Shift Left + Law of the Instrument =



## Data Preparation

Use **Splunk** for data collection, normalization, and tabular formatting

This gives you a **single place to fully manage your dataset**



## Data Pipeline

Use **PowerBI®** Cloud for **automated** data pipelines that are always up-to-date



## Data Visualization

Use **PowerBI®** Desktop to easily create polished, **interactive**, visualizations



## Data Distribution

Use **SharePoint** for self-serve user **access** that is interactive and enables dynamic export generation



# Problems Solved!



## Requirement

## Tool

Visibility  
Fast/Easy Access  
Self-serve/On-demand

SharePoint



Interactive  
Polished  
Dynamic Export  
**Automated Refresh**

PowerBI

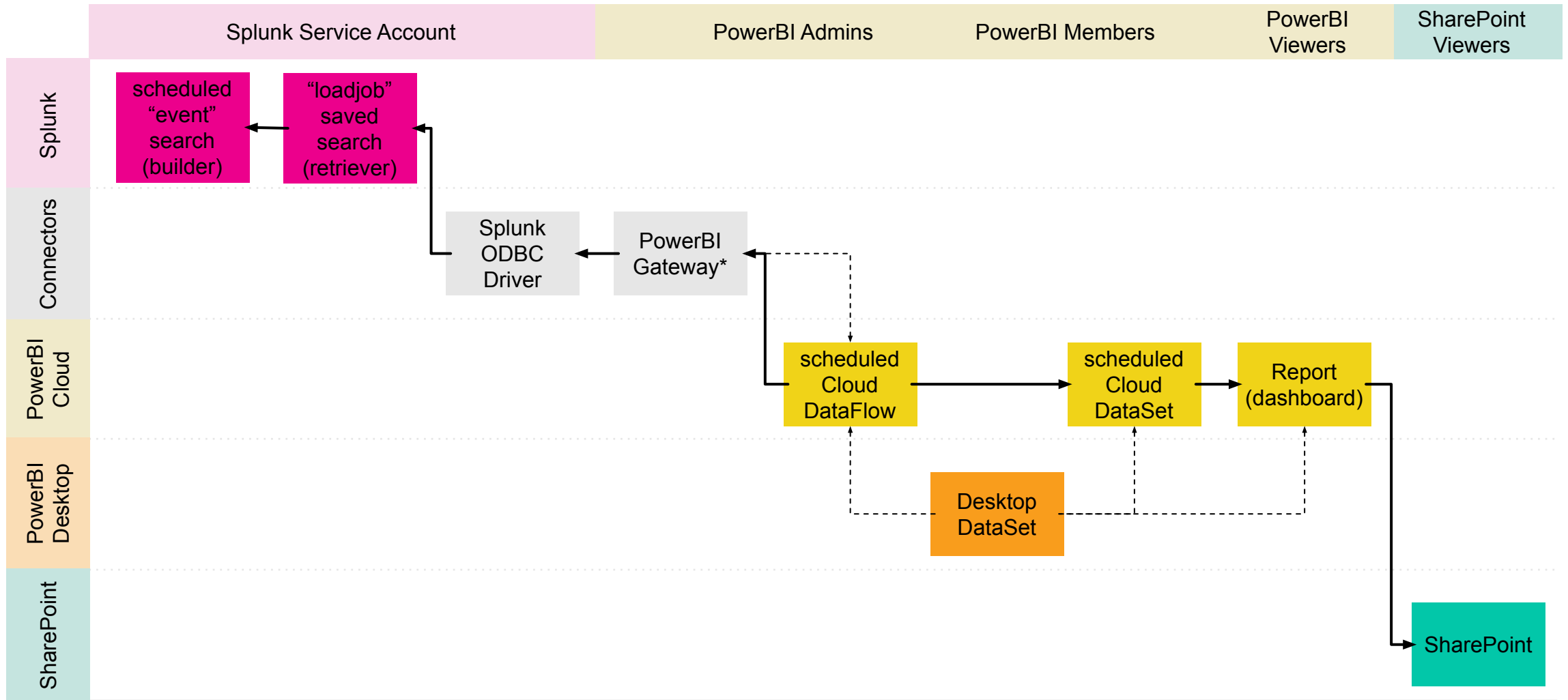


Ingestion  
Filtering  
Normalization  
Multivalue Expansion  
Tabular Formatting  
**Automated Refresh**

Splunk

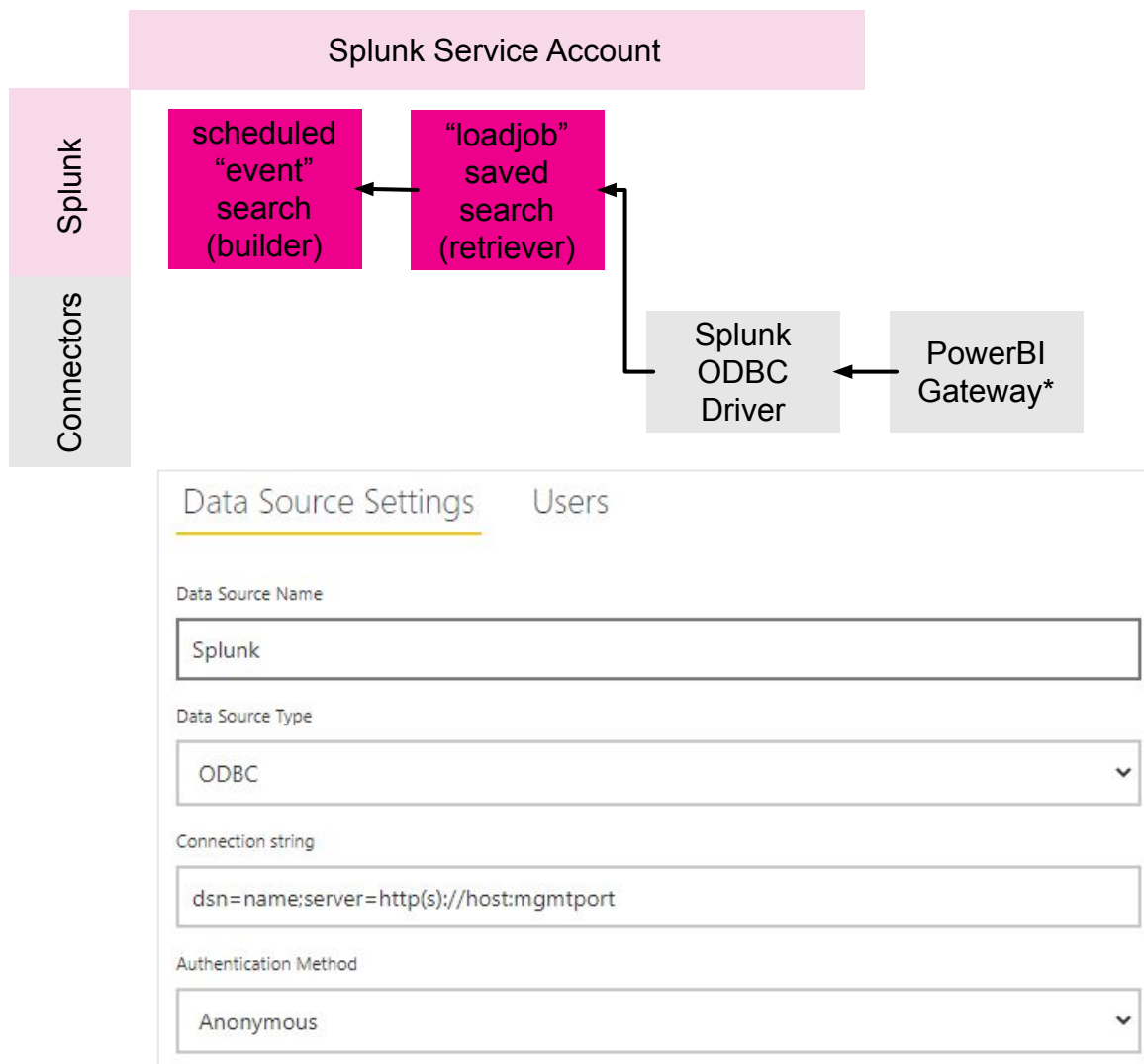


# Architecture



\*should probably be installed with an MS/O365 Service Account

# Middleware



## • Windows

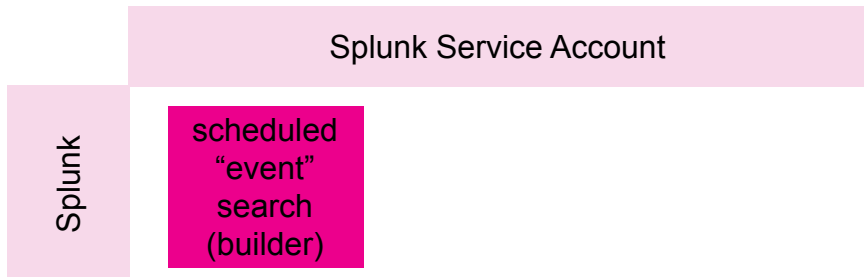
- Network connection to Splunk `http(s)://host:mgmtport`
  - [Splunk ODBC driver](#)
  - Splunk service/local account
- Network connection to PowerBI® Cloud
  - [PowerBI Gateway driver](#)
  - Probably managed by your Microsoft Admin team, otherwise easy to setup for yourself
  - Use a MS service account and not your individual credentials to register gateway driver with PowerBI Cloud

## • PowerBI® Cloud Gateway

- Add Splunk ODBC driver as a new DataSource

`dsn=name;server=http(s)://host:8089`

# Splunk Builder



## PowerBI Windows Logon Builder

```
index=main source=WinEventLog:Security sourcetype=WinEventLog:Security TaskCate
| rename EventCode as event_id Message as body
| rex field=Keywords "(?<action>[^\s]*$)"
| eval action=lower('action')
| eval host=upper('ComputerName')
| eval logon_type=case('Logon_Type'==
, 'Logon_Type'=="9", "Explicit/RunA
| eval logon_code=if(isnotnull('Logon
| rex field=body "(?<message>^[^\n]*
| eval account=lower(mvindex('Account
| table _time event_id action host lo
| fields - body
```

event_id	action	host	logon_type
4625	failure	DESKTOP-6JODCV4	Interactive
4624	success	DESKTOP-6JODCV4	Interactive
4648	success	DESKTOP-6JODCV4	Explicit/RunAs/New/
4624	success	DESKTOP-6JODCV4	Interactive
4648	success	DESKTOP-6JODCV4	Explicit/RunAs/New/Alternate

## • Search “Builder”

- Event search
- Perform all you data manipulation here
- Scheduled
- **Normalized**
- **Tabular**
- **Single value ONLY**

You will have to **iterate** building your dataset, you might not know until you're already in PBI that you need to go back to Splunk.

### PowerBI Windows Logon Builder

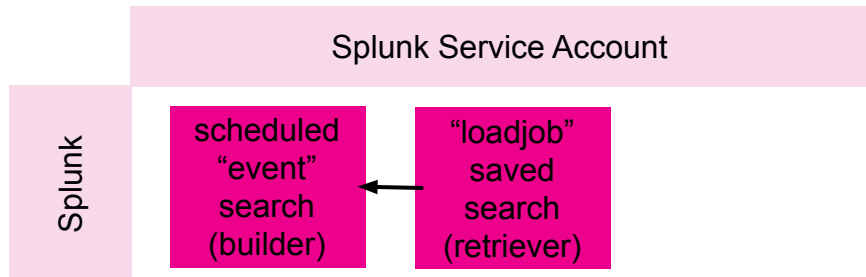
[Learn More](#)

Run on Cron Schedule ▾

29 1\* \* \*



# Splunk Retriever



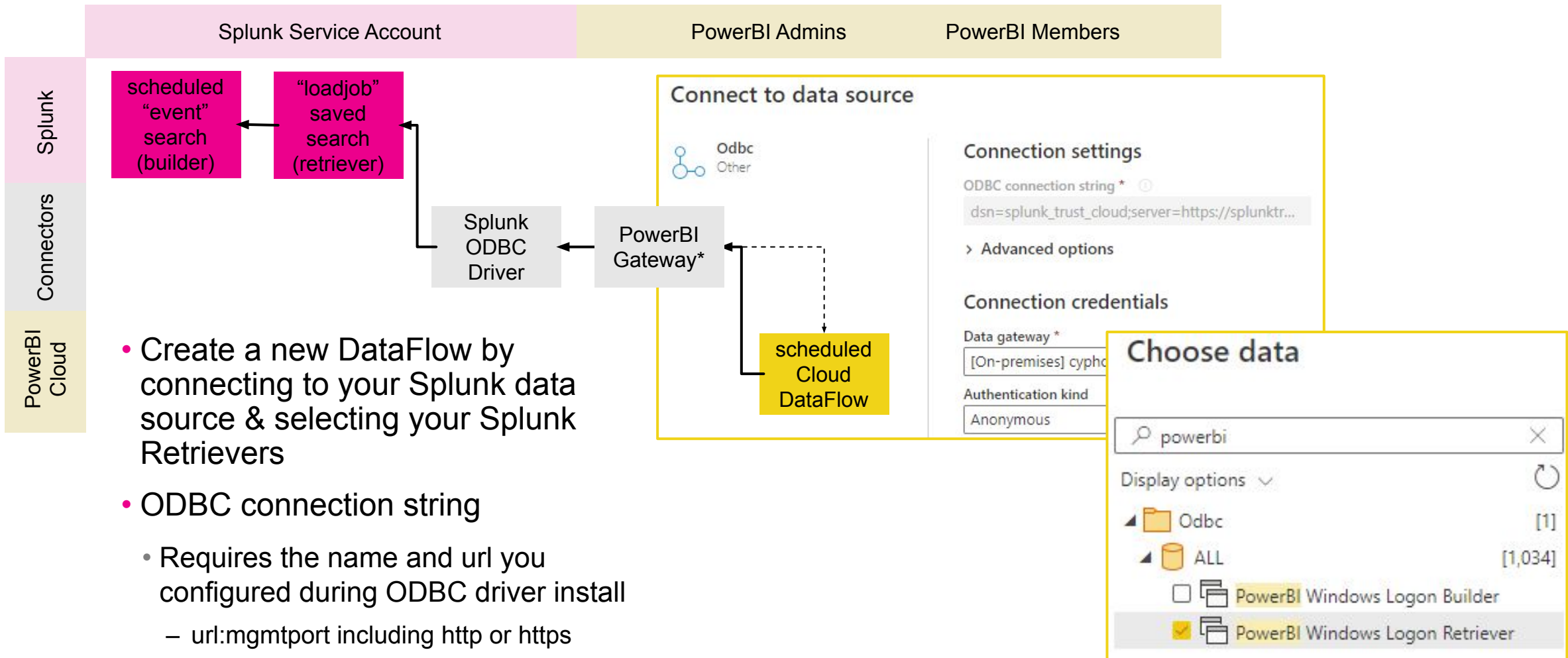
Title ▲	Actions	Next Scheduled Time ⇅
PowerBI Windows <u>EventCode Lookup Retriever</u>	Open in Search Edit ▼	None
PowerBI Windows <u>Logoff Builder</u>	Open in Search Edit ▼	2022-04-13 01:29:19 UTC
PowerBI Windows <u>Logoff Retriever</u>	Open in Search Edit ▼	None
PowerBI Windows <u>Logon Builder</u>	Open in Search Edit ▼	2022-04-13 01:29:37 UTC
PowerBI Windows <u>Logon Retriever</u>	Open in Search Edit ▼	None

## PowerBI Windows Logon Retriever

```
| loadjob savedsearch="marycordova:search:PowerBI Windows Logon Builder" events=false job_delegate=scheduler ignore_running=true artifact_offset=0
```

- Search “Retriever”
  - |loadjob
    - Only results
    - From the most recent, non-running
    - Corresponding scheduled Builder
  - If you need a lookup table use only a Retriever with |lookup instead
- Connect only the Retrievers to a PowerBI® Cloud DataFlow

# PowerBI® Cloud DataFlow



- Create a new DataFlow by connecting to your Splunk data source & selecting your Splunk Retrievers
- ODBC connection string
  - Requires the name and url you configured during ODBC driver install
    - url:mgmtport including http or https

`dsn=name;server=http(s)://host:8089`

# PowerBI<sup>®</sup> Cloud DataFlow

- **Do not do any data manipulation here**

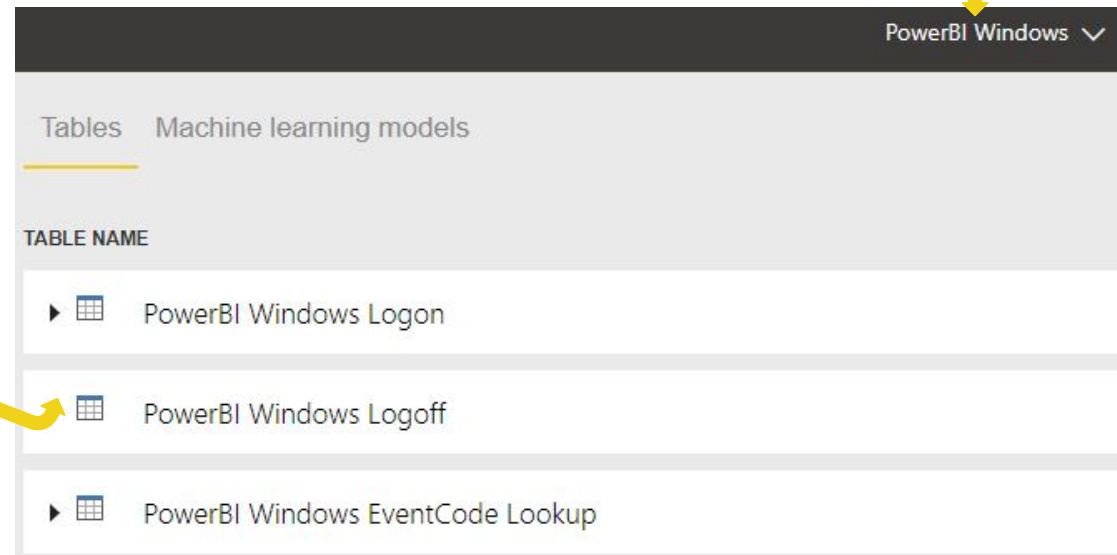
- You will be tempted
- Go back to Splunk instead

- **DataFlow**




- Bundle your Splunk reports logically

- **Automated** refresh

- Schedule to start after you are sure your Splunk refreshes are complete

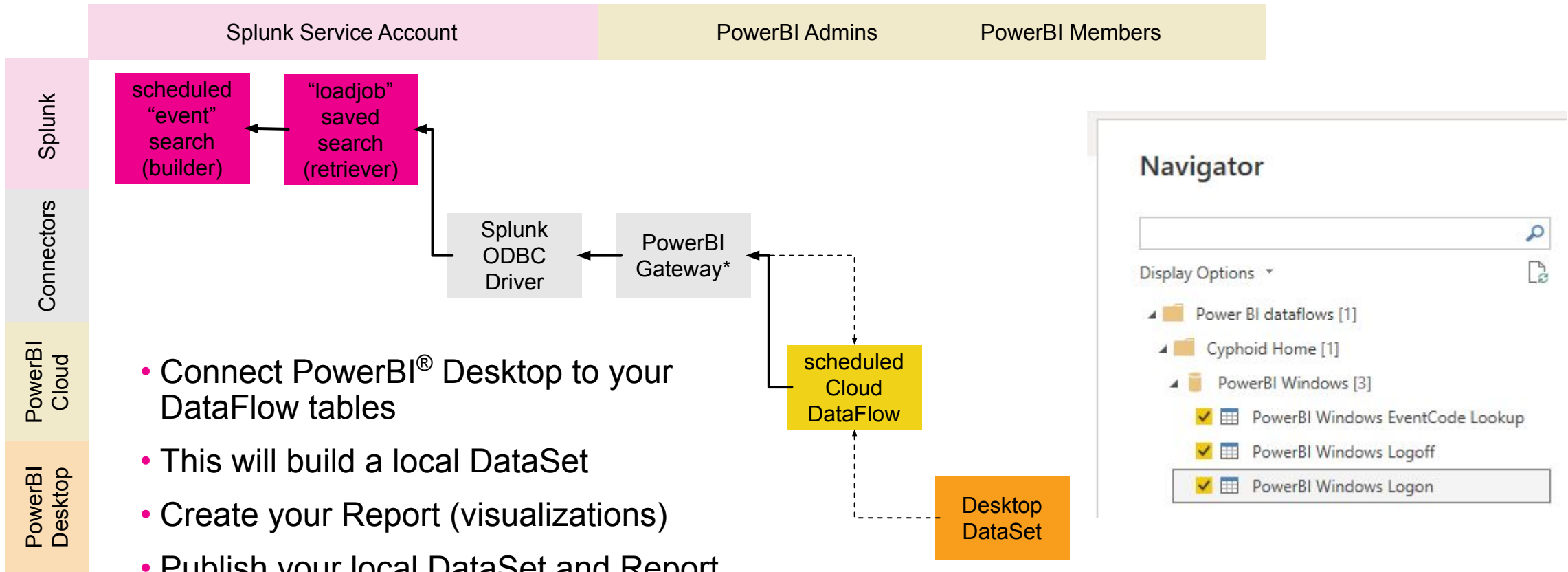


The screenshot shows the PowerBI Cloud DataFlow interface. At the top right, there is a dropdown menu labeled "PowerBI Windows". Below it, there are two tabs: "Tables" and "Machine learning models". Under the "Tables" tab, there is a section titled "TABLE NAME" containing a list of three reports, each with a table icon and a right-pointing arrow:

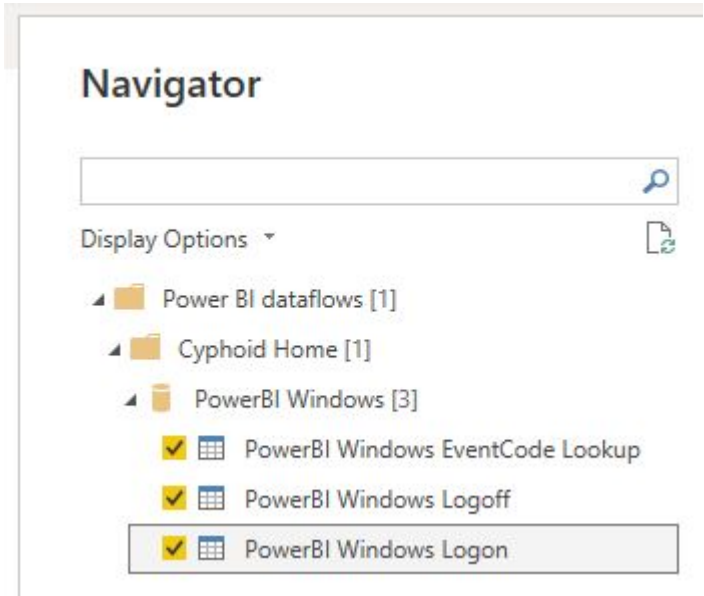
TABLE NAME
▶  PowerBI Windows Logon
▶  PowerBI Windows Logoff
▶  PowerBI Windows EventCode Lookup

Yellow arrows from the text on the left point to the "Do not do any data manipulation here" section and the "Automated refresh" section, highlighting the importance of scheduling refreshes after Splunk reports are complete.

# PowerBI® Desktop



- Connect PowerBI® Desktop to your DataFlow tables
- This will build a local DataSet
- Create your Report (visualizations)
- Publish your local DataSet and Report back to PowerBI® Cloud and schedule an automated refresh



**Publishing to Power BI**  
Publishing 'PowerBI Windows.pbix' to Power BI



# PowerBI® Desktop

- **Do not do any data manipulation here**

- You will be tempted
- Go back to Splunk instead

- **DataSets**

- If you must, you can make small data changes that are specific to PowerBI, such as data types
  - numeric to text, etc

- **Reports**

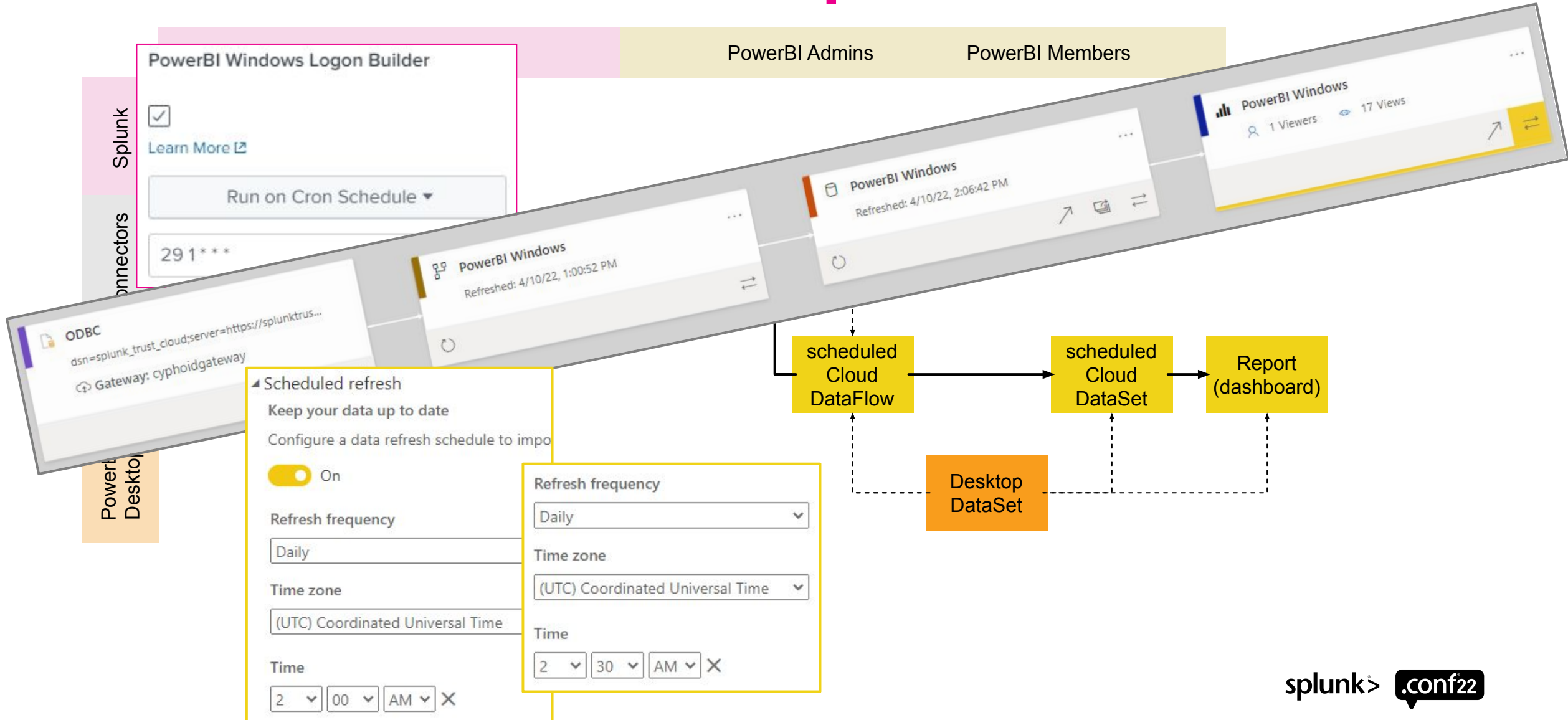
- Quickly and easily drag and drop visualizations onto your cleaned and prepared Splunk data

- **Publishing**

- Send it all back to the cloud for **automated** refresh and sharing
  - Schedule the refresh to occur after the DataFlow refresh has completed

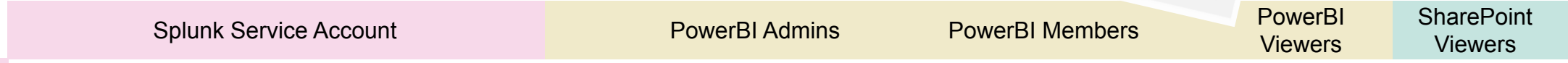
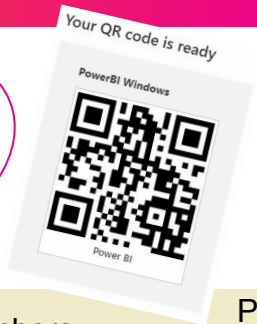
The screenshot shows the PowerBI Desktop interface. At the top, a table of data is visible with columns for event\_id, host, logon\_code, and logon\_type. A dropdown menu is open for the logon\_code column, showing various data types such as Decimal number, Currency, Whole number, Percentage, Date/Time, Date, Time, Date/Time/Zone, Duration, Text, and True/False. A pink speech bubble points to this menu with the text: "Keeping all your data work in a single place (**Splunk**) will make updates and troubleshooting easier when things inevitably break. :(". Below the table, a visualization is being built. The 'Visualizations' pane shows a donut chart titled 'Logon by Outcome'. The 'Fields' pane shows the data source 'PowerBI Windows Logon' and the field 'action' is selected. A pink arrow points from the 'action' field in the Fields pane to the 'action' field in the visualization's filter pane. The donut chart shows two segments: a large green segment representing 'success' (2.6K, 90%) and a smaller red segment representing 'failure' (0.3K, 10%).

# Automated Refresh Pipeline



# SharePoint

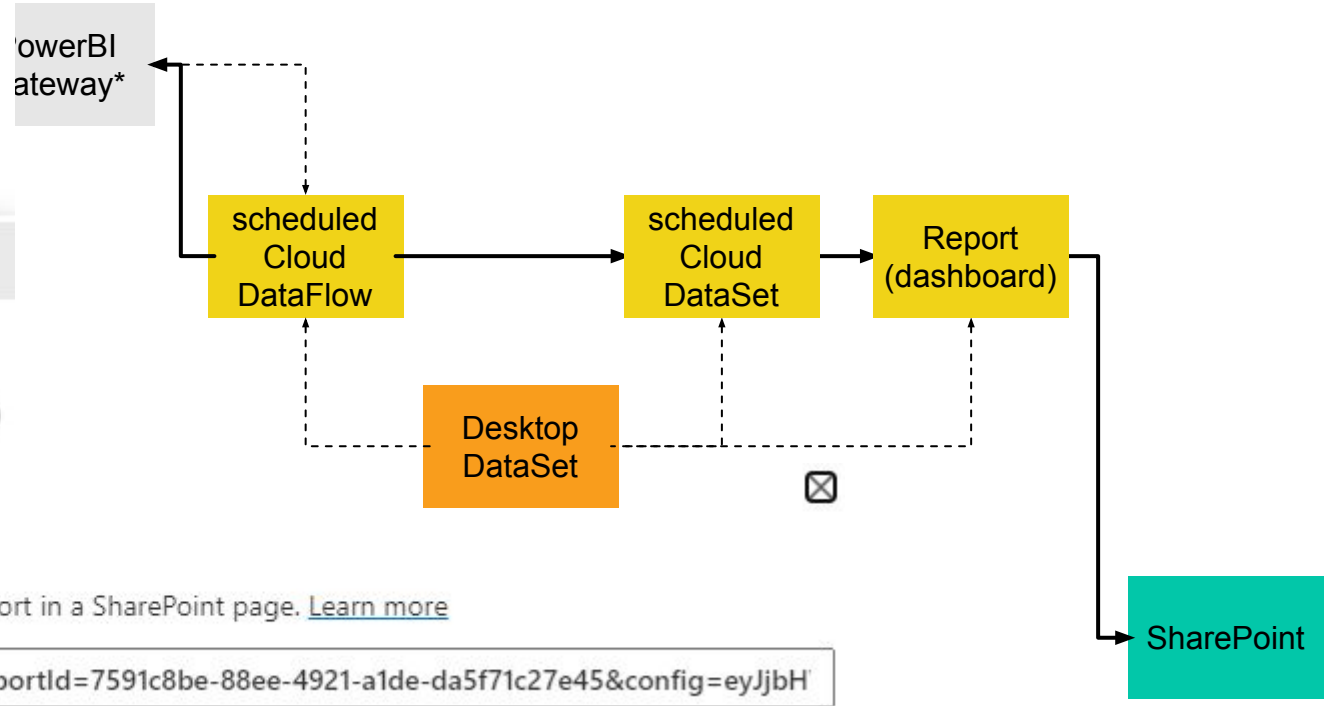
Maybe embed QR codes in email! 🤖



- Splunk
- Connectors
- PowerBI Cloud
- PowerBI Desktop
- SharePoint

File Export Share Chat in Team

- Save a copy
- Download this file
- Manage permissions
- Print this page
- Embed report >
  - SharePoint online
  - Website or portal
  - Publish to web (public)
- Generate a QR code
- Settings



## Embed link for SharePoint

Use the link below to securely embed this report in a SharePoint page. [Learn more](#)

```
https://app.powerbi.com/reportEmbed?reportId=7591c8be-88ee-4921-a1de-da5f71c27e45&config=eyJjbH'
```

# SharePoint

- Users probably already use it daily
- SharePoint enables:
  - One place for a **diverse** group **stakeholders** to **access** reports/dashboards
  - An **easy** login experience (hopefully YMMV)
  - Intuitive and navigable sites (if you build it that way)
  - Access to the **dynamic/interactive sorting** and **filtering** of PowerBI
  - Access to the customized exports of PowerBI
  - Ability to **stop exporting** and **start sharing**
    - Just screenshare, or grant access to the reports instead

Welcome to the Cyphoid SharePoint home page!

Splunk iframe

- Splunk Audit

PowerBI Reports

- Cloud Security Policy
- Phishing Awareness
- Security Incidents
- Security Logging
- Shadow Cloud Storage
- Vulnerability Eyes Report
- Vulnerability Patching

Windows Audit

Pages

- Windows Logon
- Windows Admin Activity
- Windows Process
- Windows Firewall
- Windows Scheduled Ta...

File | Export | Share | Get insights

- Analyze in Excel
- PowerPoint
- PDF

Date Range

4/1/2021

6/30/2021

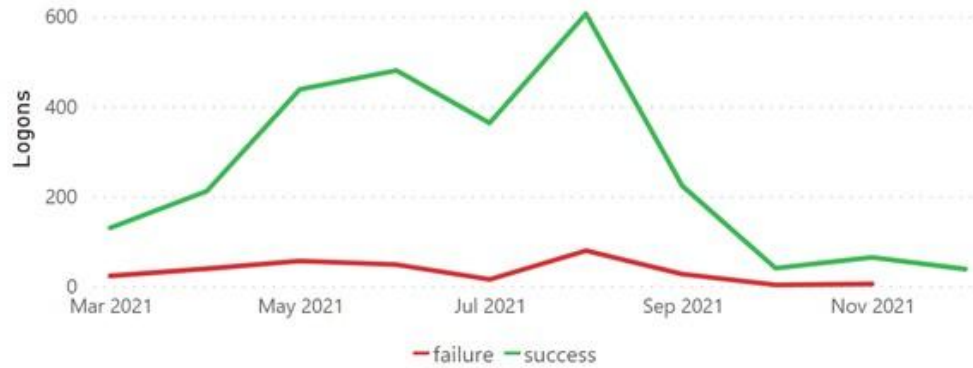
Logons

200

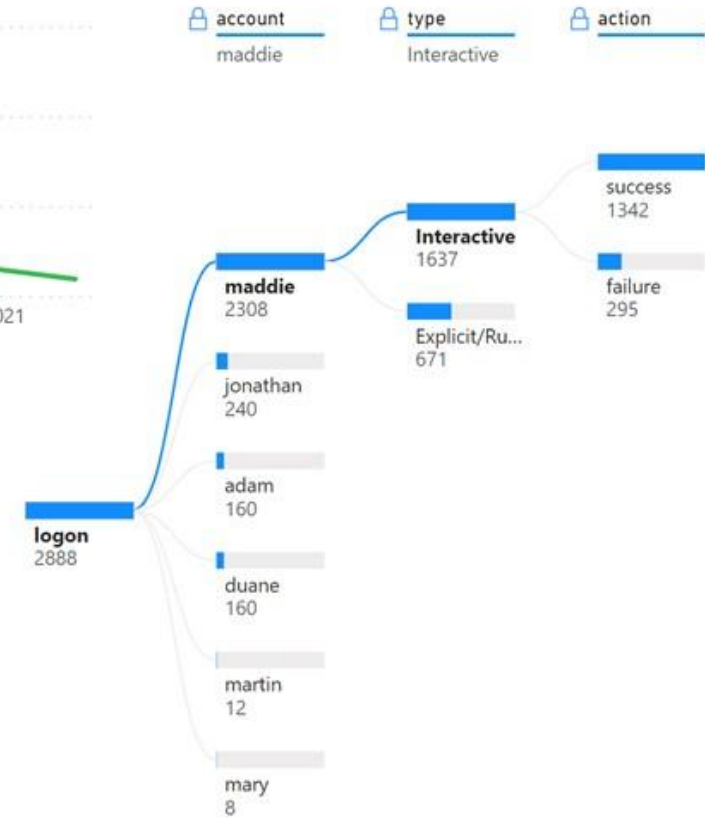
0 Apr 2021

# Windows Logon Audit

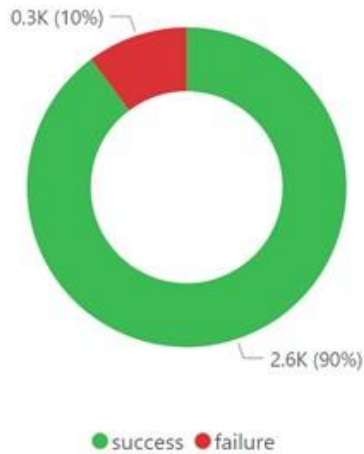
### Logon Outcome over Time



### Logon Details by User



### Logon by Outcome



### Logon Outcome by Type

Outcome	Count
<b>failure</b>	
Interactive	10%
<b>success</b>	
Interactive	58%
Explicit/RunAs/New/Alternate	32%



# Access Control

- Splunk service account constrained to a specific App
  - Connectors & DataFlows can only access saved Reports/Alerts in that App
- Only PowerBI<sup>®</sup> Gateway and PowerBI<sup>®</sup> ODBC Driver DataSource Admins can create or modify a DataFlow
- Only PowerBI<sup>®</sup> Workspace Members can use a DataFlow to create or modify a DataSet & Report
- Provision users with View access to your PowerBI<sup>®</sup> Workspace and SharePoint site
  - Everyone will need PowerBI Pro license
    - Included in E5 or \$10 per user per month



# Thank You

