BC TEARDOWN 4 OF 5

Still exporting BC to Excel every Monday?

A common Business Central problem, and how to fix it the right way in AL.

Swipe for the before and after

The pain

Someone exports invoices, pastes them into last week's file, fixes the pivot and emails it out. The numbers are stale the moment they are sent.

Why it happens

There is no clean, live feed of the data you report on, so people rebuild it by hand.

BEFORE

The Monday ritual

```
// 1. Open Posted Sales Invoices
// 2. Open in Excel, export
// 3. Paste into last week's file
// 4. Fix the pivot table
// 5. Email it to the team

// Repeat every Monday
```

AFTER

A read only API page for Power BI

```
page 50120 "DF Invoice Lines API"
{
  PageType = API;
  APIPublisher = 'dataflow';
  APIGroup = 'reporting';
  APIVersion = 'v1.0';
  EntityName = 'invoiceLine';
  EntitySetName = 'invoiceLines';
  SourceTable = "Sales Invoice Line";
  ODataKeyFields = SystemId;
  Editable = false;
  layout { area(Content) { repeater(Lines) {
    field(id; Rec.SystemId) { }
    field(documentNo; Rec."Document No.") { }
    field(itemNo; Rec."No.") { }
    field(amount; Rec.Amount) { }
  } } }
}
```

The result

Power BI connects to the API and refreshes on a schedule. The Monday report builds itself.

TIP

Add only the fields you report on. Smaller APIs refresh faster.

Got a BC problem like this?

Free 30 minute review of your setup.

Senior Microsoft certified developers.
You talk to the person writing the code.

dataflowsoln.com

New teardown tomorrow. Follow along.