

From Tableau to Power BI: A Data Model Redesign on Deadline



Overview

When a global manufacturer faced a high-stakes migration from Tableau to Power BI — with a compressed timeline and a fragile, outdated data model — the risk was clear: any delay could paralyze reporting and leave leadership without the insights they relied on daily. Rather than settle for a quick "lift and shift," the company partnered with Syntelli to turn this challenge into an opportunity. In record time, we redesigned their data model for long-term scalability, rebuilt reports with a sharper focus on usability and performance, and engaged business users early to ensure adoption.

The result? A modern, future-proof analytics ecosystem that runs faster, delivers cleaner insights, and positions the client for growth. What began as a looming risk became a transformation that unlocked new possibilities for their business.

The Challenge: A Compressed Timeline & Legacy Model

The client — a global manufacturer — faced a make-or-break moment. They needed to migrate their entire reporting ecosystem from Tableau to Power BI on an extremely tight timeline. Every day of delay risked slowing critical reporting, frustrating business users, and leaving leadership without reliable insights.

But the timeline wasn't the only hurdle. The Tableau environment was built on a legacy data model never designed for Power BI. Attempting a straight migration would have replicated years of inefficiency, complexity, and fragile logic.

The organization didn't just need a migration; they needed a transformation. They needed a partner who could deliver speed and reimagine their data model to be stronger, cleaner, and future-proof. That's where Syntelli stepped in.



Our Approach

To meet the deadline without sacrificing quality, we broke the effort into four focused phases — each designed to move quickly while solving root problems, not just symptoms.



Discovery & Mapping

We catalogued every Tableau dashboard, source system, transformation, and calculated field to ensure nothing was lost in translation.



Model Redesign

Instead of dragging inefficiencies into the new platform, we built a scalable **star schema** optimized for Power BI — reducing redundancy, simplifying logic, and enabling growth.



Rebuild & Validate

Each report was recreated in Power BI with fresh attention to user experience, performance, and consistency of key business metrics.



Testing & Adoption

Business users were engaged early and often, validating accuracy, building trust, and shaping the new experience. Adoption wasn't an afterthought — it was baked into the process.

Along the way, we implemented row-level security (RLS) to safeguard sensitive data access and tuned performance so dashboards refreshed faster and queries ran smoother.



This wasn't just a "lift and shift." It was a redesign under pressure — and a chance to leave behind the limitations of the past.



The Outcome

Despite the compressed schedule, the migration was delivered on time — and the impact was transformative. The client didn't just move their reports; they gained a modern, user-friendly analytics environment built to last.

- Improved Performance: Dashboards refreshed faster, queries ran smoother, and business leaders no longer had to wait for answers.
- **Simplified Maintenance:** Cleaner logic and governance reduced technical debt, making the system easier to manage and expand.
- Future Scalability: A redesigned model created a foundation capable of supporting new use cases and future data sources.
- **High User Adoption:** Better interactivity, stronger visuals, and seamless integration with Microsoft tools fueled excitement and buy-in across the organization.

What began as a risky migration on deadline became a catalyst for change. The manufacturer now runs on a BI platform that not only meets today's needs but also positions them for tomorrow's growth.

Conclusion

With Syntelli Solutions, the client turned urgency into opportunity. The migration from Tableau to Power BI became more than a technology shift — it became a story of resilience, smart design, and lasting business impact.

Syntelli didn't just deliver a new reporting system. They delivered confidence, speed, and a platform that empowers better decisions at every level of the organization.

About Syntelli Solutions

For the past 20 years, Syntelli Solutions has believed in the transformative power of synchronized intelligence. Our journey tells a story of continuous innovation and commitment to excellence. While the technology landscape has changed drastically, our core purpose remains unchanged—enabling organizations to utilize data to achieve their goals and initiate positive change and development. Our purpose extends beyond implementing technology—we create lasting impact by solving core business problems for our clients and drive agility and intelligence. We believe in creating smiles for our customers. After all, analytics is not just a science of numbers, it's an art that should be applied to improve an organization's overall performance, culture, and well-being.