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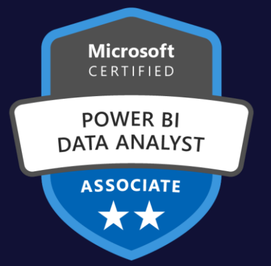
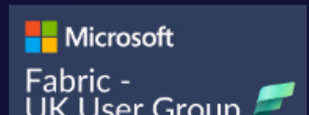
The Fabric Access Puzzle: Cracking Permission Problems with Confidence

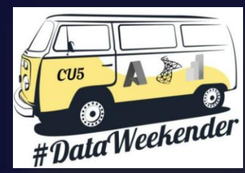
Pragati Jain

Fabric Consultant

- Microsoft Data Platform MVP
- Superuser at Microsoft Fabric Community
- 10+ years of industry experience
- Fabric Consultant, London
- Organizer at DataWeekender conference
- Manager at Microsoft Fabric UK User Group

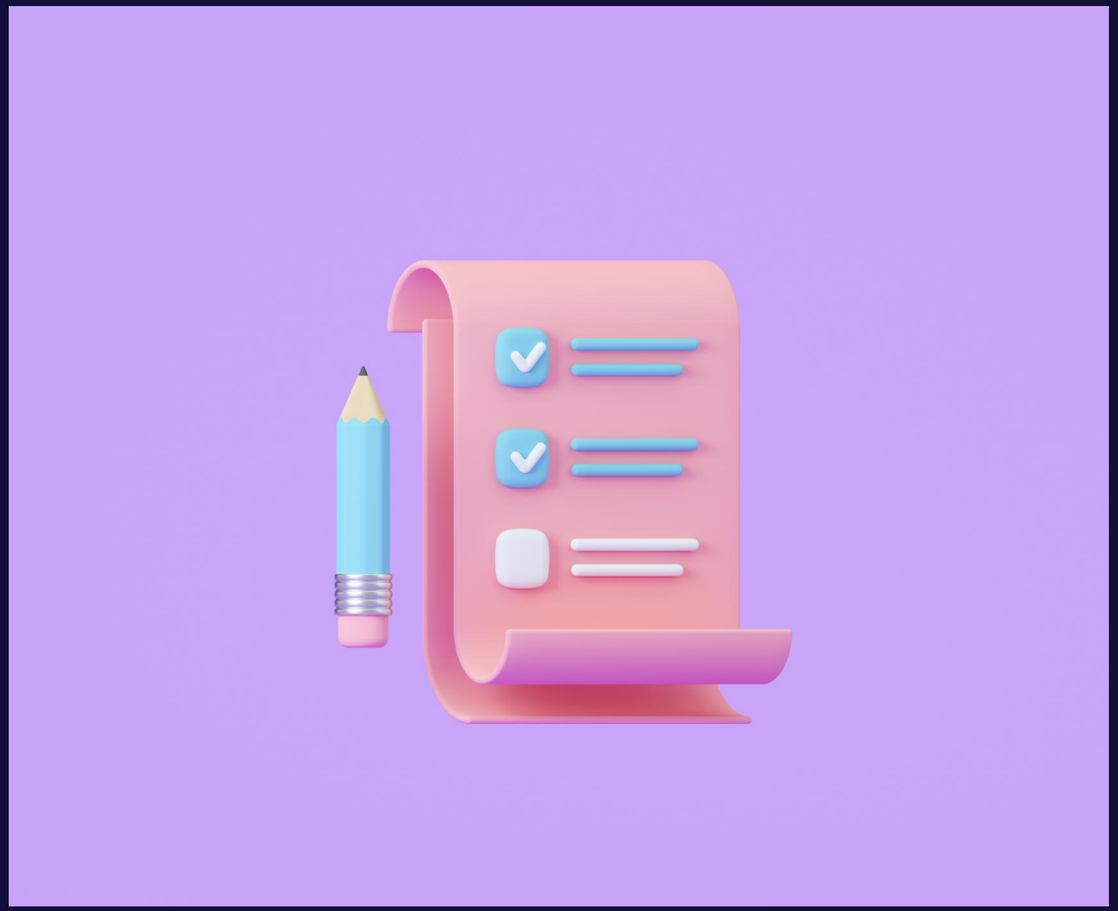




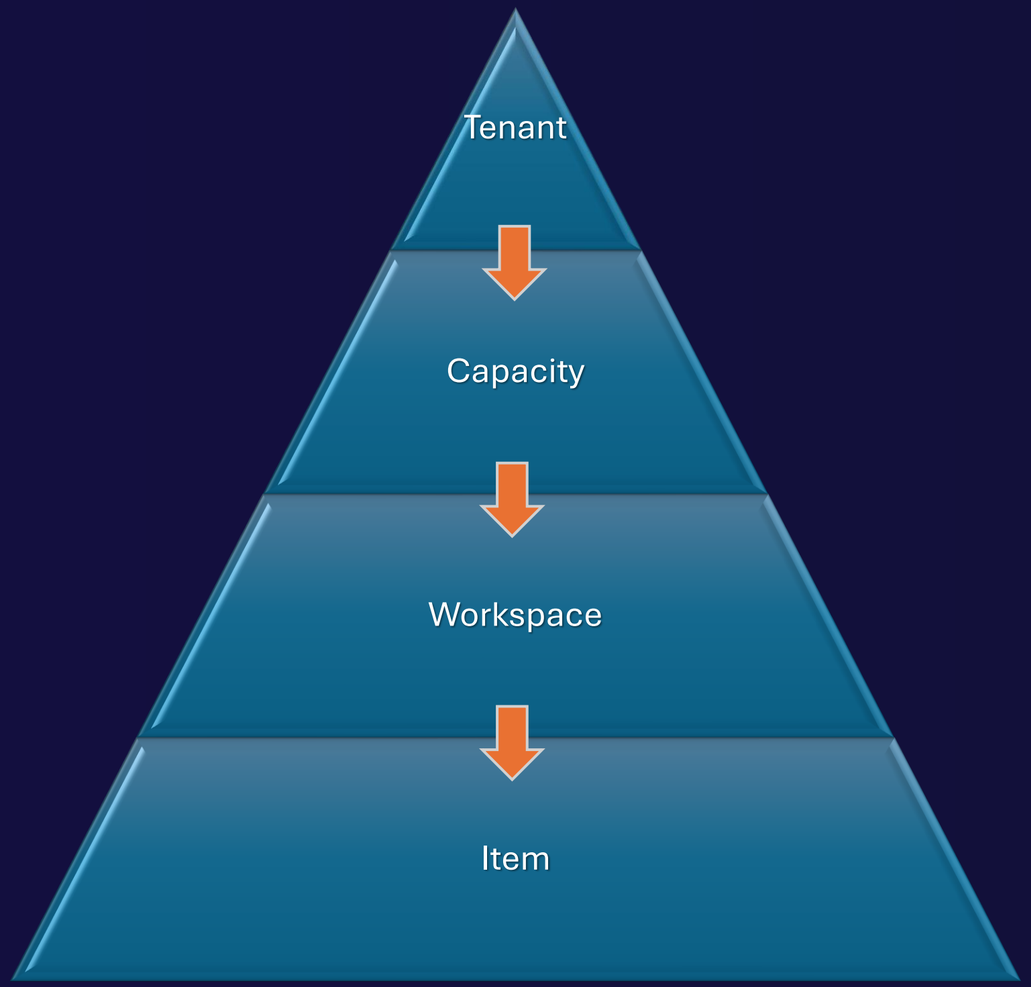


Agenda

- Introduction
- Fabric Security Funnel(Understanding Hierarchy)
- Workspace Roles (The “Big Four”)
- OneLake Data Access (Securing the Tables)
- Internal Data Mesh (Shortcuts)
- Governance & Auditing (Who did What & When)
- Troubleshooting & Takeaways



Fabric Security Funnel



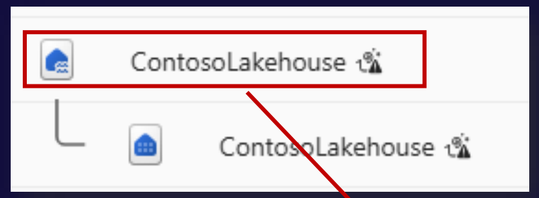
- Multi-layer security: Tenant → Capacity → Workspace → Item
- Workspaces: logical collaboration containers
- Items: Semantic model, reports, notebooks, pipelines, etc.
- Permissions flow top-down, *with item-level overrides*

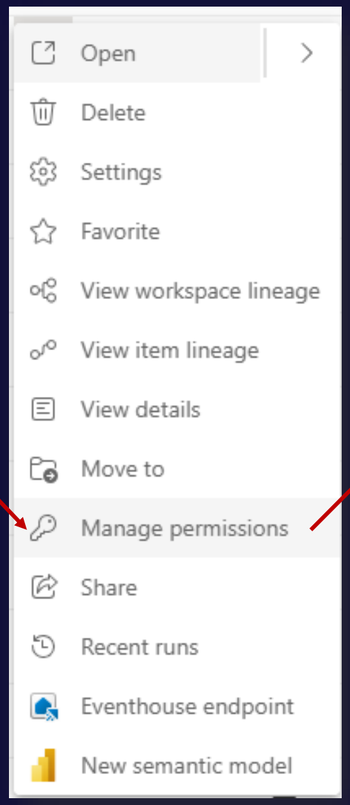
Workspace Roles – The “Big Four”

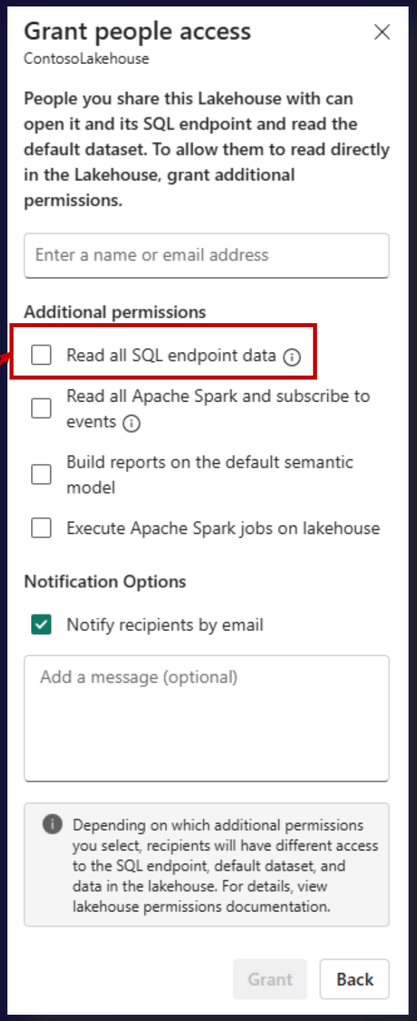
Capability	Admin	Member	Contributor	Viewer
Update/Delete Workspace	✅	❌	❌	❌
Add/Remove Users	✅	✅	❌	❌
Create/Edit/Delete Items	✅	✅	✅	❌
Share Items (Reshare)	✅	✅	❌*	❌
Read Metadata (See Item)	✅	✅	✅	✅
Read Data (SQL/Spark)	✅	✅	✅	ReadData Needed

** Contributors can only share if the "Allow contributors to update the app" setting is enabled or if granted item-level permissions.*

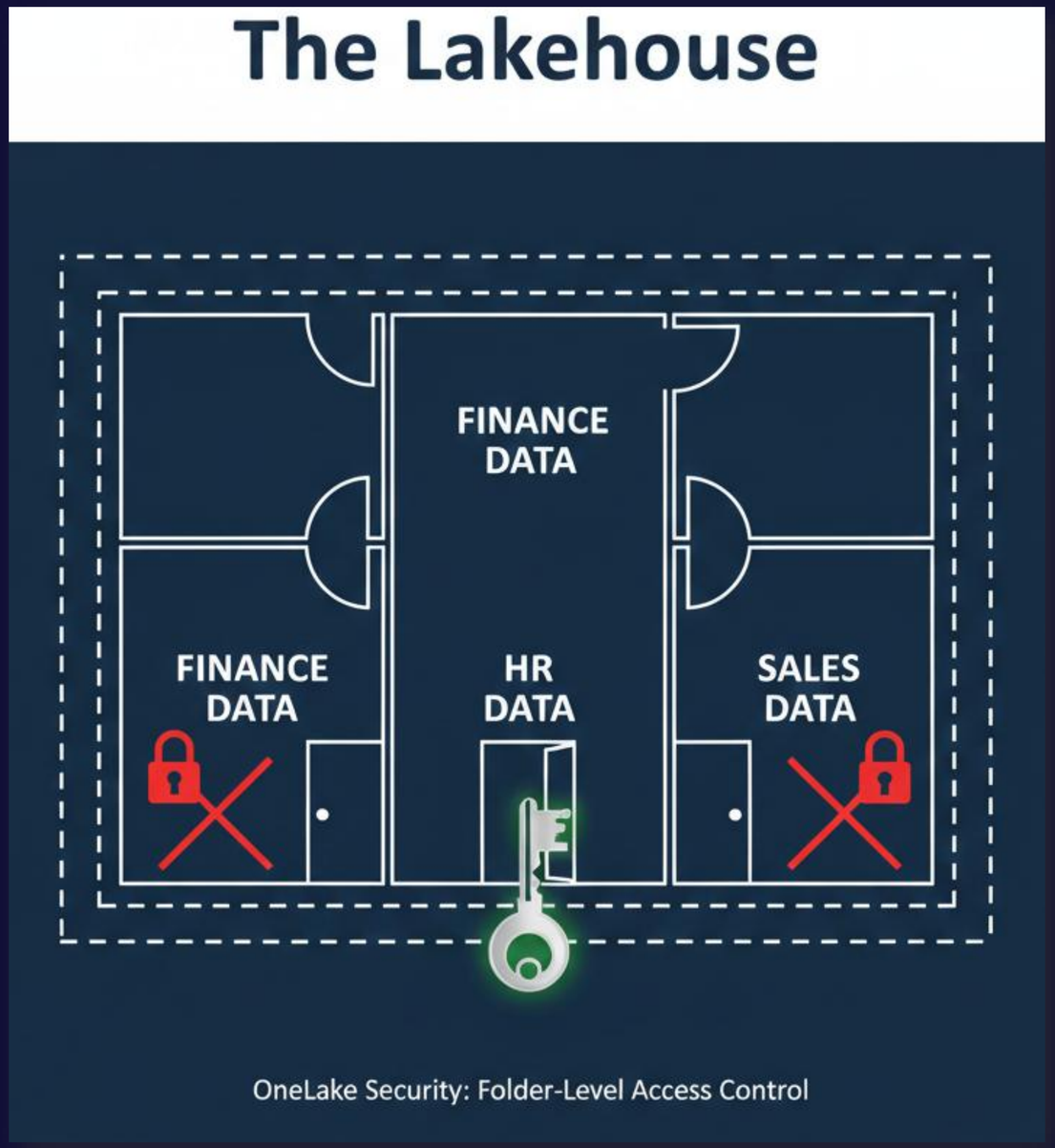
Demo 1 – The “Viewer” Trap & Item Sharing



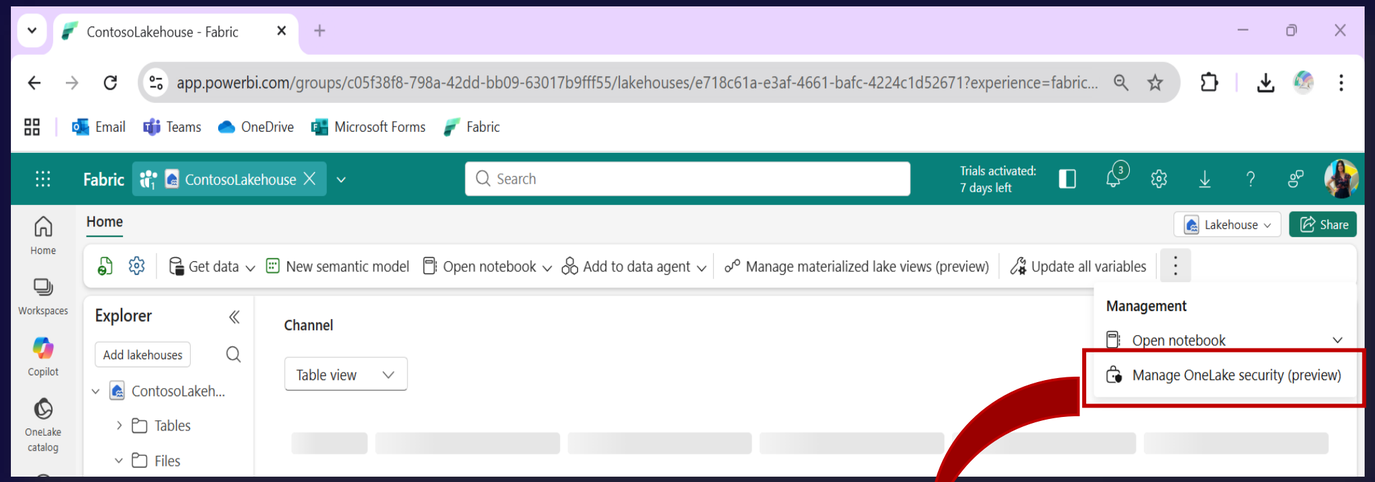


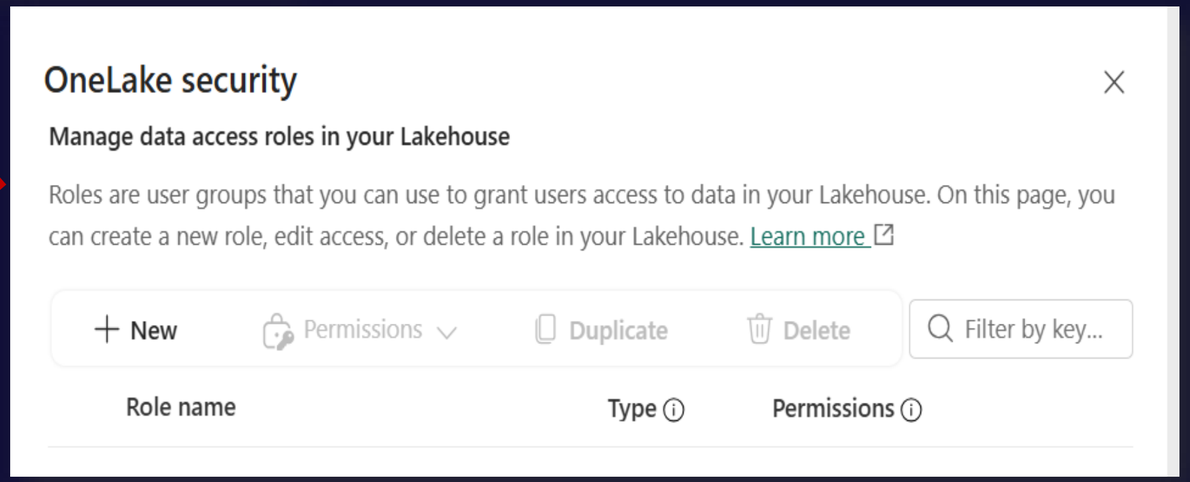


OneLake Security – Locking the Rooms



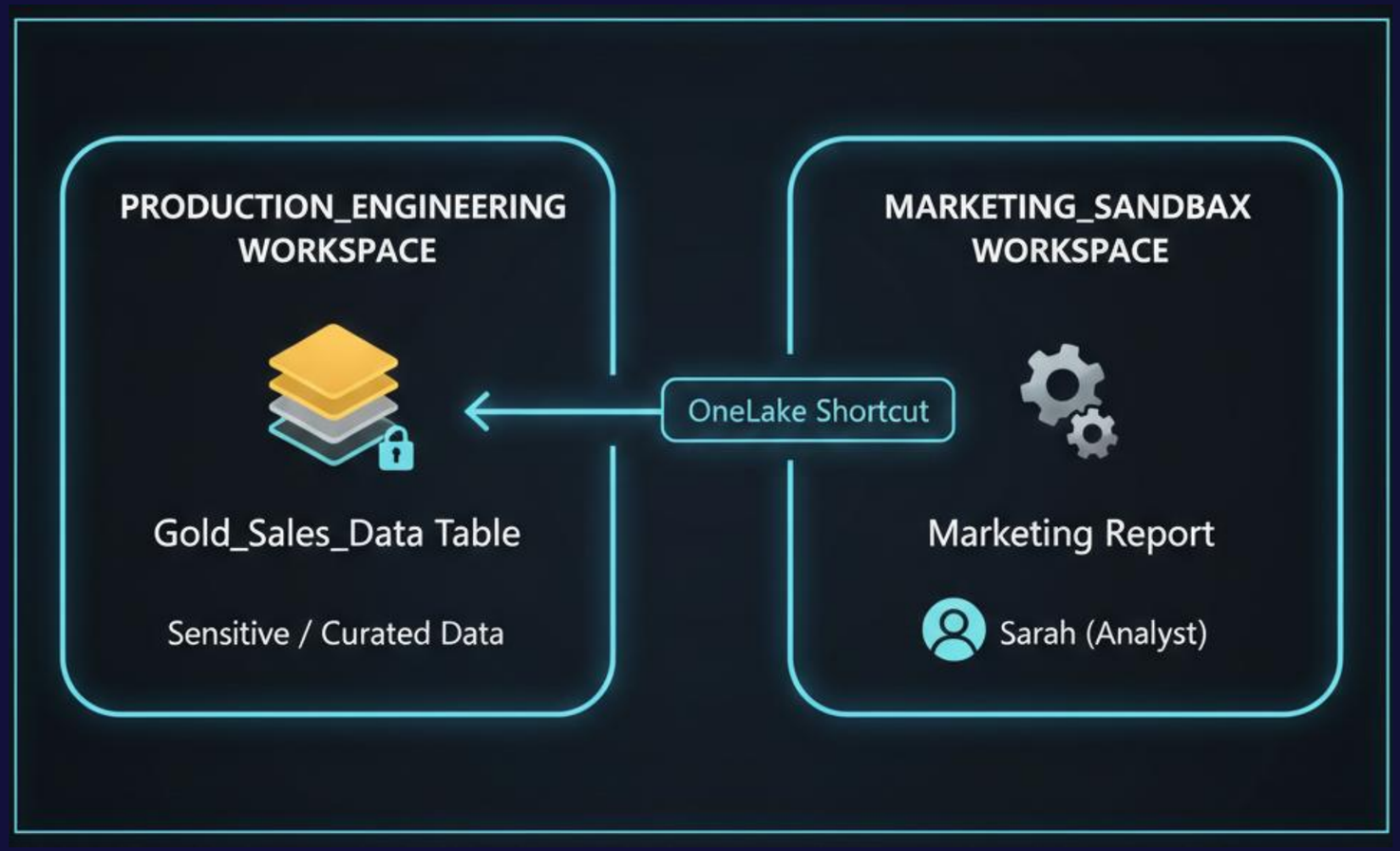
Demo 2 – Folder level Control



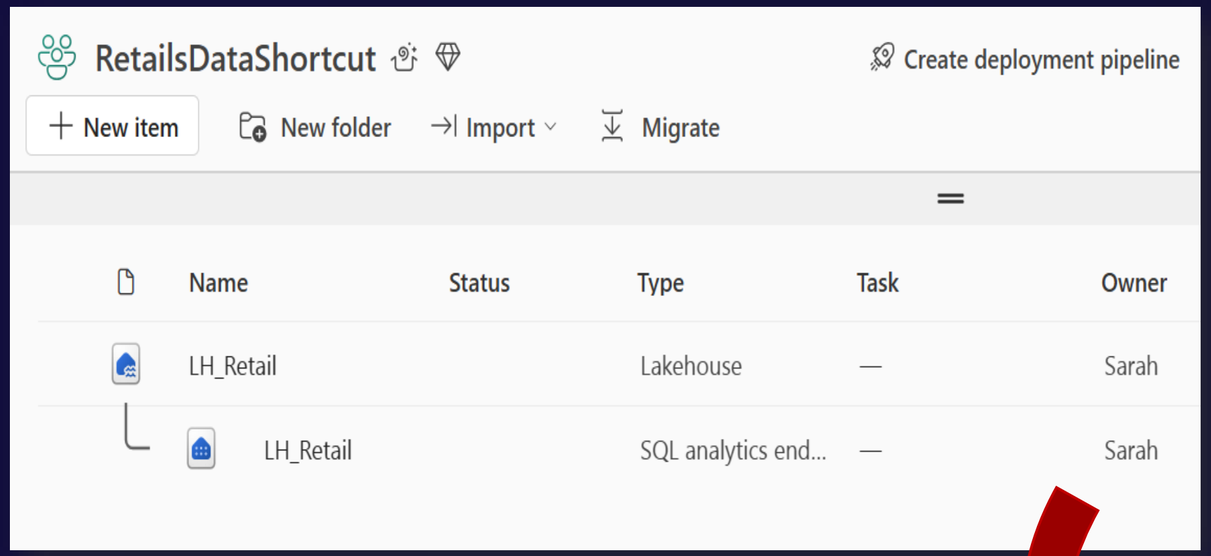


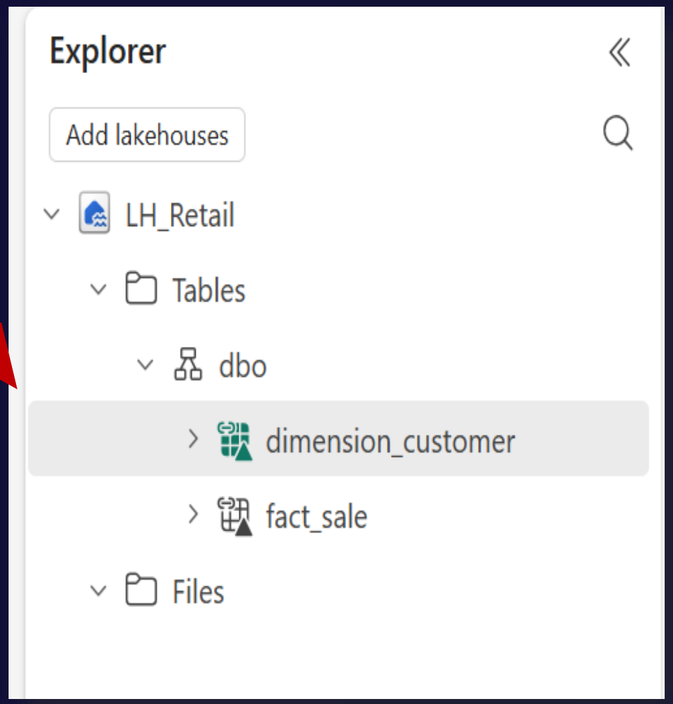
Internal Data Mesh

Data stays in Engineering;
Marketing queries it live.



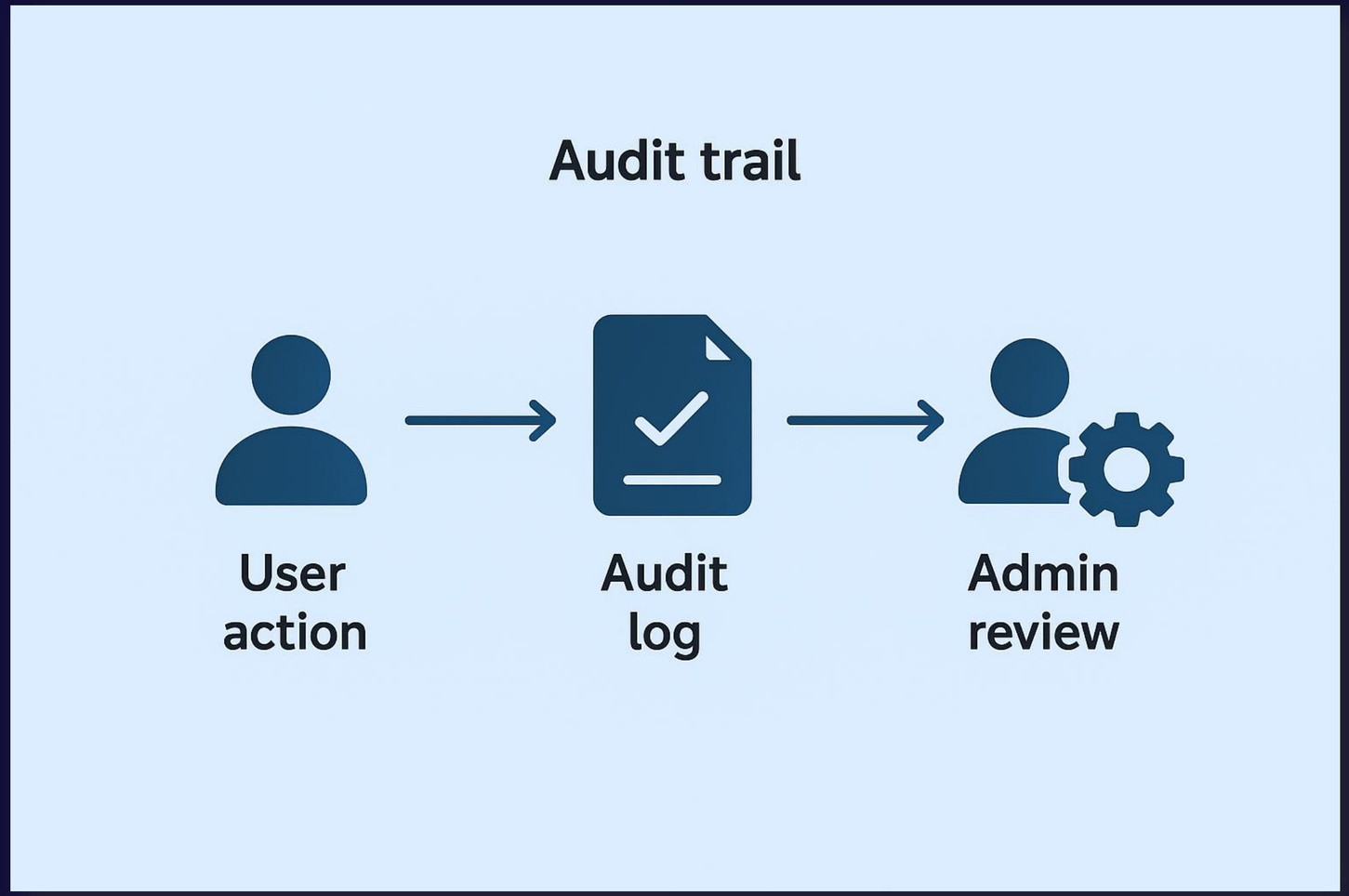
Demo 3 – Cross Workspace Shortcuts



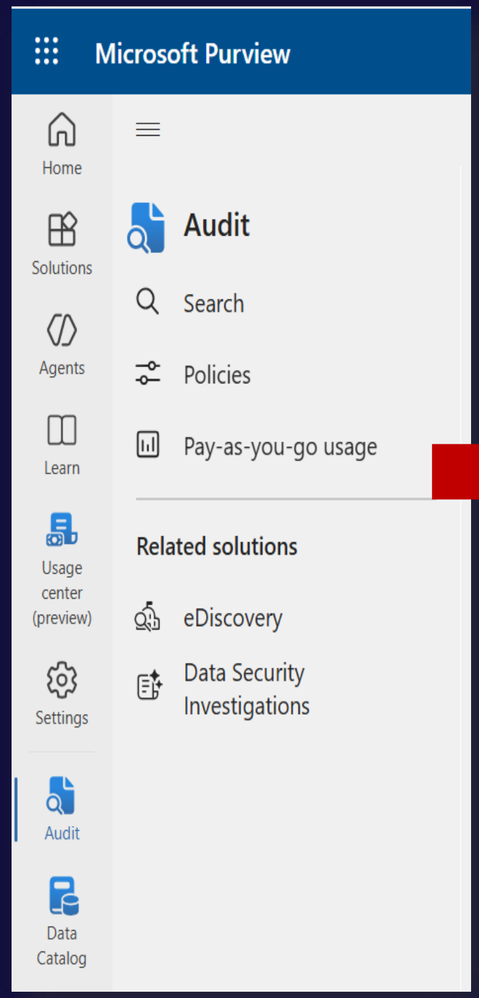


Governance & Auditing

- **The Audit Trail:** Every "Share" and "Role Change" is logged in the Fabric Activity Events.
- **Full Transparency:** Identify who granted access, to whom, and exactly when.
- **Proactive Monitoring:** Use Purview and Admin Reports to catch "Permission Creep."



Demo 4 – Proving “Who’s In”



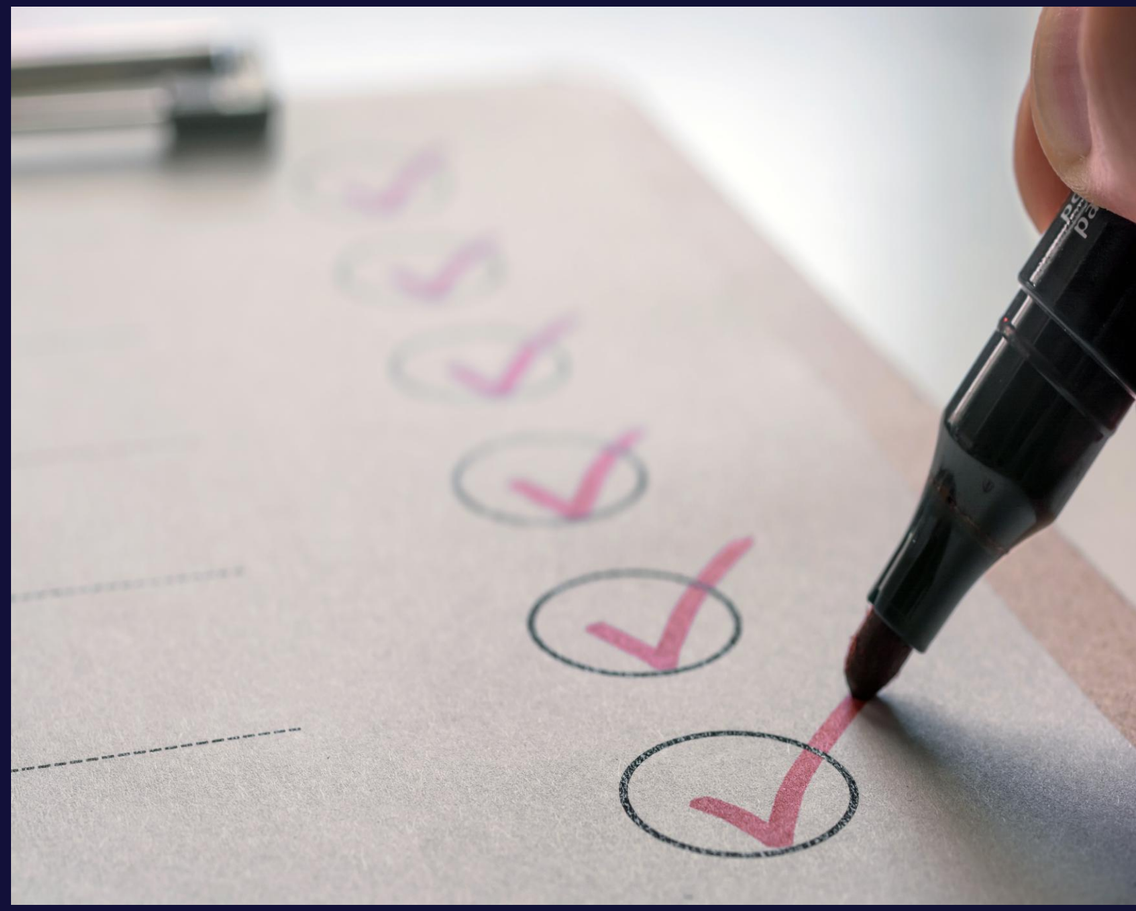
Date (UTC)	IP Address	User	Record Type	Activity	Item	Admin Un
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Created an artifact		
21 Jan 2026 06...		Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Created directory		
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Created Power BI folder	ContosoShortcut	
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Migrated workspace to a capacity	Display Name : Tri...	
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Listed tables in a lakehouse		
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Listed tables in a lakehouse		
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Read an artifact		
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Read an artifact		
21 Jan 2026 06...	94.7.194.19	Sarah@Datavibes...	PowerBIAudit	Read an artifact		

Common Gotchas

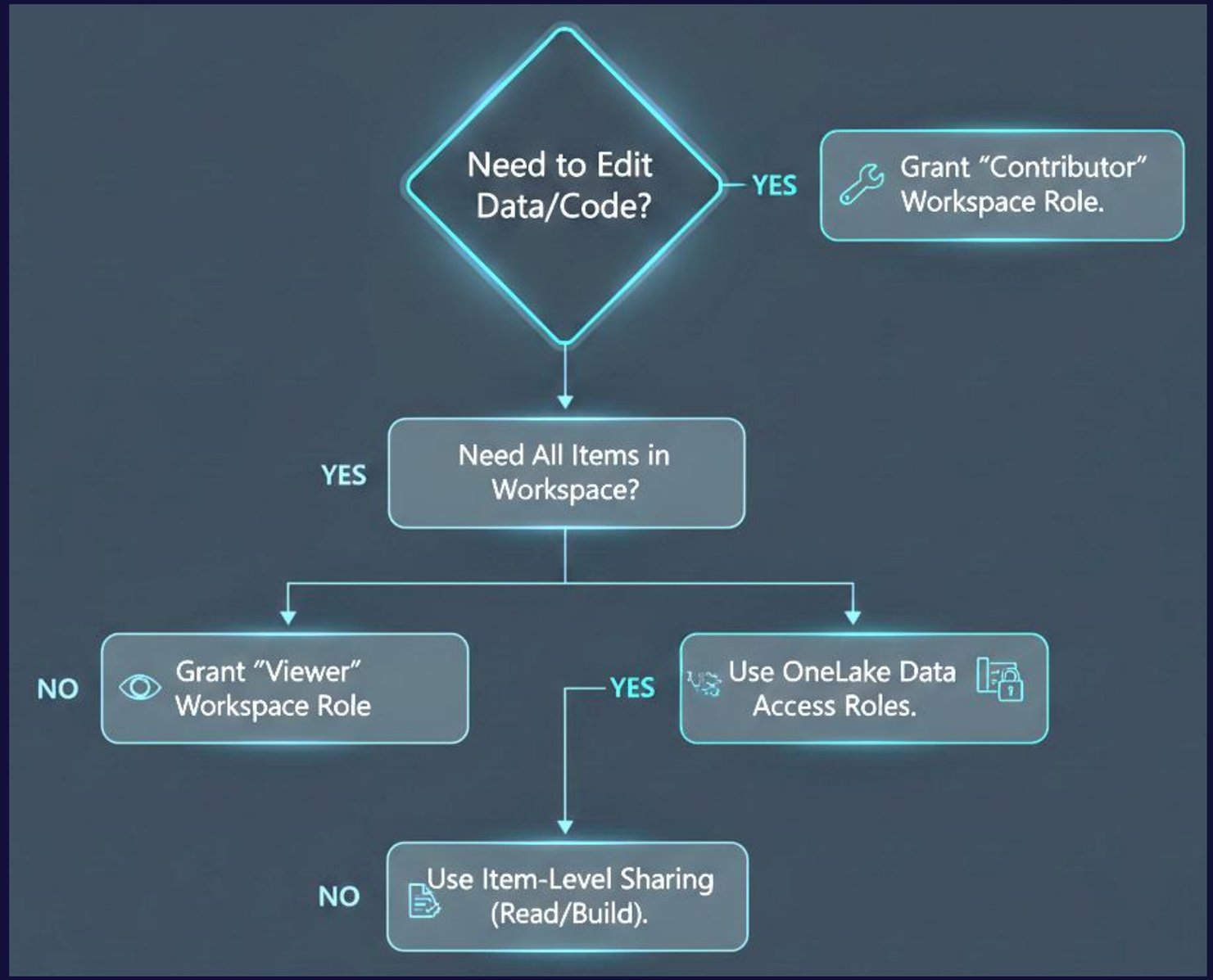
- **Visual:** * 1. Workspace Roles = Full Data Access.
  - Shortcuts require permissions at the *Source*.
  - Token Caching (Sign out/in).

Best Practices Checklist

- ✓Use **Entra ID Groups** (Never individuals)
- ✓Grant **Least Privilege** (Most developers should be Contributors, use item-level for consumers).
- ✓Audit **Admins** monthly.
- ✓Review permissions regularly



Takeaway Decision Tree



Troubleshooting Decision Grid

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	FIX
User sees Report, No Data (Blank Visuals)	Missing "ReadData" Permission	Grant "Read all SQL" on on Lakehouse or Warehouse
Access Denied in SQL / Spark	Not in Workspace OR Missing Item Permissions	Add to Workspace (Viewer) OR Share Item with "Read' "Read' & ReadData"
Shortcut is Broken / Data Missing	No Permission at Data Source Lakehouse	Token Caching or Source Permissions. User Signs Out & Back In.

How was the session?

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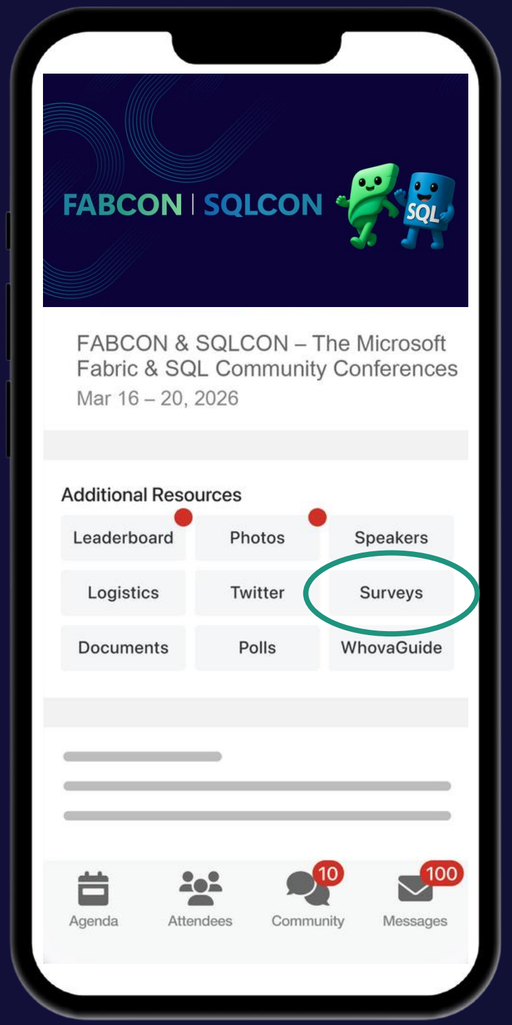
THANK YOU
Happy to Take any Questions!



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