

# CASE STUDY

improving 



## The AZEK Company



### PROJECT

Microsoft Fabric

### OVERVIEW

Improving partnered with Azek Company to modernize their data warehouse and reporting system using the innovative Microsoft Fabric platform. Azek, an Ohio-based manufacturer of sustainable outdoor living and exterior building products, sought to replace their outdated manual data processes and eliminate single points of failure. Leveraging Microsoft Fabric, Power BI, and Azure technologies, we developed a comprehensive solution to automate data integration, enhance reporting capabilities, and improve decision-making efficiency.

### BUSINESS PROBLEM

Azek Company faced significant challenges with their existing data processes. Their warehouse operations relied heavily on manual data manipulations in Excel, which were carried out by a single key resource, creating a critical single point of failure. This manual process was time-consuming, prone to human error, and inefficient for timely decision-making. Additionally, they were using Tableau for embedded calculations, which became increasingly complex and unmanageable over time. Azek needed a robust, automated solution to reduce dependency on manual efforts and enhance data accuracy.

### OUR APPROACH

Our approach began with a thorough assessment of Azek's existing data processes and the needs of their stakeholders. We conducted a pilot project to evaluate the suitability of Microsoft Fabric versus traditional Azure tools. After proving the advantages of Fabric, we proceeded with a full-scale deployment. We transitioned Azek from Tableau to Power BI for its user-friendly, self-service capabilities. We utilized Azure SQL Database for data storage and integrated various Microsoft tools, including Power Apps, Power Automate, and Azure Logic Apps, to automate data integration and reporting processes.

## BUSINESS BENEFITS

- **Reduced human error:** Automated data processes eliminated manual errors, ensuring consistent and accurate data.
- **Increased efficiency:** Data integration time was reduced from weeks to a few hours, enabling faster decision-making.
- **Scalability:** The new system is scalable and can handle data from all 23 distributors seamlessly.
- **Improved compliance:** Digital storage and auditing capabilities improved compliance and data traceability.
- **Cost savings:** Elimination of outdated data processes and errors led to better inventory management and cost savings.
- **User adoption:** The new system was well-received by key users, simplifying their workflows and enhancing productivity.

## TECHNOLOGIES AND METHODOLOGIES USED

- **Microsoft Fabric:** Core platform for data integration and transformation.
- **Power BI:** Replaced Tableau for self-service reporting and visualization.
- **Azure SQL Database:** Provided robust data storage and integration capabilities.
- **Power Apps:** Facilitated user interaction with data and reporting tools.
- **Power Automate:** Automated data refreshes and routine tasks.
- **Azure Logic Apps:** Connected to SharePoint for data synchronization and file management.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Improving worked closely with Azek's internal team, including their newly hired architect, to ensure a smooth transition and alignment on project goals. There were no third-party partnerships involved, but our collaboration with Azek's Chief Information Officer and other stakeholders was crucial. Regular status updates and architecture reviews ensured the project remained on track and met all requirements.

## LESSONS LEARNED

1. **Adopting new technology:** Early adoption of Microsoft Fabric required adaptability and patience due to its immaturity and evolving features.

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2. **Comprehensive planning:** Detailed planning and pilot projects are essential for evaluating new technologies and ensuring successful implementation.
3. **User engagement:** Engaging key users early in the process helps in gaining their support and ensuring successful adoption.
4. **Documentation:** Creating comprehensive technical reference documents is critical for future maintenance and knowledge transfer.
5. **Flexible meeting structures:** Adjusting meeting cadences to accommodate new team members can enhance collaboration and project alignment.
6. **Continuous improvement:** Regular reviews and feedback loops help in refining processes and addressing challenges promptly.

## CONCLUSION

The Azek Company project showcased our ability to leverage advanced technologies like Microsoft Fabric to modernize data processes and improve business outcomes. Our strategic approach, combined with close collaboration with Azek's team, resulted in significant efficiency gains, cost savings, and enhanced data accuracy. This case study underscores Improving's expertise in delivering innovative solutions that drive tangible business benefits and demonstrates our commitment to helping clients achieve their operational goals through cutting-edge technology.

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## GET STARTED

Learn more about how Improving can help you get started by contacting us today at [sales@improving.com](mailto:sales@improving.com)