Fabric Plan

E5 | **Multi-Dimensional Planning**

This FAQ addresses common questions that may arise while working through the Multi-Dimensional Planning exercise in Fabric Planning. It covers the reasoning behind Cube measures, how multidimensional allocation works, the bidirectional sync behavior, and how Gross Profit is calculated at the common grain.

Part 1 Build the Templates

1. What is a Cube measure, and how is it different from a regular measure?

A regular measure pulls a value directly from the semantic model or a planning sheet at whatever granularity it exists. A Cube measure is a calculated allocation layer — it takes a measure with limited granularity and distributes it across additional dimensions using a reference measure as the basis for distribution, without altering the source data.

2. Can I add more than one breakdown to the same Cube measure?

Yes — you can add multiple breakdowns, useful when you need to segregate them into groups such as geography, category, or customer type. However, all breakdowns must have a common dimension.

3. Why do the Regional Plan and Brand Plan each need breakdowns covering all four dimensions — Region, Country, Category, Brand — instead of just the two dimensions each sheet actually displays?

The breakdown determines every dimensional level a Cube measure can be read into later, not just the levels used on the sheet where it is created. Regional Plan's rows are only Region Name and Country Name, but its Sales Plan measure still needs Category and Brand added to its breakdown so it can resolve at the full Region → Country → Category → Brand grain on the Profitability sheet. The same logic applies in reverse for Brand Plan — its rows are Category and Brand, so Region Name and Country Name have to be added so Cost Plan can resolve at that same combined grain from the other direction.

4. Both sheets end up with breakdowns covering the same four dimensions. Why build two separate sheets instead of one?

Regional Plan and Brand Plan represent two different planning owners working at their own natural grain — Finance planning revenue by region and country, and the cost team planning by category and brand. Each source sheet stays organized around how that team actually thinks about the numbers, while the Cube measure handles reconciling both into a shared grain on the Profitability sheet.

5. Why is 2025 Gross Revenue used as the reference measure for Sales Plan instead of starting from scratch?

Copy from another series pre-populates Sales Plan with real 2025 Gross Revenue figures rather than starting from a blank column, giving planners a realistic baseline to adjust rather than build from nothing. The reference measure is also what the breakdown's proportional allocation is based on.

6. If the 2025 Gross Revenue reference measure is later updated, does Sales Plan change too?

No — the reference measure only feeds Sales Plan at the moment of the Copy from another series action. After that, Sales Plan becomes its own independent editable series. A later change to 2025 Gross Revenue would not retroactively update Sales Plan — the two are no longer linked once the copy is made.

7. What would happen if you tried to pull Sales Plan into the Profitability sheet using From Sheets instead of Cube Measures?

The values would not populate. The Profitability sheet has rows at Region → Country → Category → Brand grain, but Sales Plan was created on a sheet with only Region Name and Country Name rows. Without the Cube breakdown, From Sheets has no way to resolve the measure at the additional dimensions — it can only read the measure at the grain it was originally created at. This is the core problem Cube measures solve.

Part 2 Real-Time Plan Alignment

8. When the EU Sales Plan total is increased by 10% in the Regional Plan, why do individual Category and Brand combinations under EU update too?

The 10% increase is applied to the EU total, and the Cube breakdown distributes that change proportionally down to every Category and Brand combination under EU, based on their share of the 2025 Gross Revenue reference measure.

9. Why is Sales Plan pulled in through Cube Measures and inserted as a measure, rather than pulled in the same way other referenced measures are?

Inserting it specifically as a Cube measure is what preserves its two-way behavior. If it were pulled in as a regular read-only reference, the Profitability sheet would only ever display the value — it could not be edited there. Inserting it through Cube Measures keeps the breakdown-based write-back intact, so an edit on Profitability flows back to Regional Plan just as an edit on Regional Plan flows forward to Profitability.

10. Is this two-way behavior specific to Cube measures, or would a regular measure pulled in through From Sheets behave the same way?

It is specific to Cube measures. A regular measure referenced through From Sheets is read-only wherever it is pulled in — it can only be edited on its original sheet, and any change flows one-way outward. A Cube measure works in both directions: it can be edited either on its source sheet or on any sheet it has been pulled into, and the change writes back correctly to the source using the breakdown's allocation logic.

11. What would happen if Brand Plan's breakdown only covered Region Name and Country Name but Regional Plan's breakdown was not configured to include Category and Brand?

Cost Plan would still resolve correctly on the Profitability sheet since Brand Plan's breakdown covers the full grain. But Sales Plan would fail to populate at the Category and Brand level — Sales Plan lives on Regional Plan, whose breakdown needs to include Category and Brand independently so it can resolve at the full grain on the Profitability sheet. Each measure's breakdown configuration is independent — one measure's breakdown does not cover the other.

12. Since Gross Profit is a formula measure built on top of two Cube measures, does editing a Gross Profit cell directly also write back to the sources?

No — a formula measure is not editable directly. Its value is entirely calculated from the underlying measures it references, so Gross Profit only ever changes as a result of Sales Plan or Cost Plan changing, never the other way around.

13. What would happen if the Profitability sheet included a dimension not part of

either measure's breakdown, such as Customer Type?

Neither Sales Plan nor Cost Plan would be able to resolve at that grain. The Profitability sheet would show a dimension mismatch error — a grey screen indicating that the dimensions on the sheet are not covered by either measure's breakdown configuration.