***Target names usually specifies the connection to connect the warehouse with database, schema and all other information. It can also be called as Environments as we hav to only target the environment and all the settings of connections is already set in the environment*** ***Having different targets or environments with different connection details is a common practice in dbt. For example, you might have one target for a Snowflake database and another target for a Redshift database. This allows you to easily switch between environments and work with different databases or schemas depending on your needs. By defining target names and their corresponding connection details in the profiles.yml file, dbt can establish the appropriate connections and perform data transformations, execute SQL queries, and interact with the specified databases or schemas.***

In dbt, the term "target" typically refers to the configuration that specifies the connection details for a specific database or schema. It represents the environment in which dbt will run its commands and perform data transformations.

A target in dbt is responsible for defining the necessary information to establish a connection with a database, such as the database type, host, port, username, password, and schema. The target configuration is typically specified in the **profiles.yml** file in your dbt project.

While you can assign custom names to the targets in your **dbt\_project.yml** file for better organization or clarity, the primary purpose of a target is to define the connection details to a specific database or schema. The target configuration allows dbt to connect to the specified database and perform data transformations, execute SQL queries, and interact with the data.

Therefore, a target in dbt represents the specific database or schema that dbt will interact with and is not directly related to the concept of an environment. However, it's common to have different targets configured for different environments (e.g., development, staging, production) to connect to different databases or schemas depending on the environment in which dbt is being executed.

To summarize, a target in dbt is a configuration that specifies the connection details to a specific database or schema, and it allows dbt to interact with and transform data in that database or schema.

dbt\_core:

  outputs:

    dev:

      account: yj51109.central-india.azure

      database: healthcare\_target

      password: Datadoers.123

      role: ACCOUNTADMIN

      schema: analytics

      threads: 4

      type: snowflake

      user: Shafiqahmed

      warehouse: COMPUTE\_WH

  target: dev

Target:

In dbt, a target refers to a specific environment or destination where you want to execute your dbt project. It represents the database or data warehouse that you want to interact with.

Targets are defined in the **profiles.yml** file, which is a configuration file used by dbt to specify different connections to databases or data warehouses. Each target typically includes information such as the database type, host, port, username, password, and other connection details.

By configuring different targets in the **profiles.yml** file, you can switch between different environments or databases easily. For example, you might have a target for a development database, a target for a staging database, and a target for a production database.

You can specify the target to use when running dbt commands by using the **--target** flag followed by the target name. For example:

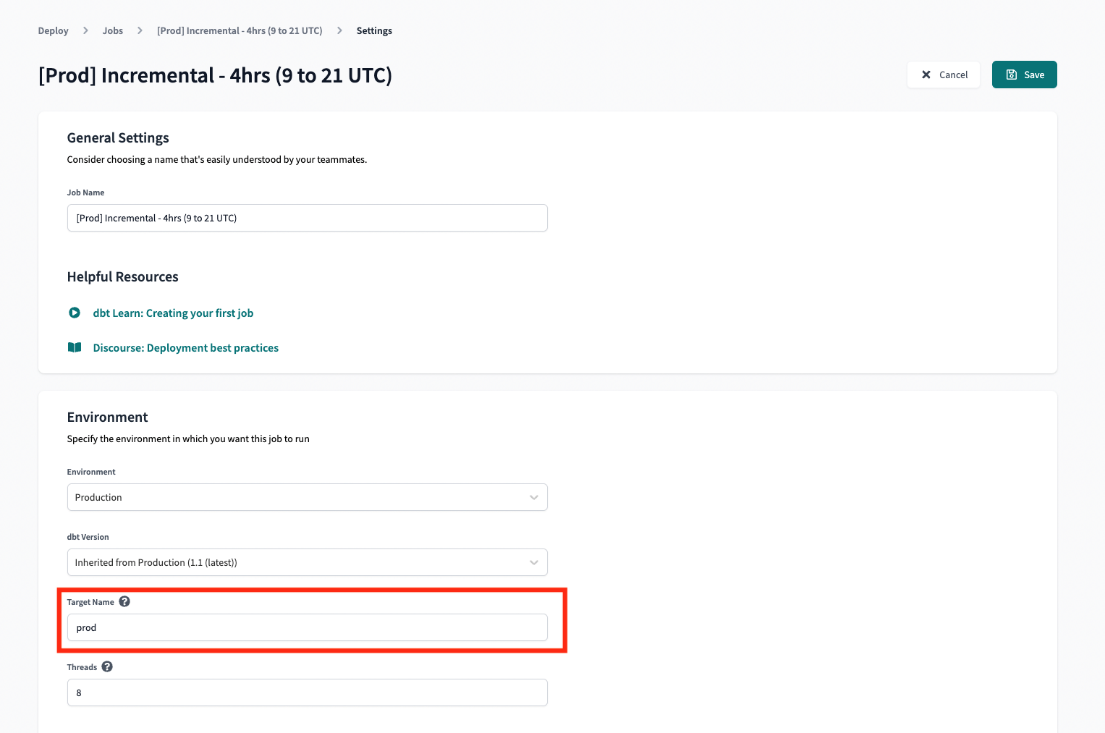
dbt run --target=development

dbt test --target=staging

dbt run --target=production

This allows you to execute your dbt project against different targets depending on the environment or database you want to work with. It provides flexibility and ensures that your dbt project can be easily deployed to different environments without modifying the underlying code or configurations.

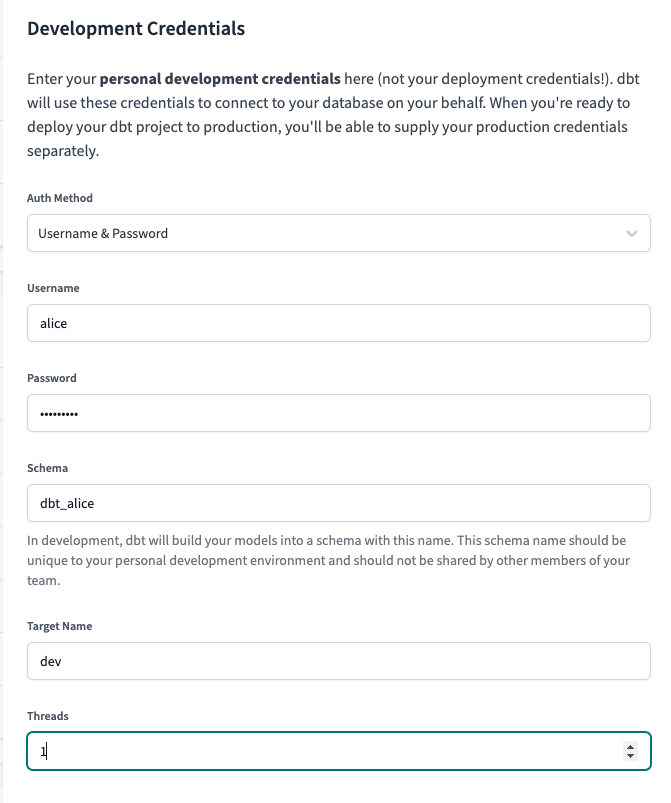
To set a custom target name for a job in dbt Cloud, configure the **Target Name** field for your job in the Job Settings page.

[](https://docs.getdbt.com/docs/build/custom-target-names)

Overriding the target name to 'prod'

**dbt Cloud IDE**[**​**](https://docs.getdbt.com/docs/build/custom-target-names#dbt-cloud-ide)

When developing in dbt Cloud, you can set a custom target name in your development credentials. Go to your account (from the gear menu in the top right hand corner), select the project under **Credentials**, and update the target name.

[](https://docs.getdbt.com/docs/build/custom-target-names)

Overriding the target name to 'dev'