| **Feature** | **Snowflake** | **Traditional Database (e.g., MySQL, Oracle)** |
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| Deployment | Cloud-native SaaS | On-premises or cloud-hosted |
| Architecture | Multi-cluster shared data | Monolithic or shared-disk/shared-nothing |
| Compute vs Storage | Separated, independently scalable | Tightly coupled |
| Scalability | Auto-scaling, elastic | Limited, manual scaling |
| Performance Tuning | Minimal (automated) | Requires manual tuning |
| Data Types | Structured + semi-structured (JSON, etc.) | Mostly structured |
| Maintenance | Fully managed (no DBA needed) | Requires manual management (backups, tuning, etc.) |
| Concurrency | High (multi-cluster for workload isolation) | Limited by hardware and architecture |
| Best For | Analytics, big data, BI, data lakes | OLTP, transactional apps |
| Cost Model | Pay-as-you-go (compute + storage) | License + hardware + admin costs |
| Examples | Snowflake | Oracle, MySQL, SQL Server, PostgreSQL |