

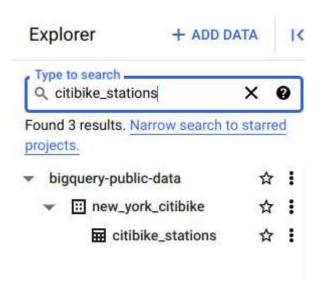
DE Zoomcamp 3.1.1 - Data Warehouse and BigQuery

On-Line Transaction Processing (OLTP) systems are typically used in backend services, where sequences of SQL statements are grouped together in the form of transactions, which are rolled back if any of their statements fails. These systems deal with fast and small updates, store data in normalized databases that reduce data redundancy and increase productivity of end users.

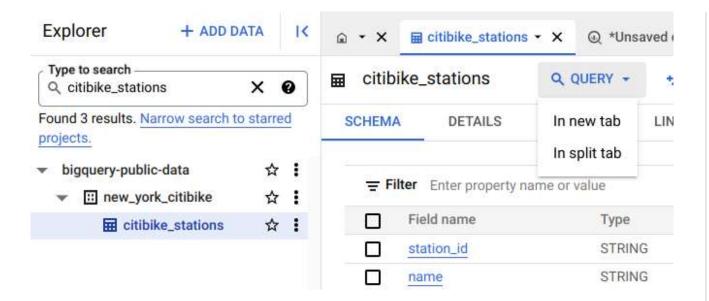
On-Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) systems are composed by denormalized databases, which simplify analytics queries, and are mainly used for data mining. Data Warehouses are the main example in this category. They generally contain data from many sources (e.g., different OLTP systems) and implement star or snowflake schemas that are optimized for analytical tasks.

BigQuery is a Data Warehouse solution from Google. Its main advantages are: no servers to manage or software to install; high scalability and availability; and builtin features like machine learning, geospatial analysis and business inteligence directly from the SQL interface.

BigQuery provides a lot of open source data. For example, we can search for the citibike_stations public data in BigQuery.



Then, click on the table and open a new query tab.



The new tab will have the following content.

For example, we can query the station_id and name fields from the citibike_stations table.

```
SELECT station_id, name FROM `bigquery-public-data.new_york_citibike.citibike_
```

Now we start in the practical part of BigQuery. First, we will create an external table. According to BigQuery's documentation:

- External tables are similar to standard BigQuery tables, in that these tables store their metadata and schema in BigQuery storage. However, their data resides in an external source.
- External tables are contained inside a dataset, and you manage them in the same way that you manage a standard BigQuery table.

Here, we create an external table for our yellow taxi trips data. In my case, I included the 12 parquet files of 2021. dtc-de-375514 is the id of my project, trips_data_all is the name of my dataset and external_yellow_tripdata is the name of the external table that we are creating.

```
uris = ['gs://dtc_data_lake_dtc-de-375514/data/yellow/yellow_tripdata_2021-*
);

SELECT * FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata` limit 10
```

Partitioning in BigQuery

When we create a dataset, we generally have one or more columns that are used as some type of filter. In this case, we can partition a table based on such columns to improve BigQuery's performance. In this lesson, the instructor shows us an example of a dataset containing StackOverflow questions (left), and how the dataset would look like if it was partitioned by the Creation_date field (right).

Partitioning is a powerful feature of BigQuery. Suppose we want to query the questions created on a specific date. Partition improves processing, because BigQuery will not read or process any data from other dates. This improves efficiency and reduces querying costs.

					stackoverflow.questions_2018_partitioned		
					Creation_date	Title	Tags
stackove	rflow.questions_	2018			2018-03-01	How do I??	Android
Creation_date	Title	Tags		20180301	2018-03-01	When Should?	Linux
2018-03-01	How do I??	Android			2018-03-01	What does?	Android
2018-03-01	When Should?	Linux			2018-03-01	How does!	SQL
2018-03-02	This is great!	Linux			Creation date	Title	Tags
2018-03-03	Can this?	C++			2018-03-02	This is great!	Linux
2018-03-02	Help!!	Android			2018-03-02	00000	Android
2018-03-01	What does?	Android				Help!!	
2018-03-02	When does?	Android	Partition	20180302	2018-03-02	When does?	Android
2018-03-02	Can you help?	Linux			2018-03-02	Can you help?	Linux
2018-03-02	What now?	Android			2018-03-02	What now?	Android
2018-03-03	Just learned!	SQL			Creation_date	Title	Tags
2018-03-01	How does!	SQL		******	2018-03-03	Can this?	C++
2018-03-01	now does:	SGL.		20180303	2018-03-03	Just learned!	SQL

To illustrate the difference in performance, we first create a non partitioned data table from our dataset.

For some reason, I got the following errors when running the command above.

```
Error while reading table: dtc-de-

375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata, error message: Parquet
column 'payment_type' has type DOUBLE which does not match the target
cpp_type INT64. File: gs://dtc_data_lake_dtc-de-
375514/data/yellow/yellow_tripdata_2021-02.parquet

Error while reading table: dtc-de-
375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata, error message: Parquet
column 'VendorID' has type DOUBLE which does not match the target cpp_type
INT64. File: gs://dtc_data_lake_dtc-de-
375514/data/yellow/yellow_tripdata_2021-02.parquet
```

Since in this example we are only interested in seeing the performance difference between a non partitioned table and a partitioned table, a quickfix for the SQL statement is:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_non_part 
SELECT * REPLACE(
    CAST(0 AS NUMERIC) AS VendorID,
    CAST(0 AS NUMERIC) AS payment_type
) FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata`;
```

Next, we create a partitioned table.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_partitio PARTITION BY

DATE(tpep_pickup_datetime) AS

SELECT * REPLACE(

CAST(@ AS NUMERIC) AS VendorID,

CAST(@ AS NUMERIC) AS payment_type

) FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata`
```

Now, let's compare the difference in performance when querying non partitioned and partitioned data.

```
SELECT DISTINCT(PULocationID)

FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_non_partitioned`

WHERE DATE(tpep pickup datetime) BETWEEN '2021-01-01' AND '2021-06-30';
```

Bytes processed	471.56 MB		
Bytes billed	472 MB		

```
SELECT DISTINCT(PULocationID)
FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_partitioned`
WHERE DATE(tpep_pickup_datetime) BETWEEN '2021-06-01' AND '2021-06-30';
```

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Bytes processed 43.25 MB

Bytes billed 44 MB

We can see the large difference in processing and billing (in this example, more than 10x improvement when using partitioned data).

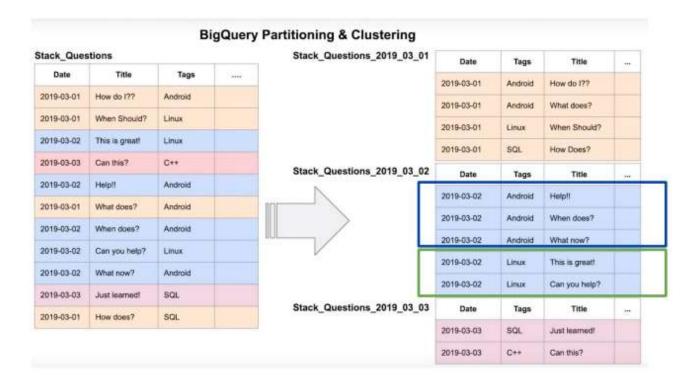
Let's look into the partitions.

```
SELECT table_name, partition_id, total_rows
FROM trips_data_all.INFORMATION_SCHEMA.PARTITIONS
WHERE table_name = 'yellow_tripdata_partitioned'
ORDER BY total_rows DESC;
```

JOB IN	FORMATION RESULTS	JSON EXECUTION DET	AILS EXE
Row	table_name	partition_id	total_rows
1	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211203	136231
2	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211119	135462
3	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211209	134724
4	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211210	133497
5	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211118	133377
6	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211204	132392
7	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211113	132310
8	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211208	131663
9	yellow_tripdata_partitioned	20211106	131460
10 yellow_tripdata_partitioned		20211120	131453

Clustering in BigQuery

We can cluster tables based on some field. In the StackOverflow example presented by the instructor, after partitioning questions by date, we may want to cluster them by tag in each partition. Clustering also helps us to reduce our costs and improve query performance. The field that we choose for clustering depends on how the data will be queried.



Creating a clustered data for our dataset.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_partitio 
PARTITION BY DATE(tpep_pickup_datetime)

CLUSTER BY PULocationID AS

SELECT * REPLACE(

CAST(@ AS NUMERIC) AS VendorID,

CAST(@ AS NUMERIC) AS payment_type

) FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.external_yellow_tripdata`;
```

Now, let's compare the difference in performance when querying unclustered and clustered data.

```
SELECT count(*) as trips

FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_partitioned`

WHERE DATE(tpep_pickup_datetime) BETWEEN '2021-01-01' and '2021-10-31'

AND PULocationID = 132;
```

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Bytes processed 369.52 MB

Bytes billed 370 MB

```
SELECT count(*) as trips
FROM `dtc-de-375514.trips_data_all.yellow_tripdata_partitioned_clustered`
```

```
WHERE DATE(tpep_pickup_datetime) BETWEEN '2021-01-01' and '2021-10-31'
AND PULocationID = 132;
```

Bytes processed	342.37 MB		
Bytes billed	343 MB		

We achieved ~8% of improvement in this example. As the dataset grows, this difference becomes more evident.

DE Zoomcamp 3.1.2 - Partioning and Clustering

BigQuery Partitioning: we can partition data by a time-unit column, ingestion time (_PARTITIONTIME) or an integer range partitioning. When partitioning data, to achieve its full potential, we would prefer evenly distributed partitions. In addition, we must take into account the number of partitions that we will need. BigQuery limits the number of partitions to 4000.

BigQuery Clustering: when clustering, a maximum of four columns can be used and the order they are specified is important to determine how the data will be sorted. Clustering improves filtering and aggregation queries and typically doesn't show much improvement for tables with less than 1 GB of data.

The instructor shows this nice comparison between Partitioning and Clustering:

Partitioning vs Clustering

Clustering	Partitoning
Cost benefit unknown	Cost known upfront
You need more granularity than partitioning alone allows	You need partition-level management.
Your queries commonly use filters or aggregation against multiple particular columns	Filter or aggregate on single column
The cardinality of the number of values in a column or group of columns is large	

When to use Clustering over Partitioning? It is usually better to using Clustering when: partitioning creates small partitions (e.g., each partition < 1 GB), partitionining generates more than 4000 partitions, or we need to update/modify data in the majority of partitions on a frequent basis.

DE Zoomcamp 3.2.1 - BigQuery Best Practices

Cost reduction:

- Avoid SELECT * . It is much better to specify a particular subset of columns to reduce the amount of scanned data.
- Price queries before running them.
- Use clustered or partitioned tables to optimize the number of scanned records.
- Use streaming inserts with caution, because they could drastically increase the costs.
- Materialize query results in different stages.

Query performance:

- Always filter data using partitioned or clustered columns.
- Use denormalized data that facilitate analytical queries.
- Excess usage of external storage might incur in more costs.
- Reduce data before performing a join operation.
- Order statements must be last part of the query to optimize performance.
- In the queries, as a best practice, place the table with the largest number of rows first, followed by the table with the fewest rows, and then place the remaining tables by decreasing sizes.

DE Zoomcamp 3.2.2 - Internals of Big Query

Colossus: Google's distributed file storage that stores data in a columnar format. Colossus is separated from computation. Thus, it is generally cheap.

Jupiter: since compute and storage are in different hardware, Google needs a very fast network for communication. Jupiter is the network that is implemented inside Google's datacenter and has ~1TB bandwidth.

Dremel: the query execution engine. Dremel breaks each query into a tree structure, whose parts are executed in parallel across several nodes.

Column-oriented storage: type of storage that is optimized for querying subsets of columns from tables. It is also efficient for performing filtering or aggregation functions over columns.

Some nice references for further reading:

- BigQuery under the hood
- BigQuery explained: An overview of BigQuery's architecture
- Dremel: Interactive Analysis of Web-Scale Datasets

DE Zoomcamp 3.3.1 - BigQuery Machine Learning

- SQL example for ML in BigQuery
- BigQuery ML Tutorials
- BigQuery ML Reference Parameter
- Hyper Parameter tuning
- Feature preprocessing
- BigQuery Machine Learning Deployment
- Steps to extract and deploy model with docker