1. What is a Snowflake cloud data warehouse?

Snowflake is an analytic data warehouse implemented as a SaaS service. It is built on a new SQL database engine with a unique architecture built for the cloud. This cloud-based data warehouse solution was first available on AWS as software to load and analyze massive volumes of data. The most remarkable feature of Snowflake is its ability to spin up any number of virtual warehouses, which means the user can operate an unlimited number of independent workloads against the same data without any risk of contention.

2. Is Snowflake an ETL tool?

Yes, Snowflake is an ETL tool. It’s a three-step process, which includes:

Extracts data from the source and creates data files. Data files support multiple data formats like JSON, CSV, XML, and more.

Loads data to an internal or external stage. Data can be staged in an internal, Microsoft Azure blob, Amazon S3 bucket, or Snowflake managed location.

Data is copied into a Snowflake database table using the COPY INTO command.

3. How is Snowflake distinct from AWS?

Snowflake offers storage and computation independently, and storage cost is similar to data storage. AWS handles this aspect by inserting Redshift Spectrum, which enables data querying instantly on S3, yet not as continuous as Snowflake.

4. Can AWS glue connect to Snowflake?

Definitely. AWS glue presents a comprehensive managed environment that easily connects with Snowflake as a data warehouse service. These two solutions collectively enable you to handle data ingestion and transformation with more ease and flexibility.