Documentation Guide for Steps Taken

SETUP GUIDE FOR DATA PIPELINE:

This project, while seemingly straightforward, took me some time to get implemented. I had to view documentation from Microsoft and watch various YouTube demonstration videos detailing setup methods. These resources are provided at the end of this documentation. Much of this information is included in the project report, however I also wanted to provide it separately as well. An example of my "coding".

Create a resource group

All this information is posted on my github at: https://github.com/Jhansen19/Airline Predictions.

ENVIRONMENT SETUP:

After creating the Azure Cloud Services account and logging in.

Step 1: Create Resource Group – click on Create Resource Group and fill out the following information.

Basics	Tags	Review + create						
Resource group - A container that holds related resources for an Azure solution. The resource group can include all the resources for the solution, or only those resources that you want to manage as a group. You decide how you want to allocate resources to resource groups based on what makes the most sense for your organization. Learn more								
Project details								
Subscription * ①			Azure for Students	/				
R	esource (group * ①						
Resource details								
Region * ①			(US) East US	/				

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af-jhdep-01

db-jhdep-01

Resources

👚 kv-jhdep-01

Step 2: After creating your Resource Group I created the Azure Services I wanted to use in my data pipeline.

Here is the list of resources I created for the pipeline. The ones highlighted in red are the ones used in this pipeline.

Step 3: Creating these resources is relatively straightforward. First, from the home page I clicked on create a resource and searched for the resource that I wanted to create. I clicked the 'Create' button next to the icon of the resource I wanted to create.

Fill out the necessary information from the screenshot.

For each resource there are differing configurations for the creation of the resources. It was important to know these differences, and, in some cases, why different selections would be more beneficial.

Home > Create a resource >

Create Data Factory

Resource group * ①

Name * ①

Basics Git configuration Networking Advanced Tags Review + create

One-click to create data factory with sample pipeline and datasets. Try it

For azure data factory and Azure Key Vault some of these included whether to allow public or private endpoints, tags, instance region and version.

For Azure Storage Account Gen2 (Data Lake) the important configurations included:

- 'Azure Blob Storage or Azure Data Lake Storage Gen 2' This gives the option to make the storage account a data lake that has a hierarchical namespace.
- 'Region' select regions closest to where the Data Lake is most used.
- 'Redundancy' Can choose locally-redundant storage, Geo-redundant storage, zone-redundant storage, or geo-redundant storage. For this project I chose Geo-redundant storage as it was a low-cost option that had a secondary regional backup. This way if there is a regional catastrophe in the primary region there is another secondary region that has a backup.
- Under the 'Advanced Section' be sure to select 'enable hierarchy namespace' this will create the datalake storage instead of a blob storage.

INGESTION:

Creating an Integration Runtime on local device:

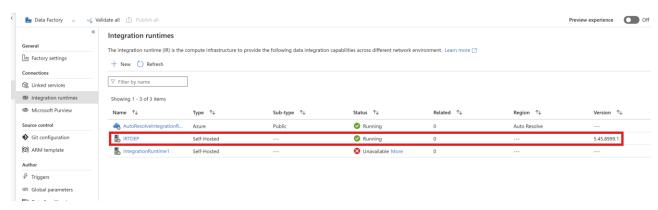
There were a couple of methods I tried to implement. The first of these was ingesting from a local file.

Step 1: Open Azure Data Factory

Step 2: Go to the 'Manage' tab and click on 'Integration Runtimes'.

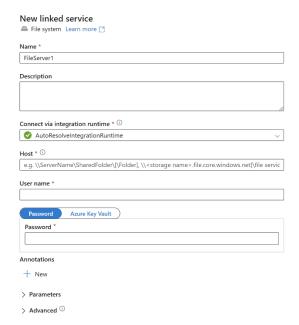
- Step 3: Click on '+ New'. This will open a panel on the right-hand side of the screen.
- Step 4: Click on 'Azure, Self-Hosted' tab and continue.
- Step 5: Click on 'Self-Hosted' if using for an on-premises or private network or you can alternately use a existing self-hosted integration runtime that is used for another resource and click 'Continue'.
- Step 6: Click 'Create' on the next page. This will initiate the runtime and create the icon in your azure data factory. Note this does not connect your integration runtime to your data factory listing. You will set up the runtime integration on the next page.
- Step 7: On this page you will select 'Option 2: Manual setup' and click on the link called 'Download and install integration runtime'. Be sure to not close this page as you will need the listed 'Key1' and 'Key2' when setting up the integration runtime.
- Step 8: You will follow the directions to download and install the integration runtime on your local device. Copy the authentication key from step 7 into the box before finishing.

This is what it will look like when complete:



Connecting local folder

- Step 1: Go to 'Linked Service' under the 'Manage' tab. Then click on the '+ New' button which will open panel on the righthand side.
- Step 2: Select the 'File system' linked service.
- Step 3: This will take you to the next page.



You will need to input the file pathway and assure proper sharing has been enabled on your file. Then you will add the username of your computer and the password for your computer.

(This is the part that did not work for me. When I input this information it gave me an error, however it gives very little information. Looking up the error code it looks like a problem with my username password combination. I could see this might be this issue as my login is facial recognition. I tried other methods to get this working with no success)

TRANSFORMATIONS:

Initially I planned to mount my data lake from a Databricks compute cluster, however this did not end up work, I believe this was because the IU account I was using lacked proper administrator permissions to create a Microsoft Entra ID service principle and provide it access to the azure storage accounts. There was an additional issue with Databricks not having a compute cluster accessible via the student account credits I had available. Because of this issue I investigated other solutions Azure Functions App – which would allow me to write in a notebook but looked difficult to configure – and Azure Data Factory – which was easier to configure and commonly used, but I did not know how to use data processing and transformations in Data Factory. I selected the latter of these two as I was able to find a lot of good tutorials of how to implement data processing and transformation steps.

Connecting to containers:



I created 2 datasets. The first one 'ImportfromBronze' connects to the csv file in the datalake bronze container. The second one is connecting to the datalake silver container.

Here are the steps to connect to the datalake container. In this case I am Importing from the Silver Container.

Step 1: Click on the 'Author' tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Then go to datasets and click on 'ellipses' and click on New Dataset.

Step 2: A panel on the right-hand side will open and I clicked on the 'Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2'.

Step 3: Select the file format to import. I selected the 'DelimitedText'.

Step 4: I Filled out the information as listed in the corresponding picture with the Linked service and corresponding file path.

After pressing 'OK' I tested the connection which was successful.

Step 5: Can view schema by clicking on the 'Schema' tab.

Set properties			
Name			
ImportfromSilver			
Linked service *			
Azure Data Lake Storage 1			~ <i>O</i>
File path silver	/ Directory	/ File name	
First row as header	~		
Import schema From connection/store	From sample file	None	

Step 6: It is necessary to click on the publish tab in the top left-hand corner for changes to take effect.

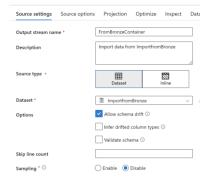
This completes connecting a dataset to data factory and publishing to sink from data factory.

Data Flows in Data Factory (Data Processing and Transformations):

The first data flow I worked on was the data processing step.

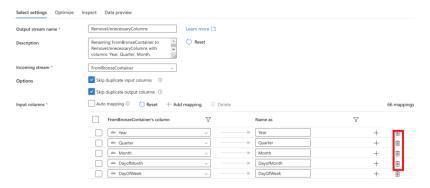


Step 1: To create this data flow I first connected my dataset called 'ImportfromBronze'

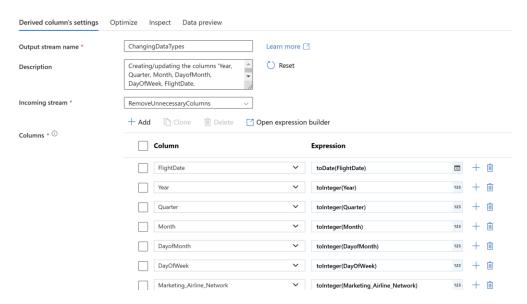


Step 2: I removed all unnecessary columns that either had no information or very little information and contained mostly nulls values. I did this by clicking on the trash can button signified below. This step condensed my dataset from 119 columns to 66 columns. The goal is to

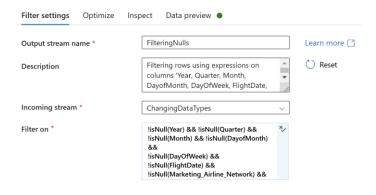
minimize this even more from the Silver to Gold processing, separating this dataset into specified sets for specific machine learning model predictions.



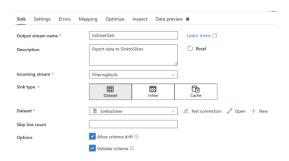
Step 3: In this step I changed the columns to the correct formatting. The majority of columns were changed to and integer format while date was changed to a date format.



Step 4: I next filtered null values. I did this using the expression builder this code '!isNull(column name)' to filter the null values in columns.



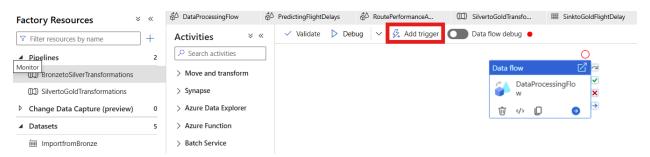
Step 5: In this step of the dataflow I ended the flow with a sink connecting the flow to the 'SinktoSilver' dataset, exporting the file in batch to the silver container.



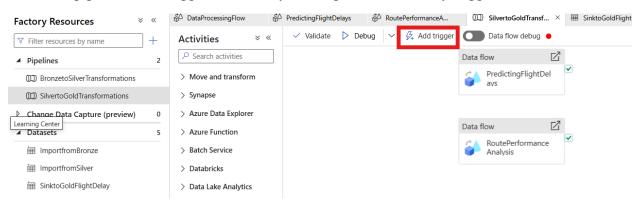
Step 6: Publish all changes.

Note: Starting the data preview helped to preview the data at each step to allow me to confirm the data processing steps before moving on.

The pipeline run for transformation from bronze to silver (clicking the 'Add trigger' button will allow this pipeline to be triggered manually or setup to automatically trigger:



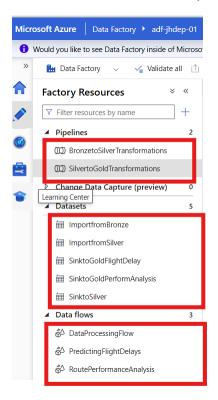
The pipeline run for transformation from silver to gold (clicking the 'Add trigger' button will allow this pipeline to be triggered manually or setup to automatically trigger:



The dataflow for each of these are clones of the data processing flow that have information changed on which columns to delete, datatypes, and assuring all nulls are filtered:

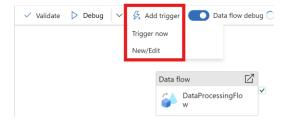


Listed below are the datasets, data flows, and pipelines created:

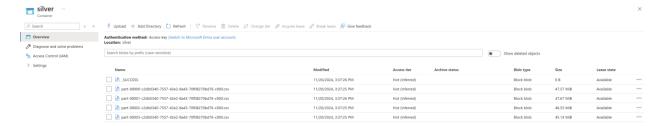


PIPELINES IN DATA FACTORY:

To run a dataflow in Data Factory it is necessary to create a pipeline. This is easily done once the dataflow has been created. Simply select the dataflow (in my case 'DataProcessingFlow') from the 'Data Flows' from within the 'Author' tab and drag and drop it into the Pipelines builder. It is then easily possible to add triggers that are either specified by time or they can be manually triggered from the 'add trigger' button from the pipeline builder.

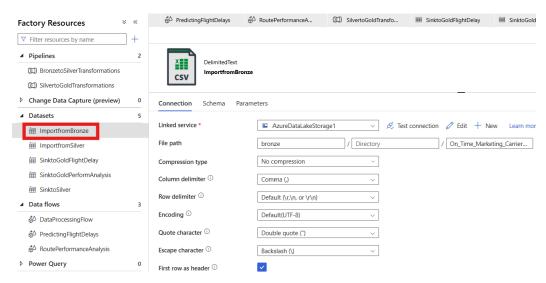


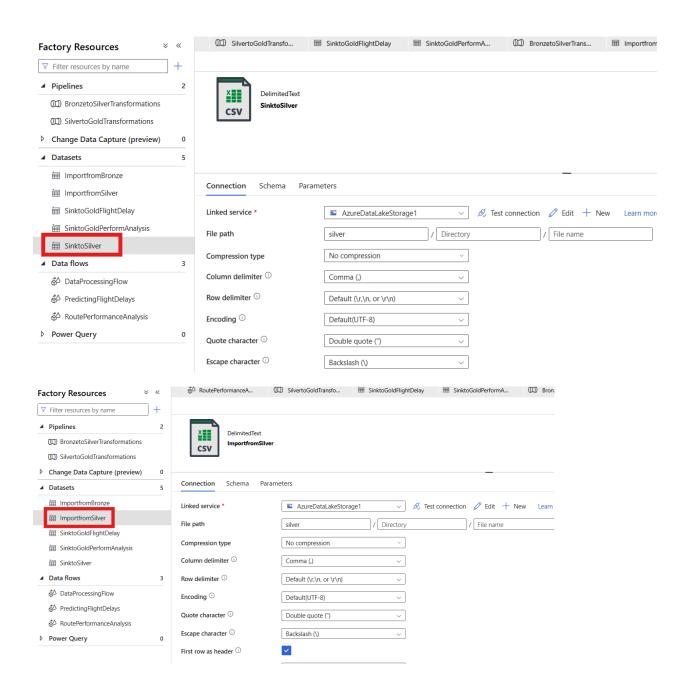
By pressing the trigger now button we can see the resulting output of 4 files into the silver container along with a success notification.

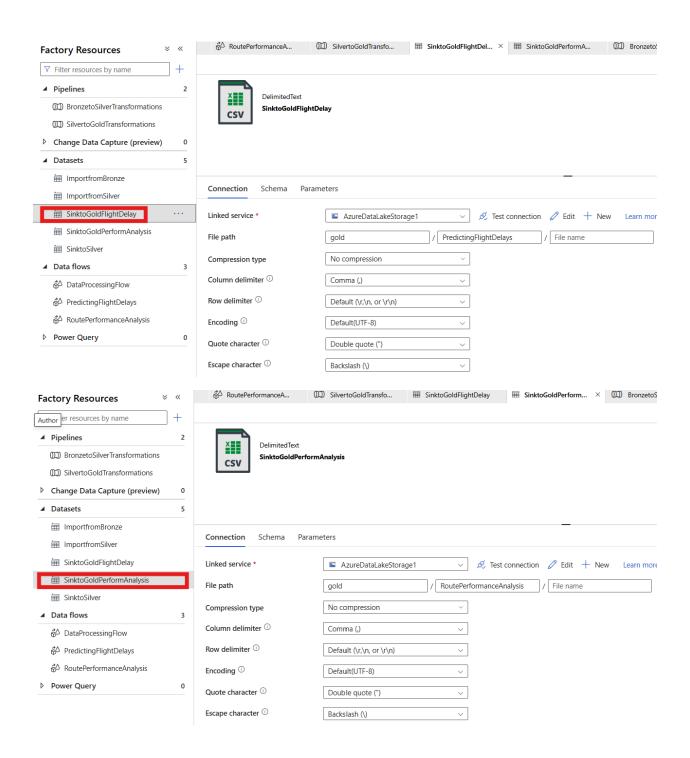


ADDITIONAL SCREENSHOTS

Dataflows setup information:







Data Flows

DataProcessingFlow (Data Flow):



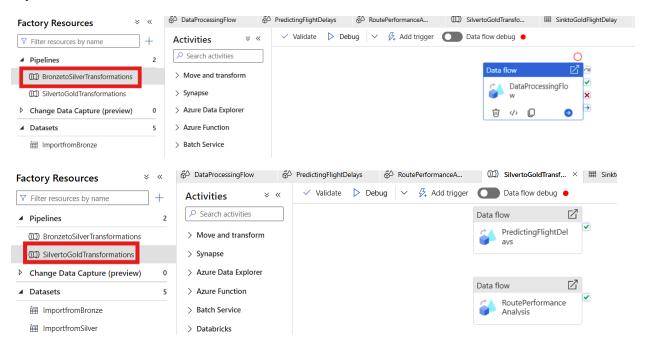
PredictingFlightDelays (Data Flow):



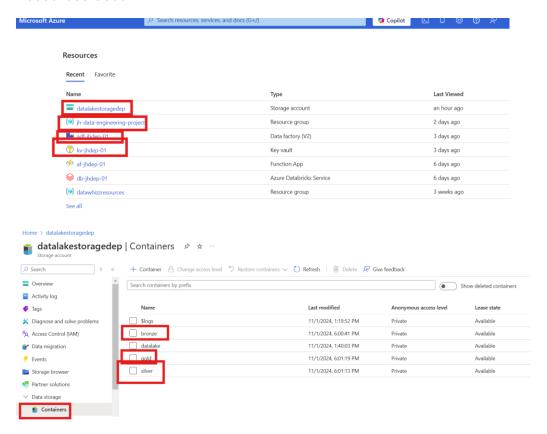
RoutePerformanceAnalysis (Data Flow):



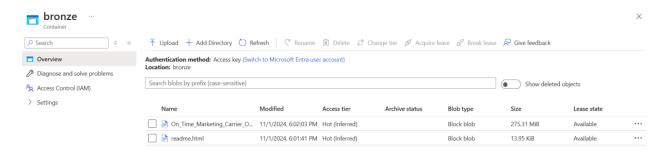
Pipelines



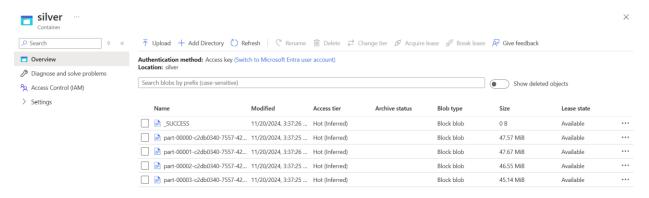
Resources Used:



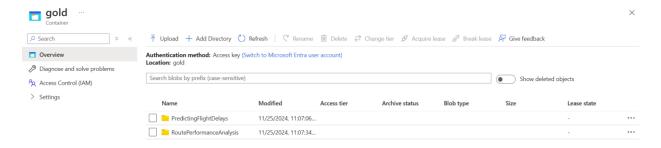
Bronze container:



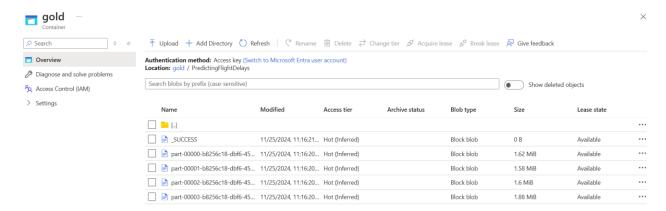
Silver container:



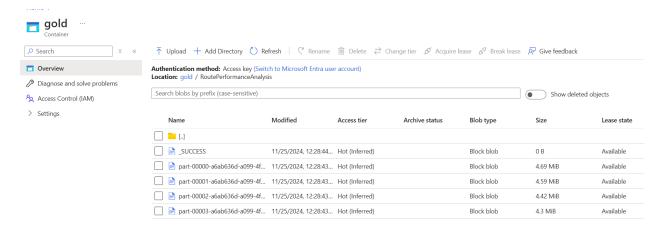
Gold container:



Gold container PredictingFlightDelays directory:

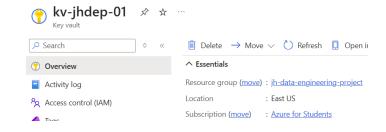


Gold container RoutePerformanceAnalysis directory:



The first of the four files is posted on my GitHub at https://github.com/Jhansen19/Airline_Predictions.

Key vault (I am not showing all this information for security reasons):



RESOURCES:

1. Data Factory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oggcq1euGJs&t=780s&ab_channel=BitsAnalytics

2. Data Factory: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlLTV-BSAIE&t=2s&ab_channel=SkillCurb

3. Data Factory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oggcq1euGJs&t=780s&ab_channel=BitsAnalytics

4. Data Factory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt3XQ5Zx_iU&t=7s&ab_channel=Analyticswith Nags

5. Data Factory Transformations:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NTbT2QMaw&ab_channel=DataCafe

6. Data Factory Filter, sort, sink Transformation:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcwrlWK7WBcTnbJlusdJBBHIKDvZaK3aQ

7. Resources and Pipeline:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygJ11fzq_ik&ab_channel=Luke-CloudConsultant

8. Azure Data Factory:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=U5uYOM6j5II&ab_channel=LearnITEveryDay-AzureETLSolutionmadeEasy

9. Mounting Azure Data Lake:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulueSLiQ8 o&ab channel=SkillsPragati

10. Microsoft Documentation: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/?product=popular