DSTI School of Engineering - Applied MSc in Data Engineering for Artificial Intelligence.

Datawarehouse Project for a Brazilian E-Commerce

Mark Dakroub¹, Annabelle Fourn² and Karam Belmoujoud³

¹Datawarehouse

¹Extract. Transform. Load

1SSIS - SMSS

Professor Nelson Lopez

1. Introduction

D atawarehouse is an emerging technology in the field of big data. It is a collection of technologies created by Microsoft that aim to help decision makers make efficient decisions in the vast amount of complicated data today.

Prior of conducting any substantive analytical processes, it is imperative that extracted data be systematically integrated into the organizational IT infrastructure, and this integration will facilitate uniform access and ensures semantic alignment across datasets. In today's data heterogeneity, it is essential to maintain consistency and interoperability. A widely adopted solution to address these challenges is the deployment of a solution known as Datawarehousing, which centralizes the harmonizes data for analytical readiness.

The generic Datawarehouse architecture consists of 3 critical layers, the staging layer where all the raw data is ingested in its natural form, a second layer where the transformation and data processing take place and the last layer is the main Datawarehouse table, where it contains the final processed data in a well-organized and structured tables.[1][2]. To build a well-architected Datawarehouse, we must execute the ETL operations which includes 3 tasks:

Extracting the raw data (STA area): Raw data is gathered from different data sources and inserted into staging tables. No transformation takes place at this stage.

(ODS area): Data is cleaned and processed, including tasks like data type conversion and manipulation. The transformed data is stored in ODS tables.

Loading into Data Warehouse (DWH area): The fully transformed data is loaded into data warehouse tables.

The ETL tools are a category of specialized tools, with the task of dealing with Datawarehouse homogeneity, cleaning, transforming, and loading problems[3].

2. Methodology

2.1. Data Comprehension and Overview

This conducted study is based on a comprehensive dataset derived from the Brazilian e-commerce platform Olist, obtained from an official website called Kaggle. This dataset comprises 7 interrelated tables, each capturing distinct facets of the E-Commerce transaction process.

We selected the Brazilian E-commerce dataset from Kaggle — a rich and moderately complex collection of transactional data from an online marketplace in Brazil. The dataset captures multiple stages of the e-commerce lifecycle, from order placement to delivery and post-purchase customer feedback, offering a comprehensive 360-degree view of the business process. It contains over 100,000 orders placed between 2016 and 2018, and provides detailed information across several dimensions such as customers, products, payments, reviews, sellers, and logistics

Table 1. Detailed Overview of Olist Dataset Files

File Name	Description	Columns
1. Orders	Detailed information about each customer order , including order IDs, customer IDs, order status, order timestamps (purchase, approval, delivery), and estimated delivery dates.	8
2. Products	Lists all products available on the platform . Includes product IDs, product category names, product dimensions (weight, height, width, length), number of photos, and text metadata lengths. (5 columns in total)	9
3. Order_Payments	Records payment transactions for each order . Includes order ID, payment method (credit card, boleto, voucher, etc.), number of installments, and total payment value. (4 Columns in total)	5
4. Order_Reviews	Contains customer feedback , including review ID, order ID, review score, review comment/title, and timestamps for creation and reply.	7
5. Sellers	Provides information about each seller , including seller ID, ZIP code prefix, city, and state.	4
6. Geolocation	Maps ZIP code prefixes to coordinates . Contains ZIP code, latitude, longitude, city, and state. Useful for location-based analysis.	5
7. Customers	Customer demographic profiling . Includes customer ID, unique customer ID, ZIP code, city, state.	5
8. Order Items	Breaks down individual products within each order	7
9. Product_Translation	Provides English translation of product category names.	2

[A24] Datawarehousing and ETL DSTI School of Engineering July 26, 2024 LTEX Template 1–15

2.2. Pipeline Design

In this study, the data pipeline is designed into three distinct layers, each serving a critical and unique purpose in the preparation and transmission of raw data for later analytical consumption. This pipeline has been implemented using SSIS (SQL Server Integration Services) for the ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) operations and SSMS (SQL Server Management Studio) with MySQL for database processes. All data sources were obtained in CSV (comma-separated values) format. This pipeline ensures data governance, scalability, error tracking, and robust analytical processing by clearly separating the raw, processed, and curated data layers.

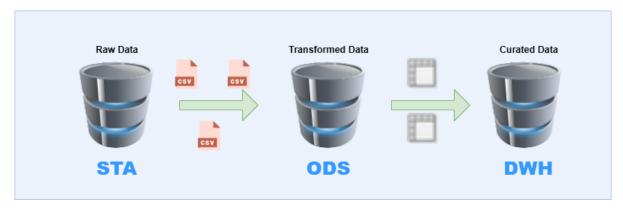


Figure 1. Pipeline processing.

- Staging Area (STA): This layer is responsible for raw data ingestion from the CSV files. At this stage, data are loaded in their original format with minimal preprocessing to preserve the initial structure. Each CSV file is processed through a dedicated SSIS package, ensuring modularity and traceability.
- Operational Data Store (ODS): This intermediate layer handles the data transformation process. Tasks include normalization of
 categorical values, handling of missing entries, and enforcement of consistent data types such as dates and integers. Records that fail to
 meet predefined quality criteria are redirected into a specialized table labeled *Technical Rejects*. Like the STA, each dataset is managed
 by its own ODS package.
- Data Warehouse (DWH): The final layer consolidates the transformed data into a *star schema* architecture within the MySQL database environment. A central fact table records transaction-level metrics and connects to six dimension tables, which represent the core analytical domains: *Customers*, *Products*, *Date*, *Seller*, *Location*, and *Payments*. This schema design enhances query performance and supports multidimensional reporting and analysis.

2.3. Software and Tools

In order to conduct this process, we used several software applications. MySQL Database Engine served as the backbone for creating databases, tables, storing and managing data across pipeline layers, including the staging part, Operational Data Store part, and the Data Warehouse layer. For the design and execution processes, the SQL Server Integration Service (SSIS) was used to provide a flexible and powerful platform for data movement and transformation. Finally, SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) was integrated in the process to manage the integration packages, monitoring processes and exciting queries. This combination of tools allowed for data ingestion, transformation and administration in curated tables.

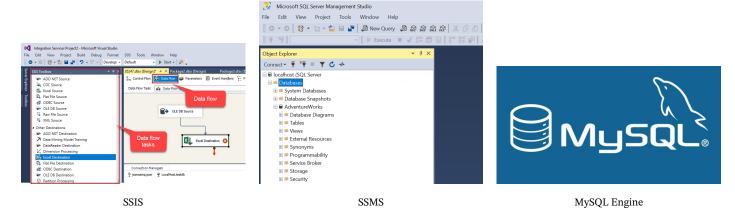


Figure 2. Three images displayed side by side.

3. Staging Database and Processes

The staging Database plays a crucial role in the first phase of the pipeline by temporarily storing the raw collected data from various sources, and no transformation took place. It's primary function is to ingest data it its natural format and quality as received. This approach will ensure that ingested data regardless of their anomalies are retained for further processing. By isolating the raw data in the staging part, the

organizations will gain the flexibility to perform any transformation task needed before loading them into the Data warehouse.6 files out of 9 are kept for the staging process, as seen below:

Staging Table	Purpose
STA_Orders	Basis for fact_orders
STA_Customers	Basis for dim_customers
STA_Order_items	Basis for dim_deliveries and fact_orders
STA_Order_payments	Basis for dim_payments and fact_orders
STA_Order_Reviews	Basis for dim_reviews and fact_orders
STA_Products	Basis for dim_products

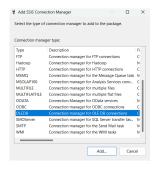
Table 1. Staging tables and their corresponding purposes

Table	Column	Reason for Removal
STA_Orders	Order_approved_at	Considered as non-essential
	Order_delivered_carrier_date	Redundant with actual delivery date
STA_Customers	Customer_Unique_id	Redundant, as Customer_id will be used as the primary key
STA_Order_reviews	Review_comment_title	Unstructured text; not essential
	Review_comment_message	Same as above
STA_Products	product_name_length	Not relevant data
	product description length	Same as above

Figure 3. Reasons for Removing Specific Columns from Tables

3.1. STA Sales

In this step, we will explain the process we have done in the STA Sales. First, a connection manager is created for the whole STA Packages, and the same will be done for the ODS, DWH. As in the images below, we create our new connection manager, in the Server name we choose our local host and then our Database in the below options.





Choosing OLEDB

Selecting our Database

Figure 4. Set up the connection manager for all STA packages

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Orders	Stores customer order data per transaction, including order ID, customer ID, order status, and key timestamps related to purchase, approval, shipping, and delivery.	 A Flat File Source was configured. Code page selected to conform with data. Data was loaded as-is into STA_Orders via OLE DB Destination. Truncate is task is created in control flow 	99,441 rows loaded

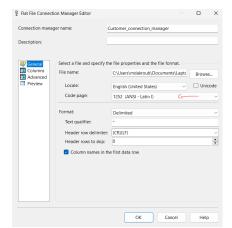
Table 2. ETL Process Summary for STA_Orders

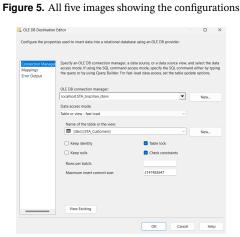
Below are the steps in visuals. These steps will not be repeated in the new packages because same steps are done for each, only new steps will be added visually.

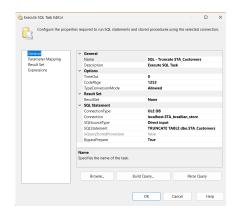




Control flow Data flow







File manager OLE DB Destination Truncate configuration

3.2. STA Orders

The STA Orders does not contain lots of changes, it contains the same steps as above.

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Orders	Stores customer order data per transaction, including order ID, customer ID, order status, and key timestamps related to purchase, approval, shipping, and delivery.	 A Flat File Source was configured. Data was loaded as-is into STA_Orders via OLE DB Destination. 	99,441 rows loaded

 $\textbf{Table 3.} \ \, \textbf{ETL Process Summary for STA_Orders}$

3.3. STA Orders item

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Order_items	Breaks down products per order, including order item sequencing, unit price, freight cost, and associated seller and product identifiers.	 A Flat File Source ingested the raw CSV. Data was loaded into STA_Order_Items via OLE DB Destination. 	112,650 rows loaded

Table 4. ETL Process Summary for STA_Order_items

3.4. STA Order Payment

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Order_payments	Captures payment transactions by order, including payment method, installment count, and total amount paid.	A Flat File Source was configured. Data was loaded into STA_Order_Payments via OLE DB Destination.	103,886 rows loaded

Table 5. ETL Process Summary for STA_Order_payments

3.5. STA Order review

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Order_reviews	Stores review customer scores, comments, and review dates.	 A Flat File Source ingested the dataset. Data was loaded into STA_Order_Reviews via OLE DB Destination. 	99,441 rows loaded

Table 6. ETL Process Summary for STA_Order_reviews

3.6. STA Products

Staging Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Output
STA_Products	Holds product catalog data, including category name, textual metadata lengths, photo quantity, and physical dimensions.	 Two Flat File Sources ingested the data. product_name_length, product description length were removed. Data was loaded into STA_Products. 	32,951 rows loaded

Table 7. ETL Process Summary for STA_Products

4. Operational Data Store

The Operational Data Store (ODS) serves as a transition layer between the raw data captured in the staging area and the curated data warehouse. Its primary purpose is to host cleaned, structured, and validated data, ensuring consistency and integrity across the ETL process. Within the ODS, data undergoes a series of transformations, including type casting, deduplication, standardization, and referential integrity checks. This layer enables the separation of raw ingestion from business logic, promoting a modular, auditable, and scalable ETL architecture. Only high quality, consistent data from the ODS is propagated to the data warehouse for analytical use.

4.1. ODS Customers

In this section, not much change, only a new Task of resizing the data is added.

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Customers	Contains unique, standardized customer records with clean location info.	 DFT and Truncate tasks are created. Data has been resized. Resized data inserted into OLE Destination. 	Data sourced from STA_Customers

Table 8. ETL Process Summary for ODS_Customers

4.2. ODS Orders

A lot of transformation have been done in this file, below are the details of the transformation and a schema.

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Orders	Stores structured customer order data with standardized timestamps and filtered incomplete rows.	 DFT extracts data from STA_Orders. Removed 2 columns: estimated delivery timestamp and purchase date. Replaced NULLs with default value 1900-01-01. Converted fields to DT_DATE type. Rejected conversions are sent to a Technical Reject table. 	STA_Orders

 Table 9. ETL Process Summary for ODS_Orders

Below are the configurations made and the schema

Reject message generator



ODS Order transformation schema



Removing timestamps Figure 6. Overview and detailed breakdown of the process

4.3. ODS Order items

Data conversion to DATE format

Same transformation as above, additinal task for data conversion to numeric is added.

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Order_Items	Breaks down product-level order details, with derived price metrics and referential integrity checks.	 Data extracted from STA_Order_Items. Timestamp removed from shipping_date. Data conversions to DATE format. Technical reject messages generated. Errors sent to ADM table. total_price column created. Data resized and sent to OLE_DST. 	STA_Order_Items

 $\textbf{Table 10.} \ \, \textbf{ETL Process Summary for ODS_Order_Items}$



Figure 7. Overview and detailed breakdown of the process

4.4. ODS Order payment

In the Order payment section, a paymentID column is added using C sharp Script integrated in the SSIS

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Order_Payments	Includes normalized payment data and ensures data integrity with orders.	 Data extracted from STA_Order_Payments. Data conversion applied on payment_value field. PaymentID added; underscores replaced with empty strings. Converted data type to integer. Conversion errors sent to ADM table. Resized data sent to OLE_ODS_Payment. 	STA_Order_Payment

Table 11. ETL Process Summary for ODS_Order_Payments

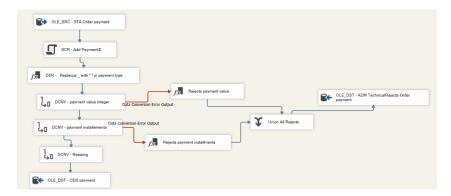


Figure 8. Order payment schema

4.5. ODS Order review

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Order_Reviews	Standardizes customer reviews and ensures consistent timestamps.	 Data extracted from STA_Order_Reviews. Data conversion to numeric. Conversion errors sent to ADM table. Resized data sent to ODS_Order_Review. 	STA_Order_Reviews

Table 12. ETL Process Summary for ODS_Order_Reviews

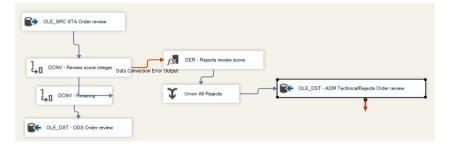


Figure 9. Order review schema

4.6. ODS Order products

ODS Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
ODS_Products	Cleans and standardizes product information and translates category names.	 Data extracted from STA_Products. Data conversion to numeric. Conversion errors sent to ADM table. Resized data sent to ODS_Products. 	STA_Products

Table 13. ETL Process Summary for ODS_Products

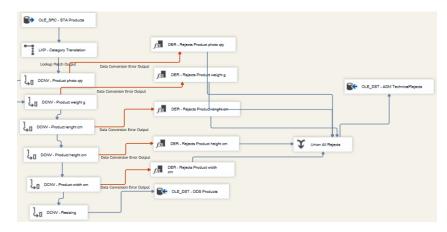


Figure 10. Order product schema

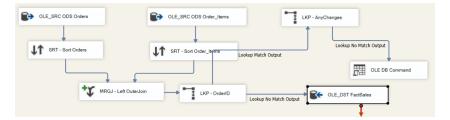
5. Description of Data Warehouse Tables Transformations

5.1. DWH FactSales

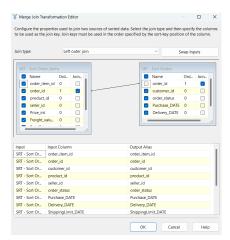
New configurations are added in this section, where the pipeline checks for any new coming data to add it to the table or if any changes, it will update the table.

Fact Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
fact_sales	Central fact table capturing consolidated order metrics, including sales amount, freight, and review score.	 Data sourced from ODS_Orders and ODS_Order_Items. OrderID and order items sorted alphabetically. Sorted IDs merged using Left Outer Join. LKP - new inserted into OLE_fact_sales table. LKP - checkChanges inserted into OLE_command table. 	ODS_Orders, ODS_Order_Items

Table 14. ETL Process Summary for fact_sales



Fact Sales Schema



Two data sources merged Data sorted

 Input Column
 Output Alias
 Sort Type

 order_id
 order_id
 ascending

Figure 11. Configurations of FactSales

5.2. DWH Fact Payment

Fact Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
fact_payments	Describes payment methods, installment types, and total paid values across orders.	 Data sourced from ODS_Orders and ODS_Payments. Orders and payments sorted alphabetically. Sorted IDs merged using Left Outer Join. LKP - match OrderID with PaymentID. LKP - new inserted into OLE_fact_payment table. LKP - checkChanges inserted into OLE command table. 	ODS_Orders, ODS_Payments

Table 15. ETL Process Summary for fact_payments

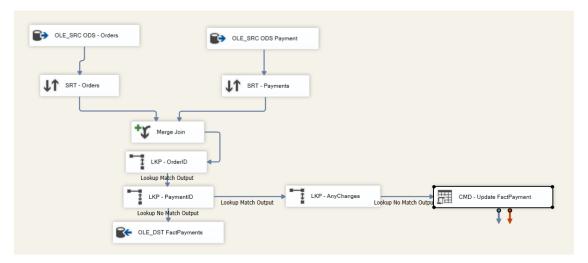


Figure 12. Fact Payment Schema

5.3. DWH Customer

The configuration is simple here as above, only checking changes to apply the SCD type 1 to update table for any changes or adding new data.

Dimension Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
dim_customers	Contains descriptive attributes about customers, such as city, state, and ZIP code, supporting demographic analysis.	 Data sourced from ODS_Customers. LKP - if CustomerID is new, insert into DimCustomers. LKP - if any changes, update the existing record in the table. 	ODS_Customers

 Table 16. ETL Process Summary for dim_customers

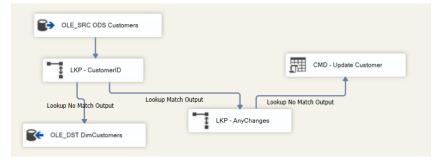


Figure 13. Dim Customer Schema

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5.4. DWH Products

Dimension Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
dim_products	Provides detailed product attributes including category, physical dimensions, and classifications.	 Data sourced from ODS_Products. LKP - if ProductID is new, insert into DimProducts. LKP - if any changes, update the existing record in the table. 	ODS_Products

Table 17. ETL Process Summary for dim_products

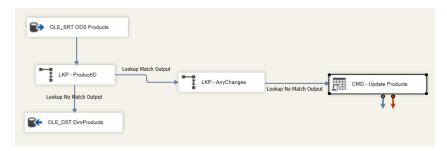


Figure 14. Dim Products Schema

5.5. DWH Review

Dimension Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
dim_reviews	Stores customer satisfaction data based on review scores and timestamps.	 Data sourced from ODS_Reviews. LKP - join OrderID with ReviewID. LKP - if ReviewID is new, insert into Order_Review table. LKP - if any changes, update the existing record. 	ODS_Reviews

Table 18. ETL Process Summary for dim_reviews

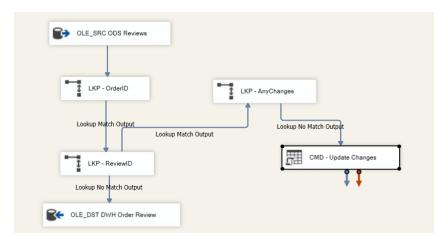


Figure 15. Dim Review Schema

5.6. DWH Order Status

Dimension Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
dim_OrderStatus	Stores customer satisfaction data based on review scores and timestamps.	 Data sourced from ODS_Orders. LKP - if ProductID is new, insert into DimOrderStatus. LKP - if any changes, update the existing record. 	ODS_Orders

Table 19. ETL Process Summary for dim_OrderStatus

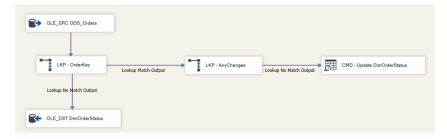


Figure 16. Dim Order status Schema

5.7. DWH Payment method

Dimension Table	Main Content	SSIS Process Description	Source
dim_PaymentMethod	Stores descriptive information about payment types and methods used across orders, supporting transaction analysis.	 Data sourced from ODS_Payments. Joined OrderID with PaymentID. LKP - if PaymentID is new, insert into DimPaymentMethod. LKP - if any changes, update the existing record. 	ODS_Payments

Table 20. ETL Process Summary for dim_PaymentMethod

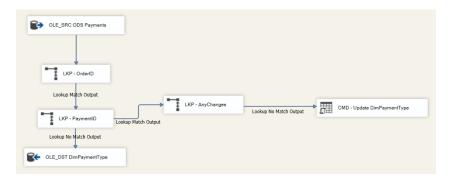


Figure 17. Dim Payment method Schema

Insights Extracted from the Data Warehouse

From our Data Warehouse, we can extract a wide range of meaningful insights by analyzing sales transactions, customer behavior, logistics performance, payment preferences, and satisfaction indicators.

Key Findings

· Sales Trend:

Top selling products allow the business to understand which product categories contribute most to overall revenue.

• Customer Behavior:

Average Basket Value by Region helps identify high-value regions where customers tend to spend more.

• Preferred Payment Method:

Grouping by payment type helps understand customer habits and preferences, supporting optimization of the range of payment methods offered.

• Customer Satisfaction:

Average review score helps the business monitor product quality and guide product development.

TotalPrice KPI:

A KPI named TotalPrice was created at the ODS level, combining the product price and the freight value to represent the full cost of a purchased item.

This metric provides a more accurate view of the true financial impact of each transaction and allows the business to evaluate the profitability of each order.

• Late Delivery Rate KPI:

A KPI named Late Delivery Rate was created at the DWH level. It measures the percentage of orders where the delivery date exceeds the shipping limit date.

This metric helps detect operational inefficiencies and delays within the logistics process.

Related to our dataset, the output of the KPI listed above are:

KPI	Result / Insight
Top 10 Selling Product Categories	1. health_beauty 2. watches_gifts 3. bed_bath_table 4. sports_leisure 5. computers_accessories 6. furniture_decor 7. housewares
	8. cool_stuff 9. auto 10. garden_tools
Preferred Payment Method	credit_card(73.92%)
Top Region by Average Basket Value	PB (Paraíba) with an average basket of R\$ 234.20
Average Review Score	4.09 / 5
Late Delivery Rate	7.87% of orders were delivered after the estimated date

 $\textbf{Table 21.} \ \ \textbf{Key Performance Indicators and Insights from the Data Warehouse}$

with some further analysis:

Dimension Table	Purpose	Key Attributes	Types of Analysis Supported
dim_customers	Stores customer information for behavior and location-based analysis	Customer ID, city, state	- Orders by region - Customer lifetime value - Repeat purchases and churn
dim_products	Stores product-related details for performance tracking and categorization	Product ID, category name, translated name, product type	- Top-selling products - Product trends - Cross-sell opportunities
dim_OrderStatus	Captures delivery performance and shipping timelines	Order item ID, estimated delivery date, actual delivery date, delay	Average delivery time On-time vs. late deliveries Regional logistics efficiency
dim_payments_method	Records payment method and transaction details for financial analysis	Order ID, payment method, installments, payment amount	Preferred payment methods Total revenue by method Customer payment behaviors
dim_reviews	Contains review scores and feedback for quality and sentiment tracking	Review ID, score, comment length, review date	 Average rating per product/seller Correlation between reviews and sales Sentiment analysis over time

Table 22. Summary of Dimension Tables and Analytical Use Cases

6. Star Schema



Figure 18. Star Schema

7. Project Deployment

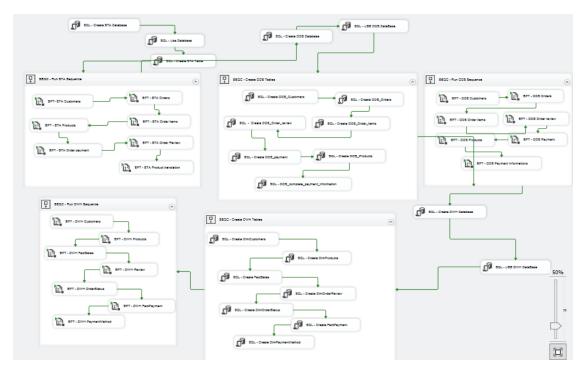


Figure 19. Project deployment

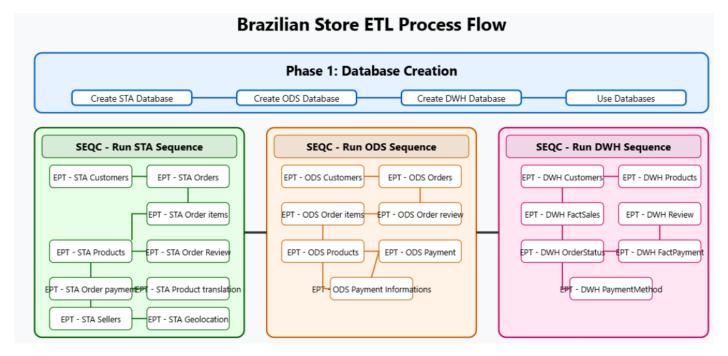


Figure 20. Project deployment

8. Use Cases

Once we have deployed the data warehouse, we can start to query it for making analysis reports. We can generate many views that can used in a BI tool to report for example:

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8.1. Average customer rating per product:

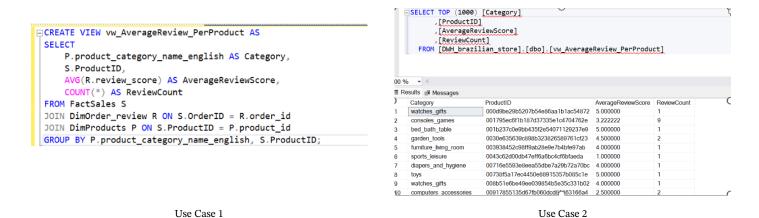


Figure 21. Comparison of two related views

8.2. List of cities ranked by their average review score

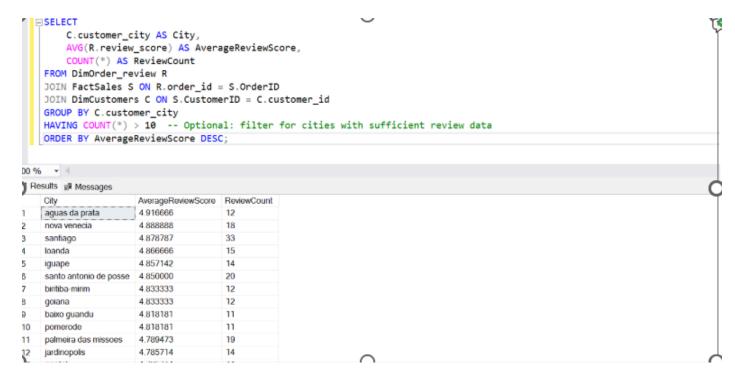


Figure 22. Use Case 3

8.3. Revenue by payment method

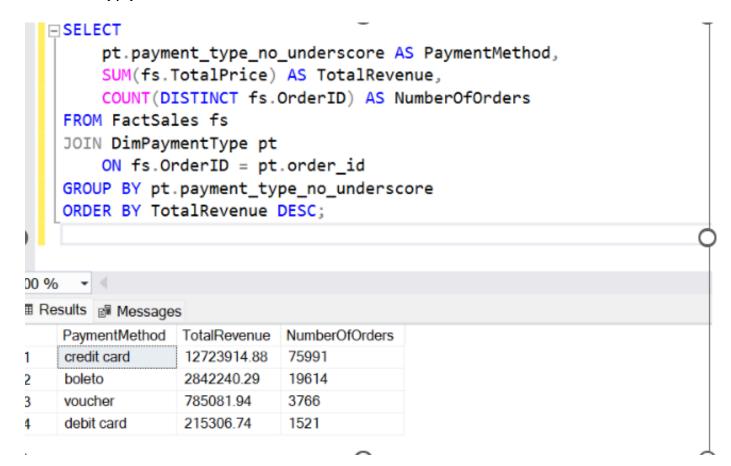


Figure 23. Use Case 4

9. Conclusion

The project shows the full automatic implementation of the ETL process of a Brazilian E-commerce platform. The tools used in this study are SSIS, SSMS and MySQL Database Engine. Data are sourced and undergone a complex transformation and table creation into a structured and analytical stay schema. This robust pipeline will generate a fully automatized data processing which enables an insightful business intelligence reporting. From our project, we were able to produce actionable insights by creating and combining several metrics, like TotalPrice which adds a significant value by enhancing financial analysis capabilities, marketing analysis and customer satisfaction and logistic performance which empowers the decision makers and comprehensive insights for strategic planning.

References

- [1] B. Inmon, "The data warehouse budget", DM Review Magazine, January, vol. 39, pp. 101–112, 1997.
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