



Databricks Magic Commands for Data Engineers

Databricks Magic Commands enhance productivity by simplifying tasks like file management, environment settings, and data exploration.

What Are Magic Commands?

 **Magic Commands** in Databricks start with % and run outside standard Spark/PySpark code.

 They help with **file system operations, environment settings, and SQL execution.**

 Common magic command categories:

- **File System Access** (%fs)
- **Execution Control** (%run, %sh)
- **SQL Queries** (%sql)
- **Python-Specific Commands** (%python)

Boost efficiency & simplify workflows with these hidden gems!

File System Operations (%fs)

Interact with Databricks DBFS (**Databricks File System**) seamlessly!

 **List files** in a directory:

```
%fs ls /mnt/data
```

 **Copy files**:

```
%fs cp /mnt/data/file1.csv /mnt/data/backup/
```

 **Move files**:

```
%fs mv /mnt/data/file1.csv /mnt/archive/
```

 **Remove files**:

```
%fs rm /mnt/data/temp.csv
```

Easily manage files without using complex Python scripts!

Running External Notebooks (%run)

Execute another Databricks notebook inside your current notebook!

Run a notebook from another workspace location:

```
%run "/Workspace/Shared/Data_Preprocessing"
```

Great for modularizing code & reusing functions across multiple notebooks!

Running SQL Queries (%sql)

 **Execute SQL queries directly in a notebook:**

```
%sql  
SELECT * FROM sales_data LIMIT 10;
```

 **Create a temporary SQL table from a DataFrame:**

```
df.createOrReplaceTempView("sales_view")  
%sql  
SELECT region, SUM(revenue) FROM sales_view GROUP BY  
region;
```

Combine SQL & PySpark seamlessly!

Running Shell Commands (%sh)

Execute terminal commands directly from a notebook!

 **Check system resources:**

```
%sh free -m
```

 **List installed libraries:**

```
%sh pip list
```

 **Download a file from the internet:**

```
%sh wget https://example.com/data.csv -P /dbfs/tmp/
```

Useful for debugging & package installations!

Switching Between Languages

Run code in different languages within the same notebook!

Python Code:

```
%python  
print("Hello from Python!")
```

Scala Code:

```
%scala  
println("Hello from Scala!")
```

R Code:

```
%r  
print("Hello from R!")
```

Perfect for multi-language data engineering workflows!

Environment & Configuration Settings (%config, %env)

 **View Databricks environment configurations:**

%config

 **Check Spark settings:**

%config spark

 **List environment variables:**

%env

Quickly inspect runtime settings & environment variables!

Managing Mount Points in DBFS

Mount external storage (Azure Blob, ADLS, AWS S3) to Databricks File System (DBFS)

 **List all mounts:**

%fs mounts

 **Mount an external storage account:**

```
dbutils.fs.mount(  
  source =  
    "wasbs://mycontainer@myaccount.blob.core.windows.net",  
  mount_point = "/mnt/mydata",  
  extra_configs =  
    {"fs.azure.account.key.myaccount.blob.core.windows.net": "  
      <access-key>"})
```

Seamlessly access cloud storage without manual authentication!

Clearing Cache & Optimizing Queries

- ✓ **Clear all cached tables** to free up memory:

```
%sql CLEAR CACHE;
```

- ✓ **Unpersist cached DataFrames:**

```
df.unpersist()
```

Helps manage memory usage in long-running notebooks!

Final Takeaways – Magic Commands = Efficiency!

- ✓ **%fs** – Manage files in DBFS
- ✓ **%run** – Execute external notebooks
- ✓ **%sql** – Run SQL queries in notebooks
- ✓ **%sh** – Execute shell commands
- ✓ **%python, %scala, %r** – Multi-language execution
- ✓ **%config, %env** – Inspect environment settings
- ✓ **%fs mounts** – Manage external storage access

Databricks Magic Commands = Faster Development & Streamlined Workflows!