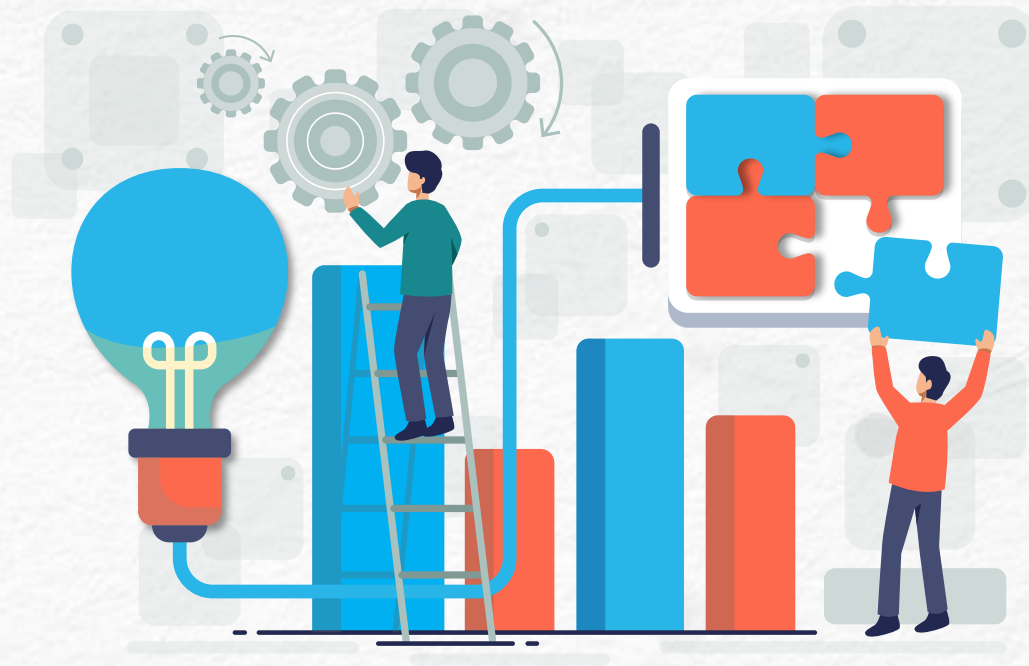# Types of
Views
In
Snowflake

Snowflake offers various types of views, each suited for specific use cases:

- ○ Standard Views
- ○ Materialized Views
- ○ Secure Views

Standard View

A standard view is a virtual table defined by a SQL query. It doesn't store data but presents a simplified, reusable way to query data from one or more underlying tables.

When to Use: Use when you want to simplify complex queries, combine data from multiple tables, or create reusable views for reporting purposes without duplicating data.

Example Use Case: Creating a view to join employee data with department data to provide a combined report on employees and their respective departments.

Materialized View

A materialized view stores the precomputed results of a query, making it faster to retrieve large datasets by avoiding recalculating the query every time. It automatically refreshes when underlying data changes.

When to Use: Use when you have complex, resource-intensive queries that need to be executed frequently and want to improve query performance by storing precomputed results.

Example Use Case: Creating a materialized view for sales data aggregations, like total sales per month, which reduces the cost of repeatedly executing complex aggregations.
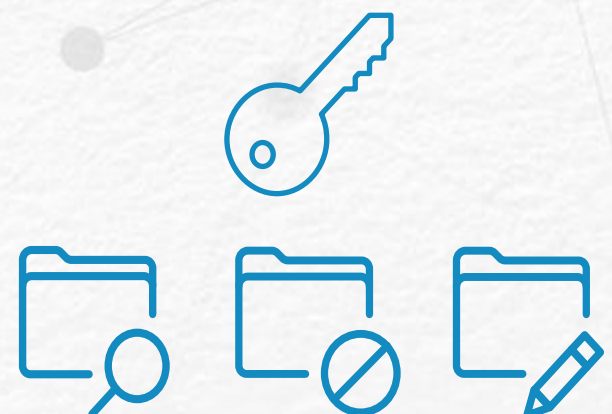
Secure View

A secure view ensures that only authorized users can access specific data by masking or restricting access to sensitive information, even if the view is queried.

When to Use: Use when you need to provide a view that hides sensitive data, ensuring that users only see the information they are authorized to view.

Example Use Case: Creating a secure view to share employee information with basic details (name, department) but hiding sensitive fields like salary or ssn from unauthorized users.

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