Apache Airflow Final Project Report — ETL Toll Data Pipeline

1. Introduction

In today's data-driven world, efficient data extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) processes are crucial for analytics and decision-making. This project demonstrates the use of **Apache Airflow** — a powerful workflow orchestration tool — to automate and schedule ETL tasks.

The objective is to process toll data from various file formats (CSV, TSV, and fixed-width text) and consolidate it into a single transformed dataset that can be used for traffic pattern analysis.

By completing this project, I gained hands-on experience in workflow automation, task dependencies, data transformation, and Airflow DAG creation.

2. Skills Learned

Through this project, I developed the following skills:

- **Apache Airflow DAG Design**: Creating and managing Directed Acyclic Graphs for task automation
- **Bash Scripting in Airflow**: Using BashOperator to execute Linux commands for ETL steps
- ETL Workflow Automation: Automating extraction, transformation, and loading processes
- **Data Manipulation in Linux**: Handling CSV, TSV, and fixed-width text files using shell commands
- **Dependency Management**: Establishing relationships between sequential Airflow tasks
- **Error Handling and Retries**: Configuring retries and alerts for robust pipeline execution
- **Airflow UI Monitoring**: Monitoring DAG runs, logs, and task progress visually

3. Objectives

This project aims to develop Apache Airflow DAG that will:

- Extract data from a csv file
- Extract data from a tsy file
- Extract data from a fixed-width file
- Transform the data
- Load the transformed data into the staging area

Task 1: Set up the lab environment

- > Start Apache Airflow.
- Open a terminal and create a directory structure for the staging area as follows:

/home/project/airflow/dags/finalassignment/staging

> Execute the following commands to give appropriate permission to the directories.

sudo chmod -R 777 /home/project/airflow/dags/finalassignment

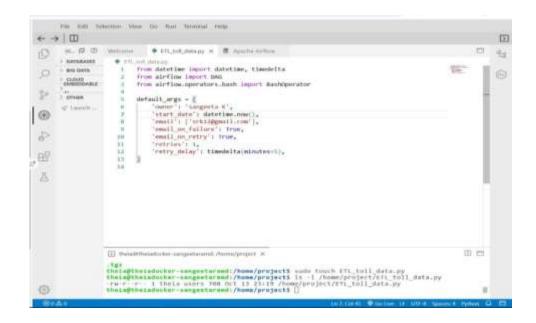
➤ Download the data set from the source to the following destination using the curl command.

sudo curl https://cf-courses-data.s3.us.cloud-object-storage.appdomain.cloud/IBM-DB0250EN-SkillsNetwork/labs/Final%20Assignment/tolldata.tgz -o/home/project/airflow/dags/finalassignment/tolldata.tgz

Task 2: Create imports, DAG argument, and definition

- > Create a new file named ETL_toll_data.py in /home/project directory and open it in the file editor.
- ➤ Import all the necessary packages to build the DAG.
- ➤ Define the DAG arguments as per the following details in the ETL_toll_data.py file:

Parameter	Value
owner	<you any="" dummy="" may="" name="" use=""></you>
start_date	today
email	<you any="" dummy="" email="" may="" use=""></you>
email_on_failure	True
email_on_retry	True
retries	1
retry_delay	5 minutes



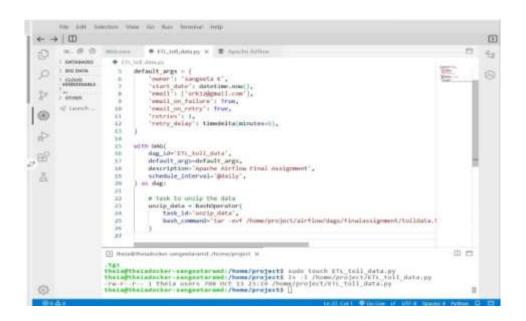
➤ Define the DAG in the ETL_toll_data.py file using the following details.

Parameter	Value
DAG id	ETL_toll_data
Schedule	Daily once
default_args	As you have defined in the previous step
description	Apache Airflow Final Assignment

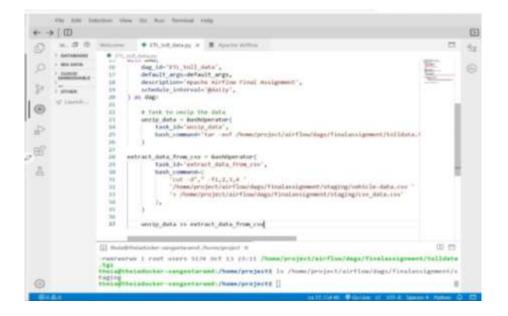


Task 3: Create the tasks using BashOperator

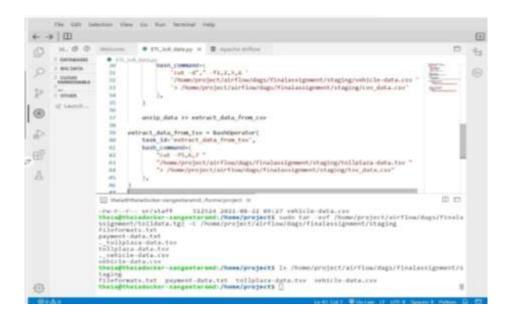
➤ Create a task named unzip_data to unzip data. Use the data downloaded in the first part of this assignment in Set up the lab environment and uncompress it into the destination directory using tar.



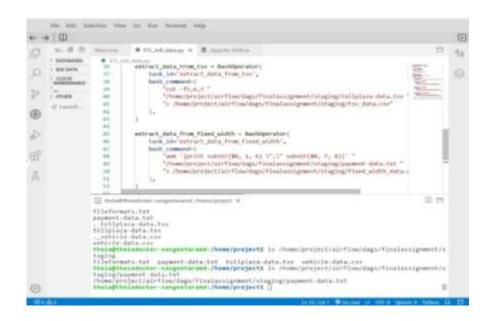
➤ Create a task named extract_data_from_csv to extract the fields Rowid, Timestamp, Anonymized Vehicle number, and Vehicle type from the vehicle-data.csv file and save them into a file named csv_data.csv.



Create a task named extract_data_from_tsv to extract the fields Number of axles, Tollplaza id, and Tollplaza code from the tollplaza-data.tsv file and save it into a file named tsv_data.csv.



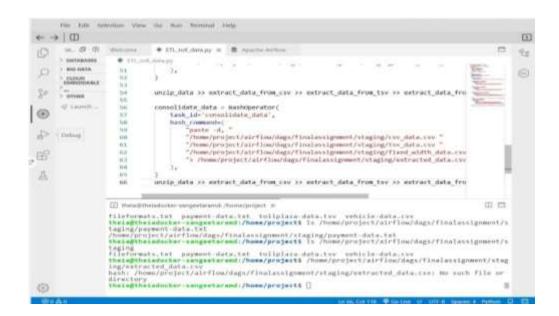
➤ Create a task named extract_data_from_fixed_width to extract the fields Type of Payment code, and Vehicle Code from the fixed width file payment-data.txt and save it into a file named fixed_width_data.csv.



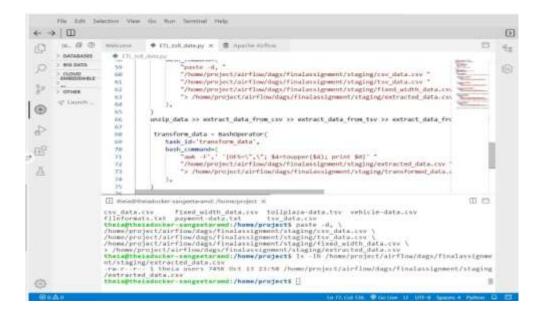
- Create a task named consolidate_data to consolidate data extracted from previous tasks. This task should create a single csv file named extracted_data.csv by combining data from the following files:
 - o csv_data.csv
 - o tsv data.csv
 - o fixed_width_data.csv

The final csv file should use the fields in the order given below:

- o Rowid
- o Timestamp
- o Anonymized Vehicle number
- Vehicle type
- Number of axles
- Tollplaza id
- o Tollplaza code
- o Type of Payment code
- Vehicle Code

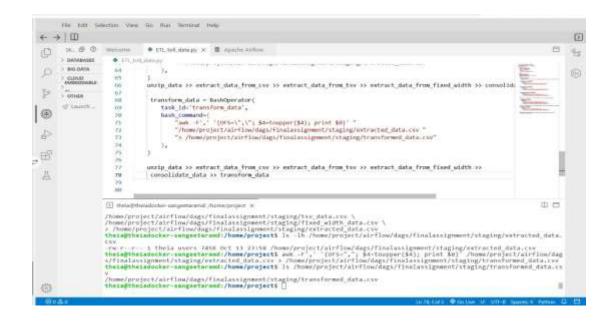


Create a task named transform_data to transform the vehicle_type field in extracted_data.csv into capital letters and save it into a file named transformed_data.csv in the staging directory.



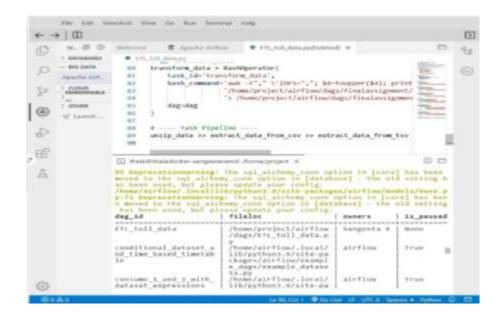
> Define the task pipeline as per the details given below:

Task	Functionality
First task	unzip_data
Second task	extract_data_from_csv
Third task	extract_data_from_tsv
Fourth task	extract_data_from_fixed_width
Fifth task	consolidate_data
Sixth task	transform_data



Task 4: Getting the DAG operational

> Submit the DAG. Use CLI or Web UI to show that the DAG has been properly submitted.



➤ Unpause and trigger the DAG through CLI or Web UI.

