

Cloud Data Warehouse

A cloud Data Warehouse is a Service that Collects, Organizes and Often Stores Data that is Used by Organizations for Different Activities including Data Analytics and Monitoring.

- Amazon Redshift.
- Google Big Query.
- IBM DB2 Warehouse.
- Microsoft Azure SQL Data Warehouse.
- Oracle Autonomous Data Warehouse.
- SAP Data Warehouse Cloud.
- SnowFlake.

SNOWFLAKE

Key Capabilities

- ✓ Data Warehouse that runs entirely on Cloud Infrastructure Such as Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure Cloud.
- ✓ It Cannot Be Run on a Private Cloud, or on Hosted Infrastructures.
- ✓ It is NOT Relational Database, So It Doesn't Enforce Primary / Foreign Key Constraints.
- ✓ It Offers Snowflake SQL Commands like DDL / DML, SQL Functions, User Defined Functions / Stored Procedures (JavaScript).
- ✓ The Snowflake SQL is Rich Enough to meet most of The Data Warehousing Requirements.
- ✓ It Supports Select Statements, Joins, Subqueries, Insert, Update, Delete, Merge Statements, Views and Materialized and ACID transactions.
- ✓ It also Supports Common Analytical Aggregations Such as Cube, Rollup, Grouping Sets, Windowing Functions, Connect by and Hierarchical Queries.

Integration Support

- ✓ It allows Connection from Data Integration Tools Such as IBM Data Stage, Informatica, Talend, Pentaho etc.
- ✓ Self Service BI Tools Such as Power BI, Tableau, Qlikview, Spotfire etc.
- ✓ Big Data Tools Such as Apache Kafka, Apache Spark, Data Bricks etc.
- ✓ JDBC / ODBC Drivers to Connect from Your Application.
- ✓ It Offers Native Language Connectors Such as Python, Go, NodeJS etc.
- ✓ For Adhoc Querying, you can use Snowflake Web Interface, Snowflake CLI, DBeaver etc.

Unique Offering by Snowflake

- ✓ Scalability (Storage & Compute)
- ✓ User Experience Performance Without Indexing, Tuning, Partitioning and Physical Storage Design Considerations. You don't have Multiple Knobs to Tune the Database Performance.
- ✓ Tunable Pay per Use.
- ✓ Snowflake Does Real Separation of Storage & Compute. There are 2 Notions Such as Database and Virtual Data Warehouse.

Database

- ✓ Database is Storage Layer (DDL). It allows you to Create and Define a Database, Scheme, Table and then Add Table to the Schema. Once You have Tables, you can Start Loading Data into those Tables. This is the Typical Structure That We Follow in Any Data Warehouse.

- ✓ End User -> Amazon EC2 (pay Per Use for Compute and also Supports Auto Start and Shutdown) -> Amazon S3 (Pay Per Use for Storage).
- ✓ The Data in the Tables Are Stored in Amazon S3 and It Consumes Storage Only Cost.
- ✓ There is No Compute Cost Attached to the Database Unless You Are Executing DDL / DML Queries.
- ✓ What It Means, You Will Pay for the Compute Cost While You Are Running DDL Statements to Create a Database, Schema, Table or Other Structural Objects. If All These Activities Take 30 Mins, You Will pay for 30 Mins of Computing Cost.
- ✓ Once your Table Structure is in Place, You Would Want to Load Some Data into Your Tables.
- ✓ If your Data Load Job is Running for an Hour in a Day, You Pay for Compute Cost for an Hour. Rest of the Time, you will be Paying Only for Storage Cost.
- ✓ If you are Running Queries for 3 Hours/Day, You Will Be Paying to Compute Cost for Those 3 Hours.

Virtual Data Warehouse

- ✓ It is Compute Cluster. They are Named After VM but Instead of machines, Snowflake Termed as Warehouse. In Short, We Cal them as Virtual Warehouse (VW).
- ✓ You can Create VW of Various Sizes Depending Upon Your Requirements.
 - X-Small - 1 Node | Small - 2 Nodes | Medium - 4 Nodes | large - 8 Nodes | X-Large - 16 Nodes
- ✓ These Nodes are Amazon EC2 Instances, But They Are Internal to VW but You Don't Want to Interact with them.
- ✓ Creating a VW Does Not Have Any Cost Associated with it. It's Just Metadata Creation. You can Have More than 1 VW Configurations.
- ✓ For Example, You Might Want to Create a Single Node VW for Executing DDLS or Performing Some Other Low Resource Consuming Activities. At Same Time, You Can Also Define 4 Nodes Which You Want to Use Only for Data Loading Activity. You can Create 1 More 32 Node VM Which You Wish to Apply for a High Performing Computation Job That Triggers Every Hour and Completes in less than 5 Mins.
- ✓ You Can Create Compute Resource Definition and Start it Only When You Want to Do Some Computation and Shut it Down When the Computation Activity is Over. In this Way, You Pay the Compute Cost Only When Your VW is Running.
- ✓ Best Part is You Also Know Which job us Costing You How Much Money? A Job That Runs for 5 Mins on 32 Node VW and Triggers 24 Times a Day is Charging You for 2 Hours of 32 Node VW.
- ✓ You can Also Use the Same VW to Execute Multiple Concurrent Queries.
- ✓ As the Queries Are Submitted to VW, The Warehouse Allocates Resource to Each Query and Begin Running Them. If Sufficient Resource Are Not Available to Execute All Queries, Additional Queries will be Queued Until the Necessary Resources Become Available.
- ✓ You have All Flexibility to Plan the Compute Workload and Reuse Your VWs.
- ✓ Snowflake Offers a Unique Idea of Multi-Cluster VW for Auto Scaling.
- ✓ For Example, You Created a Multi-Cluster VW and Started a Query on the VW. Snowflake Would Start Your Query Normally in the Same VW. However, If You Start Submitting More Queries on Same VW, at Some Point, they will Consume All Resources and Additional Queries will be Queued Until Existing Ones Are Complete.
- ✓ A Multi-Cluster Virtual Warehouse Will Detect Above Scenario and Automatically Launch a New VW to Execute the Queued SQL.
- ✓ Snowflake Allows You to Configure Automatic Scale Up by Starting Additional VWs and Scale Down by Shutting Down VWs Depending Upon the Workload. This Feature is Powerful If You have Strict Performance SLAs.

Snowflake Architecture

Layer 1 -> Service Layer Manages Meta Data, Security, Optimizer, Transactions, Concurrency.

Layer 2 -> Compute Layer -> Virtual Warehouse.

Layer 3 -> Storage Layer -> Database in Amazon S3.

- ✓ Layer 1 is What Snowflake to Act as a Database and Comes Mostly at a Nominal Fixed price.
 - ✓ Your Main Cost is Associated with the Storage and Compute Requirements.
 - ✓ Separation of Storage and Compute is Available with Many Other Products Such as Amazon EMR (Elastic Map Reduce) and Data Bricks. You also have Rich Enough SQL Offered by Spark SQL.
 - ✓ Snowflakes Provides Better User Experience and Makes It Simple to Implement.
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- ✓ Snowflake Decided to use Amazon S3 as Its Database Storage.
 - ✓ Challenges with S3 are I/O Latency, CPU Overhead (HDFS on Local Storage Works a Lot Better than Amazon S3) and Object Storage (Overwrite Only).
 - ✓ Features of S3 are High Availability, Durability and API to Read Part of Data from S3 File Without Loading an Entire File is Kind of Random Access Capability.
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- ✓ Let's Assume That You Have a Large Table
 - ✓ Snowflake Breaks the Super Large Table into Multiple Smaller Partitions, call it as Micro Partitions Which is Not More than 500 MB in Size.
 - ✓ Each Table Partition between 50 to 500 MB of Uncompressed Data.
 - ✓ Reorganize the Data in Each Partition to Make it Columnar (Column Values in the Partition are Stored Together). Then Compress Each Column. Now it's UNIQUE.
 - ✓ You are Not Compressing the Entire Partition, Only Column Values Individually.
 - ✓ Finally, They Add a Header to Each Micro Partition. The Header Contains Offset and length of Each Column Stored Within the Micro Partition. They also Store Some Other Metadata Information in the Header, BUT the Column Offsets are the Most Critical Information for US to Understand the Read Pattern.
 - ✓ Now, these Micro Partitions are Stored in S3 as Immutable Files and Lot of Additional Metadata and Statistics About These Micro Partitions is Maintained in the Snowflake Metadata Layer.
 - ✓ That's why they Call the Cloud Service Layer of the Snowflake as Brain of the Snowflake.
 - ✓ When you Fire an SQL Query, Snowflake Would Know Which Tables and What Columns Do You Want to Read. Which Partition Files in S3 Belongs to Desired Table. So they know, Which Files to Read but Instead of Reading Complete File, They First Read the Header and then read Only Those Columns Which You Wanted to Read.
 - ✓ This is Possible Because S3 APIs Allow Them to Read Part of File Based on Offset and Length.
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- ✓ Snowflake Stores Metadata and Statistics About All the Data Stored in a Micro-Partition. So They Know the Range of Values and Number of Distinct Values for Each of the Columns in the Micro-Partitions.
 - ✓ So When You Apply a Filter in Where Clause, They Know Which Micro-Partitions Would have the Desired Data. This Allows the First Level of Partition Pruning and Targets Only Those Micro-Partitions Where the Desired Data is Stored.
 - ✓ Next Step, They First Read the Micro-Partition Header and then Only Read the Desired Columns. This Allows the Second Level of Column Pruning and Minimize the Overall I/O of the SQL.
 - ✓ If you have Time Series Data and Your Queries are Filtering on a Timeframe. Snowflake Partitioning Strategy Works like a Charm.

Snowflake | Python Fetch Data from Snowflake Personal Account



fetch_data.py

The screenshot displays the Snowflake web interface on the left and a Python script in Sublime Text on the right. The Snowflake interface shows a query result for the 'TRY2CATCH' table, listing names like Akash, Steve Jobs, Paul Walker, Python Programming, Mark Zuckerberg, Valentino Rossi, Kobe Bryant, and Rafael Nadal. The Python script 'fetch_data.py' connects to Snowflake and fetches data from the 'TRY2CATCH' table.

```
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

import snowflake.connector as sf
from snowflake.connector import DictCursor

# Connect your Snowflake Account
connection = sf.connect(user = config.get('username'),
                        password = config.get('password'), account = config.get('account'))

def execute_query(connection, sql_query):
    try:
        cursor = connection.cursor()
        cursor.execute(sql_query)
        cursor.close()
    except Exception as ex:
        print(f"\n Error: {ex}")

sql_query1 = "use {}".format(config.get('database'))
execute_query(connection, sql_query1)
sql_query2 = "use warehouse {}".format(config.get('warehouse'))
execute_query(connection, sql_query2)

try:
    # Resume Warehouse if it is Suspended!
    sql_query3 = "alter warehouse {} resume".format(config.get('warehouse'))
    execute_query(connection, sql_query3)
except:
    pass

sql_query4 = "select * from {}".format(config.get('table'))
cursor = connection.cursor()
cursor.execute(sql_query4)
for x in cursor:
    print(x)

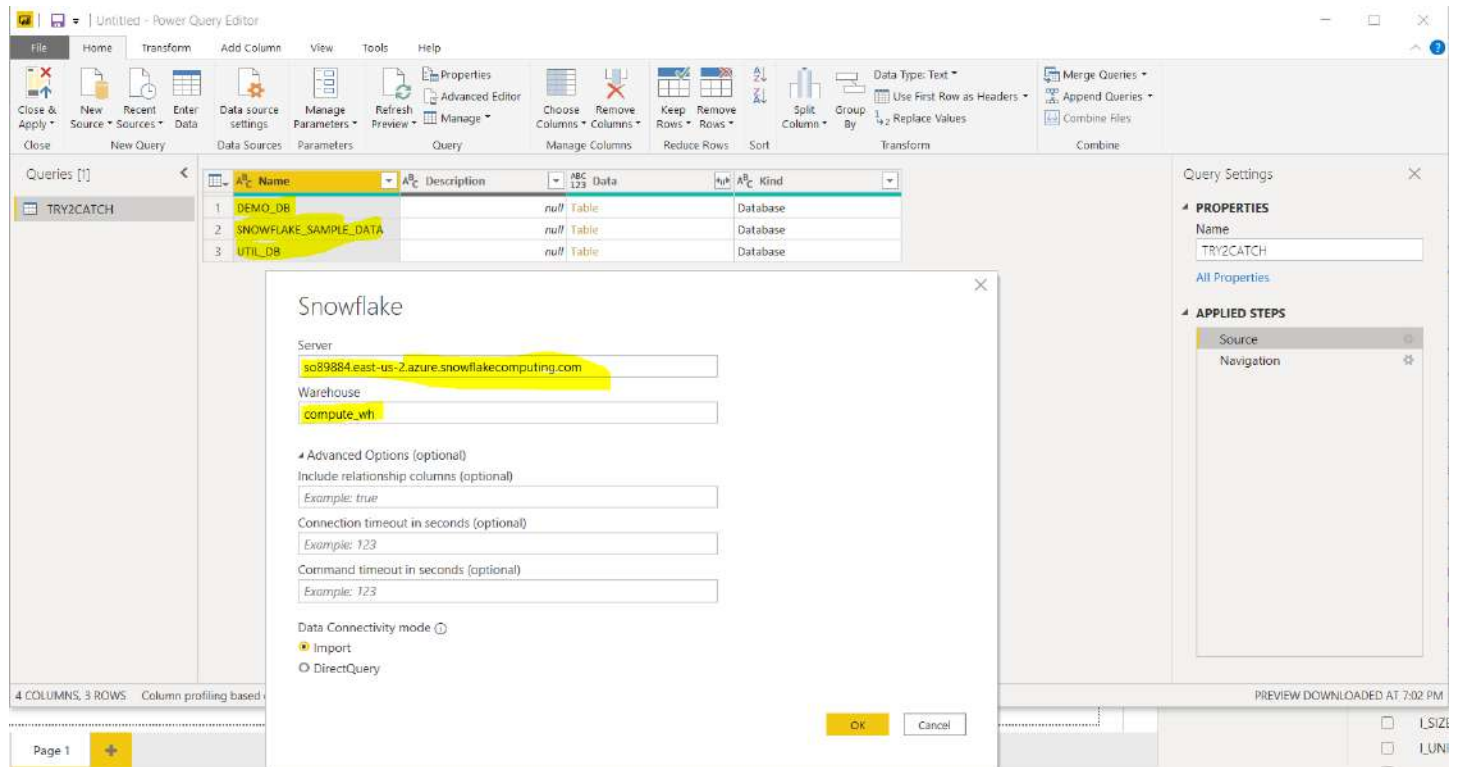
except Exception as ex:
    print(f"\n Error: {ex}")
finally:
    connection.close()
```

Snowflake Portal

The screenshot displays the Snowflake web interface showing a query result for the 'ITEM' table. The table contains columns like I_ITEM_SK, I_ITEM_ID, L_REC_START_DATE, L_REC_END_DATE, L_ITEM_DESC, L_CURRENT_PRICE, L_WHOLESALE_COST, L_BRAND_ID, L_BRAND, L_CLASS_ID, L_CLASS, and L_CATEGORY. The results show various items with their respective prices and categories.

Row	I_ITEM_SK	I_ITEM_ID	L_REC_START_DATE	L_REC_END_DATE	L_ITEM_DESC	L_CURRENT_PRICE	L_WHOLESALE_COST	L_BRAND_ID	L_BRAND	L_CLASS_ID	L_CLASS	L_CATEGORY
1	174408	AAAAAAA...	2001-10-27		Overall chur...	2.63	5.25	9003001	exportimaxi #1	11	computers	
2	174409	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27		Ago distingu...	3.67	1.62	6014002	edu packbro...	14	estate	
3	174410	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27	2000-10-26	Financial, ro...	1.29	0.52	2002001	importotimpo...	2	shirts	
4	174411	AAAAAAA...	2000-10-27		Financial, ro...	4.49	0.52	10009009	maxiunivam...		television	
5	174412	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27	1999-10-27	Visible argu...	6.07	2.85	8007003	brandname...	7	hockey	
6	174413	AAAAAAA...	1999-10-28	2001-10-28	So white rep...	1.84	0.80	8007003	exportischo...	3	pop	
7	174414	AAAAAAA...	2001-10-27		Adequately ...	3.14	0.80	5003001	exportischo...	3	pop	
8	174415	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27		Good, long y...	3.37	1.75	4002002	importosdu ...	2	mens	
9	174416	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27	2000-10-26	Guns cannot...	2.61	2.11	6009001	maxicorp #1	9	womens wat...	
10	174417	AAAAAAA...	2000-10-27		Long, perfec...	2.14	1.09	6009001	corpcorp #2	9	rings	
11	174418	AAAAAAA...	1997-10-27	1999-10-27	Only words ...	2.43	1.31	2001001	amaimport...	1	accessories	
12	174419	AAAAAAA...	1999-10-28	2001-10-28	New, immedi...	8.65	7.52	1003002	exportiamal...	3	maternity	

Configure Snowflake Account in PowerBI Tool.



Visualize Snowflake Data in PowerBI Tool.

