A Single Source of Truth for Business

Joshua Cook

**Delta Lake as your single source of truth**

If using Delta Lake to build your data infrastructure, it is possible to make your data lake your single source of truth (SSOT) to support business decision making.

In this lesson, we will review what a SSOT is, and how Delta Lake can act as your SSOT.

**What is a single source of truth?**

An SSOT is the single source of data that is used by everyone in an organization when mining data to make business decisions. This concept is important across organizations to ensure that business decisions are being made using the most accurate and up to date datasets. Without an SSOT, organizations can end up with multiple, conflicting copies of data, making it difficult to determine its validity and correctness.

This SSOT is the heart of an organization's enterprise decision support system (EDSS).

**The Enterprise Decision Support System**

An enterprise decision support system, or EDSS, is an information system used by an organization to help decision-making.

An EDSS might be built:

* on-premises or in the cloud
* leveraging data lake, data warehouse, or data lakehouse technology

The mission of an EDSS is to publish an organization’s data assets to data analysts and other downstream consumers. As you can imagine, an EDSS is most effective if there is an SSOT for data. Having an SSOT means that data being published all come from the same, singular credible source.

**Analytical and Operational Layers**

An important concept in data system design is the distinction between the EDSS and the Operational Data Store (ODS). The EDSS and the ODS in a typical enterprise data system perform two distinct functions:

* an EDSS performs **Online Analytical Processing (OLAP)**
* an ODS performs **Online Transaction Processing (OLTP)**





