■ Mock Client Interview – Snowflake (Core & Advanced)
100 Fully Detailed Real-World Interview Questions & Answers

Aligned to Day 59 – Mock Client Interview (Client-facing & Architect-level discussion)

Q1. What is Snowflake and why do clients prefer it?

Answer: Snowflake is a cloud-native data platform offering elastic scalability, high performance, and simplified operations. Clients prefer it because it separates compute and storage, reduces infrastructure management, supports structured and semi-structured data, and provides predictable performance with strong security.

Q2. Explain Snowflake's three-layer architecture.

Answer: Snowflake consists of the Cloud Services layer (metadata, optimization, security), Compute layer (virtual warehouses), and Storage layer (compressed columnar storage). This design enables independent scaling and workload isolation.

Q3. How does separation of compute and storage help in real projects?

Answer: It allows teams to scale compute independently for ETL, reporting, and analytics without duplicating data, reducing cost and avoiding performance contention.

Q4. What is a virtual warehouse and how do you size it?

Answer: A virtual warehouse is a compute cluster. Sizing depends on workload type, data volume, and concurrency. Typically, ETL uses larger warehouses while BI queries use small to medium warehouses.

Q5. How does Snowflake handle concurrency?

Answer: Snowflake supports concurrency using multi-cluster warehouses and automatic scaling, ensuring queries do not block each other.

Q6. What is micro-partitioning and why is it important?

Answer: Snowflake automatically partitions data into micro-partitions with metadata, enabling pruning and faster query execution without manual indexing.

Q7. Why doesn't Snowflake use indexes?

Answer: Indexes add maintenance overhead. Snowflake relies on micro-partition metadata and pruning, which provides similar performance benefits automatically.

Q8. Explain Time Travel with a business example.

Answer: Time Travel allows recovery of deleted or modified data. For example, if a reporting table is accidentally truncated, it can be restored instantly without reloading data.

Q9. What is Fail-safe and when is it used?

Answer: Fail-safe is a last-resort recovery mechanism managed by Snowflake for disaster recovery, available for 7 days after Time Travel expires.

Q10. How does Snowflake optimize query performance automatically?

Answer: Snowflake uses statistics, micro-partition pruning, result caching, and a cost-based optimizer to tune queries automatically.

Q11. How do you handle data loading using copy and snowpipe in Snowflake?

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