

Drop Hive external table WITHOUT removing data

Asked 4 years, 4 months ago Active 2 years, 10 months ago Viewed 19k times

▲ The goal is to destroy a Hive schema but keep the data underneath.

9 ▼ Given a Hive external table, created for example with script 1, it can be dropped with script 2. This deletes the data (removes the folder `/user/me/data/`). This folder has to remain for use in other projects.

★ A long search does not yield anything so far...

2 Script 1: Create an external table

🕒

```
CREATE EXTERNAL TABLE external_hive_table(  
    column1 STRING  
)  
ROW FORMAT DELIMITED  
FIELDS TERMINATED BY  
    '\t'  
STORED AS TEXTFILE  
LOCATION  
    '/user/me/data/'  
TBLPROPERTIES (  
    "skip.header.line.count"="1");
```

Script 2: Drop external table (drop data)

```
ALTER TABLE  
    external_hive_table  
SET TBLPROPERTIES (  
    'EXTERNAL'='FALSE');  
  
DROP TABLE external_hive_table;
```

Edit: Script 3: Drop external table (keep data)

```
DROP TABLE external_hive_table;
```

[hadoop](#) [hive](#) [hortonworks-data-platform](#)

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edited Nov 23 '16 at 9:40

asked Nov 23 '16 at 9:23

 [Laurens Koppenol](#)
2,404 2 13 29

I came to this thread cause I want to know "how to delete an external table along with data". The answer is in your question. – [Eugene](#) Oct 16 '19 at 12:44



Use only this statement (without alter table):

11

```
DROP TABLE external_hive_table;
```



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answered Nov 23 '16 at 9:38



facha

10.3k 13 54 75



we can avoid this steep Boz for IF WE are drop external table it will drop the data will available in HDFS schema will be deleted . Script 2: Drop external table (drop data)

-1



```
ALTER TABLE external_hive_table SET TBLPROPERTIES ( 'EXTERNAL'='FALSE');
```

```
DROP TABLE external_hive_table
```



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answered May 22 '18 at 5:03



K Rakesh patra

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