## What is a Data Warehouse?

A **data warehouse** is like a central storage system for data that comes from different places — such as sales systems, websites, customer service tools, etc.

It allows businesses to:

* Store huge amounts of data in one place
* Analyze and report on that data
* Answer questions like:  
  “What were our total sales last month by region?”

## What is Snowflake?

**Snowflake** is a cloud-based data warehouse platform.  
It helps store and manage large amounts of data, and lets you query that data using **SQL**.

### Key Features:

* Runs completely in the cloud (on AWS, Azure, or GCP)
* No setup or server maintenance needed
* Works well with large and small data.
* Can process structured and semi-structured data (like JSON)
* Scales up or down automatically

## Basic Components of Snowflake

| **Component** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Database** | A container that holds all your data |
| **Schema** | A folder inside the database for organizing tables |
| **Table** | Stores data in rows and columns (like a spreadsheet) |
| **SQL** | The language used to interact with and query data |
| **Warehouse** | The engine that runs your queries and processes data |
| **Stage** | A temporary storage area for files you want to load |