**External Stage**

An External Stage in Snowflake is a reference to cloud storage like AWS S3, Azure Blob, or GCP. It allows us to load and unload structured/semi-structured data securely without hardcoding credentials. In my projects, I’ve used external stages to integrate large datasets from S3 into Snowflake tables using the COPY INTO command, and also to unload processed data back to S3 for downstream reporting. This simplified data pipeline management and improved performance.”

-- Creating external stage for publicly available file

CREATE OR REPLACE STAGE contacts\_stage

url='s3://snowflakedatafiles452/csvfiles/external\_stage/'

CREDENTIALS = (AWS\_KEY\_ID = 'AKIA275OP4G26MVDZCWT' AWS\_SECRET\_KEY = 'H6FTTVQ5wyKACH9oTwQLSPmZLWQbU+sjBHH8p6Qd');

; -- If the bucket is public

DESC STAGE contacts\_stage;

SHOW stages ;

LIST @contacts\_stage;

ALTER STAGE contacts\_stage rename to contacts\_stage1;

DESC STAGE contacts\_stage1;

ALTER STAGE contacts\_stage1 rename to contacts\_stage;

create or replace table CONTACTS (

id integer,

last\_name string,

first\_name string,

company string,

email string,

workphone string,

cellphone string,

streetaddress string,

city string,

postalcode string);

COPY INTO CONTACTS FROM @contacts\_stage

file\_format = ( type = 'CSV'

field\_delimiter = '|'

skip\_header = 1)

pattern='.\*.contacts5.csv';

select \* from CONTACTS ;

drop table CONTACTS ;

drop stage contacts\_stage ;