Data Observability with Databand

Elena Lowery, WW Team, Data and AI





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Overview

In this lab you will learn how to use Databand to implement data observability for your data pipelines. You will complete the following tasks:

- Use Databand SDK in Python pipelines
- Use Databand SDK in PySpark pipelines

Required software, access, and files

- 1. To complete exercises in this lab, you will need:
 - 1. A Python IDE
 - You can use any Python IDE with Python 3.8 or 3.9. We provide sample Python code/detailed instructions for
 - Jupyter Notebooks in <u>Cloud Pak for Data as a Service</u> (CPDaaS)
 - JupyterLab in <u>Anaconda Community Edition</u>
 - <u>PyCharm Community Edition</u> (can be installed with Anaconda Community Edition)

We recommend that you use at least 1 notebook environment and at least 1 IDE, such as *PyCharm* or *Visual Studio*.

- 2. A URL and a userid for the Databand demo environment (provided by the instructor).
- 3. Files from this **Box folder**.

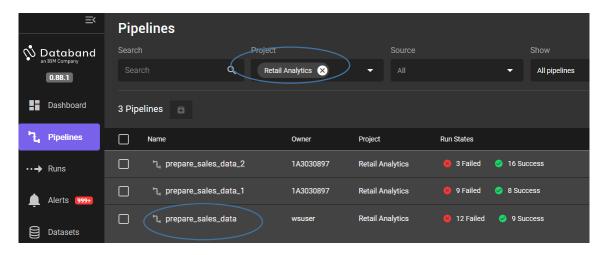


Part 1: Introduction to Databand SDK for data pipelines

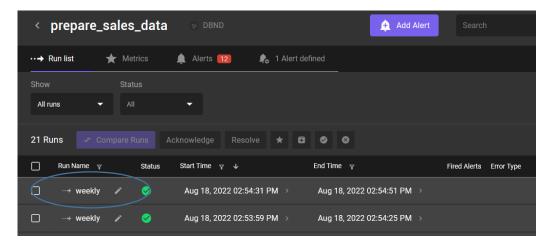
Databand provides the capability to monitor data pipeline status and create alerts for pipeline and data quality issues. In this section you will learn how to use the *Databand Tracking SDK* to monitor Python pipelines. Databand also supports data pipelines written in Java, Scala, and dbt. You can find more information about support for these pipelines in documentation.

- 1. Log in to the Databand environment provided by your instructor.
- 2. Navigate to the **Pipelines** page and find the *prepare_sales_data* pipeline. You can filter by project *Retail Analytics*.

This simple data pipeline reads data from a csv file, filters out several columns, and writes 2 datasets for different product categories.



3. Click on the pipeline, then on one of the successful runs.



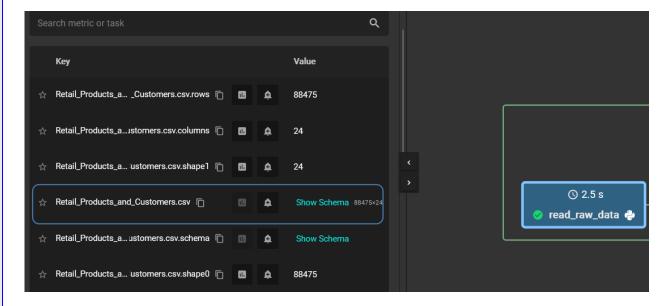


This view shows that the pipeline has three steps: read_raw_data, filter_data, and write_data_by_product_line.



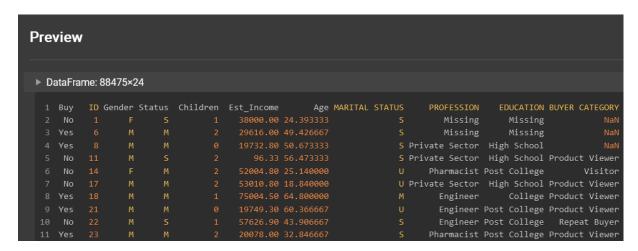
2. Click on the *read_raw_data* step in the pipeline, then switch to the **Metrics** tab.

The **Metrics** tab shows default and custom metrics that can be monitored for each step of the pipeline. The metrics on this page will be easier to understand after we review code for the pipeline.





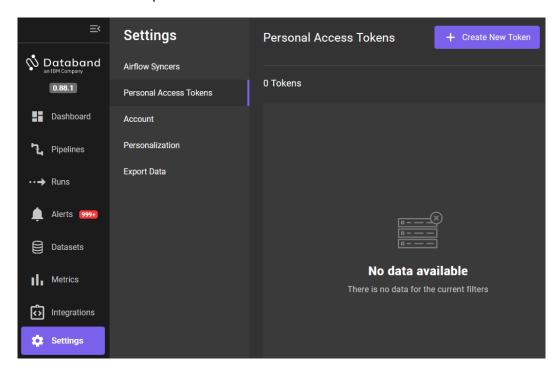
Click **Show Schema** next to *Retail_Products_And_Customers.csv*. Here we see a preview of data that was read in the *read_raw_data* step of the pipeline.



Next, you will create a copy of this pipeline and explore the details of monitoring in Databand.

4. Get an authorization token from Databand. The token is used in data pipelines when establishing a connection to Databand.

In Databand click on **Settings**, then select the **Personal Access Tokens** tab. Click the **Create New Token** button. Provide a unique name (for example, add your initials), and save the token in a notepad.





- 5. Load the sample data file and the Python script into your IDE. The samples are located in the *Workshop/Pipelines* folder (downloaded from Box).
 - Script: SimpleRetailDataPipeline_with_Databand.py
 - Csv file: Retail_Products_and_Customers.csv
 - Notebook: SimpleRetailDataPipeline_with_Databand.ipynb

In this lab we will review the *Python script*. If you're using the notebook example, see the instructions and comments in the notebook.

- 3. In the beginning of the script, we import pandas and Databand libraries. If your Python IDE does not automatically install libraries, then you can install them with pip:
 - pip install pandas
 - pip install databand

```
# Import pandas and databand libraries
import pandas as pd
from dbnd import dbnd_tracking, task, dataset_op_logger
```

4. Replace the *url* and *token* variables with the values for your Databand cluster.

```
# Import pandas and databand libraries
import pandas as pd
from dbnd import dbnd_tracking, task, dataset_op_logger

databand_url = 'insert_url'
databand_access_token = 'insert_token'
```

5. Replace the value of the *unique suffix* variable to your initials.

Since we may have many workshop participants using the same cluster, adding a unique suffix to assets that are tracked in Databand will make it easier for your to find your pipelines and datasets.

```
# Provide a unique suffix that will be added to various assets tracked in <u>Databand</u>. We use this approach because # in a workshop many users are running the same sample pipelines unique_suffix = '_el'
```

6. Scroll down to the bottom of the script – to the *prepare_retail_data()* function.

Review the code:

• This function starts tracking the pipeline in Databand and invokes 3 functions that represent pipeline steps: read_raw_data(), filter_data(), write_data_by_product_line(). Notice that in Databand the names of the steps match the names of the Python functions in our pipeline.



```
def prepare_retail_data():
    with dbnd_tracking(
            conf={
                "core": {
                    "databand_url": databand_url,
                    "databand_access_token": databand_access_token,
            }.
            iob_name="prepare_sales_data" + unique_suffix.
            run name="weekly".
            project_name="Retail Analytics" + unique_suffix,
   ):
        # Call the step job - read data
        rawData = read_raw_data()
        # Filter data
        filteredData = filter_data(rawData)
        # Write data by product line
        write_data_by_product_line(filteredData)
        print("Finished running the pipeline")
```

• The main function, prepare_retail_data, starts tracking execution of the pipeline in Databand. Notice that the job_name corresponds to the pipeline name in Databand and project_name corresponds to the project name.



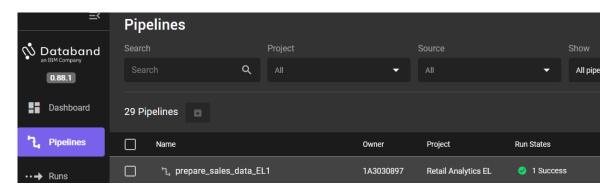
- Review the implementation of each function.
 - First, we add the @task decorator before the declaration of each function in Python. This lets Databand know that we are starting execution of a pipeline step. The @task decorator uses the name of the function directly below it as the name of the pipeline step in Databand.
 - Next, we log datasets that are used in the pipeline with the logger.set() call.
 This call will log metadata and a small set of sample data. If the customer has concerns about logging data, they can turn off logging the data sample.
 - o In our example we read a csv file into a pandas dataframe, which is what's logged in Databand. Logging dataset metadata in Databand is optional, and it should only be used if data engineers need dataset metadata for troubleshooting issues. When you log datasets, you will see data in the Metrics tab of a pipeline step. If you switch back to Databand Metrics view



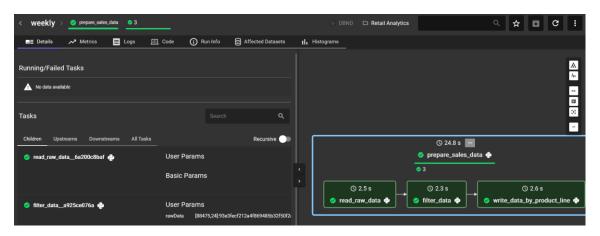
of the *read_raw_data* step, you will notice that the schema and sample records match the few rows of the csv file.

Next, we will run the code.

- 7. Save the changes you've made in the script and run it at least 5 times to generate some metrics data. You can run the script in debug mode if you would like to review the SDK in more detail.
 - As you are running the script, switch to the Databand environment, and monitor pipeline execution. You can find the pipeline in the **Pipelines** view.



Drill down to see the details of the run.





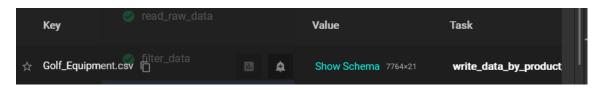
6. Click on the **Metrics** tab, then select each step of the pipeline.

Explore the **Metrics**, notice that the schema corresponds to the dataset read or written in each step.

For example, the *Retail_Products_And_Customers.csv* dataset (in Python the *retailData* pandas dataframe) has 88,475 rows and 24 colums.

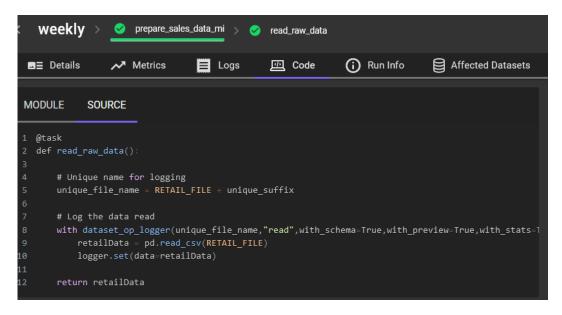


If you click on the *write_data_by_product_line* step, you will notice that one of the output datasets, *Golf Equipment* (in Python the *GoflEquipment* pandas dataframe), has 7764 rows and 21 columns.



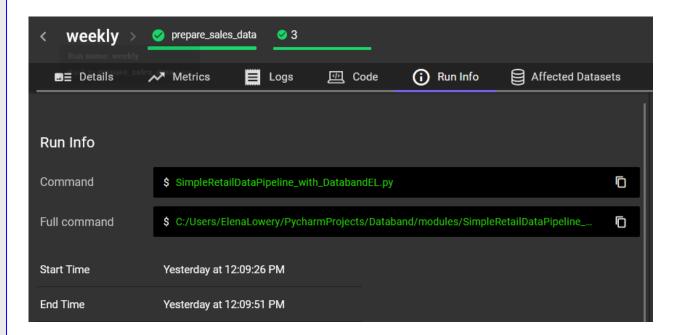
7. Click on the **Code** tab, then select each step of the pipeline.

Here we can review (but not edit) code that corresponds to the pipeline step. Databand is not used for editing code, code changes should be done in the IDE that's used to develop pipelines.

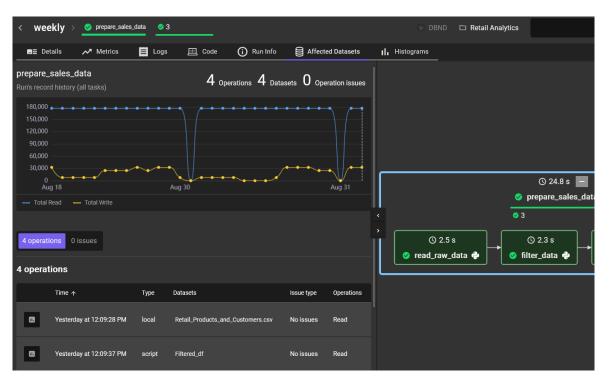


8. Click on the **Run info** tab and notice that it captures the name of the Python script that implements the pipeline.





9. Click on the **Affected Datasets** tab and the "top" pipeline view (you should see a bold blue box around the entire pipeline, and not the individual steps). Here we have a single view of all datasets used by the pipeline. Since we don't have any issues yet, we don't need to review additional details at this time.



Next, we will introduce a few errors in the pipeline to understand how Databand can help us monitor and troubleshoot the errors.

We will start with introducing an error in the last step of the pipeline.



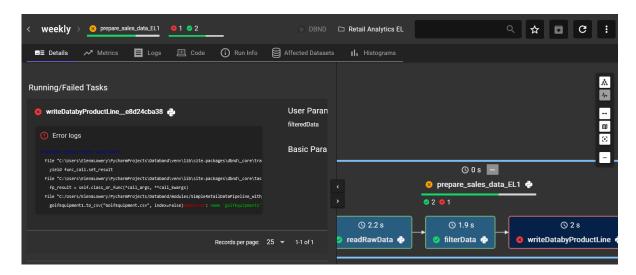
Note: In this lab we are adding errors that are typically resolved at **build time** because it's the easiest way to create an error in code. In a production environment **runtime errors** will be handled the same way by Databand.

10. In the write_data_by_product_Line() function find the line of code that writes the equipment csv and change it to the name of the pandas dataframe that doesn't exist, for example, golfEquipment1.

Note: While PyCharm shows the error, the code will still run because Python is not a compiled language.

11. Save the change and run the script. Switch to Databand and find your pipeline in the **Pipelines** tab.

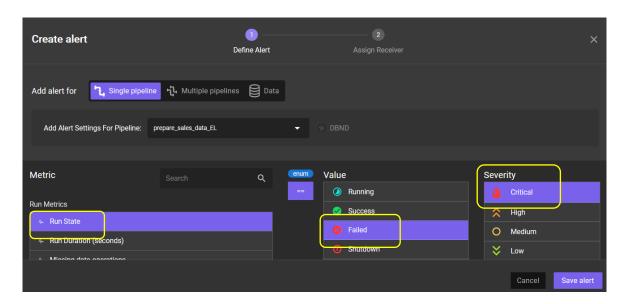
Databand shows that the 3rd step of the pipeline failed and displays the error that caused the failure.



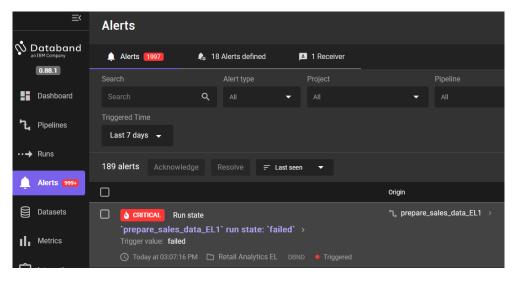
12. Switch to the Alerts view and click Add Alert.

Create an alert for **Run State** Failed, and make it a Critical severity alert.





Run the pipeline again and refresh the **Alert** view. You should see a critical alert for your failed pipeline run.

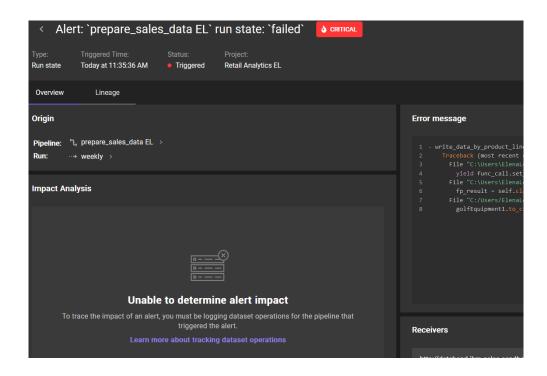


13. Drill down to the alert and review the details.

As on the **Pipelines** page, we can see the error that caused the failure. We can also review the datasets that could be potentially affected by the error in the pipeline step.

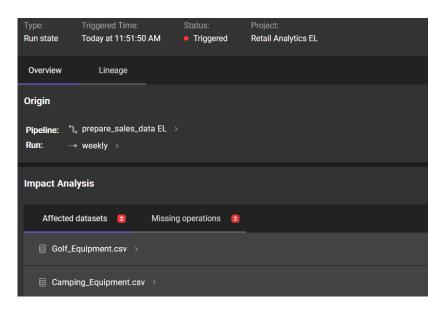
During the first few failed runs of a new pipeline that's observed by Databand, you may see the message "*Unable to determine alert impact*." This happens because the impact analysis job did not run yet. If you see this message, return to the alert after 10-15 minutes. You can continue with the rest of the instructions in the lab.





Databand is able to determine (infer) the list of affected datasets because

- We used the logger.set() function in our data pipeline
- We had several successful runs of the pipeline, and these datasets were read or written in the successful runs.



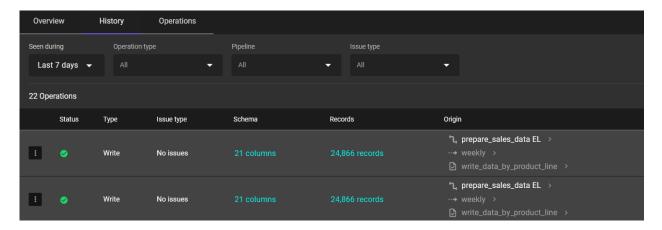
Since the error in a Python function can happen before or after the dataset is written, we need to investigate if the expected number of rows was written to the dataset.

14. Click on Camping_Equipment.csv, then the **History** tab.



Based on this output, we have a consistent number of rows/columns that are being written to this dataset, including during the pipeline run that has failed (the last run shown on top of the table). That means that even though the pipeline run failed, data was written successfully.

This output aligns with the error we introduced in the code – it's after we write the *CampingEquipment.csv*.



Next, we will introduce the error earlier in the code.

15. In the write_data_by_product_line() function find the line of code that references the pandas dataframe that was passed into the function, and change it to a different name, for example, filteredData1.

Since *filteredData1* does not exist in this function, we will get an error.

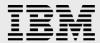
Run the script and switch back to Databand.

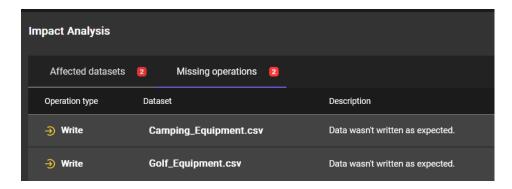
```
@task
pdef write_data_by_product_line(filteredData):
    # Select any product line - we will write it to a separate file
    campingEquipment = filteredData1.loc[filteredData['Product line'] == 'Camping Equipment']
```

16. From the **Alerts** page, navigate to your failed pipeline run.

Notice that in addition to the **Affected datasets** tab, we now see **Missing operations** tab. A "missing operation" means that the code that writes datasets did not run. Databand knows that a successful execution should result in writing the *Camping Equipment* and *Golf Equipment* datasets because we had several successful runs of the pipeline.

In general, Databand *infers* affected datasets and pipelines by observing successful pipeline runs, which means that we should always ensure that a pipeline runs successfully several times after we configure it to be observed by Databand.





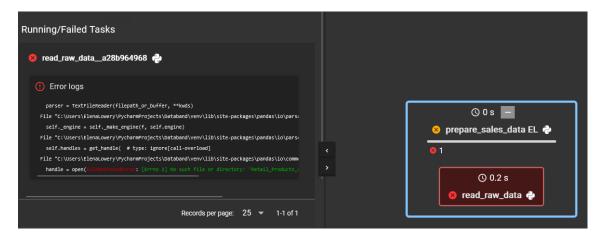
Next, we will review what happens if we have errors earlier in the pipeline.

17. Add an error in the 1^{st} step of the pipeline. For example, change the name of the csv file to the name of the file that does not exist (global variable). Save the script and run it.

```
# Data used in this pipeline
RETAIL_FILE = "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/elenalowery/data-samples/main/Retail_Products_and_Customers1.csv"
```

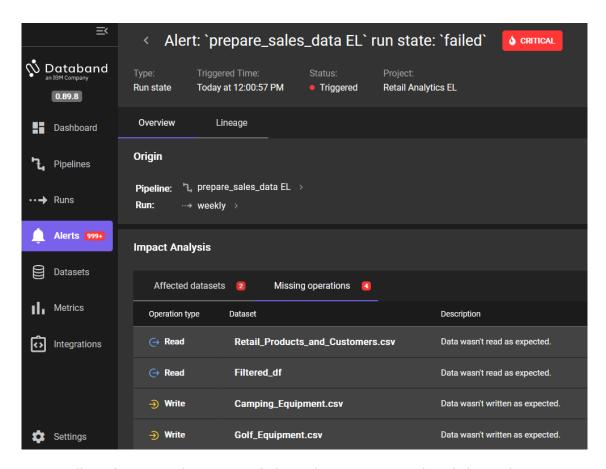
Switch to Databand and find your failed pipeline run (from the **Pipelines** view).

Since the pipeline failed on the first step, the other steps are not shown.



We can see that more datasets are shown in the **Missing Operations** tab of the pipeline alert.

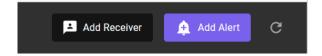




Next, we will configure 2 other types of alerts that are not pipeline failures, but nevertheless could signal a problem with the pipeline or data.

One of the most frequent alerts that a data engineering team is interested in is the *run duration* alert because it can indicate a problem with the pipeline.

18. In Databand switch to the **Alerts** panel and click **Add Alert**.



19. Select your pipeline.

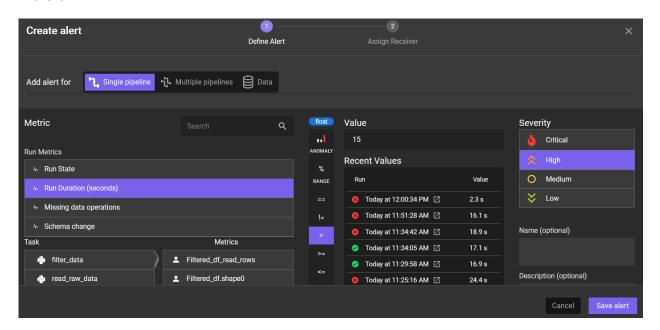


20. Select **Run Duration (seconds)**, then > ,and enter the value that's smaller than the shortest duration of your pipeline runs.



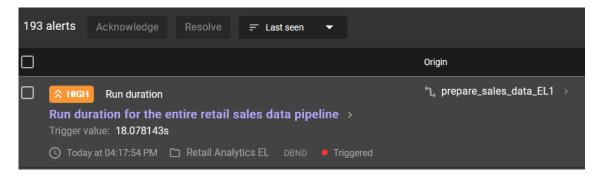
In our example the longest successful run is 17.3 seconds, that's why we are specifying 15 seconds because we want to "force" the alert. Select any alert severity, then add a name and a description.

Notice that we have many options for creating alerts on this page. At this time we will focus on the overall pipeline duration. Click **Save**. Optionally, assign receivers for the alert.



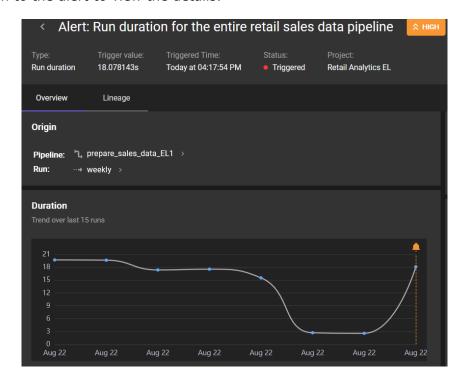


21. Run your pipeline and check the **Alerts** page.





22. Drill down to the alert to view the details.

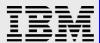


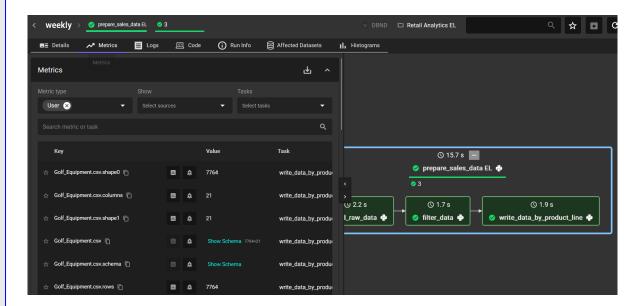
Now that you've tested the alert, either delete it or change the run duration to a higher value so that it does not generate too many unnecessary alerts in the workshop environment.

Next, we will create an alert for the *number of rows written* to the output dataset. We will use a different navigation approach to get to the alert definition page.

23. Navigate to your pipeline from the **Pipelines** panel, drill down to one of the successful runs, and make sure that the entire pipeline is selected (blue bold box around the entire pipeline).

Click on the Metrics tab.





Click on the **Show on chart** icon next to *Camping_Equipment.csv.rows* and review the number of rows that has been written up to this point (scroll down to see the chart). Since we did not have runtime errors, the number of rows has consistently been 24,688. As a reminder, we created errors that resulted in a "missing operation".



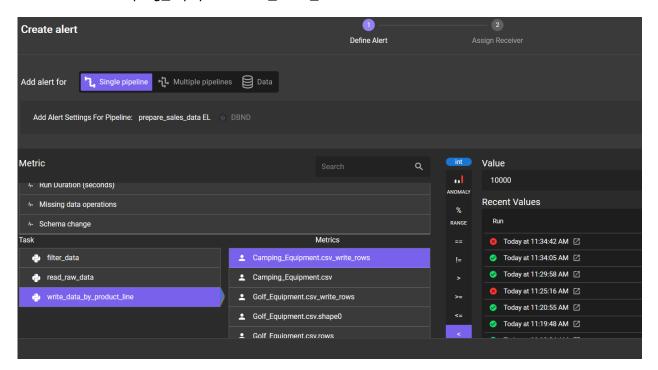
24. Click the **Create Alert** button next to *Camping_Equipment.csv.rows* (the bell icon). Notice that when the **Create alert** panel is displayed, the number of rows is preselected.

You can choose whether to create an alert based on a hardcoded value or an anomaly. We decided to create an alert for the number of rows less than 10,000.



If you don't want to change the pipeline code to test this alert, then simply specify the number less than 24,688 to create the alert. However, we recommend that you change the code to test the alert.

Select the Camping_Equipment.csv_write_rows as the metric.



In the write_data_by_product_line() change the line of code that selects records from the pandas dataframe to a different valid value, for example, Outdoor Protection. The number of records for this filter will be different. Save the script and run it.

```
@task

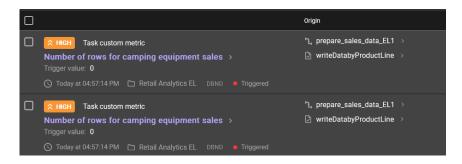
def write_data_by_product_line(filteredData):
    # Select any product line - we will write it to a separate file
    campingEquipment = filteredData.loc[filteredData['Product line'] == 'Outdoor Protection']
```

Next, change the value to an invalid value, for example, *Camping Equipment1*. The number or records should be 0. Save the script and run it.

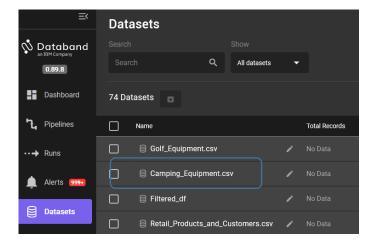
```
@task
/def write_data_by_product_line(filteredData):
    # Select any product line - we will write it to a separate file
    campingEquipment = filteredData.loc[filteredData['Product line'] == 'Camping Equipment1']
```

25. Switch to Databand and find the generated alerts.

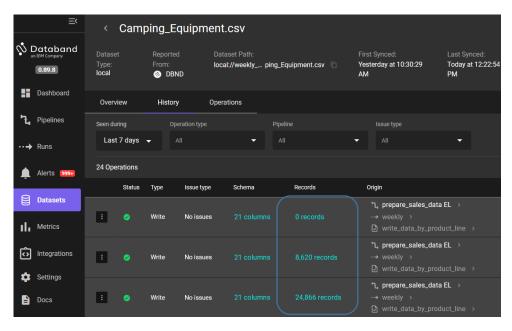




26. Investigate the issue through **Datasets** view.



Find the dataset, drill down and click on the **History** tab. Notice that the number of records written in the last 2 pipeline runs is different.



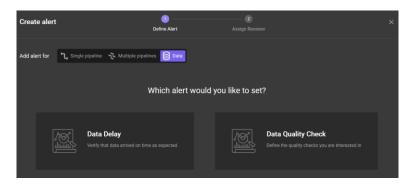
Next, we will add a custom metric to monitor data quality and set up an alert for it.



In Databand a *custom metric* is *business logic* that's implemented in a data pipeline and registered in Databand. Custom metrics can be used to monitor/alert for data quality or simply patterns in data that need to be investigated.

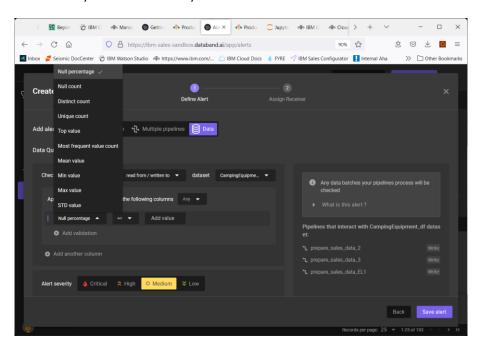
Let's start by reviewing the built-in metrics for data quality.

27. In Databand navigate to the Alerts page. Click Add Alert -> Data and select Data Quality Check.



28. Select the *Camping Equipment* dataset and explore quality alerts that you can set up with the options available in the UI.

Notice that we can select columns in the dropdown and set up alerts for *null* records, *min* and *max* values, *distinct counts*, etc.



While the built-in options cover the most important data quality checks, we may have use cases that require custom logic.



For example, in our retail use case we want to issue an alert if no sales have been reported from a particular state. In order to do this, we will need to create a custom metric in our data pipeline.

We added this function to our data pipeline:

```
def check_camping_equipment(rawData):
    metric_name = 'Sales from Alaska' + unique_suffix
    numberOfCampingEquipment_records = rawData['State'].tolist().count('Alaska')
    print(numberOfCampingEquipment_records)
    log_metric(metric_name, numberOfCampingEquipment_records)
```

In this example the *log_metric()* function sends the number of records for the specified state to Databand.

Note: we hardcoded the state value for simplicity. In a production implementation, it's possible to make the values configurable so that states are changed without changing the code.

29. Add the metric logging code to your *SimpleRetailDataPipeline_with_Databand* script or open *SimpleRetailDataPipeline_with_CustomMetric.py* script (from the *Workshop/Pipelines* folder)

If you're updating the original script, in addition to adding the function, add the function call to the *prepare_retail_data()* function (at the end).

```
def check_camping_equipment(rawData):
    metric_name = 'Sales from Alaska' + unique_suffix
    numberOfCampingEquipment_records = rawData['State'].tolist().count('Alaska')
    print(numberOfCampingEquipment_records)
    log metric(metric name, numberOfCampingEquipment records)
```



```
def prepare_retail_data():
    with dbnd_tracking(
            conf={
                "core": {
                    "databand_url": databand_url,
                    "databand_access_token": databand_access_token,
            },
            job_name="prepare_sales_data" + unique_suffix,
            run_name="weekly",
            project_name="Retail Analytics" + unique_suffix,
   ):
        # Call the step job - read data
        rawData = read_raw_data()
        # Filter data
        filteredData = filter_data(rawData)
        # Write data by product line
        write_data_by_product_line(filteredData)
        check_camping_equipment(rawData)
        print("Finished running the pipeline")
```

30. Run the updated script several times with different state values (keep the metric names the same).

For example, filter for *Alaska* (no records), *Arizona*, and *Oregon*. We are providing different state names just to generate a different number of records in Databand.

```
def checkCampingEquipmentData(rawData):

    numberOfCampingEquipment_records = rawData['State'].tolist().count('Oregon')
    print(numberOfCampingEquipment_records)

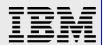
log_metric('Sales from Alaska', numberOfCampingEquipment_records)
```

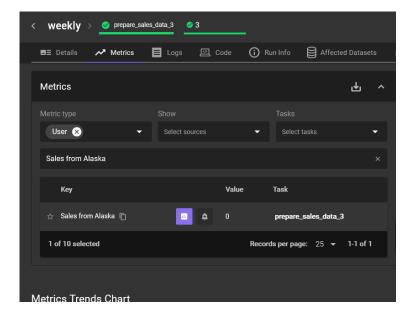
31. In Databand navigate to the **Metrics** page and find *Sales from Alaska* metric.

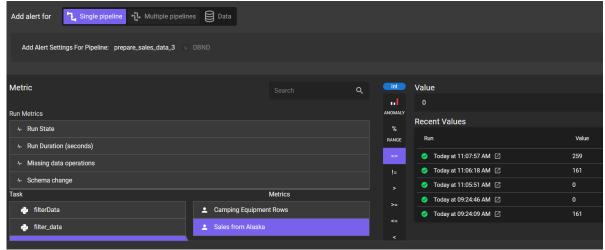
Notice the number of records recorded on each run.



Drill down into the metric, then create an alert for number of records == 0.







32. Change the pipeline to count records from Alaska again and run it.

Switch to Databand and find the generated alert.



This concludes introduction to Databand Python SDK.

Summary:



In this section you learned how to use Databand SDK to:

- Track Python pipelines in DatabandCreate alerts for data quality
- Create custom metrics.

These tasks are the most frequently used tasks in a production implementation of Databand.



Part 2: Review a PySpark example

In this section you will use the Databand SDK to track execution of a Spark pipeline.

As you know, Cloud Park for Data includes a Spark runtime. Many customers use other distributions of Spark, such as *Databricks*, *Amazon EMR*, and *Google Cloud DataProc*.

In this section we will review programmatic integration with Spark pipelines that's similar to Python integration.

Important note: If a customer is using an external (non-CPD) Spark, then they can enable integration on the Spark cluster level. If this integration is enabled, then Spark pipelines will be automatically monitored (no additional code is required). This applies to starting/stopping tracking and logging datasets, which means that integration with Spark is "no-code" integration. See <u>documentation</u> for configuration information.

The PySpark example that we provided for this section is a PySpark notebook that performs ETL operations on the same retail dataset as Python example we reviewed in **Part 1**. We recommend that you use *Cloud Pak for Data as a Service (CPDaaS)* as the runtime environment.

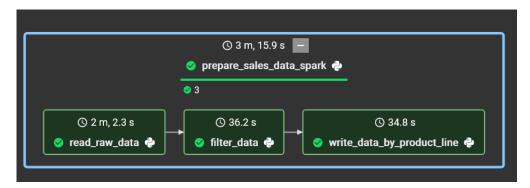
- 1. Log in to CPDaaS and create a new project.
- 2. Import the *Retail_Products_and_Customers.csv* from the */Pipelines* folder of the file downloaded from Box.
- 3. Create a notebook from file: RetailDataPipeline_Spark (in the /Pipelines folder). Make sure to set the Environment to Default Spark 3.2 & Python 3.9 runtime.

If you forget to select the Spark environment, you can do it later by stopping the notebook and changing the default environment from the Project view (select the vertical ellipses menu next to the notebook). To unlock the notebook, click on the lock icon.





- 4. Follow the update instructions in the notebook:
 - 1. Generate the project token
 - 2. Replace code to read data from your object storage
 - 3. Provide Databand URL and token
 - 4. Rename the pipeline
- 5. Run the notebook and check Databand for pipeline status.



6. If you wish, introduce errors in the notebook.

You have finished Part 2 of the lab.