Lab 6: Building a Real-Time Data Vault in Snowflake

Overview

In this day and age, with the ever-increasing availability and volume of data from many types of sources such as IoT, mobile devices, and weblogs, there is a growing need, and yes, demand, to go from batch load processes to streaming or "real-time" (RT) loading of data. Businesses are changing at an alarming rate and are becoming more competitive all the time. Those that can harness the value of their data faster to drive better business outcomes will be the ones to prevail.

One of the benefits of using the Data Vault 2.0 architecture is that it was designed from inception not only to accept data loaded using traditional batch mode (which was the prevailing mode in the early 2000s when <u>Dan Linstedt</u> introduced Data Vault) but also to easily accept data loading in real or near-realtime (NRT). In the early 2000s, that was a nice-to-have aspect of the approach and meant the methodology was effectively future-proofed from that perspective. Still, few database systems had the capacity to support that kind of requirement. Today, RT or at least NRT loading is almost becoming a mandatory requirement for modern data platforms. Granted, not all loads or use cases need to be NRT, but most forward-thinking organizations need to onboard data for analytics in an NRT manner.

Those who have been using the Data Vault approach don't need to change much other than figure out how to engineer their data pipeline to serve up data to the Data Vault in NRT. The data models don't need to change; the reporting views don't need to change; even the loading patterns don't need to change. (NB: For those that aren't using Data Vault already, if they have real-time loading requirements, this architecture and method might be worth considering.)

Data Vault on Snowflake

Luckily, streaming data is one of the [use-cases] that Snowflake was built to support, so we have many features to help us achieve this goal.

Prerequisites

- A Snowflake account. Existing or if you are not(yet) a Snowflake user, you can always get a trial account
- Familiarity with Snowflake and Snowflake objects
- Understanding of Data Vault concepts and modelling techniques

What You'll Learn

- how to use Data Vault on Snowflake
- · how to build basic objects and write ELT code for it
- how to leverage [Snowpipe] and [Continous Data Pipelines] to automate data processing
- how to apply data virtualization to accellerate data access

What You'll Build

- a Data Vault environment on Snowflake, based on sample dataset
- data pipelines, leveraging streams, tasks and Snowpipe

Reference Architecture

Let's start with the overall architecture to put everything in context.

Customer managed Snowflake Data Lifecycle Data Lifecycle RAW Data Vault Business Data Vault FRAW Data Vault Data Replication Tools Data Lake (complement) Bulk upload Streaming data Streaming data Streaming data Appr & SaaS Data Markeplace User workspaces Governance, Securily, DevOps Governance, Securily, DevOps Snowflake Data Cloud

MULTI-TIER

On the very left of figure above we have a list of **data providers** that typically include a mix of existing operational databases, old data warehouses, files, lakes as well as 3rd party apps. There is now also the possibility to leverage Snowflake Data Sharing/Marketplace as a way to tap into new 3rd party data assets to augment your data set.

Google Cloud

aws

Azure

On the very right we have our ultimate **data consumers**: business users, data scientists, IT systems or even other companies you decided to exchange your data with.

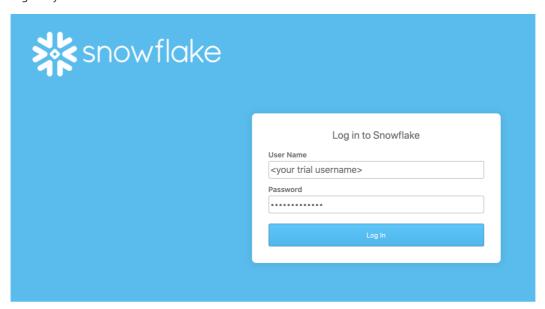
Architecturally, we will split the data lifecycle into following layers:

- Data Acquisition: extracting data from source systems and making it accessible for Snowflake.
- Loading & Staging: moving the source data into Snowflake. For this Snowflake has multiple options, including batch load, external tables and Snowpipe(our managed service for onboarding streaming data).
 Snowflake allows you to load and store structured and semi-structured in the original format whilst automatically optimizing the physical structure for efficient query access. The data is immutable and should be stored as it was received from source with no changes to the content. From a Data Vault perspective, functionally, this layer is also responsible for adding technical metadata (record source,, load date timestamp, etc.) as well as calculating business keys.
- Raw Data Vault: a data vault model with no soft business rules or transformations applied (only hard rules
 are allowed) loading all records received from source.
- Business Data Vault: data vault objects with soft business rules applied. The raw data vault data is getting
 augmented by the intelligence of the system. It is not a copy of the raw data vault, but rather a sparse
 addition with perhaps calculated satellites, mastered records,or maybe even commonly used aggregations.
 This could also optionally include PIT and Bridge tables helping to simplify access to bi-temporal view of the
 data. From a Snowflake perspective, raw and business data vaults could be separated by object naming
 convention or represented as different schemas or even different databases.
- Information Delivery: a layer of consumer-oriented models. This could be implemented as a set (or multiple sets) of views. It is common to see the use of dimensional models (star/snowflake) or denormalized flat tables (for example for data science or sharing) but it could be any other modeling stye (e.g., unified star

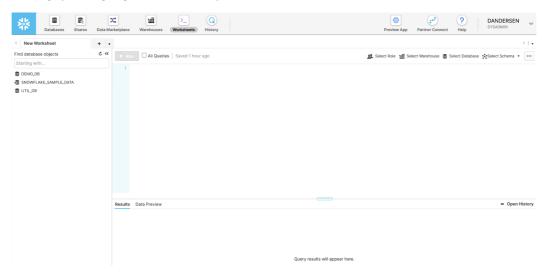
schema, supernova, key-value, document object mode, etc.) that fits best for your data consumer. Snowflake's scalability will support the required speed of access at any point of this data lifecycle. You should consider Business Vault and Information Delivery objects materialization as optional.

Environment setup

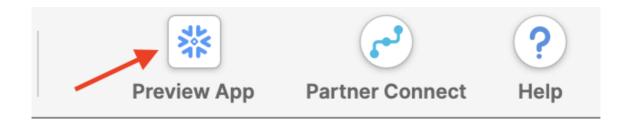
1. Login to your Snowflake trial account.



2. First page you are going to see would likely be [Snowflake Classic UI]:



To keep things interesting, for the purpose of this lab let's use [Snowflake New Web Interface] also known as Snowsight. However, you absolutely can continue using Classic UI as all steps in this guide are expressed in SQL and will work regardless what interface is used. To switch into Snowsight, let's click the **Preview** button in the top-right corner:



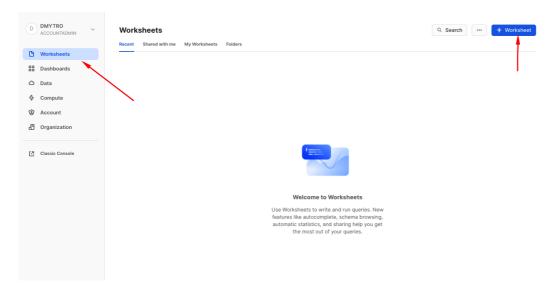
Click Sign in to continue. You will need to use the same user and password that you used to login to your Snowflake account the first time.



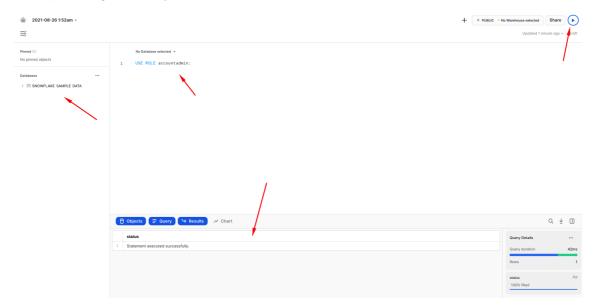
Sign in to continue

You're now in the new UI - Snowsight. It's pretty cool - with charting, dashboards, autocompletion and new capabilities that our engineering team will continue to add on weekly. Now, let's click on Worksheets...

3. Let's click on the worksheets -> + Worksheet



And without going into too much details, this is a fairly intuitive SQL workbench. It has a section for code we are going to be copy-pasting, object tree on the left, the 'run' button and of course the result panel at the bottom with the simple charting functionality.



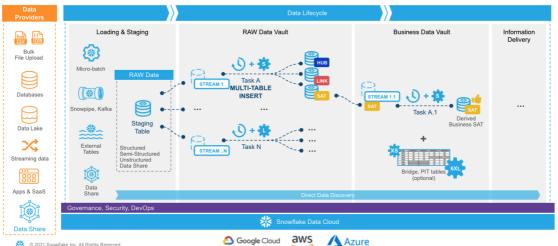
4. We are going to start by setting up basics for the lab environment. Creating a clean database and logically dividing it into four different schemas, representing each functional area mentioned in the reference architecture.

To keep things simple, we are going to use the ACCOUNTADMIN role. We also going to create two [Snowflake virtual warehouses] to manage compute - one for generic use during the course of this lab and the other one (dv_rdv_wh) that is going to be used by our data pipelines. You might notice that the code for two more virtual warehouses (dv_bdv_wh, dv_id_wh) is commented - again, this is just to keep things simple for the guide but we wanted to illustrate the fact you can have as many of virtual warehouses of any size and configuration as you needed. For example having separate ones to deal with different layers in our Data Vault architecture.

```
-- setting up the environment
USE ROLE accountadmin;
CREATE OR REPLACE DATABASE dv lab;
USE DATABASE dv lab;
CREATE OR REPLACE WAREHOUSE dv lab wh WITH WAREHOUSE SIZE = 'XSMALL' MIN CLUSTER COUNT
= 1 MAX_CLUSTER_COUNT = 1 AUTO_SUSPEND = 60 COMMENT = 'Generic WH';
CREATE OR REPLACE WAREHOUSE dv rdv wh WITH WAREHOUSE SIZE = 'XSMALL' MIN CLUSTER COUNT
= 1 MAX CLUSTER COUNT = 1 AUTO SUSPEND = 60 COMMENT = 'WH for Raw Data Vault object
pipelines';
--CREATE OR REPLACE WAREHOUSE dv bdv wh WITH WAREHOUSE SIZE = 'XSMALL'
MIN CLUSTER COUNT = 1 MAX CLUSTER COUNT = 1 AUTO SUSPEND = 60 COMMENT = 'WH for
Business Data Vault object pipelines';
--CREATE OR REPLACE WAREHOUSE dv id wh WITH WAREHOUSE SIZE = 'XSMALL'
MIN CLUSTER COUNT = 1 MAX CLUSTER COUNT = 1 AUTO SUSPEND = 60 COMMENT = 'WH for
information delivery object pipelines';
USE WAREHOUSE dv_lab_wh;
CREATE OR REPLACE SCHEMA 100 stg COMMENT = 'Schema for Staging Area objects';
CREATE OR REPLACE SCHEMA 110 rdv COMMENT = 'Schema for Raw Data Vault objects';
CREATE OR REPLACE SCHEMA 120 bdv COMMENT = 'Schema for Business Data Vault objects';
CREATE OR REPLACE SCHEMA 130_id COMMENT = 'Schema for Information Delivery objects';
```

Data Pipelines: Design

CONTINUOUS TRANSFORMATIONS











Snowflake supports multiple options for engineering data pipelines. In this post we are going to show one of the most efficient ways to implement incremental NRT integration leveraging Snowflake [Continuous Data Pipelines]. Let's take a look at the architecture diagram above to understand how it works.

Snowflake has a special [stream] object that tracks all data changes on a table (inserts, updates, and deletes). This process is 100% automatic and unlike traditional databases will never impact the speed of data loading. The change log from a stream is automatically 'consumed' once there is a successfully completed DML operation using the stream object as a source.

So, loading new data into a staging table, would immediately be reflected in a stream showing the ['delta'] that requires processing.

The second component we are going to use is [tasks]. It is a Snowflake managed data processing unit that will wake up on a defined interval (e.g., every 1-2 min), check if there is any data in the associated stream and if so, will run SQL to push it to the Raw Data Vault objects. Tasks could be arranged in a [tree-like dependency graph], executing child tasks the moment the predecessor finished its part.

Last but not least, following Data Vault 2.0 best practices for NRT data integration (to load data in parallel) we are going to use Snowflake's [multi-table insert (MTI)] inside tasks to populate multiple Raw Data Vault objects by a single DML command. (Alternatively you can create multiple streams & tasks from the same table in stage in order to populate each data vault object by its own asynchronous flow.)

Next step, you assign tasks to one or many virtual warehouses. This means you always have enough [compute power] (XS to 6XL) to deal with any size workload, whilst the [multi-cluster virtual warehouse] option will automatically scale-out and load balance all the tasks as you introduce more hubs, links and satellites to your vault.

Talking about tasks, Snowflake just introduced another fantastic capability - serverless tasks. This enables you to rely on compute resources managed by Snowflake instead of user-managed virtual warehouses. These compute resources are automatically resized and scaled up and down by Snowflake as required by each workload. This feature will be out of scope for this guide, but serverless compute model could reduce compute costs, in some cases significantly, allowing you to process more data, faster with even less management.

As your raw vault is updated, streams can then be used to propagate those changes to Business Vault objects (such as derived Sats, PITS, or Bridges, if needed) in the next layer. This setup can be repeated to move data through all the layers in small increments very quickly and efficiently. All the way until it is ready to be accessed by data consumers (if materialization of the data is required for performance).

Following this approach will result in a hands-off production data pipeline that feeds your Data Vault architecture.

Sample data & staging area

Every Snowflake account provides access to [sample data sets]. You can find corresponding schemas in SNOWFLAKE_SAMPLE_DATA database in your object explorer. For this guide we are going to use a subset of objects from [TPC-H] set, representing **customers** and their **orders**. We also going to take some reference data about **nations** and **regions**.

Dataset	Description	Source	Load Scenario	Mechanism
Nation	Static ref data	snowflake.sample_data.tpch_sf10.nation	one-off CTAS	SQL
Region	Static ref data	snowflake.sample_data.tpch_sf10.region	one-off CTAS	SQL
Customer	Customer data	snowflake.sample_data.tpch_sf10.customer	incremental JSON files	Snowpipe

Orders	Orders data	snowflake.sample_data.tpch_sf10.orders	incremental CSV files	Snowpipe
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1. Let's start with the static reference data:

```
USE SCHEMA 100_stg;

CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE stg_nation

AS

SELECT src.*

, CURRENT_TIMESTAMP() ldts

, 'Static Reference Data' rscr

FROM snowflake_sample_data.tpch_sf10.nation src;

CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE stg_region

AS

SELECT src.*

, CURRENT_TIMESTAMP() ldts

, 'Static Reference Data' rscr

FROM snowflake_sample_data.tpch_sf10.region src;
```

2. Next, let's create staging tables for our data loading. This syntax should be very familiar with anyone working with databases before. It is ANSI SQL compliant DDL, with probably one key exception - for stg_customer we are going to load the full payload of JSON into raw_json column. For this, Snowflake has a special data type [VARIANT].

As we load data we also going to add some technical metadata, like load data timestamp, row number in a file.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE stg customer
raw_json
, filename STRING NOT NULL
, file_row_seq NUMBER NOT NULL
STRING NOT NULL
                       VARIANT
, rscr
                       STRING NOT NULL
);
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE stg_orders
                       NUMBER
 o orderkey
                        NUMBER
, o custkey
                       STRING
, o_orderstatus
, o_totalprice
                        NUMBER
                        DATE
, o orderdate
, o_orderpriority
                       STRING
                        STRING
                     NUMBER
, o_shippriority
, o comment
                         STRING
, filename
                        STRING NOT NULL
```

```
, file_row_seq NUMBER NOT NULL
, ldts STRING NOT NULL
, rscr STRING NOT NULL
);
```

3. Tables we just created are going to be used by Snowpipe to drip-feed the data as it is lands in the stage. In order to easily detect and incrementally process the new portion of data we are going to create [streams] on these staging tables:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE STREAM stg_customer_strm ON TABLE stg_customer;
CREATE OR REPLACE STREAM stg_orders_strm ON TABLE stg_orders;
```

4. Next we are going to produce some sample data. And for the sake of simplicity we are going to take a bit of a shortcut here. We are going to generate data by unloading subset of data from our TPCH sample dataset into files and then use Snowpipe to load it back into our Data Vault lab, simulating the streaming feed. Let's start by creating two stages for each data class type (orders, customers data). In real-life scenarios these could be internal or external stages as well as these feeds could be sourced via Kafka connector. The world is your oyster.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE STAGE customer_data FILE_FORMAT = (TYPE = JSON);
CREATE OR REPLACE STAGE orders_data FILE_FORMAT = (TYPE = CSV);
```

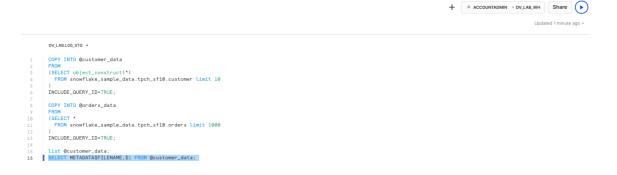
5. Generate and unload sample data. There are couple of things going on. First, we are using [object_construct] as a quick way to create a object/document from all columns and subset of rows for customer data and offload it into customer_data stage. Orders data would be extracted into compressed CSV files. There are many additional options in [COPY INTO stage] construct that would fit most requirements, but in this case we are using INCLUDE_QUERY_ID to make it easier to generate new incremental files as we are going to run these commands over and over again, without a need to deal with file overriding.

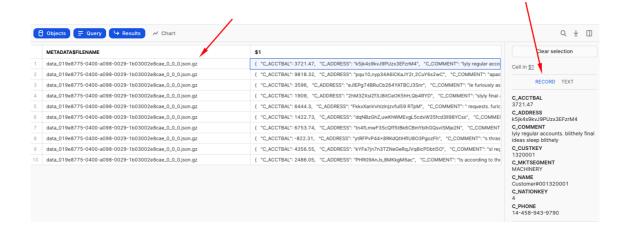
```
COPY INTO @customer_data
FROM
(SELECT object_construct(*)
   FROM snowflake_sample_data.tpch_sf10.customer limit 10
)
INCLUDE_QUERY_ID=TRUE;

COPY INTO @orders_data
FROM
(SELECT *
   FROM snowflake_sample_data.tpch_sf10.orders limit 1000
)
INCLUDE_QUERY_ID=TRUE;
```

You can now run the following to validate that the data is now stored in files:

```
list @customer_data;
SELECT METADATA$FILENAME,$1 FROM @customer_data;
```





6. Next, we are going to setup Snowpipe to load data from files in a stage into staging tables. In this guide, for better transparency we are going to trigger Snowpipe explicitly to scan for new files, but in real projects you will likely going to enable AUTO_INGEST, connecting it with your cloud storage events (like AWS SNS) and process new files automatically.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PIPE stg_orders_pp
AS
COPY INTO stg_orders
FROM
(
SELECT $1,$2,$3,$4,$5,$6,$7,$8,$9
    , metadata$filename
     , metadata$file_row_number
    , CURRENT TIMESTAMP()
    , 'Orders System'
  FROM @orders_data
);
CREATE OR REPLACE PIPE stg_customer_pp
--AUTO INGEST = TRUE
--aws sns topic = 'arn:aws:sns:mybucketdetails'
AS
COPY INTO stg customer
FROM
```

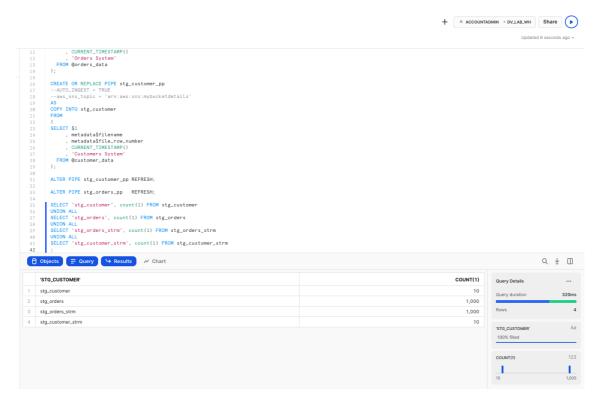
```
SELECT $1
    , metadata$filename
    , metadata$file_row_number
    , CURRENT_TIMESTAMP()
    , 'Customers System'
FROM @customer_data
);

ALTER PIPE stg_customer_pp REFRESH;

ALTER PIPE stg_orders_pp REFRESH;
```

Once this done, you should be able to see data appearling in the target tables and the stream on these tables. As you would notice, number of rows in a stream is exactly the same as in the base table. This is because we didn't process/consumed the delta of that stream yet. Stay tuned!

```
SELECT 'stg_customer', count(1) FROM stg_customer
UNION ALL
SELECT 'stg_orders', count(1) FROM stg_orders
UNION ALL
SELECT 'stg_orders_strm', count(1) FROM stg_orders_strm
UNION ALL
SELECT 'stg_customer_strm', count(1) FROM stg_customer_strm
;;
```



7. Finally, now that we established the basics and new data is knocking at our door (stream), let's see how we can derive some of the business keys for the Data Vault entites we are going to model. In this example, we

will model it as a view on top of the stream that should allow us to perform data parsing (raw_json -> columns) and business_key, hash_diff derivation on the fly. Another thing to notice here is the use of SHA1_BINARY as hasing function. For this lab, we are going to use fairly common SHA1 and its BINARY version from Snowflake arsenal of functions that use less bytes to encode value than STRING.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW stg customer strm outbound AS
SELECT src.*
    , raw_json:C_CUSTKEY::NUMBER
                                          c custkey
     , raw_json:C_NAME::STRING
                                           c_name
    , raw_json:C_ADDRESS::STRING
                                          c address
    , raw_json:C_NATIONKEY::NUMBER
                                          C_nationcode
     , raw_json:C_PHONE::STRING
                                          c_phone
     , raw_json:C_ACCTBAL::NUMBER
                                           c_acctbal
    , raw_json:C_MKTSEGMENT::STRING
, raw_json:C_COMMENT::STRING
                                          c mktsegment
                                          c comment
-- derived business key
     , SHA1 BINARY(UPPER(TRIM(c custkey))) sha1 hub customer
     , SHA1 BINARY(UPPER(ARRAY TO STRING(ARRAY CONSTRUCT(
                                             NVL(TRIM(c_name) , '-1')
                                            , NVL(TRIM(c_address) , '-1')
                                            , NVL(TRIM(c_nationcode) ,'-1')
                                            , NVL(TRIM(c_phone) ,'-1')
, NVL(TRIM(c_acctbal) ,'-1')
                                            , NVL(TRIM(c mktsegment) ,'-1')
                                            , NVL(TRIM(c_comment) ,'-1')
                                            ), '^'))) AS customer hash diff
 FROM stg_customer_strm src
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW stg order strm outbound AS
SELECT src.*
-- derived business key
    , SHA1_BINARY(UPPER(TRIM(o_orderkey)))
                                                      sha1_hub_order
    , SHA1 BINARY(UPPER(TRIM(o custkey))) sha1 hub customer
    , SHA1 BINARY(UPPER(ARRAY TO STRING(ARRAY CONSTRUCT( NVL(TRIM(o orderkey)
,'-1')
                                                        , NVL(TRIM(o custkey)
, '-1')
                                                        ), '^'))) AS
shal lnk customer order
, SHA1 BINARY(UPPER(ARRAY TO STRING(ARRAY CONSTRUCT( NVL(TRIM(o orderstatus)
'-1')
                                                        , NVL(TRIM(o totalprice)
'-1')
                                                        , NVL(TRIM(o_orderdate)
'-1')
                                                        , NVL(TRIM(o orderpriority) ,
'-1')
```

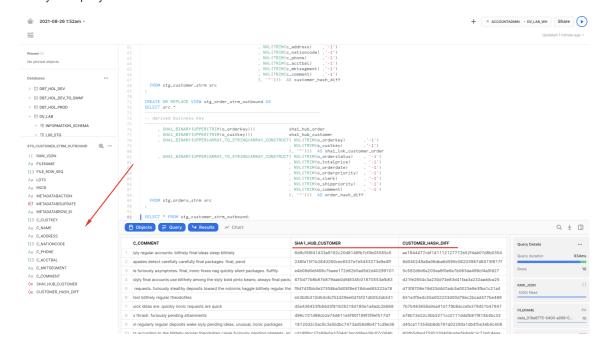
```
, NVL(TRIM(o_clerk) ,
'-1')

, NVL(TRIM(o_shippriority) ,
'-1')

, NVL(TRIM(o_comment) ,
'-1')

FROM stg_orders_strm src
;
```

Finally let's query these views to validate the results:

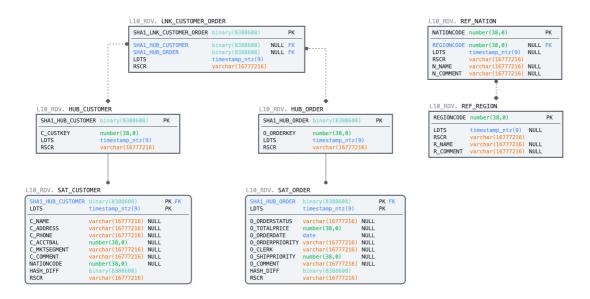


Well done! We build our staging/inbound pipeline, ready to accommodate streaming data and derived business keys that we are going to use in our Raw Data Vault. Let's move on to the next step!

Build: Raw Data Vault

In this section, we will start building structures and pipelines for **Raw Data Vault** area.

Here is the ER model of the objects we are going to deploy using the script below:



1. We'll start by deploying DDL for the HUBs, LINKs and SATellite tables. As you can imagine, this guide has no chance to go in the detail on data vault modelling process. This is something we usually highly recommend to establish by working with experts & partners from Data Vault Alliance.

```
-- setting up RDV
USE SCHEMA 110 rdv;
-- hubs
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE hub customer
 sha1_hub_customer
                         BINARY
                                   NOT NULL
, c custkey
                         NUMBER NOT NULL
, ldts
                         TIMESTAMP NOT NULL
                         STRING
                                   NOT NULL
                                   PRIMARY KEY(sha1_hub_customer)
, CONSTRAINT pk_hub_customer
);
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE hub order
  shal hub order
                         BINARY
                                   NOT NULL
, o_orderkey
                         NUMBER
                                   NOT NULL
, ldts
                         TIMESTAMP NOT NULL
                         STRING
                                   NOT NULL
, CONSTRAINT pk_hub_order
                                   PRIMARY KEY(shal hub order)
```

```
);
-- sats
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE sat customer
shal_hub_customer BINARY NOT NULL

, ldts TIMESTAMP NOT NULL

, c_name STRING

, c_address STRING

, c_phone STRING

, c_acctbal NUMBER

, c_mktsegment STRING

, c_comment STRING

, nationcode NUMBER

, hash_diff BINARY NOT NULL

TESCY STRING NOT NULL
                     STRING NOT NULL
, rscr
, CONSTRAINT pk_sat_customer PRIMARY KEY(shal_hub_customer, ldts)
, CONSTRAINT fk_sat_customer FOREIGN KEY(shal_hub_customer) REFERENCES
hub_customer
);
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE sat order
 shal_hub_order BINARY NOT NULL ldts TIMESTAMP NOT NULL
, ldts
                          STRING
, o_orderstatus
, o_totalprice NUMBER
, o_orderdate DATE
, o_orderpriority STRING
, o_clerk STRING
, o_clerk
, o_shippriority NUMBER
STRING
                       BINARY NOT NULL
, hash_diff
, rscr
                            STRING NOT NULL
, CONSTRAINT pk_sat_order PRIMARY KEY(sha1_hub_order, ldts)
, CONSTRAINT fk sat order FOREIGN KEY(shal hub order) REFERENCES hub order
);
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE lnk_customer_order
  sha1_lnk_customer_order BINARY
                                           NOT NULL
, shal_hub_customer BINARY
, shal_hub_order BINARY
, ldts
                             TIMESTAMP NOT NULL
                               STRING
                                            NOT NULL
, CONSTRAINT fk1 lnk customer order FOREIGN KEY(shal hub customer) REFERENCES
hub customer
, CONSTRAINT fk2 lnk customer order FOREIGN KEY(shal hub order) REFERENCES
```

```
hub order
);
-- ref data
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE ref region
 regioncode NUMBER
, ldts
                      TIMESTAMP
, rscr
                      STRING NOT NULL
, r_name STRING , r_comment STRING
, CONSTRAINT PK REF REGION PRIMARY KEY (REGIONCODE)
SELECT r_regionkey
   , ldts
    , rscr
    , r_name
    , r_comment
 FROM 100_stg.stg_region;
CREATE OR REPLACE TABLE ref_nation
nationcode NUMBER
, regioncode NUMBER
                      TIMESTAMP
, ldts
                     STRING NOT NULL
STRING
, rscr
, n_name
, n_comment STRING
, {\bf CONSTRAINT} \ {\tt pk\_ref\_nation} \ {\bf PRIMARY} \ {\tt KEY} \ ({\tt nationcode})
, CONSTRAINT fk ref region FOREIGN KEY (regioncode) REFERENCES ref region(regioncode)
)
AS
SELECT n nationkey
    , n_regionkey
     , ldts
     , rscr
     , n name
     , n_comment
  FROM 100 stg.stg nation;
```

2. Now we have source data waiting in our staging streams & views, we have target RDV tables. Let's connect the dots. We are going to create tasks, one per each stream so whenever there is new records coming in a stream, that delta will be incrementally propagated to all dependent RDV models in one go. To achieve that, we are going to use multi-table insert functionality as described in design section before. As you can see, tasks can be set up to run on a pre-defined frequency (every 1 minute in our example) and use dedicated virtual warehouse as a compute power (in our guide we are going to use same warehouse for all tasks, thou this could be as granular as needed). Also, before waking up a compute resource, tasks are going to check that there is data in a corresponding stream to process. Again, you are paying only for the compute when you actually use it.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TASK customer strm tsk
 WAREHOUSE = dv_rdv_wh
 SCHEDULE = '1 minute'
 SYSTEM$STREAM HAS DATA('LOO STG.STG CUSTOMER STRM')
AS
INSERT ALL
WHEN (SELECT COUNT(1) FROM hub_customer tgt WHERE tgt.sha1_hub_customer =
src_shal_hub_customer) = 0
THEN INTO hub_customer
( sha1_hub_customer
, c_custkey
, ldts
, rscr
VALUES
( src_sha1_hub_customer
, src_c_custkey
, src_ldts
, src_rscr
WHEN (SELECT COUNT(1) FROM sat_customer tgt WHERE tgt.sha1_hub_customer =
src_sha1_hub_customer AND tgt.hash_diff = src_customer_hash_diff) = 0
THEN INTO sat_customer
 sha1_hub_customer
, ldts
, c_name
, c_address
, c_phone
, c_acctbal
, c_mktsegment
, c_comment
, nationcode
, hash_diff
, rscr
VALUES
src_sha1_hub_customer
, src_ldts
, src_c_name
, src_c_address
, src_c_phone
, src_c_acctbal
, src_c_mktsegment
, src_c_comment
, src_nationcode
, src customer hash diff
, src_rscr
SELECT shal_hub_customer src_shal_hub_customer
```

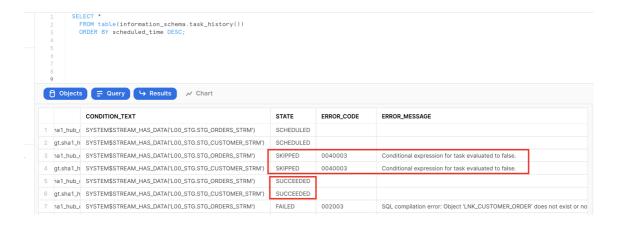
```
, c_phone
                       src_c_phone
    , c_acctbal
                       src_c_acctbal
    , c_mktsegment src_c_mktsegment 
, c_comment src_c_comment
    , customer hash diff src customer hash diff
    , ldts
                       src_ldts
                       src_rscr
    , rscr
 FROM 100_stg.stg_customer_strm_outbound src
CREATE OR REPLACE TASK order strm tsk
 WAREHOUSE = dv rdv wh
 SCHEDULE = '1 minute'
WHEN
 SYSTEM$STREAM_HAS_DATA('L00_STG.STG_ORDERS_STRM')
AS
INSERT ALL
WHEN (SELECT COUNT(1) FROM hub_order tgt WHERE tgt.sha1_hub_order =
src shal hub order) = 0
THEN INTO hub_order
( shal hub order
, o_orderkey
, ldts
, rscr
VALUES
( src_sha1_hub_order
, src o orderkey
, src_ldts
, src rscr
WHEN (SELECT COUNT(1) FROM sat order tgt WHERE tgt.shal hub order = src shal hub order
AND tgt.hash_diff = src_order_hash_diff) = 0
THEN INTO sat order
 shal hub order
, ldts
, o_orderstatus
, o_totalprice
, o orderdate
, o orderpriority
, o_clerk
, o_shippriority
, o_comment
, hash diff
, rscr
)
```

```
VALUES
 src shal hub order
, src ldts
, src_o_orderstatus
, src_o_totalprice
, src_o_orderdate
, src_o_orderpriority
, src o clerk
, src_o_shippriority
, src_o_comment
, src_order_hash_diff
, src_rscr
WHEN (SELECT COUNT(1) FROM lnk customer order tgt WHERE tgt.sha1 lnk customer order =
src shal lnk customer order) = 0
THEN INTO lnk customer order
 sha1_lnk_customer_order
, sha1_hub_customer
, shal hub order
, ldts
, rscr
VALUES
src shal lnk customer order
, src shal hub customer
, src_sha1_hub_order
, src_ldts
, src_rscr
SELECT shal hub order src shal hub order
     , shal_lnk_customer_order src_shal_lnk_customer_order
     , shal_hub_customer src_shal_hub_customer src_shal_hub_customer src_oorderkey src_oorderkey src_oorderstatus src_oorderstatus src_oorderstatus src_oorderdate src_oorderdate src_oorderpriority src_oorderpriority
                             src_o_clerk
src_o_shippriority
     , o_clerk
     , o_shippriority
     , o_comment
                                 src_o_comment
                               src_order_hash_diff
     , order_hash_diff
     , ldts
                                 src ldts
  FROM 100_stg.stg_order_strm_outbound src;
ALTER TASK customer_strm_tsk RESUME;
ALTER TASK order strm tsk RESUME;
```

2. Once tasks are created and RESUMED (by default, they are initially suspended) let's have a look on the task execution history to see how the process will start.

```
SELECT *
FROM table(information_schema.task_history())
ORDER BY scheduled_time DESC;
```

Notice how after successfull execution, next two tasks run were automatically SKIPPED as there were nothing in the stream and there nothing to do.



3. We can also check content and stats of the objects involved. Please notice that views on streams in our staging area are no longer returning any rows. This is because that delta of changes was consumed by a successfully completed DML transaction (in our case, embedded in tasks). This way you don't need to spend any time implementing incremental detection/processing logic on the application side.

```
SELECT 'hub_customer', count(1) FROM hub_customer

UNION ALL

SELECT 'hub_order', count(1) FROM hub_order

UNION ALL

SELECT 'sat_customer', count(1) FROM sat_customer

UNION ALL

SELECT 'sat_order', count(1) FROM sat_order

UNION ALL

SELECT 'lnk_customer_order', count(1) FROM lnk_customer_order

UNION ALL

SELECT '100_stg.stg_customer_strm_outbound', count(1) FROM

100_stg.stg_customer_strm_outbound

UNION ALL

SELECT '100_stg.stg_order_strm_outbound', count(1) FROM

100_stg.stg_order_strm_outbound;
```



Great. We now have data in our **Raw Data Vault** core structures. Let's move on and talk about the concept of virtualization for building your near-real time Data Vault solution.

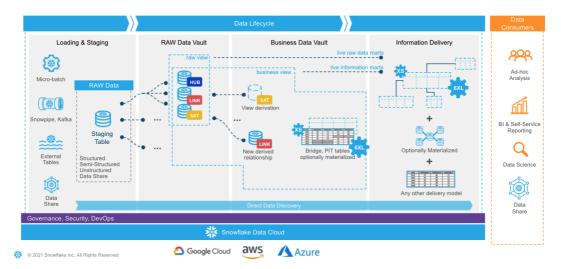
Views for Agile Reporting

One of the great benefits of having the compute power from Snowflake is that now it is totally possible to have most of your business vault and information marts in a Data Vault architecture be built exclusively from views. There are numerous customers using this approach in production today. There is no longer a need to have the argument that there are "too many joins" or that the response won't be fast enough. The elasticity of the Snowflake virtual warehouses combined with our dynamic optimization engine have solved that problem.

If you really want to deliver data to the business users and data scientists in NRT, in our opinion using views is the only option. Once you have the streaming loads built to feed your Data Vault, the fastest way to make that data visible downstream will be views. Using views allows you to deliver the data faster by eliminating any latency that would be incurred by having additional ELT processes between the Data Vault and the data consumers downstream.

All the business logic, alignment, and formatting of the data can be in the view code. That means fewer moving parts to debug, and reduces the storage needed as well.

DATA VAULT VIRTUALIZATION



Looking at the diagram above you will see an example of how virtualization could fit in the architecture. Here, solid lines are representing physical tables and dotted lines - views. You incrementally ingest data into **Raw Data Vault** and all downstream transformations are applied as views. From a data consumer perspective when working with a virtualized information mart, the query always shows everything known by your data vault, right up to the point the query was submitted.

With Snowflake you have the ability to provide as much compute as required, on-demand, without a risk of causing performance impact on any surrounding processes and pay only for what you use. This makes materialization of transformations in layers like **Business Data Vault** and **Information delivery** an option rather than a must-have. Instead of "optimizing upfront" you can now make this decision based on the usage pattern characteristics, such as frequency of use, type of queries, latency requirements, readiness of the requirements etc.

Many modern data engineering automation frameworks are already actively supporting virtualization of logic. Several tools offer a low-code or configuration-like ability to switch between materializing an object as a view or a physical table, automatically generating all required DDL & DML. This could be applied on specific objects, layers or/and be environment specific. So even if you start with a view, you can easily refactor to use a table if user requirements evolve.

As said before, virtualization is not only a way to improve time-to-value and provide near real time access to the data, given the scalability and workload isolation of Snowflake, virtualization also is a design technique that could make your Data Vault excel: minimizing cost-of-change, accelerating the time-to-delivery and becoming an extremely agile, future proof solution for ever growing business needs.

Build: Business Data Vault

As a quick example of using views for transformations we just discussed, here is how enrichment of customer descriptive data could happen in Business Data Vault, connecting data received from source with some reference data.

1. Let's create a view that will perform these additional derivations on the fly. Assuming non-functional capabilities are satisflying our requirements, deploying (and re-deploying a new version) transformations in this way is super easy.

```
USE SCHEMA 120 bdv;
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW sat customer by
SELECT rsc.shal hub customer
    , rsc.ldts
    , rsc.c name
    , rsc.c address
    , rsc.c phone
    , rsc.c_acctbal
    , rsc.c mktsegment
     , rsc.c_comment
    , rsc.nationcode
     , rsc.rscr
    -- derived
    , rrn.n name
                                   nation name
    , rrr.r_name
                                  region_name
 FROM 110 rdv.sat customer rsc
 LEFT OUTER JOIN 110 rdv.ref nation rrn
   ON (rsc.nationcode = rrn.nationcode)
 LEFT OUTER JOIN 110 rdv.ref region rrr
   ON (rrn.regioncode = rrr.regioncode)
```

2. Now,let's imagine we have a heavier transformation to perform that it would make more sense to materialize it as a table. It could be more data volume, could be more complex logic, PITs, bridges or even an object that will be used frequently and by many users. For this case, let's first build a new business satellite that for illustration purposes will be deriving additional classification/tiering for orders based on the conditional logic.

```
, o_totalprice
     , o orderdate
     , o orderpriority
     , o_clerk
     , o_shippriority
     , o_comment
     , hash_diff
     , rscr
     -- derived additional attributes
     , CASE WHEN o orderpriority IN ('2-HIGH', '1-URGENT')
                                                                       AND
o totalprice >= 200000 THEN 'Tier-1'
           WHEN o_orderpriority IN ('3-MEDIUM', '2-HIGH', '1-URGENT') AND
o totalprice BETWEEN 150000 AND 200000 THEN 'Tier-2'
           ELSE 'Tier-3'
       END order priority bucket
  FROM 110 rdv.sat order;
```

3. What we are going to do from processing/orchestration perspective is extending our order processing pipeline so that when the task populates a I10_rdv.sat_order this will generate a new stream of changes and these changes are going to be propagated by a dependent task to I20_bdv.sat_order_bv. This is super easy to do as tasks in Snowflake can be not only schedule-based but also start automatically once the parent task is completed.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE STREAM 110 rdv.sat order strm ON TABLE 110 rdv.sat order;
ALTER TASK 110 rdv.order strm tsk SUSPEND;
CREATE OR REPLACE TASK 110 rdv.hub order strm sat order bv tsk
 WAREHOUSE = dv rdv wh
 AFTER 110 rdv.order strm tsk
AS
INSERT INTO 120 bdv.sat order bv
SELECT
 sha1_hub_order
, ldts
, o_orderstatus
, o totalprice
, o_orderdate
, o orderpriority
, o clerk
, o shippriority
, o_comment
, hash_diff
, rscr
-- derived additional attributes
, CASE WHEN o orderpriority IN ('2-HIGH', '1-URGENT')
                                                                  AND o totalprice >=
200000 THEN 'Tier-1'
      WHEN o orderpriority IN ('3-MEDIUM', '2-HIGH', '1-URGENT') AND o totalprice
BETWEEN 150000 AND 200000 THEN 'Tier-2'
     ELSE 'Tier-3'
 END order priority bucket
FROM sat order strm;
```

```
ALTER TASK 110_rdv.hub_order_strm_sat_order_bv_tsk RESUME;
ALTER TASK 110_rdv.order_strm_tsk RESUME;
```

4. Now, let's go back to our staging area to process another slice of data to test the task.

```
USE SCHEMA 100_stg;

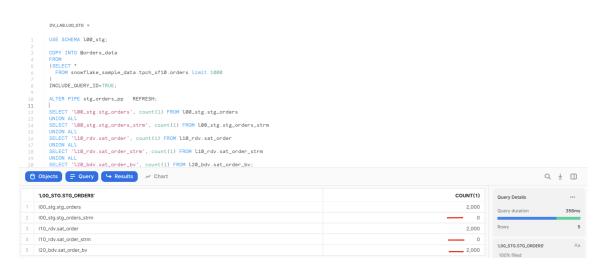
COPY INTO @orders_data
FROM

(SELECT *
    FROM snowflake_sample_data.tpch_sf10.orders limit 1000
)
INCLUDE_QUERY_ID=TRUE;

ALTER PIPE stg_orders_pp REFRESH;
```

5. Data is not automatically flowing through all the layers via asyncronous tasks. With the results you can validate:

```
SELECT '100_stg.stg_orders', count(1) FROM 100_stg.stg_orders
UNION ALL
SELECT '100_stg.stg_orders_strm', count(1) FROM 100_stg.stg_orders_strm
UNION ALL
SELECT '110_rdv.sat_order', count(1) FROM 110_rdv.sat_order
UNION ALL
SELECT '110_rdv.sat_order_strm', count(1) FROM 110_rdv.sat_order_strm
UNION ALL
SELECT '120_bdv.sat_order_bv', count(1) FROM 120_bdv.sat_order_bv;
```



Great. Hope this example illustrated few ways of managing **Business Data Vault** objects in our pipeline. Let's finally move into the **Information Delivery** layer.

Build: Information Delivery

When it comes to Information Delivery area we are not changing the meaning of data, but we may change format to simplify users to access and work with the data products/output interfaces. Different consumers may have different needs and preferences, some would prefer star/snowflake dimensional schemas, some would adhere to use flattened objects or even transform data into JSON/parquet objects.

1. First things we would like to add to simplify working with satellites is creating views that shows latest version for each key.

```
-- RDV curr views
USE SCHEMA 110 rdv;
CREATE VIEW sat_customer_curr_vw
AS
SELECT *
FROM sat customer
QUALIFY LEAD(ldts) OVER (PARTITION BY shal_hub_customer ORDER BY ldts) IS NULL;
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW sat_order_curr_vw
SELECT *
FROM sat order
QUALIFY LEAD(ldts) OVER (PARTITION BY shal_hub_order ORDER BY ldts) IS NULL;
-- BDV curr views
USE SCHEMA 120 bdv;
CREATE VIEW sat order by curr vw
AS
SELECT *
FROM sat_order_bv
QUALIFY LEAD(ldts) OVER (PARTITION BY shal hub order ORDER BY ldts) IS NULL;
CREATE VIEW sat_customer_bv_curr_vw
AS
SELECT *
FROM sat customer by
QUALIFY LEAD(ldts) OVER (PARTITION BY shal_hub_customer ORDER BY ldts) IS NULL;
```

Let's create a simple dimensional structure. Again, we will keep it virtual(as views) to start with, but you already know that depending on access characteristics required any of these could be selectively materialized.

```
USE SCHEMA 130_id;
-- DIM TYPE 1
```

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW dim1 customer
SELECT hub.sha1_hub_customer
                                                 AS dim customer key
                                                 AS effective dts
    , sat.ldts
                                                 AS customer id
    , hub.c custkey
    , sat.rscr
                                                 AS record source
    , sat.*
 FROM 110 rdv.hub customer
                                                 hub
   , 120 bdv.sat customer bv curr vw
                                                 sat
WHERE hub.shal hub customer
                                                 = sat.sha1_hub_customer;
-- DIM TYPE 1
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW dim1 order
SELECT hub.shal hub order
                                                 AS dim order key
                                                 AS effective dts
   , sat.ldts
    , hub.o orderkey
                                                 AS order id
                                                 AS record source
    , sat.rscr
    , sat.*
 FROM 110 rdv.hub order
                                                 hub
    , 120 bdv.sat order bv curr vw
                                                 sat
WHERE hub.shal hub order
                                                 = sat.shal hub order;
-- FACT table
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW fct customer order
SELECT lnk.ldts
                                                 AS effective dts
    , lnk.rscr
                                                 AS record source
    , lnk.shal hub customer
                                                 AS dim customer key
    , lnk.sha1_hub_order
                                                 AS dim order key
-- this is a factless fact, but here you can add any measures, calculated or derived
 FROM 110 rdv.lnk customer order
                                                 lnk;
```

3. All good so far? Now lets try to query **fct_customer_order** and at least in my case this view was not returning any rows. Why? If you remember, when we were unloading sample data, we took a subset of random orders and a subset of random customers. Which in my case didn't have any overlap, therefore doing the inner join with dim1_order was resulting in all rows being eliminated from the resultset. Thankfully we are using Data Vault and all need to do is go and load full customer dataset. Just think about it, there is no need to reprocess any links or fact tables simply because customer/reference feed was incomplete. I am sure for those of you who were using different architectures for data engineering and warehousing have painful experience when such situations occur. So, lets go and fix it:

```
ALTER PIPE stg_customer_pp REFRESH;
```

All you need to do now is just wait a few seconds whilst our continious data pipeline will automatically propagate new customer data into Raw Data Vault. Quick check for the records count in customer dimension now shows that there are 1.5Mn records:

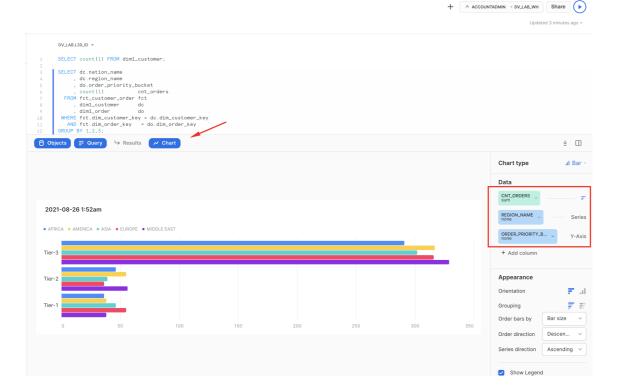
```
USE SCHEMA 130_id;

SELECT COUNT(1) FROM dim1_customer;

COUNT(1)
-----
1,500,000
```

4. Finally lets wear user's hat and run a query to break down orders by nation,region and order_priority_bucket (all attributes we derived in **Business Data Vault**). As we are using Snowsight, why not quickly creating a chart from this result set to better understand the data. For this simply click on the 'Chart' section on the bottom pane and put attributes/measures as it is snown on the screenshot below.

```
SELECT dc.nation name
    , dc.region_name
    , do.order priority bucket
                                                 cnt_orders
    , COUNT(1)
 FROM fct_customer_order
                                                 fct
    , dim1_customer
                                                 dc
    , dim1_order
                                                 do
WHERE fct.dim customer key
                                                 = dc.dim customer key
  AND fct.dim_order_key
                                                 = do.dim_order_key
GROUP BY 1,2,3;
```



Voila! This concludes our journey for this guide. Hope you enjoyed it and lets summarise key points in the next section.

Conclusion

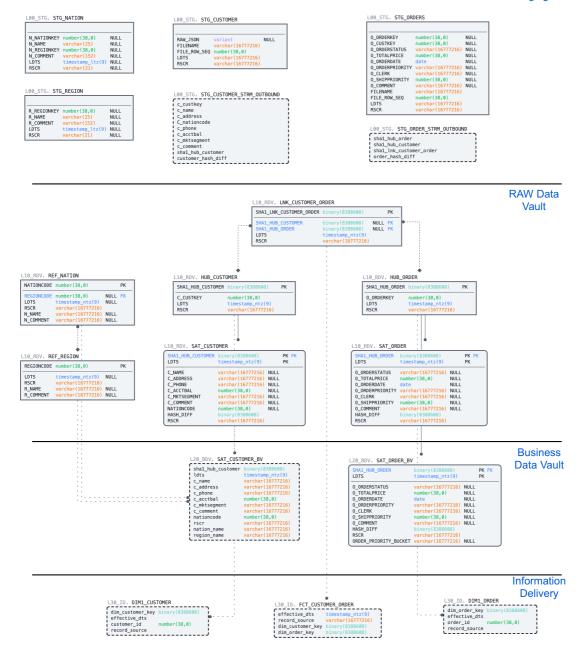
Simplicity of engineering, openness, scalable performance, enterprise-grade governance enabled by the core of the Snowflake platform are now allowing teams to focus on what matters most for the business and build truly agile, collaborative data environments. Teams can now connect data from all parts of the landscape, until there are no stones left unturned. They are even tapping into new datasets via live access to the Snowflake Data Marketplace. The Snowflake Data Cloud combined with a Data Vault 2.0 approach is allowing teams to democratize access to all their data assets at any scale. We can now easily derive more and more value through insights and intelligence, day after day, bringing businesses to the next level of being truly data-driven.

Delivering more usable data faster is no longer an option for today's business environment. Using the Snowflake platform, combined with the Data Vault 2.0 architecture it is now possible to build a world class analytics platform that delivers data for all users in near real-time.

What we've covered

- unloading and loading back data using COPY and Snowpipe
- · engineering data pipelines using virtualization, streams and tasks
- building multi-layer Data Vault environment on Snowflake:





Call to action

- seeing is believing. Try it!
- we made examples limited in size, but feel free to scale the data volumes and virtual warehouse size to see scalability in action
- tap into numerous communities of practice for Data Engineering on Snowflake and Data Vault in particular
- talk to us about modernizing your data landscape! Whether it is Data Vault or not you have on your mind, we have the top expertise and product to meet your demand
- feedback is super welcome!
- Enjoy your journey!