**What is the difference between the Star and Snowflake Schemas?**

Star Schema or Star Join Schema is the simplest type of Data Warehouse schema. It is known as star schema because its structure is like a star. In the Star schema, the center of the star may have one fact table and multiple associated dimension table. This schema is used for querying large data sets.

Snowflake Schema is an extension of a Star Schema, and it adds additional dimensions. It is so-called as snowflake because its diagram looks like a Snowflake. The dimension tables are normalized, that splits data into additional tables.

**What is the Hive Matastore? How is it used?**

It stores schema as well as the Hive table location on HDFS.  External tables give data control to Hive but not control of a schema, managed tables give both schema and data control

Hive table create statement defines mappings, and metadata that are stored in Metastore.

The Hive Metastore data can be stored in a RDBMS supported by JPOX, by default Derby and in production MySQL and PostgreSQL are preferred.