

## Incremental Data



# Incremental Loading in Azure Synapse Workspace



Small Project

## **Incremental Loading in Azure**

Incremental loading refers to the process of loading only new or changed data from a data source into a destination storage or processing system.

# Why do we need this concept?

It efficiently updates databases with only new or changed data, reducing load times and resource usage, thereby optimizing system performance and minimizing costs.

# Want to see small example?

Yes? Let's go!



#### **Incremental Loading in Azure Synapse Workspace**

Create 5 tables in SSMS, two tables with int column and three tables with datetime column as delta column.

- Suppliers
- Products
- Employees
- Sales
- Inventory Logs

#### Run this Create Table queries, in SSMS:

```
CREATE TABLE Suppliers (
 supplier_id INT PRIMARY KEY, ------Delta Column
 name VARCHAR(255),
 contact_name VARCHAR(255),
 phone VARCHAR(50),
 address Varchar(100)
);
CREATE TABLE Products (
 product_id INT PRIMARY KEY, ------Delta Column
 name VARCHAR(255),
 category VARCHAR(100),
 price DECIMAL(10, 2),
 stock INT,
 supplier_id INT,
 FOREIGN KEY (supplier_id) REFERENCES Suppliers(supplier_id)
);
CREATE TABLE Employees (
 employee_id INT PRIMARY KEY,
 first_name VARCHAR(255),
 last_name VARCHAR(255),
 hire_date DATETIME,
 last_review_date DATETIME, ------Delta Column
 role VARCHAR(100)
);
CREATE TABLE Sales (
 sale_id INT PRIMARY KEY,
 sale_date DATETIME, ------Delta Column
 product_id INT,
 quantity INT,
 total_amount DECIMAL(10, 2),
 cashier_id INT,
 FOREIGN KEY (product_id) REFERENCES Products(product_id),
 FOREIGN KEY (cashier_id) REFERENCES Employees(employee_id)
);
CREATE TABLE Inventory_Logs (
 log_id INT PRIMARY KEY,
 product_id INT,
```

```
log_date DATETIME, ------Delta Column change_quantity INT, remaining_stock INT, FOREIGN KEY (product_id) REFERENCES Products(product_id)
```

```
1 CREATE TABLE Suppliers (
 2
        supplier_id INT PRIMARY KEY, ------Delta Column
 3
        name VARCHAR(255),
 4
        contact name VARCHAR(255),
 5
        phone VARCHAR(50),
 6
        address Varchar(100)
 7
   );
 8
9
  CREATE TABLE Products (
        product_id INT PRIMARY KEY, ------Delta Column
10
        name VARCHAR(255),
11
        category VARCHAR(100),
12
        price DECIMAL(10, 2),
13
14
        stock INT,
        supplier id INT,
15
        FOREIGN KEY (supplier_id) REFERENCES Suppliers(supplier_id)
16
17
    );
18
19 CREATE TABLE Employees (
20
        employee id INT PRIMARY KEY,
        first name VARCHAR(255),
21
        last_name VARCHAR(255),
22
        hire_date DATETIME,
23
        last review date DATETIME, ------Delta Column
24
        role VARCHAR(100)
25
   );
26
27
28 CREATE TABLE Sales (
29
        sale id INT PRIMARY KEY,
                                -----Delta Column
30
        sale_date DATETIME,
        product_id INT,
31
        quantity INT,
32
        total amount DECIMAL(10, 2),
33
34
        cashier id INT,
        FOREIGN KEY (product_id) REFERENCES Products(product_id),
35
36
        FOREIGN KEY (cashier_id) REFERENCES Employees(employee_id)
37
38
39
   log id INT PRIMARY KEY,
40
        product id INT,
41
                             -----Delta Column
42
        log_date DATETIME,
43
        change_quantity INT,
44
        remaining_stock INT,
        FOREIGN KEY (product id) REFERENCES Products(product id)
45
```

#### Insert Data into those 5 tables as below:

```
----Insert data into the Supplier Table
INSERT INTO Suppliers (supplier_id, name, contact_name, phone, address) VALUES
(1, 'Fresh Farms', 'John Doe', '555-3489', '123 Farm Lane'),
(2, 'Healthy Beverages Co.', 'Emily Stone', '555-7623', '47 Beverage Blvd'),
(3, 'Premium Meats', 'Alan Smith', '555-9876', '233 Meat St'),
(4, 'Bakers Delight', 'Nora Bates', '555-4532', '88 Baker Rd');
```

```
----Insert data into the Products Table
INSERT INTO Products (product_id, name, category, price, stock, supplier_id) VALUES
(1, 'Organic Apples', 'Fruits', 2.99, 150, 1),
(2, 'Almond Milk', 'Beverages', 3.49, 85, 2),
(3, 'Chicken Breast', 'Meat', 7.99, 60, 3),
(4, 'Whole Wheat Bread', 'Bakery', 2.50, 120, 4);
----Insert data into Employee Table
INSERT INTO Employees (employee_id, first_name, last_name, hire_date, last_review_date, role) VALUES
(1, 'Raj', 'Sharma', '2022-01-05 09:00:00', '2023-09-10 00:00:00', 'Cashier'),
(2, 'Harpal', 'Vaghela', '2022-05-15 09:00:00', '2023-09-20 00:00:00', 'Cashier'),
(3, 'Amit', 'Singh', '2023-03-23 09:00:00', '2023-09-30 00:00:00', 'Stock Manager'),
(4, 'Anjali', 'Patel', '2023-04-10 09:00:00', '2023-10-01 00:00:00', 'Sales Manager');
----Insert data into the Sales Table
INSERT INTO Sales (sale_id, sale_date, product_id, quantity, total_amount, cashier_id) VALUES
(1, '2023-10-01 14:00:00', 1, 10, 29.90, 1),
(2, '2023-10-01 14:15:00', 2, 5, 17.45, 2),
(3, '2023-10-01 15:00:00', 3, 4, 31.96, 1),
(4, '2023-10-01 15:30:00', 4, 6, 15.00, 2);
----Insert data into Inventory_Logs Table
INSERT INTO Inventory_Logs (log_id, product_id, log_date, change_quantity, remaining_stock) VALUES
(1, 1, '2023-10-01 08:00:00', 20, 170),
(2, 2, '2023-10-01 09:00:00', -10, 75),
(3, 3, '2023-10-01\ 10:00:00', 30, 90),
(4, 4, '2023-10-01 11:00:00', -5, 115);
        ---- Insert data into Supplier Table
   48
      □INSERT INTO Suppliers (supplier_id, name, contact_name, phone, address) VALUES
        (1, 'Fresh Farms', 'John Doe', '555-3489', '123 Farm Lane'),
(2, 'Healthy Beverages Co.', 'Emily Stone', '555-7623', '47 Beverage Blvd'),
        (3, 'Premium Meats', 'Alan Smith', '555-9876', '233 Meat St'),
(4, 'Bakers Delight', 'Nora Bates', '555-4532', '88 Baker Rd');
   52
   53
   54
        ---- Insert data into Products Table
      ■INSERT INTO Products (product_id, name, category, price, stock, supplier_id) VALUES
   57
        (1, 'Organic Apples', 'Fruits', 2.99, 150, 1),
        (2, 'Almond Milk', 'Beverages', 3.49, 85, 2), (3, 'Chicken Breast', 'Meat', 7.99, 60, 3),
   58
   59
   60
        (4, 'Whole Wheat Bread', 'Bakery', 2.50, 120, 4);
   62
        ----Insert data into Employee Table
   63 INSERT INTO Employees (employee id, first_name, last_name, hire_date, last_review_date, role) VALUES
        (1, 'Raj', 'Sharma', '2022-01-05 09:00:00', '2023-09-10 00:00:00', 'Cashier
   64
        (2, 'Harpal', 'Vaghela', '2022-05-15 09:00:00', '2023-09-20 00:00:00', 'Cashier')
(3, 'Amit', 'Singh', '2023-03-23 09:00:00', '2023-09-30 00:00:00', 'Stock Manager
   65
        (4, 'Anjali', 'Patel', '2023-04-10 09:00:00', '2023-10-01 00:00:00', 'Sales Manager');
   67
   68
        ---- Insert data into Sales Table
   69
   70 In INSERT INTO Sales (sale_id, sale_date, product_id, quantity, total_amount, cashier_id) VALUES
        (1, '2023-10-01 14:00:00', 1, 10, 29.90, 1),
   71
        (2, '2023-10-01 14:15:00', 2, 5, 17.45, 2),
   72
        (3, '2023-10-01 15:00:00', 3, 4, 31.96, 1),
(4, '2023-10-01 15:30:00', 4, 6, 15.00, 2);
   73
   74
   75
   76
        ----Insert data into Inventory_Logs Table
      SINSERT INTO Inventory_Logs (log_id, product_id, log_date, change_quantity, remaining_stock) VALUES
        (1, 1, '2023-10-01 08:00:00', 20, 170),
(2, 2, '2023-10-01 09:00:00', -10, 75),
   78
   79
        (3, 3, '2023-10-01 10:00:00', 30, 90),
(4, 4, '2023-10-01 11:00:00', -5, 115);
   80
```

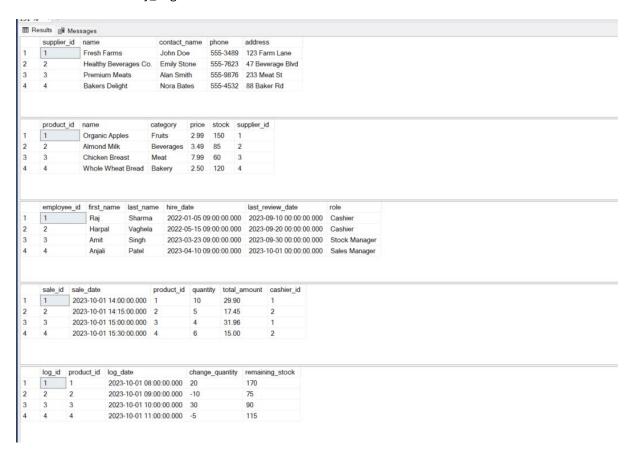
Check the output of tables:

Select \* From Suppliers Select \* From Products

Select \* From Employees

Select \* From Sales

Select \* From Inventory\_Logs



So we have data in those 5 tables now.

Let's create a **Watermark2 table** in SSMS. (I took watermark 2 as I already have the watermark table in the database)

```
CREATE TABLE dbo.WATERMARK2 (
ID INT IDENTITY(1,1),
TABLE_NAME VARCHAR(100),
SCHEMA_NAME VARCHAR(100),
FOLDER_NAME VARCHAR(100),
LPV VARCHAR(100),
DELTA_COLUMN VARCHAR(100))
```

```
9/
98 CREATE TABLE dbo.WATERMARK2
99
00
    ID INT IDENTITY(1,1),
01
    TABLE NAME VARCHAR(100),
02
    SCHEMA NAME VARCHAR(100),
    FOLDER NAME VARCHAR(100),
03
04
    LPV VARCHAR(100),
05
    DELTA COLUMN VARCHAR(100)
06
07
08
    Select * From WATERMARK2
```

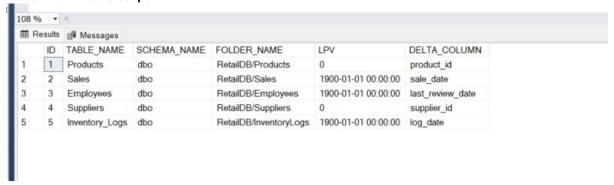
#### Let's insert data into the watermark2 table:

INSERT INTO dbo.WATERMARK2 VALUES ('Products', 'dbo', 'RetailDB/Products', 0, 'product\_id'); INSERT INTO dbo.WATERMARK2 VALUES ('Sales', 'dbo', 'RetailDB/Sales', '1900-01-01 00:00:00', 'sale\_date');

INSERT INTO dbo.WATERMARK2 VALUES ('Employees', 'dbo', 'RetailDB/Employees', '1900-01-01 00:00:00', 'last\_review\_date');

INSERT INTO dbo.WATERMARK2 VALUES ('Suppliers', 'dbo', 'RetailDB/Suppliers', 0, 'supplier\_id'); INSERT INTO dbo.WATERMARK2 VALUES ('Inventory\_Logs', 'dbo', 'RetailDB/InventoryLogs', '1900-01-01 00:00:00', 'log\_date');

#### Watermark2 table output:



Create a Stored Procedure to update the value of LPV as shown below:

```
-----Stored Procedure-----
18
L9
20
21
  CREATE PROC USP WATERMARK2 UPDATE
22
    @Table Name VARCHAR(100),
    @LPV Value VARCHAR(50)
23
24
    AS
25 ⊟UPDATE WATERMARK2
    SET LPV = @LPV_Value
26
    WHERE TABLE NAME = @Table Name
27
28
29
```

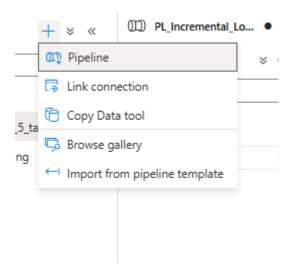
CREATE PROC USP\_WATERMARK2\_UPDATE

@Table\_Name VARCHAR(100),
@LPV\_Value VARCHAR(50)
AS
UPDATE WATERMARK2
SET LPV = @LPV\_Value
WHERE TABLE\_NAME = @Table\_Name

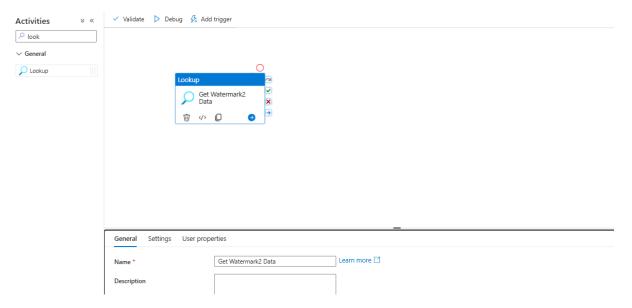
#### Let's Design the Pipeline

Open Azure Portal and go to **Azure Synapse Workspace.** 

#### Integrate Tab -> Create New Pipeline



Drag and drop Lookup Activity and rename it "Get Watermark2 Data"



Go to the **Settings** tab in the lookup activity and select **the source dataset** if you already have it or select new.

Select **Azure SQL Database** and Create **Linked Service** as shown below:

### Harpalsinh Vaghela Name \* Is\_azuresql\_metadata Description Connect via integration runtime \* ① AutoResolveIntegrationRuntime Version Recommended O Legacy Connection string Azure Key Vault Account selection method ① From Azure subscription Enter manually Fully qualified domain name \* sqlserver-harpal.database.windows.net Database name \* sqldatabase Authentication type \* SQL authentication User name \* adminharpal Password Azure Key Vault Password \* ..... Always encrypted ① Additional connection properties

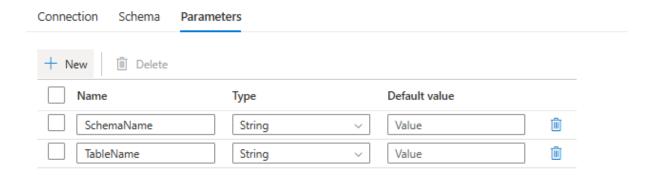
**Test the Connection.** 

+ New

Go to the Parameters tab and write 2 parameters

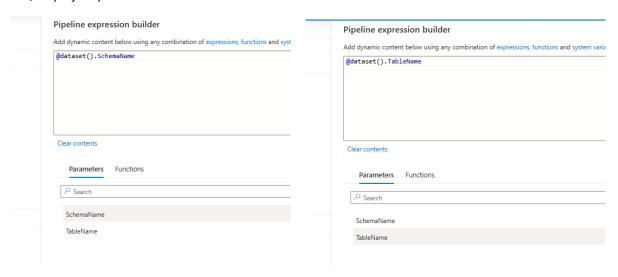
- SchemaName
- TableName

Connection successful

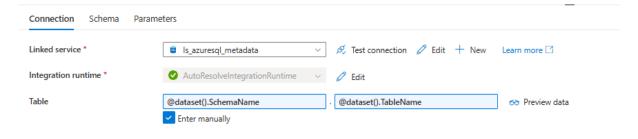


Go to the **Connection Tab** and Assign those 2 parameters

Click on **Enter Manually** and Select those parameters in Table files as shown below in the connection tab, step by step:

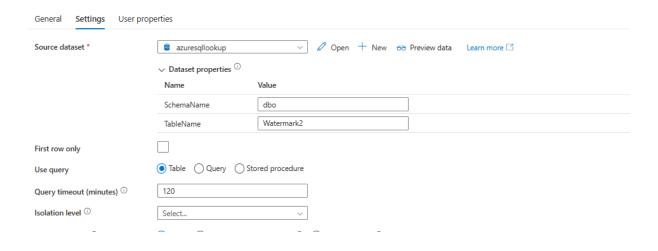


#### After assigning it will look like this:

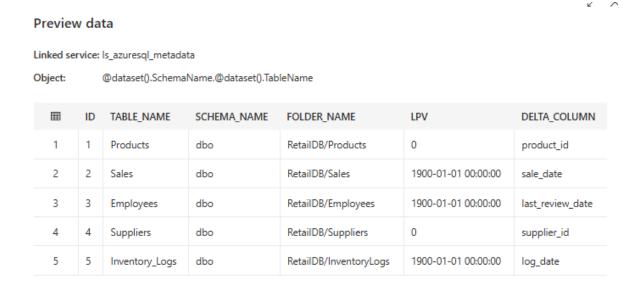


Go back to the Settings tab of the Lookup activity

Here, **Uncheck the First Row Only option** and Provide the Schema Name and Table name of the Watermark table which is in SSMS.



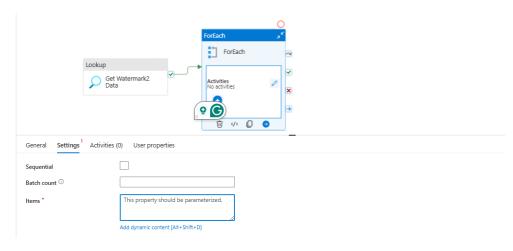
#### **Click on Preview Data**



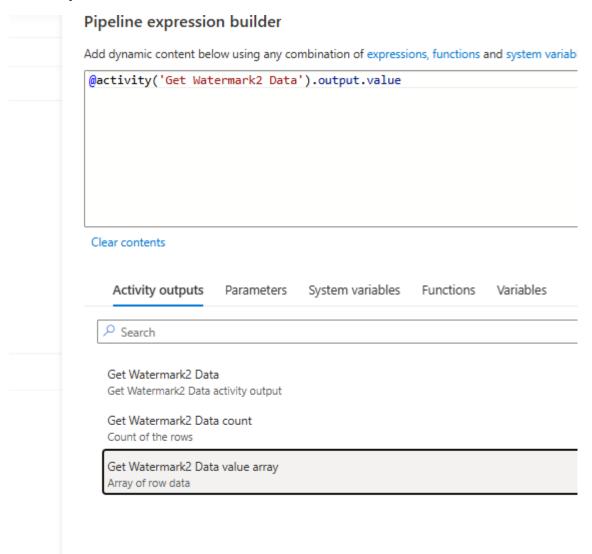
Here, we are done with this first lookup activity.

Now, Let's ForEach Activity in the pipeline design.

Connect Lookup with ForEach as shown below and Go to the Settings tab of ForEach Activity

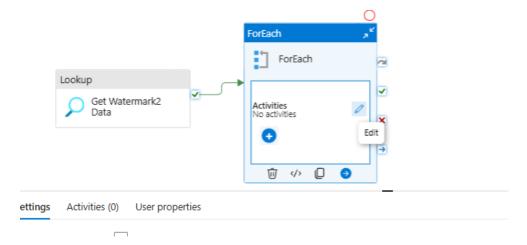


Check on **Items** and then there will be blue text as "**Add dynamic content**" Click on it and **assign the value array** as shown below:



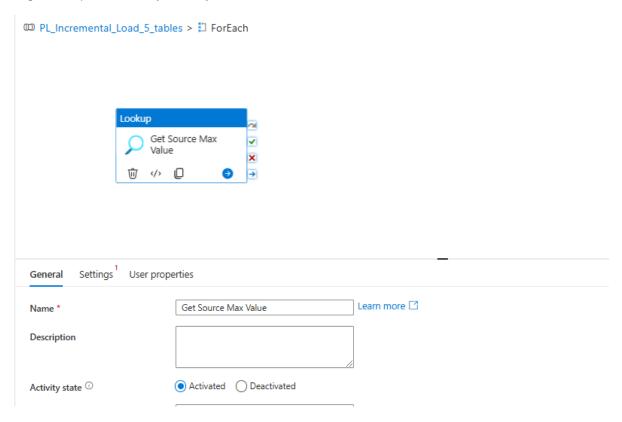
#### Click OK.

Now Click on the Edit icon of ForEach Activity



As we can see we are inside the ForEach Activity now.

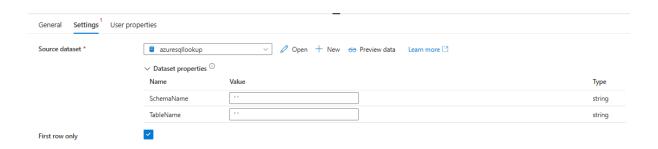
Drag and drop New Lookup Activity and rename it as Get Source Max Value.



Go to the **Settings tab** and select the source dataset which we have selected before for the first lookup activity from the dropdown list.

Enter a **single quotation** in the value fields for Schema and Table Name as indicated below. This effectively assigns a space value, signifying that no actual Schema and Table Names are needed. **Our objective is solely to obtain the maximum value for our LPV column, thus these fields can be left <b>unspecified:** 

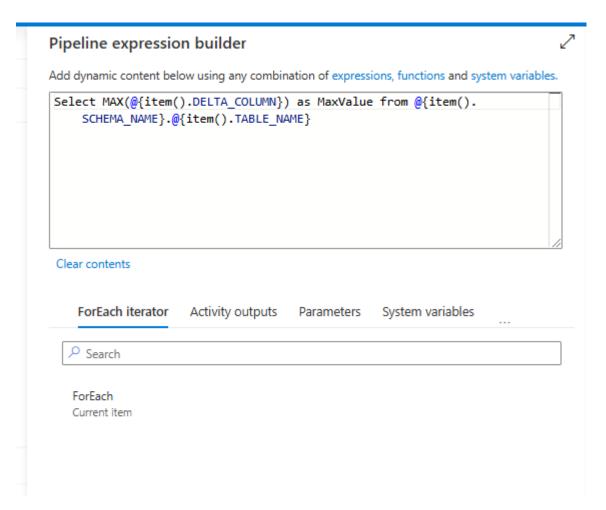
Make sure to tick mark on the First row only checkbox



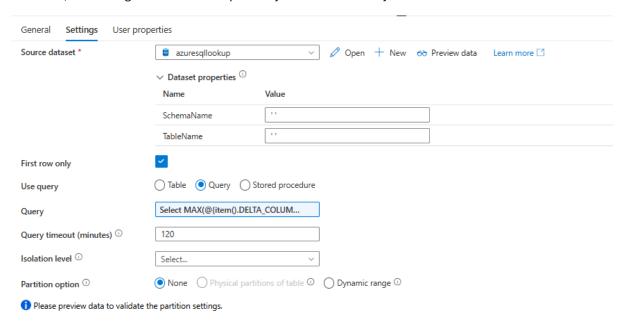
Go to Use query options and select the **Query** radio button

Click on Add Dynamic Content and write this query in the dialogue opened.

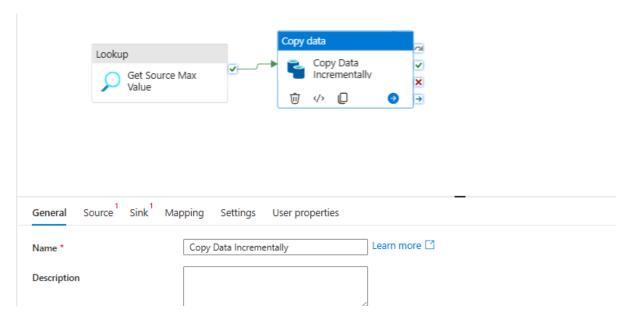
Select MAX(@{item().DELTA\_COLUMN}) as MaxValue from @{item().SCHEMA\_NAME}.@{item().TABLE\_NAME}



After that, the settings tab of the lookup activity in ForEach Activity will look like this:



Now, drag and drop the Copy Data Activity in the design area and connect it from the Lookup Activity



Go to the **Source Tab** and **select the source dataset** which we selected before in the lookup activity (Azure SQL Database)

- Provide a single quotation in schema name and table name ('')
- Go to Use query options and select the **Query** radio button
- Click on Add Dynamic Content and the dialog will open

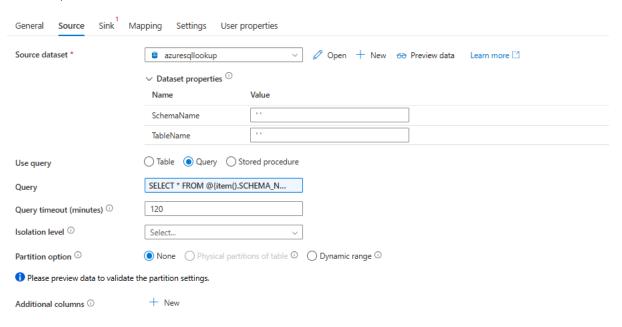
Write this below query in that dialog:

SELECT \* FROM @{item().SCHEMA\_NAME}.@{item().TABLE\_NAME} WHERE @{item().DELTA\_COLUMN}>'@{item().LPV}'



#### Click OK.

After that, the Source tab will look like this:

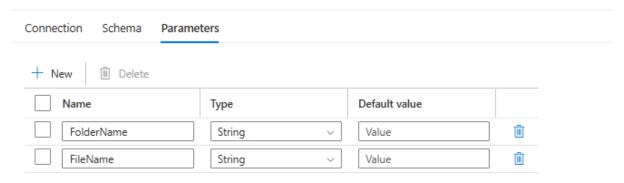


Go to the **Sink Tab** and Select **ADLS Gen 2** as the **sink dataset** and **DelimitedFile** for the destination file format

#### **Go to Parameters Tab**

Create two parameters

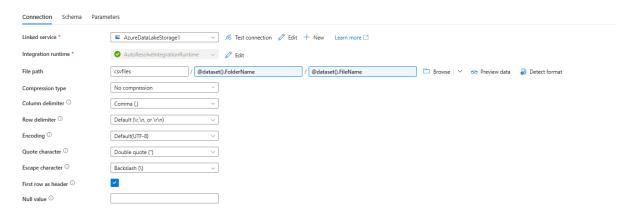
- FolderName
- FileName



#### Go to the Connection Tab

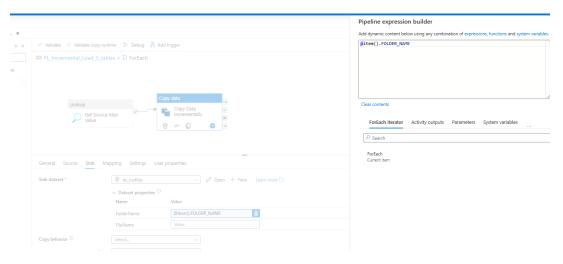
Assign those parameters by clicking on Add Dynamic Content

Connection tab will look like this.



Go back to the Sink Tab and provide Values for FolderName and FileName

So, for FolderName we will write as shown below by clicking on Add Dynamic Content

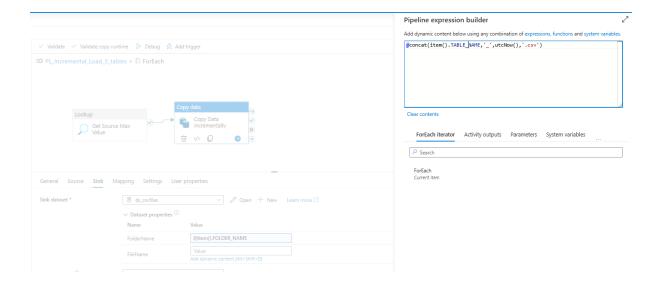


For the FileName, we will use this:

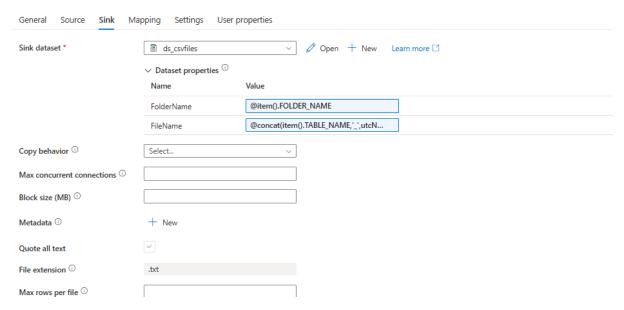
#### **Concat function:**

#### @concat(item().TABLE\_NAME,'\_',utcNow(),'.csv')

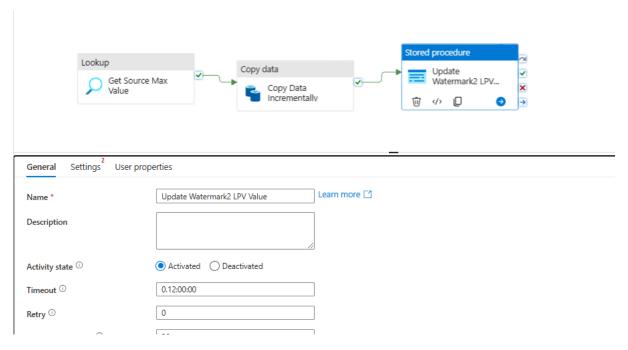
**Why this:** The expression in Azure Synapse dynamically constructs a CSV filename combining the table name with the current UTC timestamp, ensuring unique and time-stamped file names for data exports or logs.



#### After that, it will look like this in the Sink tab:

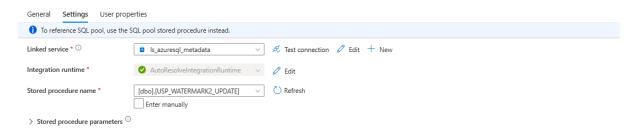


Now, drag and drop the **Stored Procedure** activity in the Design area and connect it from the Copy Data Activity as shown below:



Go to the **Settings tab** and select the **linked service** as selected before in the source/lookup activity (ADLS Gen 2)

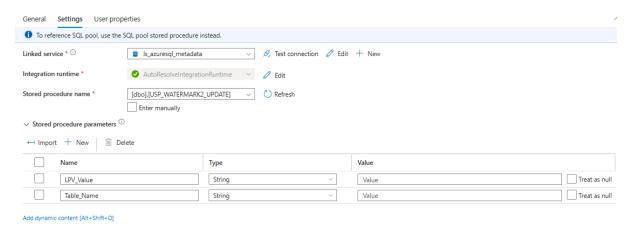
Select the Stored Procedure name from the dropdown



#### **Click on Stored Procedure Parameters**

#### And Click on Import

It will automatically take parameters from our stored procedure:



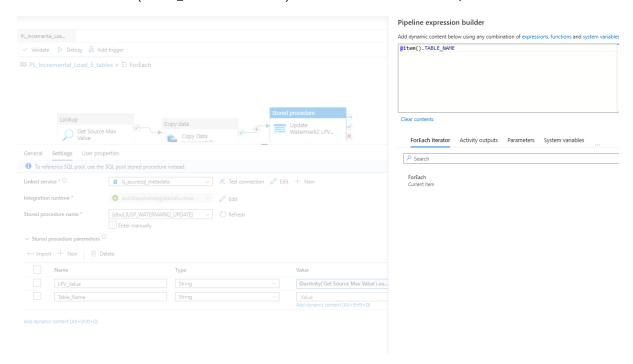
Now, Click on the value field for LPV\_Value

#### Go to Activity Output -> Select Get Source Max Value first row

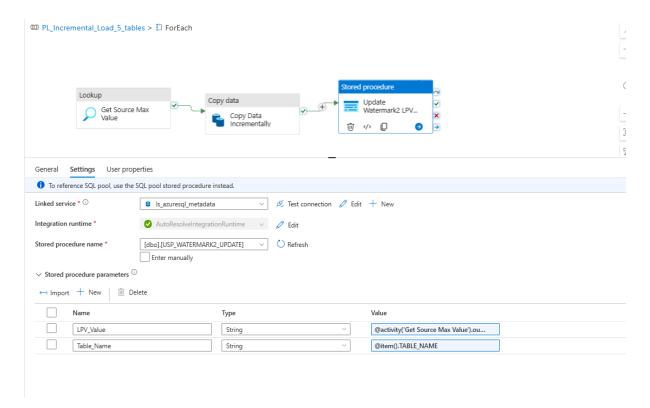
And it will automatically fill the above textbox with a query and we need to mention **MaxValue** (we did it in the second lookup activity inside ForEach) at the end of that query as shown below.

#### @activity('Get Source Max Value').output.firstRow.MaxValue

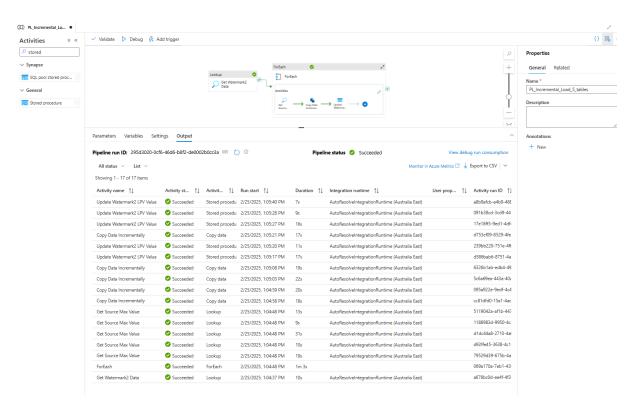
For the Table name parameter, select the ForEach current item from the dropdown, and match the SSMS Column name (TABLE\_NAME in this case) of the Watermark2 table here, as shown below:



Stored procedure activity's settings tab It will look like this:



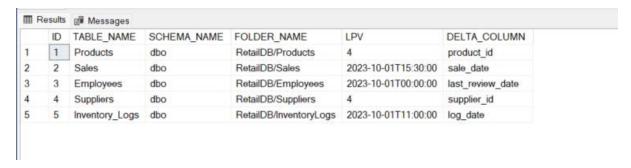
#### Debug the pipeline.



It was executed successfully.

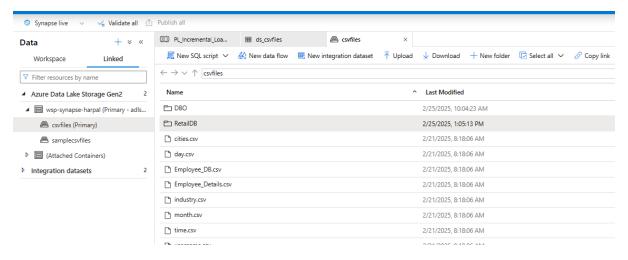
#### Publish the Pipeline.

Now, let's check the Watermark2 table data

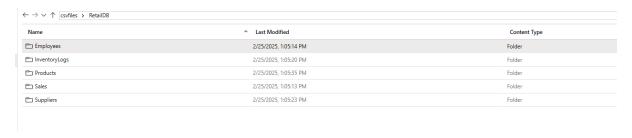


#### The Watermark2 table has been updated correctly.

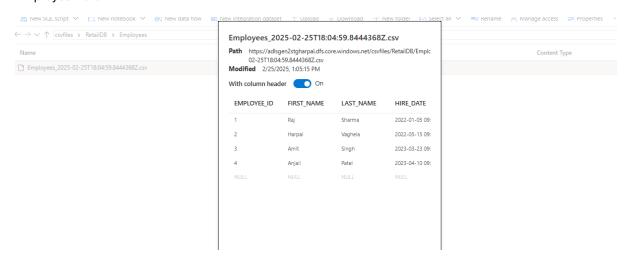
Now, let's check the data in the ADLS Gen2 storage



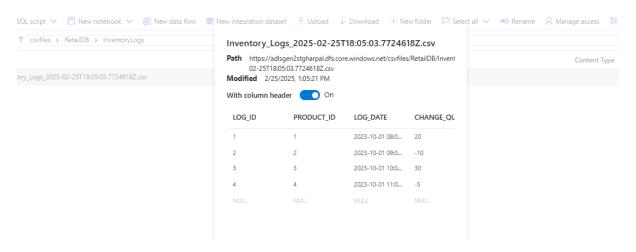
#### Go to ADLS Gen 2-> csvfiles -> RetailDB



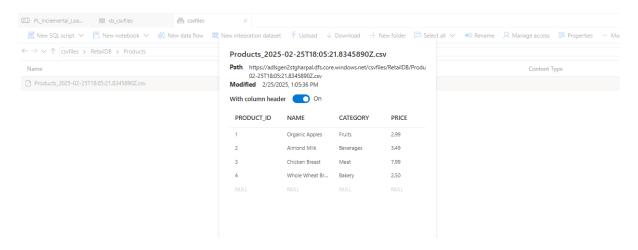
#### Employee Data:



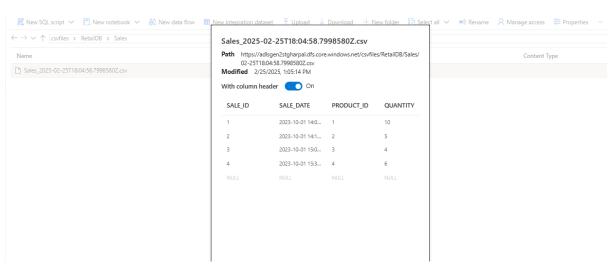
#### Inventory Logs Data:



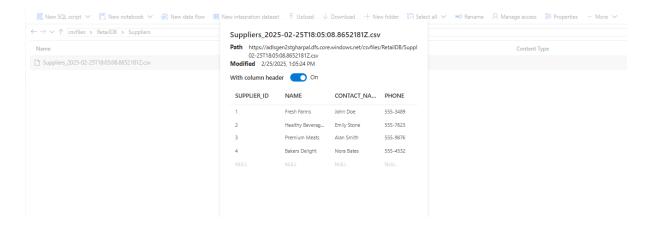
#### Products Data:



#### Sales Data:



Suppliers Data:



Now, let's insert some new records into tables:

#### ----Insert new data into product table

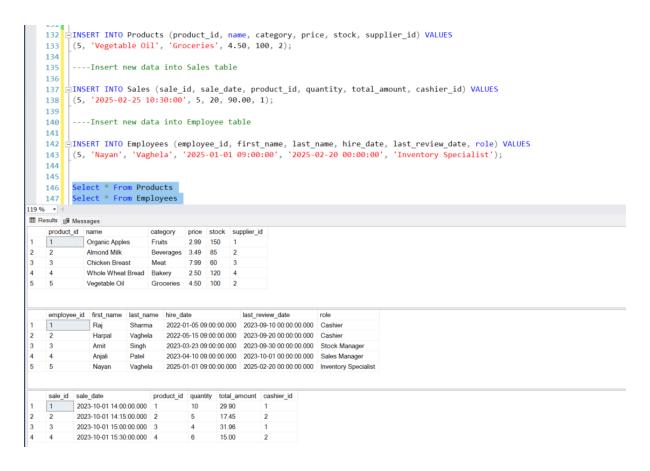
INSERT INTO Products (product\_id, name, category, price, stock, supplier\_id) VALUES (5, 'Vegetable Oil', 'Groceries', 4.50, 100, 2);

#### ----Insert new data into Sales table

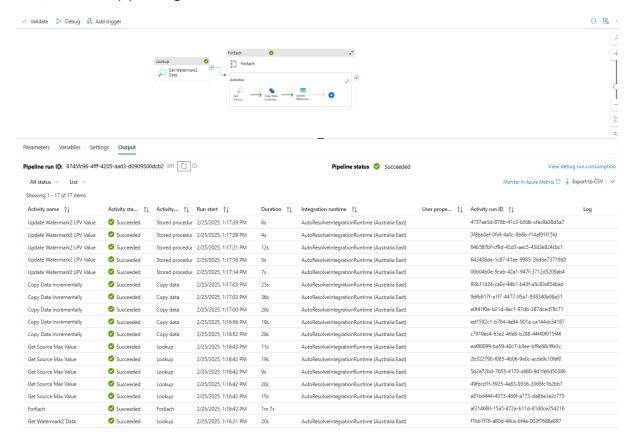
INSERT INTO Sales (sale\_id, sale\_date, product\_id, quantity, total\_amount, cashier\_id) VALUES (5, '2025-02-25 10:30:00', 5, 20, 90.00, 1);

#### ----Insert new data into Employee table

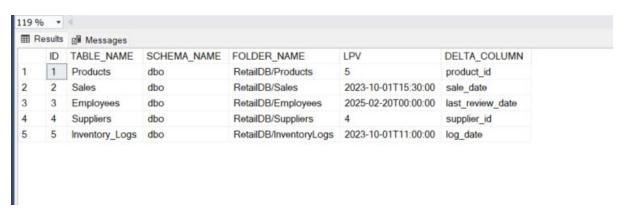
INSERT INTO Employees (employee\_id, first\_name, last\_name, hire\_date, last\_review\_date, role) VALUES (5, 'Nayan', 'Vaghela', '2025-01-01 09:00:00', '2025-02-20 00:00:00', 'Inventory Specialist');



Now, let's run the pipeline again.



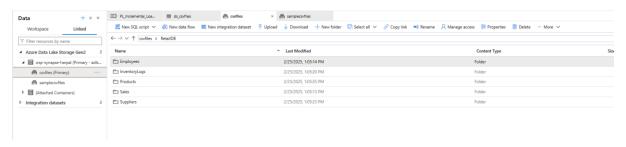
#### Let's check the data and watermark2 table:



#### The Watermark2 table has been updated correctly.

Now, let's check the data in the ADLS Gen2 storage

Go to ADLS Gen 2-> csvfiles -> RetailDB

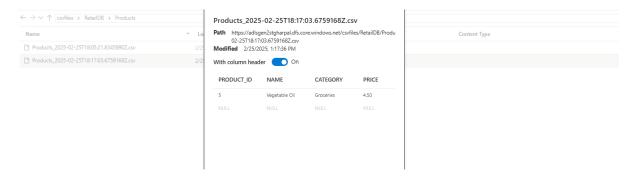


#### **Employee Data:**



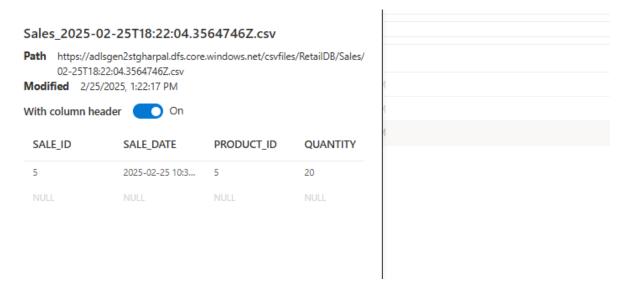
The Employee record is updated successfully in destination storage.

#### **Products Data:**



The Products table record is updated successfully in destination storage.

#### Sales Data:



The Sales table record is updated successfully in destination storage.

Put If Condition, so no file with empty records will be created.

Let's work on this now,

 ${\tt ID PL\_Incremental\_Load\_5\_tables\_If\_Condition} > {\tt ID ForEach}$ 

Lookup

True

True

Get Source Max
Value

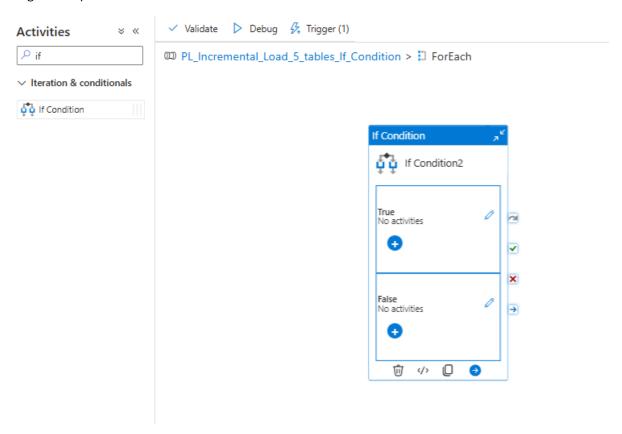
Value

Value

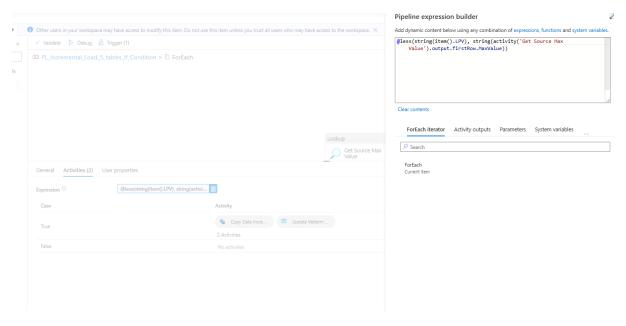
Value

Value

Drag and drop **if condition** from activities tab.



Go to Activities in If condition and in Expression field write this expression:



@less(string(item().LPV), string(activity('Get Source Max Value').output.firstRow.MaxValue))

Now, click on Edit icon of "if condition" activity,

Here, move previously created copy data and stored procedure activities.

It will look like this:

You can see we're in for Each-> If Condition -> True Activities



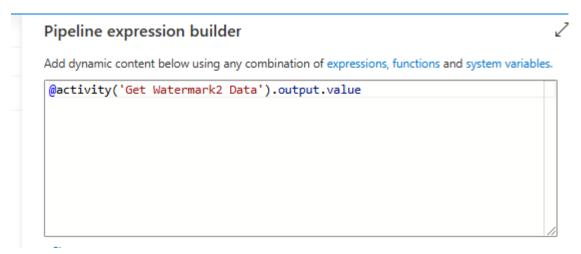
#### Publish the Pipeline again.

And Check the Data.

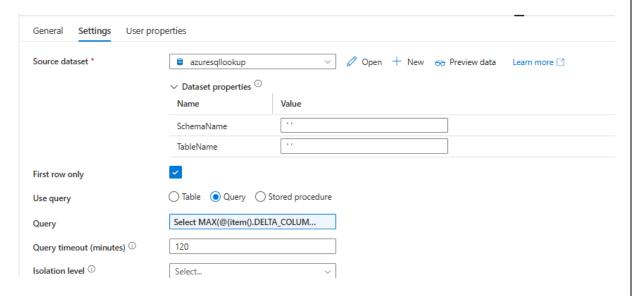
Now, it will not create any csv file with empty data.

#### Points to Remember:

Expression in ForEach Activity should be a value array like this:

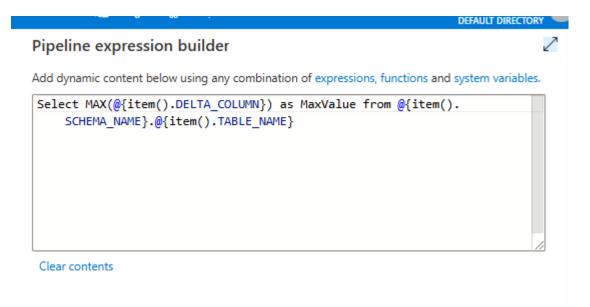


In the ForEach Activity, we utilize a Lookup table to retrieve the MaxValue from a source dataset previously employed, hence the system prompts for schema and table name inputs, which are not necessary in this context. The MaxValue is obtained through a custom query. When employing a new dataset, schema name and table name fields are absent. Conversely, when reusing an older dataset as indicated, it is essential to enclose value fields in single quotes to bypass them and execute the custom query.



#### **Custom Query:**

Remember this alias name as MaxValue as we will need this variable in the stored procedure to update the LPV value.



- Copy Data Activity inside If Condition
  - Make sure to write table, schema name, LPV and delta column name as same as SSMS watermark column names.

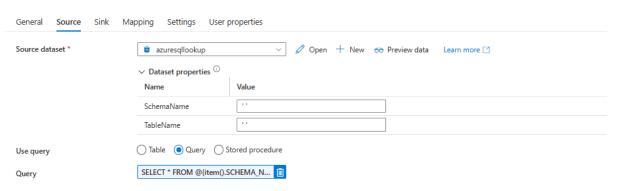
#### Pipeline expression builder



Add dynamic content below using any combination of expressions, functions and system variables.

```
SELECT * FROM @{item().SCHEMA_NAME}.@{item().TABLE_NAME} WHERE @ {item().DELTA_COLUMN}>'@{item().LPV}'
```

• In the Source configuration of the Copy Data Activity, we are using an older dataset, which prompts the request for parameter values. We are addressing this by enclosing these parameters in single quotation marks as shown below, effectively bypassing the request:



Harpa	leinh	Vagh	د ام
пагра	เอเบเเ	vagn	ะเล

In the Stored Procedure configuration, when parameters are imported, it prompts for the Table name and LPV value entries. For the LPV value, an expression should be used. Ensure that the variable name from the Lookup activity within the ForEach activity (MaxValue) is correctly specifie

#### Pipeline expression builder



Add dynamic content below using any combination of expressions, functions and system variables.

@activity('Get	Source Max	Value').output.firstRow.MaxValue

Clear contents

Thank you for your time!

You can connect with me on:

**LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/harpalvaghela/