

Guided Lab: Simplifying ETL Job Creation with AWS Glue Visual ETL

Description

Welcome to the AWS Glue Visual ETL lab! This lab will walk you through creating and saving an ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) job using AWS Glue's visual interface with minimal coding effort. This lab is designed for beginners and experienced professionals to explore the advantages of visual data manipulation over traditional script-based methods and show you how straightforward it is to set up and configure an ETL process visually.

AWS Glue is a fully managed extract, transform, and load (ETL) service that makes it easy for customers to prepare and load their data for analytics. It provides a Python shell script that can be used to perform data transformations, including redacting sensitive data.

The visual ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) in AWS Glue refers to the graphical interface provided by AWS Glue Studio, which allows you to author and manage Glue jobs without writing code directly. AWS Glue Studio offers a drag-and-drop interface where you can define the flow of your data sources, transformations, and targets.

Prerequisites

This lab assumes you have experience creating AWS Glue Jobs using Python Shell and experience creating an Amazon S3 bucket and are familiar with its basic components.

If you find any gaps in your knowledge, consider taking the following labs:

- [Creating an Amazon S3 bucket](#)
- [Introduction to AWS Glue Using Python Shell](#)

Objectives

In this lab, you will:

- Simulate creating an ETL job using AWS Glue Visual ETL
- Understand the interface and tools provided by Glue Visual ETL.
- Apply redaction, and change schema transformations to a dataset.

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Lab Steps

Prepare your Environment

1. Log into the AWS Management Console.

2. Create an S3 Bucket:

- Go to the S3 service in the AWS Console.
- Click **Create bucket**.
- Give your bucket a unique name.
- Leave the rest of the settings as default and click **Create bucket**

Amazon S3 > Buckets

► **Account snapshot - updated every 24 hours** All AWS Regions [View Storage Lens dashboard](#)

Storage lens provides visibility into storage usage and activity trends. [Learn more](#)

General purpose buckets | Directory buckets

General purpose buckets (1) Info All AWS Regions

[Refresh](#) [Copy ARN](#) [Empty](#) [Delete](#) [Create bucket](#)

Buckets are containers for data stored in S3.

	Name ▲	AWS Region ▼	IAM Access Analyzer	Creation date ▼
<input type="radio"/>	visualetl-transaction7000	US East (N. Virginia) us-east-1	View analyzer for us-east-1	May 17, 2024, 19:38:15 (UTC+08:00)

3. Create a two folders

- Navigate to your newly created bucket.
- Create two folders
 - **input**
 - **output**

☑ Successfully created folder "output".

Amazon S3 > Buckets > visualetl-transaction7000

visualetl-transaction7000 Info

[Objects](#) | [Properties](#) | [Permissions](#) | [Metrics](#) | [Management](#) | [Access Points](#)

Objects (2) Info

[Refresh](#) [Copy S3 URI](#) [Copy URL](#) [Download](#) [Open](#) [Delete](#) [Actions](#)

[Create folder](#) [Upload](#)

Objects are the fundamental entities stored in Amazon S3. You can use [Amazon S3 inventory](#) to get a list of all objects in your bucket. For others to access your objects, you'll need to explicitly grant them permissions. [Learn more](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name ▲	Type ▼	Last modified ▼	Size ▼	Storage class ▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	input/	Folder	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	output/	Folder	-	-	-

4. Download the CSV Data:

<https://media.tutorialsdojo.com/public/transactions.csv>

Take a look at the provided CSV file by opening the CSV file using Excel or any other spreadsheet application to visualize the data. When you are done, you can continue uploading the file.

5. Upload the file to the *input/* folder

Upload: status Close

The information below will no longer be available after you navigate away from this page.

Summary

Destination	Succeeded	Failed
s3://visualetl-transaction7000/input/	✓ 1 file, 288.0 B (100.00%)	✗ 0 files, 0 B (0%)

Files and folders | Configuration

Files and folders (1 Total, 288.0 B)

Find by name

Name	Folder	Type	Size	Status	Error
transactions...	-	text/csv	288.0 B	✓ Succeeded	-

Creating your ETL Job using Visual ETL

1. Navigate to the AWS Glue Console.

Search results for 'glue'

Services See all 5 results

- AWS Glue** ☆
AWS Glue is a serverless data integration service.
- AWS Glue DataBrew** ☆
Visual data preparation tool to clean and normalize data for analytics and machine l...
- AWS Lake Formation** ☆
AWS Lake Formation makes it easy to set up a secure data lake
- Athena** ☆
Serverless interactive analytics service

2. You can either click on **ETL Jobs** on the left bar or click on the **Author and edit ETL jobs**

AWS Glue

Getting started

- ETL jobs**
- Visual ETL
- Notebooks
- Job run monitoring
- Data Catalog tables
- Data connections
- Workflows (orchestration)

▼ **Data Catalog**

- Databases
 - Tables
- Stream schema registries
 - Schemas
- Connections
- Crawlers
 - Classifiers
- Catalog settings

► **Data Integration and ETL**

► **Legacy pages**

What's New

Documentation

AWS Marketplace

Enable compact mode

Enable new navigation

We've added this new task-oriented landing page and a simpler left navigation. [Let us know what you think.](#)

Welcome to AWS Glue

Get started by setting up your account and users, cataloging your data, and building ETL jobs to prepare data for analytics.

Prepare your account for AWS Glue

Admins: Grant access to AWS Glue and **set a default IAM role.**

Set up roles and users

Catalog and search for datasets

View your databases & tables and catalog data using Crawlers.

Go to the Data Catalog

Move and transform data

Transform data using a visual, notebook, or code interface.

Author and edit ETL jobs

Resources and tutorials

Getting started with AWS Glue: [Documentation](#) | [AWS Training](#)

Video on working with AWS Glue Studio: [Part 1](#) | [Part 2](#) | [Part 3](#)

[Using connectors and connections](#)

[AWS Glue Documentation home](#)

Examples: [AWS Glue blog posts](#) | [AWS Glue on GitHub](#)

Data integration and management

Monitor & debug ETL jobs and track usage

Go to job run monitoring

Connect to your data stores

Go to connections

Orchestrate jobs to build data pipelines

Go to workflows

3. Click on **Visual ETL**

AWS Glue

Getting started

- ETL jobs**
- Visual ETL
- Notebooks
- Job run monitoring
- Data Catalog tables
- Data connections
- Workflows (orchestration)

▼ **Data Catalog**

- Databases
 - Tables
- Stream schema registries
 - Schemas
- Connections
- Crawlers
 - Classifiers
- Catalog settings

► **Data Integration and ETL**

► **Legacy pages**

What's New

[AWS Glue](#) > [Jobs](#)

AWS Glue Studio

Create job

Author in a visual interface focused on data flow.

Visual ETL

Author using an interactive code notebook.

Notebook

Author code with a script editor.

Script editor

► **Example job** **Create example job**

Your jobs

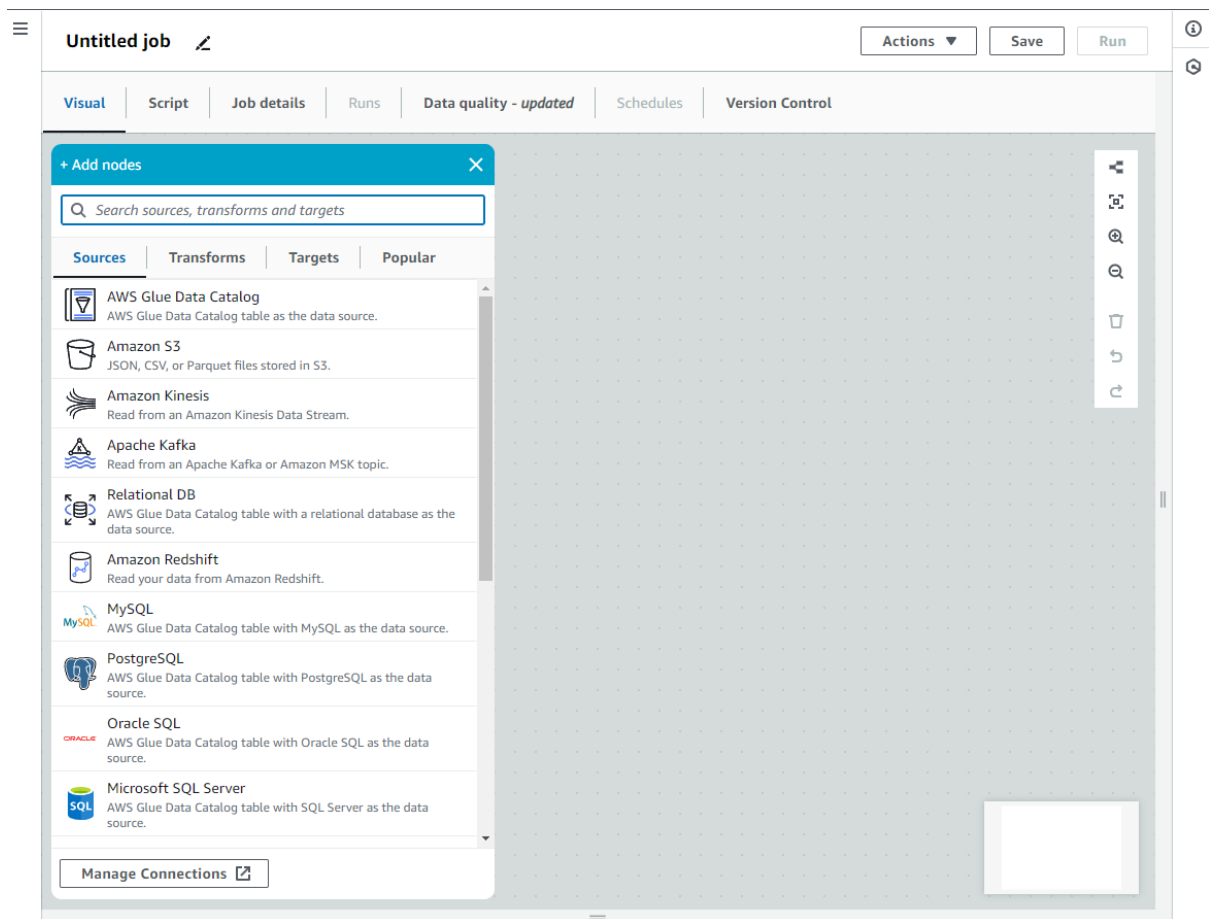
Filter

Job name	Type	Last modified	AWS Glue version
No jobs			

You have not created a job yet.

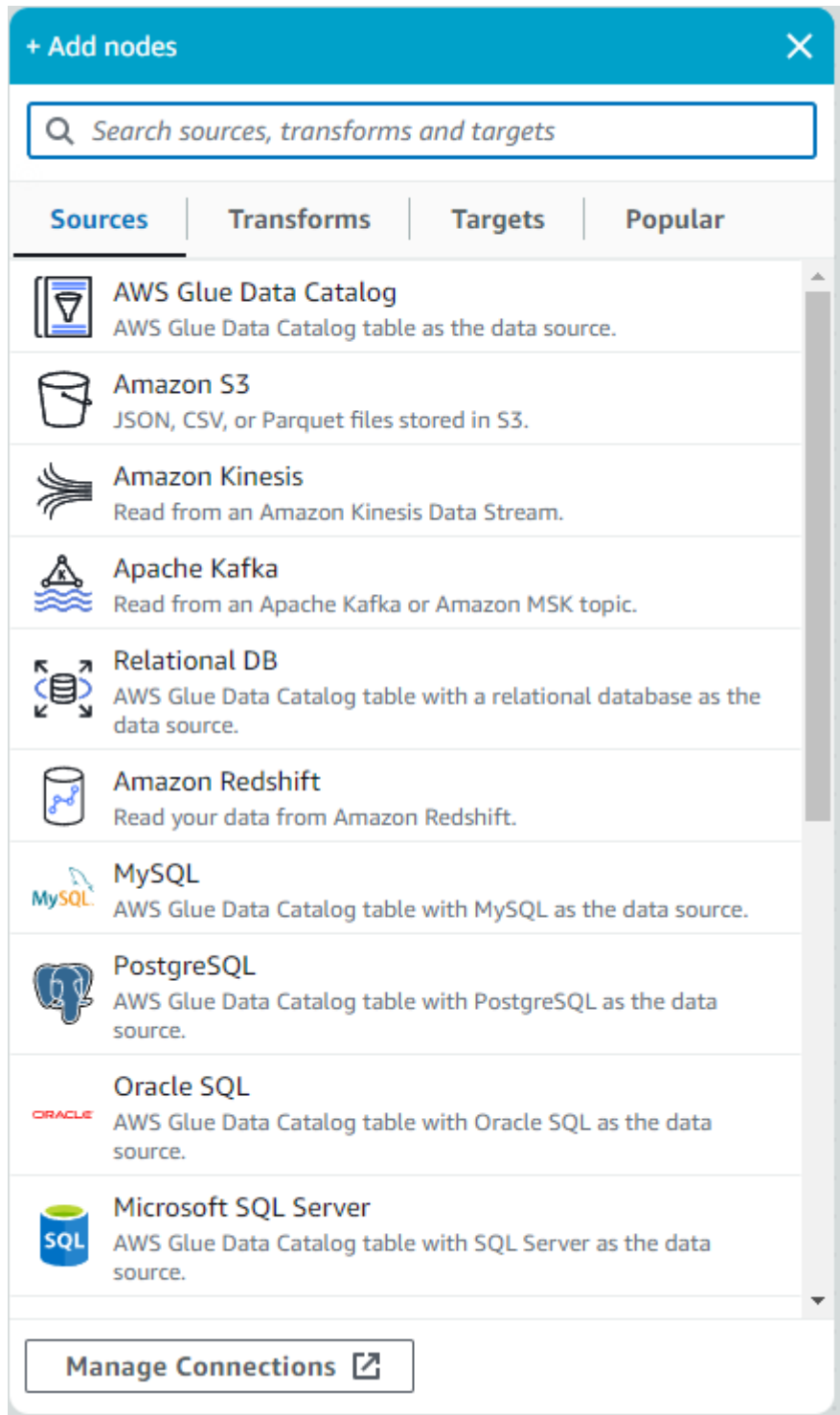
Create job from a blank graph

4. Then, you will be redirected to the Visual ETL interface



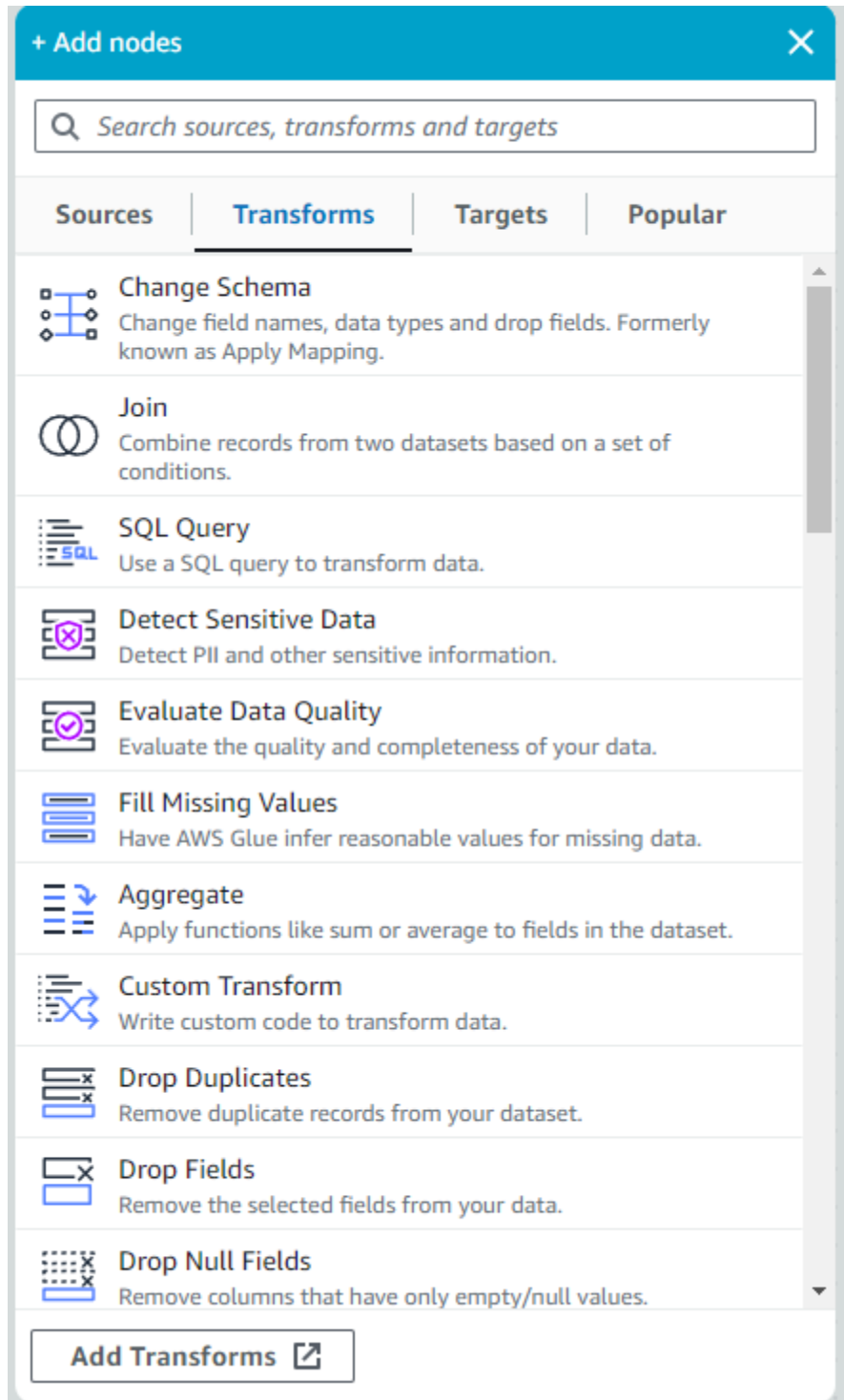
- If you notice in the **+ Add nodes**, there are tabs inside it:
-

- **Sources:**



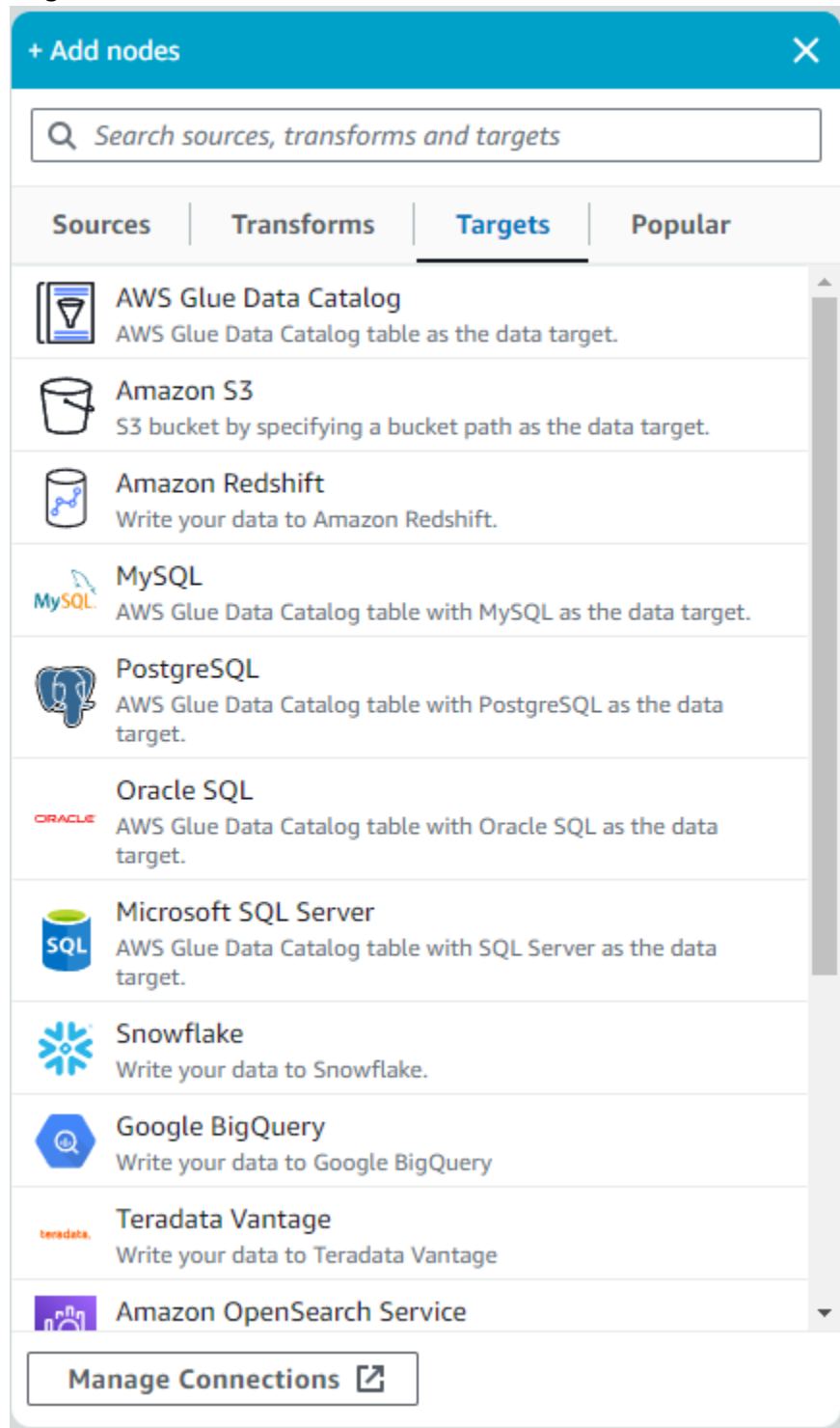
- Sources are used to connect to the data sources, such as databases, data lakes, or other data stores. These allow you to read in data using various connectors provided by AWS Glue.

- **Transforms:**



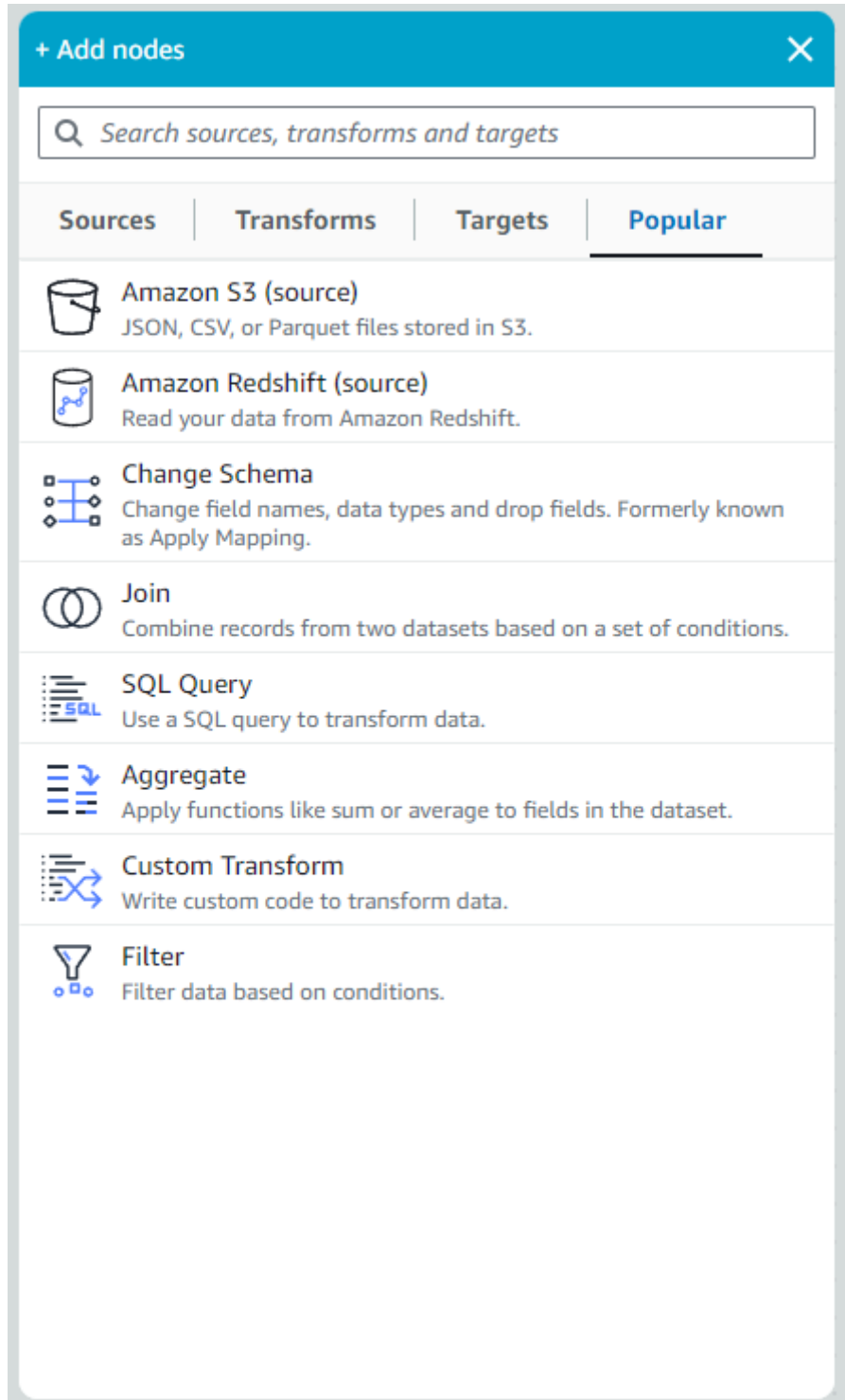
- AWS Glue Studio offers a range of visual transforms, such as Concatenate, Split string, Pivot rows to columns, Lookup, and Derived column, which can be used to build more sophisticated data pipelines without writing code.

- **Targets:**



- Targets are used to specify the destination for writing out the transformed data. These allow you to define the location and format for the output data, such as a database table, a file in an S3 bucket, or a data stream.

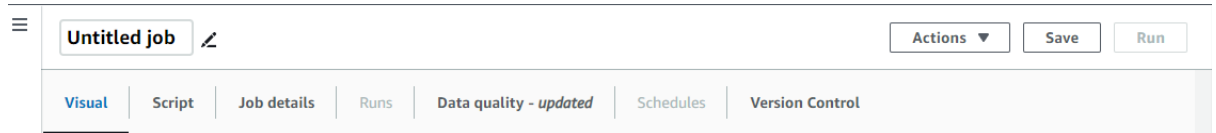
- **Popular:**



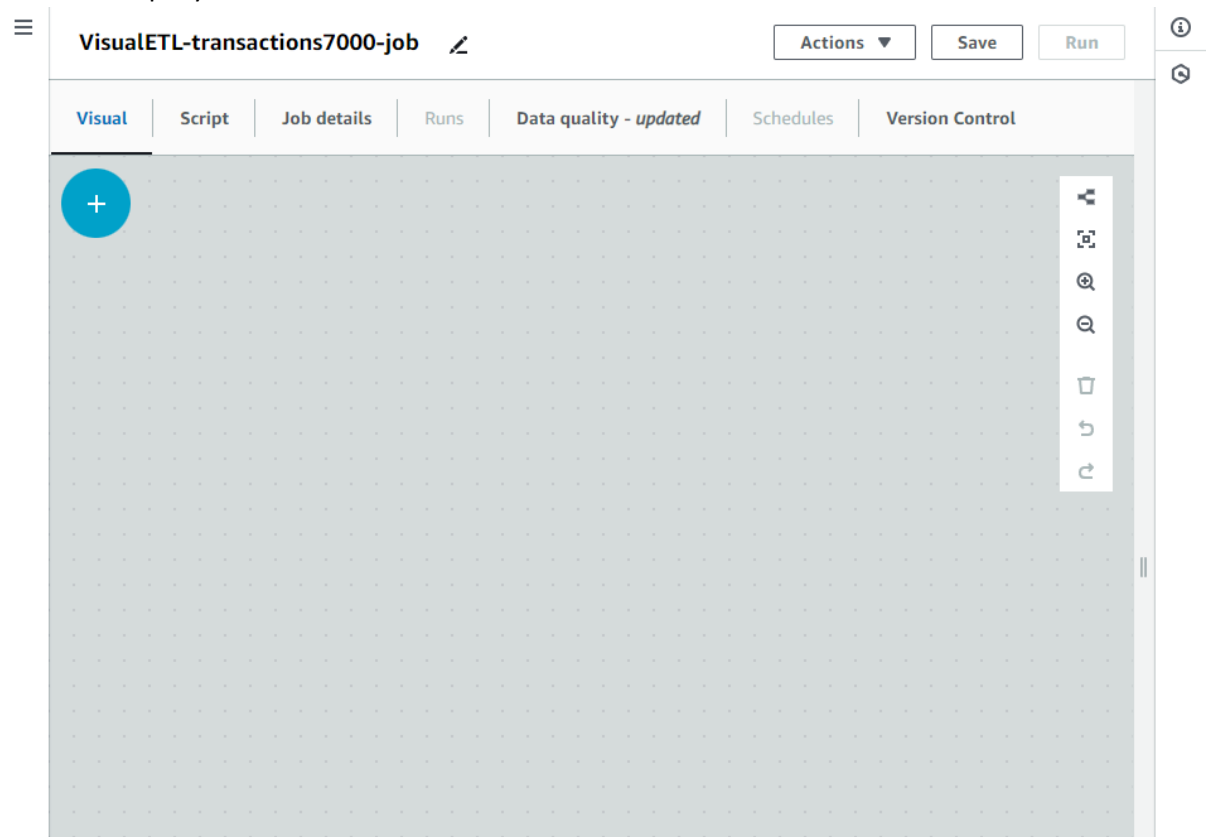
- The **Popular** tab is designed to help you quickly build ETL pipelines by providing easy access for commonly used nodes.

5. Now, let's **rename our job**.

- Click on the **Untitled job** in the upper left corner right beside the pencil icon.




- Name it uniquely



6. Next, click on the Job details tab

- Select the **PlayCloud-Sandbox** IAM role in the dropdown.

VisualETL-transactions7000-job 

Actions ▼ Save Run

Visual | Script | **Job details** | Runs | Data quality - updated | Schedules | Version Control


Basic properties [Info](#)

Name
VisualETL-transactions7000-job


Description - optional

Descriptions can be up to 2048 characters long.

IAM Role
Role assumed by the job with permission to access your data stores. Ensure that this role has permission to your Amazon S3 sources, targets, temporary directory, scripts, and any libraries used by the job.

PlayCloud-Sandbox 

Q Filter IAM roles

PlayCloud-Sandbox
No description available. 

Glue version [Info](#)
Glue 4.0 - Supports spark 3.3, Scala 2, Python 3 ▼

Language
Python 3 ▼

Worker type

- Scroll down and look for **Requested number of workers**. Type 2 for number of workers. (optional step)

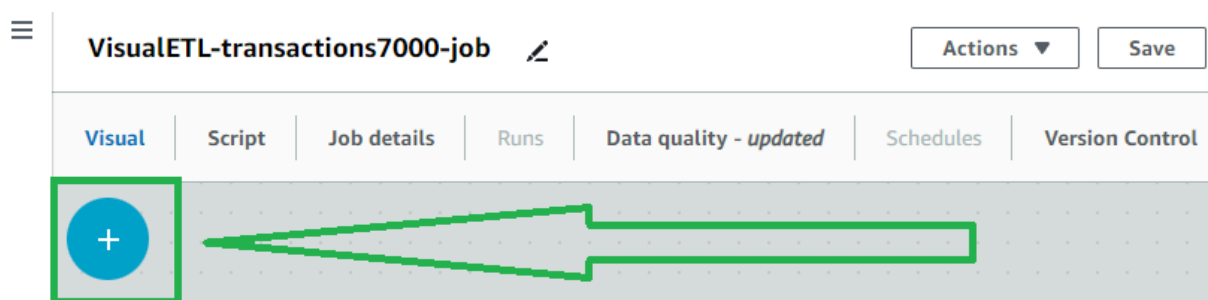
NOTE: The **Number of Workers** determines the **DPU usage** of your job, depending on your worker type. The higher your DPU usage, the higher the bill you will pay. So be mindful of your DPU usage when doing AWS GLUE experiments in your AWS Account.

Requested number of workers

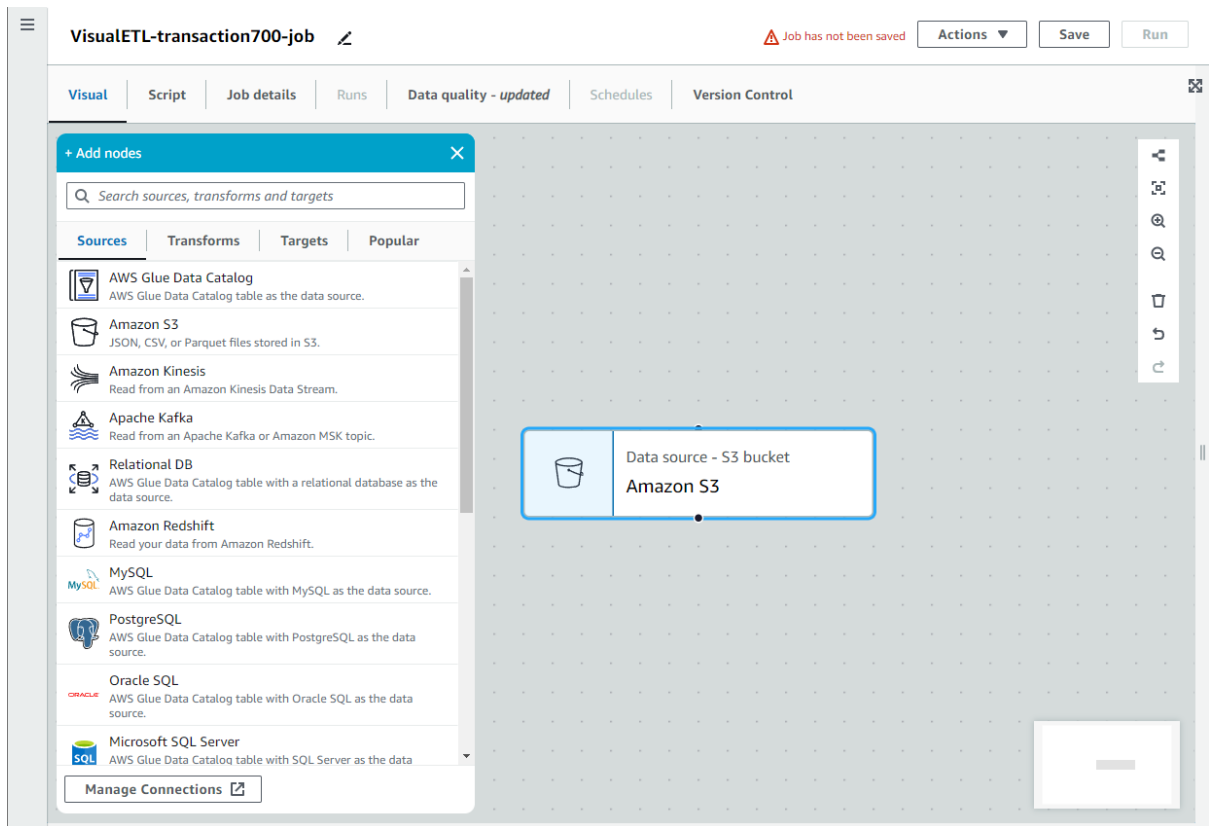
The number of workers you want AWS Glue to allocate to this job.

2

7. Return to the previous tab (Visual) and click on the **blue circle with the+ sign** to add nodes.

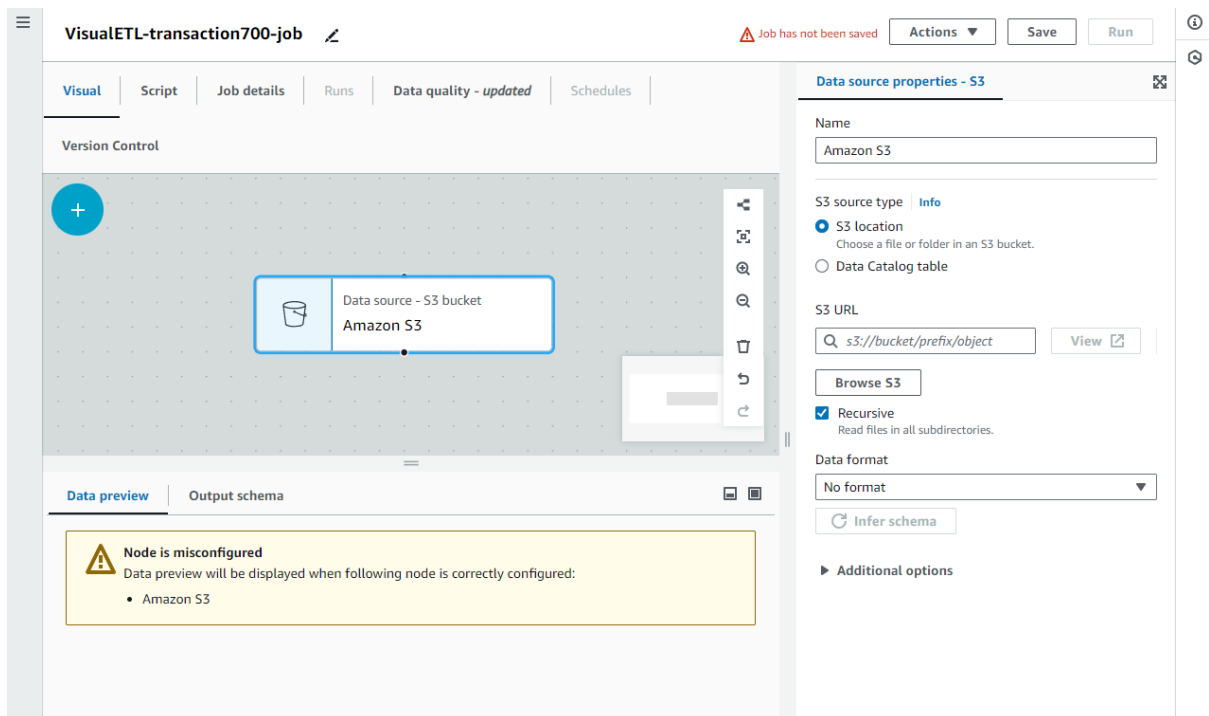


8. Let's add the **Source node** first. In the **sources**, click on **Amazon S3**.



Notice that after clicking on the source **Amazon S3**, a node appeared in our interface

9. Click on the **Amazon S3** node that just appeared.



- Paste the directory of your object or browse and select the bucket where you uploaded the transactions.csv file previously.

s3://{your-bucket-name}/input

DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}
DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}
DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}

VisualETL-transaction700-job

⌵

⚠ Job has not been saved

Actions ▼

Save

Run

Data source properties - S3

ⓘ

Name

Amazon S3

S3 source type

Info

☒ S3 location

Choose a file or folder in an S3 bucket.

☐ Data Catalog table

S3 URL

Q s3://visualetl-transaction7000/input

×

View ↗

Browse S3

☒ Recursive

Read files in all subdirectories.

- For the **Data Format**, select **CSV**.

Data source properties - S3

☒ S3 location
 Choose a file or folder in an S3 bucket.

☐ Data Catalog table

S3 URL

☒ Recursive
 Read files in all subdirectories.

Data format

CSV

▼

Delimiter

Comma (,)

▼

Escape character - optional
Enter a character to use for escaping

The character which immediately follows is used as-is, except for a small set of well-known escapes (\n, \r, \t, and \0)

Quote character

Double quote (")

▼

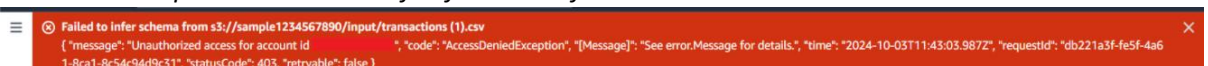
☒ First line of source file contains column headers

☐ Records in source files can span multiple lines

▶ Additional options

Leave the rest as default.

If you encounter an error similar to the example below, you can safely ignore it. You will still be able to complete this lab even if a 'failed to infer schema' error occurs.



- If you wait for a while, you will see the information inside the CSV in your bucket in the Data preview.

Data preview (5) Info **READY** **Previewing 4 of 4 fields**

date	amount	cardnumber	merchant
2024-01-12	\$150.00	1234567890123456	Coffee Shop
2024-01-13	\$45.00	6543210987654321	Bookstore
2024-01-14	\$78.25	8706543211234677	Electronics Store
2024-01-15	\$22.50	3216549870654321	Grocery Store
2024-01-16	\$130.00	4561237890654321	Online Marketplace

Data source properties - S3

☒ S3 location
Choose a file or folder in an S3 bucket.

☐ Data Catalog table

S3 URL

Browse S3

☒ Recursive
Read files in all subdirectories.

Data format
CSV

Delimiter
Comma (,)

Escape character - optional
Enter a character to use for escaping

The character which immediately follows is used as-is, except for a small set of well-known escapes (\n, \r, \t, and \0)

Quote character
Double quote (")

☒ First line of source file contains column headers

☐ Records in source files can span multiple lines

Infer schema

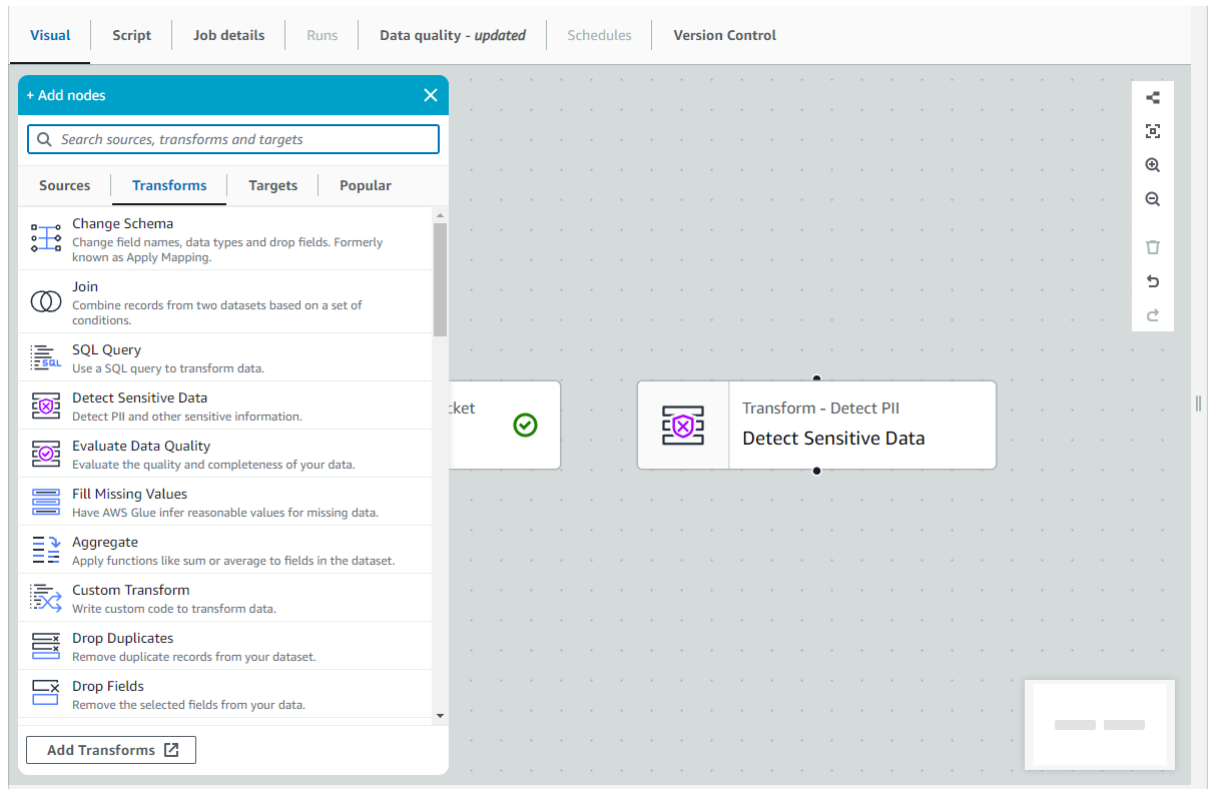
► Additional options

10. Applying Detect Sensitive Data Transformations

In this lab, we are gonna use Detect Sensitive Data Transformations first. This transformation scans the dataset for sensitive data like personal identifiable information (PII), then replace it or add a column with information on what was found and where.

- Click on the **+ sign** again (**Add Node**) and navigate to the **Transforms tab**

- Select **Detect Sensitive Data**



- Click on the **Detect Sensitive Data Transforms node**

Follow the following Configurations

- Node parents: **Amazon S3**

Node parents

Choose which nodes will provide inputs for this one.

Choose one or more parent node

Filter parent nodes

☒ Data sources

☒ Amazon S3
S3 - DataSource

- **Detect sensitive data:** Select **Find columns that contain sensitive data**.

Detect sensitive data [Info](#)

Scan the dataset for sensitive data like personal identifiable information (PII), then replace it or add a column with information on what was found and where.

☐ Find sensitive data in each row
Scan the entire data set, and act on each cell individually.

☒ Find columns that contain sensitive data
Scan a sample of the dataset to quickly find columns that represent sensitive information.

Sample portion
The percentage of rows to sample out of the entire data set.
 %
Between 0 and 100.

Detection threshold
To consider a field as containing PII, set the minimum percentage of detected rows out of the sampled rows.
 %
Between 0 and 100.

- **Types of sensitive information to detect:** Select **Select specific patterns**

Types of sensitive information to detect
Select the types of sensitive information you would like to detect.
For example, email or credit card number.

☐ Include all available types (256)
This will select all types available at job authoring time.

☐ Select categories
This will dynamically include all patterns in categories you select.

☒ Select specific patterns
Only patterns you explicitly select will be detected.

▪ **Select patterns: Search for Credit Card and select it**

Types of sensitive information to detect

Select the types of sensitive information you would like to detect. For example, email or credit card number.

☐ **Include all available types (256)**

This will select all types available at job authoring time.

☐ **Select categories**

This will dynamically include all patterns in categories you select.

☒ **Select specific patterns**

Only patterns you explicitly select will be detected.

Selected patterns

<input type="text" value="Credit Card"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse"/>
Use: "Credit Card"	
Credit Card	
Universal	

- Scroll down and look for:

Select global action (required): Select **REDACT. Redact detected text**

Select global action (required)

Choose an action to take on detected entities.

☐ **DETECT. Output detection results**

Output a frame with detection information for each column in the data.

☒ **REDACT. Redact detected text**

Replace detected entity with a string you choose.

☐ **SHA256_HASH. Apply cryptographic hash.**

Apply a SHA-256 cryptographic hash function to the input string.

Complete settings for global action

If unset, will be the default values.

Redaction Text:

- In the **Data Preview**, you will see that the CardNumber Column has been redacted.

The screenshot shows the AWS Glue console interface. At the top, there are tabs for Visual, Script, Job details, Runs, Data quality - updated, Schedules, and Version Control. The main workspace displays a workflow with two nodes: 'Data source - S3 bucket Amazon S3' and 'Transform - Detect PII Detect Sensitive Data'. The 'Data preview' tab is active, showing a table with 5 rows of data. The 'CardNumber' column is redacted with asterisks. The 'Transform' panel on the right shows the configuration for 'Detect Sensitive Data', including options to select specific patterns (Credit Card) and global detection sensitivity (High).

Data preview (5) Info READY ⓘ

Filter sample dataset

Date	Amount	CardNumber	Merchant
2024-01-12	\$150.00	*****	Coffee Shop
2024-01-13	\$45.00	*****	Bookstore
2024-01-14	\$78.25	*****	Electronics Store
2024-01-15	\$22.50	*****	Grocery Store
2024-01-16	\$130.00	*****	Online Marketplace

Transform

Types of sensitive information to detect
Select the types of sensitive information you would like to detect. For example, email or credit card number.

- ☐ Include all available types (256)
This will select all types available at job authoring time.
- ☐ Select categories
This will dynamically include all patterns in categories you select.
- ☒ Select specific patterns
Only patterns you explicitly select will be detected.

Selected patterns

Credit Card X Browse

Create new

Credit Card X

Select global detection sensitivity
Choose the level of detection sensitivity to apply to your data set.

- ☒ High (default)
Detects more entities for use cases that require a higher level of sensitivity.
- ☐ Low
Detects fewer entities and reduces false positives.

Select global action (required)
Choose an action to take on detected entities.

- ☐ DETECT. Output detection results
Output a frame with detection information for each column in the data.
- ☒ REDACT. Redact detected text
Replace detected entity with a string you choose.
- ☐ SHA256_HASH. Apply cryptographic hash.
Apply a SHA-256 cryptographic hash function to the input string.

Complete settings for global action
If unset, will be the default values.

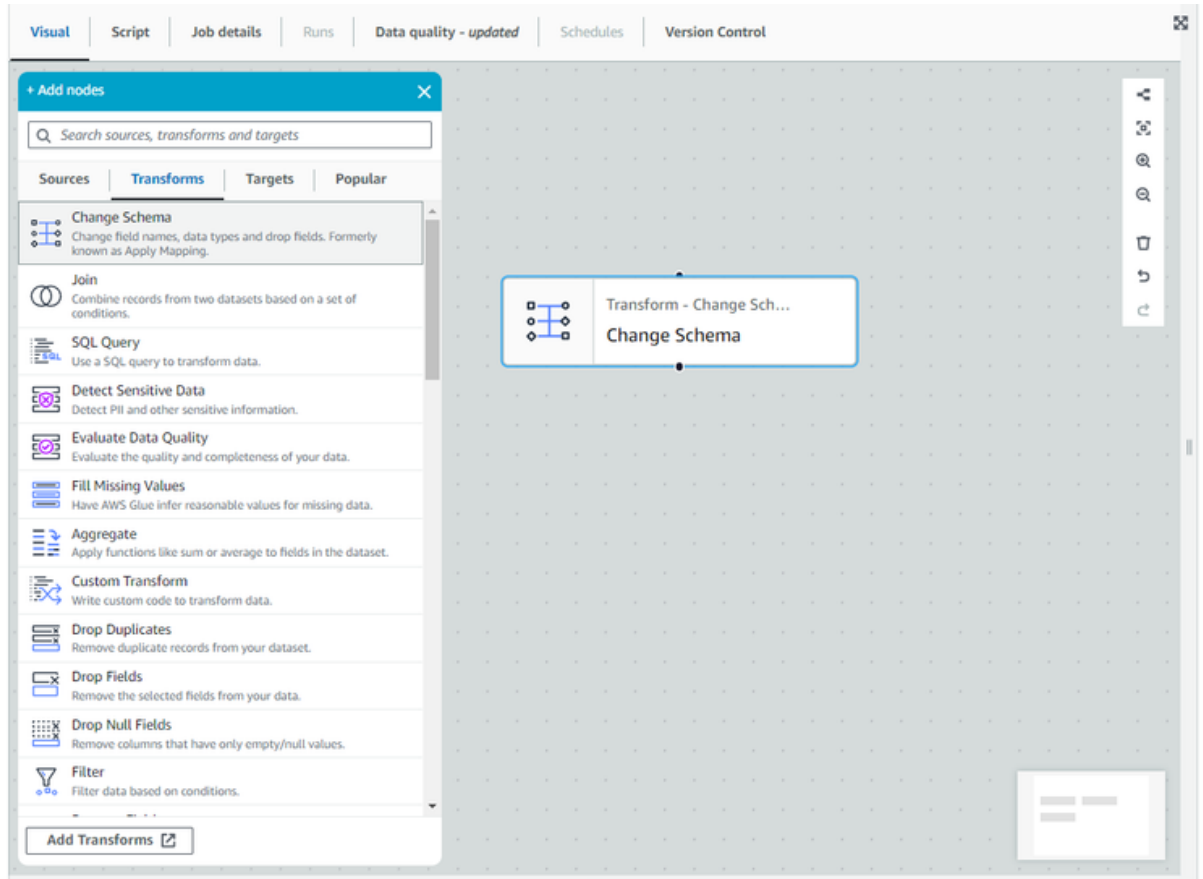
Redaction Text: *****

11. Applying Change Schema Transformations

Next, let's do a simple Change Schema transformation.

- Click on the **+ sign** again (**Add Node**) and navigate to the **Transforms tab**

- Select **Change Schema**



- Click on the **Change Schema Transforms node**
Follow the following Configurations

- Node parents: **Detect Sensitive Data**

Transform

Name

Change Schema

Node parents

Choose which nodes will provide inputs for this one.

Choose one or more parent node

Filter parent nodes

☐ Data sources

☐ Amazon S3
S3 - DataSource

☒ Transforms

☒ Detect Sensitive Data
PIIDetection - Transform

☐ Unclassified nodes

- **Change Schema (Apply mapping):**
 - Under the Source key, look for **Amount** and change it to **TransactionAmount** under the Target Key

Source key	Target key	Data type	Drop
Date	Date	string ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount	TransactionAmount	string ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>

- You will see the changes made in the **Data preview**

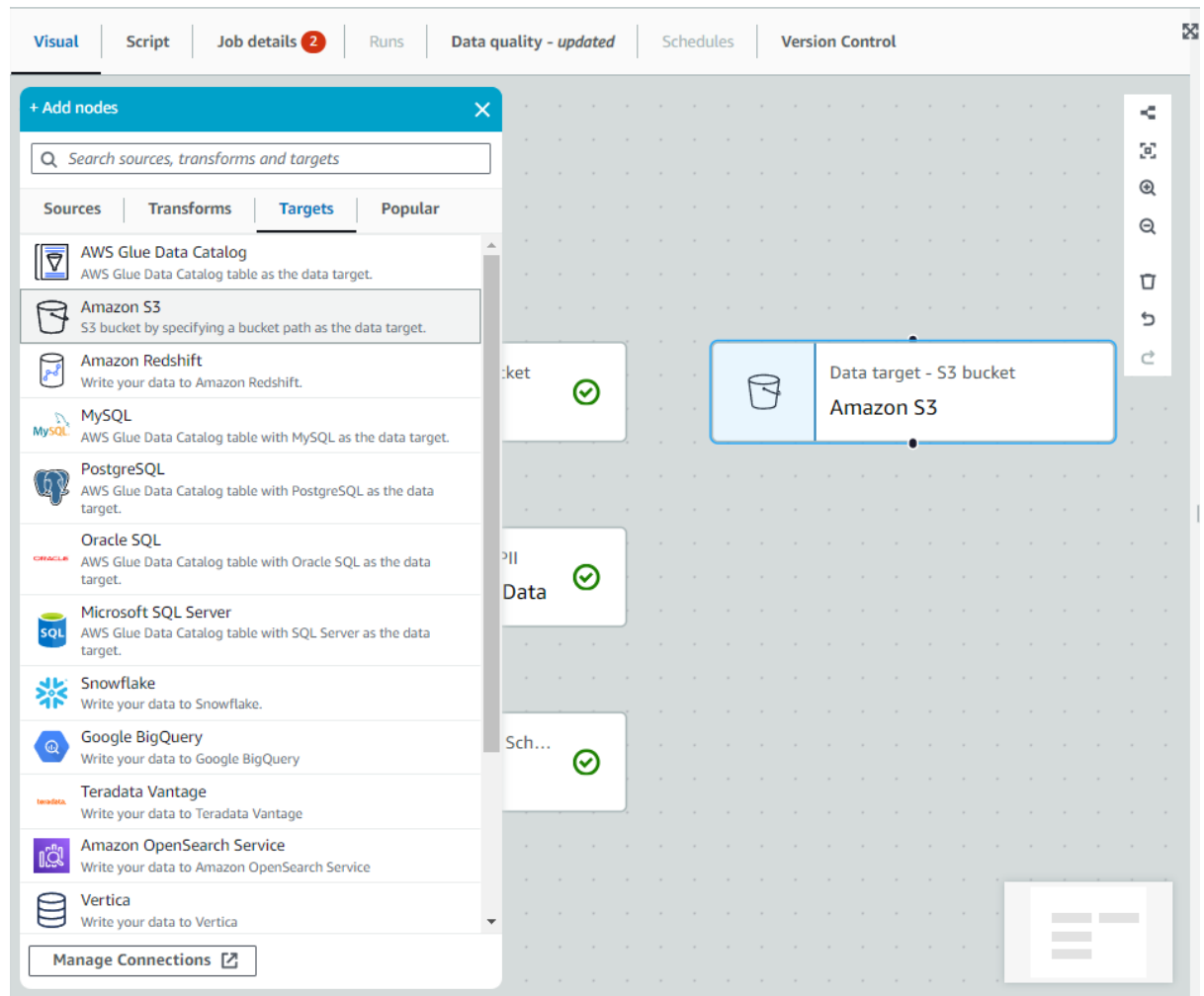
The screenshot shows the Alteryx interface. The main workspace contains a workflow with two nodes: 'Transform - Detect PII Detect Sensitive Data' and 'Transform - Change Schema Change Schema'. The 'Change Schema' node is highlighted with a green checkmark. The 'Data preview' window is open at the bottom, showing a table with 5 rows of data. The 'TransactionAmount' column is highlighted in blue. The 'Transform' panel on the right shows the configuration for the 'Change Schema' node, including the mapping of 'Amount' to 'TransactionAmount'.

Date	TransactionAmount	CardNumber	Merchant
2024-01-16	\$130.00	*****	Online Marketplace
2024-01-12	\$150.00	*****	Coffee Shop
2024-01-15	\$22.50	*****	Grocery Store
2024-01-13	\$45.00	*****	Bookstore
2024-01-14	\$78.25	*****	Electronics Store

12. Lastly, lets **Add the Target Node** for our ETL Job.

- Click on the **+ sign** again (**Add Node**) and navigate to the **Targets tab**

- Select **Amazon S3**



- Click on the Amazon S3 **Target node**
Follow the following Configurations

- Node parents: **Change Schema**

Data target properties - S3
1

Name

Amazon S3

Node parents

Choose which nodes will provide inputs for this one.

Choose one or more parent node

Filter parent nodes

☐ Data sources

☐ Amazon S3
S3 - DataSource

☒ Transforms

☐ Detect Sensitive Data
PIIDetection - Transform

☒ Change Schema
ApplyMapping - Transform

☐ Unclassified nodes

- Format: **Parquet**
Parquet is an open-source, column-oriented data file format that is designed for efficient data storage and retrieval.
- compression Type: **GZIP**
- **S3 Target Location:**

s3://{your-bucket-name}/output/

DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}

DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}

DO NOT FORGET TO CHANGE THE PLACEHOLDER, {bucket_name}

Format

Parquet ▼

After you save your job, it will use Glue Studio's optimized Parquet writer.

Compression Type

GZIP ▼

S3 Target Location

Choose an S3 location in the format

s3://bucket/prefix/object/ with a trailing slash (/).

Q s3://visualetl-transaction7000/output X

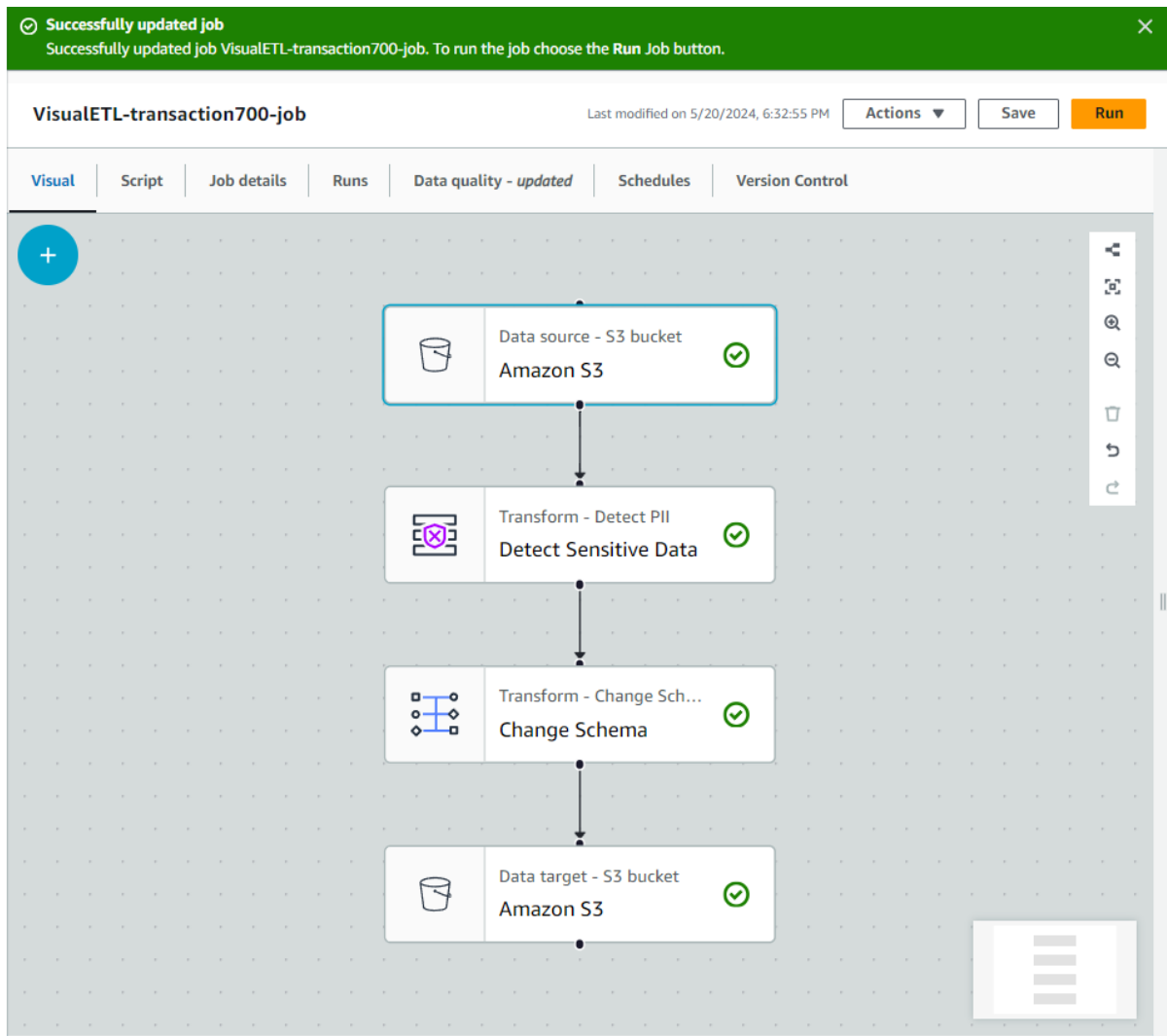
View 

Browse S3

-

- Leave the rest as Default

13. Click on **Save** in the upper right corner of the interface to save your first Visual ETL job.



NOTE: After saving the Job, you won't be able to run it. This lab simulates creating a visual ETL job and is intended for demonstration purposes only.

That's it congratulations on completing this lab! Through this hands-on experience, you've set up data sources, applied sensitive data transformations, and adjusted data schemas using AWS Glue's visual interface. The skills you've honed today are invaluable for efficiently managing and manipulating large datasets in real-world scenarios.

This lab has demonstrated how AWS Glue's Visual ETL can streamline your data transformation workflows, making the process more intuitive and less error-prone compared to hard coding your ETL job. As you continue to explore AWS Glue, leverage these advantages to enhance your data integration and analytics capabilities further.

One last thing! It is a good practice to clean up the resources created during this lab. Not only will it make you a better professional, but you will also become a more organized person. Happy learning!