

NC Iceberg Meetup

27 Oct 2025

Lester Martin  
Developer Advocate @ Starburst

# Connection before content



Lester Martin – <https://linktr.ee/lestermartin>

- Developer Relations @ Starburst
  - Blogging & forums
  - Webinars & videos
  - User groups & events
  - Training & tutorials
- 30+ years of technology experience
  - Started journey on TRS-80 Model III
  - Played most roles, but a programmer at my core
  - ½ career in OLTP and ½ in data analytics
  - Decade+ of “big data” experience to include
    - Trino/Starburst, Hadoop, Hive, Spark
    - NiFi, Kafka, Storm, Flink
    - HBase, MongoDB

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# The rise of big data

**Querying large volumes of data was difficult and time consuming**

**Early 2000s:** Data generation and collection has skyrocketed due to the rise of the Internet

**2006:** Apache Hadoop was designed to meet the needs of large datasets on a scale previously unimaginable

**2008:** Facebook created Apache Hive to query terabytes of data in Hadoop using a SQL-like interface. Data consumers were limited by the number of queries they could run — often fewer than 10/day

# The birth of Trino

A new query engine designed to solve the data accessibility problem

**2012:** Trino (*formerly known as Presto*) is created by Martin Traverso, Dain Sundstrom, David Phillips and Eric Hwang at Facebook

**Trino is an open source query engine that:**

- *Harnesses the power of distributed computing*
- *Separates compute from storage*
- *Super fast and performant*
- *Supports pluggable connectors to a variety of data sources*
- *ANSI-SQL BASED!!!! Which means... SQL on anything!*





Trino ? <https://trino.io>

Ludicrously fast, open source ,  
distributed , massively parallel  
processing , SQL query engine  
designed to query  
large data sets from one or more  
multiple data sources



# Trino trusted by industry leaders at PB scale



# trino

- ✓ Open-source query engine.
- ✓ Separates compute and storage.
- ✓ Queries across all data sources.
- ✓ Iceberg was designed for Trino.

## Proven at exabyte scale/high concurrency:



25PB on S3



1 Exabyte of Data  
100PB weekly data  
1200 nodes  
2.5M queries/week



600PB on S3  
1000 nodes



10PB daily read data  
250K queries per day



300PB data lake

*Trino open source users*

## Starburst is the Trino company:

Bringing  
Trino to the  
enterprise

Cofounded  
by Trino  
creators

#1 Trino  
committer

Largest team of  
Trino experts in  
the world

Thriving  
open source  
community:

11300+  
SLACK  
MEMBERS

10,000+  
GITHUB STARS

750+  
CONTRIBUTORS

# Starburst is an Open, Hybrid Lakehouse platform



## Analytics Accelerators

*Data Products, Warp Speed, and other analytics productivity tools.*

## Query Engine

*powered by* trino

## Enterprise Platform

*Enterprise-grade security, scalability, governance, usability.*

## Data Connectors & Ingestion

*Fast, easy data access, including Iceberg table creation*

Starburst Enterprise

Starburst Galaxy

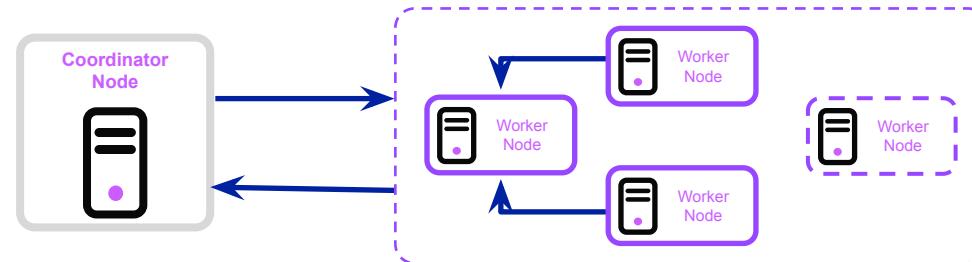
# Server stereotypes

## Coordinator node

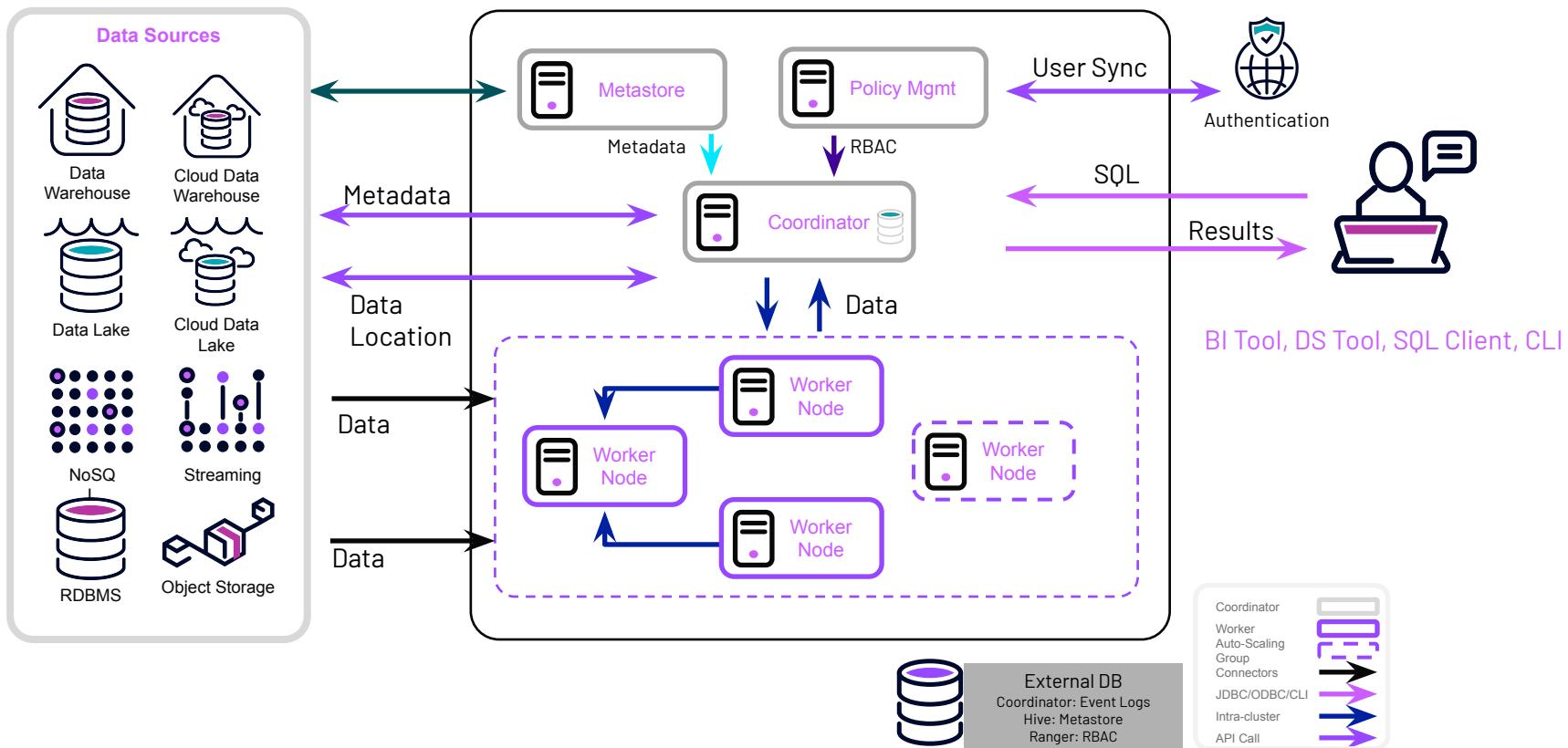
Server that is responsible for parsing statements, planning queries, and managing Trino worker nodes.

## Worker nodes

Server which is responsible for executing tasks and processing data. Worker nodes fetch data from connectors and exchange intermediate data with each other.



# Logical architecture



# Connectors

## Official data lake components #



## Other data lake components #



## SELECT

```
c.custkey,c.estimated_income,  
a.products,a.cc_number,  
cp.customer_segment  
  
FROM  
    Hive.burst_bank.customer c  
JOIN MongoDB.burst_bank.account a ON c.custkey = a.custkey  
JOIN Oracle.burst_bank_large.customer_profile cp ON c.custkey = cp.custkey  
  
WHERE  
    c.state <> 'OK'  
AND a.mortgage_id IS NOT NULL;
```

- SQL queries on **Data Lake / Data Lakehouse (HDFS, Object Storage)**
- **Single point of access** centralizes security and governance
- **Federation** between different data sources

## Official data sources #



## Other data sources #



# History of Trino - ETL processing

**From purely interactive use-cases to multiple workloads**

**2013:** Released into production at Facebook for interactive use cases

**2014:** Users start scheduling batch/ETL queries with Trino instead of Hive

**2018:** 50% of existing ETL workloads and 85% of new workloads on Trino

**Why?**

- *Trino can communicate with disparate data sources to federate data*
- *Trino is a distributed, massively parallel processing system*
- *Faster, Cheaper and ANSI-SQL BASED!*

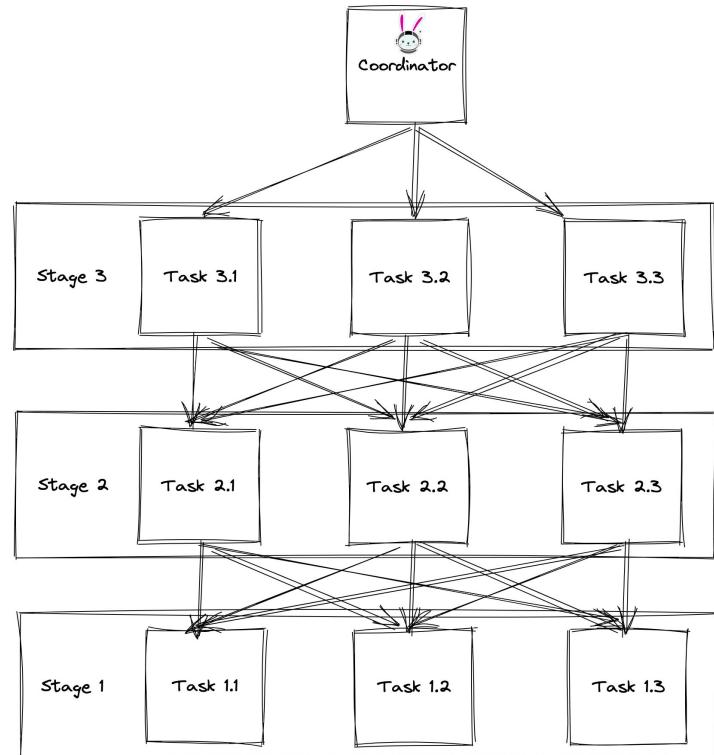
**Soon others caught on, and teams like [Salesforce](#) and [Lyft](#) started utilizing Trino for Batch/ETL capabilities.**

# ETL concerns with the original architecture

The design goals for interactive querying performance did not provide sufficient support for long-running and memory-intensive queries:

- **Long running queries unreliable:** the all-or-nothing architecture makes it really hard to tolerate faults
- **Distributed memory limit:** with streaming shuffle, aggregations and joins have to process all at once

Also, with original architecture, it's really hard to apply classic techniques like adaptive query execution, speculative execution and skew handling, etc.

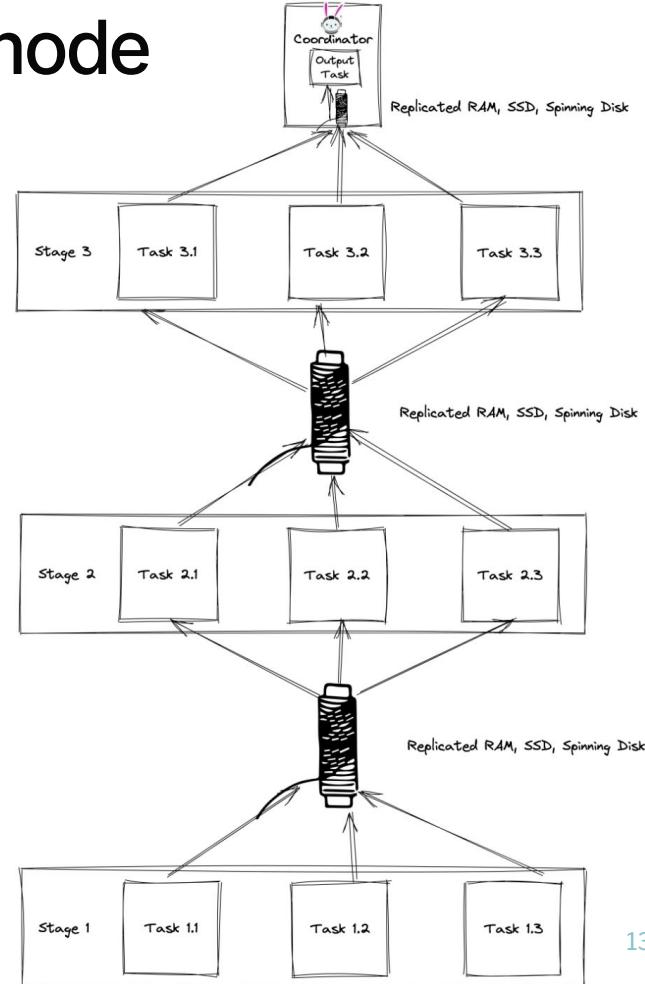


# Enter fault-tolerant execution mode

Introduced external exchanges:

- **Independent tasks**
- **Task retries**
- **Resource-aware scheduling**

Stage by stage execution



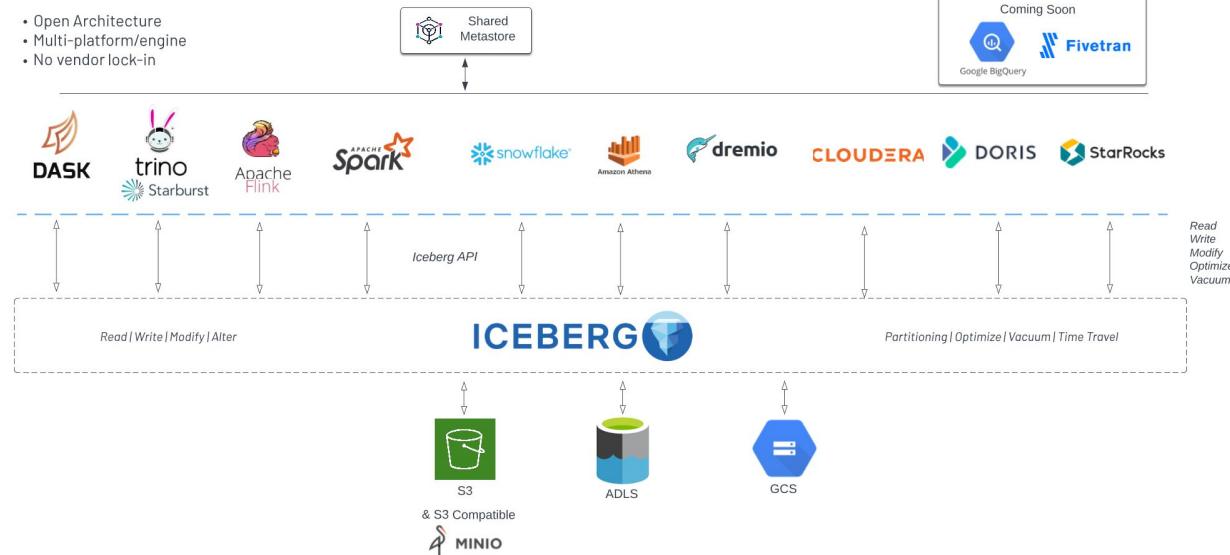


# Apache Iceberg

# Apache Iceberg

- Created by Ryan Blue & Daniel Weeks at **Netflix**
- Solves the challenges of performance, data modification and schema evolution in the lake.
- Uses open data concepts (orc, parquet, avro) and architecture.
- Seen enormous interest and adoption over the last few years.

## Multi-Engine Platform



30+ engines support Iceberg including

- Trino
- Dremio
- Spark
- AWS Athena
- Flink
- CDP
- Dask
- Snowflake
- Starburst
- BigQuery



# Trino & Apache Iceberg

= Open Data Lakehouse



# The Open Data Lakehouse – The *Icehouse*



Global federated access to data sources beyond the lake

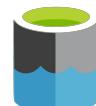
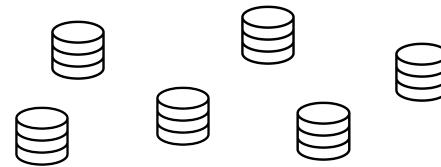
Compute engine

Table formats

Open file formats

Commodity storage

Security, Governance, and Access Control Layer



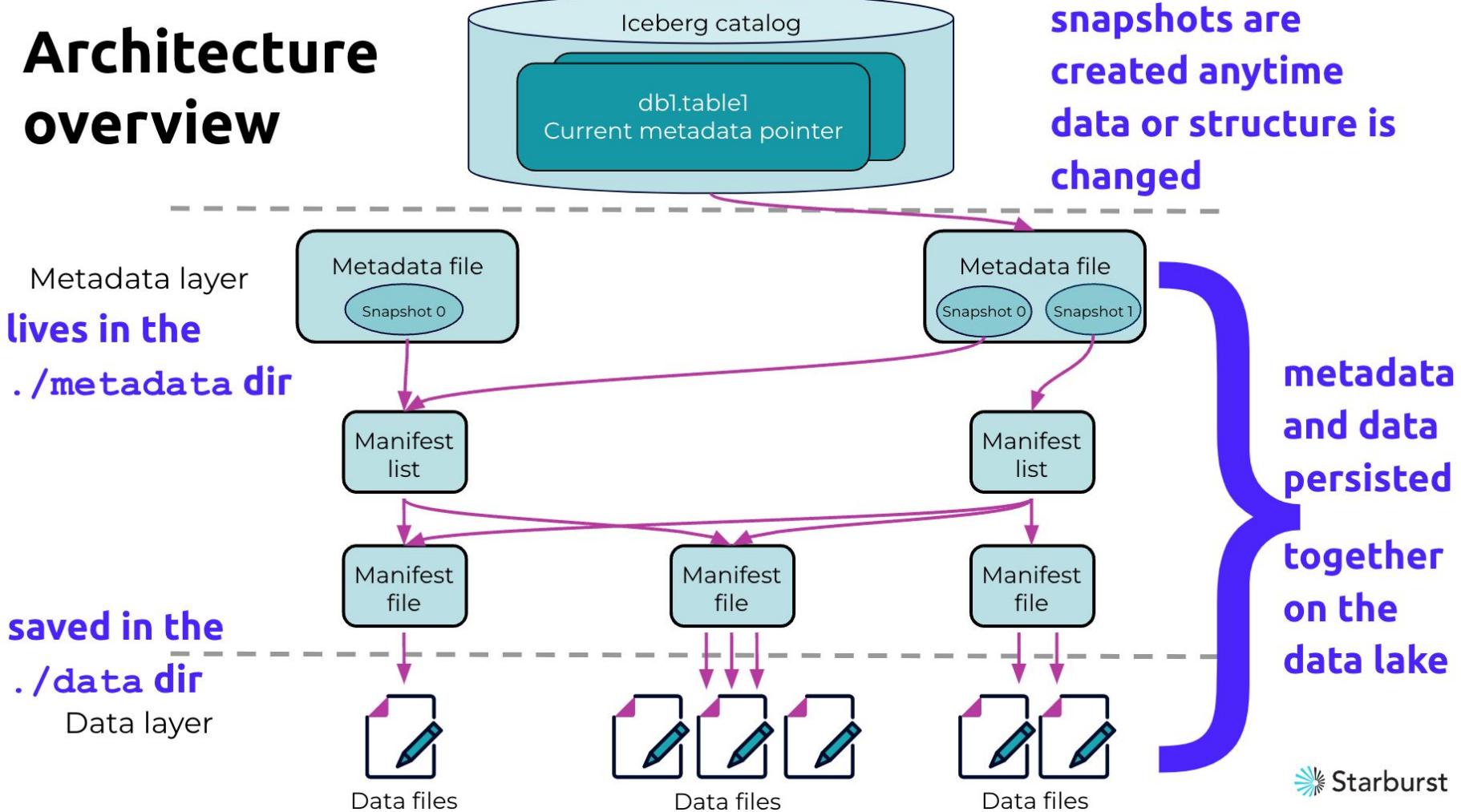
Access data in the orbit

Powers the data lakehouse

Enables data lakehouses

Center of gravity

# Architecture overview



# Iceberg Metadata Tables & Columns

**\$properties** - Show basic information about the table

**\$history** - Shows basic history of the table

**\$snapshots** - Shows history of snapshots

**\$manifests** - List of manifest files

**\$partitions** - Information on partitioning on the table

**\$files** - Data files associated with the table

**\$path** - Full file system path name of the data file for this row

**\$file\_modified\_time** - Timestamp of the last modification of the data file for this row

```
SELECT *, "$path", "$file_modified_time" FROM <table_name>
```

```
SELECT * FROM "<table_name>$properties"
```

# Iceberg Metadata Tables - Example

committed_at	snapshot_id	parent_id	operation	manifest_list	summary
2022-06-02 07:00:39.747 ...	8898509898101371000	NULL	append	s3://lakehouse-sb/blog/iceberg_test_snaps...	{ changed-partition-count ...
2022-06-02 07:00:42.923...	6576729567558493000	8898509898101371000	append	s3://lakehouse-sb/blog/iceberg_test_snaps...	{ changed-partition-count ...
2022-06-02 07:00:46.201 ...	8373865355217030000	6576729567558493000	append	s3://lakehouse-sb/blog/iceberg_test_snaps...	{ changed-partition-count ...
2022-06-02 07:00:49.283...	1978685887502723000	8373865355217030000	append	s3://lakehouse-sb/blog/iceberg_test_snaps...	{ changed-partition-count ...
2022-06-02 07:00:52.276 ...	3470249778653180400	1978685887502723000	append	s3://lakehouse-sb/blog/iceberg_test_snaps...	{ changed-partition-count ...

```
SELECT * FROM mycatalog.myschema."<table_name>$snapshots"
```

# Iceberg Metadata Deep-Dive

<https://www.starburst.io/community/forum/t/iceberg-metadata-blog-series/>

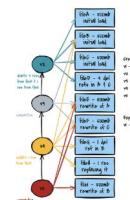
Lester Martin (l11n) – 27 Dec 24



## iceberg acid transactions with partitions (a behind the scenes perspective) 2

a port of my prior post taking a deeper look at what happens under the hood of hive with "acid" transactions — this time on iceberg tables with parquet files

Lester Martin (l11n) – 7 Jul 24



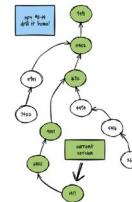
## iceberg snapshots affect storage footprint (not performance) 1

it is easy to understand why most folks initially imagine that iceberg's ability to maintain a long history of snapshots will cause performance problems, but that is not the case — the ...

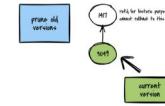
Lester Martin (l11n) – 16 Feb 24

## iceberg snapshot is\_current\_ancestor flag (what does it tell us)

i've noticed the `is_current_ancestor` column of the apache iceberg `$history` metadata table for a while now – it wasn't until i got a direct question about it that i realized it was...



Lester Martin (l11n) – 21 Feb 24



## apache iceberg table maintenance (is\_current\_ancestor part deux) 2

as a follow-on to my earlier post about iceberg versioning (and the `is_current_ancestor` flag), i thought it would be useful to show working examples of the maintenance activities that are needed to...

More of my Iceberg ramblings at <https://lestermartin.blog/tag/iceberg/>

# Trino Iceberg Connector

<https://trino.io/docs/current/connector/iceberg.html>



## Features supported (& many more)

Catalogs - HMS, Glue, JDBC, REST (incl. Polaris), Nessie, Snowflake

ACID operations - Insert/Update/Delete/Merge

Maint - File compaction, snapshot expiration, rm orphan files, etc

SQL access to metadata - Snapshots, manifests, partitions, etc

Time travel, rollbacks, branches & tags

Materialized view (full & incremental refresh) w/staleness detection

Partitioning, sorting, bloom filters, and bucketing support

Hive table migration, table change detection & more

Add files & partition-level deletions



# Trino Iceberg Connector - Wins, Needs & Roadmap

- Supports Apache Polaris and Amazon S3 Tables
- Write support added to Databricks Unity Catalog (has been read-only so far)
- add\_files function does not support partitioned tables
- Implementing V3 support including
  - New data types (in progress)
  - Default value support for columns (done)
  - Row-level lineage (done)
  - Deletion vectors (done)
  - Table encryption (done)

# Live Demonstration with Trino

Demo SQL queries

[https://github.com/lestermartin/events/blob/main/2025-08-27\\_NC-IcebergMeetup/demo.sql.txt](https://github.com/lestermartin/events/blob/main/2025-08-27_NC-IcebergMeetup/demo.sql.txt)



Thanks. | ດັນຍວາດ | Grazie | 谢谢 | Merci | ありがとう | Gracias | 감사합니다 | Danke

# Questions ?

**Test with Trino managed service**

(Start Free)

[Starburst Galaxy](#)

[devrel@starburst.io](mailto:devrel@starburst.io)

