**Data LAke**

[Data lakes](https://www.talend.com/resources/what-is-data-lake/) and [data warehouses](https://www.talend.com/resources/what-is-data-warehouse/) are both widely used for storing [big data](https://www.talend.com/products/big-data/), but they are not interchangeable terms. A data lake is a vast pool of raw data, the purpose for which is not yet defined. A data warehouse is a repository for structured, filtered data that has already been processed for a specific purpose.

The two types of data storage are often confused, but are much more different than they are alike. In fact, the only real similarity between them is their high-level purpose of storing data.

The distinction is important because they serve different purposes and require different sets of eyes to be properly optimized. While a data lake works for one company, a data warehouse will be a better fit for another.

There are several differences between a data lake and a data warehouse. [Data structure](https://info.talend.com/en_ai_reduce_time_maintenance_datamapping.html?type=article), ideal users, processing methods, and the overall purpose of the data are the key differentiators.

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|  | **Data Lake** | **Data Warehouse** |
| Data Structure | Raw | Processed |
| Purpose of Data | Not Yet Determined | Currently In Use |
| Users | Data Scientists | Business Professionals |
| Accessibility | Highly accessible and quick to update | More complicated and costly to make changes |