



Last updated on **Nov 21, 2025**

Develop and debug pipelines with a notebook (legacy)

ⓘ PREVIEW

This feature is in [Public Preview](#). You can confirm preview enrollment on the **Previews** page. See [Manage Databricks previews](#).

This article describes how to use a notebook in Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines to develop and debug ETL pipelines.

ⓘ NOTE

This page describes the legacy notebook editing experience. The default, recommended experience is the Lakeflow Pipelines Editor. You can use the Lakeflow Pipelines Editor to edit notebooks, or Python or SQL code files for a pipeline. For more information, see [Develop and debug ETL pipelines with the Lakeflow Pipelines Editor](#).

To configure the notebook experience described on this page, you must turn off the Lakeflow Pipelines Editor. See [Enable the Lakeflow Pipelines Editor and updated monitoring](#).

Overview of notebooks in Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines

When you work on a Python or SQL notebook that is configured as source code for an existing pipeline, you can connect the notebook directly to the pipeline. When the notebook is connected to the pipeline, the following features are available:

- Start and validate the pipeline from the notebook.
- View the pipeline's dataflow graph and event log for the latest update in the notebook.
- View pipeline diagnostics in the notebook editor.
- View the status of the pipeline's cluster in the notebook.
- Access the Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines UI from the notebook.

Prerequisites

- You must have an existing pipeline with a Python or SQL notebook configured as source code.
- You must either be the owner of the pipeline or have the `CAN_MANAGE` privilege.

Limitations

- The features covered in this article are only available in Databricks notebooks. Workspace files are not supported.
- The web terminal is not available when attached to a pipeline. As a result, it is not visible as a tab in the bottom panel.

Connect a notebook to a pipeline

Inside the notebook, click on the drop-down menu used to select compute. The drop-down menu shows all your Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines with this notebook as source code. To connect the notebook to a pipeline, select it from the list.

View the pipeline's cluster status

To easily understand the state of your pipeline's cluster, its status is shown in the compute drop-down menu with a green color to indicate that the cluster is running.

Validate pipeline code

You can [validate the pipeline](#) to check for syntax errors in your source code without processing any data.

To validate a pipeline, do one of the following:

- In the top-right corner of the notebook, click **Validate**.
- Press `Shift+Enter` in any notebook cell.
- In a cell's dropdown menu, click **Validate Pipeline**.

NOTE

If you attempt to validate your pipeline while an existing update is already running, a dialog box displays asking if you want to terminate the existing update. If you click **Yes**, the existing update stops, and a *validate* update automatically starts.

Start a pipeline update

To start an update of your pipeline, click the **Start** button in the top-right corner of the notebook. See [Run a pipeline update](#).

View the status of an update

The top panel in the notebook displays whether a pipeline update is:

- Starting
- Validating
- Stopping

View errors and diagnostics

After you start a pipeline update or validation, any errors are shown inline with a red underline. Hover over an error to see more information.

View pipeline events

When attached to a pipeline, there is a Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines event log tab at the bottom of the notebook.

DLT graph

DLT event log

All

Info

Warning

Error

Filter...

24 minutes ago

update_progress

Update b6bb9a is INITIALIZING.

24 minutes ago

flow_progress

Failed to resolve flow due to upstream failure: 'legendary_classified'.

24 minutes ago

flow_progress

Failed to resolve flow: 'pokemon_legendary'.

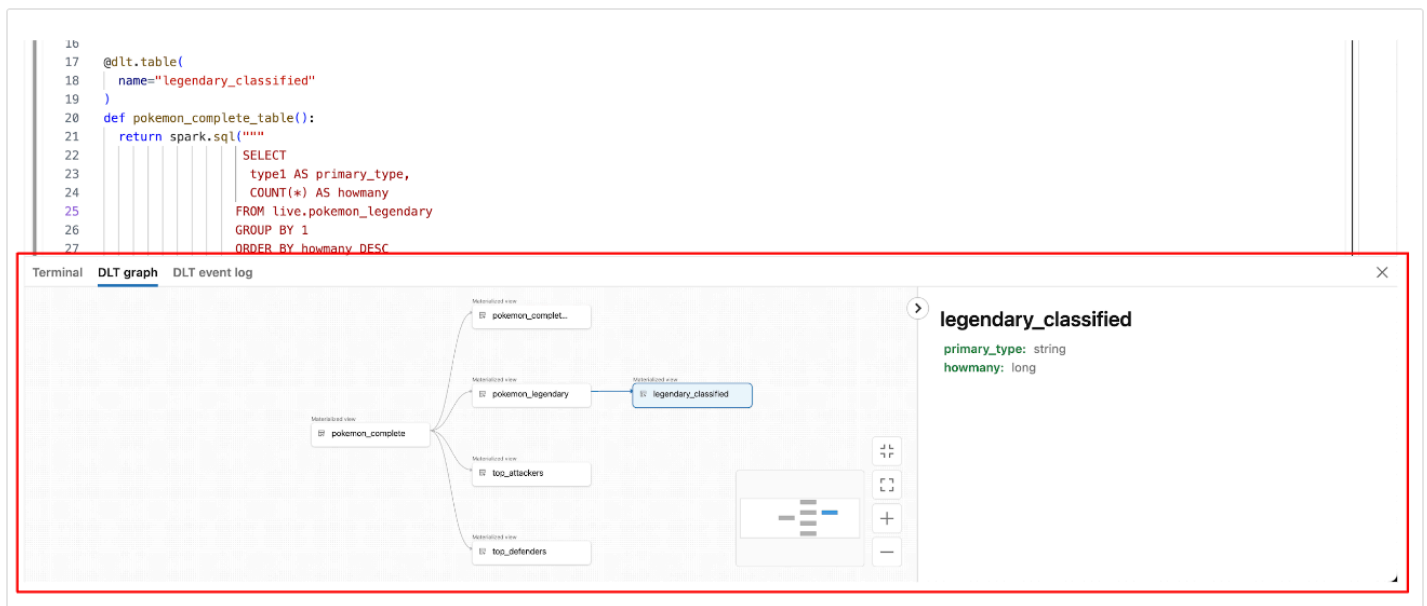
24 minutes ago

update_progress

Update b6bb9a is FAILED.

View the pipeline Dataflow Graph

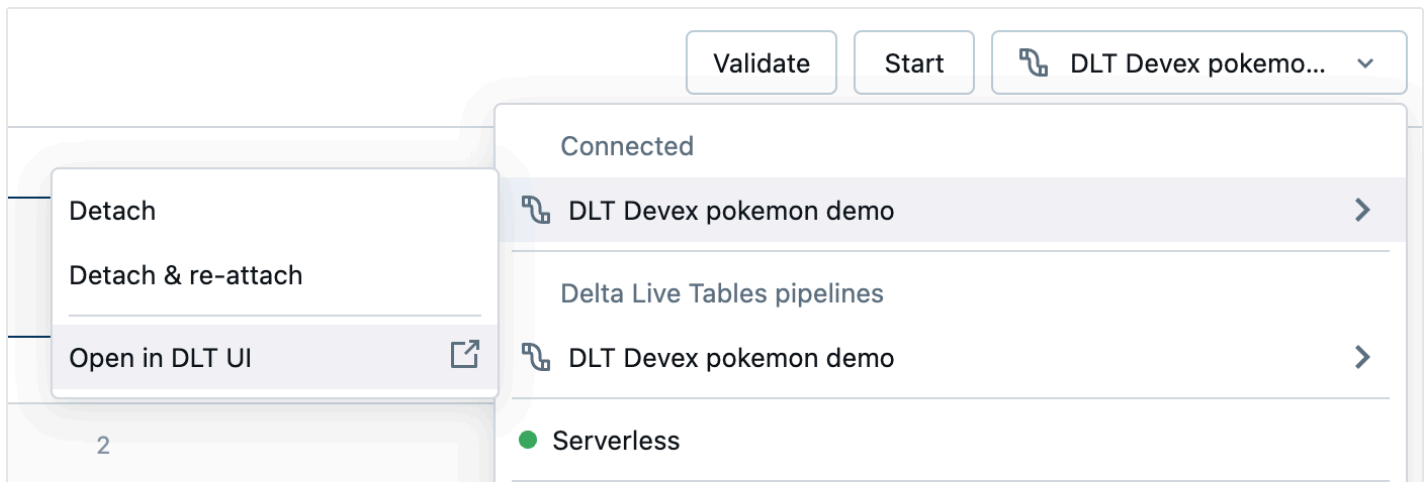
To view a pipeline's dataflow graph, use the Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines graph tab at the bottom of the notebook. Selecting a node in the graph displays its schema in the right panel.



How to access the Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines UI from the notebook

Ask Assistant

To easily jump to the Lakeflow Spark Declarative Pipelines UI, use the menu in the top-right corner of the notebook.



Access driver logs and the Spark UI from the notebook

The driver logs and Spark UI associated with the pipeline being developed can be easily accessed from the notebook's **View** menu.

☒ Standard

Results only

Side-by-side

Web Terminal

View driver logs

View Spark UI

☒ Line numbers☒ Command numbers

Table of contents

Variable explorer **New**

Collapse all headings

☒ Top navigation bar☒ Smart quote and bracket matching

Theme >

Editor theme **New** >

25

26

e(
kemon_complete_count"n_complete_table():
spark.sql("SELECT COUNT(*)e(
L kemon_legendary"t_or_drop("type1_is_none"
n_complete_table():
spark.sql("SELECT * FROMe(
legendary_classified"n_complete_table():
spark.sql("""SELECT
type1 AS primar
COUNT(*) AS hov
FROM live.pokemor
GROUP BY 1