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| Clone | A copy of a storage object which could be a database, schema, or table. This is usually referred to as a zero-copy clone which means the underlying data exists only once, but metadata creates different entities on top of the base data. |
| Credits | Snowflake means of billing is with compute credits. One credit is charged for one node running for one hour in Snowflake. Larger warehouses consist of more nodes and therefore charge more credits per hour. You pay for each credit consumed. The rates will differ slightly based on the platform on which Snowflake resides (AWS, Azure or Google). |
| Data Sharing | Secure data sharing is a unique feature of Snowflake that allows account-to-account sharing of data. This allows producers to securely expose databases, schemas, and tables to consumers. The sharing is live and has a wide range of configurations, such as Reader accounts, to ensure the desired billing of storage and compute. |
| Database | The top-level storage object in Snowflake. All storage objects are contained within a database. A Snowflake account can have many databases. |
| Fail-safe | Provides a 7-day (non-configurable) period during which historical data may be recovered by Snowflake and only Snowflake. |
| File Format | A Snowflake named file format is a collection of rules for processing data contained in files into and out of Snowflake stages. Some of these rules include how data is formatted, error tolerance and more. |
| Materialized View | This is a stored query again an underlying table that physically stores data, unlike a traditional view. They are commonly used in Snowflake when working with external unstructured data. |
| Micro-partitions | Contiguous units of storage at the table level. Each micro-partition contains between 50-500 MB of data, before compression. A table could have tens or hundreds of thousands of micro-partitions. |
| Namespace | The combination of a database name and schema name. |
| Privilege | Definitions of specific access permissions to specific objects. In Snowflake privileges on objects are granted to roles and roles are assigned to users or other roles. Privileges are never assigned directly to users. |
| Pruning | Refers to a mechanism where a query can skip reading micro-partitions based on meta-data contained about each micro-partition. This can significantly improve query performance. |
| Role | A unit of security in Snowflake to which privileges are assigned. Roles are assigned to users to authorize user activity. |
| Schema | Schemas are contained in databases and is the second layer of storage organization, databases being the first. They are containers that hold tables, views, stages, and other objects. A database plus a schema defines what is known as a namespace in Snowflake. |
| Sequence | A generator object that creates unique values for use in SQL statements. |
| Snowpipe | Snowflakes continuous data loading technology. It is primarily used to ingest data from external stages where data is residing on one of the supported cloud platforms (AWS, Azure or Google). |
| SnowSQL | This is the Snowflake CLI (Command Line Interface) tool. It can also be used to refer to the flavor of SQL Snowflake supports. |
| Stage | This is a file location (internal to Snowflake or external) such as S3 in AWS or Blob Storage in Azure where data is in a Snowflake-supported file format. Typically, data is put into stages before loading or unloading data to and/or from Snowflake. |
| Stored Procedures | Very similar in concept to a stored procedure you might use in SQL Server. A significant difference is that stored procedures in Snowflake can be written using JavaScript or SQL. |
| Streams | Much like CDC (Change Data Capture) where changes in rows are recorded. They can be queried like regular tables but include an updated record of every change made in a table. |
| Table | The lowest level object in Snowflake, below a database and schema. Each table in Snowflake holds micro-partitioned data. |
| Tasks | A SQL statement executed either on a schedule or in response to a parent task. |
| Temporary Table | Tables that exist only for the duration of a session and are not accessible by another users. Most useful for ELT processes. Does not use Fail-safe. |
| Time Travel | A fancy, interesting name for technology that allows users to query the state of a table at different points in the past, within a range of time (1-90 days). Transient and temporary tables only ever have 1 day of time travel available. |
| Transaction | A collection of SQL statements that must be entirely executed and committed or none of them are. Fully ACID compliant in Snowflake. |
| Transient Table | Like temporary tables but they persist beyond the current session. They can be queried by other users. Does not use Fail-safe. |
| User-defined Function | Contains one or more lines of SQL or JavaScript logic that accepts arguments and returns a scalar value or rows of data. Does not support any DML operations. |
| View | A wrapper around a table object that can be queried and return results that are the same or different from the underlying table(s). They contain no actual data, unlike materialized views. |
| Virtual Warehouse | The object of compute in Snowflake. Has nothing to do with the traditional understanding of a warehouse. The size dictates how many nodes are in the compute cluster that execute queries. They can retain raw data in a cache as long as they are not suspended. Billing is based on 1 credit per 1 node. |
| Web UI | The Snowflake browser-based user interface |
| Worksheet | A tab within the Snowflake Web UI with its own distinct connection context. Each worksheet has its own SQL editor and results tab and more. |