### External Tables

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## #What is an External Table in snowflake? Why would you use it in your project?

External tables in snowflake as the name suggests are tables where the table data is stored outside or externally to snowflake database in an external stage and can be queried from snowflake with the help of SQL.

- External tables are ready only, no DML operation is allowed
- · You can create views and use them in joins
- Generally slower than a snowflake table to return data.
- Can be partitioned to improve query performance.

#### Why use External Tables?

- Can be used to ingest data from cloud storage by select as insert for large files.
- Avoid the effort of writing code to ingest data with the Copy command.
- · Can create streams on external tables to ingest data in near real time
- · Same file can be consumed by multiple applications

#### # What does the alter external table <tablename> refresh do?

When a file is added to cloud storage to the location where the external table is pointing to this file is not accessible to the snowflake external table. We need to register the newly added file with the external table and we can do this by using the alter external table refresh command.

Once we run the alter command, the file is registered with the external table and the data can be selected from it.

It is also possible to setup automatic notifications so that the external table is alerted when files are added or deleted.

# Thank you!

