

Azure Databricks: Building your own AI-Powered Data Assistance

Wilson Mok

Feb 26, 2026

Bio



Wilson Mok

Director, Data and AI

/wilson-mok

/wilson-mok

@the-analytics-lab



My experiences includes:

- Avanade
- CAE
- Air Canada



Expected Audience and Presentation Structure

What We'll Cover:

- Sign-up for a free Databricks account.
- Prepare the data for our Data Assistant.
- What is a Genie and how it helps users get answers from data using natural language.
- Refine Genie's response to improve the response accuracy of the Data Assistant.

Fundamental knowledge: Basic SQL and Python.

- Experienced with Databricks and AI/BI Genie would be beneficial but not required.

Databricks Free Edition: What it is & When to use it?

What it can do

- Sandbox for learning or personal projects
- Same tool as the enterprise version with some limited capabilities
- Easy to start: Sign-up and go.

Link: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/databricks/getting-started/free-edition>

Limitations

- Limited computing power
- One Databricks workspace per account
- Data is stored in the Databricks default storage
- Inactive accounts for a prolonged period might be deleted
- No security customization
- No SLA (its free!)

To really learn the platform, we need to work with real data

Yelp Open Dataset

A real-world dataset designed for educational use.



6,990,280

Reviews



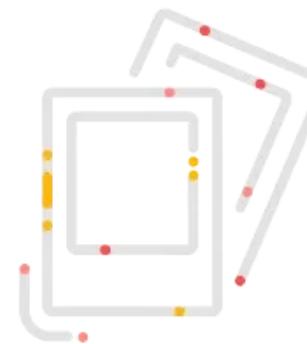
150,346

Businesses



11

Metropolitan areas



200,100

Pictures

Link: <https://business.yelp.com/data/resources/open-dataset/>

Demo 1: Preparing data for Data Assistant



Image Credit: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/databricks/getting-started/free-edition>

Q & A 1

What is Genie and How Does It Work?

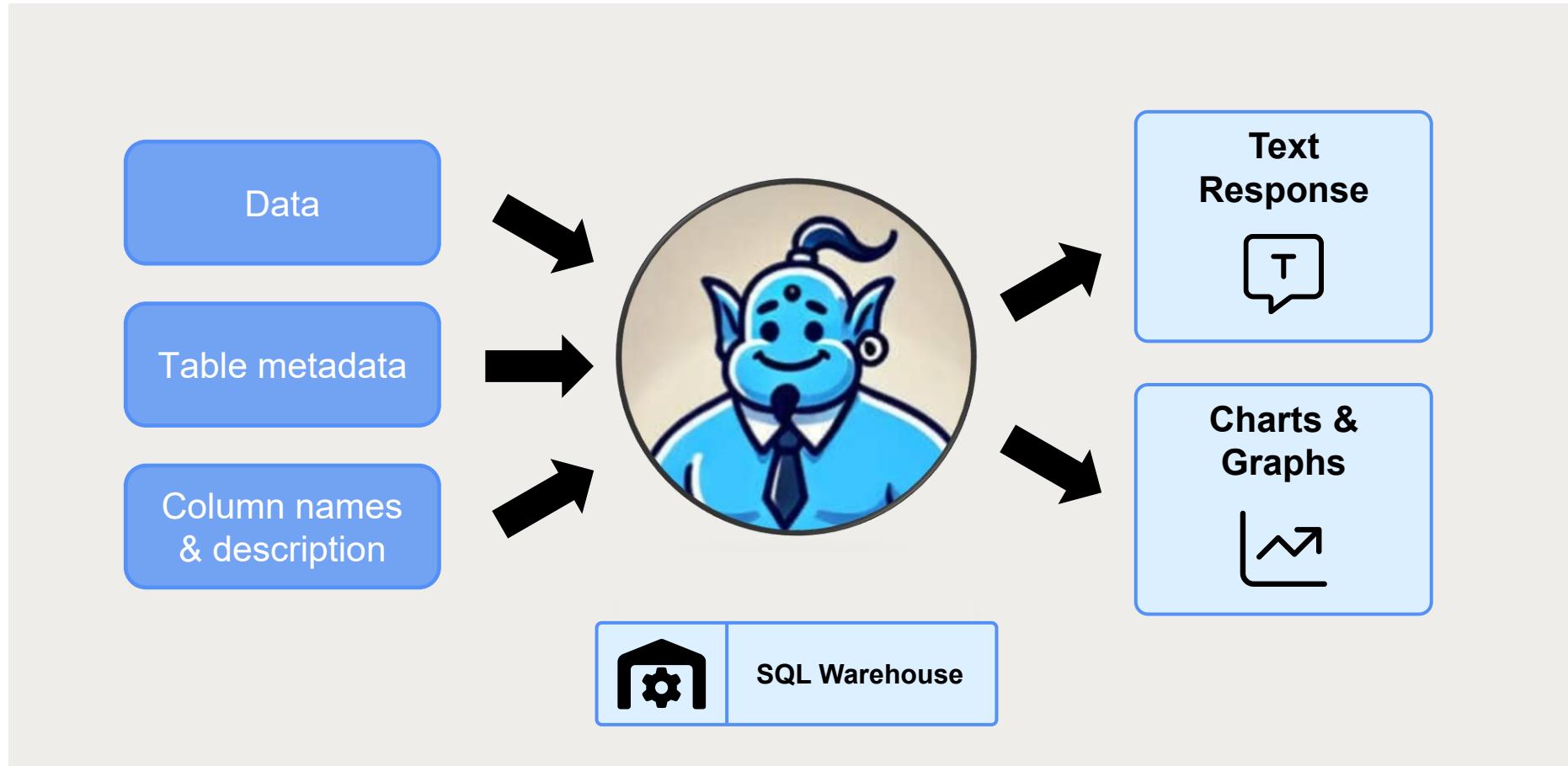


Image Credit: <https://www.databricks.com/blog/onboarding-your-new-aibi-genie>

How Do We Make Genie Accurate and Trusted?

Genie Lifecycle

1. Define & Prepare

Lay the foundation with business-aligned data

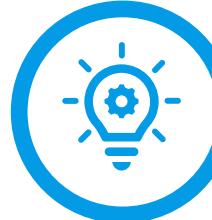
- Define the purpose and audience
- Select the right tables
- Improve Metadata Quality



2. Configure

Tailor Genie's logic, context and trusted assets

- Review Value Dictionaries
- Add Custom Instructions
- Create Trusted Assets



3. Validate

Quality control and validate results

- Improve accuracy through Benchmark testing.
- Validate results to measure accuracy.



4. Monitor & Refine

Monitor user responses and apply feedback

- Monitor user feedback
- Continuous Improvement through refining configurations.



Demo 3: Let's Build One



Genie Lifecycle

1. Define & Prepare

Lay the foundation with business-aligned data

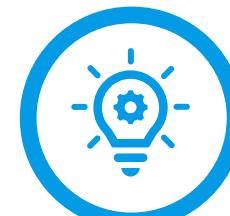
- Define the purpose and audience
- Select the right tables
- Improve Metadata Quality



2. Configure

Tailor Genie's logic, context and trusted assets

- Review Value Dictionaries
- Add Custom Instructions
- Create Trusted Assets



4. Monitor & Refine

Monitor user responses and apply feedback

- Monitor user feedback
- Continuous Improvement through refining configurations.



3. Validate

Quality control and validate results

- Improve accuracy through Benchmark testing.
- Validate results to measure accuracy.



Key Takeaways: Creating an Accurate and Trusted Data Assistant

- Databricks Free Edition lets you experiment and learn using real-work data and tool.
- Raw data must be structured and cleaned before it becomes usable for analytics or AI.
- Genie translates business questions into SQL (delta tables and metadata).
- Clear metadata, defined scope, and business alignments are key to improve Genie's responses.
- Continuous improvement is key to create and maintain a dependable data assistant.

- The code is in my Github repo:
 - <https://github.com/wilson-mok/demo/tree/main/2026/EDS/1-Trusted-Data-Assistant/>

Thank you



LinkedIn