

Course 4 glossary

Terms and definitions from Course 4

A

Abstraction: A concept used to understand complex concepts and ideas by focusing on the most essential parts

Alerting: A feature that enables dashboard users to receive a notification when predetermined conditions are met or exceeded

Automatic refreshing: A process that enables dashboards to be automatically updated at regular intervals

B

Branch: A working copy of a repository

C

Caching: The process of storing data in a temporary location so that it can be accessed more quickly in the future

Caching policy: A set of rules that determine how long cached results are stored, and when they are refreshed

Categorical data (Qualitative data): A subjective and explanatory measure of a quality or characteristic

D

Dashboards as code: An approach to managing dashboards by defining them in code

Data blending: The process of combining data from multiple data sources to create a single report visualization

Data catalog: A centralized inventory of an organization's data assets

Data drilling: A process that allows users to explore data in more detail by revealing additional levels of information

Data exploration: The process of understanding a dataset by inspecting its characteristics, identifying patterns, and asking questions

Data freshness: How current, or up-to-date, the data within a report or dashboard is

Data governance: A process for ensuring the formal management of a company's data

Data literacy: The ability to understand and use data

Data model: A concept for organizing data elements and how they relate to one another

Data modeling: The process of designing, structuring, joining, and transforming data to prepare it for reporting

Data modeling language: A tool used to create and represent semantic data models

Data report: A visualization of detailed business intelligence data for making business decisions

Data silo: A collection of data held by one group at a central location

Data visualization: The graphical representation of data using charts, graphs, and other visual formats

Data-driven culture: A culture in which both technical and nontechnical workers collaborate, and feel empowered to make decisions with data

Derived table: A query whose results are used as if it were an actual table in the database

Dimensional hierarchy: A way to define the levels of detail in a dataset that a chart can display

Dimensions: Unique attributes that help you describe data

Drill through: A technique that allows users to navigate to related visualizations

Drilling down: A technique that reveals additional levels of detail within a chart by moving down the hierarchy from more general, to more granular data

Drilling up: A technique that reveals fewer levels of detail within a chart by moving up the hierarchy from more granular, to more general data

E

Enterprise-grade data visualization tools: A type of data visualization software used by large data-driven organizations to explore, analyze, and share business analytics

F

Filtering: A tool for limiting the data returned from a query based on specific criteria

G

Guided analytics: An approach to business intelligence where solutions, like reports and dashboards, are created by the data team to meet a specific need

I

Integrated Development Environment (IDE): An application that brings together the tools needed for development in a user-friendly environment

L

Live dashboard: A data visualization tool that provides near real-time data updates

M

Measures: Aggregations of one or more dimensions, like a count or average

Metadata: Data about data

Metadata management: The process of managing, accessing, and organizing metadata

Modularity: A concept that breaks down a system into smaller parts that can be easily separated and reused

N

Numerical data (Quantitative data): A specific and objective measure, like a number, quantity, or range

O

Organization-wide metrics: Metrics that are defined and shared across teams

R

Repository: A central location for storing and managing the files and history of a project

S

Sampling: The technique of selecting a segment of a dataset that is representative of the entire dataset in order to better understand its characteristics

Scorecard: A statistical record used to measure achievement or progress toward a goal

Self-service analytics: An approach to business intelligence that allows both technical and non-technical users across an organization to access data, perform ad-hoc data analysis, and generate reports

Semantic data model: A type of data model that uses everyday language to represent data

Semantic layer: A set of definitions and logic that helps ensure that everyone in the organization understands the data in the same way

T

Time sensitive data: Data that must be acted on within a specific time frame, or it loses value

U

User experience (UX): The overall experience a user has with a product or service, especially in terms of how easy or pleasing it is to use

User interface (UI): The means through which a user and a computer system interact

V

Version control: A process to track changes to your code, data, or other files over time

W

Wireframe: A visual representation of the structure and functionality of a user interface or product layout