Data analyst job responsibilities

So far, you've learned that a data analyst is someone who collects, transforms, and organizes data in order to draw conclusions, make predictions, and make informed decisions about data. A cloud data analyst performs all of these tasks while working in a cloud environment. This means that most of the data and services they use to perform analysis tasks are located in the cloud. In this reading, you'll learn more about the cloud data analytics role, and review an example of the daily tasks a cloud data analyst might be responsible for.

The basics

Cloud data analysts gather, clean, and process data. Then, they use this data to create reports and communicate results with stakeholders. While the cloud data analyst may participate in all stages of the data lifecycle, they sometimes have the opportunity to learn and use other skills. To understand how cloud data analysts contribute to the data lifecycle, it's helpful to explore some of their responsibilities.

Storytelling

At this point, you know that cloud data analysts generate reports, but what they do with the reports can be even more important. Highly effective data analysts know how to tell a story with data. They use their data reports to convey information in an understandable and engaging way. It's important to not only know what you're speaking about, but also who you are speaking to. When working with various stakeholders, it can be important to adjust your storytelling style to your audience.

Patterns

As cloud data analysts become more attuned to reviewing data, they start to notice patterns. Finding patterns in data, like trends in sales, enables analysts to develop story arcs, conclusions, and presentations to share with their organization. In some cases, patterns can be used to create predictions.

Business goals

While a cloud data analyst is generally focused on numbers, they'll sometimes help develop organizational goals. This might include developing objectives and key results (OKRs), key performance indicators (KPIs), or quarterly goals. A data analyst likely knows all the numbers, so they can provide useful insight, and help their organization set realistic goals.

Coding

As a cloud data analyst, you'll primarily focus on SQL in a platform like BigQuery. These SQL skills can also translate into simple scripting skills, like using Jupyter Notebook to create dashboards. Keep in mind, you may need to develop more computer science skills as you learn to manipulate data.

Key takeaways

As a cloud data analyst, the bulk of your responsibilities will revolve around the data lifecycle. Depending on the organization and your experience, you may also be able to participate in many auxiliary tasks associated with data and cloud data analysis.

Resources for more information

Check out these resources to learn about other tasks a data analyst may perform on the job:
- Rasmussen University provides a list of tasks a data analyst may perform: http://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/technology/blog/what-does-a-data-analyst-do/
- Career Foundry provides information about a typical day in the life of a data analyst: https://careerfoundry.com/en/blog/data-analytics/whats-it-like-to-actually-be-a-data-analyst/