Modernizing Your Analytics & Data Platform with Snowflake Cloud Data Warehouse

Business Challenge

The pressure to leverage data as a business asset has never been stronger. Companies today are busy formulating data strategies that position their teams with capabilities able to create new market/product offerings and to create competitive advantages relative to their peers. The world is moving faster and operationalizing data pipelines with actionable analytics solutions is a critical competency. The reality is companies are still bound by prior investments in technology, in-house skill sets, and available budgets but these must be overcome, using a thoughtful and pragmatic approach, to avoid being left behind.

Over the past few years it appeared as though open source-based big data computing frameworks like Hadoop and Spark were the way to go. Enterprise architects found them intriguing given their ease of deployment, scalability and cost efficiency but these frameworks have proven to be somewhat lacking in the administrative capabilities and true implementation success stories have been hard to identify. While all these big data/advanced analytics frameworks were being hyper-glamorized, “legacy” enterprise data warehouse (EDW) assets, many around for decades, have quietly continued to deliver enterprise analytics solutions, and associated business value. But – the reality is that any EDW platform built 10+ years ago requires modernization, or at the very least an augmentation of a more operational/business agile data platform like Snowflake. Recent advances in high volume storage methods, licensing methods, and segregated compute/scalability issues, market leading platforms like Snowflake Computing, have addressed many of the most critical challenges. Organizations must however take actionable steps to better understand the changing landscape for data platforming and consider strategies that combine or replace traditional DW platforms (i.e. SAP HANA, Teradata) with operational, and often business team created, data lakes and cloud DW platforms (i.e. Snowflake).
STRATEGY: QuickLaunch Service for Snowflake Cloud Data Warehouse

In this one day free workshop, key enterprise stakeholders will share challenges with their current data platform and analytics deployments, and learn more about:

- Key capabilities differentiating Snowflake Computing from its competitors (i.e. hyper-scalable patented architecture which separates compute from storage, unlimited concurrency, zero management administration, and secure data sharing)
- How this modern and market leading cloud-based data warehouse platform is changing the game and creating sizable cost of ownership benefits for enterprise customers through the consolidation of disparate data marts into the cloud
- Available deployment options and directional sizing metrics to support licensing (i.e. pay for the compute and storage that you actually use)
  - Turn compute resources on and off so you only pay for what you use
  - Store unlimited amounts of data at affordable cloud rates (AWS S3, MS Azure)
  - Grow your analytics infrastructure with linear cost scalability
- Establishing a hybrid DW landscape (for example, SAP HANA + Snowflake) to account for legacy installation factors and/or use cases; Learn about options to replicate data real time from SAP directly into Snowflake staging tables
- Leveraging agile and flexible implementation methodologies to quickly establish time-to-value for your business users; All while ensuring proper data governance and data protection

As an outcome from the workshop, you will better understand where DW technologies are going – and highlight important best practices and actionable steps to facilitate a migration towards a modern approach based on Snowflake.
DEPLOY: QuickLaunch Service for the Snowflake Cloud Data Warehouse

In this one week engagement, Method360’s experienced Snowflake Data Engineers will partner with your team to establish a single data pipeline and activate key Snowflake capabilities inside your landscape. In this engagement, you will:

- Establish your data storage node (based on your selected storage option of AWS S3 or MS Azure) and one compute cluster
- Establish your Snowflake cluster, user access (business users, data engineers) and privileges
- Establish one data pipeline using a selected, and accepted, source into Snowflake staging tables, or alternately if consuming from an S3 or Azure data lake, build and ingest via SnowPipe
- Establish proven best practices for internal Snowflake data storage using Staging, Base, and Historical tables; Leverage SnowSQL for high-volume ingestion/ETL into target DW tables and where appropriate highlight specific gaps in the ingestion/ETL process where tools like Matillion are required to support efficiency and scale
- Establish basic upsert/aggregation functions, combine tables within and across Snowflake virtual warehouses, and develop one business user-facing data view
- Connect a Snowflake-supported BI tool to back-end data view; Build one report for business use
- Establish a secure data share (Data ShareHouse) for collaboration internally or externally with partners, suppliers, vendors, and even customers

As an outcome from the one week engagement, you will have reviewed and established key Snowflake capabilities and have hands-on experience with proven Snowflake best practices, using your own data. To learn more about our customers and services, please visit:

https://www.snowflake.com/our-customers/

https://method360.com/

To find out more about Method360’s solution offerings and how they can benefit your company, please contact us at 415.956.6360