



Using a Lakehouse Data Layer for Clinical Data Review

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28 Sept 2023

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Spring in the Forest

Background

- Need for a datamart of our [Data Review Environment](#) project
 - Templates in visualization tool
 - Performance
 - Separating the datalayer from the visualization tooling
- Proposed solution based on Databricks
 - Flexible and future proof
- Potential to cover more than just Datamart
 - Data pipelines from ingestion to analysis & Data Science/ML

Purpose is to share our current experiences with Databricks Lakehouse

Storing clinical data – J&J approach

Best of breed

Modular
implementation

Open environment

Ownership of
data

Cloud first

Integrations

Performance

Validated environment

Future & functionality proof

Storing clinical data

- Traditionally: collecting files
- Data processing, transforming, checking, wrangling, reporting, visualizing
- Versions, comparisons, structural drift, data drift
- Traditional dataflow based on moving files, tracking versions, keeping copies in separate data containers (e.g. processing vs review)
- Data review calls for data warehouse functionalities

Modern technologies allow for bringing together best of both worlds: flexibility of files vs functionality of databases



**Data
Lake**

Lakehouse

One platform to unify all of
your data, analytics, and AI
workloads



**Data
Warehouse**





Data Lake



DELTA LAKE

An open approach to bringing
**data management and
governance to data lakes**

Better reliability with transactions

48x faster data processing with
indexing

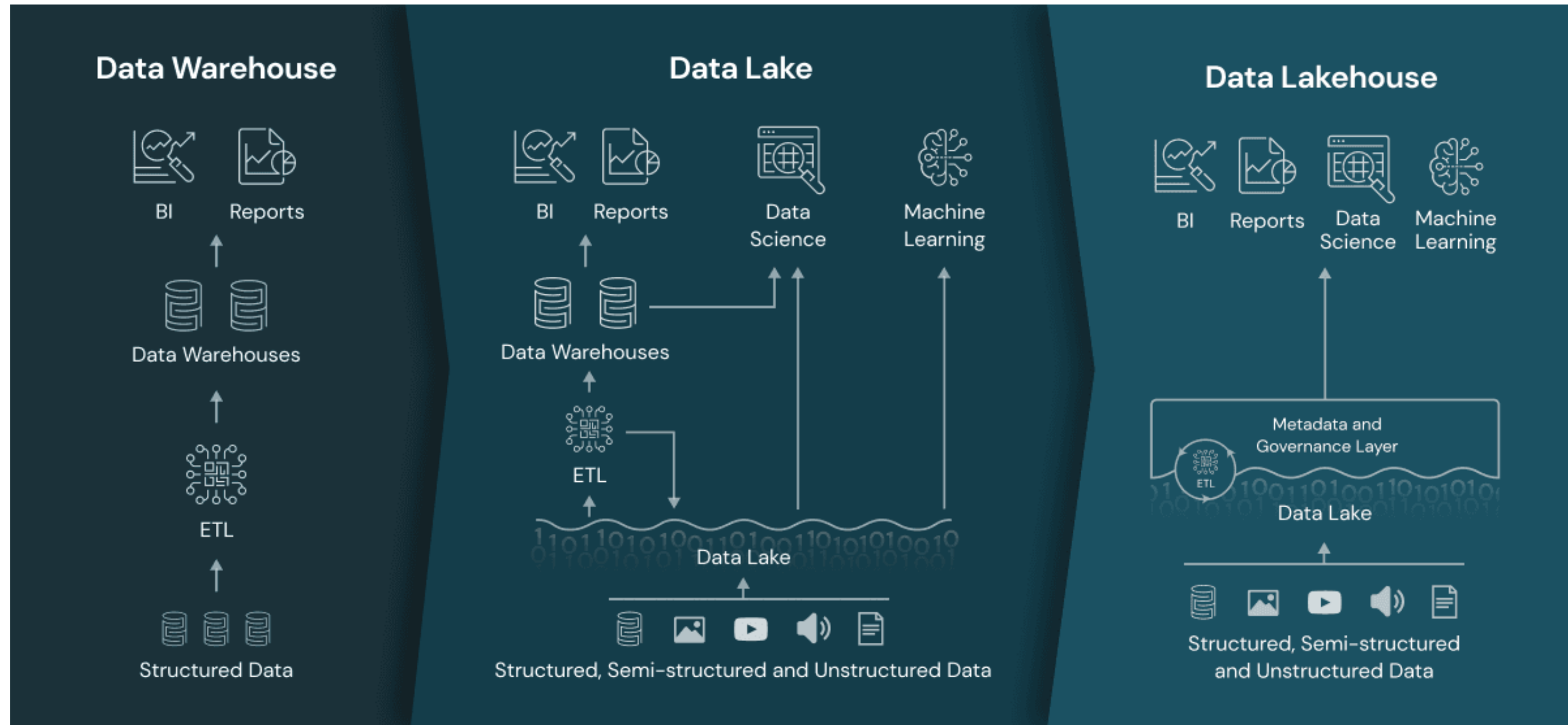
Data governance at scale with
fine-grained access control lists



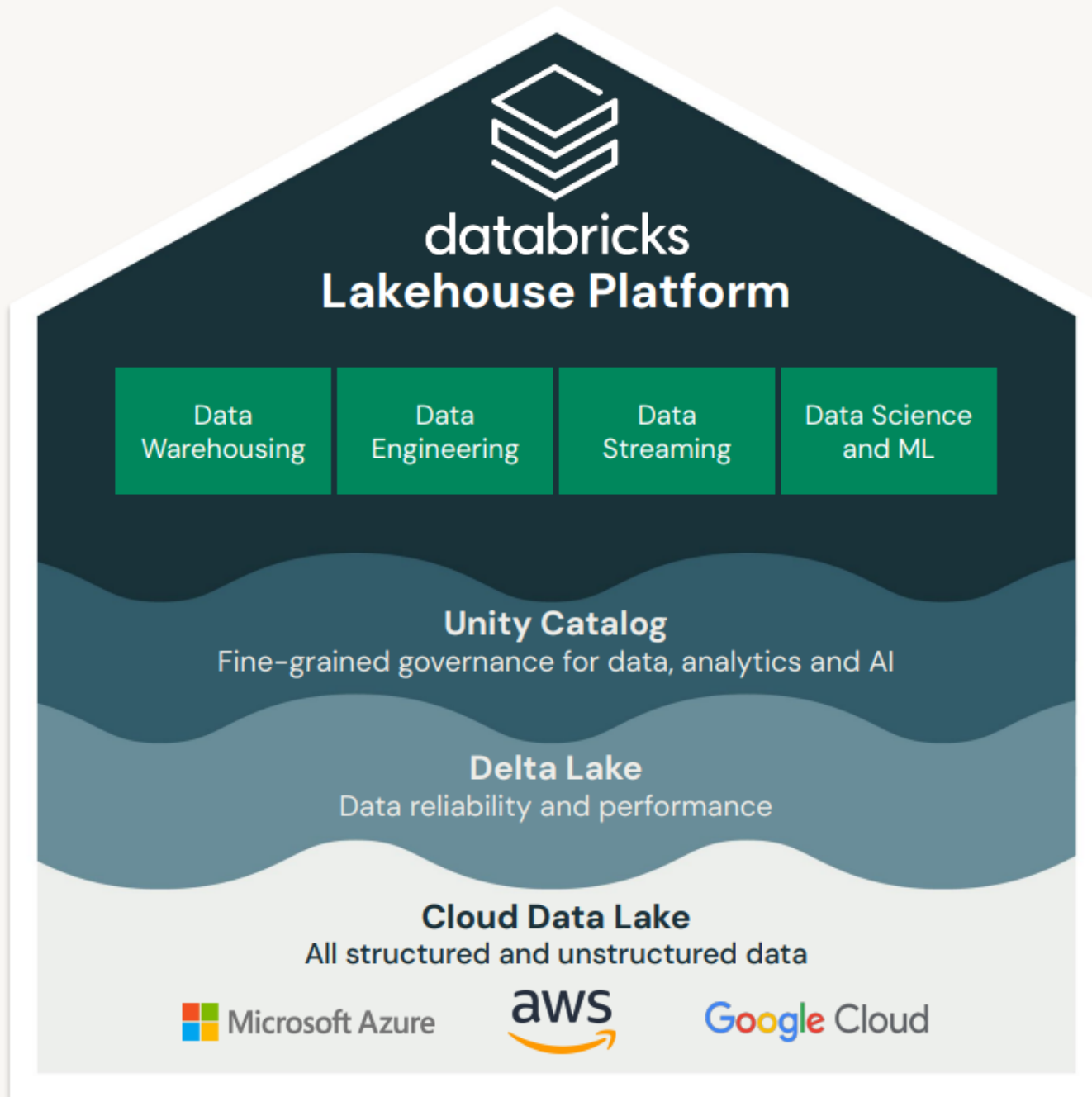
Data Warehouse



Lakehouse vs datalake vs database



Databricks architecture



Databricks Lakehouse Platform

Simple

Unify your data warehousing and AI use cases on a single platform

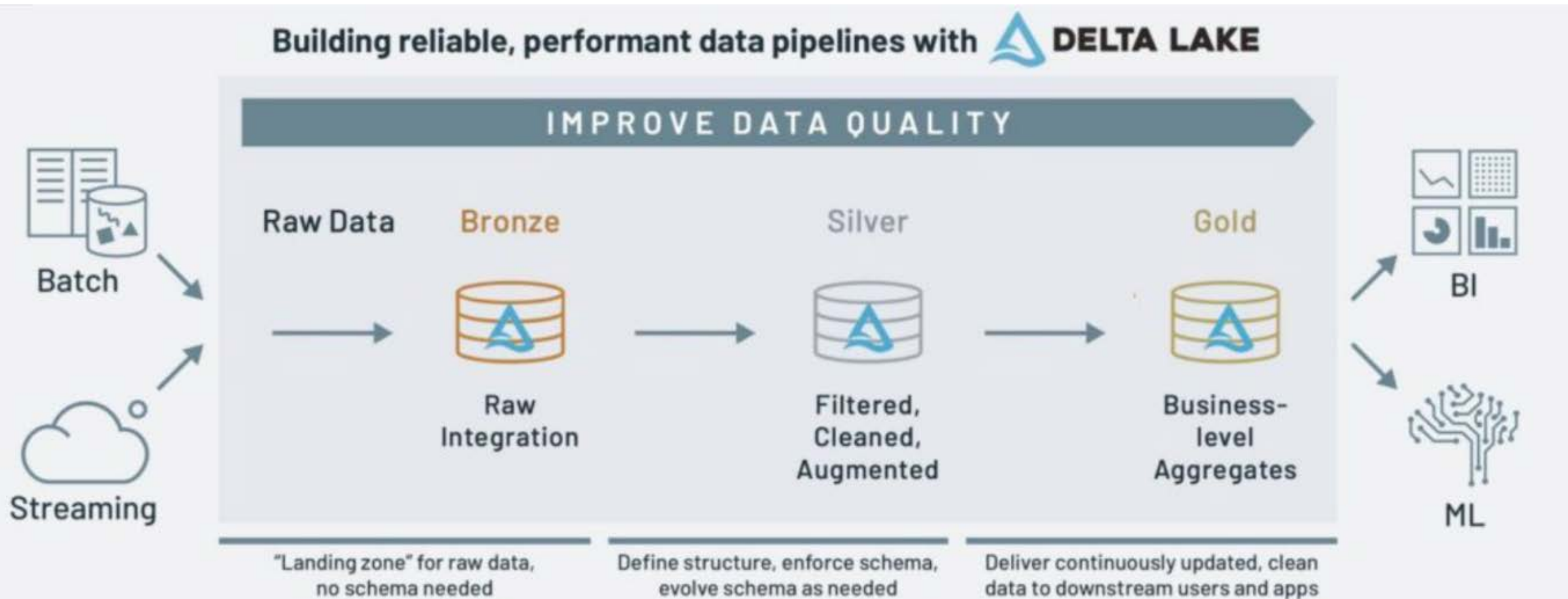
Multicloud

One consistent data platform across clouds

Open

Built on open source and open standards

Medallion architecture



Imported /
RAW data

Versioned
RAW data, id's

Versioned converted
Data with provenance

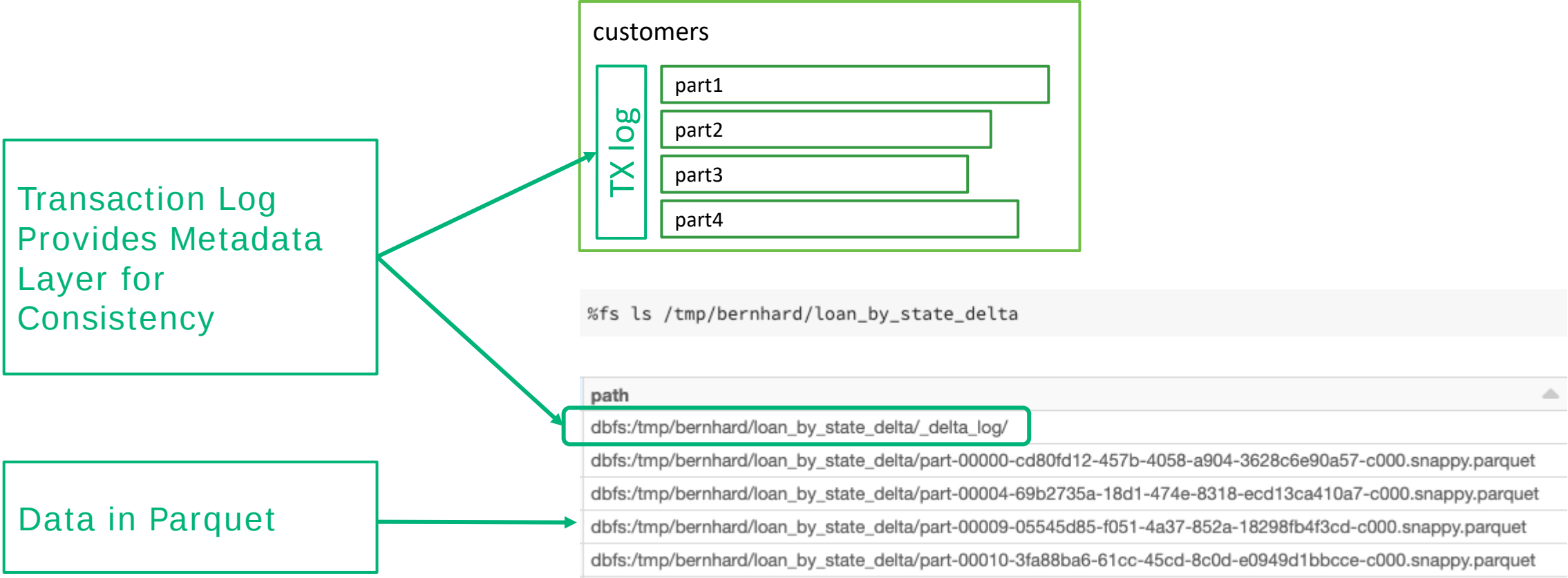
Current reporting
datasets

Consumption
(incl external)

Leveraging Delta Lake internals

- Delta Lake is based on cost-effective AWS S3 storage
- Delta tables
 - Parquet format – Columnar structure
 - maintaining delta's
- ACID transactions
- Time travel and rollback

Delta tables



<https://databricks.com/blog/2019/08/21/diving-into-delta-lake-unpacking-the-transaction-log.html>

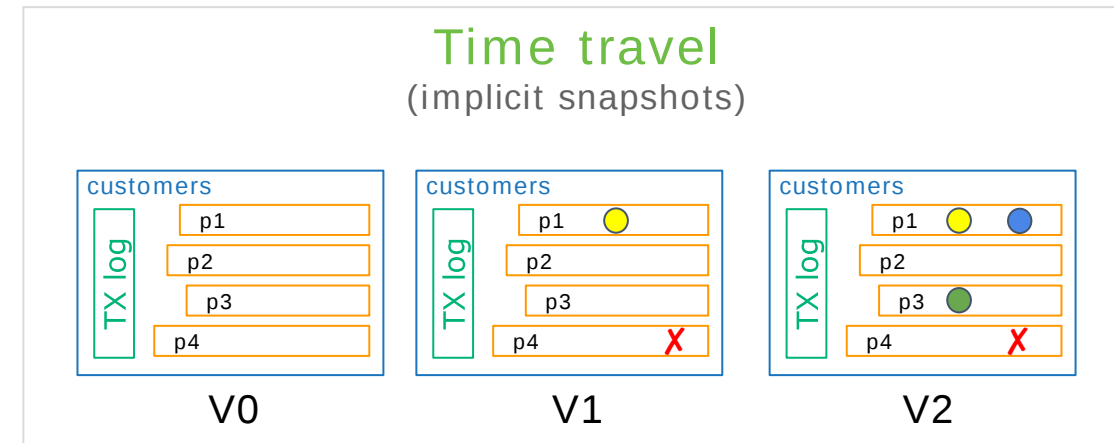
Time Travel

Key Features

- Perform “point in time” queries on your data
- See how it has evolved over time

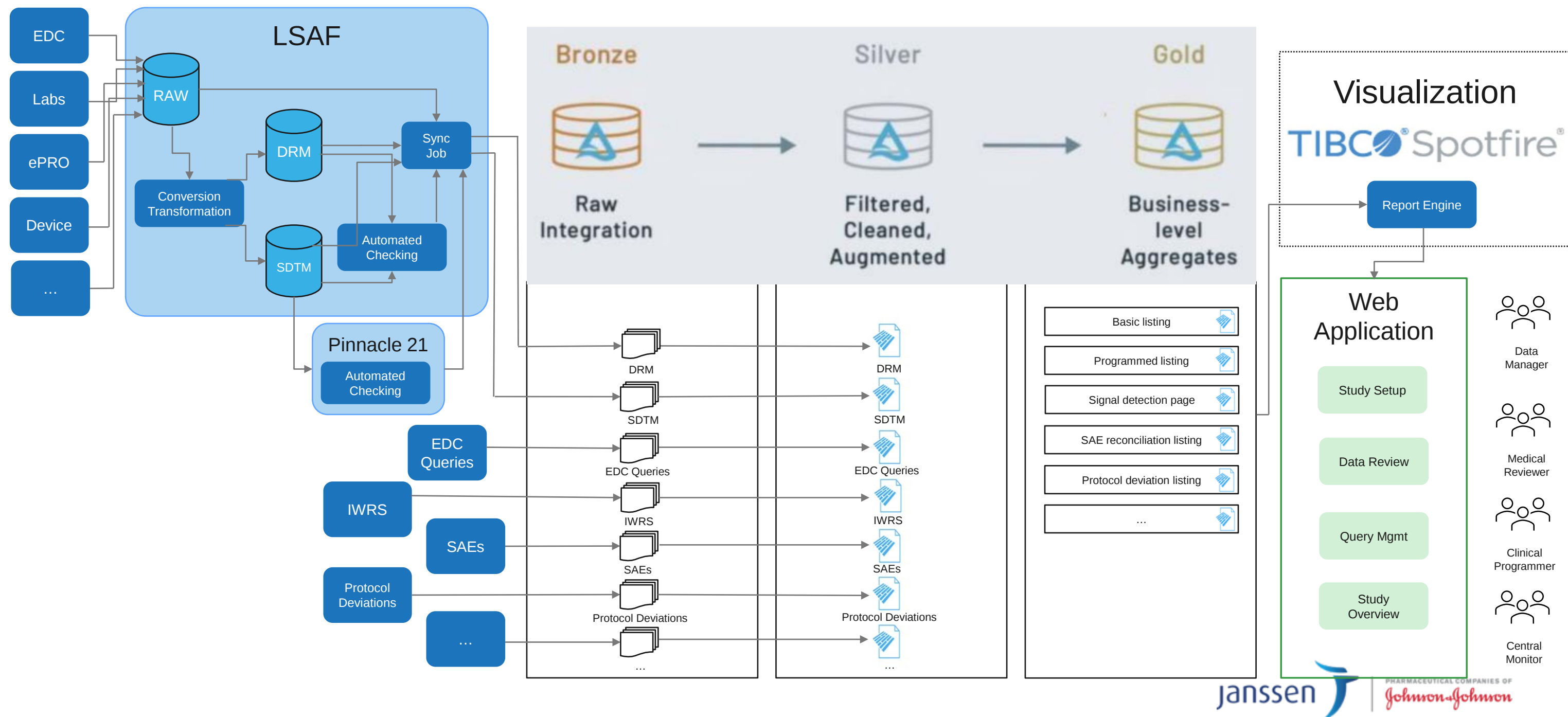
Syntax

```
SELECT *  
FROM customers -- Delta table  
TIMESTAMP AS OF  
[timestamp_expression]
```



```
SELECT *  
FROM customers -- Delta table  
VERSION AS OF [version]
```

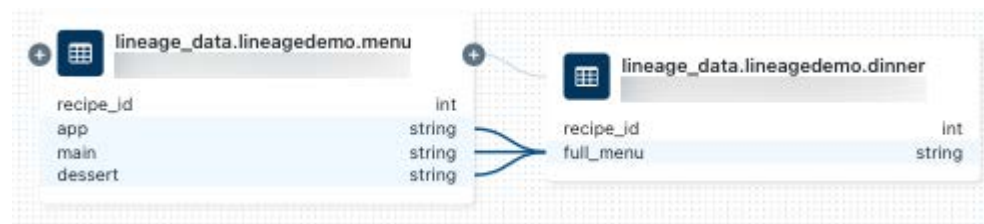
Our current dataflow in Databricks



Leveraging databricks: provenance

Data Lineage

- Table-level and column level are natively supported by Databricks



- Row-level required to show raw data and link inquiries to source records

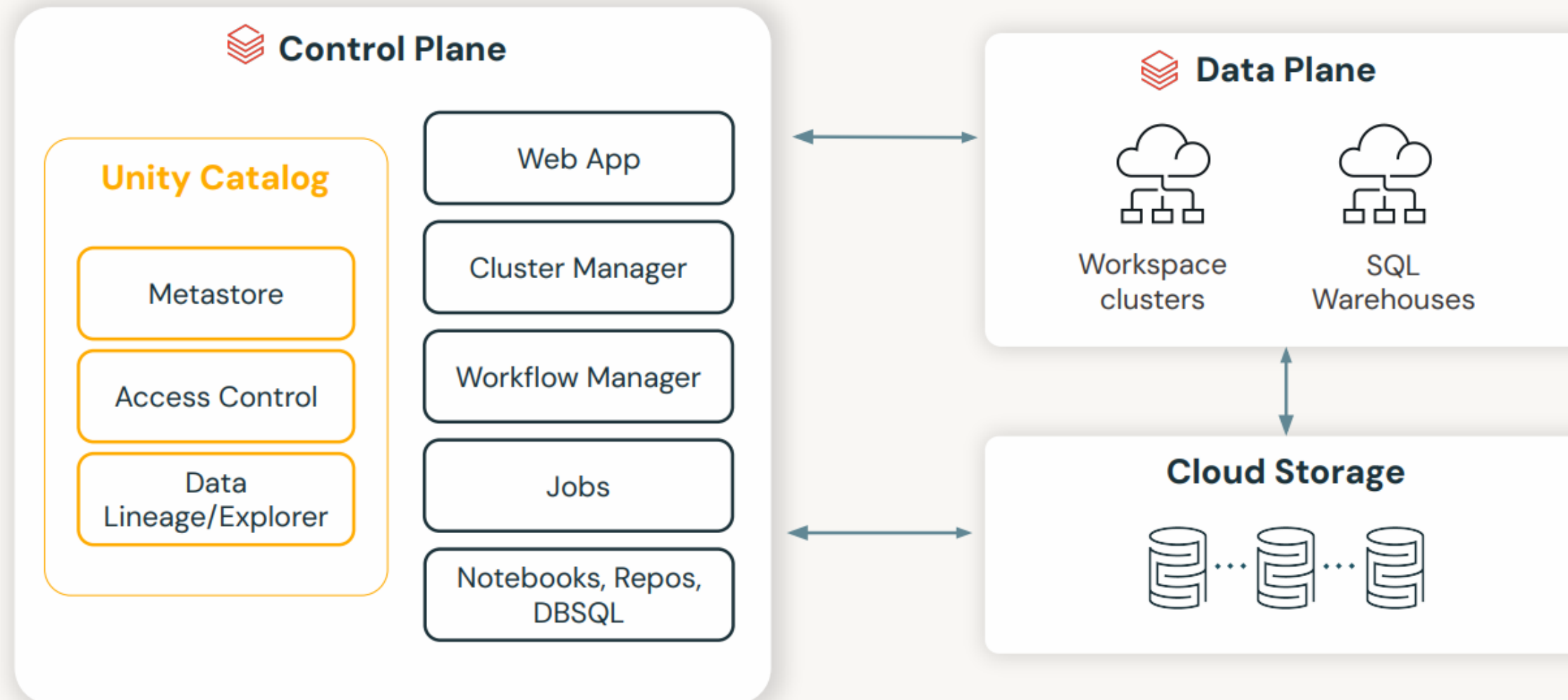
Data versioning

- Row level is natively supported with time travel and change data capture

- Cell-level required for reviewing incremental updates

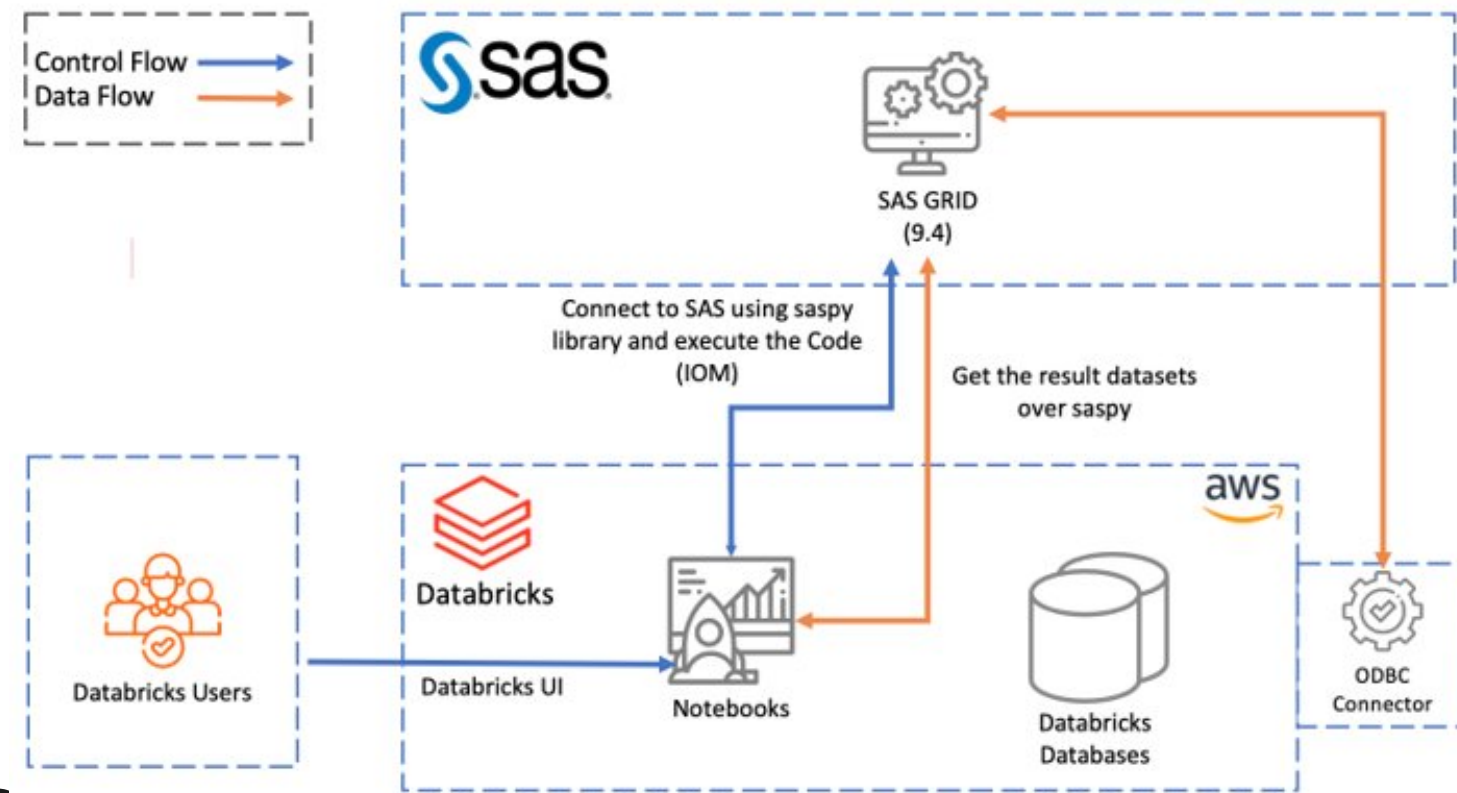
Leveraging databricks

Databricks Workspace and Services



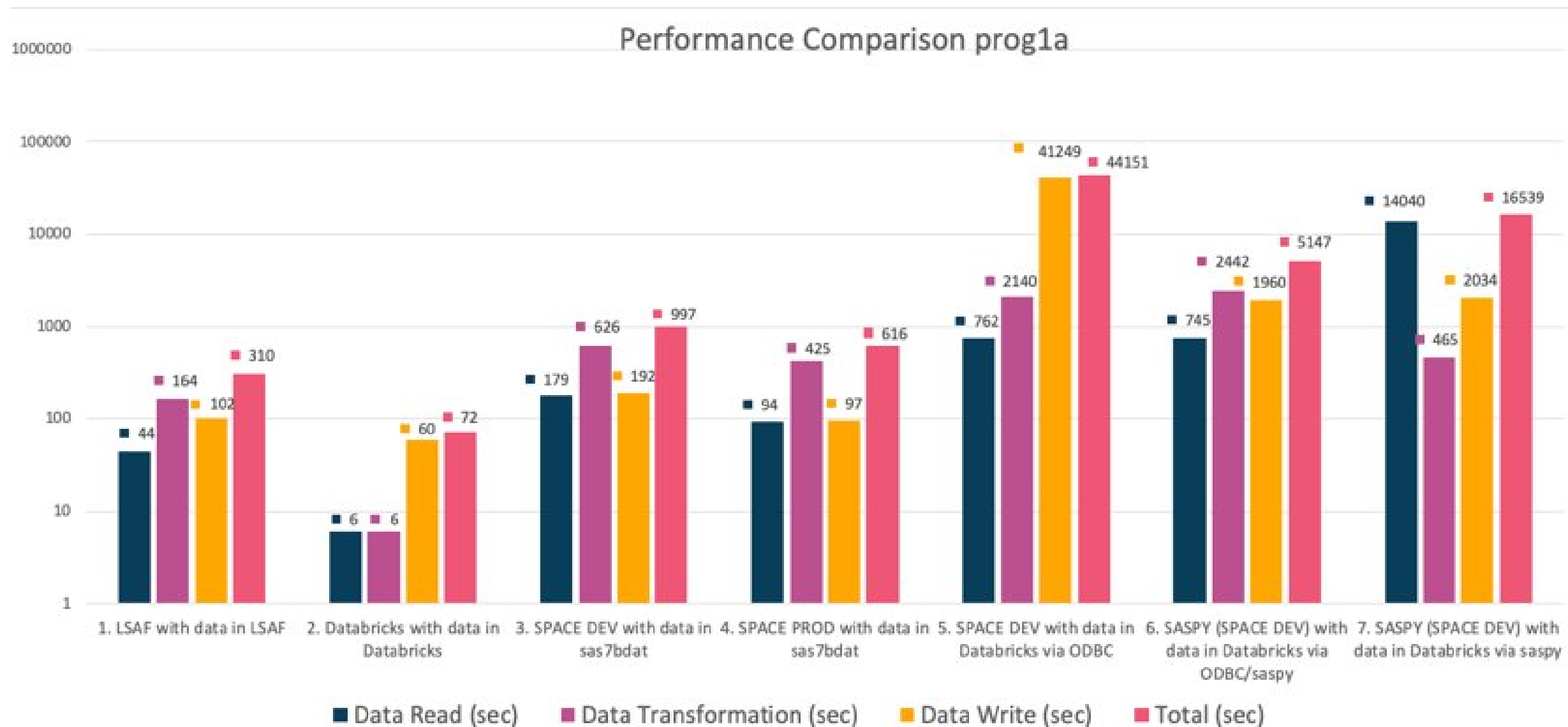
SAS

- Large base of clinical programs and processes
- Integration and performance tests
- Straightforward integration using ODBC
 - Write performance limitations
- Preliminary conclusions
 - LSAF performed much better than SAS SPACE GRID on Databricks (ODBC)
 - Look into custom integration opportunities / eliminate jumpbox architecture
 - Same High speed network
 - Functional Integration Databricks – SAS Grid works well
 - Native databricks outperforms both LSAF and SAS grid in the tests



<https://www.databricks.com/blog/2022/03/16/how-to-speed-up-data-flow-between-databricks-and-sas.html>

Performance comparisons



Current experiences

- Versioning
 - Separated increments -> time travel
- Notebooks & Workflows
 - Multiple languages, repositories
 - Easy to deploy / maintain
- Data Provenance (Lineage + History)
 - Data provenance : Change data feed / URECID composite key
 - Databricks native functionality vs specific business needs
- Pending full live performance testing
- Costing pattern
 - Quite promising
 - Consumption based – many tuning options



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