



OHDSI DevCon 2024
Open Source Developers Conference

Moving OMOP to the Cloud With DBT and Snowflake

Roger Carlson

APRIL 29, 2024

Moving OMOP to the Cloud With DBT and Snowflake



Roger Carlson - Corewell Health
 Matthew Phad - Corewell Health
 Sam Martin - Corewell Health
 Southern Lower Michigan

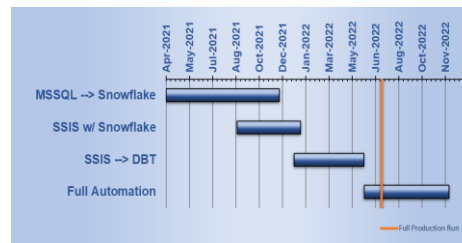
Background

- Spectrum Health has been evaluating the use of modern cloud-computing for its analytical processing needs.
- Cloud-computing Advantages
 - Improved speed, scalability, security, data-sharing capabilities.
 - Unique opportunity to invest in modern, open-source tools and methodologies through the adoption of a unified tool set.
- Envisioned Platform (Proof-of-concept)
 - Amazon Web Services (AWS)
 - All of Us® Research Program (NIH), which transforms EPIC® Clarity EHR data into the OMOP format.
 - Relatively small-scale project (~12,000 patients)
 - Complex and robust ETL process,

Methods

- Legacy System
 - Microsoft SQL Server database (on-prem)
 - Tools used: SQL Server Management Studio, SQL Server Integration Services, Visual Studio, Redcap, Oracle SQL Developer, R-Studio, Tortoise SVN, and Microsoft Access.
- Modern system
 - Snowflake database on AWS platform
 - Reduced toolset: Snowflake, DBT, GitHub, REDCap, VSCode, DBeaver, and R Studio.

Timeline



Run Times

	MSSQL	SNOWFLAKE
SSIS	1h:50m	20m
DBT	~50 m	5m

Workflow Comparison

Workflow Process	SSIS	DBT
API download from REDCap®	❌	✅
Extract data from EPIC® Clarity	✅	✅
Transform Clarity data into OMOP	✅	✅
Built-in and custom testing features	❌	✅
Referential Integrity	✅	✅
Curation Reporting	❌	✅
Automated data export	✅	✅
Automated SMTP transfer	❌	❌
Transfer from S3 bucket to Google®	❌	✅

Development

- Phase 1: Move database to cloud-based database (MSSQL → Snowflake)
 - Timeframe: Apr 2021 – Dec 2021
 - Scope: 60 tables, 35 views, 262 queries
 - OMOP v5.2 to v5.3.1 upgrade
- Phase 2: Convert SSIS project to work with Snowflake
 - Timeframe: Sept 2021 – Dec 2021
 - Scope: 19 packages, 171 tasks, 262 queries
- Phase 3: Move workflow process to open-source tool (SSIS → DBT)
 - Timeframe: Jan 2022 – May 2022
 - Scope: 578 steps, 416 models (347 views, 29 tables), 202 tests, 433 macros, 95 sources
- Full Production Run:
 - July 7, 2022 (21 person months total)
- Phase 4: Full Integration and automation, i.e., delivery of OMOP files from AWS to Google Bucket.
 - Timeframe: Jun 2022 – Nov 2022 (completed)

Conclusion

- Conversion from SQL Server using SSIS to Snowflake using DBT was timely and effective. Our result is a more robust platform featuring a collaborative workflow built on modern toolsets.
- Snowflake/DBT significantly outperforms MSSQL/SSIS.
- Snowflake is effectively unlimited in terms of scalability and complies with a wide range of compliance standards including HIPAA/HITRUST, SOC 1 Type II and SOC 2 Type II.

Questions?

Roger.Carlson@corewellhealth.org



1.[The Snowflake Platform](#)



2.[Cloud computing with AWS](#)



3.[What is dbt?](#)



4.[Snowflake Security](#)