

#FABCONSQLCON2026

**FABCON**

Microsoft Fabric  
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

**SQLCON**

Microsoft SQL  
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

**ATLANTA** MARCH 16 - 20, 2026



# A Guide to Making the Most of Your SQL Skills Using Microsoft Fabric

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# Shabnam Watson

Microsoft Data Platform MVP

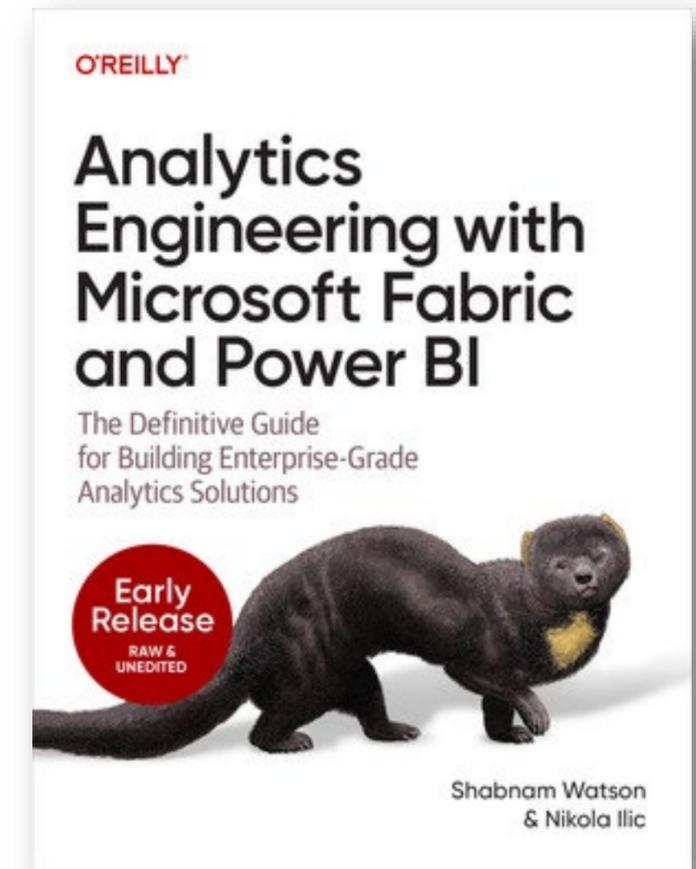
Data Consultant . Speaker . Author

Azure Data & AI . Microsoft Fabric . Power BI

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Blog: shabnamwatson.com

YouTube: @ShabnamWatson



# Agenda

SQL capabilities in Fabric

SQL Database

Warehouse

Lakehouse

Real Time Intelligence

Not a SQL syntax session!

# Microsoft Fabric



Data  
Factory



Analytics



Databases



Real-Time  
Intelligence



Power BI



Industry  
Solutions



Partner  
Workloads



AI



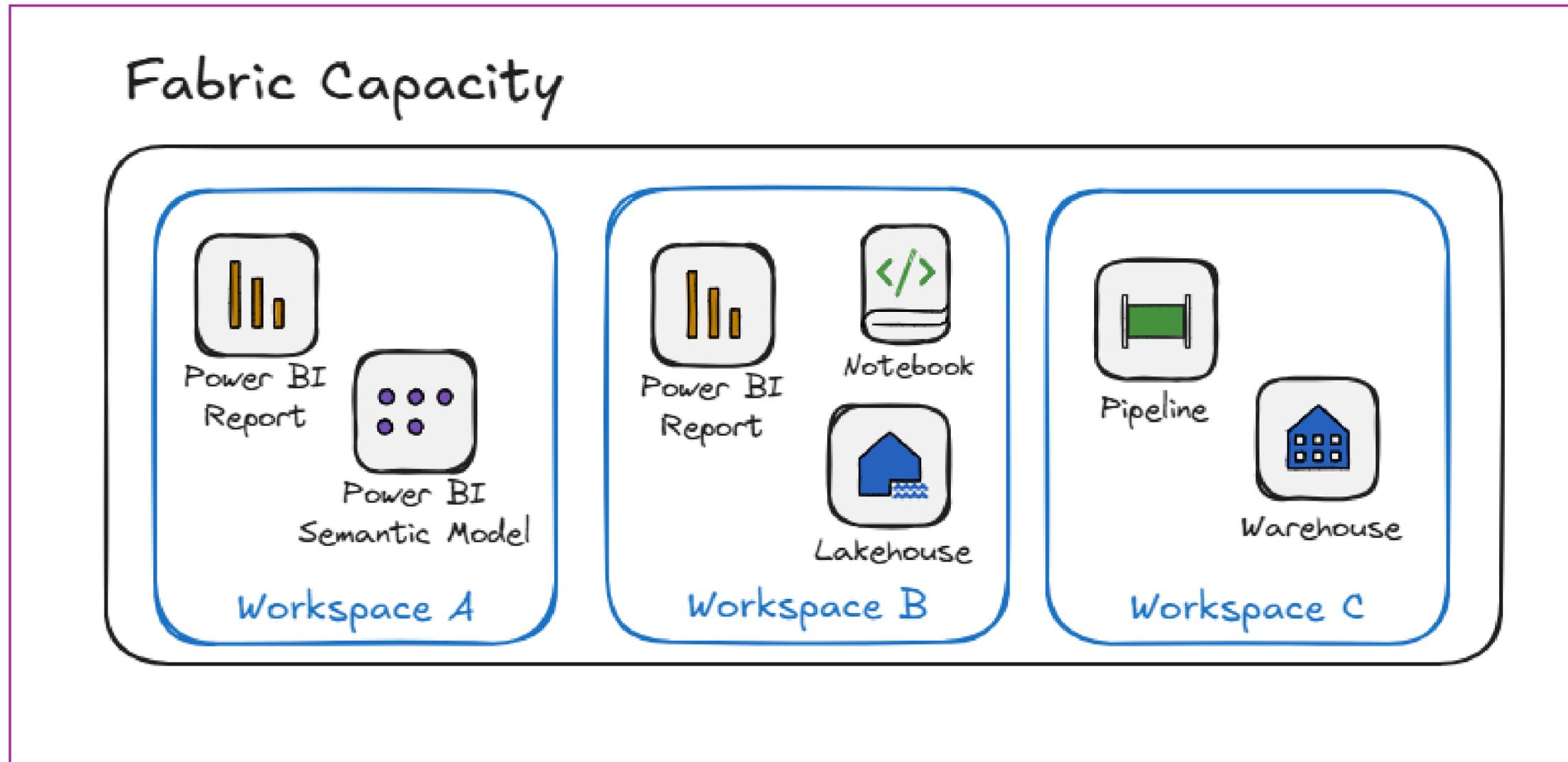
OneLake



Purview

# Fabric Tenant-Capacity-Workspace Architecture

## Fabric Tenant



# Supporting T-SQL

Read + Write

Data Warehouse

SQL Database

Mostly Read

Lakehouse (SQL Analytics Endpoint)

RTI



# SQL database

# Why SQL Database

Incredibly easy to get started with

Azure SQL DB in SaaS

Ideal engine for OLTP/ App Development

Lift and shift

Full T-SQL support

# Common Questions from SQL Professionals

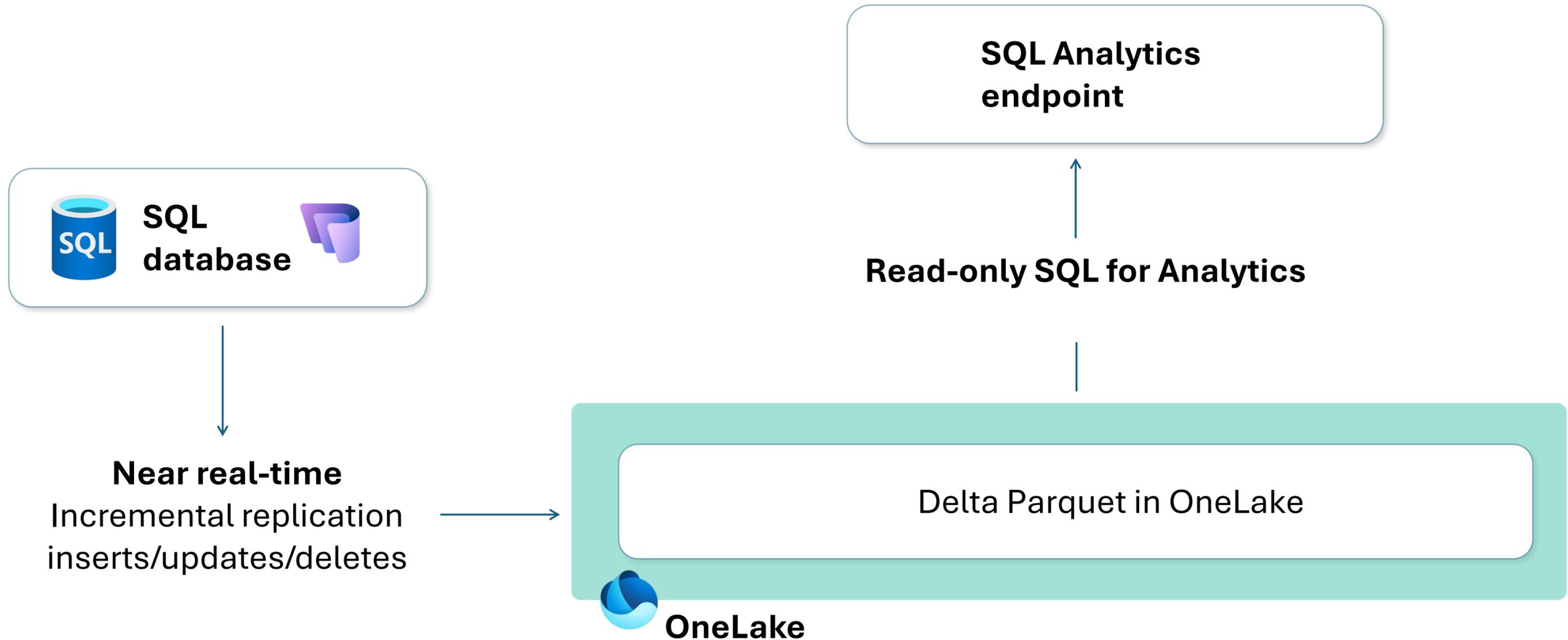
Is this real SQL Server or something new I must learn?

Can I use my existing T-SQL skills (procedures, transactions, indexes)?

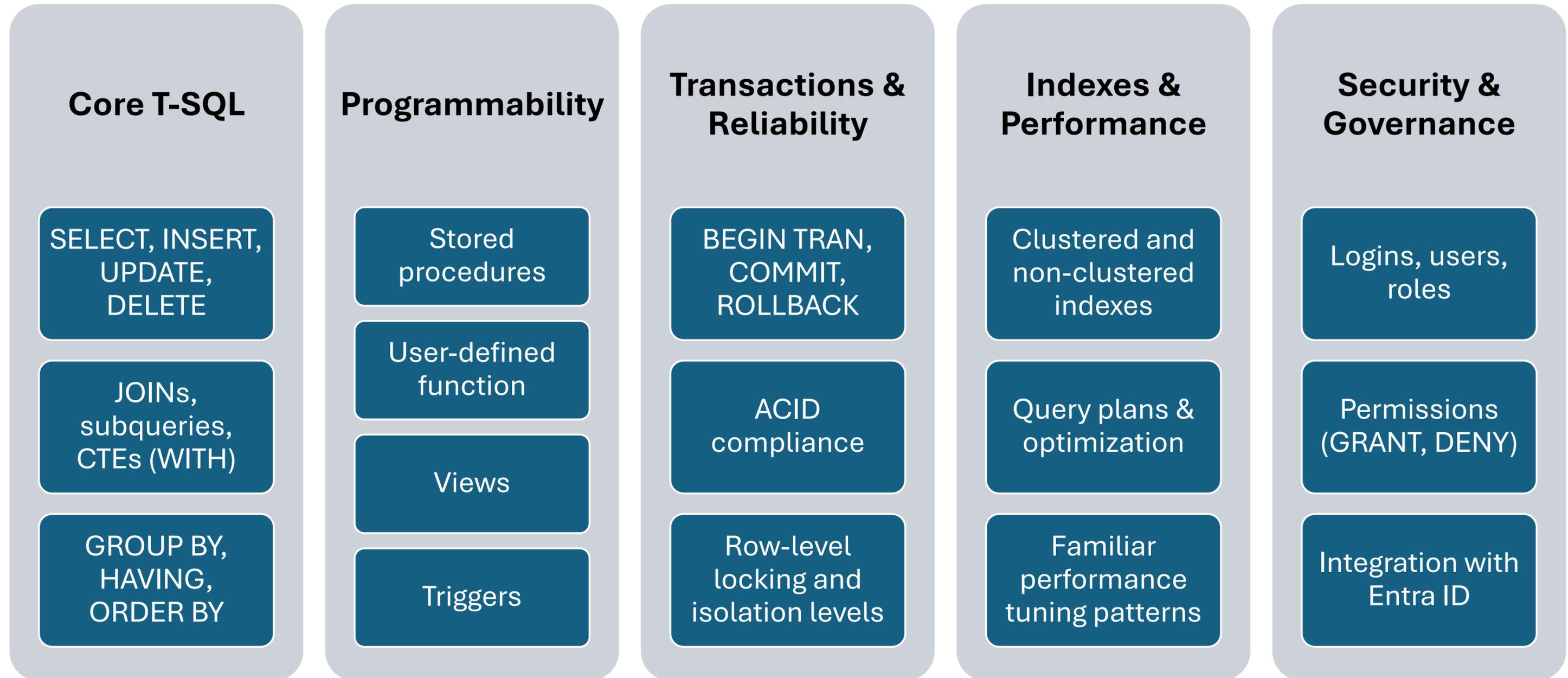
Is my data stored as files?

How does this fit into Fabric analytics without moving data?

# SQL Analytics Endpoint



# SQL Skills You Already Use



# Common DBA Question

Where do I choose DTUs / vCores / service tiers?

Can I pause, scale, or resize the database?

What is the size limit?

Performance and scaling are managed by Fabric capacity, not per-database DTUs or vCores.

Fabric allocates compute automatically based on workload.

# Backups & Restore

Automated backups are built-in, no backup jobs, no manual backups.

Full backups every week.

Differential backups every 12 hours.

Transaction log backups approximately every 10 minutes.

Cannot restore files somewhere else.

# High Availability & Resiliency

Zone redundancy is handled by the platform

Availability, resiliency, and fault tolerance are abstracted away and managed by Fabric.

# SQL Audit Logs

Authentication attempts and access control changes

Data access and modification operations

Schema changes and administrative activities

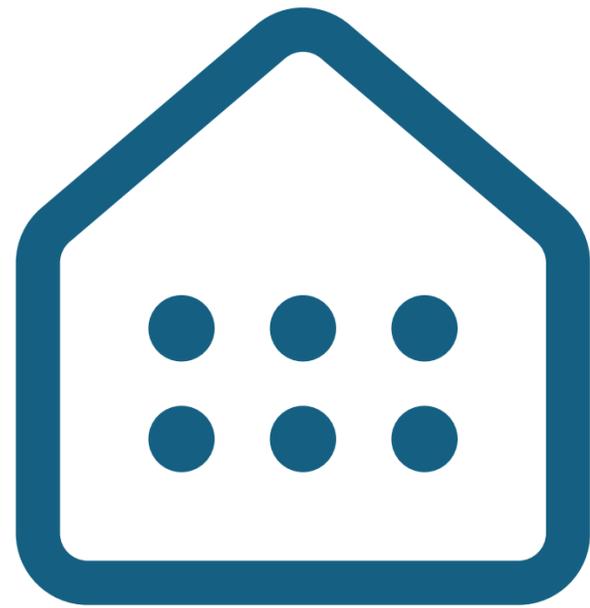
Permission changes and security configurations

# Query Tools

SQL Query Editor

External tools: SSMS

# SQL Database Demo



# Warehouse

# Warehouse

Minimal setup

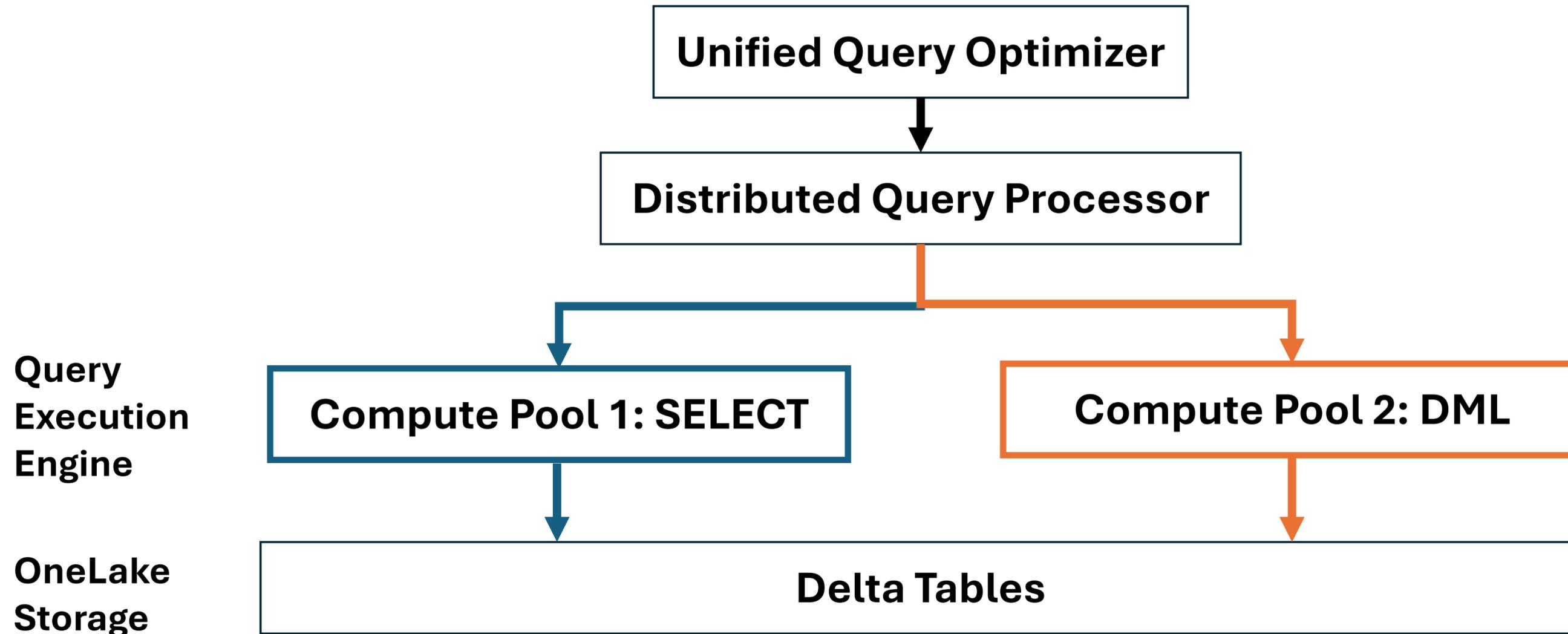
Data stored once in OneLake (open Delta format)

Compute provided by a distributed SQL engine

Storage and compute scale independently

No data movement required across Fabric workloads

# Warehouse Architecture



[Architecture of Fabric Data Warehouse - Microsoft Fabric | Microsoft Learn](#)

# Statistics

Data is stored in OneLake

Delta (Paquet) = Column Storage (~CCI)

Statistics automatically created and maintained

Non clustered indexes can be added

Constraints non enforced

# Warehouse: Backup & Restore

Built-in Recovery (No DBA-Managed Backups)

Restore In-Place

Restore points are metadata-based and reference data stored in OneLake

# RESTORE POINTS

 **Gold\_Warehouse**  
Warehouse ✕

About

Endorsement

SQL endpoint

Copilot

SQL audit logs

**Restore points**

### Restore point

Restore points allow you to restore the warehouse to a previous version. The system creates a restore point every 8 hours. You can also add your own restore points at any time. By default, all restore points are kept for 30 days unless you set the retention period using ALTER DATABASE in T-SQL. You can find the current retention period in the sys.databases view object. [Learn more](#) 

+ Add a restore point 🗑️ Delete ☰

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Description	Time(UTC)	Added by	Type	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore point		2025-09-11T20:05:36Z	-	System-created	...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore point		2025-09-11T15:10:38Z	-	System-created	...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore point		2025-09-10T22:44:45Z	-	System-created	...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore point		2025-09-10T18:40:23Z	-	System-created	...

# SQL Audit Logs

Authentication attempts and access control changes

Data access and modification operations

Schema changes and administrative activities

Permission changes and security configurations

# Query Tools

Visual Query Editor

SQL Query Editor

Data Preview

T-SQL Notebooks

External tools: SSMS

# SQL Notebooks

The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Notebooks interface. At the top, there's a search bar and a status bar indicating 'Trials activated: 7 days left'. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Edit', 'Run', and 'View'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Comments', 'History', 'Develop', and 'Share'. The left sidebar contains navigation options like 'Home', 'Copilot', 'Create', 'Browse', 'OneLake catalog', 'Apps', 'Workspaces', 'Back to SQL', and 'Notebook\_1'. The 'Explorer' pane on the left shows a tree view with 'Data items', 'Resources', and 'Connections'. Under 'OneLake', there's a folder 'BacktoSQLWarehouse' containing 'Schemas' and 'Security'. The main workspace displays a notebook titled 'My first SQL Notebook'. It contains a T-SQL query:

```
1 SELECT TOP 100 *
2 FROM
3 FoodInspectionData
```

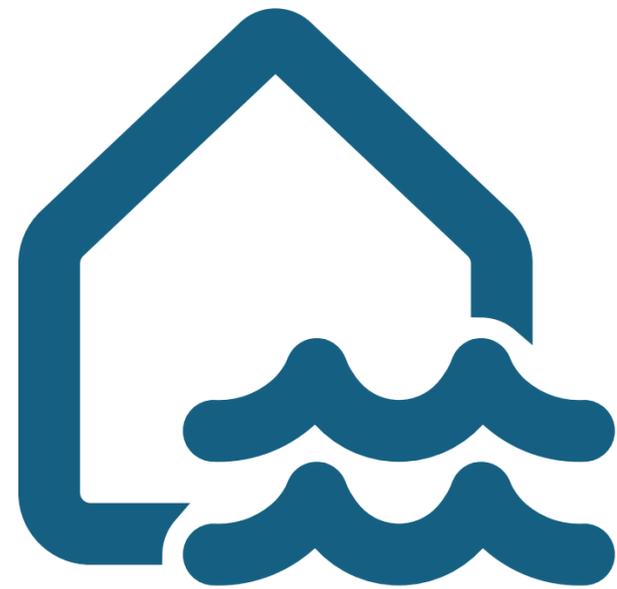
Below the query, a message indicates: '[1] ✓ - Command executed using BacktoSQLWarehouse in 2 sec by shabnam watson on 3/1/2026, 4:59:42 PM'. The results are shown in a table view with 10 columns and 100 rows. The table has columns: 12L InspectionID, ANY RestaurantName, ANY InspectionDate, ANY InspectorName, ANY InspectionCategory, 123 InspectionScore, ANY InspectionResult, and ANY Commen. The visible rows are:

	12L InspectionID	ANY RestaurantName	ANY InspectionDate	ANY InspectorName	ANY InspectionCategory	123 InspectionScore	ANY InspectionResult	ANY Commen
1	780756	Veggie Delight	2024-03-01 00:00:0...	Hannah Scott	Signage	64	Pass	Signs so
2	7842	Baker's Corner	2024-03-01 00:00:0...	Charlie Davis	Signage	73	Fail	Lost in t
3	1384632	Sunset Grill	2024-03-02 00:00:0...	Hannah Scott	Food Safety	89	Fail	Food sa
4	1455802	Perfect Eats	2024-03-02 00:00:0...	Dana Lee	Signage	96	Pass	Signs sh

# Warehouse Demo

# Warehouse vs. SQL Database

Feature	SQL DB in Fabric	Warehouse
Storage cap	4 TB per DB	No fixed cap
File visibility	Abstracted	Delta files in OneLake
Workload	OLTP	OLAP
Log management	Platform-managed	Delta transaction log



# Lakehouse

# Lakehouse

Primary storage layer for large-scale analytical data

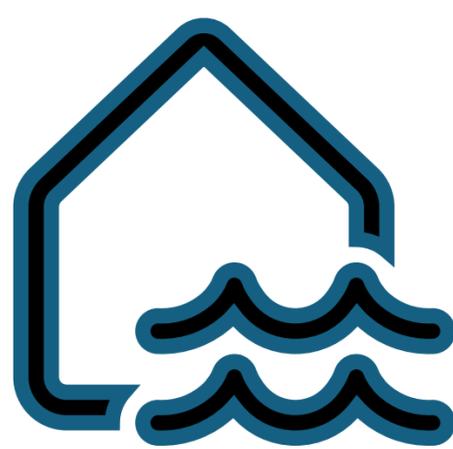
Structured and unstructured data

SQL Analytics Endpoint : Read-only T-SQL

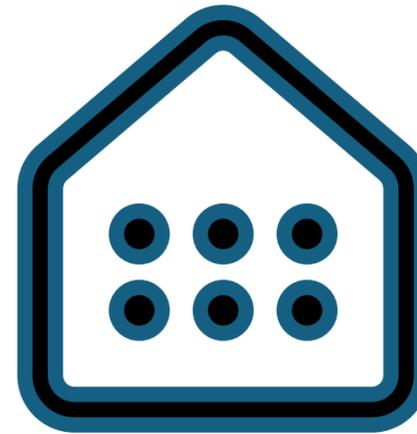
Ideal for exploration, reporting, and consumption using familiar SQL

Writes and transformations happen elsewhere (Spark, pipelines, Warehouse)

# Lakehouse and SQL Analytics Endpoint



Lakehouse



SQL analytics endpoint

# Lakehouse Demo



# KQL Database

# SQL support in Real Time Intelligence

RTI is KQL-first, designed for streaming and event data

SQL is supported as a limited subset (exploration only)

Useful for basic filtering and aggregations for SQL users

Not intended for full T-SQL, complex workloads

# RTI Demo

Sound off.  
The mic is all yours.  
Influence the product roadmap.

Join the Fabric User Panel



Share your feedback directly with our Fabric product group and researchers.

<https://aka.ms/JoinFabricUserPanel>

Join the SQL User Panel



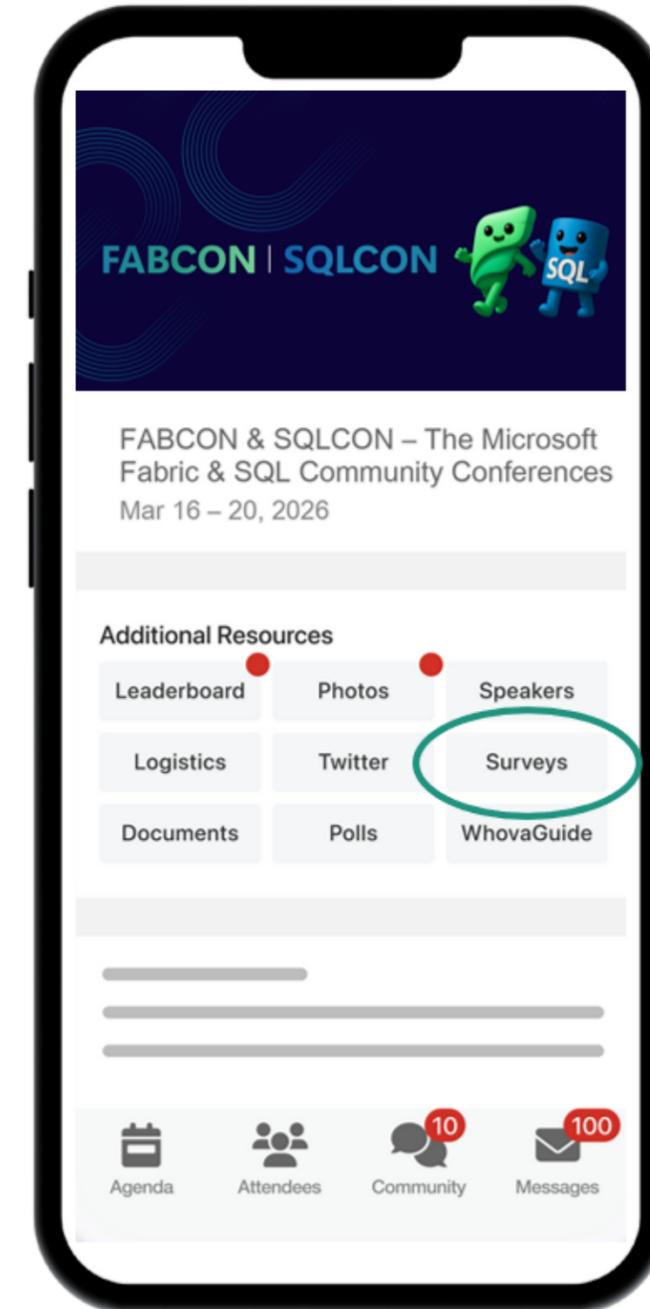
Influence our SQL roadmap and ensure it meets your real-life needs

<https://aka.ms/JoinSQLUserPanel>

# How was the session?



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*Whova* for your chance to WIN  
PRIZES!



# Two Fabric Certifications, One FREE Exam Included

Attendees can take the Fabric Analytics Engineer or Fabric Data Engineer exam for free. Be part of the 2 fastest growing role-based certifications in Microsoft history.

**Request your voucher by March 31, 2026.**

<https://aka.ms/GetDataCertified>

