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Unlocking value...

Databricks and Microsoft Fabric: Get the best of both worlds for your data

Get more accurate insights

Improve your strategies

How Databricks and Microsoft Fabric create a unified data platform that maximizes the value of your data, analytics and AI

Laying the data foundations for the AI era

You can't have a conversation about business success today without considering AI. 92% of leaders agree that organizations need to shift to an AI-first operating model in the next 12 months to remain competitive. It's a big shift. For most businesses, adopting AI will mean diving even deeper into their data to become a truly data-driven business.

But here's the catch: according to an Avanade study, 63% of business and IT leaders do not completely trust the data their company uses today. Organizational data silos are often to blame. These silos often make data hard to access, secure and analyze for insights.

The solution? Intelligent data platforms. They can help organizations break down silos, unify data and lay the groundwork for AI success. The best data platforms are not just for data experts; they make data accessible and bring insights within reach of nearly everyone in the business. Through seamless integration with other systems and processes, they support everything required from strong governance and security to better interactive dashboarding and intuitive reporting – for faster, data-driven decision-making.

Today, organizations have a choice of robust and powerful data platforms to best suit their use cases and unique data challenges. Two stand out as superior. And we believe you do not need to choose between them: together, **Databricks** and **Microsoft** Fabric can deliver unparalleled data transformation to propel your organization into the AI era. In this guide, we explore how you can harness the 'best of both worlds' for your organization by building a consistent, user-friendly, secure and cost-effective data experience with the best of Databricks and Microsoft Fabric.
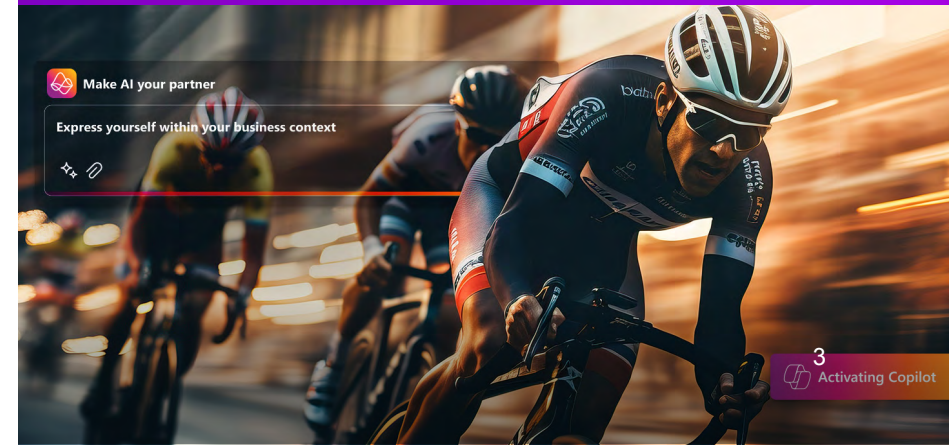

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Databricks

Databricks is best-in-class for data engineering workloads, spanning batch and real-time with limitless scale, and it provides a unified governance plane across everything through its native Unity Catalog offering. It offers businesses a broad range of tools for working with data on its lakehouse data platform. Databricks is frequently used – and long-time championed – by data engineers, data scientists and analysts to carry out deep data science and machine learning. It can be used for data ingestion, modelling, transformation and analytics.

Data streaming on Databricks means you benefit from the foundational components of the Databricks Data Intelligence Platform – Unity Catalog and Delta Lake. Raw data is optimized with Delta Lake, the only open-source storage framework designed from the ground up for both streaming and batch data. Unity Catalog provides fine-grained, integrated governance for all data and AI assets with one consistent model to discover, access and share data across clouds. Unity Catalog also offers native support for Delta Sharing, the industry's first open protocol for simple and secure data sharing with other organizations.

As a resilient data platform, Databricks has the scalability, flexibility and extensive range of tools needed to maintain enterprise-grade data and run business critical tasks. The Databricks platform is built upon Databricks' leadership in Apache Spark, Delta Lake and MLFlow with innovative capabilities that include a modern, vectorized execution engine, smart caching and instant compute. The result is a best-in-class data engineering, data science and exploratory data analytics solution that's trusted by many leading brands and organizations today.

Impressive alone. Exceptional together.

Databricks and Microsoft Fabric can be harnessed together to create one powerful modern intelligent data platform. Whether you're already working with Databricks or looking to adopt this pioneering platform, adding Microsoft Fabric into the equation helps optimize Databrick's capabilities, improve accessibility and increase ROI.

Make AI your partner

Express yourself within your business context

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Activating Copilot

Microsoft Fabric

Microsoft Fabric is an intelligent data platform that simplifies and unifies disparate data sources and types. Also built on a Delta Lake, which Microsoft calls 'OneLake', Microsoft Fabric creates a single source of truth for data engineering and data-powered use cases focused on data-driven insights, decision-making processes and organization-wide collaboration.

Through its user-friendly interface and the power of AI in Copilot to build with data, Microsoft Fabric helps bring complex data analysis to business users who can work independently or join data specialists in exploring data, visualizing results or implementing real-time intelligent processes. This low-code option means more users can extract insights and value from data without the need for dedicated prompt engineers or solely relying on IT and data experts.

A tool for every user

Independently, Databricks and Microsoft Fabric bring significant data capabilities and value to a business. But together they deliver exponential data transformation opportunity.

Databricks and Microsoft Fabric can work together to help drive data transformation to new heights. Together, they can empower your data experts and business users with familiar tools to carry out analytics and enable AI. With more of your workforce able to access and shape data to inform decisions, you can realize greater competitive value, faster.

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How can Databricks and Microsoft Fabric work together?

Discussions about choosing between Databricks and Microsoft Fabric for data, analytics and AI have too narrowly framed the dialog around data strategy. Why limit your data transformation when you can reach higher with the best of both worlds?

Innovative enterprise leaders are building a data future on both. Databricks and Microsoft Fabric are both foundational to the Microsoft Intelligent Data Platform, a full ecosystem of technologies that unlock data in the AI era.

How? Well, you can use Microsoft Fabric to provide a single user interface across Databrick's powerful data engineering capabilities, as well as Microsoft Fabric's own tools. Microsoft continues to enhance the integration of Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, including capabilities like Real-Time Intelligence and Real-Time Hub for up-to-the-minute decision making, a new Fabric Workload Development Kit for powerful solutions builds, and Data workflow that lets you author, schedule and monitor workflows and pipelines with Python. These features deliver a unified experience across both platforms, so users can pick from among all the capabilities to tackle any scenario.

In a system that combines Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, Microsoft Fabric ingests data from multiple sources with Databricks providing advanced data exploration and transformation and MLOps capability,

as examples. Microsoft Fabric then analyzes the data and delivers it to Power BI or similar reporting and business intelligence systems. This method ensures the business consistently gets the most value from each platform, using the optimal tool for each scenario.

Databricks and Microsoft Fabric are both built upon the Delta Lake parquet format, the open and governed data lake foundation that serves as a home for organizational data. With both platforms working from the same data source as your single source of truth, the data can be shaped and analyzed without complex migrations. This reduces data silos within your business and cuts the cost of moving data between different platforms.

Another reason Databricks and Microsoft Fabric work so well together is that they speak the same language through SQL, Python and Scala. This consistency means data professionals can work seamlessly across both platforms, using languages and tools they already know. Business users can also access data in Microsoft Fabric without code, making it a highly versatile and accessible platform.

With Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, your teams get to data's value faster through a single, simplified infrastructure.

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Explore our Databricks and Microsoft Fabric use cases

Client story: Global food manufacturer accelerates data flow

Accenture and Avanade worked with a top international food manufacturer to implement Microsoft Fabric alongside its existing Databricks platform.

We introduced Microsoft Fabric to consume data on production plant wastage and raw materials usage. The data is delivered to the company's procurement team in less than an hour. Prior to the Microsoft Fabric integration this delivery took four days.

Thanks to this near real-time data, the procurement team discovered that in damper weather they needed to order more raw materials, such as flour, as it sticks together. The factory floor knew this, but the insight hadn't been shared with procurement. With Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, the client can better facilitate knowledge sharing between these two parts of the business.

Based on the early success of this program, the company plans to also reengineer its SAP data flow using Microsoft Fabric to implement a faster, less complex and more efficient data platform.

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Explore our Databricks and Microsoft Fabric use cases

Industry scenario: Optimizing autonomous trucks for a low emissions future

For automative manufacturers looking to support the efficient and sustainable movement of goods in automotive vehicles, Databricks and Microsoft Fabric integrations can have transformative potential.

Microsoft Fabric can take data reported to the manufacturer via the vehicles' sensors on variables such as speed, velocity and emissions, and analyze it against factors, such as wind or landscape typography. Based on this analysis, Microsoft Fabric builds rules and guidelines to reduce the self-driving trucks' emissions. Through continuous analysis, these rules could become so optimized the trucks will be able to enter city centers where low emissions regulations are in place.

Taking this a stage further, emissions insights from Microsoft Fabric can be integrated with supply chain management data from Databricks. Emissions data could then influence supply chain events, such as the materials ordered to build the trucks or the construction of vehicle parts.

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Accenture and Avanade: Unmatched expertise

When it comes to implementing the best of Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, you need experts that know both platforms inside out. Accenture and Avanade's intelligent data platform experts can show you how to harness the best of both platforms. We can design and implement a hybrid data engine that is based on Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, and that meets your specific business requirements.

Dextrous in Databricks and fluent in Fabric

Alongside Accenture, Avanade has launched the industry's most comprehensive suite of Microsoft Fabric solutions available in market today. And we're the industry leader in helping organizations use Databricks to create greater business value in data, analytics, and AI.

We continually collaborate with Databricks and Microsoft, which means we have the opportunity to influence product development and updates based on our clients' experiences and requirements. Accenture and Avanade are very proud to be an 18-time winner of Microsoft GSI Partner of the Year, as well as the five-time Databricks Global Partner of the Year. No other consultancy or partner comes close.

We're committed to growing our expertise across both platforms. To date, we've trained thousands of Accenture and Avanade data practitioners on Microsoft Fabric, as well as Databricks. We've also created dedicated practices for both Databricks and Microsoft Fabric across Accenture and Avanade to help organizations plan, architect, develop, pilot and deploy the most innovative data transformation capabilities.

As you transform your business with Databricks and Microsoft Fabric, our experts can help you scale, adopt and integrate the best capabilities of both platforms. We teach you how to do governance at scale, how to manage your platforms, and how to ensure you always get the best of both worlds.

Accenture and Avanade's credentials include:

- IDC Marketscape leader for Microsoft Implementation Services
- 18x Microsoft Global Alliance SI Partner of the Year
- 5x Databricks Global Partner of the Year
- 60,000+ Microsoft certifications
- Global reach, with 82 locations across 26 countries
- 7,000+ Microsoft Fabric-certified professionals
- 500+ Databricks-certified professionals
- 60+ Databricks technical champions
- 2,000+ Databricks Engineers trained
- 10 Microsoft Fabric projects and five Databricks projects go live every day for our clients

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Bring the best of both worlds to your business

Prepare your data for the AI era with Accenture and Avanade's support.
See how we can help you leverage the benefits of Databricks and Microsoft
Fabric to create a unified data platform that:

- Supports data engineering, data science, machine learning, artificial
  intelligence, reporting and analytics

- Leverages the power of Delta Lake and OneLake, Data Activator, Power
  BI and more

- Simplifies data management and governance

- Reduces cost and complexity of data management and analytics

- Delivers a faster time to value and ROI

- Unlocks a new level of data innovation and AI-readiness

Get started today

Explore our offering for Databricks and
Microsoft Fabric on Azure marketplace or
get in touch to discuss your data strategy
with us one-to-one.

- Visit avanade.com/databricks

- Contact us at avanade.com/en/contact

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