Integrate.io – Setup and Configuration

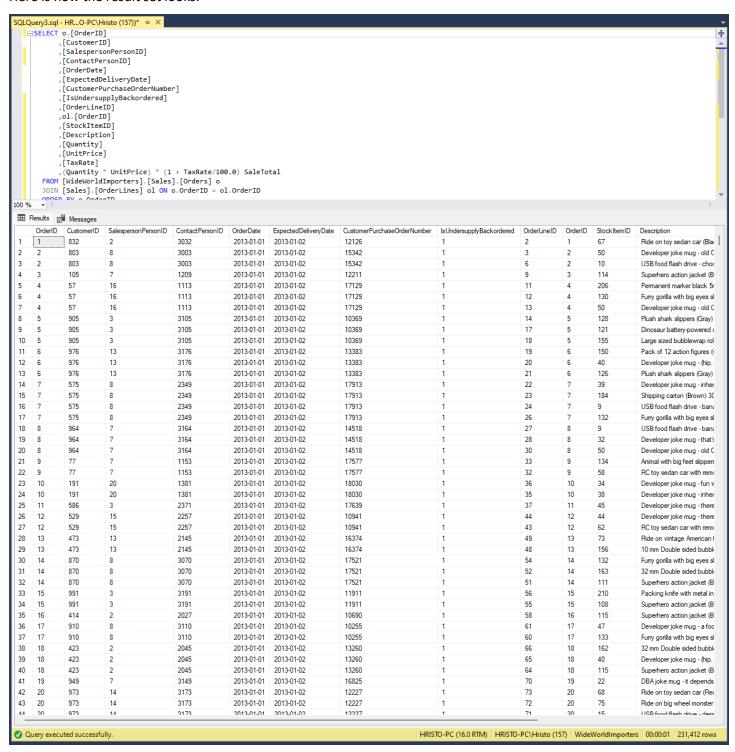
Written by: Hristo Hristov | August 26, 2024

Test Environment Setup

To simulate a real-time transactional system, I have imported the <u>Wide World Importers database</u> from Microsoft. Then, I defined this simple query which produces a consolidated result of orders and order lines:

```
SELECT o.[OrderID]
      ,[CustomerID]
      ,[SalespersonPersonID]
      ,[ContactPersonID]
      ,[OrderDate]
      ,[ExpectedDeliveryDate]
      ,[CustomerPurchaseOrderNumber]
      ,[IsUndersupplyBackordered]
         ,[OrderLineID]
      ,ol.[OrderID]
      ,[StockItemID]
      , [Description]
      , [Quantity]
      ,[UnitPrice]
      , [TaxRate]
         ,(Quantity * UnitPrice) * (1 + TaxRate/100.0) SaleTotal
  FROM [WideWorldImporters].[Sales].[Orders] o
  JOIN [Sales].[OrderLines] ol ON o.OrderID = ol.OrderID
  ORDER BY o.OrderID
```

Here is how the result set looks:

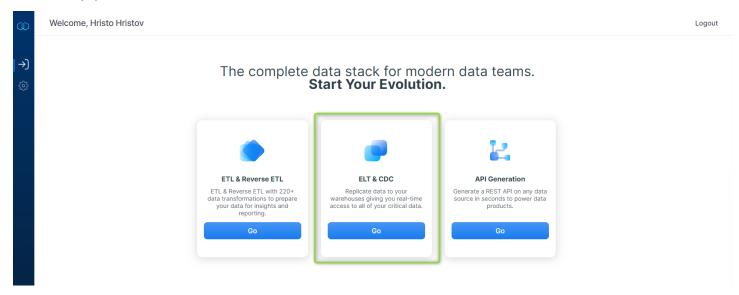


Next, I wrote a python script that runs this query every 5 seconds, takes every next row and inserts it into a "staging" table *LiveOrdersData* on an Azure SQL Server. This process simulates the arrival of new sales data in an OLTP system at regular five-second intervals and will serve as the source data that we will plug into Integrate.io for CDC and replication. With this scenario in mind, let us see how to leverage the platform's capabilities to make it happen.

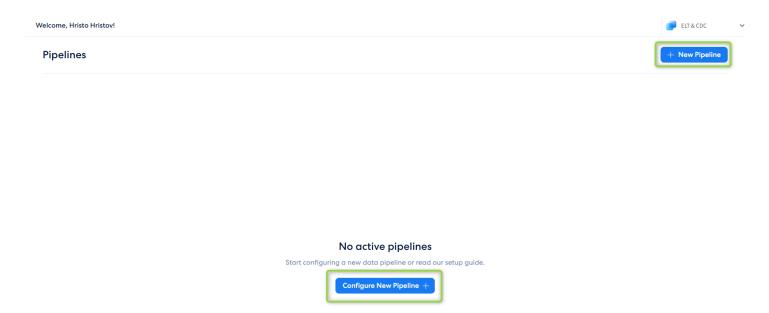
Set up the source

Once you have signed up for Integrate.io, go ahead and can sign in. Then you will be welcomed by the following screen. Click *Go* below the ELT & CDC card. This action will take you to your list of pipelines.

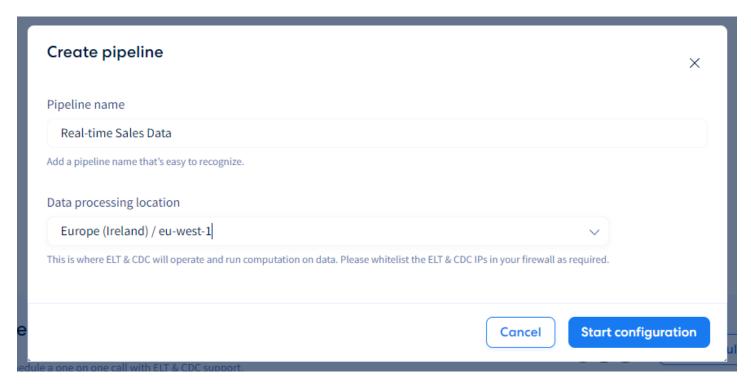
Create a pipeline



This will be the first pipeline so click New Pipeline:

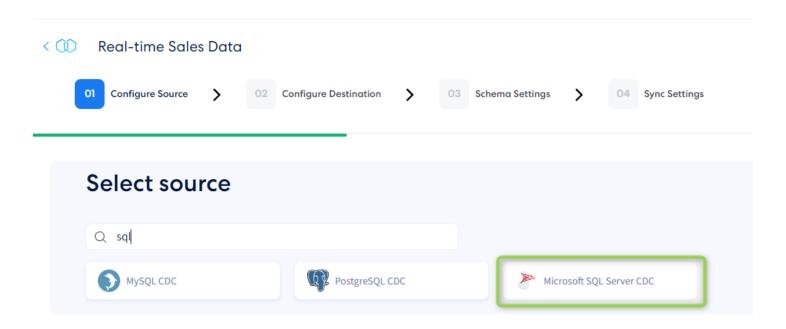


You will get a pop-up asking you to choose a name and data processing location. For the data processing location pick a region that is the closest to your data source and finally click on *Start configuration*:

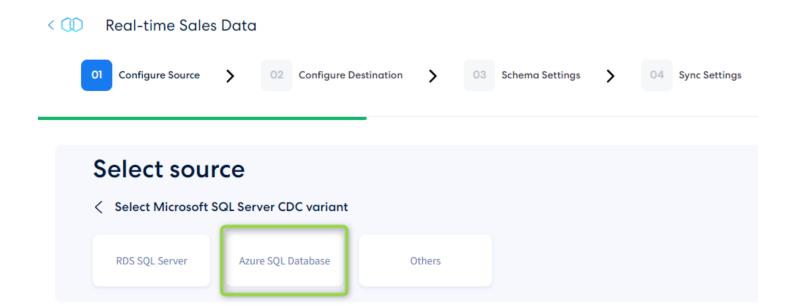


Select a data source

The first step in the process of creating a real-time CDC pipeline is to choose and configure a data source. In our case this is Azure SQL so we can pick MSSQL Server CDC:



Then specify the variant:

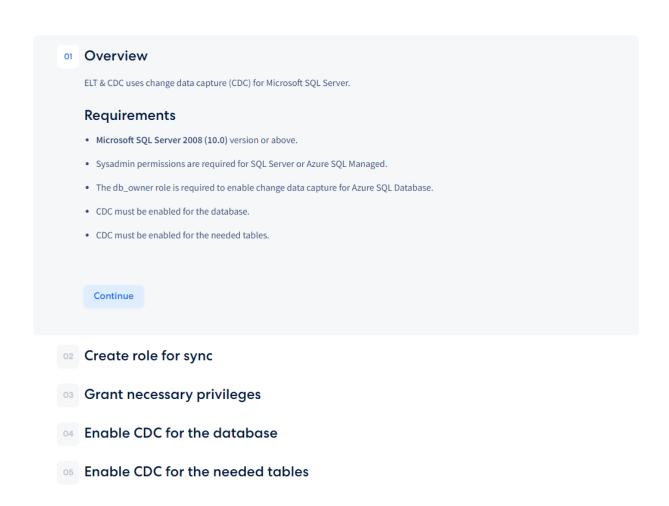


At this point the main configuration menu will unfold before you. Here we see a well-organized list of steps that we are required to follow to set up the data source correctly. The first tab gives us an overview of the requirements. Most importantly, CDC must be enabled on the database and the table:

« Select an existing source

Setting up Microsoft SQL Server CDC for ELT & CDC

Before you begin to add a Microsoft SQL Server Database as source, please make sure that it is configured to work with Integrate.io Sync by following the steps below.



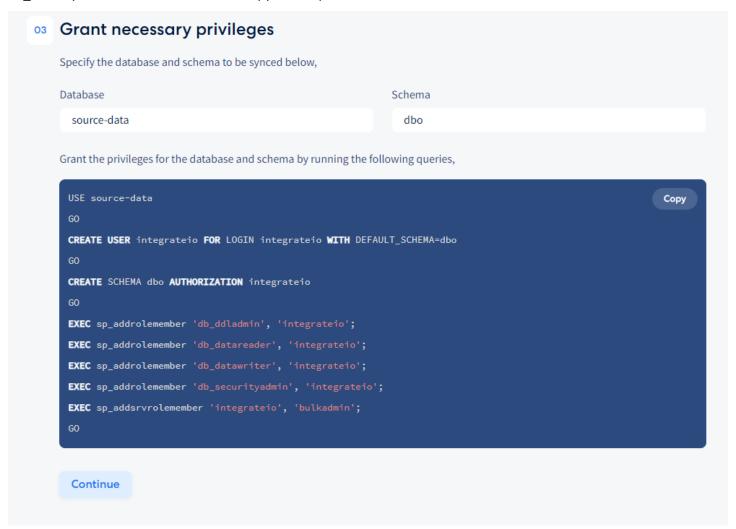
Create role for sync

Let us move to step two, which is the first configuration step. While this is not required, Integrate.io is mindful by suggesting we need a dedicated db login, which is a good practice for such scenarios:



Grant necessary privileges

Having a new login, we must assign it to the correct roles. These are db_ddladmin, db_datareader, db_datawriter, db_securityadmin, and bulkadmin. You copy the script and execute it in SSMS or Azure Data Studio:



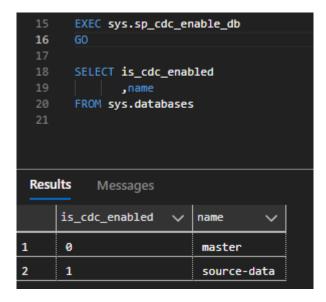
Note the last stored procedure call may fail as it appears bulkadmin does not exist in some Azure SQL versions. You may have to double check the documentation. In any case, this authorization level is not required for this scenario.

Enable CDC for the database

Next, we must enable the change data capture functionality. Just like previously copy the suggested script and run it in SSMS or Azure Data Studio:



Note that running this statement will cause an error if your Azure SQL database is on the Free, Basic or Standard Single Database (S0,S1,S2) tier. To have CDC enabled you must have eDTUs > 100 or max vCore >= 1. The most budget-friendly option supporting CDC is Standard SE with 100 DTUs (<u>resource limits reference</u>). After running the stored procedure, I can also check to ensure CDC has been enabled:



Enable CDC for the table

The final step five that Integrate.io guides us to is to enable CDC on the table itself. Copy the script and run it:

```
1. Go to Azure dashboard
2. Enable change data capture by running,

EXEC sys.sp_cdc_enable_table
@source_schema = N'MySchema',
@source_name = N'MyTable',
@role_name = N'integrateio',
@supports_net_changes = 1
60
Copy
```

With these steps done, we are ready to go to the next step: configure the source connection.

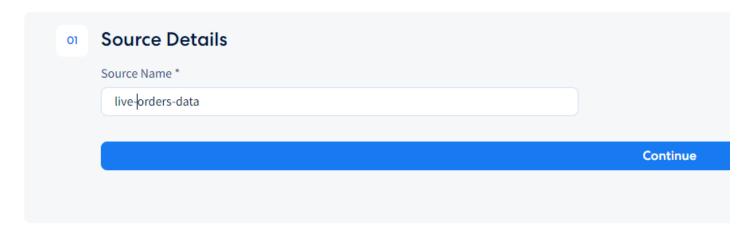
Configure the source

Source details

We are now coming to the end of the configuration process for the source. After configuring our database and table now we need to ensure the connections work. The process starts with giving the source a name:

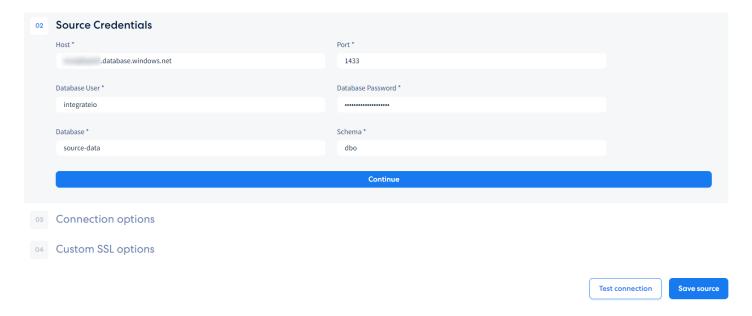
« Select an existing source

Configure new Microsoft SQL Server CDC source



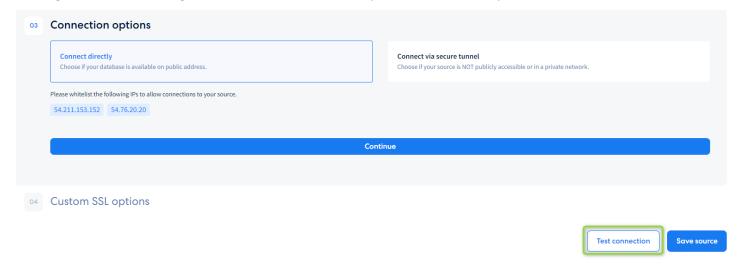
Source credentials

Then fill in the connection credentials that Integrate.io generated for us previously (or the ones you prefer):

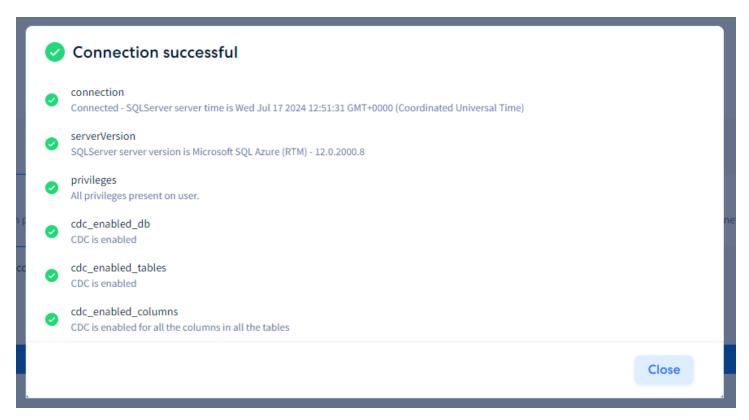


Connection options

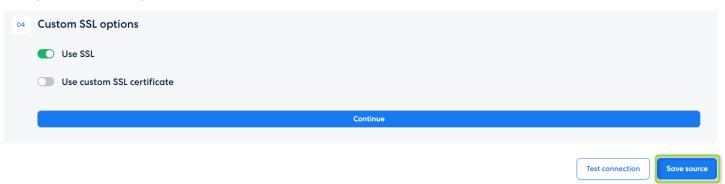
Clicking *Continue* after filling in the source credentials will open the connection options section:



In the direct connection case, you must whitelist the IPs in the MSSQL server firewall. After having the IPs whitelisted, click *Test Connection*. The expected result is a dialog with a summary stating all prerequisites have been fulfilled:



Finally, check the SSL options and click Save source:



At this point our source configuration is ready! Integrate.io has guided as in a well-structured and thoroughly documented process to configure our CDC-enabled Azure SQL data source. In case new tables appear, they will be automatically detected and synchronized as well.

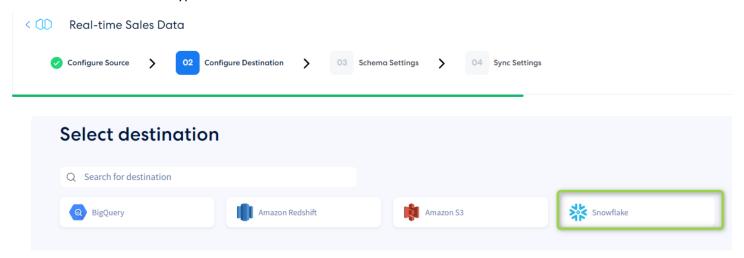
With our source connection ready, let us proceed with setting up the destination data connection.

Set up the destination

For this scenario, I will be using a Snowflake data warehouse destination. Snowflake is a powerful data-as-a-service (DaaS) platform that can efficiently store vast amounts of data. Using Integrate.io to create your data pipeline makes tapping into data stores quick and easy, even for non-technical users. After signing up for Snowflake, you can proceed with setting up the connection from Integrate.io.

Select destination

First select the destination type:



Overview

Note it is required that you are an admin to execute the setup steps:

« Select an existing destination

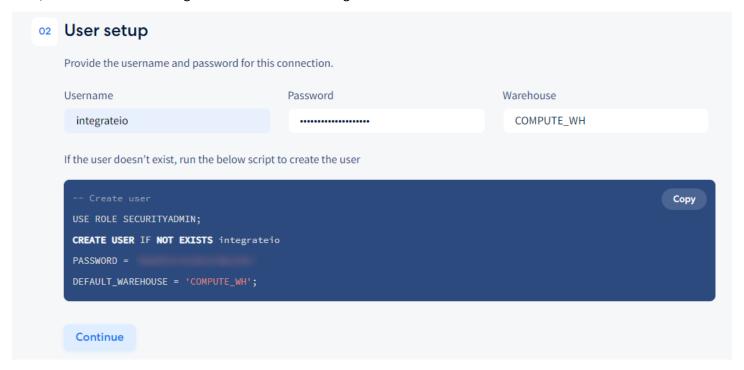
Setting up Snowflake for ELT & CDC

Before you begin to add Snowflake as destination, please make sure that it is configured to work with Integrate.io Sync by following the steps below.



User setup

Next, we must create an integration-level user that Integrate.io will use to write to the data warehouse:



Role setup

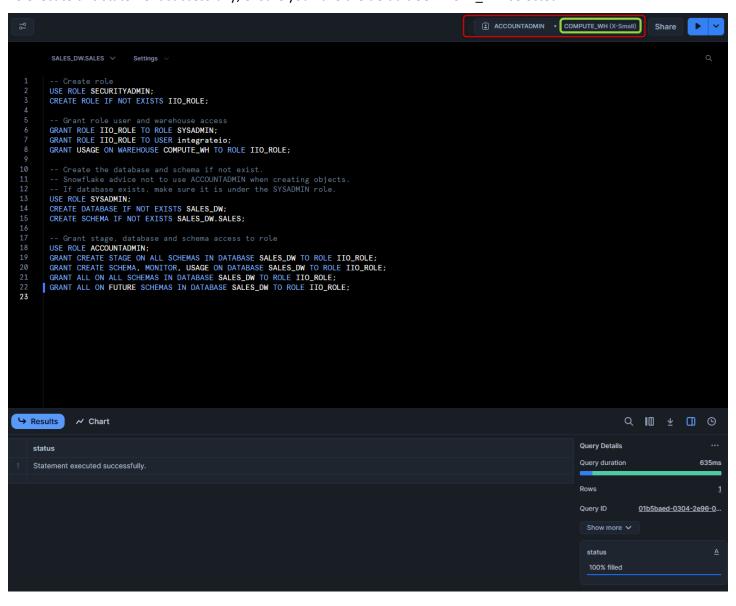
Next, we must set up the role. Specify name of the role, database and schema:



Here is the raw script:

```
-- Create role
USE ROLE SECURITYADMIN;
CREATE ROLE IF NOT EXISTS IIO_ROLE;
-- Grant role user and warehouse access
GRANT ROLE IIO ROLE TO ROLE SYSADMIN;
GRANT ROLE IIO_ROLE TO USER integrateio;
GRANT USAGE ON WAREHOUSE COMPUTE WH TO ROLE IIO ROLE;
-- Create the database and schema if not exist.
-- Snowflake advice not to use ACCOUNTADMIN when creating objects.
-- If database exists, make sure it is under the SYSADMIN role.
USE ROLE SYSADMIN;
CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS SALES DW;
CREATE SCHEMA IF NOT EXISTS SALES DW.SALES;
-- Grant stage, database and schema access to role
USE ROLE ACCOUNTADMIN;
GRANT CREATE STAGE ON ALL SCHEMAS IN DATABASE SALES DW TO ROLE IIO ROLE;
GRANT CREATE SCHEMA, MONITOR, USAGE ON DATABASE SALES DW TO ROLE IIO ROLE;
GRANT ALL ON ALL SCHEMAS IN DATABASE SALES DW TO ROLE IIO ROLE;
GRANT ALL ON FUTURE SCHEMAS IN DATABASE SALES DW TO ROLE IIO ROLE;
```

To execute this statement successfully, ensure you have the default COMPUTE_WH selected:



The final fourth step is the storage integration setup:

O4 Storage integration setup Create storage integration for Integrate.io. Storage Integration Name IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD Run the below script to create the role and grant warehouse, database and schema access. Copy USE ROLE ACCOUNTADMIN; CREATE STORAGE INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD TYPE = EXTERNAL_STAGE STORAGE_PROVIDER = S3 ENABLED = TRUE STORAGE_AWS_ROLE_ARN = 'arn:aws:iam::0000:role/dummy-role' STORAGE_ALLOWED_LOCATIONS = ('s3://dummy-bucket'); GRANT CREATE INTEGRATION ON ACCOUNT TO ROLE IIO_ROLE; GRANT OWNERSHIP ON INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD TO ROLE IIO_ROLE; GRANT USAGE ON INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD TO ROLE IIO_ROLE; Continue

```
-- Create storage integration USE ROLE ACCOUNTADMIN;
```

```
CREATE STORAGE INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD

TYPE = EXTERNAL_STAGE

STORAGE_PROVIDER = S3

ENABLED = TRUE

-- These will be updated by Integrate.io upon test connection

STORAGE_AWS_ROLE_ARN = 'arn:aws:iam::0000:role/dummy-role'

STORAGE_ALLOWED_LOCATIONS = ('s3://dummy-bucket');

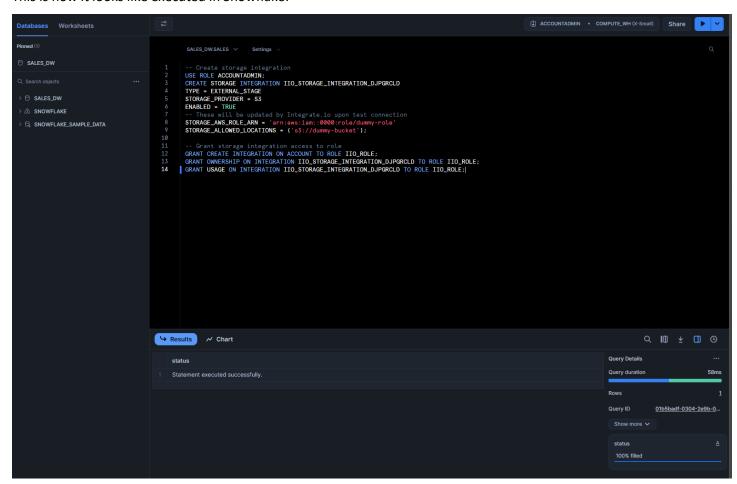
-- Grant storage integration access to role

GRANT CREATE INTEGRATION ON ACCOUNT TO ROLE IIO_ROLE;

GRANT OWNERSHIP ON INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD TO ROLE IIO_ROLE;
```

GRANT USAGE ON INTEGRATION IIO_STORAGE_INTEGRATION_DJPGRCLD TO ROLE IIO_ROLE;

This is how it looks like executed in Snowflake:



This important configuration step is required because under the covers, Integrate.io uses Amazon S3 storage as a buffer between the source and the destination. From Azure SQL Integrate.io will serialize the data to an avro format and store it in S3, which is a setup particularly suitable for streaming analytics, data replication and big data processing scenarios like this one. Integrate.io will assign the value for STORAGE_ALLOWED_LOCATIONS at run-time so there is nothing extra the user must do to make the pipeline work.

Applying transformations

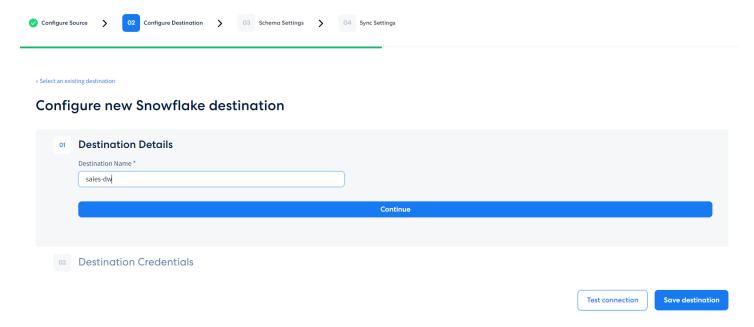
There is also an option to apply certain transformations on the source data before it reaches the destination. Specifically, Integrate io supports replacement of values in a column. To apply this rule, you must contact the support team and provide a Regex pattern for the string to find and a replacement string. Other transformations are not supported due to following the best practices of the typical architecture of data replication to a data warehouse. In such an architecture, more extensive transformations are implemented in the destination only after the data arrives, e.g. when creating a curated data set out of a staged data set.

With these steps done, we are ready to go to the next step: configure the destination connection.

Configure the destination

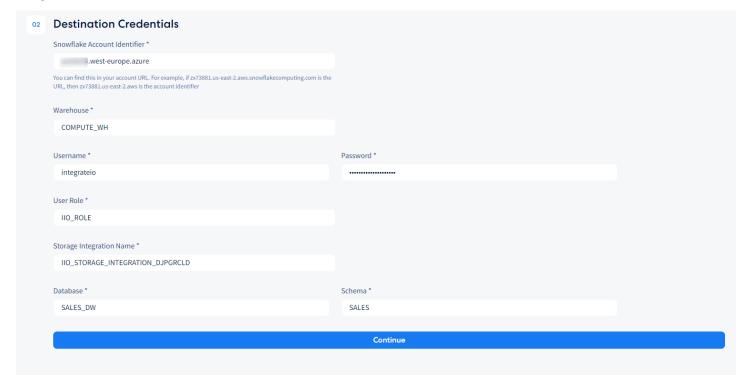
Destination details

Integrate.io is now guiding us through the final configuration steps for the destination. We must provide a name for the destination:

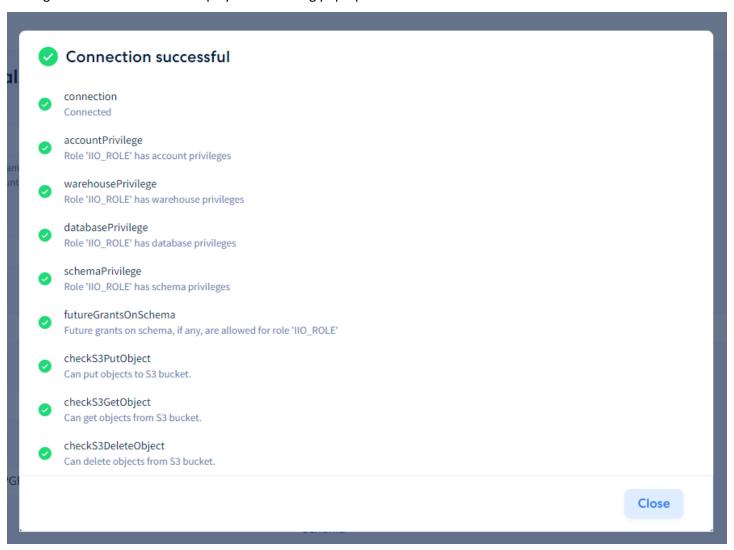


Destination credentials

Fill in the fields with the connection attributes that we now have, such as username, password, role name, storage integration name, database, and schema:

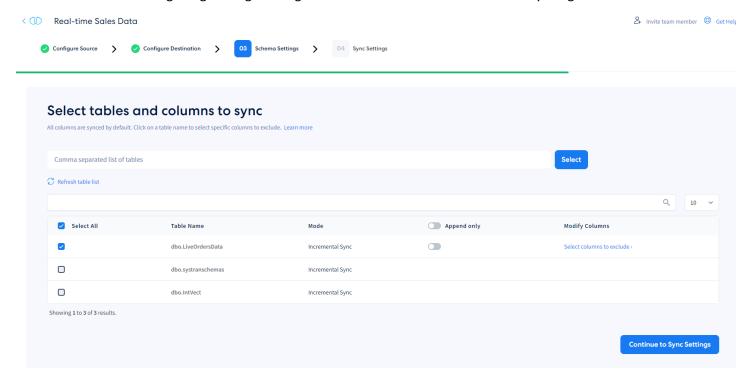


Testing the connection should display the following pop-up:

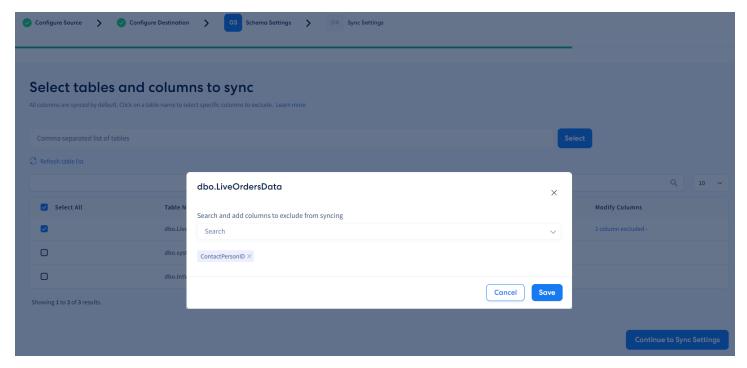


Configure the pipeline

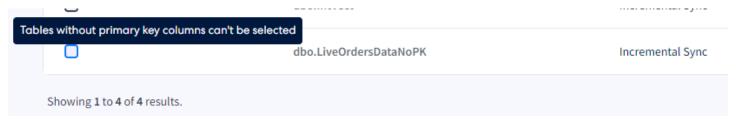
At this point we have successfully configured the source and the destination as well as tested the connectivity. We are now at the schema settings stage. Integrate io gives us a list of the available tables for syncing:



Here I will just select the table I need without applying any additional settings: it is that easy to get started with real-time CDC! We have the option to "append only" to avoid having deletes replicate which is not relevant in this scenario. From this interface we can also modify the columns that we want to exclude from syncing. Here I will exclude the ContactPersonID:

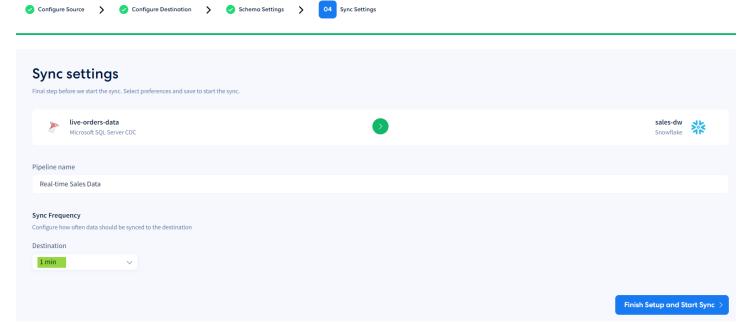


You will notice the column selection dropdown menu will not contain the primary key column. Therefore, in the table list also tables without a primary key will not be available for selection for CDC replication. Tables that do have a unique index, but no primary key will be blanked out as well, although CDC may be enabled for them:



Sync settings

The final stage of the pipeline setup is the sync frequency setting. To demonstrate the capabilities of the platform we will use the highest frequency of one minute. This setting will make the pipeline run and check for changes every minute.



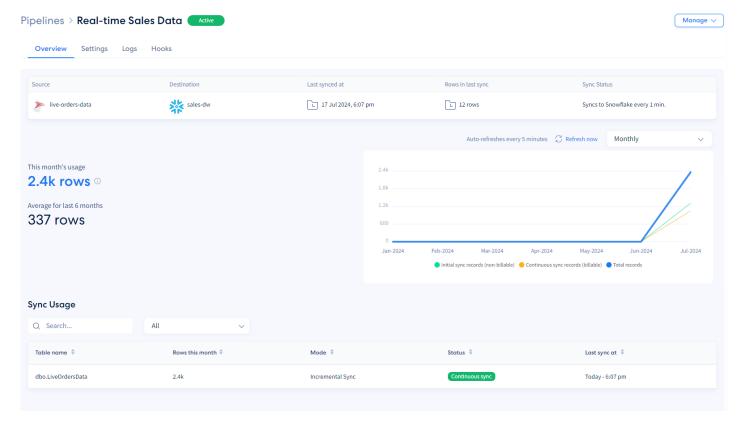
Once done, click on Finish Setup and Start Sync. The initial sync will commence:



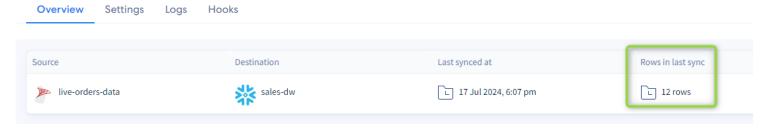
Starting initial sync...

Pipeline created. Redirecting to pipeline dashboard shortly.

After the initial sync completes, the pipeline will execute every minute to sync only the new rows. Once the pipeline is running, we get access to a handy overview. Here we see the main pipeline metrics such as last sync and number of rows that were synced:



Since we generate new data every 5 seconds, we should be getting about 12 new rows every minute (60 / 5 = 12):

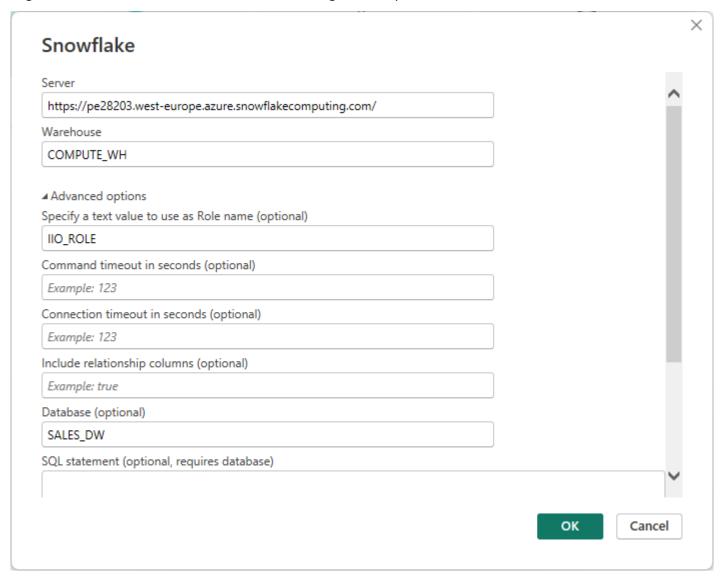


Leverage the data

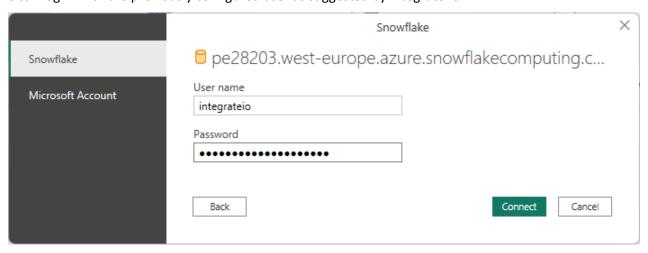
Having the one-minute pipeline all set and running, Integrate.io will now have the data available in Snowflake either for analytics or other scenarios. For example, application integration, fueling other line of business apps with real-time data or building curated data products. For the purposes of this demo, let us just examine the data by building a Power BI report.

Power BI data source

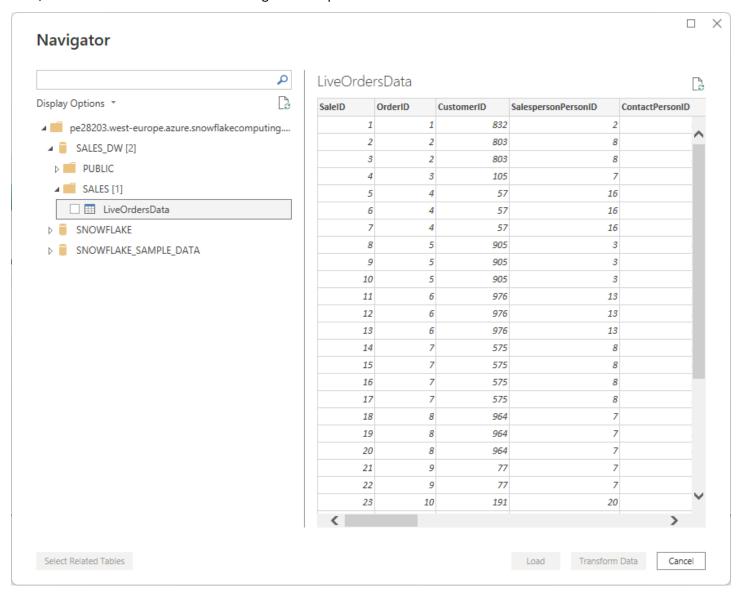
To start, configure the Snowflake data source in Power BI and login with the previously configured user as suggested by Integrate.io. Next, from the familiar Power BI data navigator I can pick the table I need:



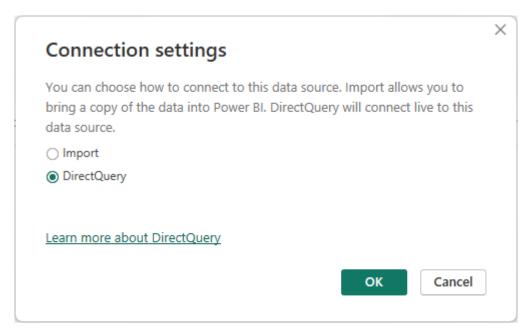
Then we can log in with the previously configured user as suggested by Integrate.io:



Next, from the familiar Power BI data navigator I can pick the table I need:



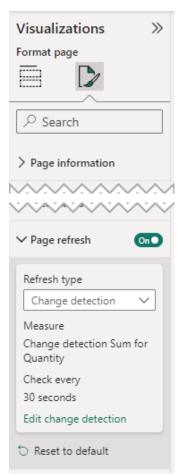
Importantly, we will utilize the DirectQuery connection mode to showcase the data arriving every minute:



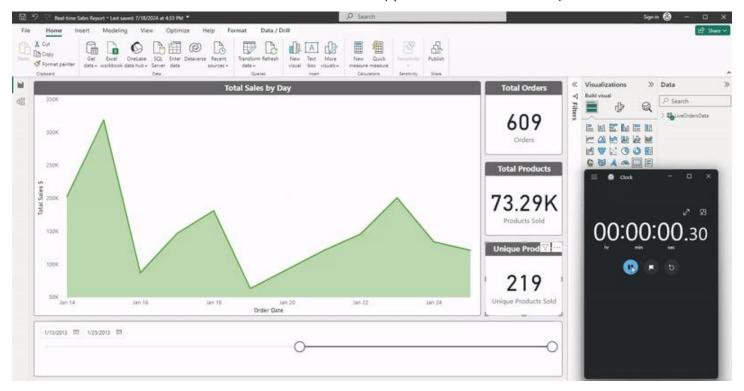
Next, click on the blank report canvas, open the Visualizations pane, and expand the Page refresh tab. Set it to *On* and configure it like this:

- Change detection of the total sum for Quantity (i.e., overall number of products sold)
- Check every thirty seconds.

This configuration instructs Power BI to refresh the page every 30 seconds so new data is immediately reflected on the report visuals as Integrate.io continuously syncs to Snowflake:



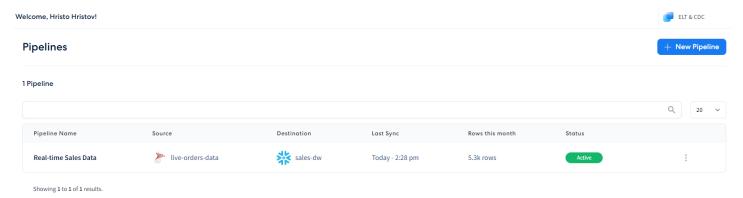
We can observe the result of the pipeline run in the following animated screenshot. Notice how the total sales quantities and sum of total sales in UISD evolve as the new data come in (speed has been increased 3x):



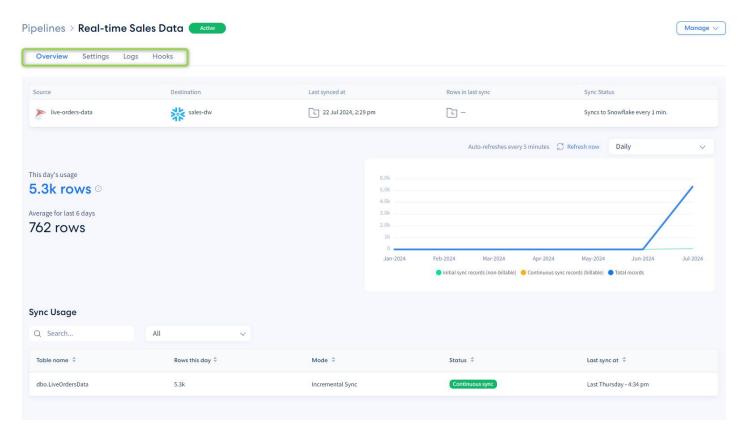
At this point we have the pipeline running and we utilize the incoming live data in a Power BI report. There is one last point left: monitoring the pipeline to ensure the CDC runs smoothly.

Monitor and re-configuring the pipeline

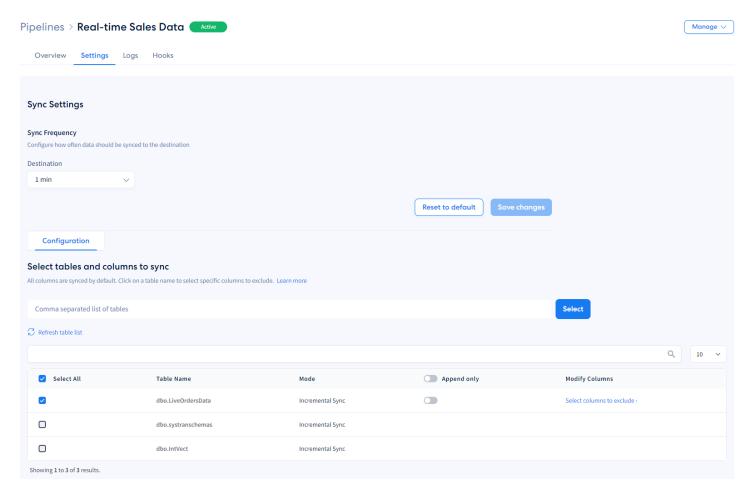
Once the pipeline is saved and starts running, we can monitor its execution. From the list of pipelines, you can access your pipeline:



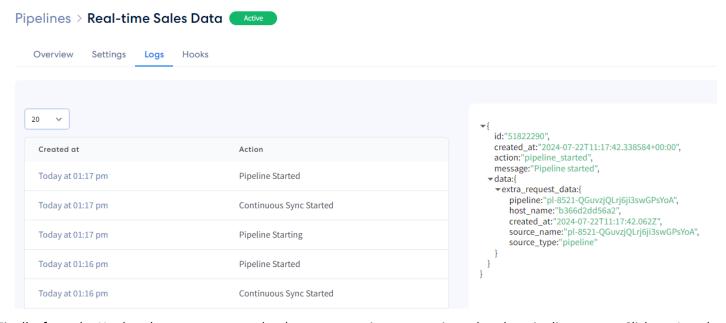
In the pipeline overview you have four tabs: Overview, Settings, Logs and Hooks:



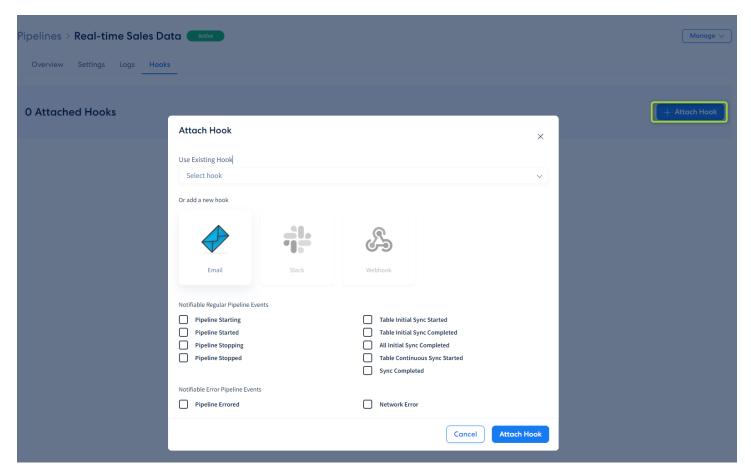
The overview provides a summary of how many rows have been synced on daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. You can see the last sync, the rows synced during the last sync session and which tables are being synced. From the settings tab you can change the sync frequency and select more tables for syncing:



From the Logs tab we can access some high-level logs describing the execution state of the pipeline. In case there are any errors with the pipeline execution, they will pop up here:



Finally, from the Hooks tab you can create a hook, or a messaging automation related to pipeline events. Click on *Attach Hook* and pick a preference for messaging:



With the messaging automation, Integrate.io ensures you remain updated at every data movement and pipeline event, including if any errors occur.

Conclusion

With Integrate.io we created a real-time data replication and CDC pipeline in a straightforward and reliable way. We were able to quickly expose transactional data to a cloud data warehouse so our business users can observe the sales evolution in real-time. Using the clear, step-by-step instructions from the ELT & CDC wizard, we can develop a scalable and secure data replication pipeline facilitating immediate data insights with little effort. This is how you can bring visible business value to your scenario. Interested in finding out more?

Head over to Integrate.io's trial page to sign up now.

Next Steps

- Integrate.io ELT and CDC knowledge base
- Transforms replacement rules
- Azure SQL CDC
- Automatic page refresh in Power BI