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QUESTION 1

A company is migrating its database servers from Amazon EC2 instances that run Microsoft SQL Server to Amazon RDS for Microsoft SQL Server DB instances. The company's analytics team must export large data elements every day until the migration is complete. The data elements are the result of SQL joins across multiple tables. The data must be in Apache Parquet format. The analytics team must store the data in Amazon S3.

Which solution will meet these requirements in the MOST operationally efficient way?

- A. Create a view in the EC2 instance-based SQL Server databases that contains the required data elements. Create an AWS Glue job that selects the data directly from the view and transfers the data in Parquet format to an S3 bucket. Schedule the AWS Glue job to run every day.
- B. Schedule SQL Server Agent to run a daily SQL query that selects the desired data elements from the EC2 instance-based SQL Server databases. Configure the query to direct the output .csv objects to an S3 bucket. Create an S3 event that invokes an AWS Lambda function to transform the output format from .csv to Parquet.
- C. Use a SQL query to create a view in the EC2 instance-based SQL Server databases that contains the required data elements. Create and run an AWS Glue crawler to read the view. Create an AWS Glue job that retrieves the data and transfers the data in Parquet format to an S3 bucket. Schedule the AWS Glue job to run every day.
- D. Create an AWS Lambda function that queries the EC2 instance-based databases by using Java Database Connectivity (JDBC). Configure the Lambda function to retrieve the required data, transform the data into Parquet format, and transfer the data into an S3 bucket. Use Amazon EventBridge to schedule the Lambda function to run every day.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Option A is the most operationally efficient way to meet the requirements because it minimizes the number of steps and services involved in the data export process. AWS Glue is a fully managed service that can extract, transform, and load (ETL) data from various sources to various destinations, including Amazon S3. AWS Glue can also convert data to different formats, such as Parquet, which is a columnar storage format that is optimized for analytics. By creating a view in the SQL Server databases that contains the required data elements, the AWS Glue job can select the data directly from the view without having to perform any joins or transformations on the source data. The AWS Glue job can then transfer the data in Parquet format to an S3 bucket and run on a daily schedule. Option B is not operationally efficient because it involves multiple steps and services to export the data. SQL Server Agent is a tool that can run scheduled tasks on SQL Server databases, such as executing SQL queries. However, SQL Server Agent cannot directly export data to S3, so the query output must be saved as .csv objects on the EC2 instance. Then, an S3 event must be configured to trigger an AWS Lambda function that can transform the .csv objects to Parquet format and upload them to S3. This option adds complexity and latency to the data export process and requires additional resources and configuration. Option C is not operationally efficient because it introduces an unnecessary step of running an AWS Glue crawler to read the view. An AWS Glue crawler is a service that can scan data sources and create metadata tables in the AWS Glue Data Catalog. The Data Catalog is a central repository that stores information about the data sources, such as schema, format, and location. However, in this scenario, the schema and format of the data elements are already known and fixed, so there is no need to run a crawler to discover them. The AWS Glue job can directly select the data from the view without using the Data Catalog. Running a crawler adds extra time and cost to the data export process. Option D is not operationally efficient because it requires custom code and configuration to query the databases and transform the data. An AWS Lambda function is a service that can run code in response to events or triggers, such as Amazon EventBridge. Amazon EventBridge is a service that can connect applications and services with event sources, such as schedules, and route them to targets, such as Lambda functions. However, in this scenario, using a Lambda function to query the databases and transform the data is not the best option because it requires writing and maintaining code that uses JDBC to connect to the SQL Server databases, retrieve the required data, convert the data to Parquet format, and transfer the data to S3. This option also has limitations on the execution time, memory, and concurrency of the Lambda function, which may affect the performance and reliability of the data export process.

References: AWS Certified Data Engineer - Associate DEA-C01 Complete Study Guide AWS Glue Documentation



Working with Views in AWS Glue Converting to Columnar Formats

QUESTION 2

A data engineer needs to use AWS Step Functions to design an orchestration workflow. The workflow must parallel process a large collection of data files and apply a specific transformation to each file.

Which Step Functions state should the data engineer use to meet these requirements?

- A. Parallel state
- B. Choice state
- C. Map state
- D. Wait state

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer because the Map state is designed to process a collection of data in parallel by applying the same transformation to each element. The Map state can invoke a nested workflow for each element,

which can be another state machine or a Lambda function. The Map state will wait until all the parallel executions are completed before moving to the next state.

Option A is incorrect because the Parallel state is used to execute multiple branches of logic concurrently, not to process a collection of data. The Parallel state can have different branches with different logic and states, whereas the Map state

has only one branch that is applied to each element of the collection.

Option B is incorrect because the Choice state is used to make decisions based on a comparison of a value to a set of rules. The Choice state does not process any data or invoke any nested workflows.

Option D is incorrect because the Wait state is used to delay the state machine from continuing for a specified time. The Wait state does not process any data or invoke any nested workflows.

References:

AWS Certified Data Engineer - Associate DEA-C01 Complete Study Guide, Chapter 5: Data Orchestration, Section 5.3: AWS Step Functions, Pages 131-132 Building Batch Data Analytics Solutions on AWS, Module 5: Data Orchestration,

Lesson 5.2: AWS Step Functions, Pages 9-10

AWS Documentation Overview, AWS Step Functions Developer Guide, Step Functions Concepts, State Types, Map State, Pages 1-3

QUESTION 3

A company stores datasets in JSON format and .csv format in an Amazon S3 bucket. The company has Amazon RDS for Microsoft SQL Server databases, Amazon DynamoDB tables that are in provisioned capacity mode, and an Amazon Redshift cluster. A data engineering team must develop a solution that will give data scientists the ability to query all data sources by using syntax similar to SQL.



Which solution will meet these requirements with the LEAST operational overhead?

- A. Use AWS Glue to crawl the data sources. Store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog. Use Amazon Athena to query the data. Use SQL for structured data sources. Use PartiQL for data that is stored in JSON format.
- B. Use AWS Glue to crawl the data sources. Store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog. Use Redshift Spectrum to query the data. Use SQL for structured data sources. Use PartiQL for data that is stored in JSON format.
- C. Use AWS Glue to crawl the data sources. Store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog. Use AWS Glue jobs to transform data that is in JSON format to Apache Parquet or .csv format. Store the transformed data in an S3 bucket. Use Amazon Athena to query the original and transformed data from the S3 bucket.
- D. Use AWS Lake Formation to create a data lake. Use Lake Formation jobs to transform the data from all data sources to Apache Parquet format. Store the transformed data in an S3 bucket. Use Amazon Athena or Redshift Spectrum to query the data.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The best solution to meet the requirements of giving data scientists the ability to query all data sources by using syntax similar to SQL with the least operational overhead is to use AWS Glue to crawl the data sources, store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog, use Amazon Athena to query the data, use SQL for structured data sources, and use PartiQL for data that is stored in JSON format. AWS Glue is a serverless data integration service that makes it easy to prepare, clean, enrich, and move data between data stores¹. AWS Glue crawlers are processes that connect to a data store, progress through a prioritized list of classifiers to determine the schema for your data, and then create metadata tables in the Data Catalog². The Data Catalog is a persistent metadata store that contains table definitions, job definitions, and other control information to help you manage your AWS Glue components³. You can use AWS Glue to crawl the data sources, such as Amazon S3, Amazon RDS for Microsoft SQL Server, and Amazon DynamoDB, and store the metadata in the Data Catalog. Amazon Athena is a serverless, interactive query service that makes it easy to analyze data directly in Amazon S3 using standard SQL or Python⁴. Amazon Athena also supports PartiQL, a SQL-compatible query language that lets you query, insert, update, and delete data from semi-structured and nested data, such as JSON. You can use Amazon Athena to query the data from the Data Catalog using SQL for structured data sources, such as .csv files and relational databases, and PartiQL for data that is stored in JSON format. You can also use Athena to query data from other data sources, such as Amazon Redshift, using federated queries. Using AWS Glue and Amazon Athena to query all data sources by using syntax similar to SQL is the least operational overhead solution, as you do not need to provision, manage, or scale any infrastructure, and you pay only for the resources you use. AWS Glue charges you based on the compute time and the data processed by your crawlers and ETL jobs¹. Amazon Athena charges you based on the amount of data scanned by your queries. You can also reduce the cost and improve the performance of your queries by using compression, partitioning, and columnar formats for your data in Amazon S3. Option B is not the best solution, as using AWS Glue to crawl the data sources, store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog, and use Redshift Spectrum to query the data, would incur more costs and complexity than using Amazon Athena. Redshift Spectrum is a feature of Amazon Redshift, a fully managed data warehouse service, that allows you to query and join data across your data warehouse and your data lake using standard SQL. While Redshift Spectrum is powerful and useful for many data warehousing scenarios, it is not necessary or cost-effective for querying all data sources by using syntax similar to SQL. Redshift Spectrum charges you based on the amount of data scanned by your queries, which is similar to Amazon Athena, but it also requires you to have an Amazon Redshift cluster, which charges you based on the node type, the number of nodes, and the duration of the cluster⁵. These costs can add up quickly, especially if you have large volumes of data and complex queries. Moreover, using Redshift Spectrum would introduce additional latency and complexity, as you would have to provision and manage the cluster, and create an external schema and database for the data in the Data Catalog, instead of querying it directly from Amazon Athena. Option C is not the best solution, as using AWS Glue to crawl the data sources, store metadata in the AWS Glue Data Catalog, use AWS Glue jobs to transform data that is in JSON format to Apache Parquet or .csv format, store the

transformed data in an S3 bucket, and use Amazon Athena to query the original and transformed data from the S3 bucket, would incur more costs and complexity than using Amazon Athena with PartiQL. AWS Glue jobs are ETL scripts that

you can write in Python or Scala to transform your data and load it to your target data store. Apache Parquet is a



columnar storage format that can improve the performance of analytical queries by reducing the amount of data that needs to be

scanned and providing efficient compression and encoding schemes⁶. While using AWS Glue jobs and Parquet can improve the performance and reduce the cost of your queries, they would also increase the complexity and the operational

overhead of the data pipeline, as you would have to write, run, and monitor the ETL jobs, and store the transformed data in a separate location in Amazon S3. Moreover, using AWS Glue jobs and Parquet would introduce additional latency,

as you would have to wait for the ETL jobs to finish before querying the transformed data.

Option D is not the best solution, as using AWS Lake Formation to create a data lake, use Lake Formation jobs to transform the data from all data sources to Apache Parquet format, store the transformed data in an S3 bucket, and use

Amazon Athena or Redshift Spectrum to query the data, would incur more costs and complexity than using Amazon Athena with PartiQL. AWS Lake Formation is a service that helps you centrally govern, secure, and globally share data for

analytics and machine learning⁷. Lake Formation jobs are ETL jobs that you can create and run using the Lake Formation console or API. While using Lake Formation and Parquet can improve the performance and reduce the cost of your

queries, they would also increase the complexity and the operational overhead of the data pipeline, as you would have to create, run, and monitor the Lake Formation jobs, and store the transformed data in a separate location in Amazon S3.

Moreover, using Lake Formation and Parquet would introduce additional latency, as you would have to wait for the Lake Formation jobs to finish before querying the transformed data. Furthermore, using Redshift Spectrum to query the data

would also incur the same costs and complexity as mentioned in option B. References:

What is Amazon Athena?

Data Catalog and crawlers in AWS Glue

AWS Glue Data Catalog

Columnar Storage Formats

AWS Certified Data Engineer - Associate DEA-C01 Complete Study Guide AWS Glue Schema Registry

What is AWS Glue?

Amazon Redshift Serverless

Amazon Redshift provisioned clusters

[Querying external data using Amazon Redshift Spectrum] [Using stored procedures in Amazon Redshift]

[What is AWS Lambda?]

[PartiQL for Amazon Athena]

[Federated queries in Amazon Athena]



[Amazon Athena pricing]

[Top 10 performance tuning tips for Amazon Athena] [AWS Glue ETL jobs]

[AWS Lake Formation jobs]

QUESTION 4

A data engineer must use AWS services to ingest a dataset into an Amazon S3 data lake. The data engineer profiles the dataset and discovers that the dataset contains personally identifiable information (PII). The data engineer must implement a solution to profile the dataset and obfuscate the PII.

Which solution will meet this requirement with the LEAST operational effort?

- A. Use an Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream to process the dataset. Create an AWS Lambda transform function to identify the PII. Use an AWS SDK to obfuscate the PII. Set the S3 data lake as the target for the delivery stream.
- B. Use the Detect PII transform in AWS Glue Studio to identify the PII. Obfuscate the PII. Use an AWS Step Functions state machine to orchestrate a data pipeline to ingest the data into the S3 data lake.
- C. Use the Detect PII transform in AWS Glue Studio to identify the PII. Create a rule in AWS Glue Data Quality to obfuscate the PII. Use an AWS Step Functions state machine to orchestrate a data pipeline to ingest the data into the S3 data lake.
- D. Ingest the dataset into Amazon DynamoDB. Create an AWS Lambda function to identify and obfuscate the PII in the DynamoDB table and to transform the data. Use the same Lambda function to ingest the data into the S3 data lake.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: AWS Glue is a fully managed service that provides a serverless data integration platform for data preparation, data cataloging, and data loading. AWS Glue Studio is a graphical interface that allows you to easily author, run, and monitor AWS Glue ETL jobs. AWS Glue Data Quality is a feature that enables you to validate, cleanse, and enrich your data using predefined or custom rules. AWS Step Functions is a service that allows you to coordinate multiple AWS services into serverless workflows. Using the Detect PII transform in AWS Glue Studio, you can automatically identify and label the PII in your dataset, such as names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. You can then create a rule in AWS Glue Data Quality to obfuscate the PII, such as masking, hashing, or replacing the values with dummy data. You can also use other rules to validate and cleanse your data, such as checking for null values, duplicates, outliers, etc. You can then use an AWS Step Functions state machine to orchestrate a data pipeline to ingest the data into the S3 data lake. You can use AWS Glue DataBrew to visually explore and transform the data, AWS Glue crawlers to discover and catalog the data, and AWS Glue jobs to load the data into the S3 data lake. This solution will meet the requirement with the least operational effort, as it leverages the serverless and managed capabilities of AWS Glue, AWS Glue Studio, AWS Glue Data Quality, and AWS Step Functions. You do not need to write any code to identify or obfuscate the PII, as you can use the built-in transforms and rules in AWS Glue Studio and AWS Glue Data Quality. You also do not need to provision or manage any servers or clusters, as AWS Glue and AWS Step Functions scale automatically based on the demand. The other options are not as efficient as using the Detect PII transform in AWS Glue Studio, creating a rule in AWS Glue Data Quality, and using an AWS Step Functions state machine. Using an Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose delivery stream to process the dataset, creating an AWS Lambda transform function to identify the PII, using an AWS SDK to obfuscate the PII, and setting the S3 data lake as the target for the delivery stream will require more operational effort, as you will need to write and maintain code to identify and obfuscate the PII, as well as manage the Lambda function and its resources. Using the Detect PII transform in AWS Glue Studio to identify the PII, obfuscating the PII, and using an AWS Step Functions state machine to orchestrate a data pipeline to ingest the data into the S3 data lake will not be as effective as creating a rule in AWS Glue Data Quality to obfuscate the PII, as you will need to manually obfuscate the PII after identifying it, which can be error-prone and time-



consuming. Ingesting the dataset into Amazon DynamoDB, creating an AWS Lambda function to identify and obfuscate the PII in the DynamoDB table and to transform the data, and using the same Lambda function to ingest the data into the S3 data lake will require more operational effort, as you will need to write and maintain code to identify and obfuscate the PII, as well as manage the Lambda function and its resources. You will also incur additional costs and complexity by using DynamoDB as an intermediate data store, which may not be necessary for your use case.

References: AWS Glue AWS Glue Studio AWS Glue Data Quality [AWS Step Functions] [AWS Certified Data Engineer - Associate DEA-C01 Complete Study Guide], Chapter 6: Data Integration and Transformation, Section 6.1: AWS Glue

QUESTION 5

A manufacturing company wants to collect data from sensors. A data engineer needs to implement a solution that ingests sensor data in near real time.

The solution must store the data to a persistent data store. The solution must store the data in nested JSON format. The company must have the ability to query from the data store with a latency of less than 10 milliseconds.

Which solution will meet these requirements with the LEAST operational overhead?

- A. Use a self-hosted Apache Kafka cluster to capture the sensor data. Store the data in Amazon S3 for querying.
- B. Use AWS Lambda to process the sensor data. Store the data in Amazon S3 for querying.
- C. Use Amazon Kinesis Data Streams to capture the sensor data. Store the data in Amazon DynamoDB for querying.
- D. Use Amazon Simple Queue Service(Amazon SQS) to buffer incoming sensor data. Use AWS Glue to store the data in Amazon RDS for querying.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Amazon Kinesis Data Streams is a service that enables you to collect, process, and analyze streaming data in real time. You can use Kinesis Data Streams to capture sensor data from various sources, such as IoT devices, web

applications, or mobile apps. You can create data streams that can scale up to handle any amount of data from thousands of producers. You can also use the Kinesis Client Library (KCL) or the Kinesis Data Streams API to write applications

that process and analyze the data in the streams¹. Amazon DynamoDB is a fully managed NoSQL database service that provides fast and predictable performance with seamless scalability. You can use DynamoDB to store the sensor data

in nested JSON format, as DynamoDB supports document data types, such as lists and maps. You can also use DynamoDB to query the data with a latency of less than 10 milliseconds, as DynamoDB offers single-digit millisecond

performance for any scale of data. You can use the DynamoDB API or the AWS SDKs to perform queries on the data, such as using key-value lookups, scans, or queries². The solution that meets the requirements with the least operational

overhead is to use Amazon Kinesis Data Streams to capture the sensor data and store the data in Amazon DynamoDB for querying. This solution has the following advantages:

It does not require you to provision, manage, or scale any servers, clusters, or queues, as Kinesis Data Streams and DynamoDB are fully managed services that handle all the infrastructure for you. This reduces the operational complexity



and cost of running your solution.

It allows you to ingest sensor data in near real time, as Kinesis Data Streams can capture data records as they are produced and deliver them to your applications within seconds. You can also use Kinesis Data Firehose to load the data from

the streams to DynamoDB automatically and continuously³. It allows you to store the data in nested JSON format, as DynamoDB supports document data types, such as lists and maps. You can also use DynamoDB Streams to

capture changes in the data and trigger actions, such as sending notifications or updating other databases.

It allows you to query the data with a latency of less than 10 milliseconds, as DynamoDB offers single-digit millisecond performance for any scale of data. You can also use DynamoDB Accelerator (DAX) to improve the read performance by

caching frequently accessed data.

Option A is incorrect because it suggests using a self-hosted Apache Kafka cluster to capture the sensor data and store the data in Amazon S3 for querying. This solution has the following disadvantages:

It requires you to provision, manage, and scale your own Kafka cluster, either on EC2 instances or on-premises servers. This increases the operational complexity and cost of running your solution.

It does not allow you to query the data with a latency of less than 10 milliseconds, as Amazon S3 is an object storage service that is not optimized for low-latency queries. You need to use another service, such as Amazon Athena or Amazon

Redshift Spectrum, to query the data in S3, which may incur additional costs and latency.

Option B is incorrect because it suggests using AWS Lambda to process the sensor data and store the data in Amazon S3 for querying. This solution has the following disadvantages:

It does not allow you to ingest sensor data in near real time, as Lambda is a serverless compute service that runs code in response to events. You need to use another service, such as API Gateway or Kinesis Data Streams, to trigger

Lambda functions with sensor data, which may add extra latency and complexity to your solution.

It does not allow you to query the data with a latency of less than 10 milliseconds, as Amazon S3 is an object storage service that is not optimized for low-latency queries. You need to use another service, such as Amazon Athena or Amazon

Redshift Spectrum, to query the data in S3, which may incur additional costs and latency.

Option D is incorrect because it suggests using Amazon Simple Queue Service (Amazon SQS) to buffer incoming sensor data and use AWS Glue to store the data in Amazon RDS for querying. This solution has the following disadvantages:

It does not allow you to ingest sensor data in near real time, as Amazon SQS is a message queue service that delivers messages in a best-effort manner. You need to use another service, such as Lambda or EC2, to poll the messages from

the queue and process them, which may add extra latency and complexity to your solution.

It does not allow you to store the data in nested JSON format, as Amazon RDS is a relational database service that supports structured data types, such as tables and columns. You need to use another service, such as AWS Glue, to

transform the data from JSON to relational format, which may add extra cost and overhead to your solution.



References:

1: Amazon Kinesis Data Streams - Features

2: Amazon DynamoDB - Features

3: Loading Streaming Data into Amazon DynamoDB - Amazon Kinesis Data Firehose [4]: Capturing Table Activity with DynamoDB Streams - Amazon DynamoDB [5]: Amazon DynamoDB Accelerator (DAX) - Features [6]: Amazon S3 - Features [7]: AWS Lambda - Features [8]: Amazon Simple Queue Service - Features [9]: Amazon Relational Database Service - Features [10]: Working with JSON in Amazon RDS - Amazon Relational Database Service [11]: AWS Glue - Features

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