

STATE STREET ACCELERATES INVESTMENT INSIGHTS BY BUILDING ALPHA DATA PLATFORM ON SNOWFLAKE

FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATE STREET

COMPANY State Street
LOCATION Boston, Massachusetts

SNOWFLAKE WORKLOADS USED



State Street helps create better outcomes for the world's investment managers and the investors they serve. State Street AlphaSM is one of the industry's first front-to-back asset servicing platforms that helps institutional investment managers make better decisions by bringing together data and analytics from across the investment lifecycle. To provide clients with meaningful insights, State Street ingests and analyzes large amounts of trading, compliance, risk, and portfolio data.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

Snowflake Secure Data Sharing

Snowflake's Direct Share capability enables account-to-account sharing with Alpha Data Platform users.

Separate storage and compute with usage-based pricing

Building Alpha Data Platform on Snowflake eliminates performance concerns and supports ongoing cost management objectives.

Snowflake Data Marketplace

Accessing ready-to-query data sets from Snowflake Data Marketplace simplifies data integration for State Street and its clients.

“For investment managers, the ability to capture and analyze data across their front, middle, and back office is a game changer. With Snowflake, our clients can operate from a timely, complete, and accurate view of their data.”

—JOHN PLANSKY, Global Head of State Street Alpha

CHALLENGE:

Capturing and curating data across the investment enterprise

Investment firms generate massive volumes of financial data that typically reside in legacy applications and siloed databases. Unscalable data architectures make it difficult for investment firms to affordably store historical data, access real-time data, and analyze time series data.

Seeking to help investment firms capture the breadth and historical depth of data generated across their investment processes, State Street developed the Alpha Data Platform.

Initial development for the Alpha Data Platform commenced in an on-premises environment, but the team quickly identified numerous drawbacks to this approach. Tuning databases for optimal performance would be time-consuming and complex—especially when multiplied across all of State Street Alpha's users. Sharing raw data sets with clients would have involved replicating and moving data via custom ETL pipelines. Growing demand for cloud-first solutions was another important consideration. “Our data architecture needed to align with the client's need for business agility and enable new approaches that solve traditional bottlenecks,” State Street's Alpha Data Platform Product Owner, Jeff Shortis, said.

SOLUTION:

A scalable data management platform for investment firms

Realizing the need for a modern data environment to serve as the backbone of the Alpha Data Platform, State Street turned to Snowflake.

50%

Lower total cost of labor (TCL) with Snowflake

>4,000x

Reduction in time required to begin sharing investment data with clients, from months to minutes

Architecting the Alpha Data Platform on Snowflake eliminated performance concerns and streamlined infrastructure management, which freed up developers to build a scalable end-to-end data management solution. Snowflake's multi-cluster shared data architecture with usage-based pricing made Snowflake State Street's single source of truth for collecting, curating, and validating investment firm data. Integration with a variety of business intelligence applications offered a convenient way to create and embed data visualizations. Fine-grained, role-based access control provided an additional layer of security for protecting sensitive financial data.

Snowflake Secure Data Sharing made it possible to share and receive live data without moving or copying data. Snowflake Data Marketplace enabled direct, secure, and governed access to ready-to-query data sets. "There's a tremendous advantage for clients who are also Snowflake customers," Shortis said.

Snowflake's ability to provide a single, seamless experience across multiple clouds allowed State Street to support any client's data needs—regardless of cloud provider.

RESULTS:

Accelerating time to insight for investment professionals

Self-service data visualizations from the Alpha Data Platform, powered by Snowflake, surface new insights to help investment professionals trade smarter and respond faster to investors, regulators, and internal stakeholders. Delivering a single, current source of verified data promotes collaboration between risk, portfolio, compliance, and trading teams. Near real-time access to large volumes of financial data accelerates time to insight at a lower cost.

“We can put data in our clients' hands much faster and for half the effort and resources.”

—JEFF SHORTIS,
Alpha Data Platform Product Owner, State Street

Simplifying data management for operations teams

By adopting Alpha Data Platform, operations teams can simplify their data management processes and free up additional capacity for value-added work. Onboarding new data sources—whether they are internal or from Snowflake Data Marketplace—can be done in a

fraction of the time. Streamlined data integration makes it possible to support even more data-driven use cases for generating returns and managing risk.

Making data available to clients within minutes, not months

Snowflake's elastic scalability and data sharing capabilities enable State Street to rapidly onboard Alpha Data Platform users. Snowflake data sharing allows the sharing of live data versus requiring data be updated on a daily or weekly basis as with previous approaches. For example, State Street securely shared vendor data into a client's environment in less than 10 minutes—a job that would normally take months with competing technologies. According to Shortis, "We can put data in our clients' hands much faster and for half the effort and resources." Efficient onboarding elevates client satisfaction and reduces the Alpha Data Platform team's TCL by 50%.

Maximizing market potential with multi-cloud strategy

Implementing a multi-cloud strategy with Snowflake increases the number of market opportunities for Alpha Data Platform, especially with investment firms that use Snowflake. "If the client is already on board with Snowflake, it makes our discussion so much easier," Shortis said.

“Within 10 minutes we had our data in the client's environment, and they were just amazed.”

—JEFF SHORTIS,
Alpha Data Platform Product Owner, State Street

FUTURE:

Leveraging the full breadth and depth of investment data

Augmenting internal data with additional third-party data from the Snowflake Data Marketplace will make it easier for State Street's clients to identify investment opportunities and bring innovative products to market. According to Shortis, "The idea is to drastically expand the data that's accessible from our platform without the heavy lifting to ingest it."

Using Snowflake for data science is also on the roadmap. "We're looking to leverage AI and machine learning to elevate data quality by automatically identifying data issues, and empowering users with Snowflake's built-in feature engineering capabilities," Shortis said.

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ABOUT SNOWFLAKE

Snowflake delivers the Data Cloud—a global network where thousands of organizations mobilize data with near-unlimited scale, concurrency, and performance. Inside the Data Cloud, organizations unite their siloed data, easily discover and securely share governed data, and execute diverse analytic workloads. Wherever data or users live, Snowflake delivers a single and seamless experience across multiple public clouds. Join Snowflake customers, partners, and data providers already taking their businesses to new frontiers in the Data Cloud. [snowflake.com](https://www.snowflake.com)