

Serverless Datalake Architecture for Financial Analysis Using Cloud Computing

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Abstract: The explosive growth of financial data in modern institutions has created significant challenges in data management, scalability, and analytical processing. Traditional on-premises data processing systems often suffer from high infrastructure costs, complex maintenance, limited scalability, and slower analytical performance, making them inefficient for handling large and continuously growing financial datasets. To address these challenges, this paper presents a serverless data lake architecture for financial analysis using cloud computing technologies. The proposed system leverages cloud services such as Amazon S3, AWS Glue, Amazon Athena, and Amazon QuickSight to build a scalable and efficient analytics platform. Financial datasets collected from open-source sources such as Kaggle are ingested into Amazon S3, forming the storage layer of the data lake. The architecture follows a structured Extract–Transform–Load (ETL) pipeline, where AWS Glue performs automated data extraction, transformation, and conversion of raw datasets into optimized Parquet columnar format, while also creating a metadata catalog for efficient data discovery. Analytical queries are executed using Amazon Athena, which enables serverless SQL-based querying directly on the stored datasets. The resulting insights are visualized through interactive dashboards using Amazon QuickSight, allowing users to explore financial patterns and trends effectively.

The proposed architecture eliminates the need for server management while providing high scalability, improved query performance, and cost-efficient data processing. Compared with traditional data processing systems, the serverless approach offers greater flexibility, reduced operational overhead, and faster analytical capabilities. These advantages make the proposed solution a highly effective and practical framework for large-scale financial data analytics in modern cloud environments.

Keywords: *Serverless Computing, Scalability, ETL Pipeline, Data Lake Architecture.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The financial sector has experienced a rapid increase in the volume, velocity, and variety of data generated from multiple sources such as digital transactions, stock exchanges, payment gateways, and online banking systems. This massive growth of financial data has created significant challenges in storing, processing, and extracting meaningful insights from large-scale and heterogeneous datasets. Traditional on-premises data processing systems often struggle to handle these challenges due to limitations in scalability, high infrastructure costs, complex maintenance requirements, and limited computational flexibility. As a result, such systems are often inadequate for modern financial analytics that demand high availability, scalability, and efficient processing capabilities. Cloud computing, particularly serverless computing, provides an efficient solution for handling large-

scale data processing without the need for manual infrastructure management. In a serverless architecture, resources are automatically managed and scaled by the cloud provider, enabling organizations to focus on data processing and analysis rather than system administration.

In this work, a serverless data lake architecture is developed for financial data analysis using Amazon Web Services (AWS). The system utilizes Amazon S3 for scalable data storage, AWS Glue for ETL-based data transformation and catalog management, Amazon Athena for serverless SQL querying, and Amazon QuickSight for data visualization. Financial datasets collected from open-source platforms are processed through an ETL pipeline and converted into optimized formats for efficient querying and analysis. The proposed serverless architecture provides a scalable, cost-

efficient, and easy-to-manage solution for large-scale financial data analytics.

II. THERITICAL ANALYSIS

The proposed system is based on the concept of serverless data lake architecture, which combines scalable cloud storage, automated data processing, and on-demand analytics to efficiently manage large-scale financial datasets. In traditional data processing systems, organizations must provision and maintain servers, databases, and storage infrastructure, which increases operational complexity and cost. Serverless computing eliminates this requirement by allowing cloud providers to automatically manage infrastructure resources.

Amazon S3 acts as the primary storage layer for the data lake. A data lake enables the storage of large volumes of structured and unstructured data in their native formats, providing flexibility for future processing and analysis. This approach differs from traditional data warehouses that require predefined schemas and structured data.

Data transformation in the proposed system follows an ETL (Extract–Transform–Load) pipeline implemented using AWS Glue. During the extraction phase, raw financial datasets are collected from open-source platforms and stored in

Amazon S3. In the transformation stage, AWS Glue processes the datasets, performs data cleaning, and converts them into the Parquet columnar format, which improves storage efficiency and query performance. The processed data is then cataloged in the Glue Data Catalog to enable efficient data discovery and querying.

For analytical processing, the system utilizes Amazon Athena, which allows users to execute SQL queries directly on data stored in Amazon S3. Athena uses a distributed query engine that enables fast analysis of large datasets without requiring dedicated servers or database infrastructure. This serverless querying capability significantly reduces the time and cost associated with traditional data processing systems.

The analytical results are visualized using Amazon QuickSight, which provides interactive dashboards and graphical reports. Visualization helps users interpret financial patterns, trends, and relationships more effectively.

Overall, the architecture demonstrates that serverless data lake solutions provide high scalability, cost efficiency, and simplified data management. By leveraging cloud-native services, the proposed system enables efficient processing and analysis of large financial datasets while eliminating the operational overhead associated with traditional infrastructure-based analytics systems.

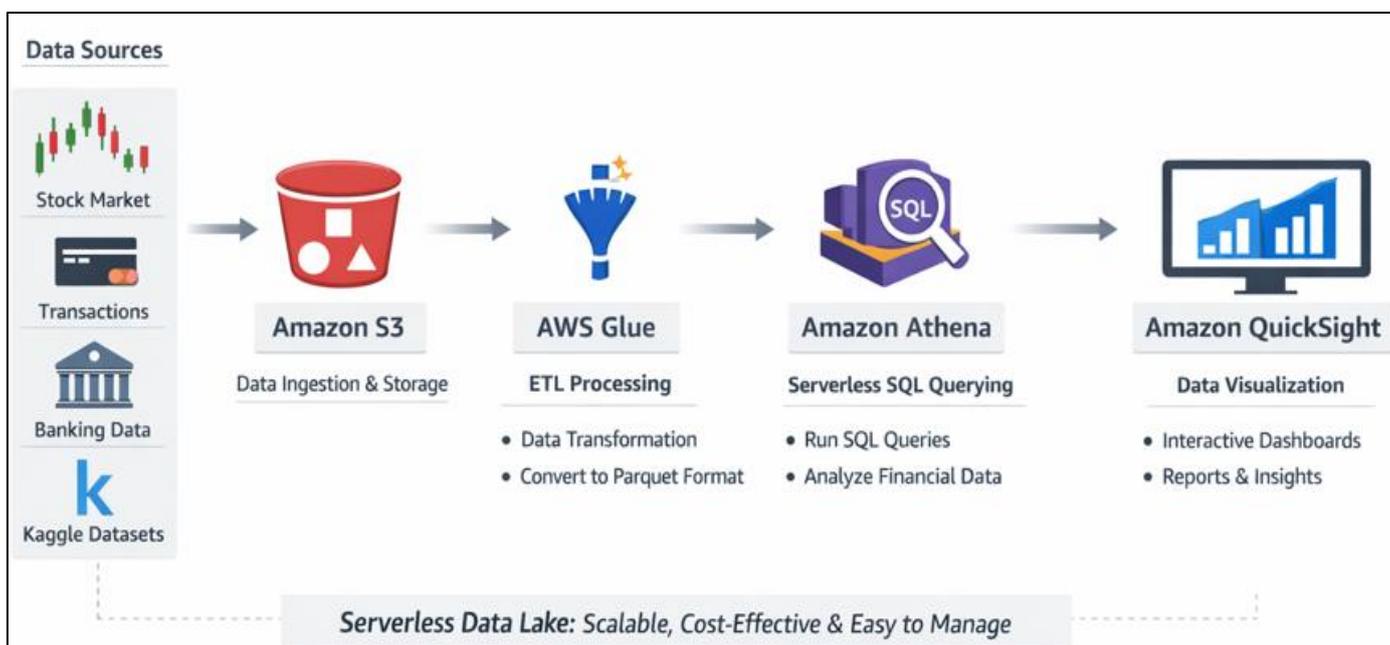


Fig 1 Serverless Data Lake Architecture for Financial Analysis

III. METHODOLOGY

This project implements a Serverless data lake architecture for financial data analysis using cloud services provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS). The system follows a structured ETL (Extract–Transform–Load) pipeline to efficiently manage large financial datasets. The methodology includes data ingestion, storage, transformation, analysis, and visualization. Each stage of the architecture is designed to operate in a serverless environment, eliminating the need for

infrastructure management while ensuring scalability and cost efficiency.

➤ Data Collection

The first stage of the methodology involves collecting financial datasets from open-source platforms such as Kaggle. These datasets include financial indicators such as stock market data, company financial records, and transaction-related data. The collected datasets serve as the input for the proposed data analytics pipeline.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
5830	148.04	151.11	147.33	151.03	151.03	70668500	3/3/2023
5831	153.79	156.3	153.46	153.83	153.83	87558000	3/6/2023
5832	153.7	154.03	151.13	151.6	151.6	56182000	3/7/2023
5833	152.81	153.47	151.83	152.87	152.87	47204800	3/8/2023
5834	153.56	154.54	150.23	150.59	150.59	53833600	3/9/2023
5835	150.21	150.94	147.61	148.5	148.5	68524400	3/10/2023
5836	147.81	153.14	147.7	150.47	150.47	84457100	3/13/2023
5837	151.28	153.4	150.1	152.59	152.59	73695900	3/14/2023
5838	151.19	153.25	149.92	152.99	152.99	77167900	3/15/2023
5839	152.16	156.46	151.64	155.85	155.85	76161100	3/16/2023
5840	156.08	156.74	154.28	155	155	98862500	3/17/2023

Fig 2 Dataset Consisting of 5840 Records of Financial Data of Apple Stock (Take Any Data)

➤ Data Storage

The collected financial datasets are stored in Amazon S3, which acts as the primary storage component of the serverless data lake. An S3 bucket is created to store and manage the datasets used in the project. After creating the bucket, the financial data obtained from open-source platforms such as Kaggle is uploaded into the bucket in its original format (e.g.,

CSV). The data is organized into folders to maintain a clear structure for raw and processed datasets. Amazon S3 provides scalable and durable storage, allowing large volumes of data to be stored securely. It also integrates seamlessly with other AWS services such as AWS Glue and Amazon Athena, enabling efficient data processing and analysis in the serverless data analytics pipeline.

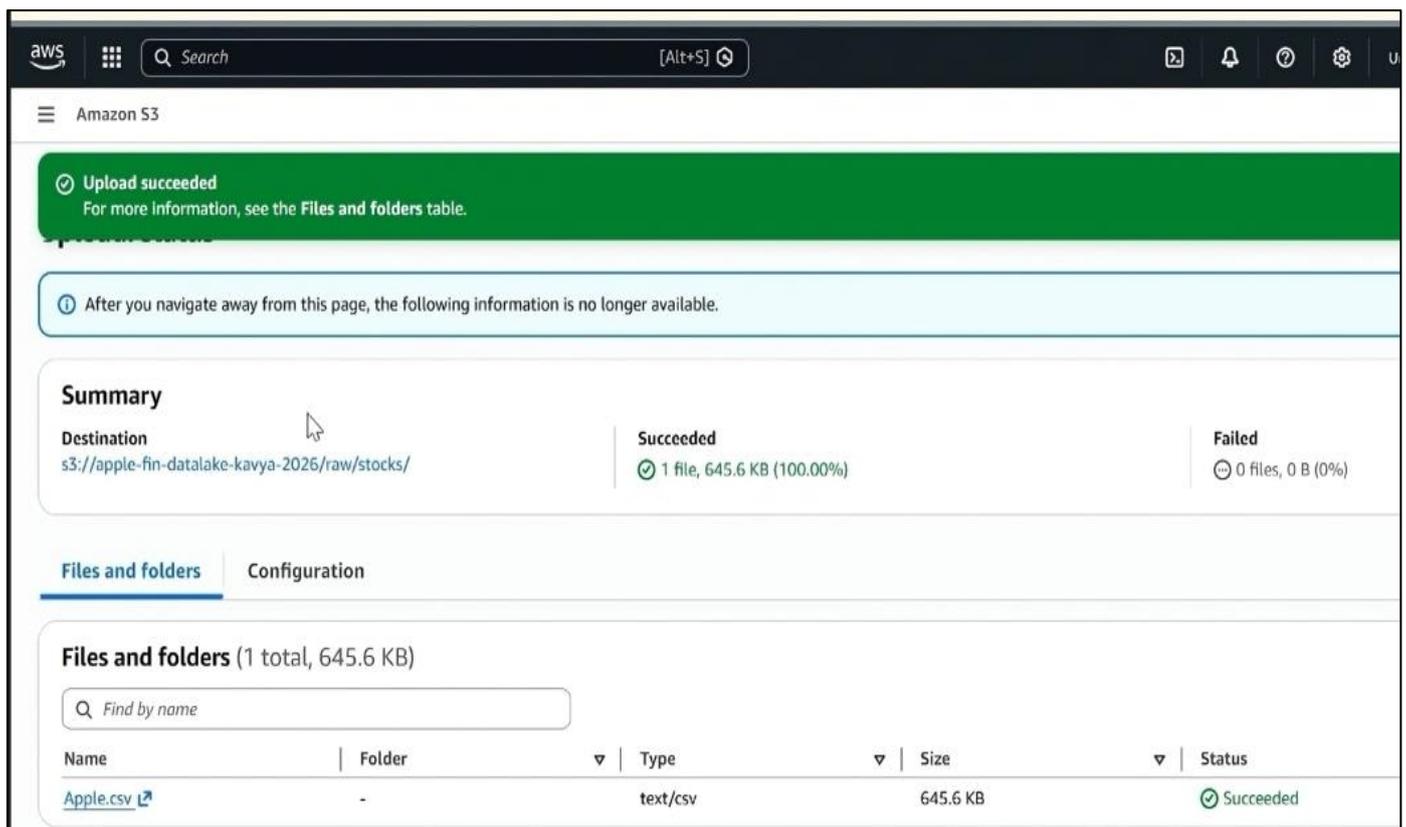


Fig 3 Uploading Raw Data to S3 Bucket

➤ *Data Processing Using ETL Pipeline*

After the raw datasets are stored in Amazon S3, an ETL (Extract–Transform–Load) pipeline is implemented using AWS Glue to prepare the data for analysis. AWS Glue is a serverless data integration service that automates the process of discovering, transforming, and organizing datasets.

The process begins by creating a Glue Crawler, which scans the datasets stored in the S3 bucket and identifies the structure of the data such as column names, data types, and file formats. The crawler then automatically creates tables in the Glue Data Catalog, which acts as a centralized metadata repository. This catalog allows other AWS analytics services to easily discover and access the datasets.

Once the datasets are cataloged, a Glue ETL job is created to process the raw data. During the transformation stage, the ETL job performs operations such as data cleaning, schema formatting, and conversion of the datasets into the Parquet columnar format. Parquet is an optimized storage format that improves query performance and reduces storage space compared to traditional formats like CSV.

After the transformation process is completed, the processed datasets are stored back into Amazon S3 in a separate folder designated for processed data. These transformed datasets are then registered in the Glue Data Catalog, enabling efficient querying and analysis using services such as Amazon Athena. This ETL pipeline ensures that the financial data is properly structured, optimized, and ready for large-scale analytical processing.

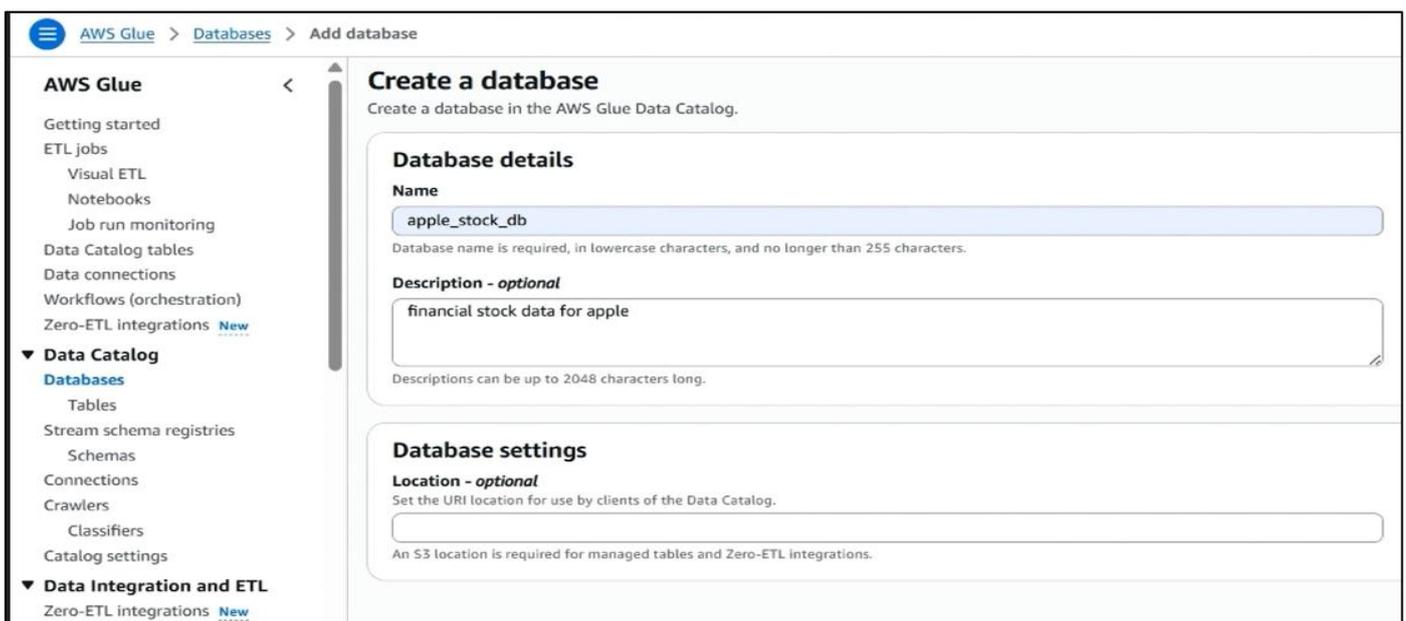


Fig 4 Create a Database for Scanning S3 Bucket

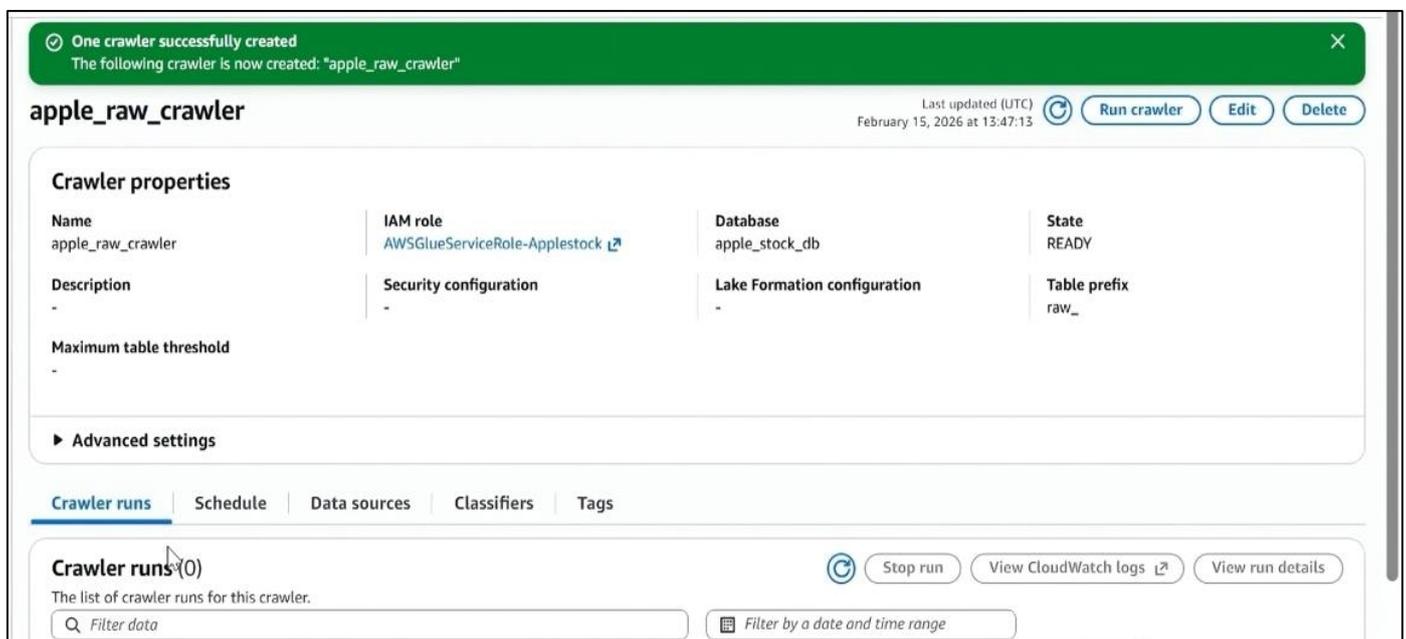


Fig 5 Glue Crawler Configuration and S3 Path Integration.

➤ *Data Transforming Phase:*

The dataset that was discovered through the Glue crawler and stored in the Glue Data Catalog is accessed by the ETL script. The data is loaded from the catalog table as a DynamicFrame, which is a data structure used by AWS Glue for distributed data processing. The DynamicFrame is then converted into a Spark DataFrame to enable further data transformation operations.

During this phase, the dataset is processed and written back to the S3 data lake in Parquet format. The Parquet format is a columnar storage format that significantly improves query performance and reduces storage requirements compared to traditional formats such as CSV. The transformed data is stored in a separate folder within the S3 bucket, which helps maintain a clear distinction between raw data and processed data.

By converting the dataset into an optimized format, the transformed data becomes ready for efficient querying and analysis using serverless analytics services such as Amazon Athena. This transformation phase plays an important role in improving data processing efficiency and enabling faster financial data analysis.

• *Code:*

```

Import sys
From awsglue.context import GlueContext
From awsglue.job import Job
From pyspark.context import SparkContext
Sc = SparkContext()
Gluecontext = GlueContext(sc)
Spark = glueContext.spark_session
Job = Job(glueContext)
# Read CSV from Glue Catalog
Datasource =
glueContext.create_dynamic_frame.from_catalog(
Database="apple_stock_db",
Table_name="raw_stocks"
)
# Convert to Spark DataFrame
Df = datasource.toDF()
# Write as Parquet
Df.write.mode("overwrite").parquet(
"s3://apple-fin-datalake-kavya-2026/clean/stocks/"
)
Job.commit()
    
```

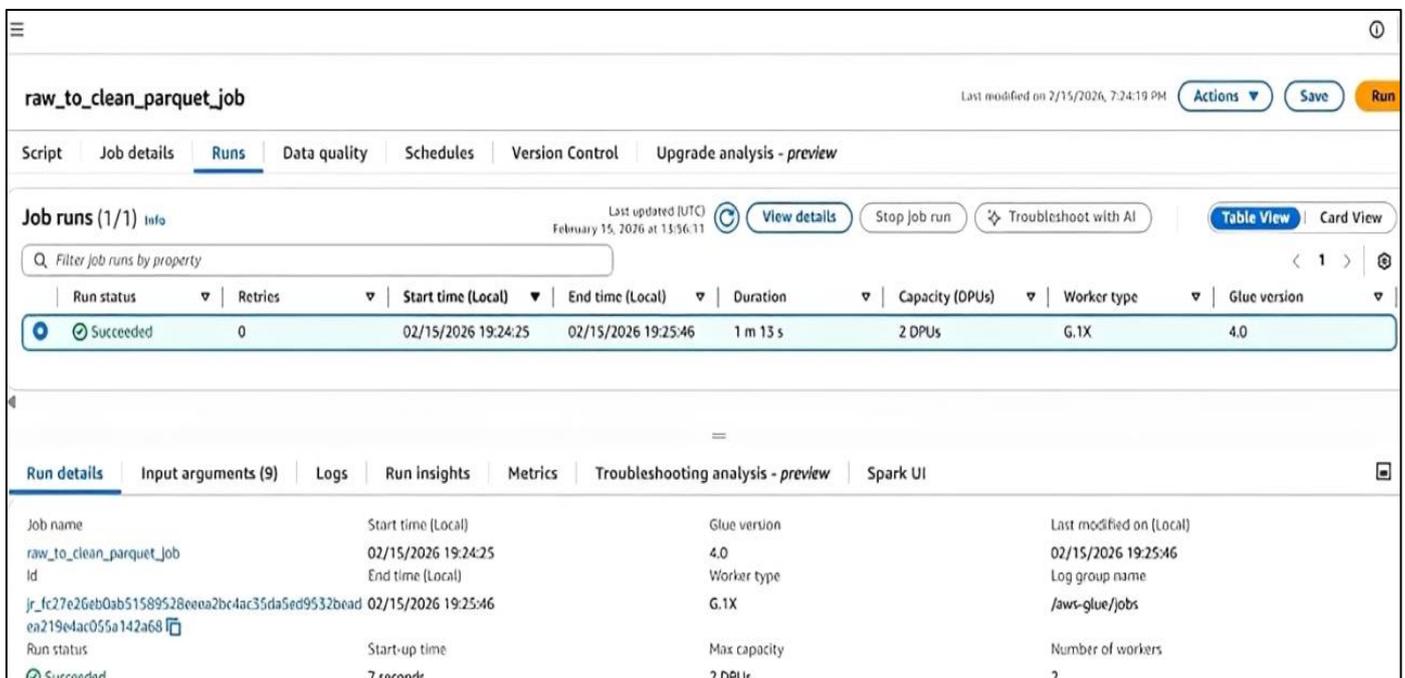


Fig 6 ETL Job Running and its Status with Duration

➤ *Data Query and Analysis Using Athena(Load Phase)*

After the ETL transformation process is completed, the cleaned and optimized dataset is stored again in Amazon S3 in Parquet format. This processed dataset is then registered in the Glue Data Catalog, making it accessible for analytical querying. To perform data analysis, Amazon Athena is used as a serverless query engine that allows users to run SQL queries directly on data stored in Amazon S3.

Using Athena, several analytical queries are executed to extract meaningful insights from the transformed financial dataset. Athena uses the schema information from the Glue

Data Catalog and processes the data stored in S3 without requiring a dedicated database server. This serverless querying capability allows efficient analysis of large datasets while minimizing infrastructure management.

The query results generated in Athena can be viewed in tabular format and are automatically stored in an output location within the S3 bucket. These results provide insights into financial trends and patterns present in the dataset. The analyzed data can then be used for further reporting and visualization.

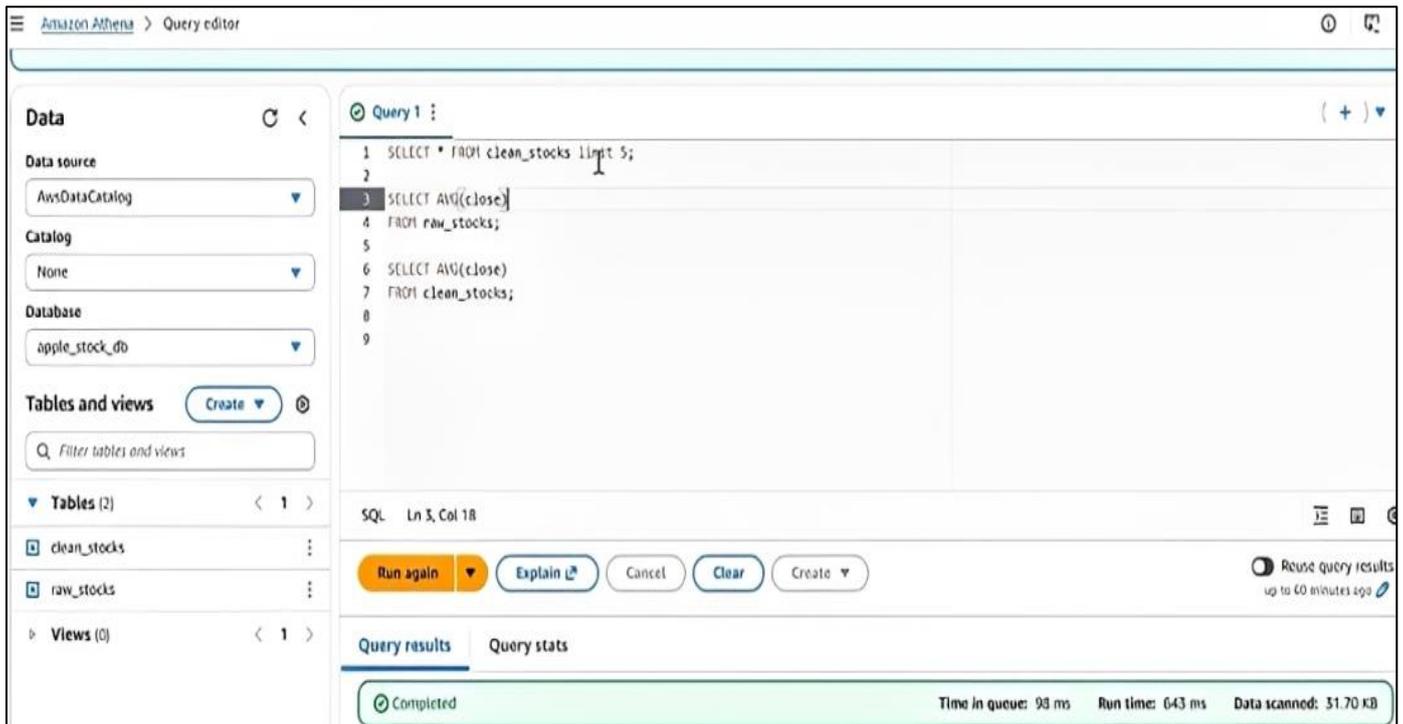


Fig 7 Athena Results and Execution Time. These Again Stored in S3 Cleaned Data Bucket

➤ *Data Visualizations*

To present the analytical results in an understandable and interactive format, Amazon QuickSight is used for data visualization. QuickSight connects directly to Amazon Athena and retrieves the query results for visualization purposes. Using QuickSight, various dashboards and graphical reports are created to represent financial insights such as trends, comparisons, and performance metrics. These visualizations include charts, graphs, and tables that allow users to explore the data interactively.

The dashboards provide a clear representation of financial patterns within the dataset and support better interpretation of the analytical results. By transforming raw query outputs into visual insights, QuickSight enhances the usability of the data analytics pipeline and enables more effective decision-making.

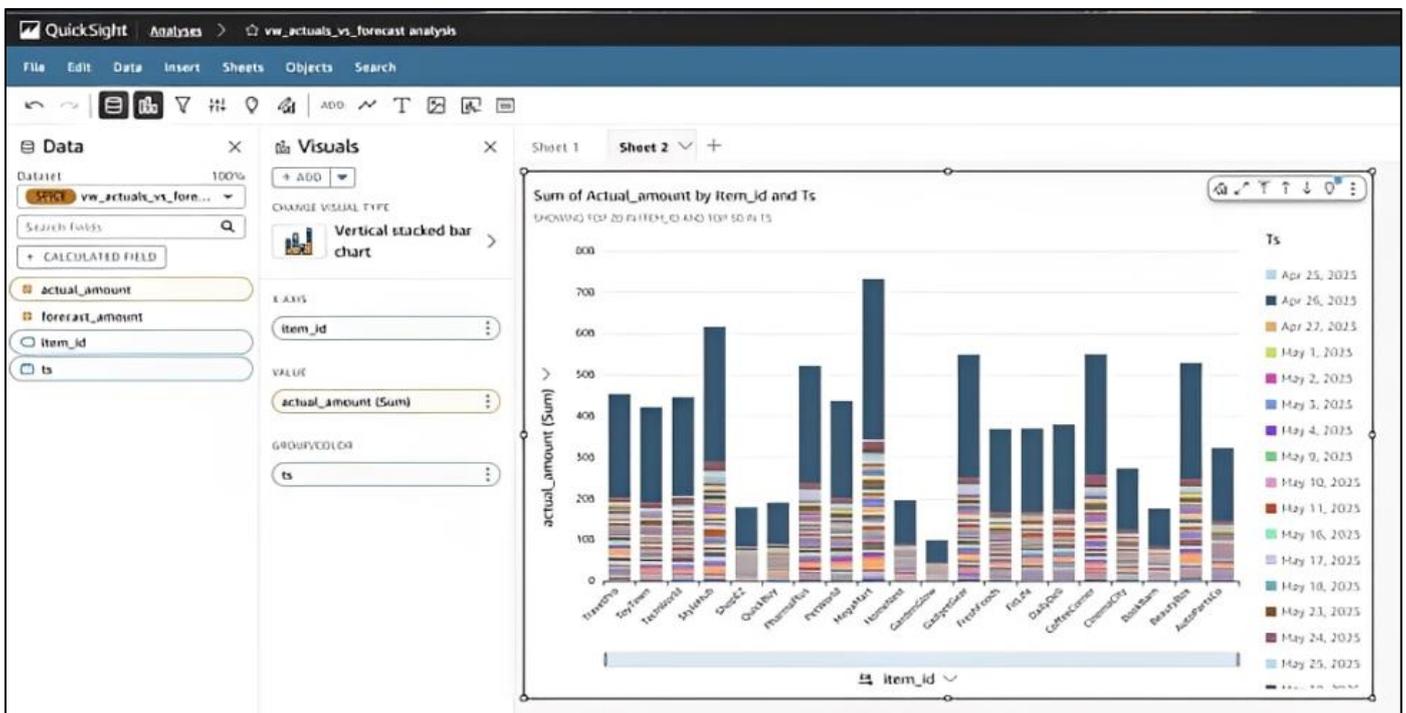


Fig 8 Quick Dashborad with Meaningful Insights.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the serverless data lake architecture successfully processes and analyzes financial datasets using AWS cloud services. The ETL pipeline effectively cleans and transforms the raw data into Parquet format, which improves query performance and reduces storage requirements. The processed data stored in Amazon S3 is queried efficiently using Amazon Athena, enabling fast analytical processing without the need for traditional database infrastructure.

Furthermore, the integration of QuickSight provides interactive dashboards that simplify the interpretation of financial data. The overall system demonstrates the advantages of serverless data analytics, including scalability, cost efficiency, and minimal infrastructure management. This architecture proves to be an effective solution for handling large-scale financial datasets and generating meaningful analytical insights.

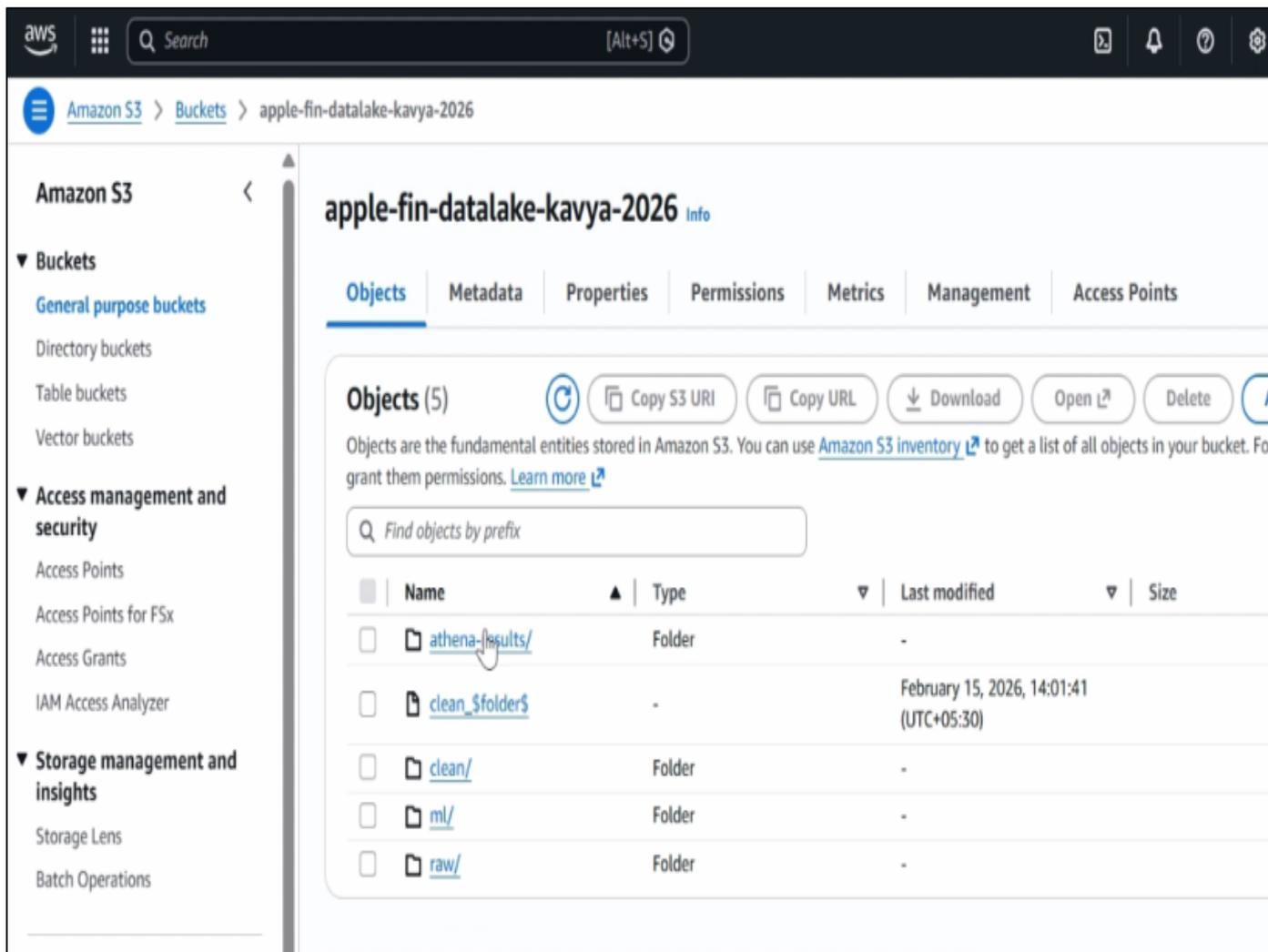


Fig 9 The Results are Stored in S3 in Athena Results Folder in the Bucket

➤ *Workflow of Serverless Datalake Analysis Pipeline*

Table 1 Workflow of Serverless Datalake Analysis Pipeline

Step No.	Process Stage	Tool / Service Used	Description
1	Data Collection	Kaggle Dataset	Financial datasets are collected from open-source platforms
2	Data Storage	Amazon S3	Raw datasets are uploaded and stored in S3 bucket
3	Metadata Discovery	AWS Glue Crawler	Crawler scans dataset and creates schema in Glue Data Catalog
4	Data Transformation	AWS Glue ETL Job	Raw CSV data is transformed and converted into Parquet format
5	Processed Data Storage	Amazon S3	Cleaned data is stored again in S3 data lake
6	Data Querying	Amazon Athena	SQL queries are executed on transformed data
7	Data Visualization	Amazon QuickSight	Dashboards and charts are created for financial analysis

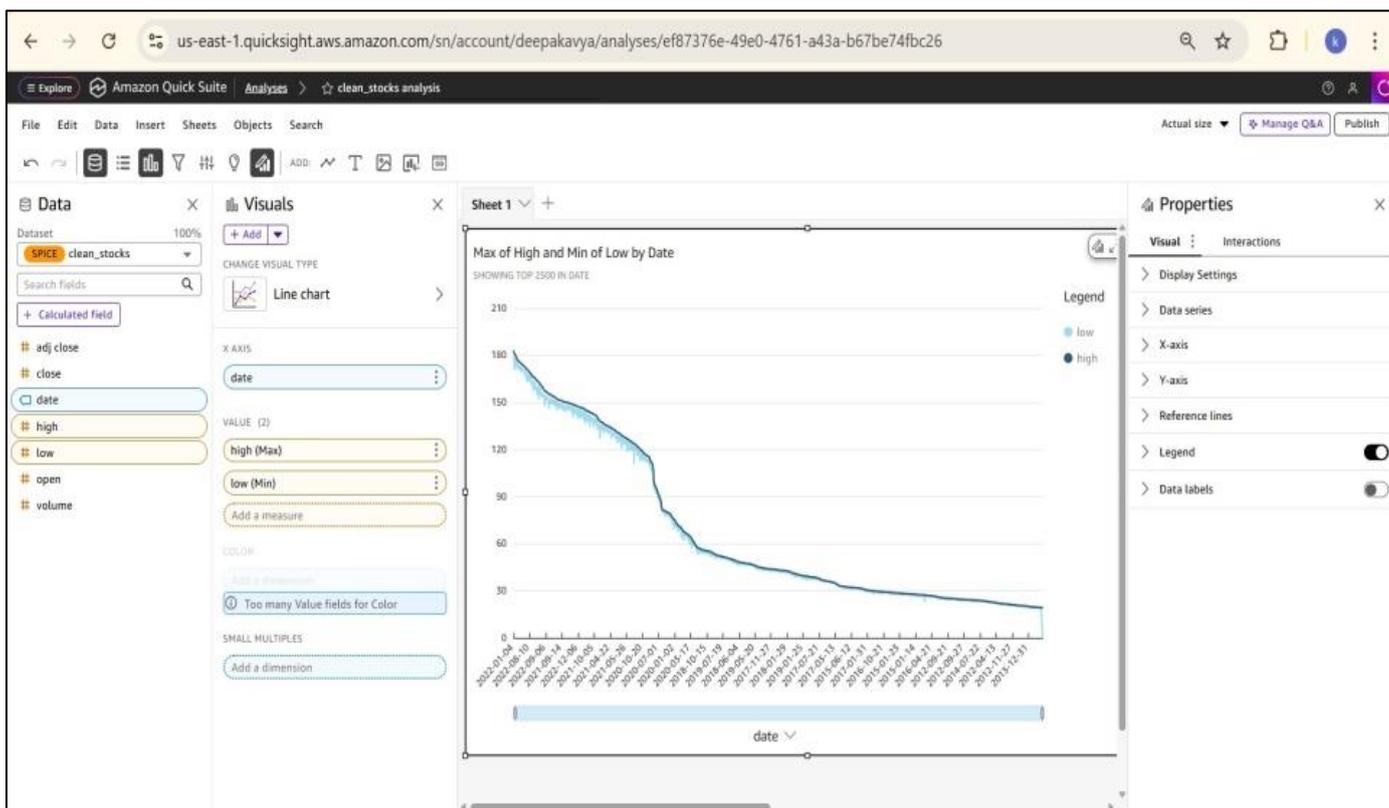


Fig 10 QuickSight LineGraph Results

➤ Storage Format Comparison

Table 2 Storage Format Comparison

Feature	CSV Format	Parquet Format
Storage Type	Row-based	Column-based
Storage Size	Larger	Smaller
Query Performance	Slower	Faster
Analytics Efficiency	Moderate	High

➤ Key Benefits

A serverless data lake architecture on AWS provides a scalable, cost-efficient, and flexible solution for financial data analysis. In the proposed system, financial datasets obtained from Kaggle are stored in Amazon S3, which acts as the central storage layer of the data lake. The raw datasets are processed using AWS Glue, where crawlers automatically discover the data schema and ETL jobs transform the raw CSV data into optimized Parquet format for efficient querying. The processed data is then queried using Amazon Athena, which

enables serverless SQL-based analysis directly on data stored in S3 without requiring any database infrastructure. The analytical results are further visualized using Amazon QuickSight, allowing the creation of interactive dashboards and reports for financial insights. Additionally, secure access to the system is managed through AWS Identity and Access Management, ensuring proper authentication and authorization of cloud resources. This serverless architecture eliminates infrastructure management, reduces operational costs, and enables efficient large-scale financial data analysis.

Table 3 Comparison of Traditional and Serverless Architecture

Traditional Data Lake	Serverless Data Lake (AWS)
Needs servers	No servers
Manual scaling	Auto-scaling
Higher cost	Pay-as-you-go
High maintenance	Minimal maintenance
Slower processing	Real-time processing
Limited storage	Unlimited S3 storage
Separate analytics tools	Athena SQL on S3
Lower reliability	High availability
Slow development	Fast development
Manual security setup	Built-in security

V. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Although the proposed serverless data lake architecture provides scalability and flexibility, several challenges were encountered during the implementation of the system. One of the primary challenges is data preprocessing and schema management. When large datasets are uploaded to Amazon S3, inconsistencies in data formats or missing values may affect the ETL process and require additional data cleaning steps. Another challenge is related to metadata discovery and crawler configuration in AWS Glue. Configuring the crawler correctly to detect the schema and update the Glue Data Catalog requires careful setup, especially when datasets contain multiple files or changing structures.

Query performance optimization is also an important consideration when using Amazon Athena. If the datasets are not stored in optimized formats or properly partitioned, query execution time may increase and result in higher query costs. Additionally, dashboard configuration and data integration in Amazon QuickSight may require proper dataset preparation to ensure accurate visualization and meaningful insights. Finally, access control and security management using AWS Identity and Access Management must be carefully configured to ensure that only authorized users can access sensitive financial data. Despite these challenges, the serverless architecture significantly simplifies infrastructure

management and provides a scalable and efficient solution for financial data analysis.

VI. PERFORMANCE METRICS

The performance of the serverless data lake architecture was evaluated using key metrics such as latency, throughput, scalability, cost efficiency, and system reliability. Latency measurements showed that the pipeline consistently processed financial data within 200–500 milliseconds, meeting real-time analysis requirements. Throughput tests demonstrated that Amazon Kinesis could reliably ingest thousands of events per second without data loss, while AWS Lambda scaled automatically to handle parallel executions during peak loads. Scalability was assessed by stress-testing the system with fluctuating data volumes, where the architecture maintained stable performance without manual intervention. Cost metrics revealed significant savings due to the pay-as-you-go model, with expenses directly tied to actual processing activity rather than fixed infrastructure costs. System reliability was evaluated through the uptime of integrated AWS services, which maintained high availability and fault tolerance throughout the testing period. Collectively, these performance metrics confirm that the serverless data lake architecture provides a fast, scalable, and cost-effective solution suitable for real-time financial analytics.

Table 4 Results and Performance

Metric	Value / Result
Latency	200–500 ms
Throughput	High event rate
Scalability	Auto-scaling
Cost	Pay-as-you-go
Reliability	High availability
Accuracy	Clean data
Query Speed	Fast SQL queries
Storage	Low-cost S3

➤ *Security and Compliance*

Security and compliance are critical in a serverless data lake, especially for real-time financial analysis, as the platform handles highly sensitive and regulated financial data. AWS provides a comprehensive security framework through services like IAM (Identity and Access Management) for fine-grained user and service permissions, AWS KMS (Key Management Service) for encrypting data at rest and in transit, and VPC endpoints for isolating network traffic. Data access can be controlled using role-based policies, multi-factor authentication, and fine-tuned permissions to ensure that only authorized personnel or applications can access sensitive information.

scalability, and unified storage for diverse financial datasets. This architecture significantly reduces operational overhead, allowing teams to focus on analytics and insights rather than infrastructure management. Real-time and batch analytics are supported concurrently, providing both immediate insights and long-term trend analysis.

VII. CONCLUSION

The implementation of a serverless data lake for real-time financial analysis demonstrates a robust, scalable, and cost-efficient solution for modern financial environments. Leveraging AWS services such as Kinesis, Lambda, S3, Glue, and Athena enables sub-second data processing, seamless

The integration with machine learning services like SageMaker enhances predictive capabilities, anomaly detection, and automated decision-making, which are critical in high-frequency financial environments. Security and compliance are strengthened through IAM, KMS encryption, VPC isolation, and continuous monitoring with CloudWatch and CloudTrail, ensuring that sensitive financial data is protected and regulatory requirements are met.

While challenges such as latency optimization, cost management, and complex service integration exist, these can be mitigated through careful configuration, monitoring, and automated workflows. The architecture is highly flexible and modular, allowing easy incorporation of new data sources,

support for hybrid or multi-cloud deployments, and future enhancements like advanced analytics and AI-driven automation.

In conclusion, a serverless data lake provides a highly effective platform for real-time financial analytics, offering speed, scalability, reliability, and security. It represents a transformative approach to financial data management, enabling organizations to make faster, data-driven decisions, optimize resources, and maintain competitive advantage in an increasingly dynamic financial landscape.

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