

# Unity Catalog Lakeguard: Data Governance for Multi-User Apache™ Spark Clusters



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# OVERVIEW

1. Why Data Governance

2. Data Governance with Apache Spark

3. Unity Catalog Lakeguard

# WHY DATA GOVERNANCE?







A foggy lake scene with a central sign. To the left, a pirate ship with a skull and crossbones on its sail is on the water. In the foreground, a red barrel has spilled its contents, creating a black puddle. To the right, a yellow barrel with a radiation symbol is on the water. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a grey, overcast sky.

**DANGER**

**KEEP OUT  
AUTHORIZED  
PERSONNEL ONLY**

# DATA GOVERNANCE

Example: PII (Personally identifiable information)

customers

| Name         | Date of birth | Email                | SSN         |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Jane Data    | 04-03-1980    | jane.data@gmail.com  | 123-34-5671 |
| John Smith   | 12-12-1989    | john@smith.com       | 231-45-1231 |
| Alice Bricks | 03-08-2000    | a.bricks@example.com | 999-09-1234 |
| ...          | ...           | ...                  | ...         |



# DATA GOVERNANCE: EXAMPLE

Data engineers have access to all the data

customers

| Name         | Date of birth | Email                | SSN         |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Jane Data    | 04-03-1980    | jane.data@gmail.com  | 123-34-5671 |
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| Alice Bricks | 03-08-2000    | a.bricks@example.com | 999-09-1234 |
| ...          | ...           | ...                  | ...         |



```
GRANT SELECT ON customers TO `data engineers`
```

# DATA GOVERNANCE: EXAMPLE

## Data engineer with SELECT on customers

customers

| Name         | Date of birth | Email                | SSN         |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
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| Alice Bricks | 03-08-2000    | a.bricks@example.com | 999-09-1234 |
| ...          | ...           | ...                  | ...         |



SELECT \* FROM customers

# DATA GOVERNANCE: EXAMPLE

Data scientist don't have access to all customer data

customers

customers\_view

| Name         | Email                |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Jane Data    | jane.data@gmail.com  |
| John Smith   | john@smith.com       |
| Alice Bricks | a.bricks@example.com |
| ...          | ...                  |



| Name         | Date of birth | Email                | SSN         |
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| ...          | ...           | ...                  | ...         |



GRANT SELECT ON VIEW customer\_view TO `data scientists`

# FINE-GRAINED ACCESS CONTROL

## Data scientist with SELECT on customers\_view

Fine-grained access control (FGAC) includes

- Views
- Row-level & column-level filters
- Attribute-based access control

customers\_view

| Name         | Email                |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Jane Data    | jane.data@gmail.com  |
| John Smith   | john@smith.com       |
| Alice Bricks | a.bricks@example.com |
| ...          | ...                  |

```
SELECT * FROM customers_view
```

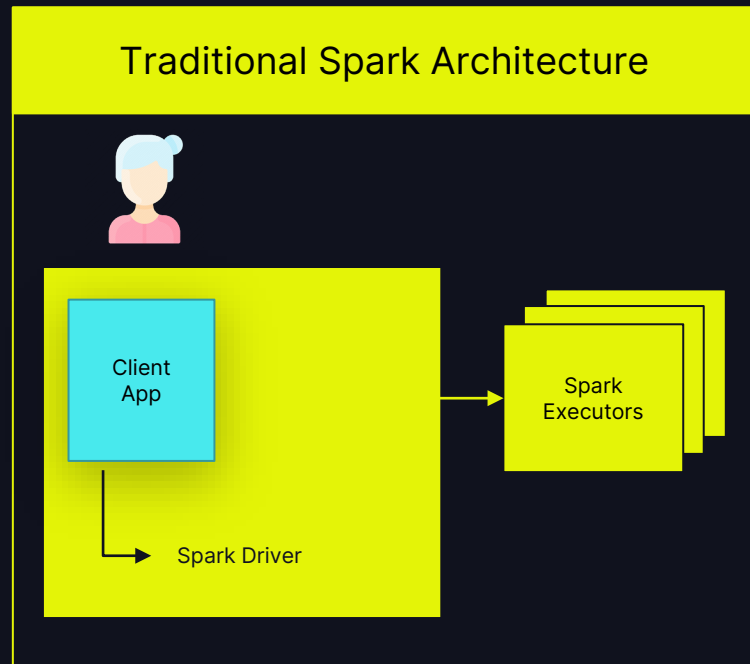


# DATA GOVERNANCE WITH APACHE SPARK

# APACHE SPARK AND DATA GOVERNANCE

- Apache Spark de facto big data processing framework
- Wasn't built with data governance in mind:
  - Single JVM, no decoupling of Spark engine and application
    - Single-application/user
    - Cluster as isolation boundaries

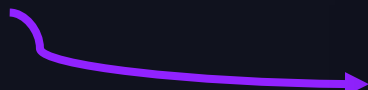
However, users want to share compute to reduce cost and operational burden



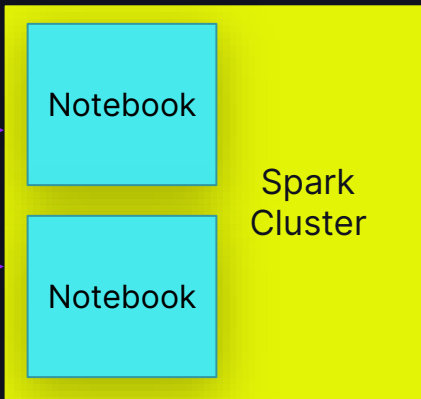
# WHEN SHARING COMPUTE



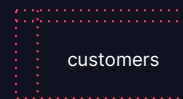
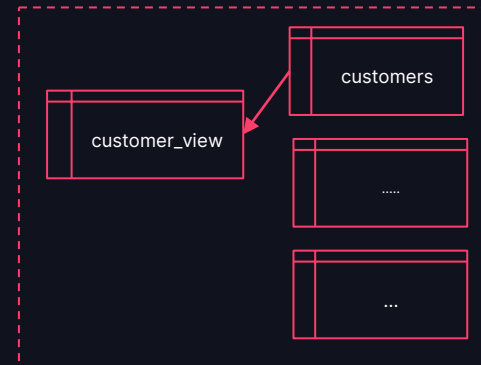
`SELECT * FROM customers_view`



`SELECT * FROM customers`

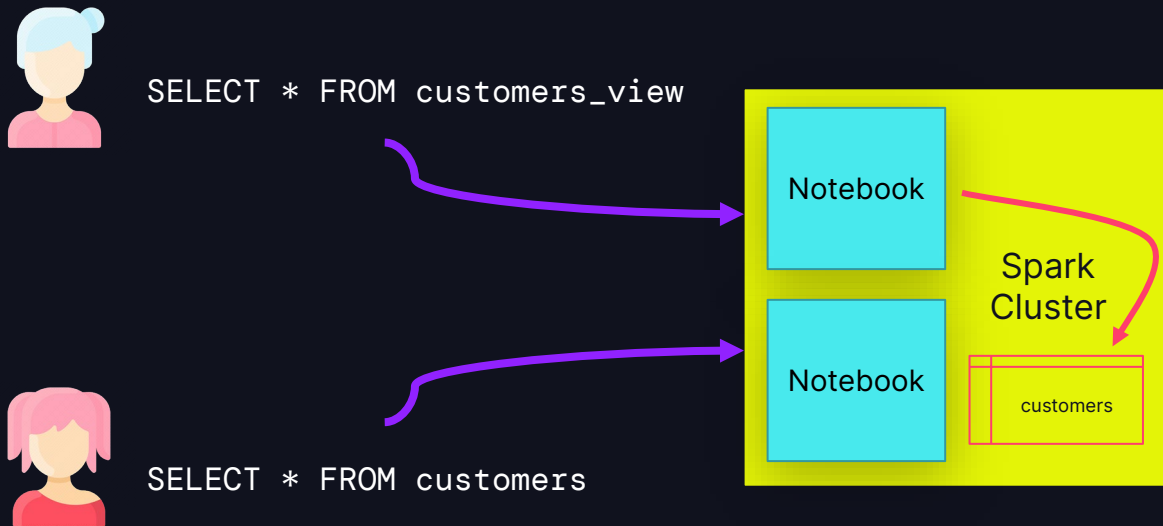


Unity Catalog

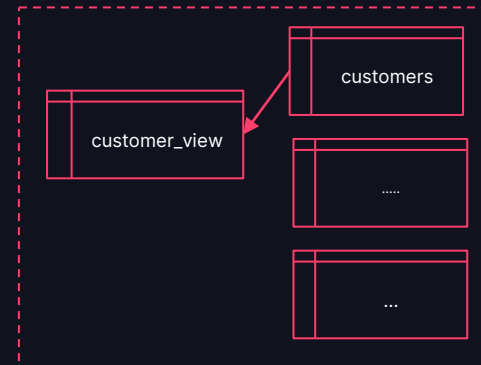


# WHEN SHARING COMPUTE

## Problem 1: Malicious user can read other users' data



### Unity Catalog



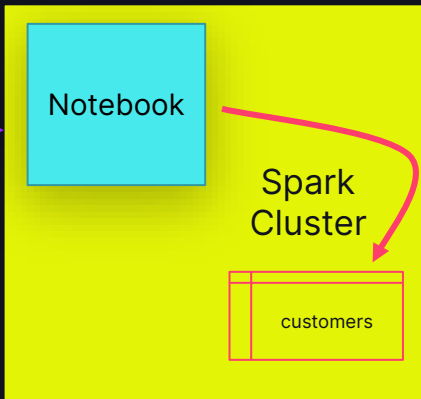


# WHEN SHARING COMPUTE

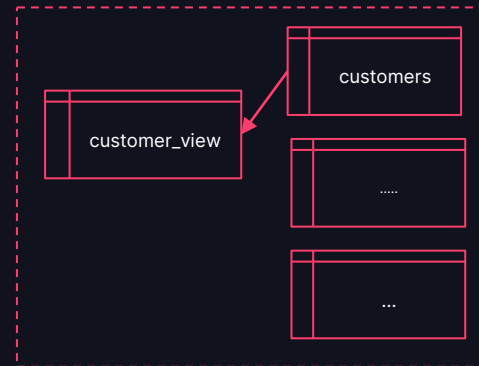
## Problem 2: Spark “overfetches”



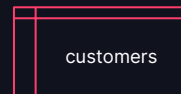
```
SELECT * FROM customers_view
```



Unity Catalog



When processing views or tables with FGAC, Spark fetches all dependent tables

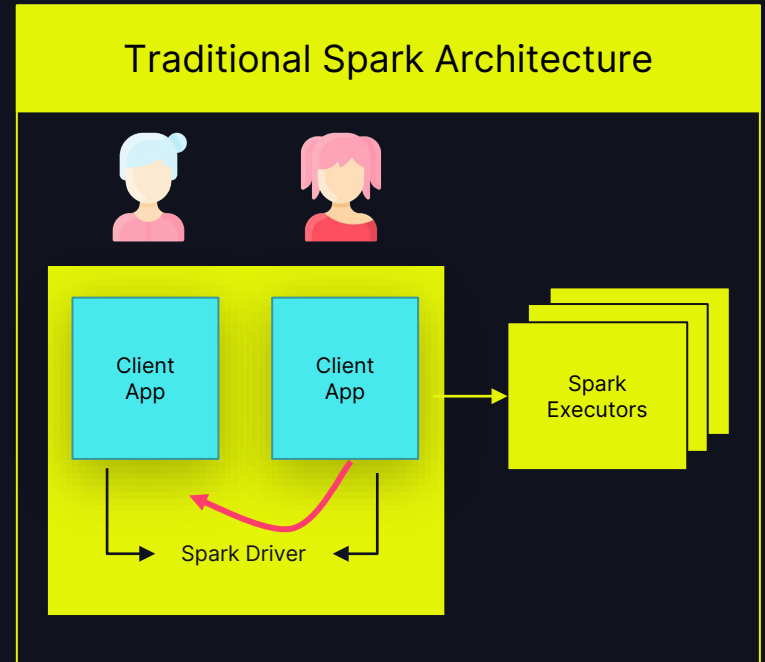


# APACHE SPARK AND DATA GOVERNANCE

## Summary

- Spark enforces governance at cluster boundaries: No isolation between Spark and client applications (Problem 1)
- Spark “overfetches” files when querying view or tables with FGAC (Problem 2)

However, users want data governance and shared compute to reduce cost and operational burden



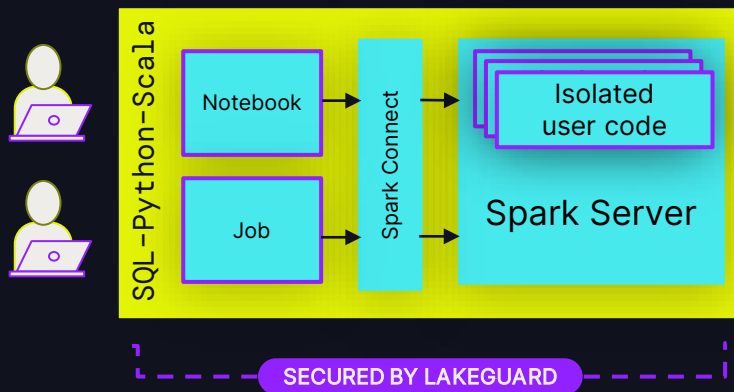
# UNITY CATALOG LAKEGUARD

## FULL DATA GOVERNANCE IN DATABRICKS

# UC COMPUTE: MULTI-USER SPARK CLUSTERS

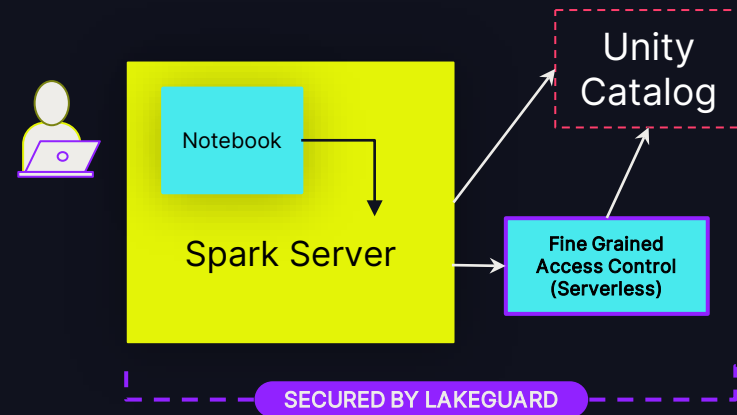
## Shared access mode

- Secure multi-user: fully isolates user code
- Full UC governance
- Declarative data access (DataFrame API based on Spark Connect)



## Single-user access mode

- Single user w/ privileged access to the underlying machine
- Full, unrestricted Spark API



# UC SHARED CLUSTERS

MULTI-USER COMPUTE IN  
SCALA, PYTHON, AND  
SQL.

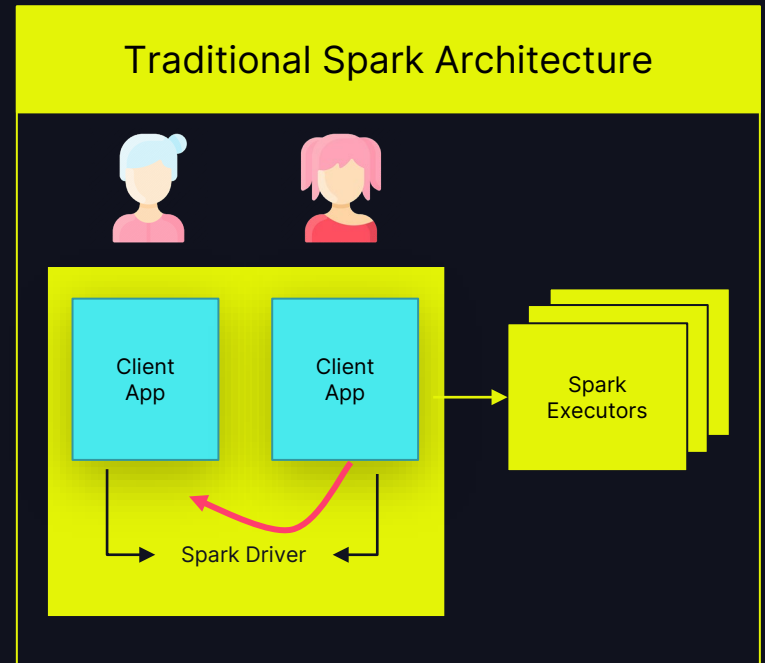
# ACHIEVING FULL USER ISOLATION

## How we solved problem 1 AND 2 at the same time

Goal: Separate users from each other and from the Spark engine - in SQL, Python and Scala

How:

1. **Client Isolation:** Isolate Notebooks & Jobs from each other and the engine
2. **Executor Isolation:** UDFs (SQL, Python, Scala)



# CLIENT ISOLATION

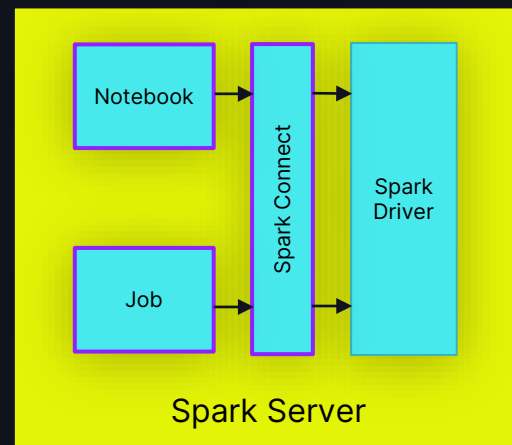
## Isolating user code...

... from the Spark engine

- Spark Connect (Apache Spark 3.4)
- Decoupled client-server architecture based on Dataframe API
- Overfetching no longer a problem

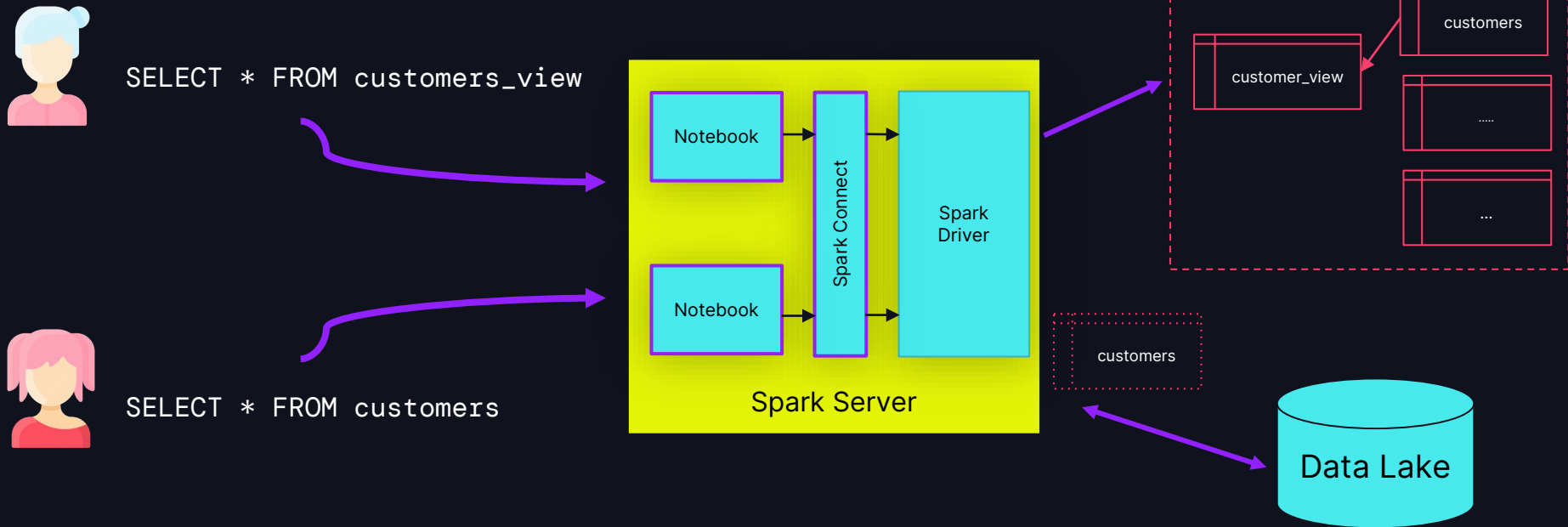
... from other users

- Spark Sessions (Notebook, Job) isolated using sandboxing techniques.



# SHARED CLUSTERS: ISOLATED USER CODE

Users only read their own data!





# WHAT ABOUT UDFs?

## User defined functions

### What are UDFs?

- User-defined code in SQL, Python, or Scala
- May define dependencies
- Session-based or registered with UC
- Great for distributed processing: Runs on Spark executors



The screenshot shows a PySpark UDF editor window. The title bar reads "PySpark UDF..." and includes a "Python" dropdown menu, a star icon, and a "Run all" button. The main area contains two command blocks:

```
Cmd 1
1 from pyspark.sql.types import LongType
2 def squared_typed(s):
3     return s * s
4 spark.udf.register("squaredWithPython", squared_typed, LongType())
5
6 spark.range(1, 20).createOrReplaceTempView("test")

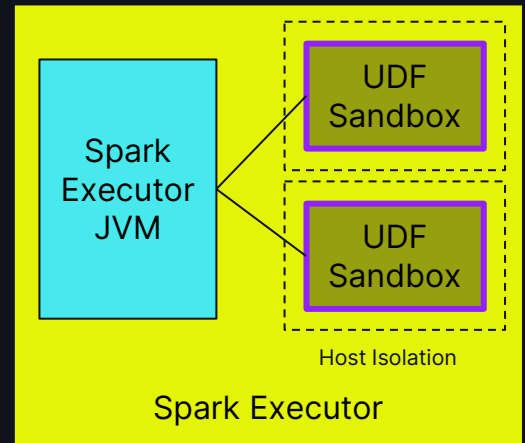
Cmd 2
1 %sql select id, squaredWithPython(id) as id_squared from test
```

Below the code blocks, there are instructions: "Shift+Enter to run", "Shift+Ctrl+Enter to run selected text", and "Option+Shift+Space to suggest code".

# EXECUTOR ISOLATION: SANDBOXED UDFS

Isolation of UDF in sandboxed execution environment

- No sharing of the executor JVM
- Isolated network rules and host access
- Dynamically replicating client dependencies into the sandbox

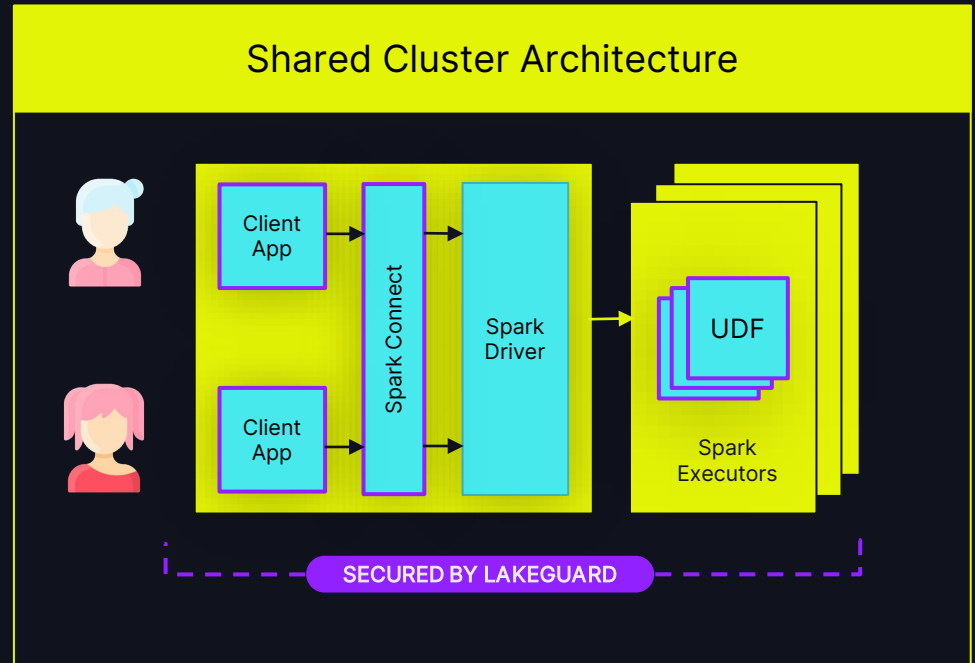


Also available on DBSQL and DLT

# UC SHARED CLUSTER IN A NUTSHELL

## Lakeguard enforces data governance at compute level

- Cost-efficient multi-user compute in Python, Scala & SQL
- Full data governance incl. fine-grained access control
- Declarative Spark API based on Spark Connect
- For interactive development and automated jobs
- Foundation for serverless



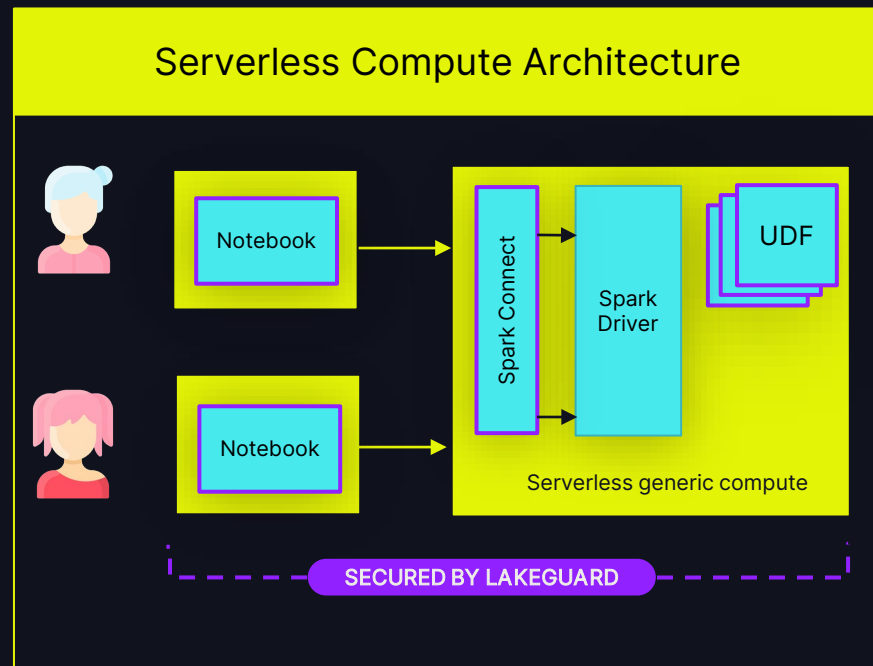
# SERVERLESS COMPUTE

## Serverless Notebooks and Workflows

Share same architecture & capabilities as Shared Clusters.

=> If your workload runs on Shared Clusters today, simply transition to serverless!

=> If your workload runs on Single-User Clusters today, test using Shared Clusters



# Limitations

## Not all Spark workloads run on Shared Clusters and Serverless

### Machine Learning (MLR)

- Spark Connect does not support RDDs for arbitrary code execution.
  - No support for distributed ML
  - No support for multi GPU clusters
- No flat cluster network to support libraries such as Horovod, PyTorch, Ray

### Privileged Machine Access

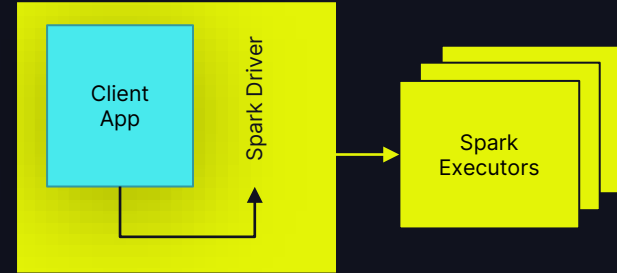
- No configuration of the underlying host VM -> no operating system libraries, compilers etc.

# UNITY CATALOG SINGLE-USER CLUSTERS

# UNITY CATALOG SINGLE-USER CLUSTERS

## Recap

- Single-user with privileged access to the underlying machine  
=> No Sharing (Problem 1)
- Full unrestricted Spark API  
=> No fine-grained access control.  
(Problem 2)



How to share compute for ML Workloads?  
How to provide Fine-Grained Access Control?

# HOW CAN WE SHARE SINGLE-USER CLUSTERS?

Taking a step back:

- How do we issue grants?
  - Option 1: GRANT SELECT on `customer` to `John Doe`
  - Option 2: GRANT SELECT on `customer` to `Data Scientists`



# HOW CAN WE SHARE SINGLE-USER CLUSTERS?

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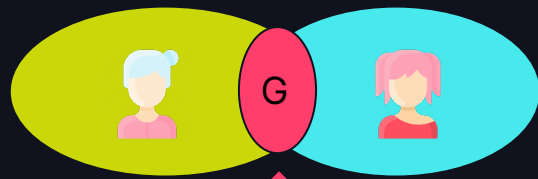
# HOW CAN WE SHARE SINGLE-USER CLUSTERS?

Taking a step back:

- How do we issue grants?

— ~~Option 1: GRANT SELECT on `customer` to `John Doe`~~

- Option 2: GRANT SELECT on `customer` to `Data Scientists`



What if we let users share a cluster as a *group*,  
where all users have the *same* permissions?

# "SINGLE GROUP" CLUSTER

## Private Preview

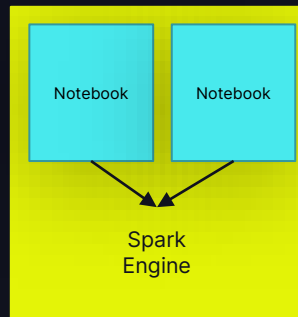


PREVIEW SIGN-UP FORM

Single-User Today:



One cluster, one user.



# "SINGLE GROUP" CLUSTER

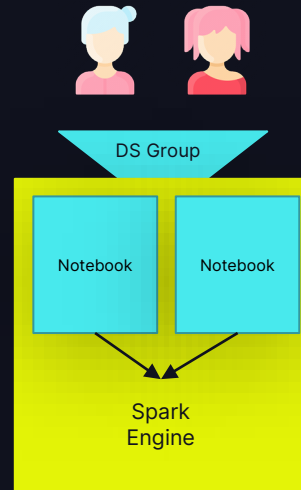
## Private Preview



PREVIEW SIGN-UP FORM

Sharing compute by assigning a single group to the cluster.

For teams of Data Scientists and ML engineers.



# "SINGLE GROUP" CLUSTER

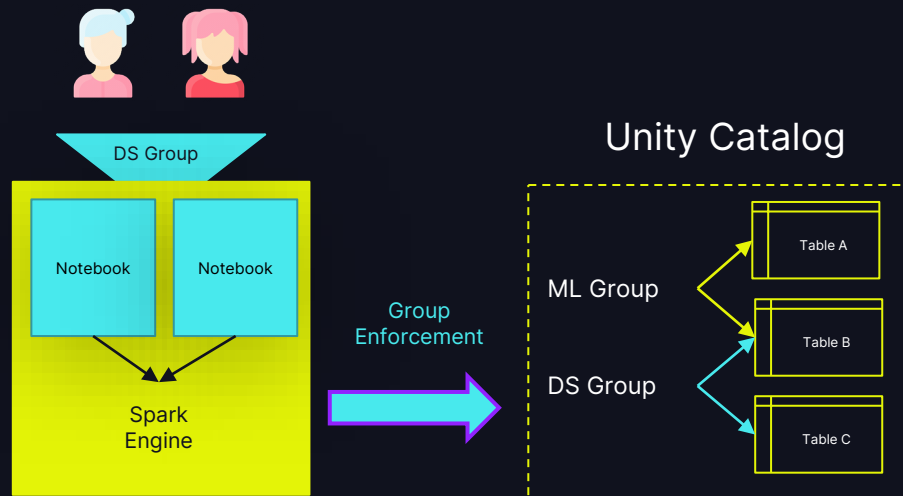
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PREVIEW SIGN-UP FORM

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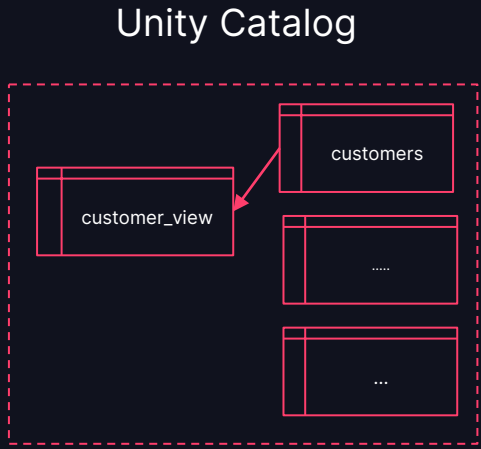
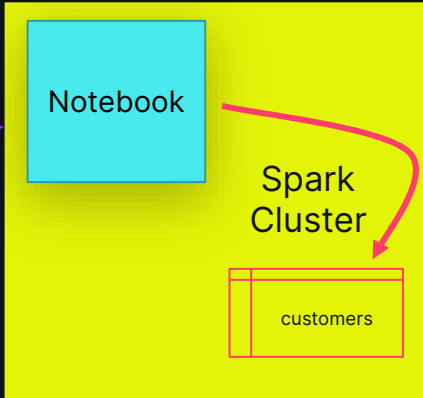
- Single-User and Single-Group are the same access mode!
- With PuPr, we will simplify the naming and UX

# RECAP: OVERFETICHING

## Problem 2: Spark “overfetches”



```
SELECT * FROM customers_view
```



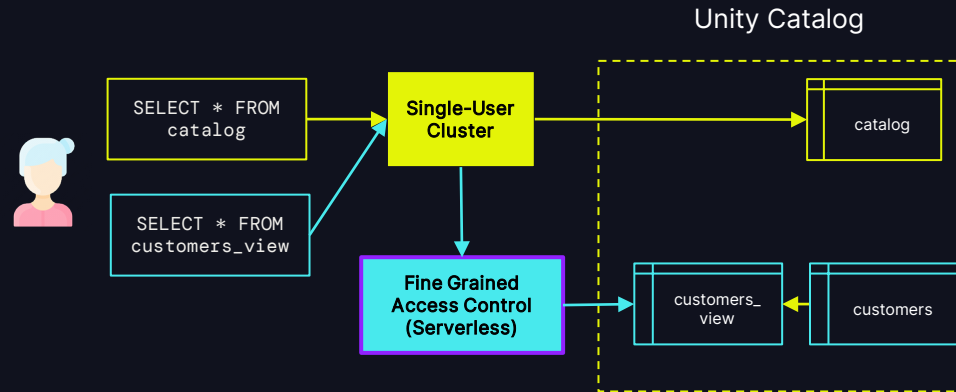
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# FINE-GRAINED ACCESS CONTROL

## For Single-User Clusters

Seamlessly query views and tables protected by FGAC securely from Single User clusters!



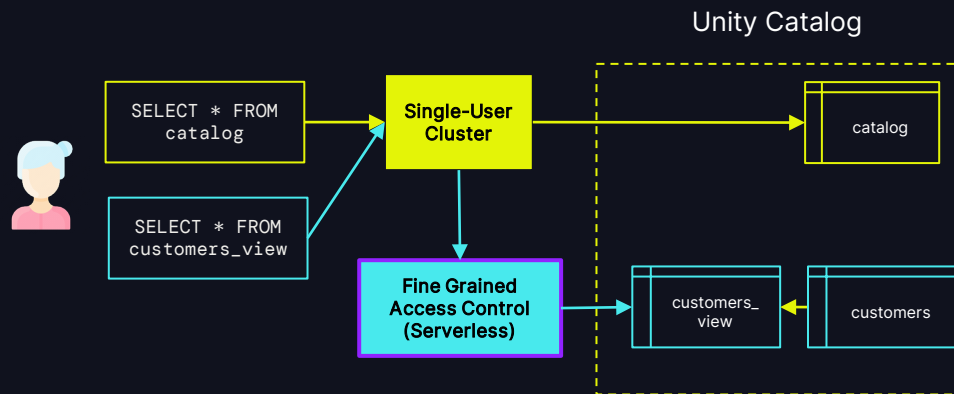
# FINE-GRAINED ACCESS CONTROL

## For Single-User Clusters

Seamlessly query views and tables protected by FGAC securely from Single User clusters!

View and masked table access:

- Data filtered via secure, serverless filtering service
- Filtered results are sent back to the Single User cluster
- *Priced* at the rate of Serverless Jobs



Public Preview, coming



# RECOMMENDATIONS

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Working securely with your governed lakehouse

1. Use Shared Clusters as your default compute!
2. If Shared Clusters don't work, use single-user clusters!
3. Develop and deploy using the same access mode!

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# THANK YOU

