Easily Scale Your Looker Development with a Dataform Modeling Layer

looker + dataform

The Business problem

Most companies have a large amount of data coming from many different sources, such as product databases, sales and marketing platforms, event data, and more. The transformations and dependencies between those datasets can quickly become complex and confusing. Keeping schedules up to date with the changes in those dependencies can be a constant battle.

Fragmented data across a team leads to pipelines that are difficult and expensive to maintain. Managing data takes up most of your team's time, and your team is reliant on manual work and hacks.

This allocative inefficiency leaves data teams spending most of their time maintaining the warehouse instead of delivering business insights. There is a need for a unified platform with a single repository for all data definitions, on which all members of the team can easily collaborate.

Dataform + Looker solution

Teams can model and transform their dataset in Dataform's dedicated data management platform. Well modeled, tested, and regularly updated datasets can then be made available to your entire organization with trusted business logic defined in Looker.

A delightful development experience

Having a dedicated place for transforming data, as well as a dedicated place for analytics, reduces the complexity of managing an end-to-end data pipeline. Dataform and Looker have taken a best-of-breed approach, separating data cleansing, data access, and analytics. With Dataform, you can run SQL, inspect the results in an IDE, and validate that your SQL queries make sense. This process sets up the metadata for your visualization layer. You can then use Looker to validate your LookML and create beautiful visualizations.

Collaborate as a team

Dataform & Looker's complementary solution allows data teams to collaborate easily. Applying software engineering best practices such as code-review, releases, and testing to data pipelines is a costly exercise. However, with Dataform's built-in version control integration with Github, you can run unit tests. These tests make it easy to adopt code review processes, create pull requests, and test data quality and CI/CD with practically no upfront engineering investment. LookML, Looker's semantic modeling language, allows organizations to standardize business logic across teams and can also be integrated with Git to record changes and manage file versions. With this solution, teams can collaborate on a single code base.

Ensuring data quality

Dataform and Looker's transformation layers allow users to create clean, reliable data sets and business logic by writing assertions and setting up alerts. Assertions run as part of a schedule and check that the data meets expectations, spotting errors before pushing them to downstream data pipelines. Using Looker to create dashboards and views from the prepared data produces visualizations that can be shared enterprise-wide without concern about the data being out of date or inaccurate.
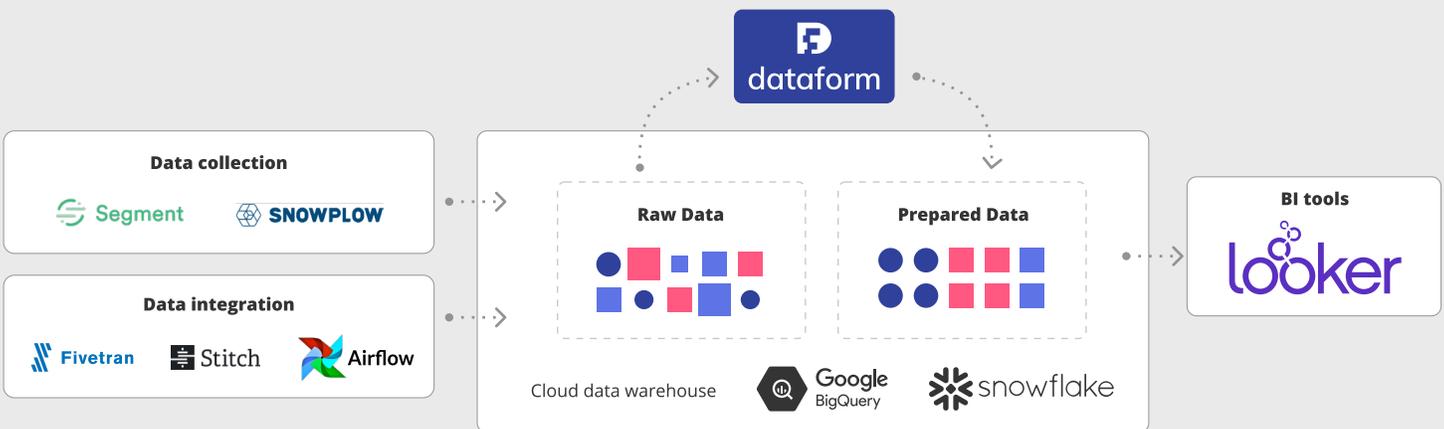
> "
> Being able to have data that we can rely on has had a big impact on our productivity. It's a huge time saver.
> "
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> —Benoit Machefer
> Director of Data, Echo

How it works

A modern approach to analytics that can help you get the most out of your data.

About Dataform

Dataform is a tool for managing data processes in your data warehouse, transforming raw data into trusted datasets to power your company's analytics. With Dataform, your entire data team can collaborate on a single platform and manage advanced workflows, all in SQL. Dataform is a fully managed platform where analysts and engineers can easily collaborate on a single, central repository and there is no infrastructure to maintain. Dataform is based in London and investors include Local Globe. For more information visit dataform.co.

About Looker

Looker is a unified data platform that delivers actionable business insights to employees at the point of decision. Looker integrates data into the daily workflows of users to allow organizations to extract value from data at web scale. Over 1900 industry-leading and innovative companies such as Sony, Amazon, The Economist, IBM, Etsy, Lyft and Kickstarter have trusted Looker to power their data-driven cultures. The company is headquartered in Santa Cruz, California, with offices in San Francisco, New York, Boulder, London, Tokyo and Dublin, Ireland. Investors include CapitalG, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Meritech Capital Partners, Premji Invest, Redpoint Ventures and Goldman Sachs. For more information, connect with us on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube or visit looker.com.