



**EPISODE 54** 

# Mastering Semantic Layers: The Key to Data-Driven Innovation



Andrew Madson
Technical Evangelist, Dremio



### Gnarly Data Waves Host — Andrew Madson

Developer Advocate - Tech Evangelist Dremio

Andrew is an experienced data leader with 17 years experience leading technical teams. Andrew has held senior leadership positions at institutions such as JP Morgan, LPL Financial, MassMutual, and Arizona State University.

In addition to leading data teams, Andrew is a professor of data science and analytics at several universities where he teaches graduate courses in machine learning, statistics, SQL, R, python, Tableau, and Power BI.

### Let's Connect!





#### **Andrew Madson**

Developer Advocate - Evangelist





### Today's Agenda

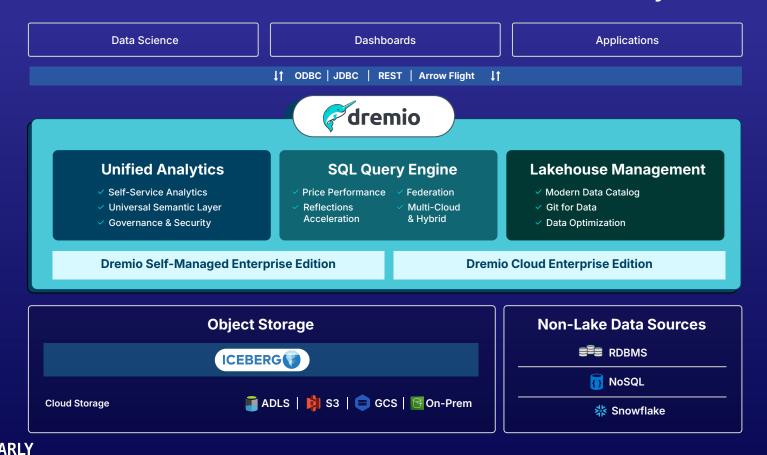
**Semantic Layers** 

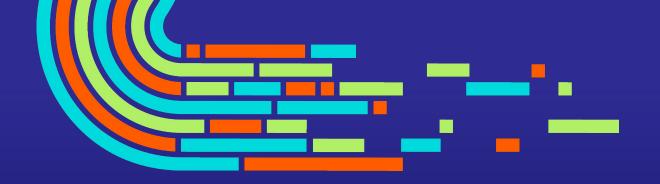


#### Today we'll cover

- 1. Current state of business intelligence
- 2. What is a semantic layer?
- 3. How do semantic layers enable decision making?
- 4. Industry trends
- 5. Dremio's approach to semantic layers

### The Unified Lakehouse Platform for Self-Service Analytics & Al

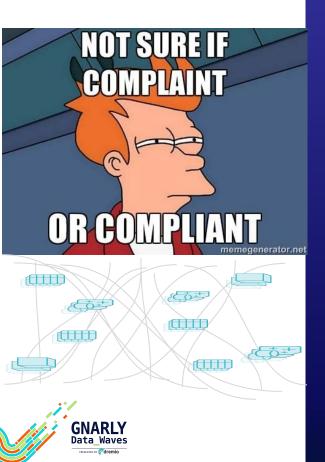


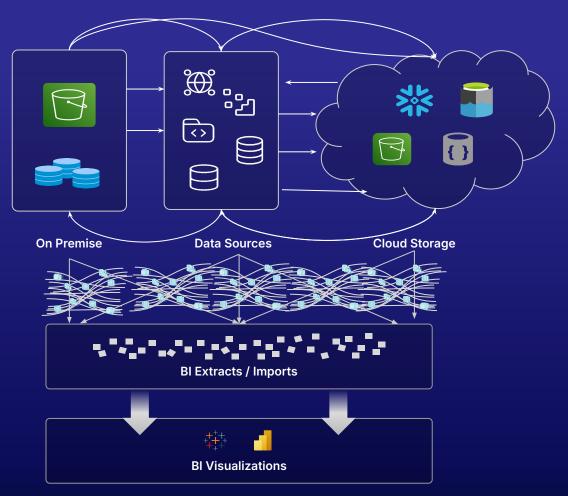


### What's the Problem?

The Origin Story

### **Data Chaos**





# Technical & Business Bottlenecks



#### **Centralized Data Responsibility**

Centralized data teams become bottlenecks when managing multiple data sources and complex data consumption use cases.

#### **Data Silos and Friction**

Traditional data architectures lead to silos, misunderstandings, and friction between data producers and consumers.

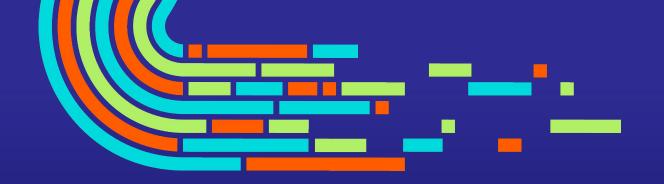
#### **Governance and Quality Assurance**

Ensuring data quality, metadata documentation, and compliance across the organization is challenging with data sprawls and siloed processes.

#### **Lack of Data Utilization**

Data often remains underutilized, leading to missed opportunities for insights and delivering on shared OKRs.



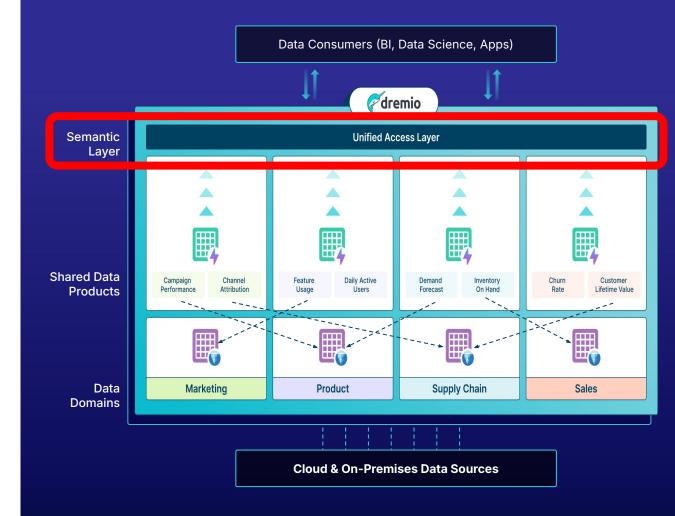


# Demystifying Semantic Layers

The Origin Story

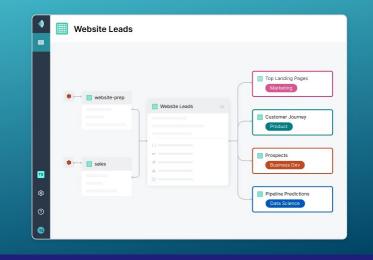
## What is a Semantic Layer?

The Semantic Layer serves as an abstraction layer that translates complex, technical data into user-friendly, business-oriented terms.





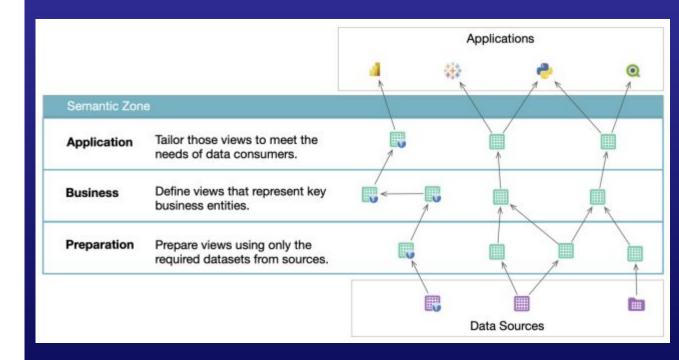
# Benefits of a Semantic Layer





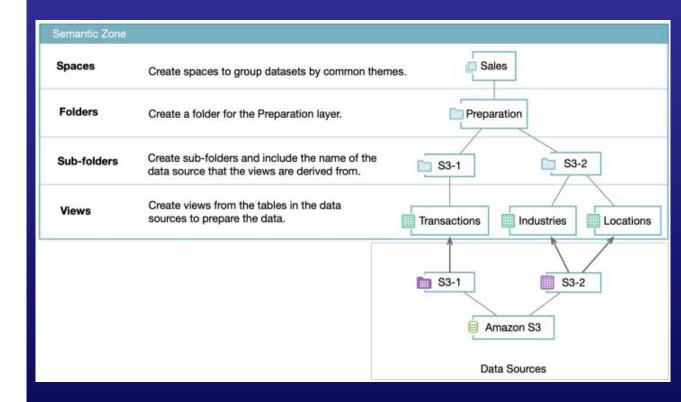


# What Are the Components of a Semantic Layer?



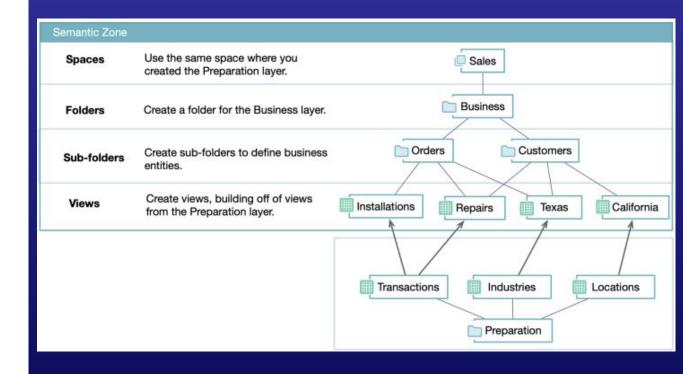


# Best Practices - Preparation Layer



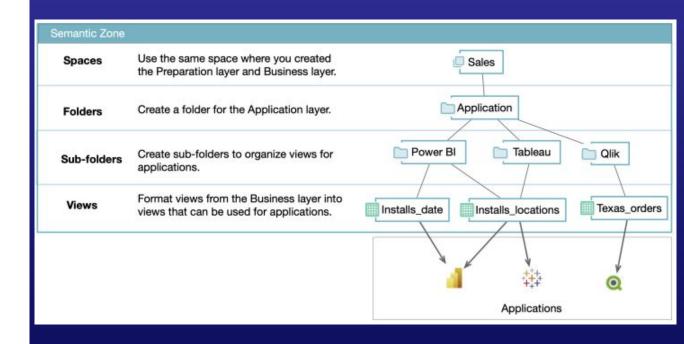


# Best Practices - Business Layer



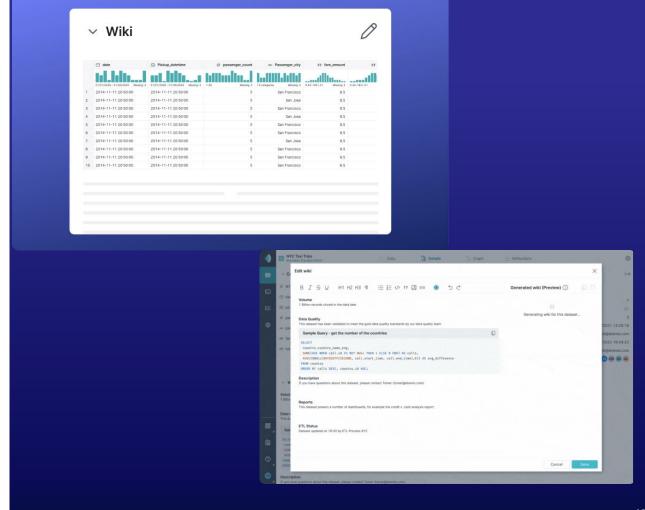


### Best Practices -Application Layer





# Best Practices - Wiki and Tags





## Use Case Analytics





#### **Unify All Data**

Dremio allows seamless unified data access with virtualization, federation, and interactive analytics across all your data, both inside Snowflake and out.

#### **Optimize Analytics**

Maximize cost efficiency and enhance performance for BI and analytics across Snowflake data and beyond.

#### **Self-Service Analytics**

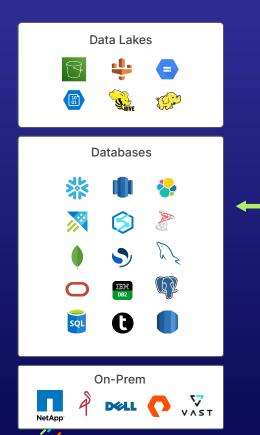
Dremio's universal Semantic Layer makes data discovery and analysis easy and intuitive. Lightning-fast, intuitive, self-service data access across all your data, source for faster time-to-insight.

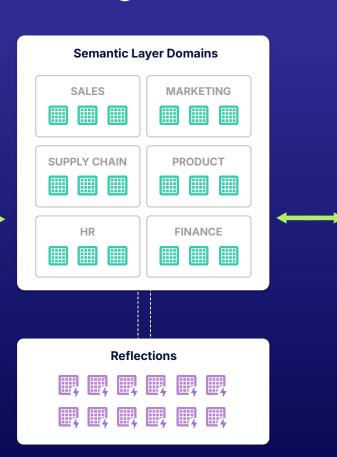
#### **Apache Iceberg Native Compatibility**

Dremio is Apache Iceberg native, so data is always yours, always open, and always compatible with other analytics tools, engines and catalogs in the Iceberg ecosystem.



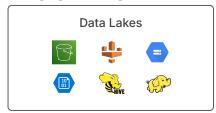
### **Use Case - Machine Learning**







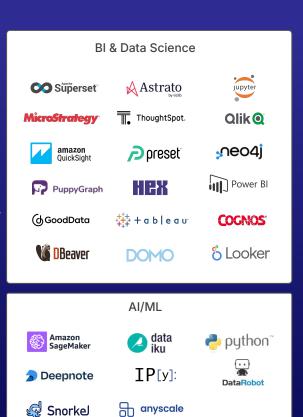
### Use Case Machine











### **Use Case** ΑI

