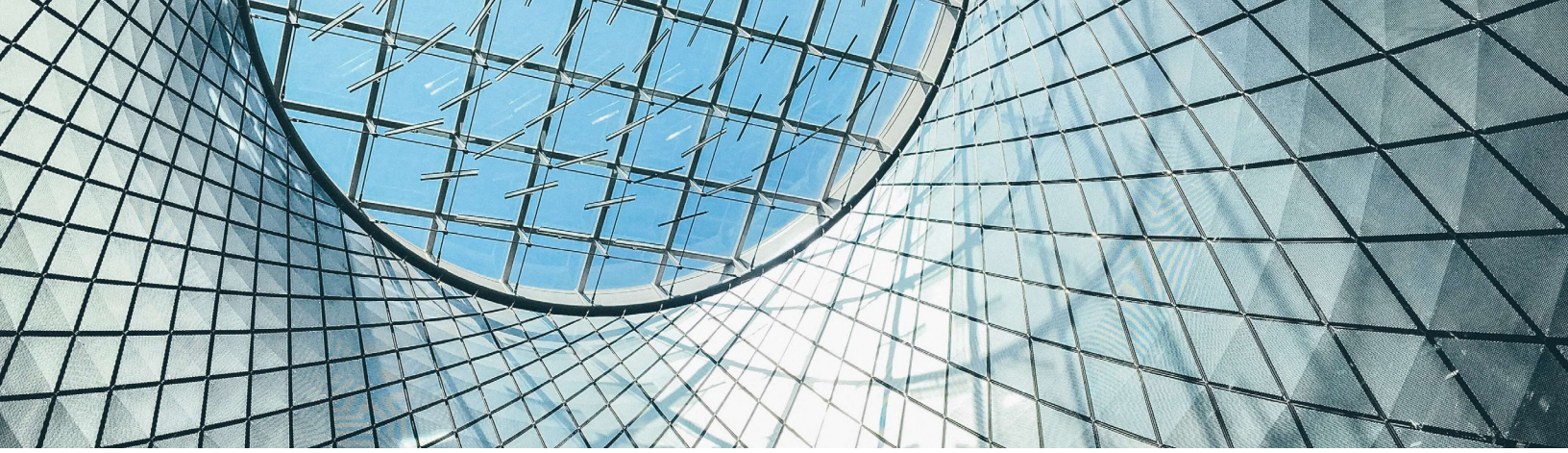

Market Insight Report Reprint

Starburst's Stargate opens a portal to hybrid and multicloud distributed analytics

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The company already provides a platform for analytics acceleration on-premises and in multiple clouds with Starburst Enterprise. The new Stargate add-on enables analysis of data in multiple globally distributed Starburst clusters.

451 Research

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Introduction

Most companies are trying to increase the analysis of available data in an attempt to accelerate data-driven decision-making. However, as data is increasingly distributed across multiple clouds, as well as existing on-premises datacenters, that is easier said than done. Data platform and analytics vendors increasingly provide support for hybrid IT and multicloud architecture, offering products and services that can be deployed in multiple locations. Starburst is no exception. The company offers data abstraction and query-acceleration software that can be deployed on-premises and in multiple clouds (in the form of Starburst Enterprise), as well as its recently introduced cloud managed service, Starburst Galaxy. The latest addition to both Starburst Enterprise and Galaxy is a capability called Starburst Stargate, which is designed to connect multiple Starburst clusters in multiple locations, enabling the analysis of data across globally distributed on-premises and cloud locations.

THE 451 TAKE

Providing a consistent approach to accessing and analyzing data across hybrid IT and multicloud environments is one thing, enabling the analysis of data across that distributed architecture without moving it is quite another, and is likely to become an increasingly critical requirement for enterprise analytics strategies as data is increasingly stored and processed in multiple locations, both on-premises and in the cloud. Stargate isn't the 'solution' to this problem – it is, after all, specific to the use of Starburst Enterprise and Galaxy, but it does provide Starburst customers with an important component that could enable them to link data across multiple data lakes (or data lakehouses) or facilitate the creation of a distributed data mesh.

Details

Starburst was spun off from Teradata in 2017 to build a business around what is now the Trino open source distributed query engine project. The company delivered its Starburst Enterprise commercial product in 2019, and earlier this year followed that up with the launch of the Starburst Galaxy cloud managed service.

The company is one the key players enabling what we have described as an abstracted data architecture, with Starburst Enterprise and Galaxy providing the analytics query engine layer to accelerate the analysis of data in data lakes based on cloud storage services.

The separation of compute and storage that enables an abstracted data architecture is closely associated with the data lakehouse approach, which combines the data structure and data management features of a data warehouse with the low-cost storage of a data lake, leading Starburst to describe its products as providing a query engine for the lakehouse architecture. However, Starburst also enables the analysis of data in relational and nonrelational databases (via Trino's query federation capabilities), and the company also sees interest in that capability (along with its query-acceleration functionality) being driven by interest in the data mesh concept of a decentralized, domain-driven architecture.

Supporting a distributed data mesh is one of the key use cases for Starburst Stargate, a new add-on for Starburst Enterprise and Galaxy launched by the company in June. Previously referred to (prelaunch) as Starburst Remote Connector, Stargate is designed to provide connections between geographically distributed Trino clusters, as well as access to remote data sets for federated query and pushdown query processing, enabling analysis of data across multiple clusters from a single location.

Specifically, Stargate leverages partnerships with the likes of Alation, Immuta, Okera and Privacera to enable users to link data catalogs and data sources in multiple clusters, while honoring local data access controls (via integration with Apache Ranger) and data residency requirements. As such, along with analysis of globally distributed data, another use case described by the company is ensuring compliance with regional data sovereignty requirements and data privacy regulations.

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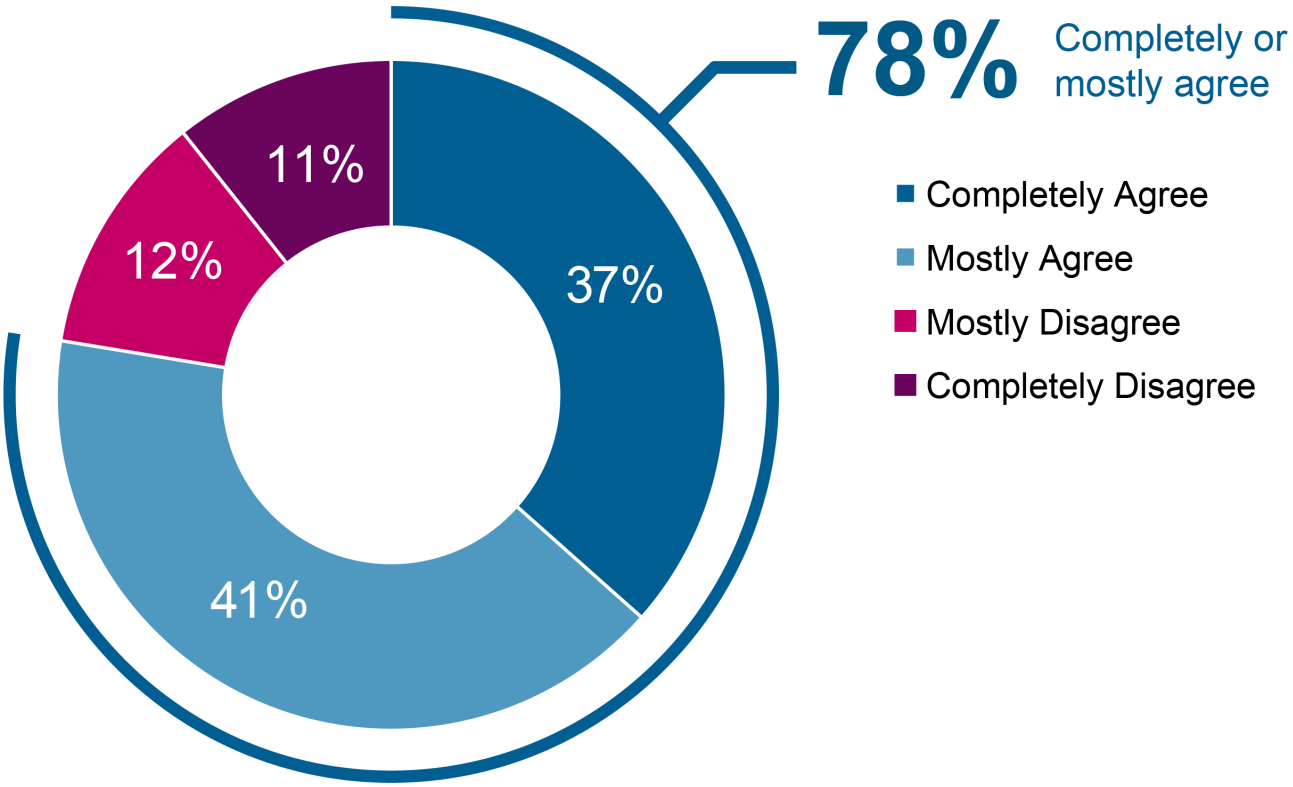
Whatever architectural approach an enterprise chooses, enabling access to, and analysis of, data across multiple locations is becoming a critical requirement. According to the results of 451 Research's Voice of the Enterprise: Cloud, Hosting & Managed Services, Vendor Evaluations 2020, 76% of organizations using public cloud currently have two or more IaaS/PaaS providers, while 58% of enterprises are adopting or planning to adopt hybrid IT as their strategic IT operating environment.

Not surprisingly, the ability to run the same database on multiple public cloud environments is an important consideration for many organizations when selecting a new data platform: 78% of respondents to 451 Research's Voice of the Enterprise: Data & Analytics, Data Platforms 2021 agreed that the ability to run the same database on multiple public cloud environments is an important consideration for many organizations when selecting a new data platform.

Coincidentally, the exact same proportion (78%) also agreed that the ability to run the same database in a hybrid IT environment (both on-premises and public cloud) is an important consideration for their organization when selecting a new data platform.

Importance of Database Support for Multiple Clouds



Source: 451 Research's Voice of the Enterprise: Data & Analytics, Data Platforms 2021

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