

#FABCONSQLCON2026

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ATLANTA MARCH 16 - 20, 2026



UNLOCKING T-SQL SURFACE AREA IN MICROSOFT FABRIC

Jared Kuehn (DataBard)

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About Me: Jared Kuehn

I am Data Guy

- Sr. Solutions Architect at SHI
- 10+ years of Data Industry stuff
- Non-cloud Certs: MCSE, PSM 1

I am Storyteller

- Weird AI is my hero
- Played Ophelia in Hamlet
- Hat Collector

 **DATA**Bard



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Today's Performance

Define Surface Area

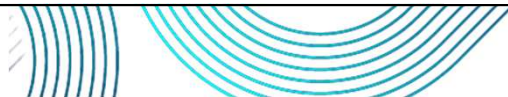
SQL Architecture

- Fabric SQL
- Warehouses
- SQL Analytics Endpoint

Keyword differences

Why It Matters

Q&A

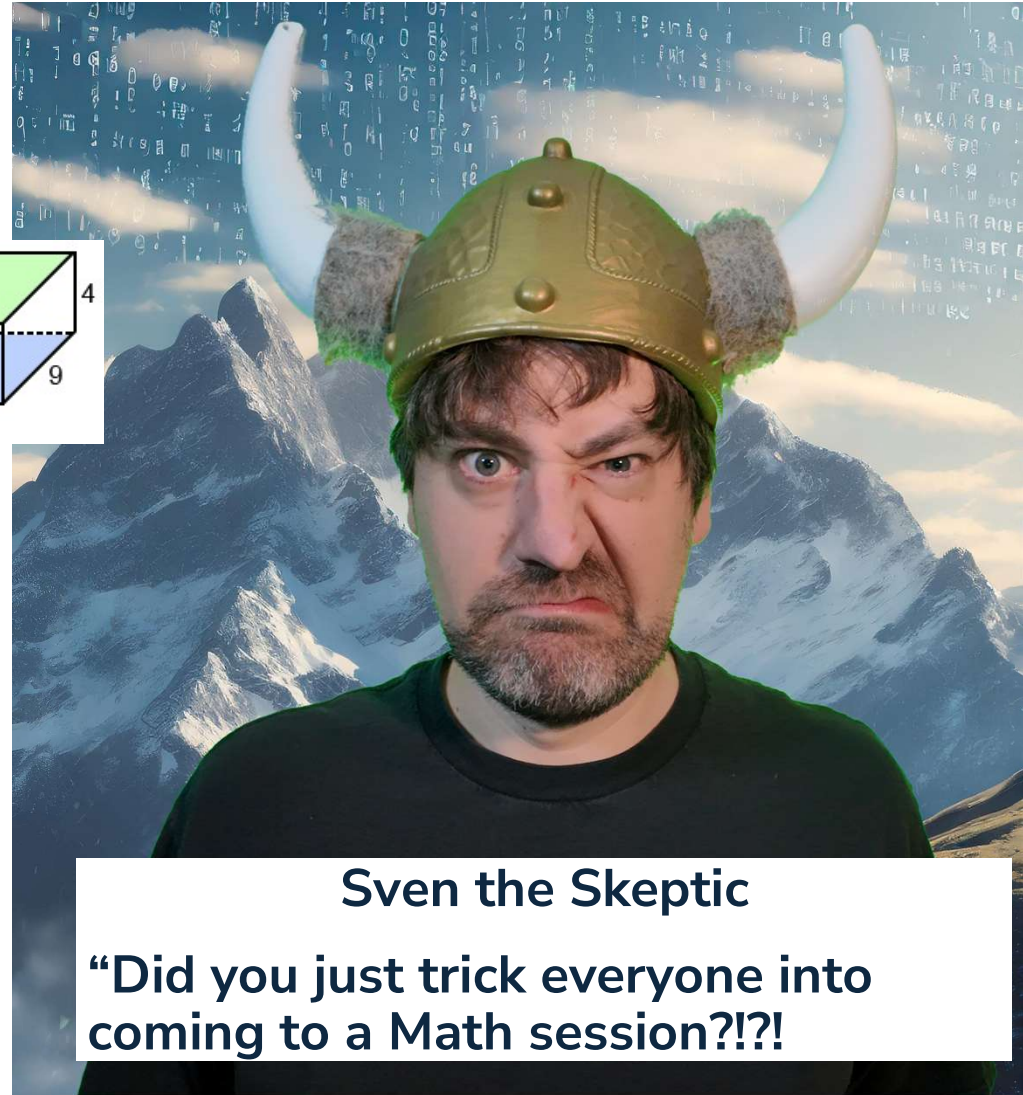
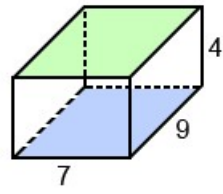


What is Surface Area?

~~Math!~~

“The full capability of what you can do within a given solution” (i.e. SQL language)

- But SQL is SQL, right?



Sven the Skeptic

“Did you just trick everyone into coming to a Math session?!?! ”



A History

1974 - SEQUEL (Structured English Query Language)

- Chamberlain and Boyce applied Codd's relational model
- Copyright issues
- Solution? Acronym'd to SQL

“We follow the ANSI Standard” – How?

1986 – ANSI adopted Standard

- ANSI X3.135-1986

1987 – ISO adopted same Standard

- ISO 9075-1987

Now known as ISO/IEC 9075

Who defines the standard?

- Most recent revision in 2023 (9th edition)
 - Graph-querying
 - JSON improvements
 - GREATEST, LEAST
- Committees include database vendors

“Now History?!”

DataBard, You can't be pulling stunts at FabCon!”

Everyone's Standard, Right?

Every vendor can be different

- ...for each product

In Microsoft Fabric,
not every SQL part
supports SQL in the
same way



~Data Professionals of the Caribbean, probably



Fabric SQL Flavors



Fabric SQL



Fabric Warehouse



SQL Analytics Endpoint

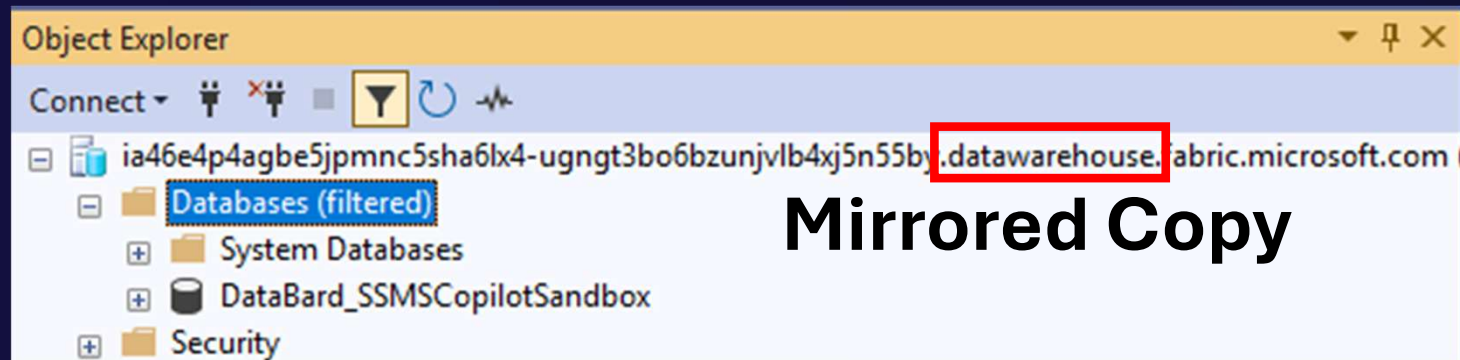
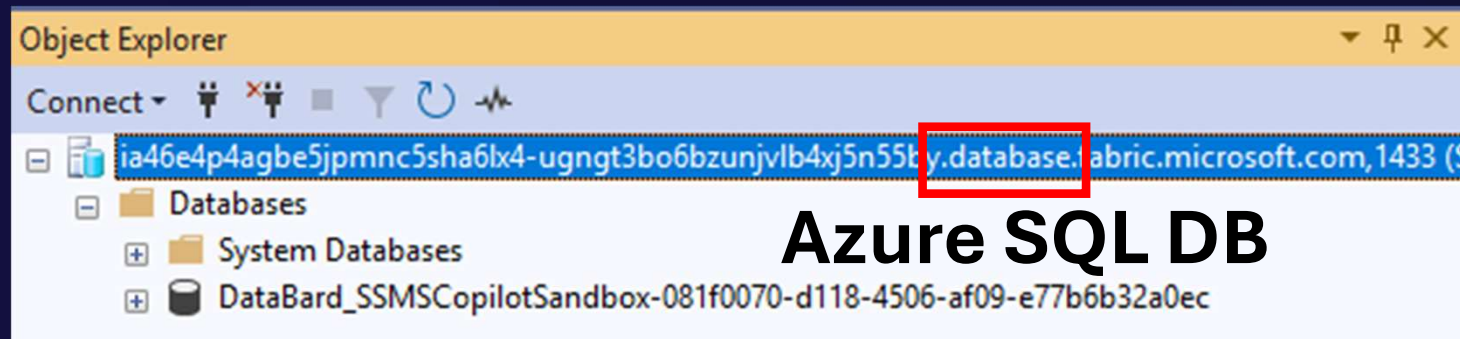
Fabric SQL DB

- Works just like Azure SQL DB, right?
- ...right?



Fabric SQL DB

Spot the Difference



Fabric SQL Architecture Gotchas



Demo!!!!!!

Fabric SQL Takeaways

- Don't fall for the Magic Trick!
 - Know storage format
 - Remember Mirroring



Or Else



BAD
THINGS
HAPPEN

Fabric Warehouse

NOT SQL Server

NOT Spark

NOT Synapse engine

Surface Area is different because:

- Massive Parallel Processing (i.e. PDW)
- Based off of Delta in Fabric



Fabric Warehouse Architecture Gotchas



DEMO!!!!



Fabric Warehouse Takeaways

Delta Storage

What you don't get

- Indexing
- Partitioning
- CLR
- JSON (Subqueries)
- Synonym
- Distribution
- SQL Agent



Or Else



BAD
THINGS
HAPPEN

Fabric SQL Analytics Endpoint



Auto-generated on many Fabric Items

All SQL Endpoints identical

Looks like SQL

- Create views, stored procs
- Security capabilities
- Read only

Big point: Not source controllable

Fabric SQL Analytics Endpoint



Demo!!!!!!

SQL Analytics Endpoint Takeaways

- Read only
- Have a Plan for Deployments



Or Else



BAD
THINGS
HAPPEN

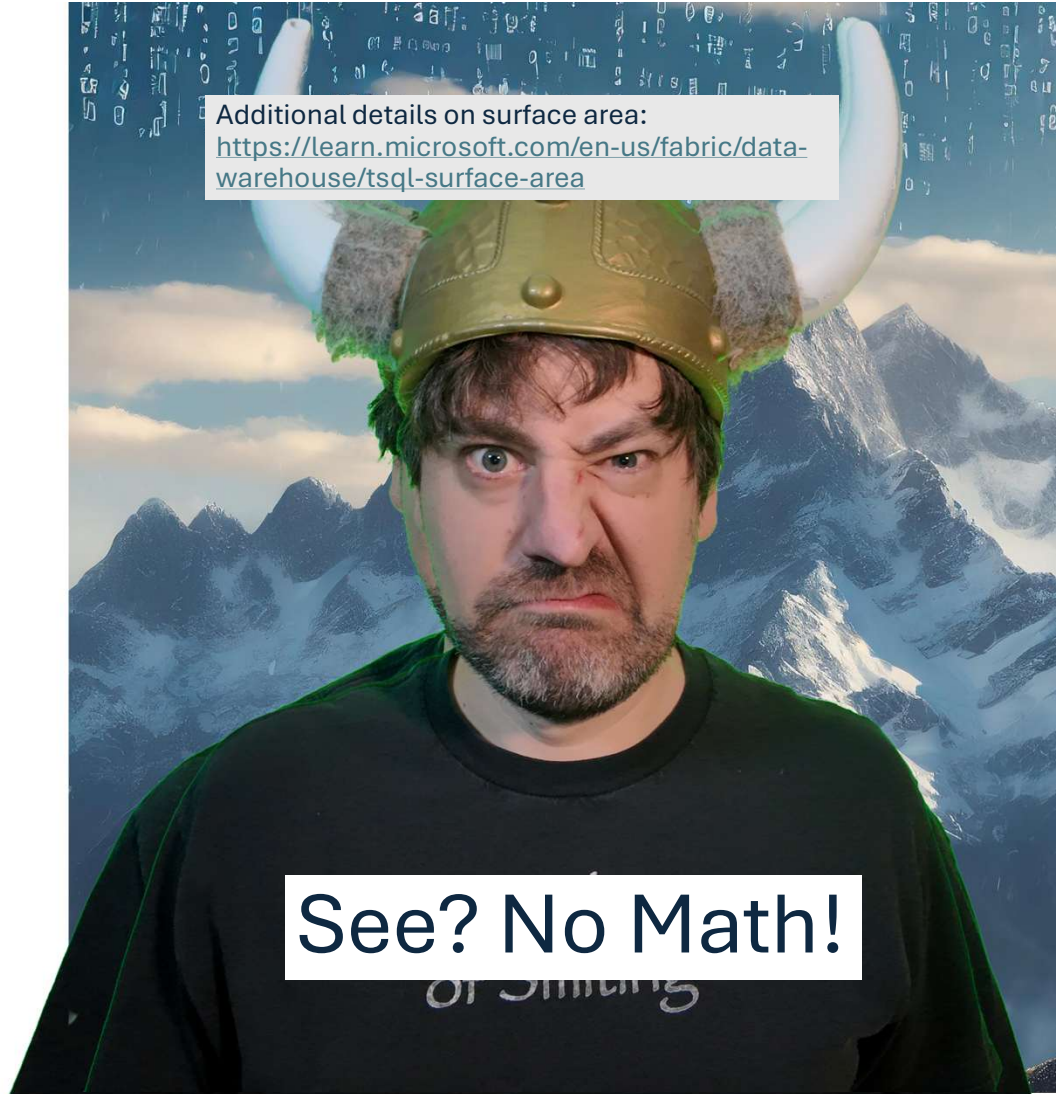
Continue your Journey

Remember T-SQL Surface Area when planning your architecture.

1. Fabric SQL DB – “Normal” SQL
 1. Beware the mirror
2. Fabric Warehouse different because
 1. Massive Parallel Processing
 2. Delta
3. SQL Analytics Endpoint
 1. Read only
 2. Deployment strategy

Additional details on surface area:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/fabric/data-warehouse/tsql-surface-area>

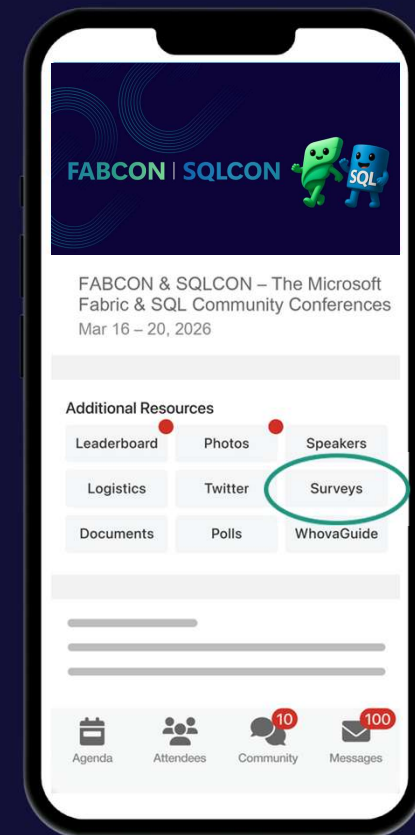


See? No Math!

How was the session?



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Together!**

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