



Enhance your dbt experience

One of the reasons dbt is so popular is because it makes things *easier* for data teams. But just like anything valuable, it requires a bit of attention (and maintenance) to ensure it keeps delivering quality results.

Why? Because as your data infrastructure expands, data sources grow, and your surrounding ecosystem changes, regular health checks on dbt (or any tool in your data stack, for that matter!), ensure that your implementation is lean, effective, and fully utilized.

This month, we discuss the dbt health check — so that all of the benefits and good vibes you get from dbt remain that way.

Let's dive in!



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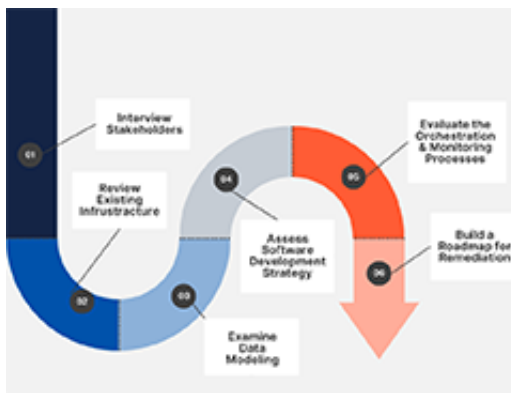
What is a dbt health check and when should you perform one?

A dbt health check is a structured process to check and optimize the performance of your dbt implementations. Regular health checks – we recommend one every year – provide the peace of mind that everything is running efficiently, and that you are taking advantage of the tool's latest features.

The benefits of a health check include:

- **Utilize new features that create more efficiencies:** Neglecting dbt's evolving features can lead to missed opportunities for enhanced efficiency and performance.
- **Uphold consistent quality standards across projects:** Failing to adhere to style, naming, and modeling conventions may result in incremental deviations over time, which complicates maintenance, increases error rates, and undermines code quality.
- **Optimize team productivity by eliminating redundant work:** Not leveraging each other's work can result in repetitive tasks that waste time and resources, missing the opportunity to focus on more strategic and innovative tasks.
- **Simplify onboarding and access to information:** Overlooking the need for clear and accessible documentation as your project scales can make onboarding unnecessarily complex and hinder efficient knowledge transfer within the team.

What should happen



in a dbt health
check?

Whether you perform your own health check or get dedicated outside help, your checkup should cover these elements to fine-tune your implementation for peak performance:

1. **Stakeholders Interviews:** From developers to end-users, get everyone's input to pinpoint your dbt project's strengths and areas for growth.
2. **An Infrastructure Review:** Including dbt Cloud, data warehouses, and tools — ensure your setup is optimized for both performance and control.
3. **A Data Model Check:** Scrutinize your data staging and SQL coding practices for efficiency and maintainability, ensuring they're up to industry standards.
4. **A Review of Your Dev Process:** Look at how you manage code changes and deployments, ensuring your practices are modern, efficient, and minimize risks.
5. **An Examination of Orchestration & Monitoring:** Examine your data pipeline management and monitoring practices, checking for smooth operations and quick problem-solving.
6. **A Remediation Roadmap:** Based on your findings, craft a clear plan for improvements and ongoing checks, tailored to keep your dbt projects sharp and forward-looking.

[Learn more about a dbt Health Check](#)

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