

# AtScale Cube Design Concepts

This section explains the data modeling concepts associated with creating AtScale virtual cubes.

Attention!

AtScale does not recommend modeling on a cube with two or more users concurrently. Modeling on the canvas with two or more users concurrently can result in undesired behavior and a loss of completed work.

- [About AtScale Virtual Cubes](#) An AtScale virtual cube is a metadata layer that overlays a multi-dimensional format on top of the datasets stored in a connected data warehouse, such as Google BigQuery or a Hadoop distribution. The cube is *virtual* because the data is not moved or processed up front. Instead, the cube contains the logic on how to process and optimize the data at query runtime.
- [About Star Schema Data Modeling](#) A star (or snowflake) schema refers to a way of organizing data in a database in order to support OLAP queries. AtScale's virtual cubes rely on star schema data modeling.
- [About Measures and Dimensions](#) In business intelligence (BI) tools such as Tableau or Excel, data plays two major roles in an analysis: dimension or measure. An AtScale virtual cube describes the underlying data in a connected data warehouse as dimensions and measures so that BI tools can work with this data more effectively.