**Data Engineering: A brief history**

[](https://classroom.udacity.com/nanodegrees/nd027/parts/1be1ed3e-c0c5-4b03-be23-7f4393a11fca/modules/20001b0c-9bbd-49c3-b0f2-5d1578fa6e22/lessons/d37f55b9-2519-4f65-8d99-92eb5a2c06d3/concepts/9384799d-e894-49f3-a306-2b6c4c7960ec)

Knowing a bit of the history of data engineering will help you understand how certain tools were developed, and give you more context when choosing between tools and frameworks. There are two readings we suggest.

1) [On the Evolution of Data Engineering](https://medium.com/analytics-and-data/on-the-evolution-of-data-engineering-c5e56d273e37): This short read (~5 minutes) focuses on the recent change from managing SQL databases to working with massive datasets in real time. It was written by Julien Kervizic, an experienced analytics expert from the Netherlands.

2) [Data Engineering Introduction and Epochs](https://learn.panoply.io/hubfs/Data%20Engineering%20-%20Introduction%20and%20Epochs.pdf): This slightly longer read (~20 minutes) goes further back in time to the birth of computers. It walks through four "epochs" of data engineering, and the major advances over the past 70 years. It was written by Panopoly, a data engineering platform provider.

Enjoy!

ON the evolution of Data Engineering



[Julien Kervizic](https://medium.com/%40julienkervizic?source=post_page-----c5e56d273e37----------------------)

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[Oct 8, 2018](https://medium.com/analytics-and-data/on-the-evolution-of-data-engineering-c5e56d273e37?source=post_page-----c5e56d273e37----------------------) · 5 min read

A few years ago being a data engineer meant managing data in and out of a database, creating pipelines in SQL or Procedural SQL and doing some form of ETL to load data in a data-warehouse, creating data-structures to unify, standardize and (de)normalize datasets for analytical purpose in a non-realtime manner. Some companies were adding to that a more front facing business components that involved building analytic cubes and dashboard for business users.

In 2018 and beyond the role and scope of the data engineers has changed quite drastically. The emergence of data products has created a gap to fill which required a mix of skills not traditionally embedded within typical development teams, the more Software Development Oriented data engineers and the more data oriented Backend Engineers were in a prime role to fill this gap.

This evolution was facilitated by a growing number of technologies that helped to bridge the gap both for those of Data Engineering and those of a more Backend Engineering background.

