ACME Protects Customer Data in Snowflake with Satori

Making sure sensitive data is accessible only to those who need it without the overhead in managing permissions or views.

Goals

ACME is an innovative transportation technology startup that is re-engineering public transit, from a regulated system of rigid routes and schedules to a fully dynamic, on-demand network. Part of ACME's service includes storage and analytics of riders personal information and it is a top priority goal for ACME to protect riders information.
ACME's goal was to implement tight controls over data access that will make sure that data is only available on a need to know basis and can be audited and reported on.

Challenges

ACME's service relies on advanced analytics to transform how public transportation systems operate into dynamic, on-demand and efficient route planning. That means that multiple teams need access to the central Snowflake data lake and data warehouse.
The traditional way of making sure that only authorized employees have access to sensitive data is to abstract the raw data using secured views and implement role based access controls.
The challenges in this approach is that maintaining views and role based access control places a huge operational burden on the data and security teams to set up, maintain and monitor the hundreds of new components required to support every use case.

Solution

Satori provides a secure data access service to monitor, classify and control access to data across cloud data stores. With Satori, controls are decoupled from the data architecture and do not require changes in data stores and users have the full context of who is accessing, what data and how it is being accessed to enable visibility and control.
To solve the data access challenge, ACME implemented access control policies in Satori that ensure that employees can only access data that is relevant to the project they are working on. While analysts can query data tables directly with no need to create views or copies, Satori makes sure that data is authorized to employees based on their project assignment.
Since the solution does not require changes in queries or tools, can be easily dropped in and does not interrupt data access.

Outcome

With Satori, ACME can implement existing and future access controls in an agile way, with less overhead. In addition, if ACME decides to migrate to a new data platform, they can leverage the same Satori controls on top of the new platform since Satori policies work across all enterprise data stores.