

Scale AI-Assisted Data Science with **Reproducible, Governed Workflows**

AN ADMIN'S GUIDE TO POSIT AND THE SNOWFLAKE AI DATA CLOUD

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Executive summary

AI assistance is now part of everyday data science, making it harder for IT to maintain governance, control, and reproducibility. Teams want the flexibility to use R, Python, open-source tools, and AI assistance, while admins need to keep data access, packages, models, and AI usage governed and reproducible. Both are possible.

Posit is the reproducible governance layer for data science on Snowflake. It centralizes R and Python workflows with AI assistance from Snowflake Cortex, and keeps data inside the account boundary you control. Each result ships with its code, data, and environment, so the person who approves it can rerun it and check the result.



01 | The governance dilemma

Data scientists need R and Python to do their jobs. You need to protect sensitive data and meet regulatory requirements, and you want to do that without standing up a second platform outside the accounts you govern.

When data scientists work in systems outside Snowflake, you end up managing roles and resource monitors, along with security policies, in each of them. Business stakeholders feel the effect too, because analysis built on inconsistent extracts outside the platform of record is harder to trust and verify.



02 | Deploy inside Snowflake



Posit and Snowflake give you two ways to bring R and Python under Snowflake's governance: the Posit Team Native App and Posit Connected Apps. Both run under the roles and access controls you administer in Snowflake. Both centralize package management in Posit Package Manager, so you manage R and Python versions and packages from one place and no longer inventory individual laptops.

The paths differ in how much infrastructure you need to set up and manage. Posit is also the only managed runtime on Snowflake that supports R and Python equally, so you don't run a second, separately governed platform for the language that other runtimes support less.



RECOMMENDED

Posit Team Native Application

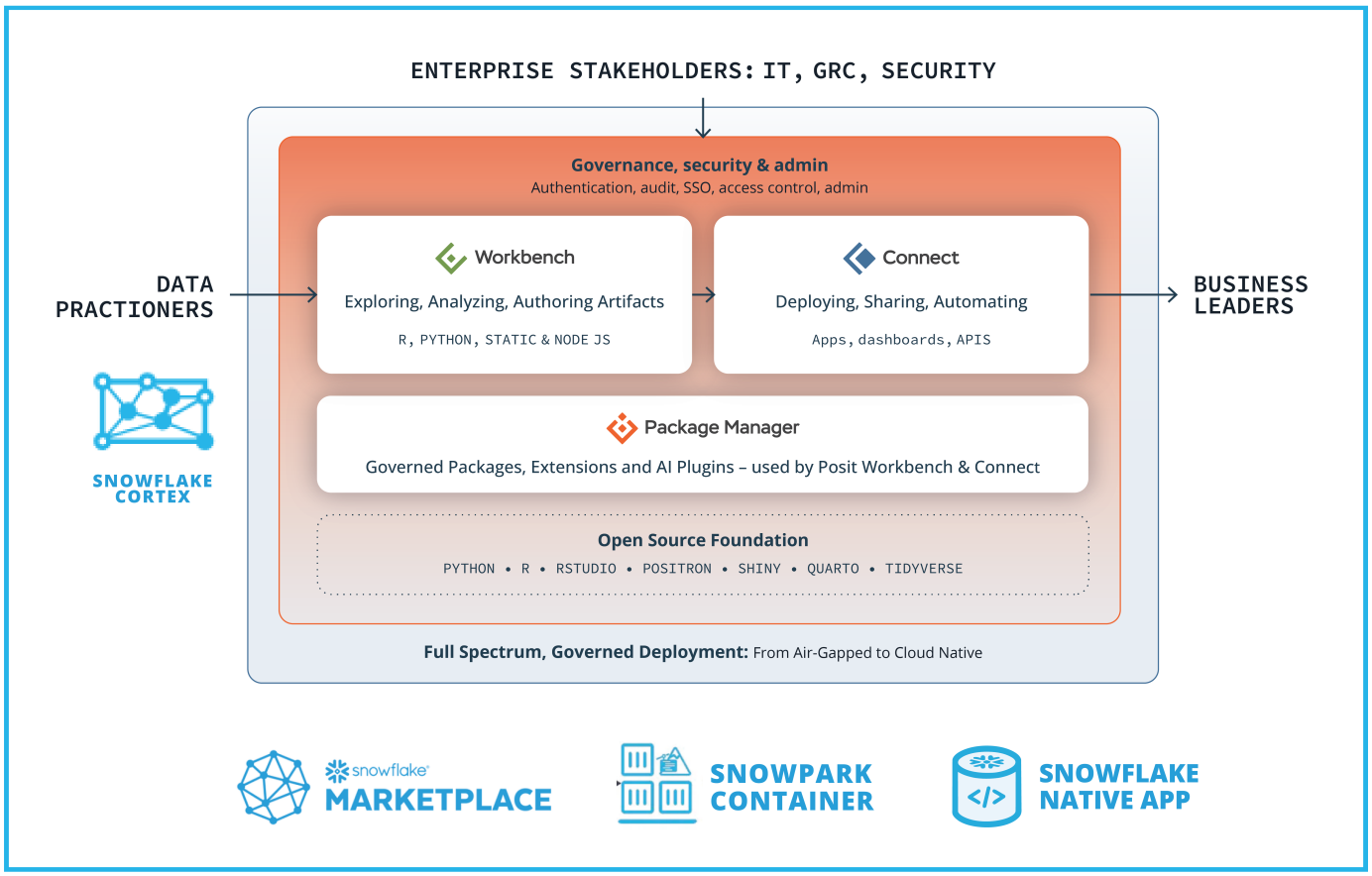
The Posit Team Native Application runs three products inside Snowflake on Snowpark Container Services: **Posit Workbench** for developing data products, **Posit Connect** for publishing and deployment, and **Posit Package Manager** for package governance, VS Code extension governance, and AI plugins.

Continued from **02 | Posit Team Native Application**

Workbench enables your data scientists to use RStudio, Positron (Posit's IDE for R and Python), VS Code, and Jupyter in one governed session, so they don't need a local IDE. You install it from the Snowflake Marketplace. Snowflake manages the infrastructure and Posit manages software upgrades.

Posit offers a 30-day self-serve trial. Running Posit Team on Snowpark Container Services requires an Advanced-tier license, and Posit recommends installing with the Account Admin role or an equivalent custom role.

Posit Team Native App architecture: governance, security, and admin for Workbench, Connect, and Package Manager





Continued from **02 | Deploy inside Snowflake**

Open source packages to streamline R on Snowflake

Historically, data science teams using R had a hard time working with Snowflake because IT had to set up complex database drivers, and R models couldn't easily run inside Snowflake's AI system.

Posit's new packages (skiLift and skiPatrol) fix this completely: R users can now connect to Snowflake instantly with zero IT setup, and their R models can run directly inside Snowflake alongside Python models.

These two open source R packages mean fewer tickets for your team: **skiLift** needs no ODBC driver, JDBC driver, or Python runtime installed first, so a new R user connects to Snowflake with one package install and no request to your team. **skiPatrol** gives R models the same version history, lineage, and monitoring you require of Python models, so R models appear in the registry you audit.

Inside the Native App, both packages use the signed-in Snowflake user's credentials without being configured, so adopting them adds no new credential for you to issue or rotate.

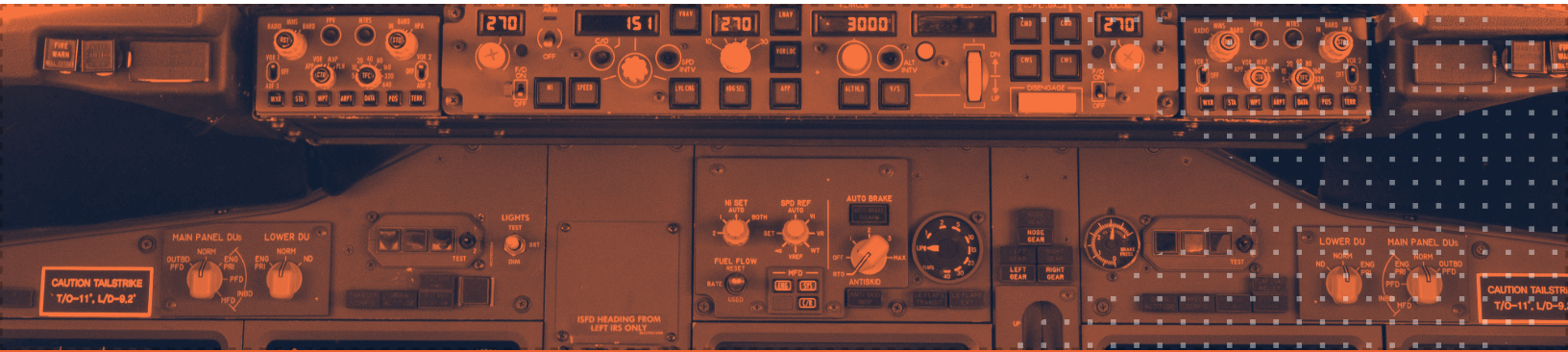
More on skiLift and skiPatrol

03 | Controls you inherit and controls you keep

Authentication: the Native App uses OAuth 2.0 for authorization.

Governance: Snowflake stays the source of truth. Posit inherits and enforces your user roles and permissions, so a policy change in Snowflake needs no matching change in a second system. In Posit's product demo, two people open the same Shiny app and ask the same question: one sees the full dataset, the other sees a masked column and a row-level-filtered subset, because each inherited a different Snowflake role. You configure no separate access layer for the app itself. Similarly, when a user starts an IDE session, their role is inherited, so they automatically get access to the data that they have been granted access to, and Cortex models work only if their role/account has them activated.

AI governance: Posit Assistant runs on Snowflake Cortex rather than an external LLM provider, so requests stay inside your Snowflake account and you issue no separate API keys. Cortex gives Posit Assistant access to Claude and GPT models, so you govern one integration instead of a growing list of model vendors. (More on the Cortex integration.) Posit Assistant reads the semantic models your data team defines inside Snowflake, so the business logic behind a term like "leakage ratio" stays a governed Snowflake object. Users do not redefine it or guess at it outside your account. Posit Assistant checks in with you before steps that are expensive or risky. More on the Snowflake skill.



▶ Continued from **03 | Controls you inherit and controls you keep**



Automatic upgrades: on the Native App, Posit applies automatic software updates for all of Posit Team during maintenance windows, so your team files no upgrade tickets. Upgrades follow one documented path across deployments. No headache for you, and your data scientists get the latest and greatest features.



Visibility: admin dashboards and health checks across Workbench, Connect, and Package Manager show session activity, package installs, and system status in one place, so you learn about an issue without waiting for user tickets. The admin dashboard within the Native App enables you to resize the compute pool, manage user roles, manage other data platform integrations through OAuth, view logs, download tickets, and even log support tickets. You can also view sessions/users and even opt in to sharing your operational health telemetry, so Posit can make your support interactions more productive.



Cost control: an idle Workbench session can auto-suspend after the time that you choose, and admins can script start and stop times with Snowflake Tasks, for example shutting Workbench down at 8pm and bringing it back at 7am, so compute credits aren't burning on sessions nobody is using.

In Posit's **demo**, the agent recommended a hyperparameter sweep. The user stopped it and validated on a hold-out set before spending the compute unsupervised. Posit Assistant grounds each suggestion in the code, data, and environment within the session, so a reviewer can rerun the result and check it.

04 | Proof from teams like yours

NHL
Fan analytics on a single governed workspace

The NHL's three-person data science team previously pieced fan analytics together across disconnected tools. They downloaded CSVs locally, tapped a hosted R environment through a VM, ran the code, exported results back out as CSVs, then uploaded those into a BI tool for anyone else to see. Business stakeholders within the organization often got insights built on stale data.

The league's fan analytics team now runs its everyday modeling inside Posit Workbench , deployed with the Posit Team Native App, a single governed workspace where R and Python run directly against the league's fan data inside Snowflake. No file handoff happens between systems, and the team no longer secures and patches in a separate environment.

Read the full story

> We have a streamlined process for analyzing and modeling these spikes and their impacts as the data becomes available.
>
> — JAMIE SHIVE, DIRECTOR OF DATA SCIENCE, NHL



Continued from **04 | Proof from teams like yours**

Brilliant Earth

One governed platform instead of a series of handoffs

Before Posit and Snowflake, deploying a model at Brilliant Earth required several tools and an engineering handoff. The team explored data in a BI platform, developed in a separate ad hoc IDE, and had no governed path between the two. Retail marketing campaign analysis required pulling data from disconnected sources by hand.

The team now works with Posit Workbench and Posit Connect on Snowflake. Data scientists develop in the Positron IDE and deploy with a single click without leaving Snowflake's security perimeter. The weekly reporting now runs on the Anthropic and Cortex APIs.

At Brilliant Earth, domain experts are actively prototyping their own solutions as well. By connecting Claude to Snowflake CoWork agents built on governed semantic layers, a merchandiser can prototype a custom report tailored to their specific metrics, like carat weights and sell-through rates. If a prototype proves broadly valuable, the analytics team rebuilds it on validated Snowflake data and publishes it to Posit Connect as an enterprise-grade application.

Read the full story

> The infrastructure now lets us move at the speed the business requires, while keeping insights governed and reproducible.
>
> — MATTHIAS MUELLER, DIRECTOR, DATA SCIENCE, BRILLIANT EARTH



Trusted across regulated and high-scale industries

Posit is an Elite Snowflake Partner Network Partner with joint Snowflake customers in insurance (Beneva), sports (NHL), retail (Brilliant Earth), healthcare and life sciences (NMDP), and more.

05 | The business case

When you compare the native deployment with the cost of running several disparate systems, the return comes from three areas:



Operational efficiency

less administrative overhead, lower infrastructure spend, and one vendor relationship instead of several. Automatic upgrades, auto-suspend, and a one-click diagnostics bundle from the Native App's landing page cut the manual work further.



Risk mitigation

stronger governance, consistent data across teams, and a security posture that lowers audit costs



Productivity gains

faster time to deployment and business insights, and more frequent model iteration for the teams you support

For many admins, the security and administrative savings alone justify the move. Faster work for the data science teams comes as a bonus.

06 | Get started

Start here: install the Native App from the Snowflake Marketplace and run a 30-day self-serve trial. It requires an Advanced-tier Posit Team license and, typically, the Account Admin role. To evaluate first, learn more before you install anything.



Learn more about the **Posit Connected Apps** for a self-managed approach on infrastructure you run, available as private listings you can draw down against an existing Snowflake commitment.



Step-by-step installation docs for either path.



Talk to a Posit expert about your architecture and governance requirements.

About Posit and Snowflake

Snowflake delivers the AI Data Cloud, a global network where organizations mobilize data at scale. Its Native App Framework and Snowpark Container Services let partners like Posit run their applications inside a customer's own Snowflake account, giving regulated industries a single governance boundary for both data and the tools that work on it.

Posit (creators of RStudio) is the data science platform for R and Python, giving organizations in financial services, insurance, life sciences, government, and academia the tools to develop, deploy, and govern analytic work. Together, Snowflake and Posit support work like the National Marrow Donor Program, which analyzes a registry of 42 million potential donors to deliver lifesaving matches.

Snowflake named Posit its 2026 Global Product Innovation Partner of the Year and 2026 AI/ML Data Science Tooling Partner of the Year, and named Posit a "One to Watch" in its 2026 Modern Marketing Data Stack report.

