Developing web-based Al applications for social sciences

Dr. Moritz Joerling

Agenda/Overview

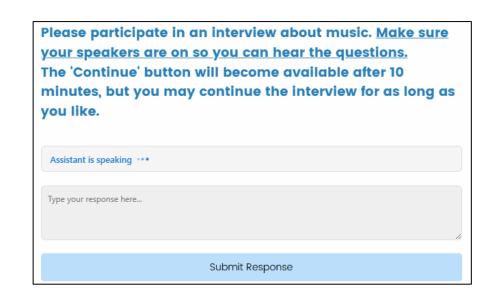
- Use Cases
- App architecture and implementation with JavaScript
- App architecture and implementation with Python
- Retrieval Augmented Generation

Some use cases

- Interview bot
- Chatbot intervention (e.g., can chatbots reduce conspiracy believes)

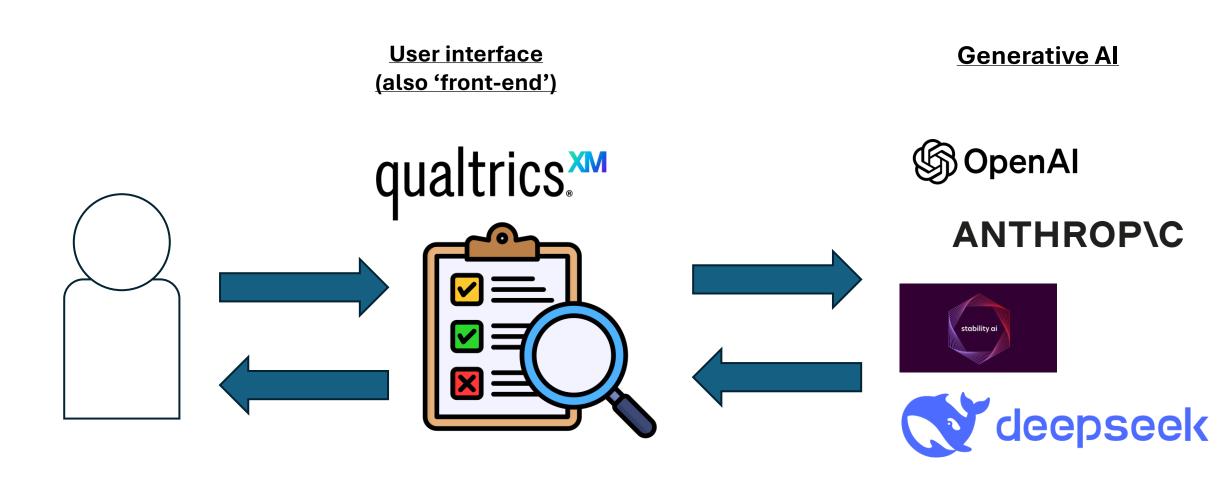
• Observing individuals' interaction with generative AI

• ...

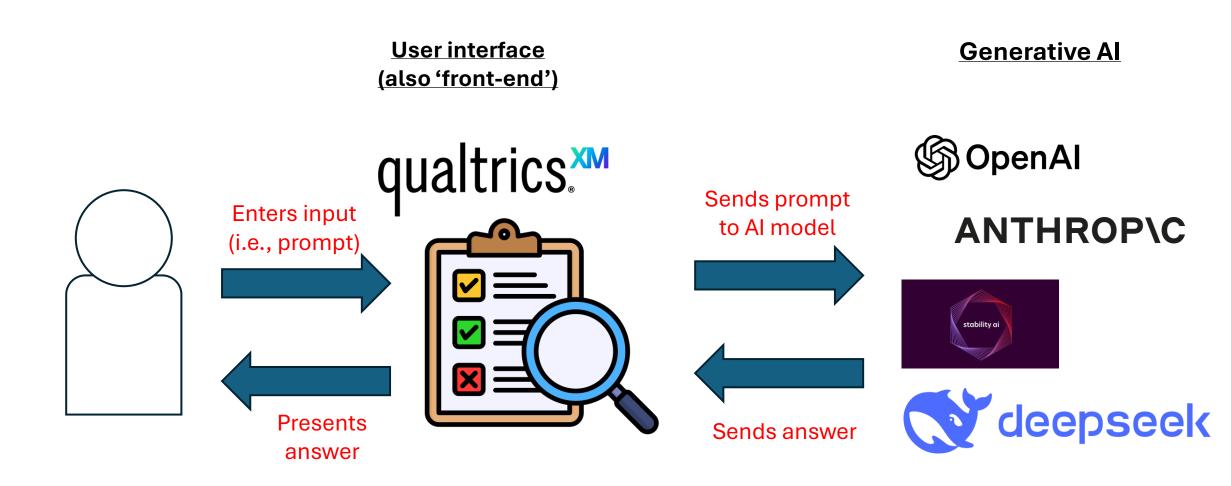




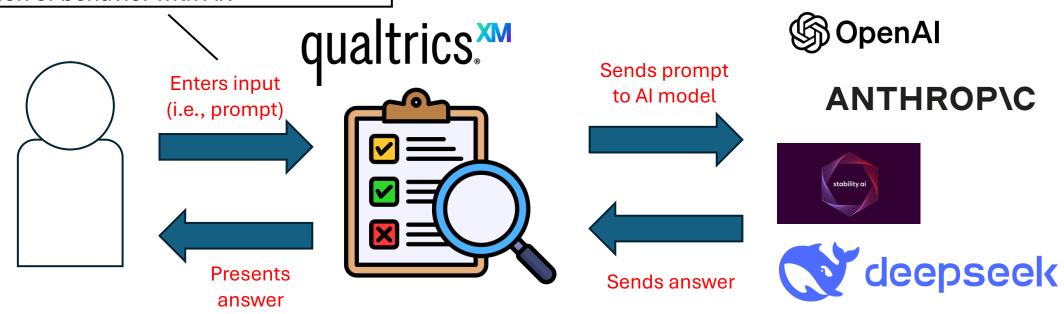
The basic architecture of a web-based GenAl app



The basic architecture of a web-based GenAl app

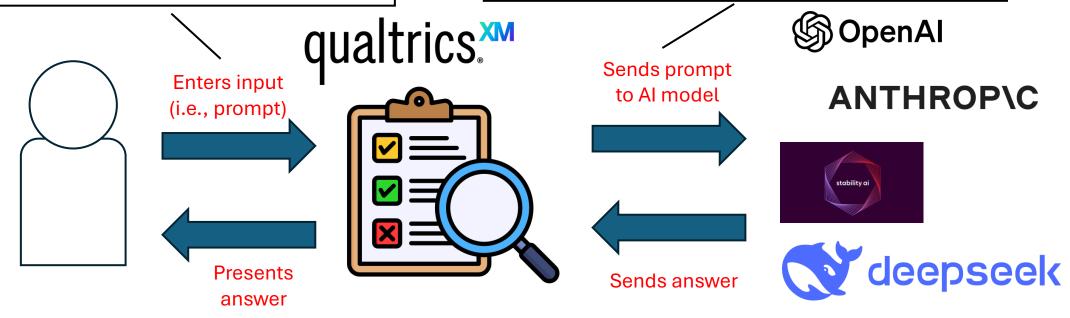


- How does the modality of data input affect people's interaction with generative AI?
- How does the input length affect the people's satisfaction or behavior with AI?



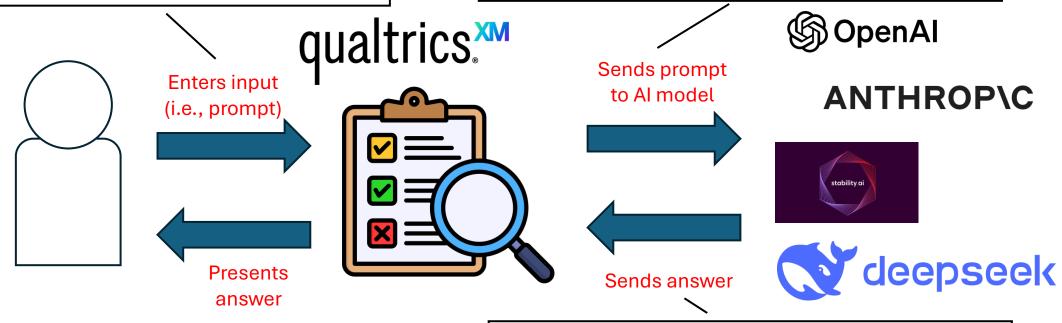
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- How do the system adjustments (e.g., temperature, system prompt etc.) affect model output and user interaction?



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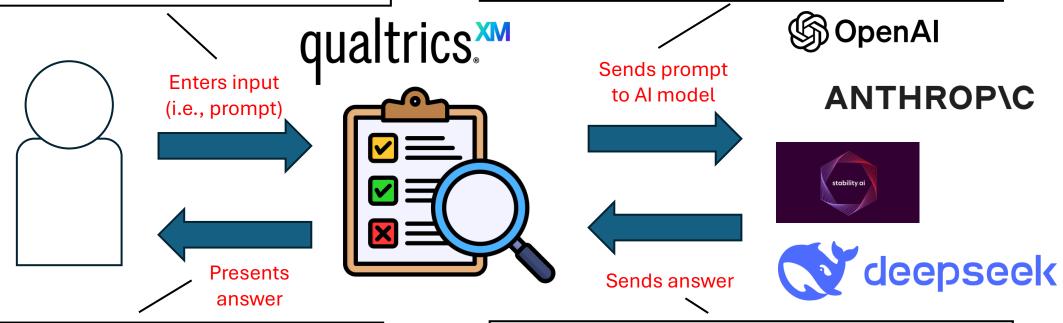
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- What model sends the best answer for which task?

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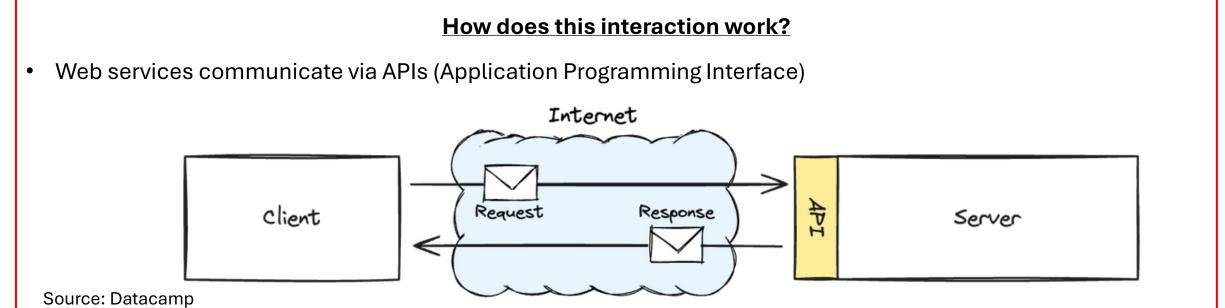
 How do the system adjustments (e.g., temperature, system prompt etc.) affect model output and user interaction?



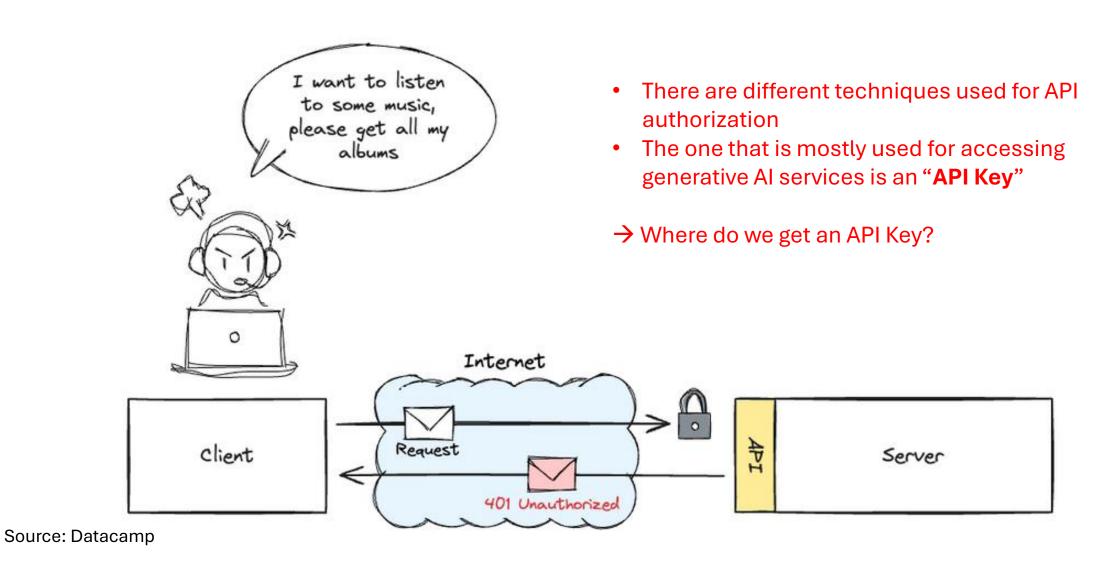
- How does the modality of data output affect people's interaction with generative AI?
- Is the reasoning process visible and how does it affect user experience?

- What model sends the best answer for which task?



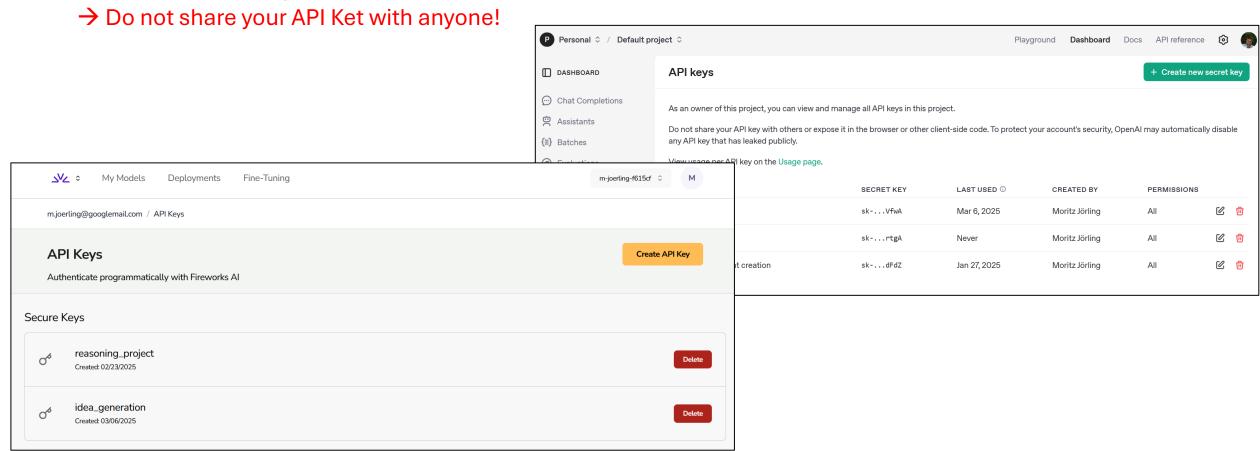


We need to have authorization to use the API



Getting an API Key

- 1. Go to the service you want to use (e.g., Open AI, Anthropic, Mistral AI etc.)
- 2. Setup an account
- 3. Create an API Key and save it where no one else can access it



Anatomy of a REST API request

1. Endpoint (URL)

- The address where the API is hosted, defining the resource being accessed.
- Example: https://api.example.com/users/123

2. HTTP Method

- Specifies the type of action being performed.
- Common methods:
 - GET (Retrieve data)
 - POST (Create new data)
 - PUT/PATCH (Update data)
 - DELETE (Remove data)

3. Headers

- Provide metadata about the request.
- Examples:
 - Content-Type: application/json (Indicates request format)
 - Authorization: Bearer <token> (For authentication)

4. Query Parameters (Optional)

- Modify the request with key-value pairs.
- Example: ?page=2&limit=10

5. Request Body (Optional)

- Contains data sent with POST, PUT, or PATCH requests.
- Typically formatted as JSON:

```
{
   "name": "John Doe",
   "email": "johndoe@example.com"
}
```

6. Response

- The data returned by the API.
- Includes:
 - Status Code (200 OK , 404 Not Found , etc.)
 - Response Body (JSON, XML, etc.)
 - Headers (Metadata like rate limits)

Status code categories

1XX : Informational responses

2XX : Successful responses

3XX : Redirection messages

4XX : Client error responses

5XX : Server error responses

Frequently used status codes

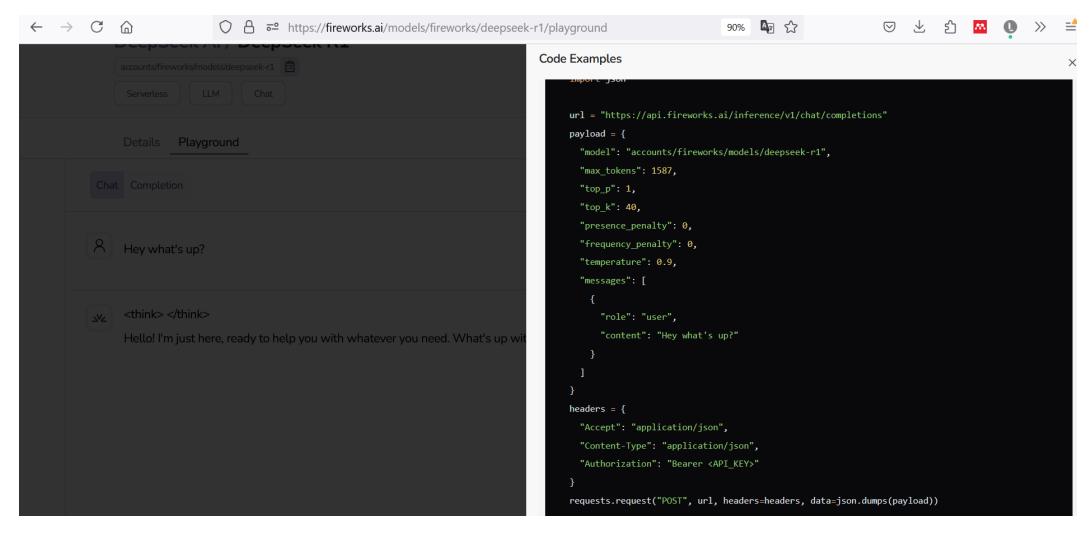
200 : OK

404 : Not Found

• 500 : Internal Server Error

¹ For a full list of all response codes you can refer to the MDN page on status-codes via https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Status

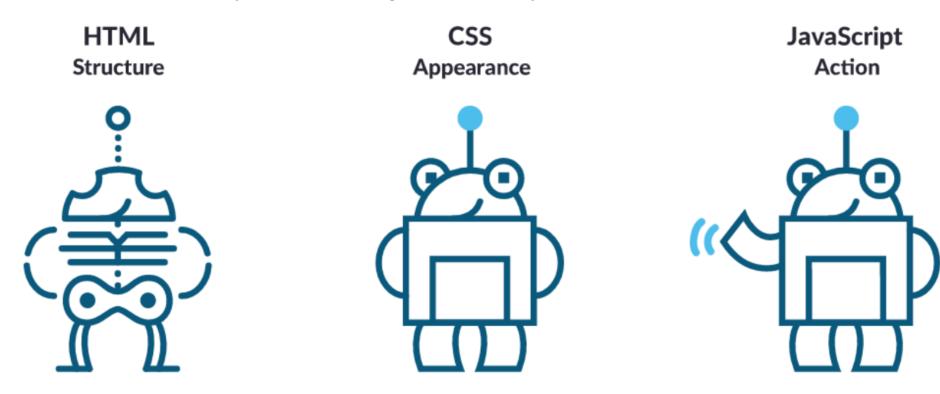
Let's see it in action



https://fireworks.ai/models

One thing before we try ourselves...

- HTML What a website says (titles, body content, etc.)
- CSS How a website looks (color, fonts, etc.)
- JavaScript How it behaves (interactive, dynamic, etc.)



One thing before we try ourselves...

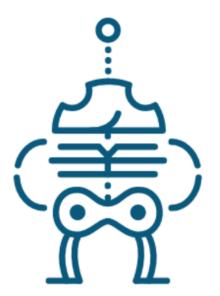
- HTML What a website says (titles, body content, etc.)
- CSS How a website looks (color, fonts, etc.)

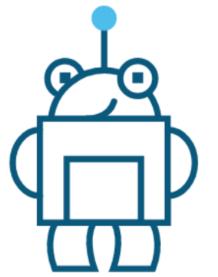
HTML

Structure

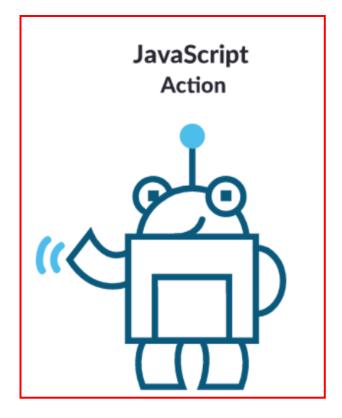
JavaScript – How it behaves (interactive, dynamic, etc.)

CSS Appearance



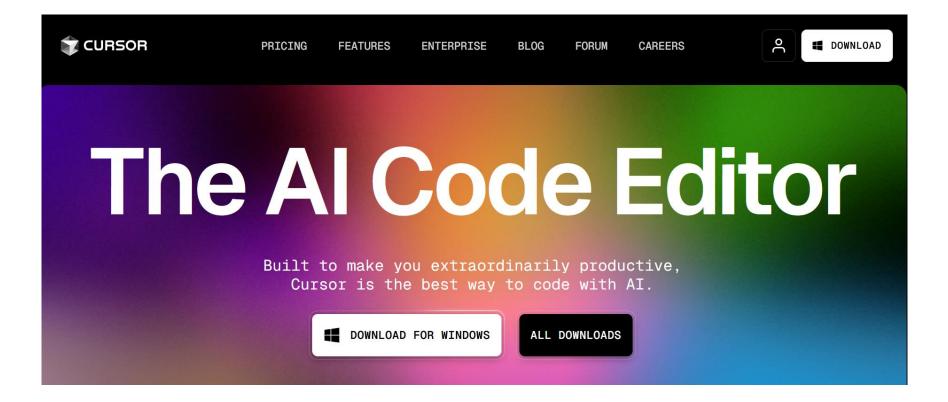


This is what we need for the interaction between Qualtrics and an API

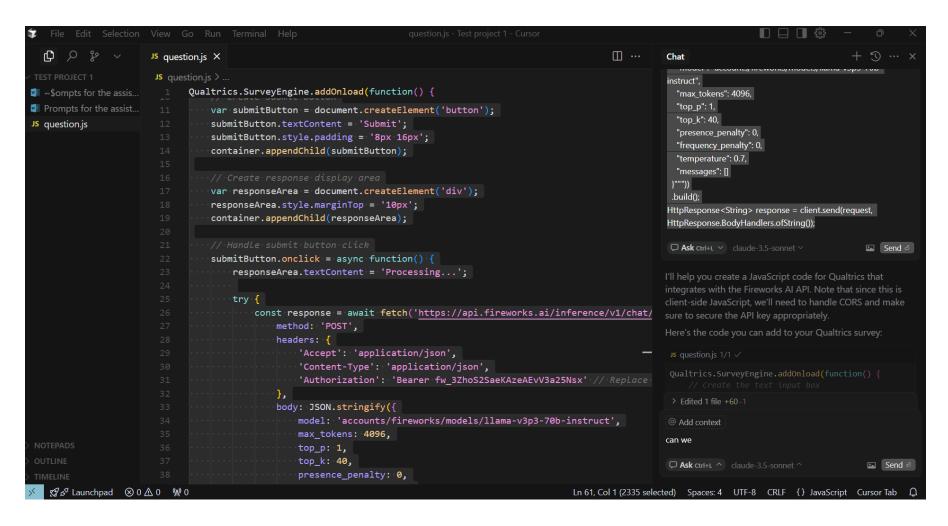


Exercise

- 1.Go to Fireworks AI and get an API Key (Copy and save it)
- 2.Install Cursor Al



What is cursor AI?

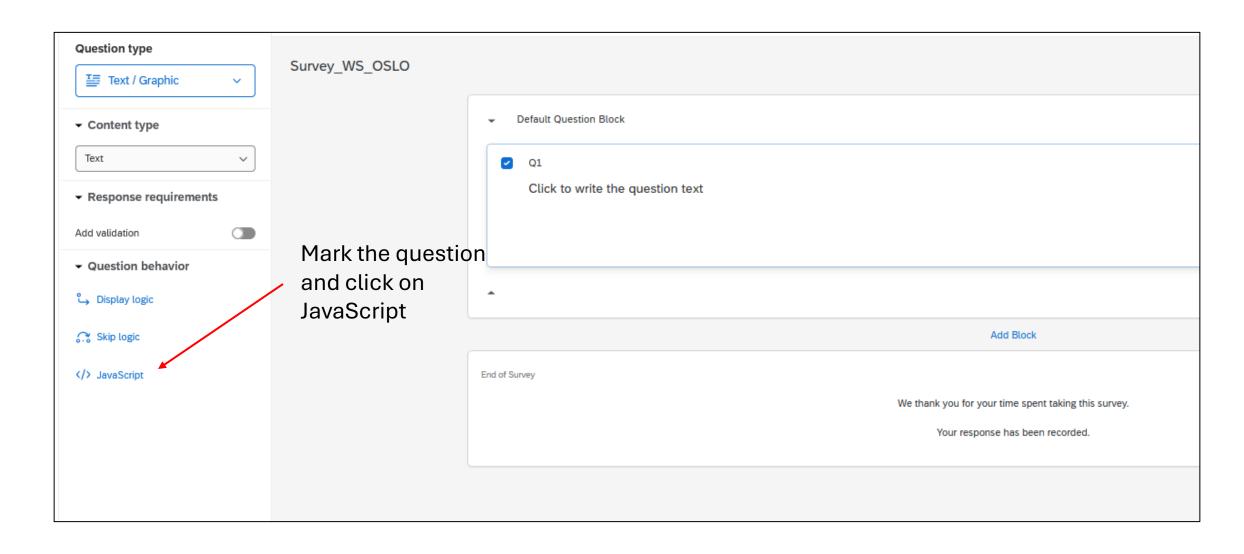


IDE = integrated development environment, a software application that provides comprehensive facilities for software development (source: Wikipedia)

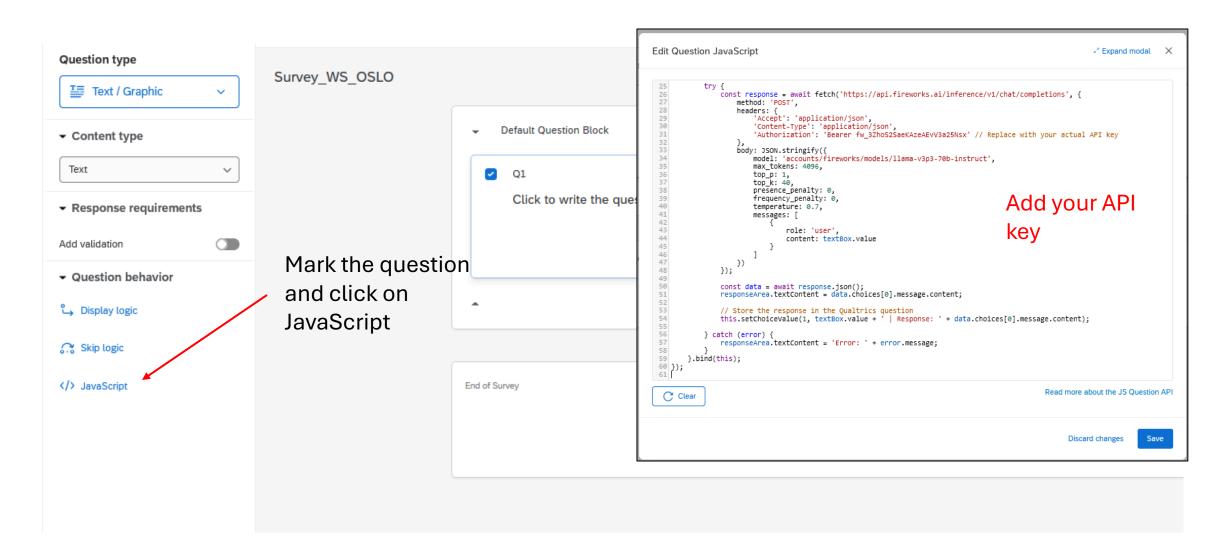


Prompt: "Please create me a JavaScript code for qualtrics that provides a textbox for the user and sends this text input to the fireworks AI API. Here is the code snippet from fireworks how the api call should look like: [COPY AND PASTE THE API EXAMPLE FROM FIREWORKS AI]"

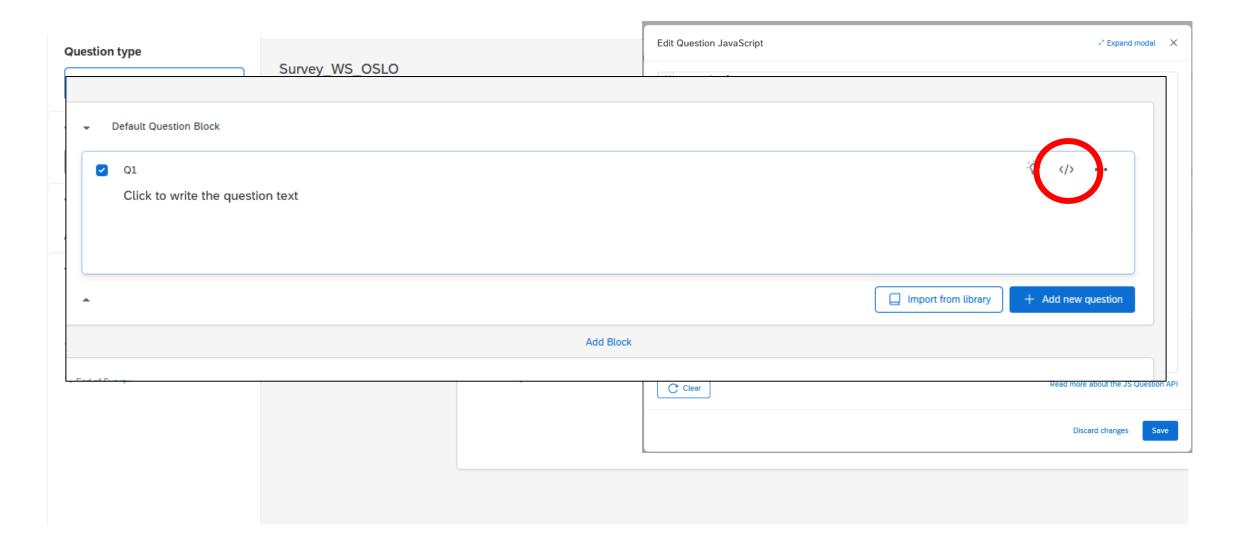
Where to add the output from Cursor AI?



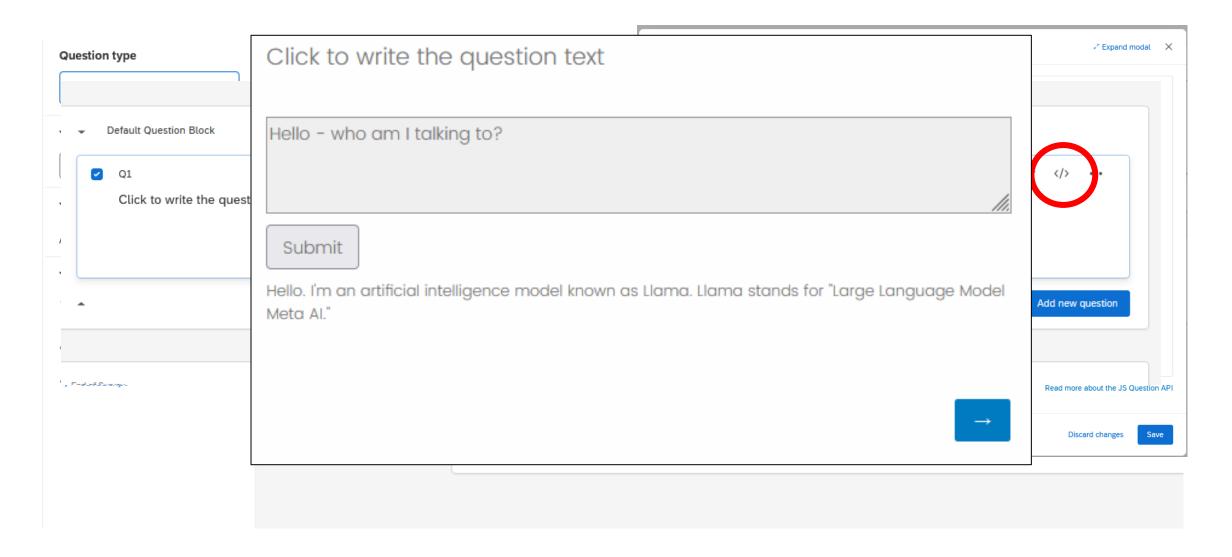
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Where to add the output from Cursor Al?



Where to add the output from Cursor AI?

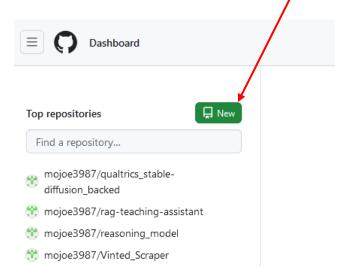


Connect to GitHub



- Developer platform that allows developers to create, store, manage, and share their code
- Commonly used to host open source software development projects.
- As of January 2023, GitHub reported having over 100 million developers and more than 420 million repositories, including at least 28 million public repositories. It is the world's largest source code host as of June 2023. Over five billion developer contributions were made to more than 500 million open source projects in 2024.

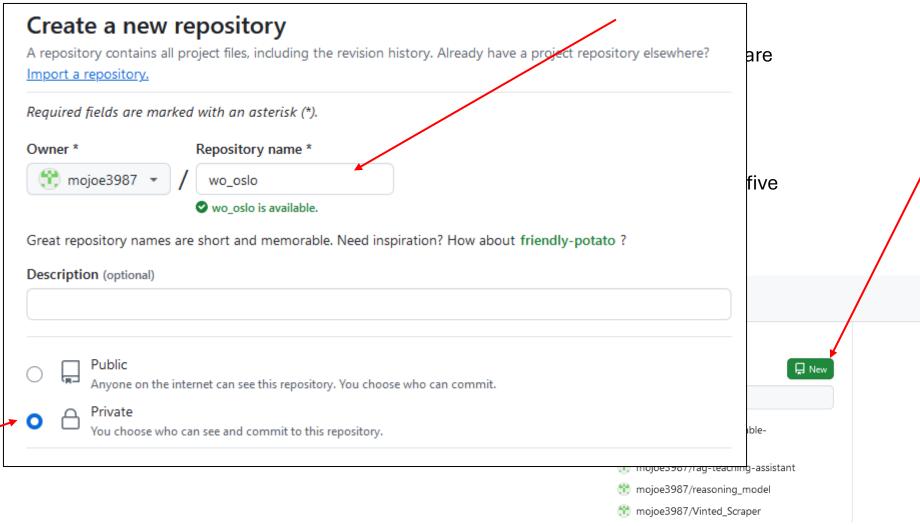
- Please go to GitHub and create an account
- Then create a new repository



Connect to GitHub

You need to give it a name





You can keep it private

Connect to GitHub

You need to give it a name

are

Q



A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere?

to this GitHub

Import a repository

Quick setup — if you've done this kind of thing before

ITTPS SSH https://github.com/mojoe3987/wo_oslo.git

Get started by creating a new file or uploading an existing file. We recommend every repository include a README, LICENSE, and .gitignore.

...or create a new repository on the command line

0

echo "# wo_oslo" >> README.md
git init

git add README.md

Set up in Desktop

You can keep it private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

ा नागुण्टउउठा /rag-teacning-assistant

🔭 mojoe3987/reasoning_model

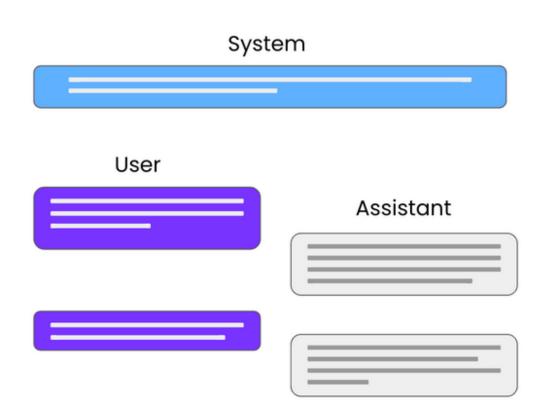
Copy the repository URL, return to Cursor AI and tell it to

connect to this repository and to upload your local code

mojoe3987/Vinted_Scraper

The different roles in an LLM conversation

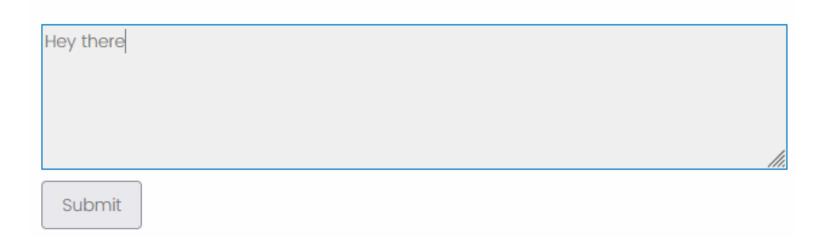
- System: controls assistant's behavior
- User: instruct the assistant
- Assistant: response to user instruction
 - Can also be written by the user to provide examples





Prompt: "Go to Cursor AI and tell it to add a system prompt that tells the LLM to answer in Shakespeare's language?"

After the system prompt...

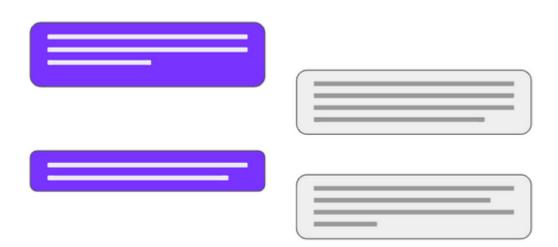


Al Response:

Ho, thou dost address me with a greeting most brief and plain! Prithee, good fellow, how doth thy day fare? Doth the sun shine brightly upon thy countenance, and doth thy heart sing with joy and merriment? By thine informal salutation, I do perceive thou art a man of haste, with little time for elaborate courtesies. Yet, I shall respond in kind, with a warmth and courtesy befitting our chance encounter. Tell me, what dost thou here, and what dost thou seek in this, our fleeting conversation?

Creating a conversation history

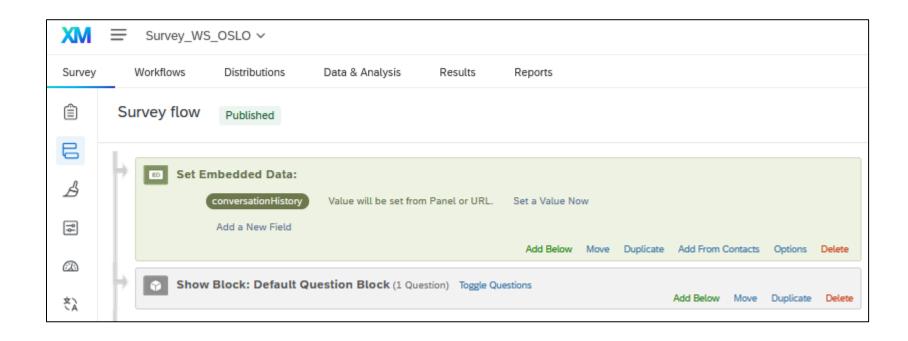
- Create conversation history
- Create back-and-forth conversations



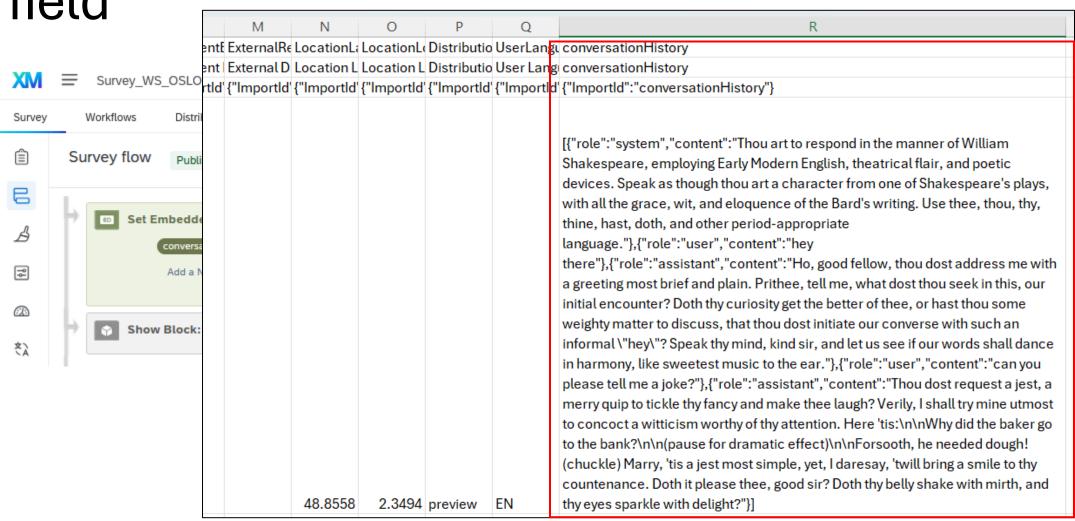


Prompt: "I have this working script, but I want that the conversation history is stored so that the LLM is aware of previous messages. Please save the conversation in an embedded data field "conversationHistory""

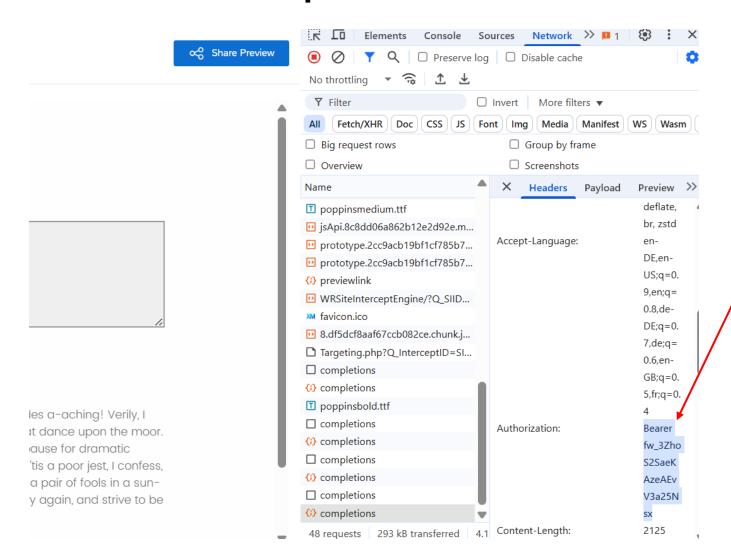
Save the conversation in an embedded data field



Save the conversation in an embedded data field



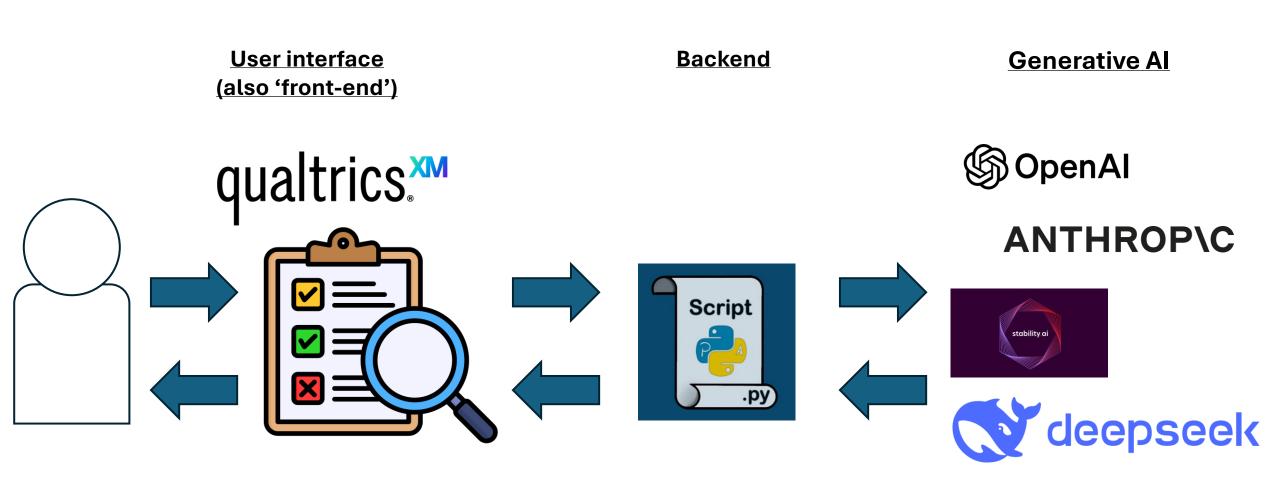
The disadvantage of calling APIs directly from the Javascript

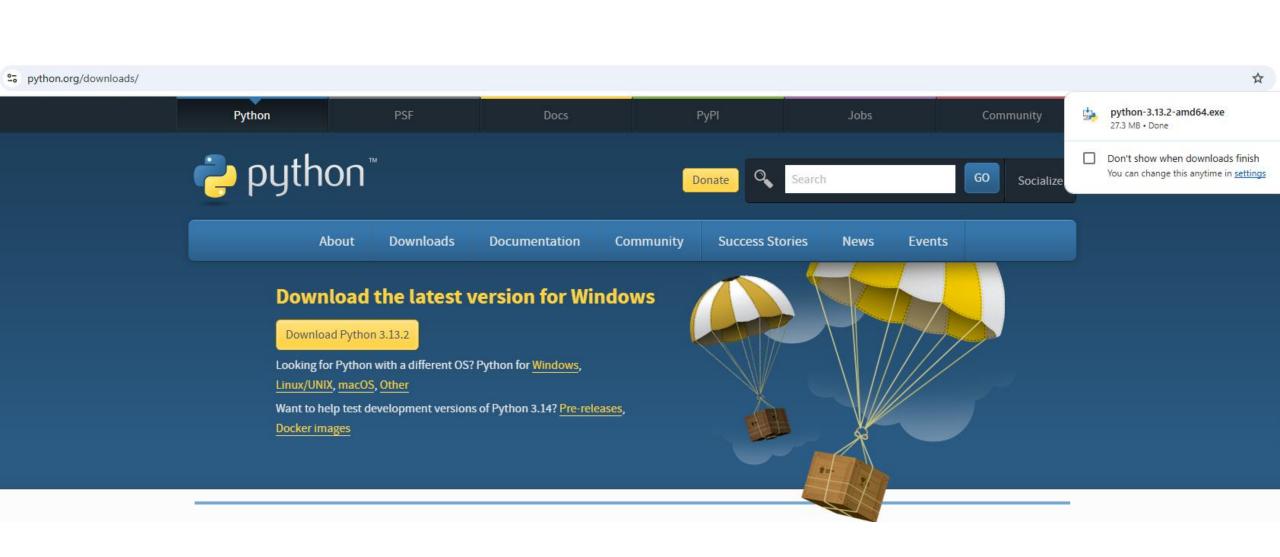


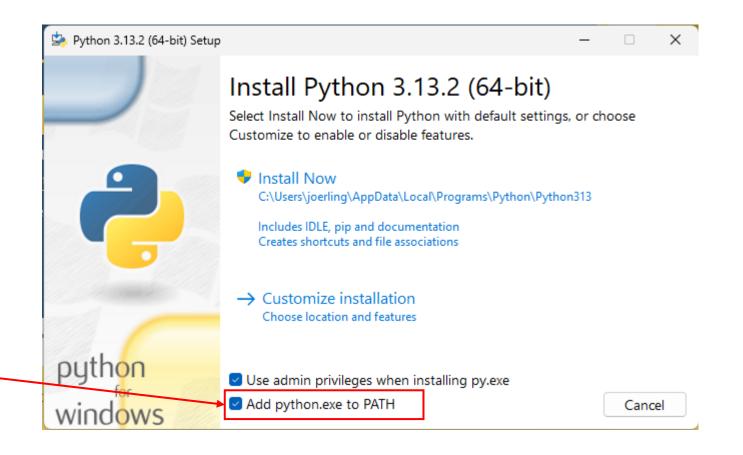
Exposure of your API key:

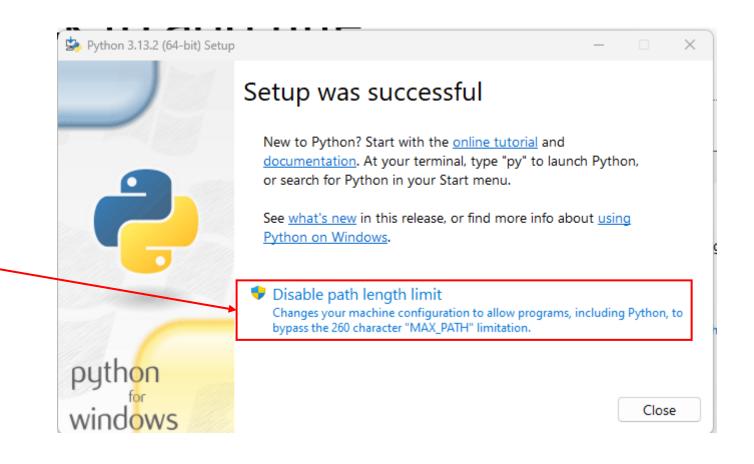
- People can use your resources (especially dangerous when you have auto recharge)
- People can block API usage by overusing it

You need to add backend to the app











Commands for powershell terminal

```
CURSOR
```

Prompt: "I want to install pip."

Install pip (terminal):

PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 1> python -m ensurepip -upgrade

CURSOR

Prompt: "I want to create and activate a virtual environment."

Creating and activating a virtual environment (terminal):

PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 1> python -m venv venv PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 1> .\venv\Scripts\Activa te.ps1



Prompt: "I have this script that works perfectly. It calls the Fireworks AI API with a JavaScript directly from Qualtrics. Can you please transform this Javascript into a Python script that I will use as a backend. The script should operate between the Qualtrics JS that calls the python script, which in turn calls the API and forwards the answer back to the JS in Qualtrics."

```
CURSOR
```

Prompt: "I want to install the requirements."

Install requirements (terminal):

```
(venv) PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 1> pip install -r
requirements.txt
```

CURSOR

Prompt: "I want to set the API key as environment variable."

Install requirements (terminal):

CURSOR

Prompt: "I want to run the app locally."

Run the app (terminal):

(venv) PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 1> python app.py

The app should be running locally



```
* Serving Flask app 'app'

* Debug mode: on

WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment. Use a production WSGI server instead.

* Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000

Press CTRL+C to quit

* Restarting with stat

* Debugger is active!

* Debugger PIN: 738-891-640

127.0.0.1 - - [28/Mar/2025 14:17:21] "POST /chat HTTP/1.1" 200 -
```

You can test the app via the terminal

CURSOR

Prompt: "I want to test the app locally with curl method."

```
joerling@PRT27069 MINGW64 ~/Dropbox/Workshop Oslo/Test project 1 (main)
$ curl -X POST http://localhost:5000/chat \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-d '{
  "conversation history": [
    {"role": "user", "content": "Hello, how are you?"}
  "response": "Hello! I'm doing well, thanks for asking. I'm a large language
 model, so I don't have feelings or emotions like humans do, but I'm always h
appy to chat and help with any questions or topics you'd like to discuss. How
 about you? How's your day going so far?"
```

To communicate with Qualtrics it needs to be hosted online

There are different options where to host an app

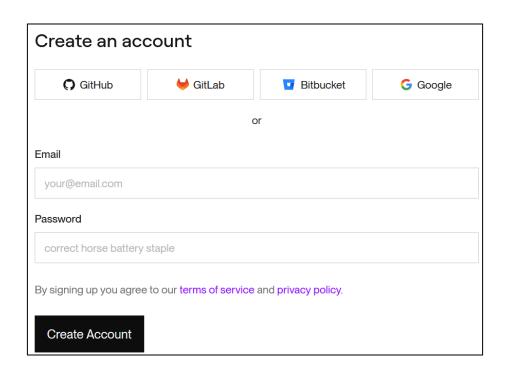
Easier options:

- Heroku
- Render

More scalable options but more complex:

- Google cloud services
- Microsoft Azure
- Amazon Web Services
- Digital Ocean





Choose Web Service

☐ Static Sites

Static content served over a global CDN. Ideal for frontend, blogs, and content sites.

New Static Site →

Web Services

Dynamic web app. Ideal for fullstack apps, API servers, and mobile backends.

New Web Service →

△ Private Services

Web app hosted on a private network, accessible only from your other Render services.

New Private Service →

⇒ Background Workers

Long-lived services that process async tasks, usually from a job queue.

New Worker →

Short-lived tasks that run on a periodic schedule.

New Cron Job →

■ Postgres

Relational data storage. Supports point-in-time recovery, read replicas, and high availability.

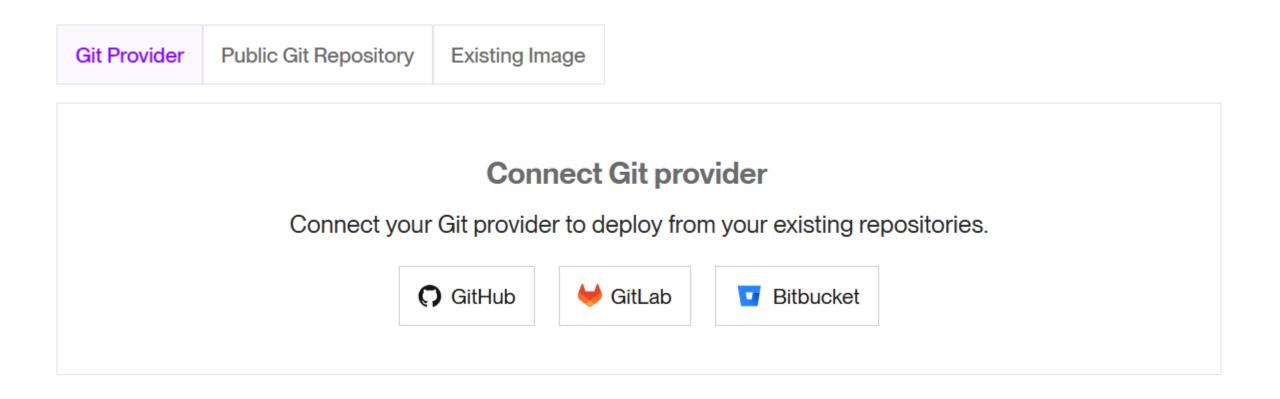
New Postgres \rightarrow

⊗ Key Value

Managed Redis®-compatible storage. Ideal for use as a shared cache, message broker, or job queue.

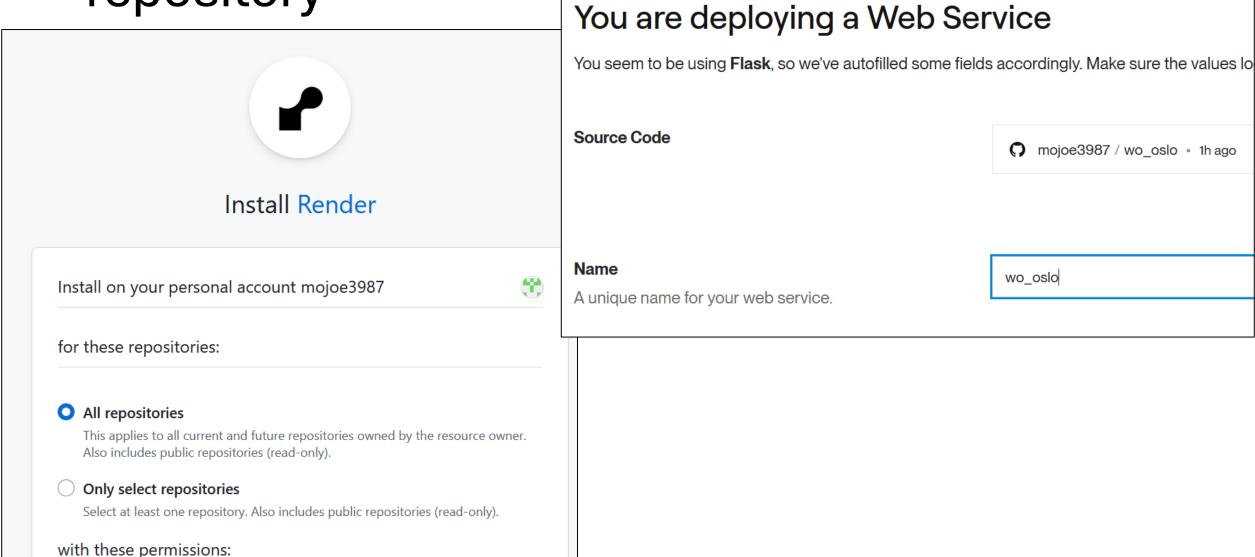
New Key Value Instance →

Connect your GitHub

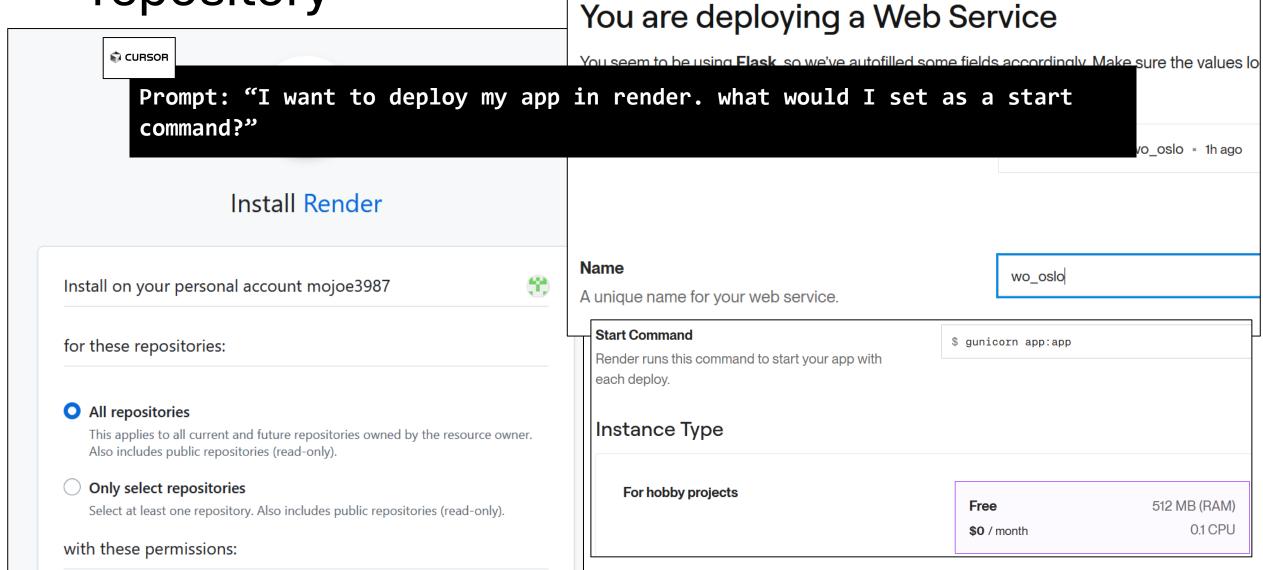


Install Render in your GitHub and choose the

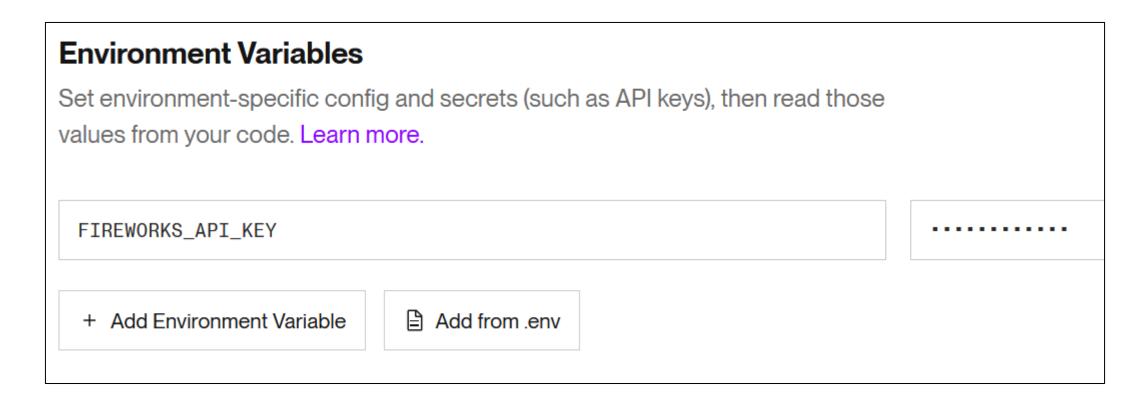
repository



Install Render in your GitHub and choose the repository

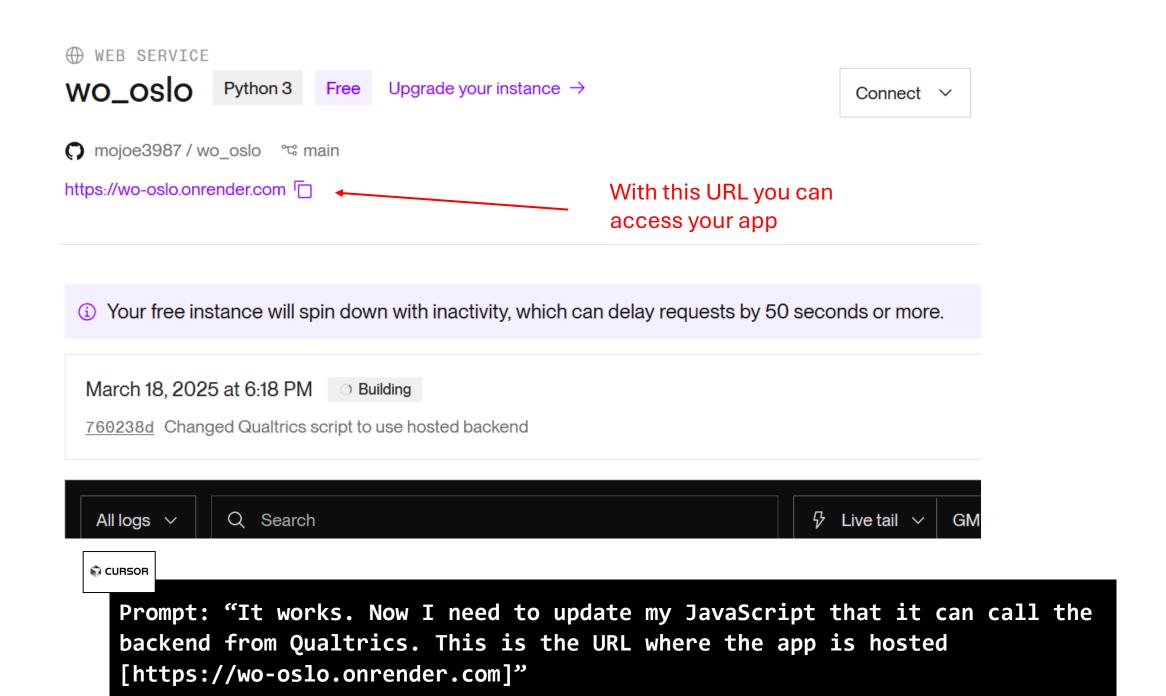


Set your API key as environment variable



Deploy Web Service

All logs ∨ Q Search □ Live tail ∨ GMT+1 TOUS-Z.Z.U packaging-Z4.Z requests-Z.3Z.3 urilip3-Z.3.U Mar 18 06:18:47 PM [notice] A new release of pip is available: 24.0 -> 25.0.1 Mar 18 06:18:47 PM Mar 18 06:18:47 PM [notice] To update, run: pip install --upgrade pip Mar 18 06:18:48 PM Mar 18 06:18:51 PM Uploaded in 2.5s. Compression took 0.3s Mar 18 06:18:51 PM ==> Build successful 🐇 Mar 18 06:18:53 PM ==> Deploying... Mar 18 06:19:17 PM ==> Running 'gunicorn app:app' [2025-03-18 17:19:21 +0000] [92] [INFO] Starting gunicorn 23.0.0 Mar 18 06:19:21 PM [2025-03-18 17:19:21 +0000] [92] [INFO] Listening at: http://0.0.0.0:10000 (92) Mar 18 06:19:21 PM Mar 18 06:19:21 PM [2025-03-18 17:19:21 +0000] [92] [INFO] Using worker: sync Mar 18 06:19:21 PM [2025-03-18 17:19:21 +0000] [93] [INFO] Booting worker with pid: 93 Mar 18 06:19:22 PM 127.0.0.1 - - [18/Mar/2025:17:19:22 +0000] "HEAD / HTTP/1.1" 404 0 "-" "Go-http-client/1.1" Mar 18 06:19:24 PM O ==> Your service is live ** Mar 18 06:19:25 PM 127.0.0.1 - - [18/Mar/2025:17:19:25 +0000] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 404 207 "-" "Go-http-client/2.0"



Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Traditional LLM Limitations 1



- III Static knowledge cutoff dates
- Prone to hallucinations
- Limited access to specialized knowledge
- Lack of source transparency

User Question

Prompt

LLM Response

For which club does Leonel Messi play?

```
[{"role":
        "system", "content":
        "Answer the following question the
best you can."},
{"role":
        "user", "content":
        "For which club does Leonel Messi
play?"}
]
```

As of my latest update in 2021, Lionel Messi plays for Paris Saint-Germain Football Club.

RAG process (simplified)

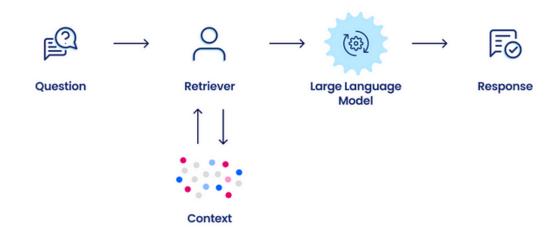
Knowledge Enhancement with RAG 🖳

- 🔄 Extends knowledge beyond training cutoff
- Accesses current information
- 🕏 Grounds responses in factual data
- 🔍 Taps into domain-specific knowledge
- Combines model intelligence with external facts

Source Integrity Benefits

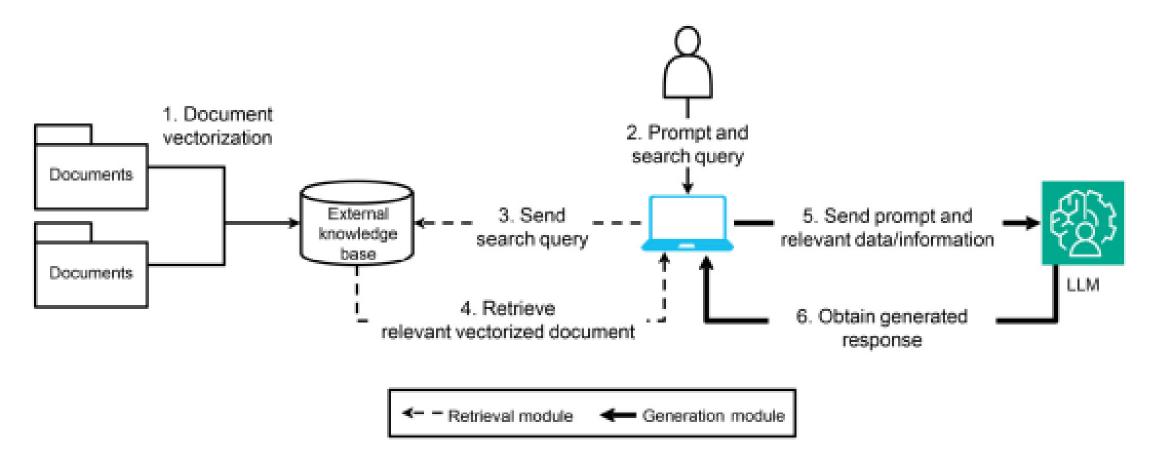
- provides verifiable citations
- 4 Reduces misinformation risk
- S Links claims to original sources

Retrieval Augmented Generation

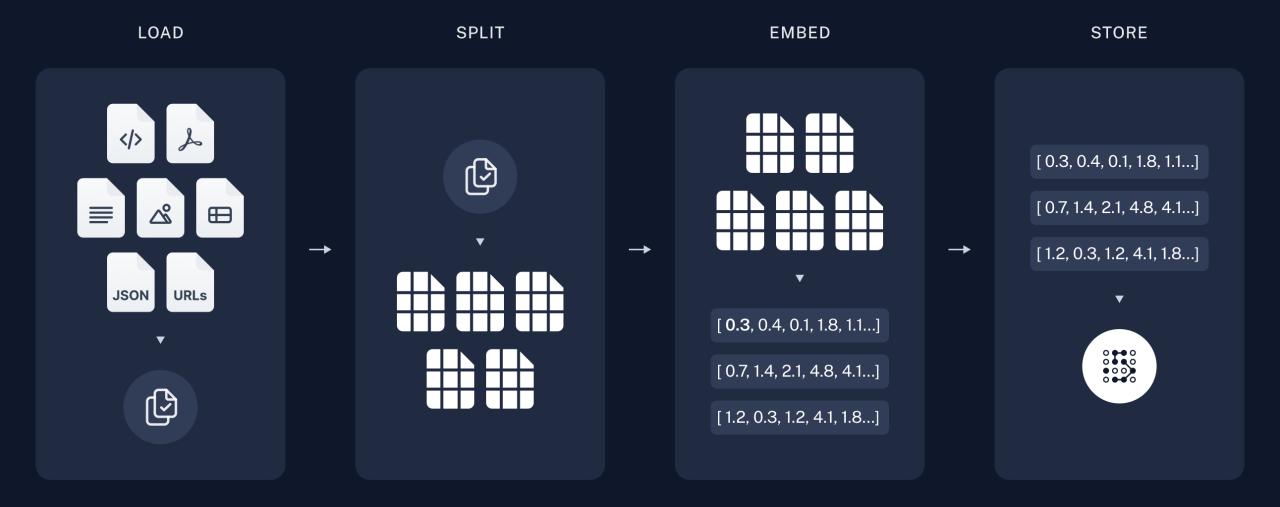


User Question Prompt LLM Response [{"role": "system", "content" : "Answer the following question the best you can. Lionel Messi has signed Leonel Messi plays for Inter Miami For which club does with Inter Miami CF, the club has CF. Leonel Messi play? announced. The Argentine superstar has joined David Beckham's club, and his contract will run until 2025. The World Cup winner said in a statement from the club: I'm very excited to start this next step in my career with Inter Miami and in the United States."}, {"role": "user", "content" : "For which club does Leonel Messi play?"}]

RAG architecture

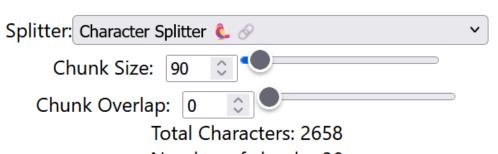


Source: Arora, N., Chakraborty, I., & Nishimura, Y. (2025). Al–Human Hybrids for Marketing Research: Leveraging Large Language Models (LLMs) as Collaborators. Journal of Marketing, 89(2), 43-70. https://doi.org/10.1177/00222429241276529 (Original work published 2025)



Source: Langchain

Visualizing Chunking/Splitting



UDIOad .txt

Number of chunks: 30 Average chunk size: 88.6

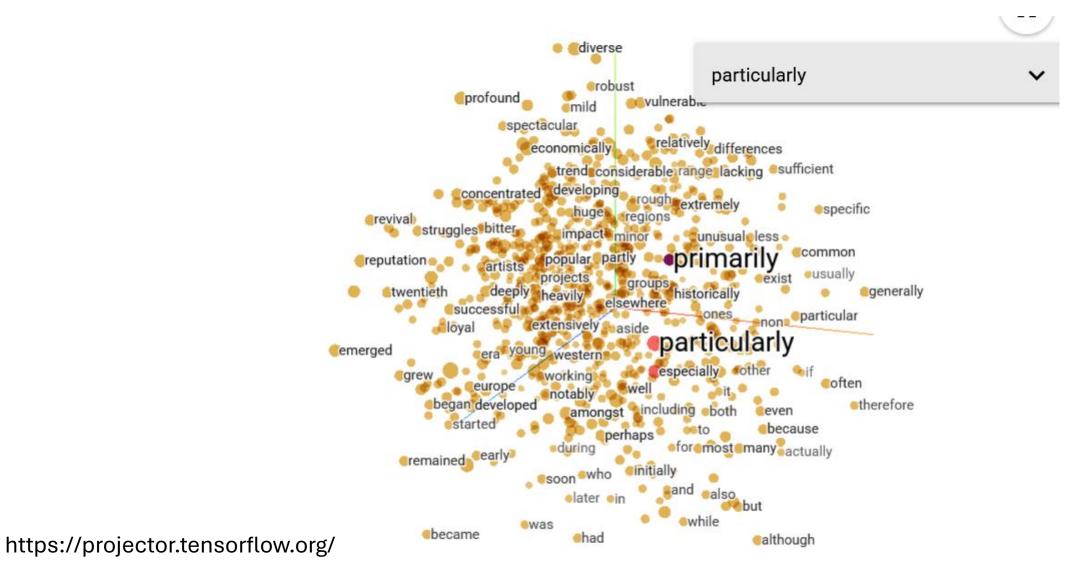
One of the most important things I didn't understand about the world when I was a child is the degree to which the returns for performance are superlinear.

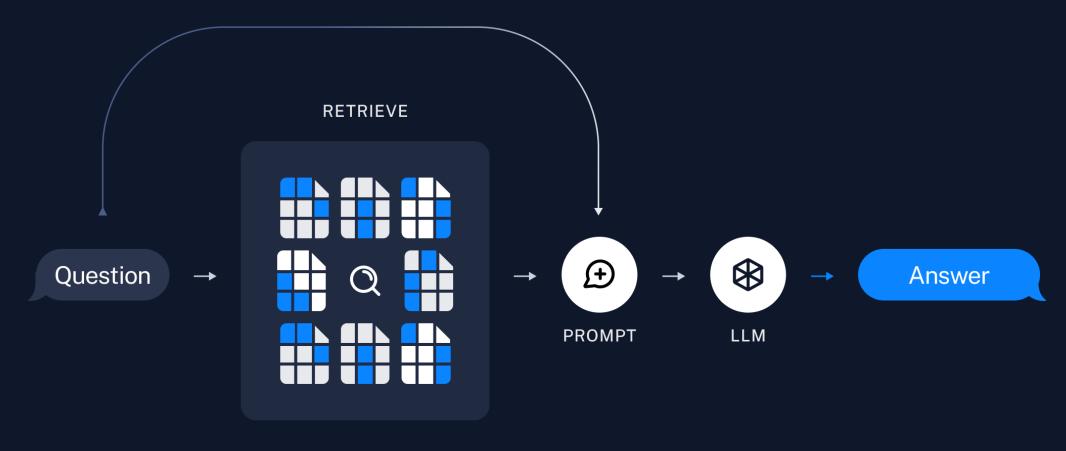
Teachers and coaches implicitly told us the returns were linear. "You get out," I heard a thousand times, "what you put in." They meant well, but this is rarely true. If your product is only half as good as your competitor's, you don't get half as many customers. You get no customers, and you go out of business.

It's obviously true that the returns for performance are superlinear in business. Some think this is a flaw of capitalism, and that if we changed the rules it would stop being true. But superlinear returns for performance are a feature of the world, not an artifact of rules we've invented. We see the same pattern in fame, power, military victories, knowledge, and even benefit to humanity. In all of these, the rich get richer. [1]

https://chunkviz.up.railway.app/

Visualizing Embeddings

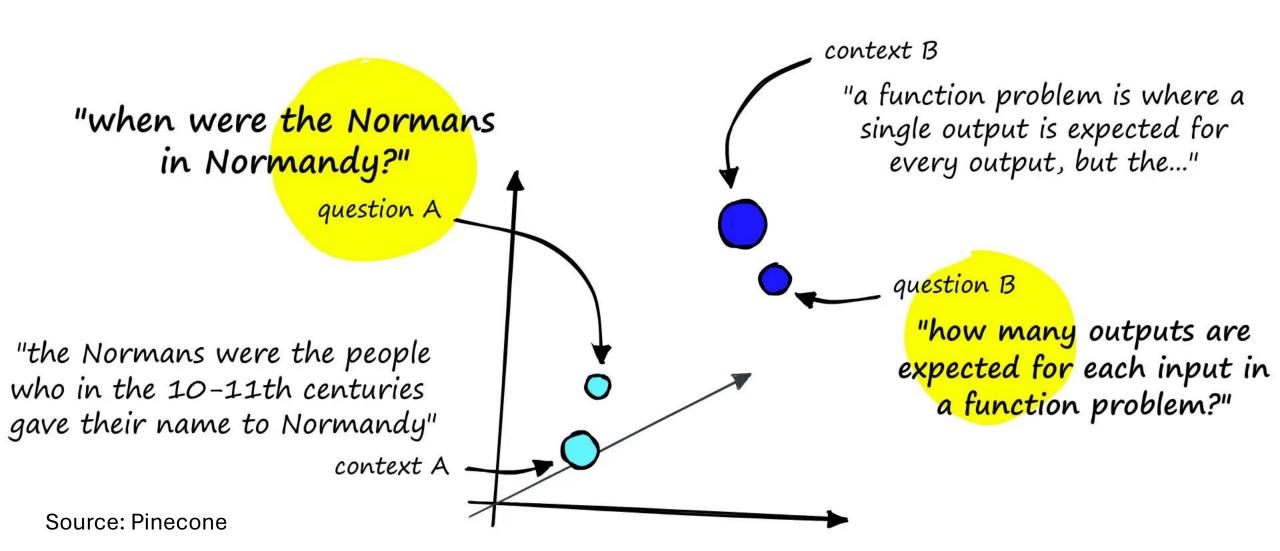




A retriever does also vectorize the question/prompt to find the relevant context in the vector database

Source: Langchain

Retriever model



Anything LLM (build your personal RAG)



Can you tell me something about a recent information leak scandal on signal?







There hasn't been a recent major "information leak scandal" involving Signal breaching its own encryption or servers to expose user messages. Signal's design with end-to-end encryption means they don't have access to message content.



However, there was an incident in August 2022 that affected a small number of Signal users:

- 01. **Twilio Breach:** Signal uses a third-party service called Twilio to handle phone number verification texts (the codes you get when registering). Twilio suffered a phishing attack where attackers gained access to some of their internal systems.
- 02. **Impact on Signal Users:** For about 1,900 Signal users (a tiny fraction of the total user base), the attackers could potentially have accessed their phone numbers via Twilio's compromised systems. This could have allowed the attackers to attempt to re-register the user's phone number to a *different* device.
- 03. What Was NOT Exposed: Crucially, this incident did not expose any message history, contact lists, profile information, blocked lists, or other personal data. Message history is stored only on the user's device, not on Signal's servers.
- 04. Signal's Response: Signal notified the affected users directly and advised them to re-register Signal on their legitimate devices. They also encouraged all users to enable the "Registration Lock" feature, which requires your Signal PIN to register your phone number on a new device, mitigating this type of attack.

So, while an incident related to Signal account verification occurred via a third party, it wasn't a leak of Signal's encrypted messages or a breach of Signal's core infrastructure itself.

My Documents

Q Search for document

+ New Folder

My Workspace

No Documents

Name

Name

Custom-documents

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Signal downloads spike in the US and Yemen amid ...nch.pdf

The Atlantic publishes full Signal chat messages...men.pdf

Trump Officials Leak Yemen War Plans to the Atla...hat.pdf

US national security scandal deepens as new Sign...ews.pdf



4

Click to upload or drag and drop

supports text files, csv's, spreadsheets, audio files, and more!

or submit a link

https://example.com

Fetch website

These files will be uploaded to the document processor running on this AnythingLLM instance.

These files are not sent or shared with a third party.

My Documents

Q Search for document

+ New Folder

Name Custom-documents



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My Workspace

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Save and Embed



Can you tell me something about a recent information leak scandal on signal?





Based on the provided context, there has been a recent scandal involving senior officials in the Trump administration who used the encrypted messaging app Signal for a group chat.



Key points about the scandal include:

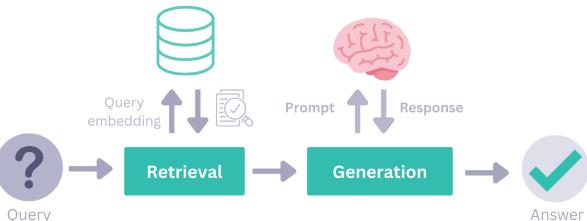
- 01. Participants: Senior national security officials, including Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, were involved.
- 02. **Information Shared:** Sensitive details regarding planned military strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen were discussed in the chat. This allegedly included the timing of attacks, weapons, and aircraft to be used.
- 03. **The Leak:** The information was leaked when journalist Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic was added to the Signal group chat, reportedly by Waltz. Goldberg subsequently published details from the chat.
- 04. **Controversy:** There is debate over whether legally classified information was shared. The administration denies it, focusing blame on the journalist, while Democrats like Rep. Jim Himes called it a "brazen violation of laws" protecting national security. Security experts have questioned the use of a commercial app like Signal for such sensitive government communications.
- 05. **Reactions & Consequences:** The incident has sparked outrage, led to calls for the removal of the officials involved, prompted a government investigation into the security failure, and reportedly caused a spike in Signal downloads. The Defense Department had apparently warned staff about Signal's potential vulnerabilities shortly before the leak.

Building a RAG model for others (e.g., company chatbot, teaching assistant)





Open source framework for building production-ready *LLM* applications, retrieval-augmented generative pipelines and state-of-the-art search systems that work intelligently over large document collections



- Retrievers
- Document stores
- Generators

Pipeline

CURSOR

Prompt: "I want to build a RAG model with Haystack. Let's do it step-by-step. I want to create a very basic RAG that uses as less dependencies as possible. It is for illustration purposes. First, we need to create the document store where the documents for the RAG are stored and retrieved from. The documents for the RAG are in the folder rag_docs in this directory. Here is the documentation from Haystack: [COPY AND PASTE THE DOCUMENTATION]"

CURSOR

Prompt: "Before we continue with the retriever, please lets setup a requirements document."

CURSOR

Prompt: "Let's setup a virtual environment and activate it."

Then install requirements:

(rag_env) PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 2> pip install
-r requirements.txt

```
CURSOR
```

Prompt: "Let's continue with a basic retriever now."



Prompt: "Let's continue with a basic generator now."

CURSOR

Prompt: "I have this rag pipeline that I would like to test. I haven't run it yet. Please let me know how to run and test it with questions via the powershell terminal."

(rag_env) PS C:\Users\joerling\Dropbox\Workshop Oslo\Test project 2> python rag_ app.py

Some best practices and lessons learned...

- Use a consistent model version throughout your study to maintain reliability
- Track potential model updates and changes during the research
- Report all model settings (temperature, max. tokens etc.)
- Document the exact prompts, parameters, and system messages used
- Implement logging of all interactions for analysis
- Use the browser terminal for error logging (helps a lot when debugging the app)
- Think about the user and potentially adapt the interface (e.g., loading information)

Other personal recommendations

- Going to developer meetups (Eventbrite, AI camp etc.)
- Interesting sources:
 - Great youtube content on LLMs: @AndrejKarpathy
 - Very extensive newsletter on AI developments: https://buttondown.com/ainews
 - Cursor Al community: https://forum.cursor.com/