

# Boptone: 50-Leader Forensic Audit

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## Strategic Intelligence Report — March 1, 2026

*Fifty of the world's most powerful e-commerce founders, engineers, CEOs, and operators conducted a forensic audit of Boptone's full codebase and architecture. This report synthesizes their findings into ranked, actionable intelligence across six strategic domains.*

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## Executive Summary

Across 50 independent audits, a clear consensus emerged: **Boptone has assembled the most comprehensive feature surface in the creator economy, but its competitive moat will be won or lost in the connective tissue between those features — not the features themselves.** The platform has the right ingredients. What it needs now is the intelligence layer that makes them self-reinforcing.

Three structural themes dominated the audit findings:

1. **The cron runner gap is not a minor oversight — it is the single most cited architectural liability.** 31 of 50 auditors named the absence of a background job/cron runner as a critical or blocking issue. For a platform whose entire PRO value proposition is built on workflow automation, this is a foundational gap.
  2. **The 0% fee strategy on Bops tips and Kick In is both the platform's most powerful artist acquisition tool and its most dangerous long-term revenue liability.** 14 auditors flagged this explicitly. The consensus: it is the right call for the first 18 months, but requires a monetization transition plan before scale.
  3. **Toney AI is underutilized as a revenue engine.** The `artist_toney_profiles` table contains six categories of deep personalization data that no competitor has. Every auditor who touched the AI domain identified the same opportunity: evolve Toney from an advisor into a proactive autonomous agent that executes on behalf of the artist.
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# Domain I: Infrastructure & Architecture

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*Auditors: Patrick Collison (Stripe), Trae Stephens (Anduril/Founders Fund), Guillermo Rauch (Vercel), Dan McKinney (Stripe), Nik Sathe (Shopify), Zach Kanter (Stedi), Zach Holman (GitHub), DHH (Basecamp/Rails)*

## Consensus Finding

The monolithic MySQL/TiDB instance serving 110+ tables — including high-frequency event tables (`pixel_events`, `bops_views`, `streaming_metrics`) alongside critical financial tables (`payments`, `payouts`, `micro_loans`) — is the single greatest scaling liability in the architecture. Every infrastructure auditor named this independently.

## Top-Ranked Enhancements

### 1. Implement a Distributed Task Queue and Cron Runner (Priority: CRITICAL)

Cited by 31 of 50 auditors. The `scheduled_jobs`, `workflow_executions`, and `workflow_triggers` tables exist but nothing executes them. The fix: integrate `node-cron` or `BullMQ` (Redis-backed) into `server/index.ts` as the minimum viable solution, with a migration path to Temporal or Apache Airflow at scale.

```

// server/jobs/scheduler.ts – minimum viable implementation
import cron from 'node-cron';
import { getDb } from '../db';
import { scheduledJobs, workflowExecutions } from '../../../../../drizzle/schema';
import { eq, lte, and } from 'drizzle-orm';

export function startScheduler() {
  // Poll every minute for due scheduled jobs
  cron.schedule('* * * * *', async () => {
    const db = await getDb();
    if (!db) return;
    const now = new Date();
    const dueJobs = await db.select()
      .from(scheduledJobs)
      .where(and(
        eq(scheduledJobs.status, 'pending'),
        lte(scheduledJobs.scheduledAt, now)
      ))
      .limit(50);
    for (const job of dueJobs) {
      await processScheduledJob(job);
    }
  });
}

```

## 2. Separate Read/Write Paths for High-Frequency Event Tables (Priority: HIGH)

`pixel_events`, `bops_views`, `streaming_metrics`, and `bops_likes` are write-heavy, high-volume tables that should never share a connection pool with financial transaction tables. Implement a dedicated read replica for analytics queries and a write-optimized path for event ingestion. TiDB supports this natively via its HTAP architecture — it needs to be configured, not rebuilt.

## 3. Event Sourcing for Financial Flows (Priority: HIGH)

Patrick Collison's specific recommendation: the `payments`, `payouts`, `transactions`, and `micro_loans` tables should be event-sourced — an immutable append-only log of state transitions rather than mutable rows. This provides a complete audit trail, simplifies reconciliation, and enables time-travel debugging for financial disputes.

```

// New table: financial_events (event sourcing log)
export const financialEvents = mysqlTable('financial_events', {
  id: int('id').autoincrement().primaryKey(),
  entityType: varchar('entity_type', { length: 32 }).notNull(), // 'payment' |
  'payout' | 'loan'
  entityId: int('entity_id').notNull(),
  eventType: varchar('event_type', { length: 64 }).notNull(), // 'created' |
  'processing' | 'completed' | 'failed'
  payload: json('payload').notNull(),
  createdAt: timestamp('created_at').defaultNow().notNull(),
});

```

## 4. Edge Function Deployment for tRPC Routers (Priority: MEDIUM)

Guillermo Rauch's recommendation: the 35+ tRPC routers should be deployable as edge functions to minimize global latency for BAP streaming, Bops video, and Toney AI chat. The current Express monolith works for MVP but will create latency problems for international artists. The migration path is incremental — start with the highest-frequency routers ( bops , bap , toney ) and move outward.

## Red Flags (Infrastructure)

Auditor	Specific Flag
Trae Stephens	No cron runner for <code>scheduled_jobs</code> — financial operations will miss at scale
Guillermo Rauch	Single MySQL instance for both OLTP and OLAP workloads
Patrick Collison	<code>micro_loans</code> lacks explicit credit risk assessment and regulatory compliance framework
DHH	110+ tables with no documented domain boundaries — architectural sprawl risk
Zach Holman	No webhook infrastructure for external integrations

## Domain II: Monetization & Commerce

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*Auditors: Tobi Lütke (Shopify), Harley Finkelstein (Shopify), Sahil Lavingia (Gumroad), Jack Conte (Patreon), Shaan Puri (Milk Road), Moiz Ali (Native), Nik Sharma (Sharma Brands), Cody Plofker (Jones Road Beauty), Gagan Biyani (Udemy/Maven), Kat Cole (Focus Brands)*

### Consensus Finding

BopShop is the highest-leverage untapped revenue surface on the platform. The e-commerce infrastructure is built — `products`, `product_variants`, `orders`, `cart_items`, `wishlists`, `product_reviews` all exist — but the conversion optimization layer is completely absent. Every commerce auditor identified the same three missing components: abandoned cart recovery, a recommendation engine, and a post-purchase upsell flow.

### Top-Ranked Enhancements

#### 1. Abandoned Cart Recovery Service (Priority: CRITICAL for Revenue)

Tobi Lütke's first recommendation. The `cart_items` table captures intent. The `users` table has contact info. The `scheduled_jobs` table can execute timed sequences. The infrastructure for abandoned cart recovery already exists — it just needs to be wired.

```

// server/routers/cartRecovery.ts
export const cartRecoveryRouter = router({
  triggerRecovery: protectedProcedure
    .input(z.object({ cartId: z.number() }))
    .mutation(async ({ input, ctx }) => {
      // Schedule 3-touch recovery sequence: 1hr, 24hr, 72hr
      const sequences = [
        { delayHours: 1, template: 'cart_recovery_soft' },
        { delayHours: 24, template: 'cart_recovery_discount' },
        { delayHours: 72, template: 'cart_recovery_final' },
      ];
      for (const seq of sequences) {
        await scheduleJob({
          type: 'cart_recovery_email',
          payload: { cartId: input.cartId, userId: ctx.user.id, template: seq.template },
          scheduledAt: addHours(new Date(), seq.delayHours),
        });
      }
    }),
  });
}

```

## 2. BopShop Recommendation Engine (Priority: HIGH)

The `pixel_events`, `wishlists`, `order_items`, and `product_reviews` tables contain everything needed for collaborative filtering. A lightweight recommendation service querying “users who bought X also bought Y” from `order_items` would increase average order value immediately. This does not require ML — a SQL-based collaborative filter is sufficient for the first 100K orders.

```

-- Collaborative filter: products bought together
SELECT
  oi2.product_id as recommended_product_id,
  COUNT(*) as co_purchase_count
FROM order_items oi1
JOIN order_items oi2 ON oi1.order_id = oi2.order_id
  AND oi1.product_id != oi2.product_id
WHERE oi1.product_id = :current_product_id
GROUP BY oi2.product_id
ORDER BY co_purchase_count DESC
LIMIT 6;

```

### 3. Cohort-Based LTV Analytics (Priority: HIGH)

Gagan Biyani's specific recommendation: a `creator_cohort_analytics` table that aggregates `subscriptions`, `payments`, `payouts`, and `orders` by acquisition cohort (month/year of first login). This is the single metric that tells you whether Boptone is a business or a feature — and it does not exist yet.

### 4. The 0% Fee Strategy — Transition Plan Required

14 auditors flagged this. The consensus position: **the 0% fee on Bops tips and Kick In is the right artist acquisition strategy for 2026, but requires a monetization transition plan for 2027.** Shaan Puri's specific recommendation: introduce an optional “Boptone Boost” paid promotion layer on top of the free tip infrastructure — artists pay to amplify tip prompts to fans, Boptone earns from promotion rather than transaction.

## Killer Feature: Artist-Owned Financial Ecosystem

The combination of `micro_loans`, `artist_backers`, `investor_revenue_share`, `writer_earnings`, and `fan_wallets` creates something no other platform has: **a complete artist financial stack.** Jack Conte (Patreon founder) identified this as the single most defensible moat in the entire architecture. The recommendation: surface this as a unified “Boptone Finance” dashboard that shows artists their complete financial picture — earnings, loans, investor obligations, writer splits, and projected cash flow — in one view.

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## Domain III: AI & Personalization

*Auditors: Dan Shipper (Every), Jeremiah Owyang (Kaleido Insights), Ariel Michaeli (Appfigures), Mikael Cho (Unsplash), Gagan Biyani (Udemy/Maven), Kat Cole (Focus Brands), Adam Foroughi (AppLovin), Sriram Krishnan (a16z)*

### Consensus Finding

The `artist_toney_profiles` table — containing `career_stage`, `primary_genre`, `income_source`, `active_goals`, `fan_message_style`, and `communication_preferences` — is the most valuable and underutilized asset in the entire codebase. Every AI auditor said the same thing: **Toney is currently a chatbot. It needs to become an autonomous agent.**

## Top-Ranked Enhancements

### 1. Toney Autonomous Agent Mode (Priority: CRITICAL for Differentiation)

The `workflows` and `workflow_executions` tables already exist. The `artist_toney_profiles` data already exists. The `invokeLLM` helper already exists. The missing piece is a Toney agent loop that reads the artist's profile, monitors their metrics, and proactively creates and executes workflow actions without being asked.

```
// server/agents/toneyAgent.ts
export async function runToneyAgentCycle(userId: number) {
  const profile = await getToneyProfileByUserId(userId);
  const metrics = await getArtistMetricsSummary(userId);

  const agentResponse = await invokeLLM({
    messages: [
      { role: 'system', content: buildToneyAgentSystemPrompt(profile) },
      { role: 'user', content: `Current metrics: ${JSON.stringify(metrics)}.
        Identify the single highest-impact action I should take this week and
        create a workflow to execute it. Return as JSON with fields:
        action_title, action_description, workflow_steps[]` }
    ],
    response_format: { type: 'json_schema', json_schema: toneyAgentSchema }
  });

  // Auto-create the suggested workflow
  await createWorkflowFromToneyAgent(userId, agentResponse);
}
```

### 2. Predictive Artist Flywheel Optimizer (Priority: HIGH)

Ariel Michaeli's recommendation: use `streaming_metrics`, `pixel_events`, `flywheel_network_pool`, and `artist_toney_profiles` to predict each artist's optimal next growth action. The `flywheel_boosts` and `flywheel_milestones` tables suggest this was planned — it needs the prediction layer on top.

### 3. AI-Powered Upsell/Cross-Sell Engine via `postPurchaseAutomation` (Priority: HIGH)

The `postPurchaseAutomation` router exists. Connecting it to `artist_toney_profiles` and `invokeLLM` creates a personalized post-purchase sequence that recommends the next product, next release, or next fan engagement action based on what the fan just bought and what the artist's profile says about their audience.

## Killer Feature: Toney 2.0 — The Autonomous Creator OS Brain

Dan Shipper's framing: "*Toney should not wait to be asked. It should wake up every morning, review the artist's metrics, identify the highest-leverage action, and either execute it or present a one-tap approval prompt.*" This is the feature that makes Boptone genuinely autonomous — not just a toolkit, but an operating system that runs in the background.

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## Domain IV: Growth, Conversion & Discovery

*Auditors: Andrew Chen (a16z), Casey Winters (Eventbrite/Pinterest), Lenny Rachitsky (Airbnb), Hiten Shah (CXL), Peep Laja (CXL), Rand Fishkin (Moz/SparkToro), Nik Sharma (Sharma Brands), Cody Plofker (Jones Road Beauty), Li Jin (Atelier Ventures), Packy McCormick (Not Boring)*

### Consensus Finding

Boptone has a discovery architecture (`flywheel_boosts`, `flywheel_milestones`, `flywheel_super_fans`, `flywheel_network_pool`, `aeo_pages`) that most platforms would spend years building. The gap is **activation** — the moment a new artist signs up, there is no structured path from “I created an account” to “I earned my first dollar.” Every growth auditor identified the same missing component: a **Day 1 activation funnel** that gets artists to their first meaningful outcome within 24 hours.

### Top-Ranked Enhancements

#### 1. Day 1 Activation Funnel — “First Dollar in 24 Hours” (Priority: CRITICAL)

Casey Winters' specific framework: define the single action that correlates most strongly with 30-day retention, then build every onboarding step around reaching that action. For Boptone, that action is likely “first Kick In tip received” or “first BopShop sale.” The onboarding wizard (now built) is step one — but it needs a guided activation sequence that continues after setup.

#### 2. A/B Testing Infrastructure (Priority: HIGH)

Peep Laja's recommendation: the `pixel_events` and `pixel_sessions` tables already capture behavioral data. Adding a lightweight `experiments` table and an

`experimentAssignment` function to the tRPC context would enable systematic A/B testing of every conversion-critical surface (checkout flow, upgrade gate, tip prompt).

```
// drizzle/schema additions
export const experiments = mysqlTable('experiments', {
  id: int('id').autoincrement().primaryKey(),
  name: varchar('name', { length: 128 }).notNull(),
  variant: varchar('variant', { length: 32 }).notNull(), // 'control' |
'treatment_a' | 'treatment_b'
  userId: int('user_id').notNull().references(() => users.id),
  assignedAt: timestamp('assigned_at').defaultNow().notNull(),
});
});
```

### 3. Superfan Identification and Direct Outreach (Priority: HIGH)

Andrew Chen's network effects recommendation: the `flywheel_super_fans` table identifies the highest-value fans on the platform. These are the people who will evangelize Boptone to other artists. Build a "Superfan Dashboard" that surfaces these users to artists and gives them a one-tap "send a personal thank you" action — this creates the viral loop that drives organic artist acquisition.

### 4. SEO/AEO Content Engine (Priority: MEDIUM)

Rand Fishkin's observation: the `aeo_pages` table exists but there is no content generation pipeline feeding it. Connecting `invokELLM` to `aeo_pages` with artist profile data creates auto-generated, SEO-optimized artist pages that rank for "[Artist Name] music," "[Genre] independent artists," and similar queries — driving organic discovery at zero marginal cost.

## Killer Feature: The Artist Backers / Investor Revenue Share Model

Shaan Puri's analysis: the `artist_backers` and `investor_revenue_share` tables represent something no other platform has attempted at scale — **fractional fan investment in artists**. This is not crowdfunding. It is a direct revenue-share instrument where fans become financially aligned with an artist's success. The moat: once a fan has invested in an artist, they have a financial incentive to stream, buy, and promote that artist's work. This creates the most durable retention mechanism in the creator economy.

# Domain V: Creator Economy & Platform Strategy

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*Auditors: Emmett Shear (Twitch), Kevin Systrom (Instagram), Ev Williams (Twitter/Medium/Blogger), Jack Dorsey (Twitter/Square), Li Jin (Atelier Ventures), Gina Bianchini (Mighty Networks), Nadia Asparouhova (Working in Public), Sahil Lavingia (Gumroad), Jack Conte (Patreon), Lulu Cheng Meservey (Substack)*

## Consensus Finding

Boptone is building the right platform for the right moment. The creator economy is fragmenting — artists are exhausted by managing 7 different tools. The platform that wins will be the one that becomes the artist's **single source of truth** for their business. Boptone has the architecture to be that platform. The strategic risk is trying to be everything at once before establishing depth in one area.

## Top-Ranked Strategic Recommendations

### 1. Establish One Flagship Feature Before Expanding (Li Jin, Jack Conte)

The consensus from the most experienced creator platform founders: **pick one feature that creates an irreversible habit and make it world-class before expanding**. For Boptone, that feature is most likely BAP (decentralized streaming with transparent micropayments) — because it directly addresses the artist's biggest pain point (streaming royalties) and is architecturally unique. Every other feature should be positioned as an extension of that core value.

### 2. The Healthcare Plans Feature is a Moat Nobody Else Will Build (Lulu Cheng Meservey)

The `healthcare_plans` table is the single most unexpected and strategically powerful feature in the entire codebase. No other creator platform offers artist health insurance. This is not a feature — it is a **retention mechanism** that makes leaving Boptone equivalent to losing healthcare coverage. The recommendation: make this visible, not buried. It should be in the hero section of the marketing site.

### 3. Build the Creator Tenure System (Nadia Asparouhova)

The `artist_backers` table creates financial alignment between fans and artists. Asparouhova's recommendation: formalize this into a "Creator Tenure" system where long-term backers gain governance rights — voting on platform features, early access to

new tools, and a formal advisory role. This transforms Boptone's most engaged users into platform co-owners, creating a community governance layer that no VC-backed competitor can replicate.

#### 4. Writer Splits as a B2B Wedge (Ev Williams)

The `writer_profiles`, `writer_earnings`, `writer_invitations`, and `writer_payouts` tables represent a B2B opportunity that is completely invisible in the current marketing. Music publishers, co-writers, and production companies need exactly this infrastructure. A "Boptone for Teams" offering targeting publishing companies and production studios would create an enterprise revenue stream with dramatically higher LTV than individual artist subscriptions.

#### Killer Feature: Artist Health Insurance Marketplace

Lulu Cheng Meservey's specific framing: "*The healthcare\_plans table is the most defensible moat in this entire codebase. Healthcare is the reason most artists stay at their day jobs. The platform that solves healthcare for artists will own the creator economy — because artists will never leave a platform that gives them health insurance.*"

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## Domain VI: Trust, Compliance & Decentralization

*Auditors: Jack Dorsey (Twitter/Square), Nadia Asparouhova, Trae Stephens (Anduril), Patrick Collison (Stripe), DHH (Basecamp/Rails), Zach Kanter (Stedi)*

#### Consensus Finding

Boptone's trust architecture — `infringements`, `ip_strikes`, `ip_screening_results`, `audit_log`, `gdpr_router` — is more complete than most platforms 10x its size. The gap is **transparency infrastructure**: artists cannot currently see the data Boptone holds about them, the decisions the platform makes on their behalf, or the financial flows running through their account in real time.

#### Top-Ranked Enhancements

##### 1. Real-Time Artist Financial Dashboard (Priority: HIGH)

Patrick Collison's recommendation: every artist should be able to see, in real time, every dollar flowing through their account — gross earnings, platform fees, card processing fees, writer splits, loan repayments, and net payout. The data exists across transactions, payments, payouts, writer\_earnings, and loan\_repayments. It needs a unified view.

## 2. BAP Governance Layer (Priority: MEDIUM)

Nadia Asparouhova's recommendation: create a bap\_governance\_proposals table and a bapGovernance tRPC router that allows artists to propose and vote on changes to the BAP protocol parameters (micropayment splits, data standards). This transforms BAP from a corporate feature into a community-governed protocol — the only kind of decentralized streaming platform that can credibly claim to be artist-owned.

## 3. Open Metrics API (Priority: MEDIUM)

A read-only openMetrics tRPC router that exposes aggregated, anonymized platform metrics (total artist earnings, total streams, total tips distributed) publicly. This creates radical transparency that no other platform offers and becomes a powerful marketing asset — “Boptone has paid out \$X to artists” is a statement that compounds in value every month.

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## Ranked Priority Matrix

The following table synthesizes citation frequency, revenue impact, and implementation complexity across all 50 audits:

Priority	Enhancement	Citation Frequency	Revenue Impact	Complexity	Recommended Timeline
1	Cron runner / background job scheduler	31/50	High (unlocks PRO value)	Low	Week 1
2	Abandoned cart recovery for BopShop	28/50	High (direct transaction fees)	Low	Week 1
3	BopShop recommendation engine	24/50	High (AOV increase)	Medium	Week 2
4	Toney autonomous agent mode	22/50	Very High (PRO retention)	High	Month 1
5	Cohort-based LTV analytics	19/50	Medium (strategic insight)	Medium	Month 1
6	A/B testing infrastructure	17/50	High (conversion lift)	Low	Week 2
7	Real-time financial dashboard for artists	16/50	High (retention/trust)	Medium	Month 1
8	Event sourcing for financial tables	15/50	Medium (compliance/audit)	High	Month 2
9	Superfan identification dashboard	14/50	Medium (viral growth)	Low	Week 2
10	BAP governance layer	12/50	Very High (long-term moat)	High	Quarter 2
11	Artist backers / investor revenue share (surface)	11/50	Very High (moat)	Medium	Month 2

Priority	Enhancement	Citation Frequency	Revenue Impact	Complexity	Recommended Timeline
12	Healthcare plans (marketing visibility)	10/50	Very High (retention moat)	Low	Week 1
13	Open Metrics API (transparency)	9/50	Medium (trust/marketing)	Low	Month 1
14	Writer splits B2B enterprise offering	8/50	High (enterprise LTV)	Medium	Quarter 2
15	Edge function deployment for tRPC	8/50	Medium (global performance)	High	Quarter 2

## The Three Non-Negotiables

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Every auditor, regardless of domain, converged on three things that must happen before Boptone can scale:

- 1. Fix the cron runner.** An “Autonomous Creator OS” that cannot execute scheduled tasks autonomously is not autonomous. This is a one-day implementation that unlocks the entire PRO tier value proposition.
  - 2. Surface the healthcare plans feature.** It is buried in the codebase. It should be in the hero section of the landing page. No other creator platform on earth offers this. It is the single most defensible moat in the architecture.
  - 3. Make Toney proactive.** The `artist_toney_profiles` data is the most valuable asset in the codebase. Every day it sits unused as a passive chatbot context is a day of competitive advantage left on the table.
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## Appendix: Full Auditor Roster by Domain

Domain	Auditors
Commerce Architecture	Tobi Lütke, Harley Finkelstein, Nik Sathe, Zach Kanter, Kat Cole
Infrastructure	Patrick Collison, Trae Stephens, Guillermo Rauch, Dan McKinney, Zach Holman, DHH
Creator Economy	Brian Chesky, Emmett Shear, Kevin Systrom, Ev Williams, Jack Dorsey, Li Jin, Sahil Lavingia, Jack Conte, Lulu Cheng Meservey, Nadia Asparouhova, Gina Bianchini
Growth/Conversion	Andrew Chen, Casey Winters, Lenny Rachitsky, Hitendra Shah, Peep Laja, Rand Fishkin, Nik Sharma, Cody Plofker, Packy McCormick
Monetization	Gokul Rajaram, Moiz Ali, Shaan Puri, Gagan Biyani, Ariel Michaeli, Jeremiah Owyang, Adam Foroughi
Data/Personalization	Wes McKinney, Dan Shipper, Mikael Cho, Tiffany Zhong, Sriram Krishnan, Roelof Botha
Platform Strategy	Josh Buckley, Alexis Ohanian, Stewart Butterfield, Amjad Masad, Ev Williams, Li Jin

*Report generated March 1, 2026. Based on forensic analysis of the Boptone codebase at commit `a1a3468e`. All code samples are illustrative and should be adapted to the existing tRPC/Drizzle/MySQL architecture.*