

# Amazon Personalize

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# Context

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## What is Personalization? What is Recommendation?

This castle hath a pleasant seat. The air  
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our gentle senses.

-DUNCAN  
Macbeth Act 1 Scene 6

To Generalize is to be an Idiot. To Particularize is the Alone Distinction of Merit — General Knowledges are those Knowledges that Idiots possess.

-William Blake, in his annotations to his personal copy of Joshua Reynolds' Discourses

# So good! It's Legendary!

"Amazon engineer Greg Linden originally introduced doppelganger searches to predict readers' book preferences, the improvement in recommendations was so good that Amazon founder Jeff Bezos got to his knees and shouted, "I'm not worthy!" to Linden. But what is really interesting about doppelganger searches, considering their power, is not how they're commonly being used now. It is how frequently they are not used. There are major areas of life that could be vastly improved by the kind of personalization these searches allow."

— Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, *Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data, and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are*

<https://www.cs.umd.edu/~samir/498/Amazon-Recommendations.pdf>  
<http://glinden.blogspot.com/2006/03/early-amazon-similarities.html>

# Osmosis

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# Amazon Personalize

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Built on 20 years of operating Personalization at scale across segments, geos, and industries



Personalizing user experience is proven to increase discoverability, engagement, user satisfaction, and revenue

30% of page views on Amazon are from recommendations



... However, most customers find personalization hard to get right

# Effective personalization requires solving multiple hard problems

Reacting to user interactions in real time



Avoiding mostly showing popular items



Handling cold start (insufficient data about new users/items)



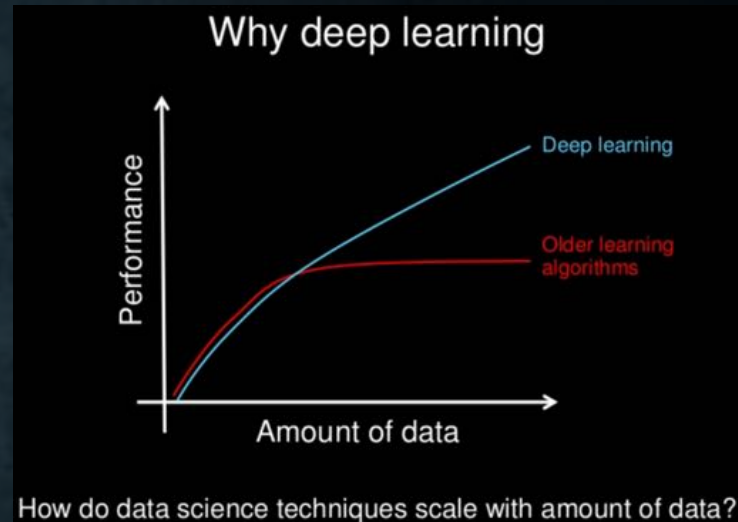
Scale





# Traditional recommender systems aren't adequate

- Rule-based systems perform poorly, don't scale and are hard to maintain
- Collaborative filtering and matrix factorization methods are good for v1, but deep neural networks, esp. recurrent neural networks, that take into account the sequence of a user's activity (clicks) out-perform other methods



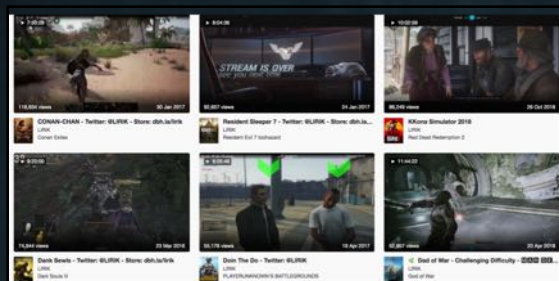
# Deep learning techniques have a direct impact on the bottom line



Rule-based  
card ranker

Bayesian  
network model

+29%  
Click Through



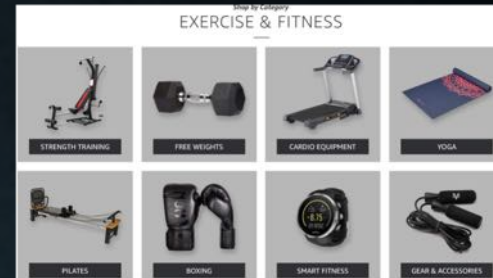
Popularity

Matrix  
factorization

Neural  
network

+15.4%  
Engagement

+7.4%  
Engagement



Similarity

Recurrent  
Neural Net +  
Bandit

+20%  
Click Through

<https://www.slideshare.net/AmazonWebServices/add-realtime-personalization-and-recommendations-to-your-applications-aim395-aws-reinvent-2018>

# Introducing Amazon Personalize

Real-time personalization and recommendation, based on the machine learning technology used by Amazon.com

Generates personalized recommendations for your users via API calls

- State-of-the-art deep learning algorithms that out-perform traditional methods
- Auto-ML capabilities that automate the entire process from data ingestion to inference
- Real-time personalized recommendations – Ability to ingest activity/clickstream data and generate recommendations, in real time, based on the session/context of the use

# Common applications & use cases



Personalized  
recommendations



Related Items



Search  
reranking



Notifications  
and emails

# Applicable across multiple domains

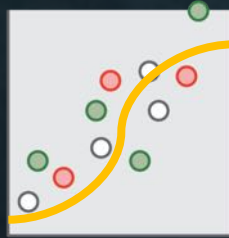
Amazon Personalize can be applied to many domains including

- Retail and E-commerce
- Video on demand
- News
- Travel
- Personalized notifications

# Amazon Personalize – Overview



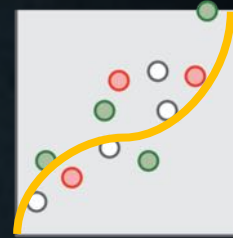
Prepare your data, then upload with the Amazon Personalize API



Choose one of our algorithms or tell AutoML to find the best fit



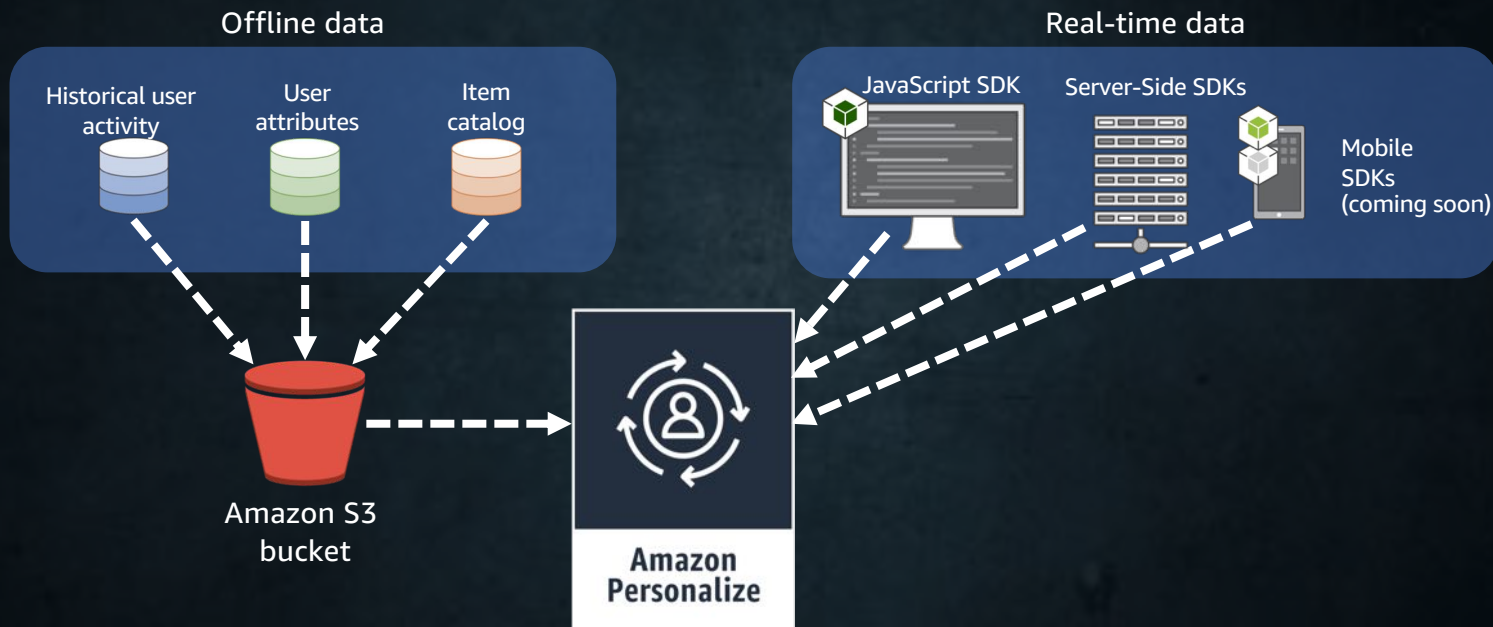
Modify your code



Retrain continually to improve the model



# Real-time data can be consumed by Amazon Personalize



# The Science of Personalization

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# Why Amazon Personalize?

(hierarchical sequential models) work well for many personalization tasks

(stable) solutions out of the box

Includes many tricks from deep learning practitioners

AutoML and HPO

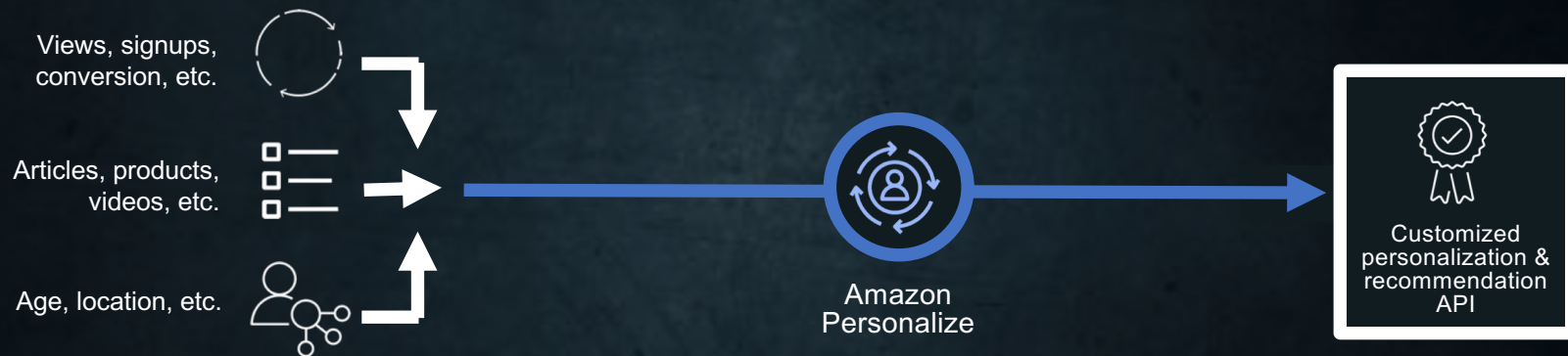
Best possible results (on your data) with minimal intervention

# Amazon Personalize Demo

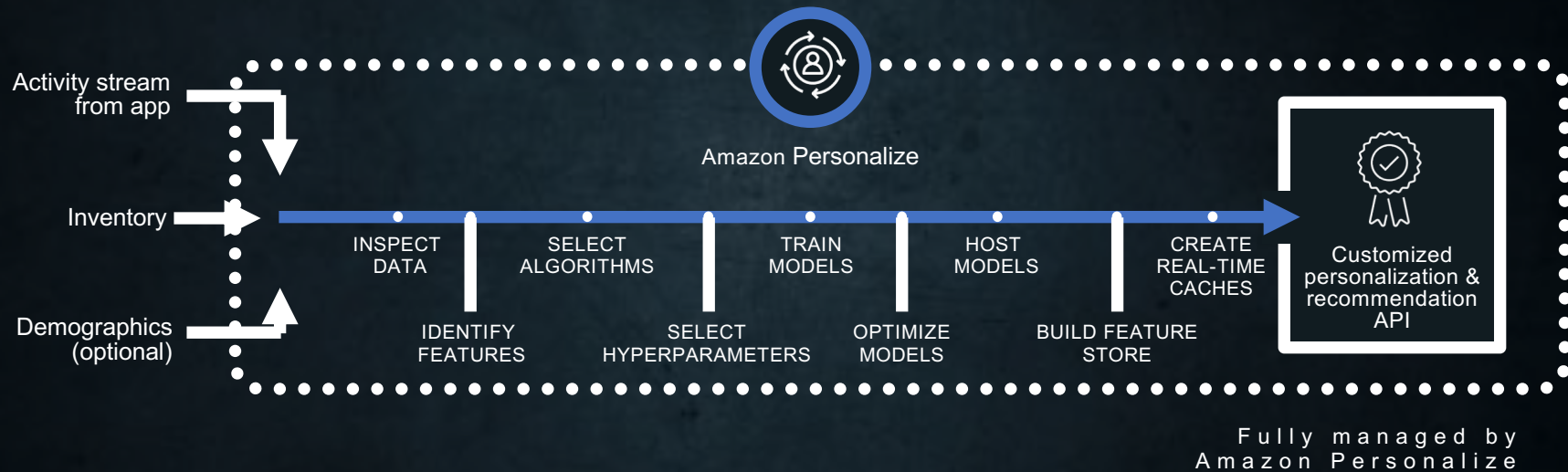
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Real-time personalization and recommendation service, based on the same technology used at Amazon.com. No ML experience required.

# Amazon Personalize: machine learning personalization and recommendations

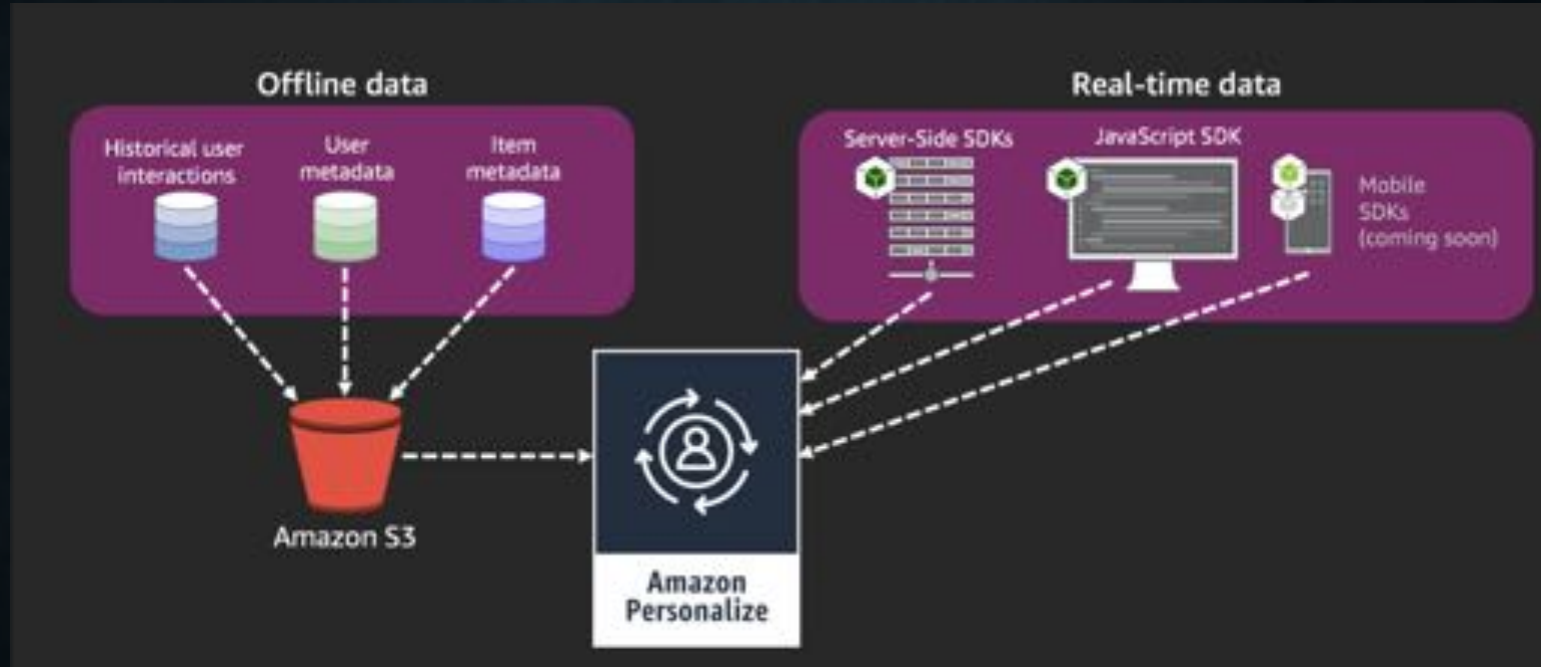


# Amazon Personalize: machine learning personalization and recommendations

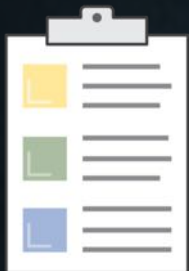




Data: Add Real-time data via server side, client side integration; add batch data via S3



# Use the Console/API to train and experiment with models



**Use AutoML or pick a pre-defined algorithm**

- Choose a pre-existing algorithm (packaged as Personalize Recipes) or use AutoML and Personalize will pick the right recipe for you
- You can train custom deep learning models on your data and compare accuracy metrics with 2 API calls

## Deploy the best models (solutions) by launching a campaign

Launch



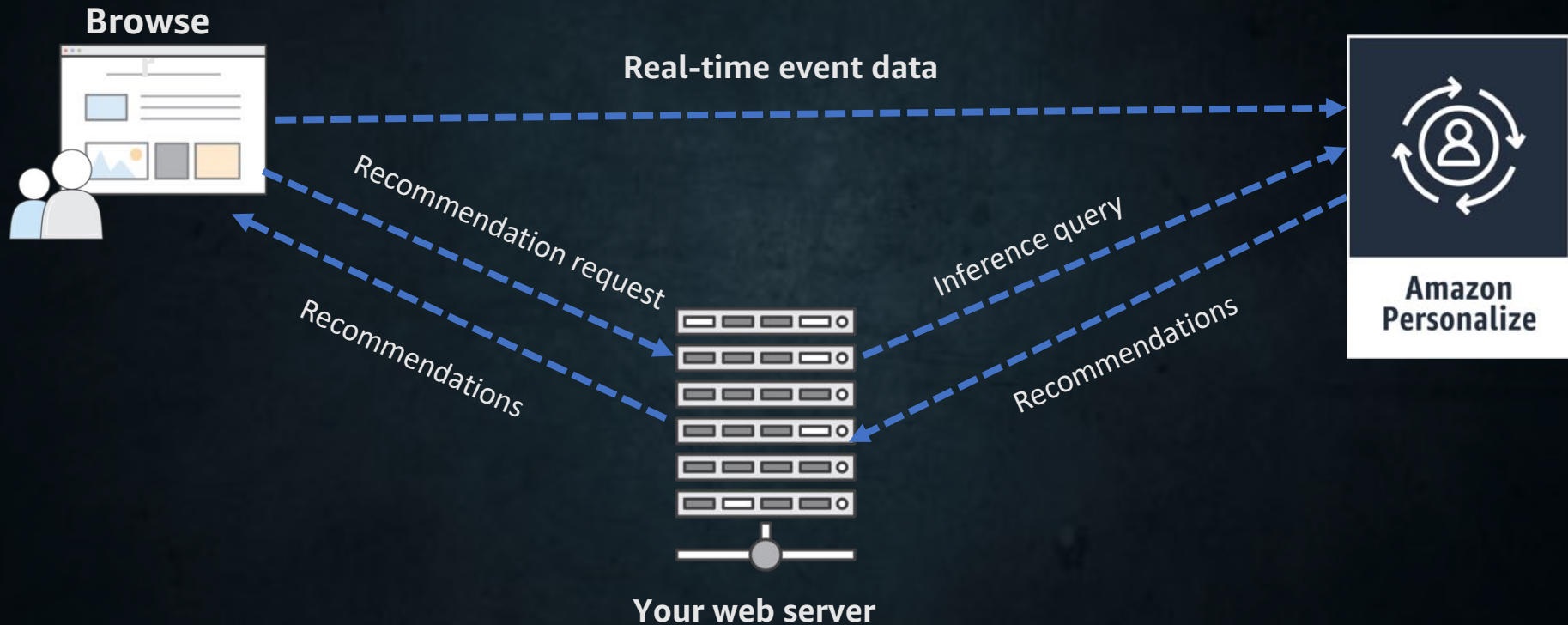
Amazon Personalize  
Campaigns

- Launching a campaign will deploy all the infrastructure needed to create a personalize endpoint
- Personalize will automatically scale to serve you real time traffic
- Use the `getRecommendatons()` or `getPersonalizeRanking()` API for inference

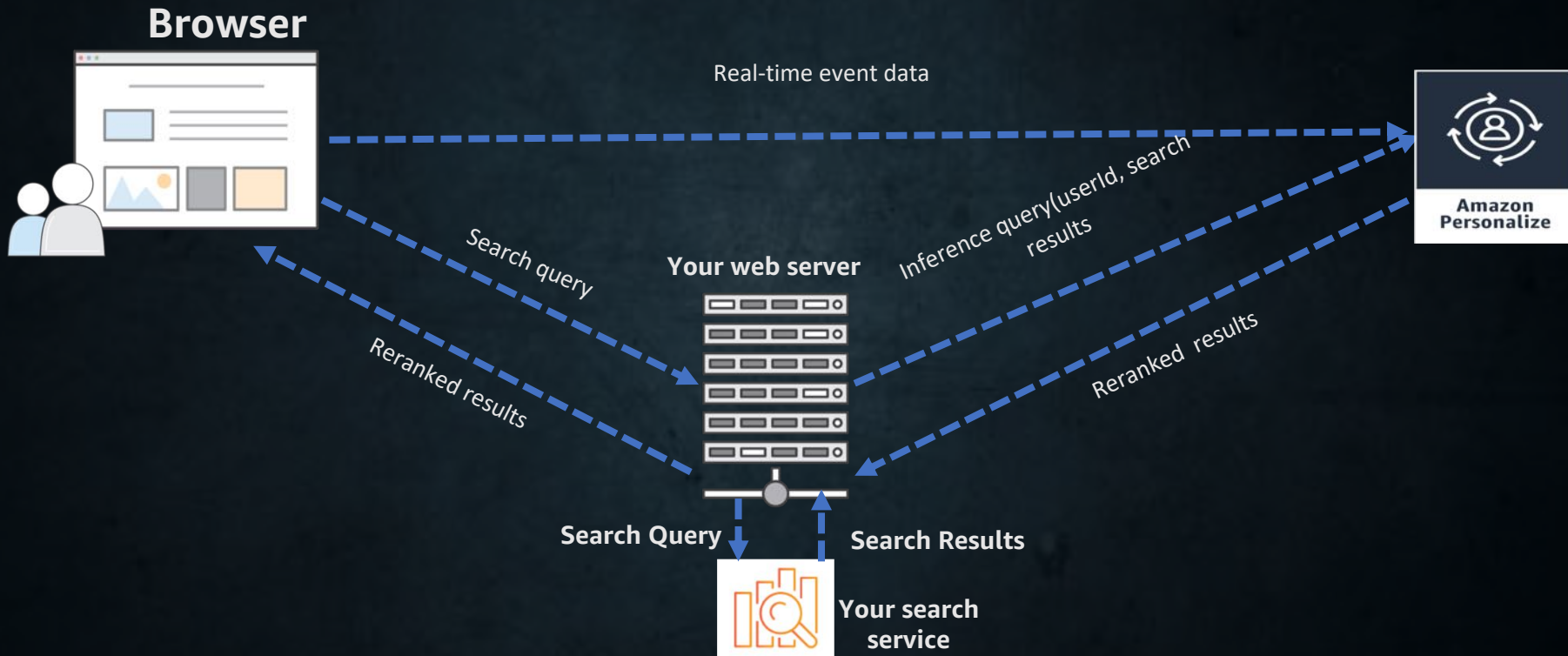
# Building Integrations with Amazon Personalize

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# Real time personalization for web applications



# Search personalization for web applications





# Email personalization





**Domino's**

## Personalizing customer experiences

Domino's uses [Amazon Personalize](#) to customize and scale relevant marketing communications to customers based on time, context, and content, thereby improving and enhancing their experience with the Domino's brand.



# Thank you !

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[aws.amazon.com/personalize](https://aws.amazon.com/personalize)