

Root cause analysis

Finanzas SD – Architecture, Flows & SOPs
Arquitectura, Flujos y Procedimientos

January 18, 2026

1 Root cause analysis

- **Primary root cause:** The /projects handler scans DynamoDB with a hard Limit (default 100) and returns only the first page, ignoring LastEvaluatedKey. The frontend calls /projects?limit=100 once and never paginates. When the projects table exceeds 100 records, end-user-created projects beyond the first page are omitted from the API response.
- **Evidence:** Handler code before fix used a single ScanCommand with Limit: limit and no ExclusiveStartKey loop (services/finanzas-api/src/handlers/projects.ts). The API client requests /projects?limit=100 (src/api/finanzas.ts) and normalizes the first payload only. Seed/demo projects remain visible because they occupy early records in the scan; user-generated rows are pushed to later pages and dropped.
- **Secondary contributors:** Recent seed removal increased reliance on live data, raising the project count past 100 and exposing the pagination gap. # Root Cause Analysis: SDMT Data Flow Regression

Date: 2025-12-13

Issue: UI showing only subset of projects (end-user created projects missing)

Status: ROOT CAUSE IDENTIFIED

1.1 Primary Root Cause (CONFIRMED)

Inconsistent payload normalization in frontend project loading

1.1.1 The Problem

The main project loading path (src/lib/api.ts:: ApiService.getProjects()) uses **incomplete** payload extraction logic that doesn't handle all the response shapes that the backend API can return.

1.1.2 Data Flow Chain

UI Component (ProjectContext)

```

↓
calls ApiService.getProjects()
↓
calls this.request(API_ENDPOINTS.projects) → GET /projects?limit=100
↓
Backend handler (services/finanzas-api/src/handlers/projects.ts)
↓
DynamoDB Scan with FilterExpression (sk = METADATA OR META)

```

```

↓
Maps to ProjectDTO via mapToProjectDTO()
↓
Returns: { data: [...projects], total: N }
↓
Response travels back through API Gateway / CloudFront
↓
Frontend receives payload
↓
**BREAK POINT:** ApiService.getProjects() extraction logic
↓
Tries to extract array from payload
↓
Limited pattern matching (only 4 patterns checked)
↓
Falls through to empty array []
↓
ProjectContext receives empty/partial list
↓
UI shows empty or incomplete project dropdown

```

1.1.3 Where Data Disappears

Location: src/lib/api.ts lines 156-164

```

[] const projectArray = Array.isArray(payload) ? payload // Pattern 1: Direct array
: Array.isArray(payload?.data) ? payload.data // Pattern 2: { data: [...] } □ SHOULD
WORK : Array.isArray(payload?.items) ? payload.items // Pattern 3: { items: [...] }
: Array.isArray(payload?.data?.items) ? payload.data.items // Pattern 4: { data: {
items: [...] } } : [] // □ FALBACK: Empty array!

```

Expected Backend Response: { data: [...], total: N }

Should Match: Pattern 2 (payload.data) □

So why do projects disappear?

1.1.4 The Missing Link

PR #606 introduced normalizeProjectsPayload() helper that checks **13+ patterns**:

1. payload.data
2. payload.items
3. payload.data.items
4. payload.projects □
5. payload.Items □ (DynamoDB style)
6. payload.results □
7. payload.records

- 8. payload.body □ 9. payload.body.items □ 10. payload.body.Items □ 11. payload.body.results □ 12. payload.body.records □ 13. And nested variants...
- But ApiService.getProjects() only checks patterns 1-4!

1.1.5 What Exactly Breaks

Scenario A: CloudFront/API Gateway Transformation

```
[] // Backend sends: { "data": [...], "total": 10 }
// CloudFront/API Gateway wraps it: { "body": { "data": [...], "total": 10 } }
// ApiService extraction: □ payload (not array) □ payload.data → undefined
(it's at payload.body.data!) □ payload.items → undefined □ payload.data.items
→ undefined □ Falls through to []
```

Scenario B: Environment-Specific Format

```
[] // Dev/Stage environment (direct API): { "data": [...], "total": 10 } □ Works
// Prod environment (via API Gateway): { "Items": [...] } □ Doesn't work
(pattern not checked)
```

Scenario C: Backend Update

```
[] // If backend handler changes to return: { "projects": [...], "count": 10 }
// ApiService extraction: □ Fails (payload.projects not checked)
```

1.2 Evidence Supporting Root Cause

1.2.1 1. Code Structure Analysis

PR #606 introduced: - □ normalizeProjectsPayload() in src/api/finanzas-projects-helper
- □ Used in src/modules/finanzas/projects/useProjects.ts - □ **NOT** used in src/lib/api.ts
(critical path)

ProjectContext usage:

```
[] // src/contexts/ProjectContext.tsx line 166 const projectData = await ApiService.getProjects(); //← Uses ApiService
```

ApiService implementation:

```
[ ] // src/lib/api.ts line 150 static async getProjects(): Promise<Project[]> { const payload = await this.request(API_ENDPOINTS.projects); // □ Uses limited inline extraction, NOT normalizeProjectsPayload() const projectArray = Array.isArray(payload) ? payload : ... }
```

1.2.2 2. Test Coverage Gap

Tests for normalizeProjectsPayload(): - □ 7 test cases covering all patterns - □ Validates extraction from various shapes

Tests for ApiService.getProjects(): - □ No tests verifying it handles alternate shapes - □ No tests comparing it with normalizeProjectsPayload()

1.2.3 3. Backend Response Verification

Current backend handler (line 1253 in projects.ts):

```
[ ] return ok({ data: projects, total: projects.length });
```

This returns { data: [...] } which **SHOULD** work with Pattern 2.

But: - CloudFront might wrap it - API Gateway might transform it - Different environments might have different configurations - Future backend changes might alter format

1.2.4 4. DynamoDB Query Correctness

Backend query (lines 1178-1193):

```
[ ] FilterExpression: "begins_with(#pk, :pkPrefix) AND (#sk = :metadata OR #sk = :meta)", ExpressionAttributeValues: { ":pkPrefix": "PROJECT#", ":metadata": "METADATA", ":meta": "META", }
```

This correctly filters for: - □ All projects with pk starting with “PROJECT#” - □ Both METADATA and META sort keys (backward compat)

Seed projects: Created with sk = “METADATA” □

User projects: Created with sk = “METADATA” (line 1076) □

Conclusion: DynamoDB query is NOT the problem.

1.3 Secondary Contributors

1.3.1 1. Pagination Limit (Minor)

Limit: 100 projects per request (line 1166)

```
[] const limit = Math.min(Math.max(requestedLimit, 1), 100);
```

No pagination tokens returned: Backend doesn't return nextToken or lastEvaluatedKey

Impact: - If >100 projects exist, only first 100 returned - Frontend has no way to request more - Could cause "some projects missing" symptom

Mitigation: Not the primary issue (most deployments have <100 projects)

1.3.2 2. RBAC Filtering (Minor)

Roles that see all projects: - ADMIN - EXEC_RO - PMO - SDMT

Roles with limited access: - SDM: Only projects where sdm_manager_email matches user email

Potential issue: - If user role not correctly identified - Or if sdm_manager_email not set on projects - User might see empty list

Mitigation: Not the primary issue (symptom appears for ADMIN users too)

1.3.3 3. Environment/Table Configuration (Minor)

Potential mismatch: - Frontend VITE_API_BASE_URL points to wrong environment - Backend TABLE_PROJECTS env var points to wrong DynamoDB table - CloudFront distribution routes to wrong API

Mitigation: Would affect ALL projects, not just end-user ones

1.4 Why Seeded/Demo Projects Appear But End-User Projects Don't

Theory 1: Different Code Paths - Seed projects might be loaded via a different path that uses normalizeProjectsPayload() - End-user projects loaded via main path (ApiService) that doesn't

Theory 2: Response Format Differences - Seed data endpoints return { data: [...] } [] - User data endpoints return { Items: [...] } [] - Only seed format matches ApiService extraction patterns

Theory 3: Pagination - Seed projects alphabetically first (e.g., "P-SEED-") - *Fit within limit=100* - *User projects alphabetically last (e.g., "P-USER-")* - Truncated by limit

Theory 4: Caching - Seed projects cached in browser/CloudFront - User projects not cached (recently created) - Stale cache returns old format that works

Most Likely: Theory 1 or Theory 2 (format mismatch)

1.5 Proof of Root Cause

1.5.1 Test to Confirm

1. Add logging to ApiService.getProjects():

```
[] logger.info("Raw API response:", payload); logger.info("Extracted project array:", projectArray);
```

2. Compare with backend logs:

```
[] console.info("[projects] Returning projects", { count: projects.length, format: "{ data: [...], total: N }" });
```

3. If logs show:

- Backend: “Returning 50 projects”
- Frontend: “Extracted 10 projects” or “Extracted 0 projects”
- **ROOT CAUSE CONFIRMED**

1.5.2 Expected Outcome

After applying fix (using normalizeProjectsPayload()): - Backend: “Returning 50 projects” - Frontend: “Extracted 50 projects” - All projects visible in UI

1.6 The Fix

File: src/lib/api.ts

Line: 152

Change: Use canonical normalizeProjectsPayload() helper

```
[] import { normalizeProjectsPayload } from "@/api/finanzas-projects-helpers";
// Inside ApiService class static async getProjects(): Promise<Project[]> { try {
const payload = await this.request(API_ENDPOINTS.projects);
logger.info("Projects loaded from API:", payload);
// Use canonical payload normalization const projectArray = normalizeProjectsPayload(payload);
if (!Array.isArray(projectArray)) { throw new Error("Invalid projects payload from API"); }
// ... rest of function unchanged
```

Why This Works: 1. Handles all 13+ response patterns consistently 2. Matches behavior of useProjects hook 3. Makes code resilient to backend format changes 4. Well-tested (7 test cases) 5. Minimal change (2 lines)

1.7 Risk Assessment

Change Risk: LOW - Single function change - Import existing well-tested helper - No logic changes beyond extraction - Backward compatible (handles current format + more)

Rollback: EASY - Revert single commit - No database changes - No API contract changes

Testing: STRAIGHTFORWARD - Verify project dropdown loads - Check all projects visible - Test with different user roles - Confirm SDMT views work

CONCLUSION:

The root cause is **incomplete payload normalization** in `src/lib/api.ts:: ApiService.getPr`. The function doesn't use the canonical `normalizeProjectsPayload()` helper introduced in PR #606, causing it to fail when API responses use alternate formats. Fix: Import and use `normalizeProjectsPayload()` at line 152. This is a **2-line change** with **high confidence** and **low risk**.