

Build Your Own AI

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# ALL ABOUT HACKATHONS

SAKO M, GLADLY

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Shout out

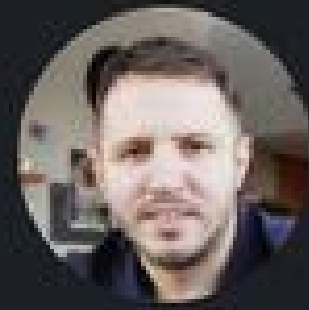
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TO ALL BAY AREA HACKATHON  
ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS! 🎉

Your dedication and hard work in  
organizing and sponsoring these  
events do not go unnoticed!

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# How it started...



**Sako M** (He/Him) • You

AI | DevOps | Security | Open Source

6mo • Edited • 🌐



**#H1** This year hackathons over events are in my priority list.

Was great start the year with 1st one today @ **AGI House** as guest and meet few friends **Josephine Declerck** **Ed Choudhry** and get ready for next week one.

Thanks so much **Rocky Yu** and team for organizing it, so so much fun, excited to have you on 23rd at our GDG Mountain View Devfest event!!!

Thanks for next week hackathon invite **Dave Nielsen!**

Feel free to join me: [https://lnkd.in/gQEmMX\\_t](https://lnkd.in/gQEmMX_t)

**#hackpro**

How it goes...

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In the past 8 months, I've  
attended 40+ 1-2 days  
hackathons.

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# MY DEFINITION OF HACKATHON

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WITH IDEA YOU **DON'T** HAVE,  
WITH PEOPLE YOU **DON'T** KNOW,  
WITH TOOLS YOU ARE **NOT** FAMILIAR:  
SHIP **USEFUL** THING **FAST!**

# WHAT IS INTELLIGENCE

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**Intelligence** is not about what we know, rather how we respond to things we don't know. Our capacity, will and speed to embrace inevitable change.

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# MY DEFINITION OF INTELLIGENCE

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**Generative thinking ability:**  
combine what we know and  
believe, respond to what is  
unknown and be mostly right.

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# Why attend hackathons?

HACKATHON IS LIKE A STREET  
FREESTYLE DANCE ;)

Q1

Collaborate with amazing friends

Q2

Boost learning on new things

Q3

Ideate on spot, mapping hackathon theme, time, problem to team skillset, passion

Q4

Come up with execution strategy, plan with clear ownership and async delivery



# Why sponsor hackathons?

GROW FAST ;)

Q1	Early product feedback
Q2	Hire talent
Q3	Marketing move to acquire new customers, brand awareness
Q4	Goodwill, community engagement

# Why organize hackathons?

BUILD AMAZING COMMUNITY ;)

Q1	Community Building
Q2	Collaborate with VC firms to invest on top talent
Q3	Build distribution to promote products, companies and individuals
Q4	Fun

# Hackathon is NOT

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What organizers, judges, sponsors and  
rest explicitly ask or expect from you.

**Hackathon is about**

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Understanding expectations AND  
meeting self expectation.

**You are the one who should define it!**

**Winning is great, BUT**

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Not reinventing experience every time  
and increasing self expected bar could  
turn it into routine and not worth your  
time commitment in long run.

## Have a good hackathon challenge statement

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Challenge yourself with  
unrealistic harder  
problem, where actual  
growth will happen,  
rather feasible easy one  
which may seem more  
straight forward.

# Define Persona

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**Be them:** Put Yourself in Their Shoes.  
Understand the user's pain points deeply by imagining you are the one experiencing the problem.

**With them:** Interview those affected by the problem. Co-create solutions by involving them in the process if possible.

**About them:** Every feature and decision should be about improving their experience.

# OBJECTIVES

Process1	Performance2	Outcome3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have as big team they let to, and ideate till mapping tasks to team skills and interests.</li><li>• Ask for help when needed, use as many sponsor products, usually they have free perks during the hackathon.</li><li>• Have a dedicated team member to work on logistics and research/ presentation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't rush to solution, you ll be judged based on problem understanding and feasibility of solution.</li><li>• Have a shiny interactive UI.</li><li>• You can hack on the back end side as much you want to.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Win the hackathon</li><li>• Have a good experience</li><li>• Ask friends to take a video while presenting on stage, so that can check later to get better on it.</li><li>• Take a picture and share in linkedin / twitter</li></ul>



# Understanding is an art. But, not everyone is an artist.

1	Clearly communicate using STAR
2	Summarize key points
3	Use visual aids (whiteboard exercise, make sure everyone can see it)
4	Check for understanding: ask for inputs early
5	Share examples
6	Be patient. see it as opportunity to mentor others

# Craft a clear & easy to understand story.

<b>Project Name</b>  1 linear project description.	<b>Motivation</b>  What triggered to work on the problem.	<b>Problem</b>  Summarize the core problem.	<b>How big is problem</b>  Scale or impact of the problem.
<b>Solution</b>  Leveraged [data/ insights] to implement [actions], and achieved [results].	<b>Architecture</b>  The technical architecture or key components used.	<b>Team</b>  Mention the team members and their roles.	<b>Links</b>  Links to code, slides and demo if any.

# Communication Tools

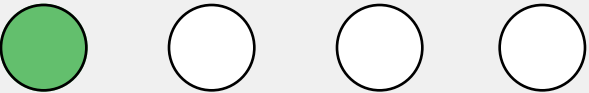
- Prior to that, make sure team is onboarded properly
- Shared group in whatsapp, discord etc. to collaborate.  
Private(avoid accidental api keys etc. expose) github repo with access.
- Presentation in google docs.



# Stages to win


Step 1

Think



Step 2

Design



Step 3

Execute



Step 4

Present



# Think

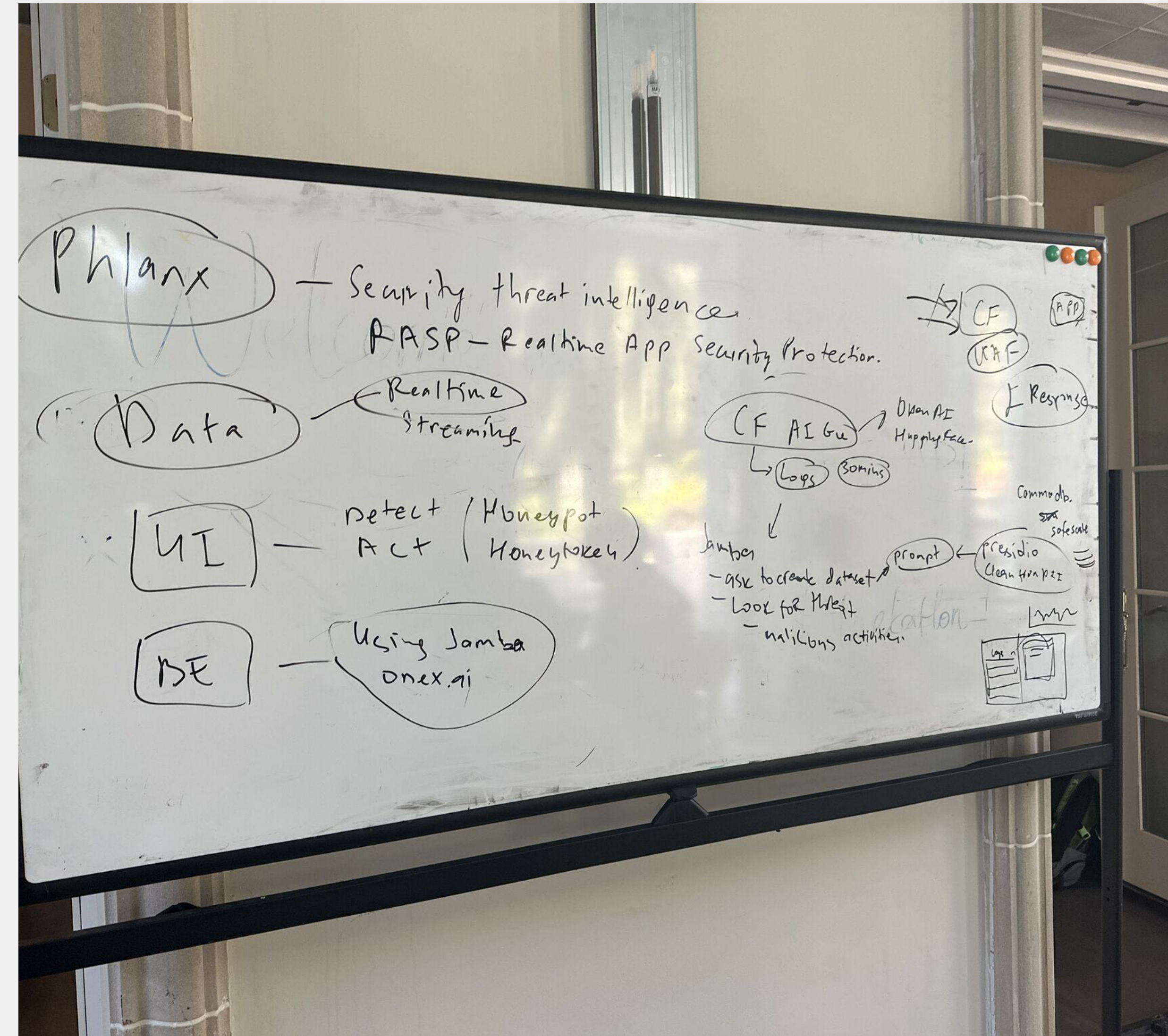
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- What is ask or expectation?
- Who has a problem?
- Are we excited about that problem?
- What are the *WAYS* to solve it?



# Design

- What data are we going to collect and act on?
- What architecture and tooling we'll use?
- Who is going to own what part?





# Execute

- What is 1 end to end working bare minimum use case?
- What are the delivery priorities of use cases?
- Any blockers, risks to miss delivery by team members?
- Get alerted early on: reduce scope, shift strategy?





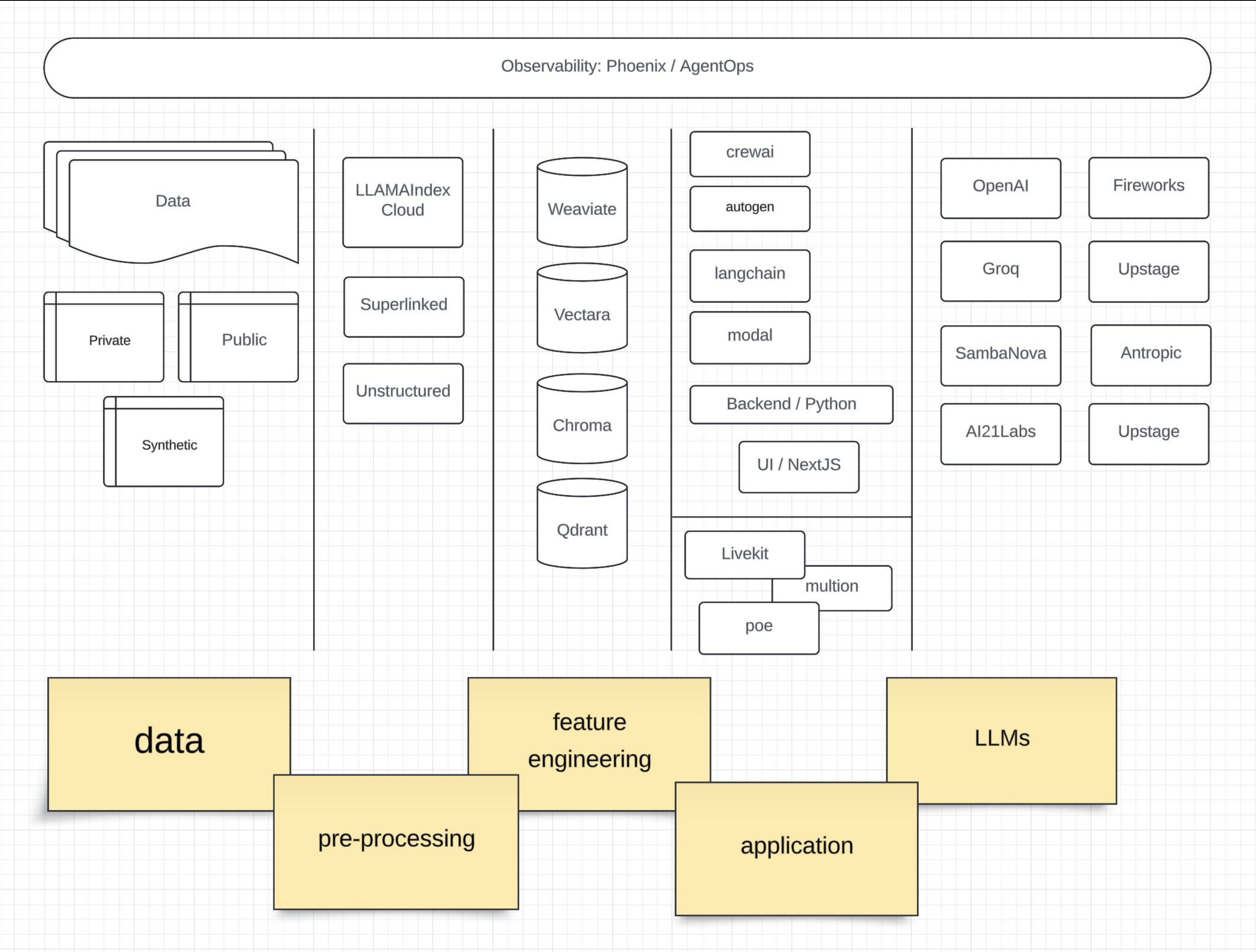
# Present

- What deliverables need to be submitted by what time?
- How much time allocated to present?
- Who'll present what part?





# Reference Architecture



SAKO M

BASED IN SAN  
FRANCISCO

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TWITTER: @SAKOWS



**Sako M**

AI | DevOps | Security | Open  
Source | #hackpro\_sako



Thank You