

ReallyConnect

A mentorship platform that transforms cold networking into meaningful connections through structured, AI-powered request workflows.



The Mentor Burnout Crisis

Current Reality

Traditional social networks create a *broken* mentorship ecosystem where cold DMs lead to ignored messages, mentor fatigue, and missed opportunities. Well intentioned professionals are overwhelmed by unstructured requests.

- No boundaries or capacity management
- Unclear expectations and scope
- Poorly articulated mentee needs
- Zero accountability mechanisms

The Impact

This dysfunction hurts both sides of the equation. Mentors burn out and close their DMs. Mentees hesitate to reach out, fearing rejection or wasting someone's time.

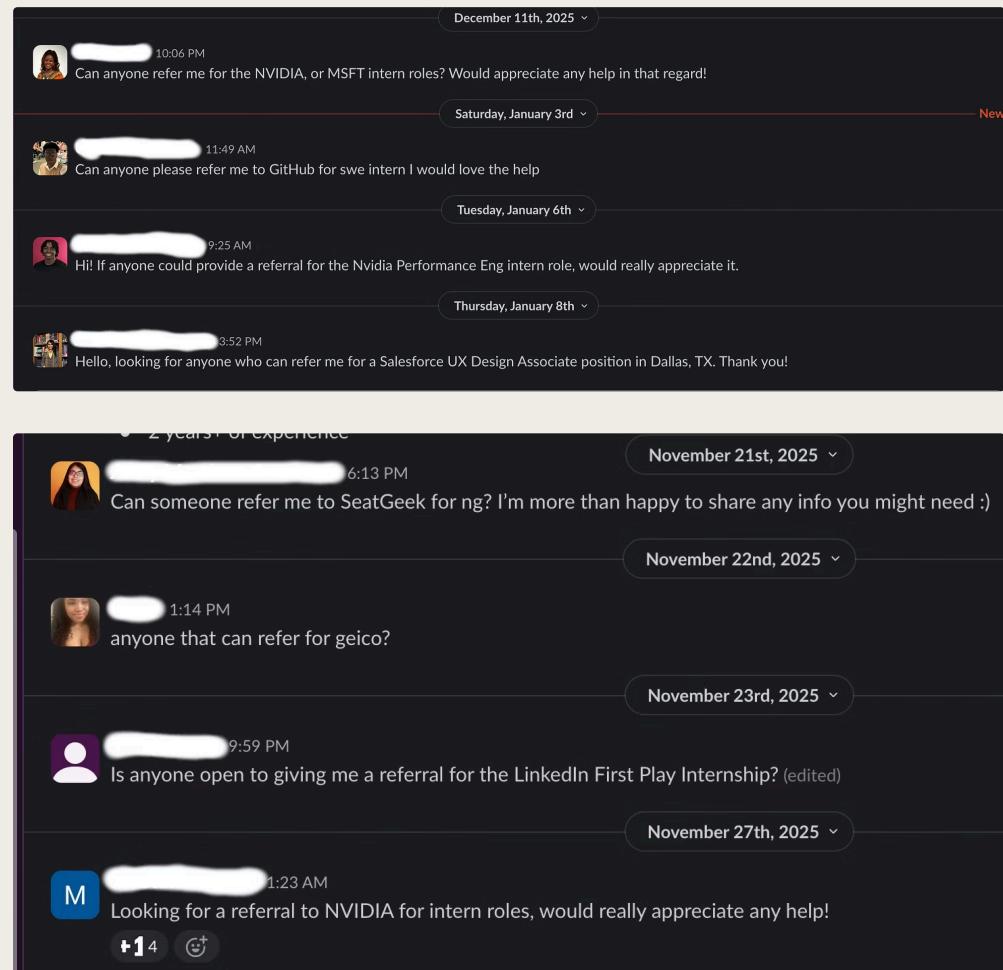
The result? Valuable expertise remains locked away, and aspiring professionals struggle to access the guidance they need most.

Challenges Within Our Own Community

Even within the supportive environment of ColorStack, our members face similar hurdles. As evidenced by our community channels, talented individuals frequently reach out for referrals at a range of companies yet these requests often go unanswered, floating in a sea of similar inquiries.

- Communication Void:** Junior members post earnest requests for referrals and mentorship but are frequently met with silence, leading to a sense of isolation.
- Request Fatigue:** Busy alumni and industry leaders are overwhelmed by an unstructured influx of messages, making it impossible to manage or respond to every high-potential candidate.
- Referral Lottery:** Success currently depends on being seen by the right person at the right time, rather than a reliable, structured system for connection.

This bottleneck prevents many talented individuals from realizing their full potential, despite being part of a vibrant and connected community.





OUR SOLUTION

An Opt-In Mentorship Ecosystem

ReallyConnect replaces broken networking patterns with a structured, respectful platform that protects mentor time while empowering mentees to make better connections.



Privacy-First Design

Mentors explicitly opt-in and set availability caps, ensuring every interaction is welcomed and sustainable.



AI-Powered Clarity

Our AI service rewrites mentee requests for maximum impact, reducing friction and improving match quality.



Smart Matching

A sophisticated recommendation engine connects people based on 52+ interests across 6 professional categories.

Four Structured Help Types

ReallyConnect organizes mentorship into clear, actionable categories that set proper expectations from the start.

1

Resume Review

Get targeted feedback on your resume structure, content, and presentation. Mentors provide specific suggestions to strengthen your professional narrative and improve ATS compatibility.

2

Mock Interview

Practice real interview scenarios with experienced professionals. Receive constructive feedback on technical responses, behavioral answers, and presentation skills.

3

Career Advice

Navigate career transitions, industry insights, and strategic planning with guidance from those who've walked similar paths.

4

Social Advice

Build professional networks, master workplace dynamics, and develop soft skills critical for career advancement.

The Matching Intelligence

Our recommendation engine analyzes **52+ specific interests** across six comprehensive categories to surface the most relevant mentor-mentee pairings.

01

Interest Profiling

Users select from Tech, Business, Arts, Health & Wellness, Social Impact, and Lifestyle categories during onboarding.

02

Compatibility Scoring

PostgreSQL GIN indexes enable lightning-fast array overlap calculations between mentor expertise and mentee goals.

03

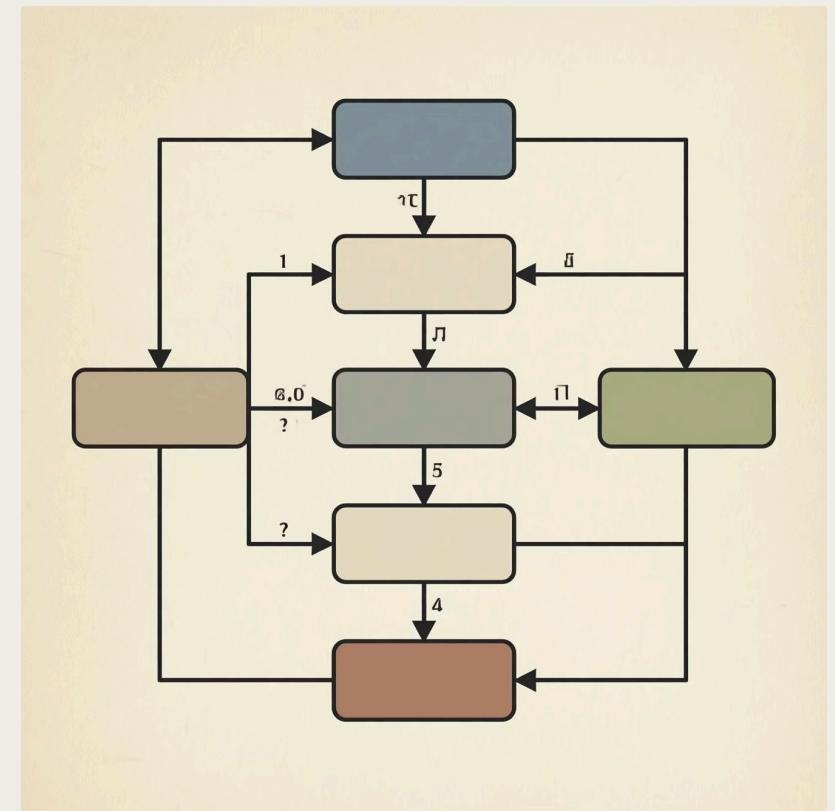
Capacity Filtering

The system respects mentor availability caps, only surfacing those with open slots in their weekly request budget.

04

Personalized Feed

A swipeable discovery interface presents matches ranked by relevance and availability.



Dual-Stack Engineering

ReallyConnect is built on production-grade architecture designed for scale, security, and exceptional user experience.

Backend: The Brain

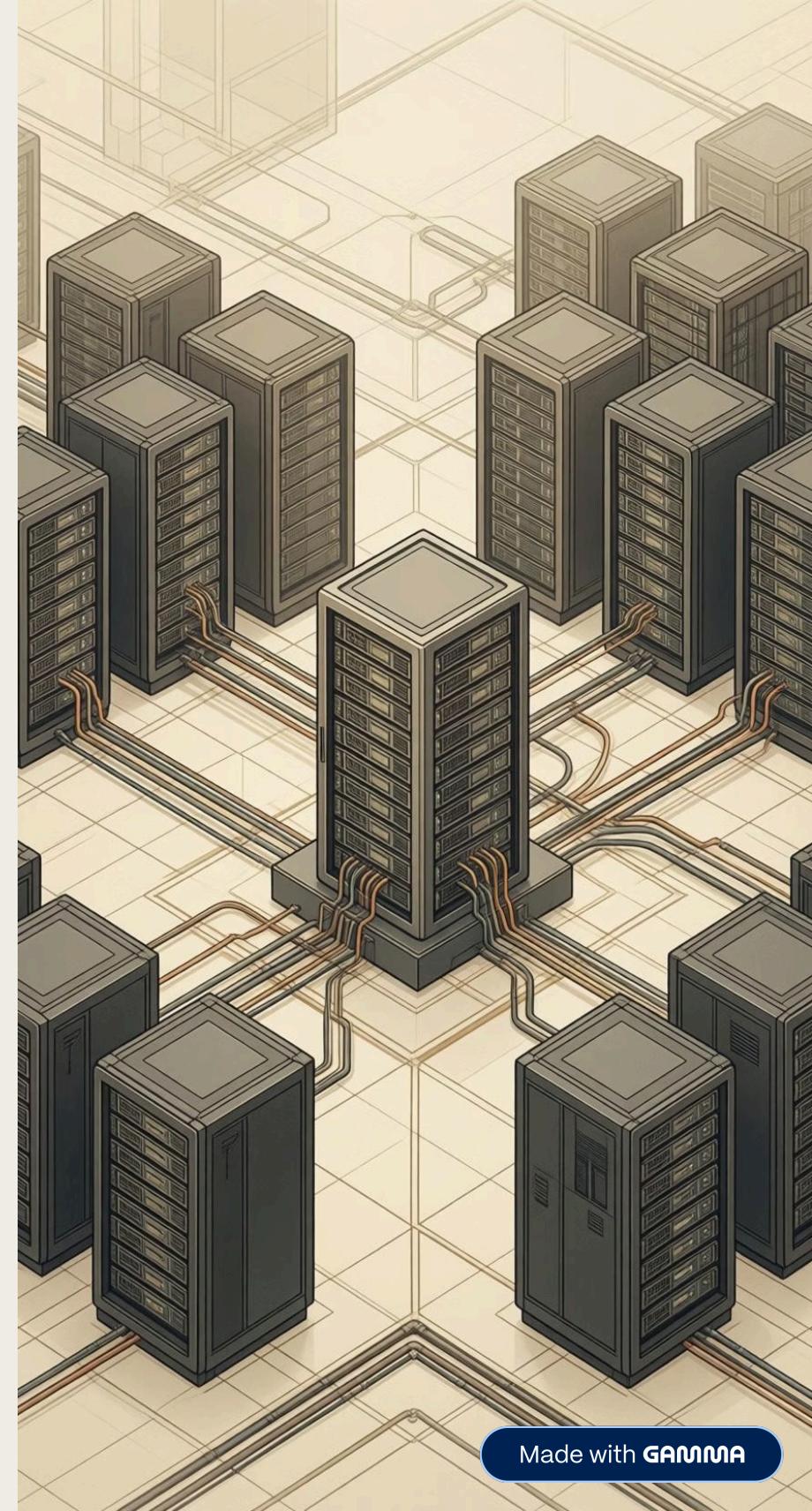
FastAPI (Python) REST API delivering enterprise-level performance and reliability.

- JWT authentication via Supabase
- Complex service layer managing request lifecycles
- PostgreSQL with optimized GIN indexes
- Structured logging and error handling

Frontend: The Face

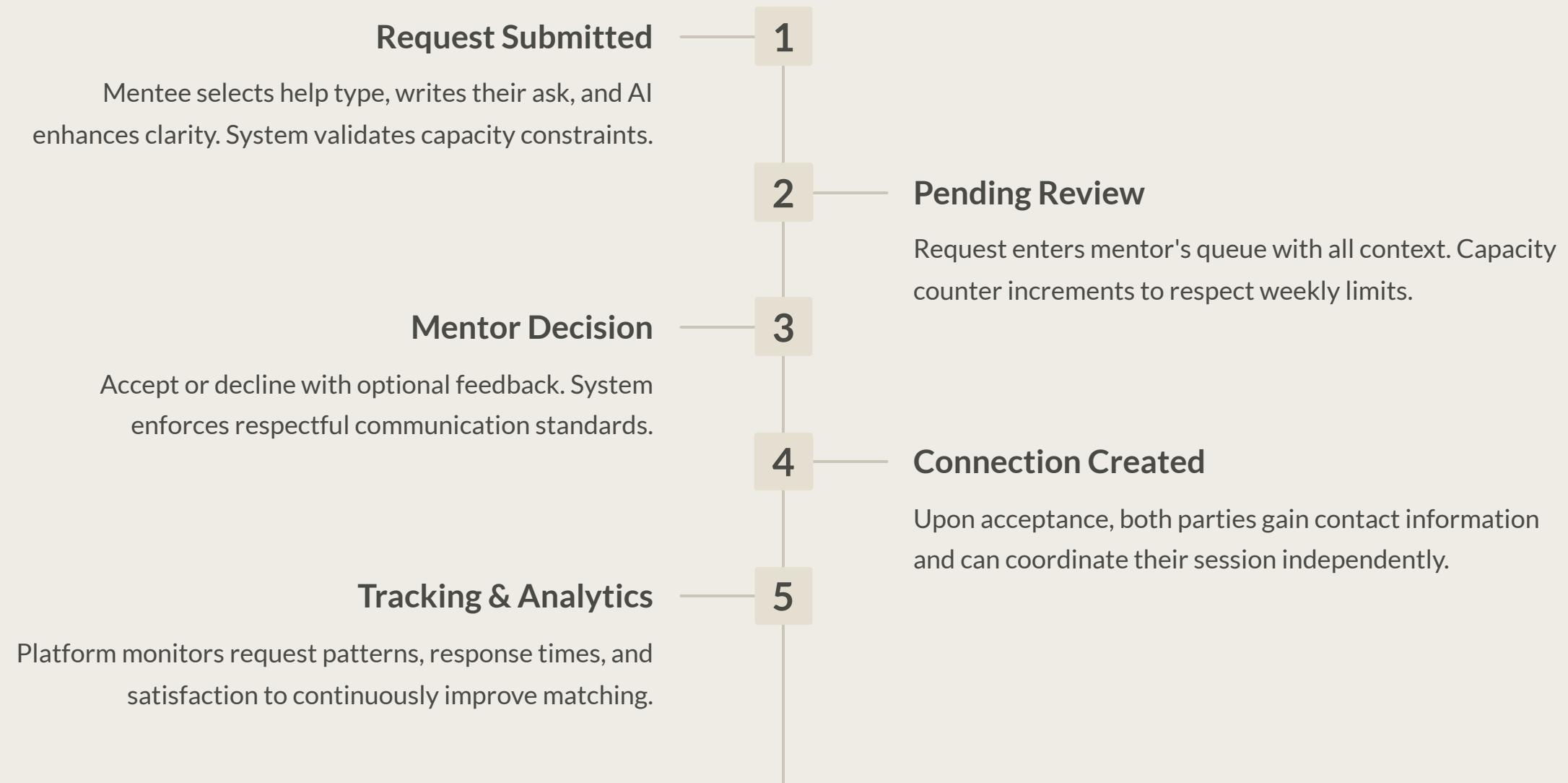
React 19 + Vite powering a lightning-fast, mobile-first experience.

- React Router 7 for seamless navigation
- Component-driven architecture
- Lucide React icons and custom styling
- Responsive design optimized for all devices



Request Lifecycle Management

Our backend orchestrates a sophisticated state machine that ensures every mentorship request flows through proper validation, notification, and tracking stages.



ColorStack Hackathon 2025

3

Team Members

Engineers collaborating across full-stack architecture

48

Hours Built

From concept to production ready prototype

ReallyConnect reimagines professional mentorship for the modern era. By combining privacy-first design, intelligent matching, and AI-powered communication, we're building a sustainable ecosystem where knowledge flows freely and relationships form with intention.

[View Demo](#)

[GitHub Repository](#)

