Part 1: Code Review & Debugging

Technical Issues with Example Fixes

1. SKU Uniqueness Not Checked

Issue:

The code doesn't check if the SKU already exists in the database.

Impact:

You can mistakenly create two different products with the same SKU \rightarrow stock tracking becomes incorrect.

Fix:

Check the database first — if that SKU exists, stop and return an error.

Example Code:

python

```
existing_product = Product.query.filter_by(sku=data['sku']).first()
if existing_product:
    return {"error": "SKU already exists"}, 400
```

2. Products in Multiple Warehouses Not Supported

Issue:

The Product table has warehouse_id, tying the product to only one warehouse.

Impact:

In real life, one product can be in multiple warehouses — this code can't handle that.

Fix:

Remove warehouse_id from the Product table. Create inventory records separately linking **product_id** and **warehouse_id**.

Example Code:

python

```
# Product creation - no warehouse info here
product = Product(name=data['name'], sku=data['sku'], price=price)
db.session.add(product)
```

```
db.session.flush()

# Add inventory per warehouse if provided
if 'warehouse_id' in data:
   inventory = Inventory(
        product_id=product.id,
        warehouse_id=data['warehouse_id'],
        quantity=data.get('initial_quantity', 0)
   )
   db.session.add(inventory)
```

3. No Input Validation

Issue:

The code assumes all required fields exist.

Impact:

KeyError if something is missing → app crashes.

Fix:

Check required fields.

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
required = ['name', 'sku', 'price']
for field in required:
   if not data.get(field):
        return {"error": f"Missing required field: {field}"}, 400
```

4. Decimal Price Handling

Issue:

Price might not be a valid decimal/float.

Impact:

Wrong price format \rightarrow errors in calculation later.

Fix:

Convert and validate price.

Example Code:

python

```
try:
    price = float(data['price'])
except (ValueError, TypeError):
    return {"error": "Price must be a valid number"}, 400
```

5. Optional Fields Handling

Issue:

Some fields are optional, but code assumes they are mandatory.

Impact:

User can't create product without all details.

Fix:

```
Use .get() with defaults.
```

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
description = data.get('description', '') # Optional field with
default empty string
initial_quantity = data.get('initial_quantity', 0)
```

6. No Error Handling for DB Operations

Issue:

If DB fails at any point, app crashes without rollback.

Impact:

Partial data saved → inconsistent database.

Fix:

Use try/except with rollback.

Example Code:

python

```
try:
```

```
db.session.add(product)
```

```
db.session.commit()
except Exception as e:
   db.session.rollback()
   return {"error": "Database error: " + str(e)}, 500
```

7. Multiple Commits Causing Partial Save

Issue:

Two commits — product added first, inventory second.

Impact:

If the second commit fails, there's a floating product with no inventory.

Fix:

Use single transaction for both.

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
try:
    db.session.add(product)
    db.session.add(inventory)
    db.session.commit()
except Exception as e:
    db.session.rollback()
```

8. Unsafe Direct Dictionary Access

```
Issue:
```

```
Using data['field'] without checking \rightarrow crash if key missing.
```

Impact:

KeyError exceptions.

Fix:

```
Use .get().
```

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
warehouse_id = data.get('warehouse_id')
```

Business Logic Issues with Example Fixes

1. Multiple Warehouses Handling

Issue:

Business needs per-warehouse stock records.

Impact:

Without it, stock overview is wrong.

Fix:

Maintain Inventory table with (product_id, warehouse_id, quantity).

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
# Create product
product = Product(name=data['name'], sku=data['sku'], price=price)
db.session.add(product)
db.session.flush()

# Create inventory for each warehouse if provided
warehouses = data.get('warehouses', [])
for wh in warehouses:
   inventory = Inventory(
        product_id=product.id,
        warehouse_id=wh['id'],
        quantity=wh.get('quantity', 0)
   )
   db.session.add(inventory)
```

2. Allow Skipping Optional Fields

Issue:

User may not know all details at creation time.

Impact:

Prevents quick product entry.

Fix:

Allow missing optional fields with defaults.

Example Code:

```
python
```

```
description = data.get('description', 'No description available')
```

3. Give Clear Error Feedback

Issue:

User only gets "Product created" on success, no details for errors.

Impact:

Frustrating debugging.

Fix:

Return specific messages.

Example Code:

python

```
if existing:
    return {"error": f"SKU {data['sku']} already exists for product
{existing.name}"}, 409
```

4. API Security

Issue:

No authentication.

Impact:

Anyone can create products.

Fix:

Add login check or token verification.

Example Code:

python

from flask import request

```
def require_api_key(view_function):
    def decorated_function(*args, **kwargs):
        if request.headers.get('API-Key') != "SECRET123":
            return {"error": "Unauthorized"}, 401
            return view_function(*args, **kwargs)
        return decorated_function

@app.route('/api/products', methods=['POST'])
@require_api_key
def create_product():
    ...
```

Final Fixed API Endpoint

Import needed modules from flask import request from app import app, db # assuming app and db are already created from models import Product, Inventory # your database models

```
# 1. Get and validate request data
# ------
data = request.get_json() # Input from client in JSON format

# Check for mandatory fields
required_fields = ['name', 'sku', 'price']
for field in required_fields:
    if not data.get(field): # missing or empty
        return {"error": f"Missing required field: {field}"}, 400

# Validate price - must be a number (decimal allowed)
try:
    price = float(data['price'])
```

```
except (ValueError, TypeError):
  return {"error": "Price must be a valid number"}, 400
# 2. Business Rule - SKU uniqueness
# -----
existing_product = Product.query.filter_by(sku=data['sku']).first()
if existing product:
  return {
     "error": f"SKU '{data['sku']}' already exists for product '{existing product.name}"
  }, 409 # 409 Conflict
# -----
#3. Create Product record
# Note: Do not tie product to a single warehouse in Product table
product = Product(
  name=data['name'],
  sku=data['sku'],
  price=price,
  description=data.get('description', ") # Optional field
)
try:
  # Add product to session (not committed yet)
  db.session.add(product)
  db.session.flush() # so we can access product.id before commit
  # 4. Inventory - optional initial stock
  # -----
  # Products can exist in multiple warehouses
  # In request, allow either a single warehouse or multiple
  if 'warehouses' in data:
     # When user sends multiple warehouse info
    # Example data: "warehouses": [{"id": 1, "quantity": 50}, {"id": 2, "quantity": 20}]
    for wh in data['warehouses']:
       inventory = Inventory(
         product id=product.id,
         warehouse id=wh['id'],
         quantity=wh.get('quantity', 0)
       db.session.add(inventory)
  elif 'warehouse id' in data:
    # Single warehouse case
    inventory = Inventory(
       product id=product.id,
       warehouse id=data['warehouse id'],
```

```
quantity=data.get('initial quantity', 0)
    )
    db.session.add(inventory)
  # If no warehouse info given, product will exist without stock until added later
  # 5. Commit transaction
  # Both product and inventory are saved in ONE commit
  db.session.commit()
  # -----
  #6. Return success response
  # -----
  return {
    "message": "Product created successfully",
    "product id": product.id
  }, 201
except Exception as e:
  # Rollback changes if something failed (transaction safety)
  db.session.rollback()
  return {"error": f"Failed to create product: {str(e)}"}, 500
```

Assumptions I Made and Why:

1. A product can be stored in multiple warehouses

I assumed that a single product might be available in several warehouse locations at once. That's why I did not keep warehouse_id in the Product table and instead tracked stock in the Inventory table linking product_id and warehouse_id.

2. SKU must be unique across the whole system

I treated SKU as a unique identifier for products platform-wide. Before adding a new product, I check in the database to ensure the SKU is not already used, so stock data stays accurate.

3. Price should allow decimal values

I stored price as a number with two decimal places to handle amounts like ₹10.50. This prevents rounding errors during calculations and matches real-world pricing.

4. Some product fields are optional

I allowed certain fields like description or initial_quantity to be skipped while creating a product. This helps users quickly add products even if they don't

have all the details right away.

5. Product creation and inventory creation should be in the same database transaction

I put product and inventory inserts in one transaction so that either both are saved or neither is saved. This avoids having products with no stock record in case of an error.

6. The API should accept either one warehouse or multiple warehouses in the request

I designed the code so that the user can provide one warehouse's stock or multiple warehouses at the same time. This makes the API flexible for different use cases.

7. Error messages should be clear and specific

I made sure that if there's a problem like the SKU already existing—the response clearly tells the user what went wrong and how to fix it.

8. Database operations need proper error handling and rollback

I wrapped all database operations in try/except and rolled back on errors to keep the data consistent even if something fails during the process.

Part 2: Database Design

Step 1 – Missing Requirements I Identified

When I read the given requirements, I noticed some details are missing that any developer would need before finalising a database design.

Stock movement details – They said "track when inventory levels change" but they didn't mention:

- o Do we need to store who made the change (user ID)?
- Do we track why the change happened (sale, purchase, adjustment, transfer)?
- O Do we record before/after quantities?
- 2. **Bundle product details** They said some products can be "bundles", but:
 - Can a bundle contain bundles (nested bundles)?
 - Does a bundle have its own SKU separate from the SKUs of items inside it?
 - How do we track quantity for bundles vs individual products?
- 3. **Supplier relationship rules** They mention suppliers provide products to companies, but:
 - Can one product have multiple suppliers?
 - Do we need lead time and reorder quantity fields per supplier-product combination?
 - Do suppliers belong to specific companies or are they shared across companies?
- 4. Company-product relationship Products can be stored in warehouses, but:
 - Can two different companies have products with the same SKU?
 - o Is the SKU uniqueness global across companies or per company?
- 5. Warehouse additional info -

- O Do we need capacity limits?
- o Do we need address and contact details?
- 6. **Inventory adjustment timing** Do we need timezone handling for timestamps since clients could be in different locations?
- 7. **Currency handling** Price field: Is currency always the same across all companies, or should we store a currency code per price?
- 8. **Soft deletes / archiving** Do we ever actually delete products or just mark them as inactive?

Step 2 - Database Schema Design

Schema I designed to handle both the given requirements and my assumed missing data needs.

Companies

Column	Туре	Constraints	Notes
id	INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	Company ID
name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	Company name
created_a t	DATETIME	DEFAULT now	

Warehouses

Column	Type	Constraints	Notes
id	INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	Warehouse ID
company_id	INT	$FK \to companies.id$	Warehouse belongs to company

name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	
location	VARCHAR(255)	NULLABLE	Address or city
created_at	DATETIME	DEFAULT now	

Products

Column	Type	Constraints	Notes
id	INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	Product ID
company_id	INT	FK → companies.id	Product belongs to company
name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	
sku	VARCHAR(100)	NOT NULL, UNIQUE (per company or global depending)	Business unique code
price	DECIMAL(10,2)	NOT NULL	
currency_cod e	CHAR(3)	DEFAULT 'USD' / 'INR'	Currency
is_bundle	BOOLEAN	DEFAULT false	
description	TEXT	NULLABLE	
active	BOOLEAN	DEFAULT true	Soft delete

Inventory

	Column	Type	Constraints	Notes
id		INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	

product_id	INT	FK → products.id	
warehouse_id	INT	$FK \rightarrow warehouses.id$	
quantity	INT	DEFAULT 0	Current stock
UNIQUE(product_id, warehouse_id)		Prevents duplicate records for the same combo	

Inventory_Transactions

(Track changes in stock levels)

Column	Type	Constraints	Notes
id	INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	
inventory_id	INT	$FK \to inventory.id$	
change_qty	INT		Positive or negative
reason	VARCHAR(255)		Sale, purchase, adjust, transfer
changed_by_user_ id	INT	Nullable if automated	Who made change
created_at	DATETIME	DEFAULT now	

Suppliers

Column	Туре	Constraints	Notes
id	INT (PK)	AUTO INCREMENT	

company_id	INT	$FK \to companies.id$	Supplier belongs to company
name	VARCHAR(255)	NOT NULL	
contact_email	VARCHAR(255)	NULLABLE	
phone	VARCHAR(50)	NULLABLE	

Supplier_Product

(Many-to-many between suppliers and products)

Column	Туре	Constraints	Notes
supplier_id	INT	$FK \rightarrow suppliers.id$	
product_id	INT	$FK \rightarrow products.id$	
lead_time_days	INT	NULLABLE	Days to deliver
min_order_quantity	INT	NULLABLE	MoQ
PRIMARY KEY (supplier_id, product_id)			

Product_Bundles

(To store which products are part of a bundle)

Column	Typ e	Constraints	Notes
bundle_product_id	INT	FK → products.id	The bundle
child_product_id	INT	FK → products.id	The item

PRIMARY KEY (bundle_product_id, child_product_id)

Step 3 – Questions I Would Ask the Product Team

- 1. Should SKU uniqueness be global or per company?
- 2. What level of detail is needed for stock movements do we log *who*, *why*, and *before/after stock*?
- 3. Can a bundle contain other bundles or just normal products?
- 4. For suppliers:
 - Can one product have multiple suppliers?
 - Do we need to store supplier prices separately?
- 5. Should prices store currency, and can products have prices in multiple currencies?
- 6. Do we need warehouse capacity limits or geolocation fields?
- 7. How far back do we need to keep inventory transaction history?
- 8. Should deleted/inactive products still store past transaction data for reporting?
- 9. Do we need to track expiry dates or batch numbers for certain products?
- 10. Do we need user-level permissions on warehouses and products?

Step 4 – Why I Designed It This Way (My Reasons)

1. Separated Inventory from Product

I kept inventory in its own table linked to both product and warehouse because a product can exist in multiple warehouses with different quantities.

2. Transaction History Table

I added inventory_transactions because just storing current quantity isn't

enough — we should know how it changed over time.

3. Bundle Relationship Table

I didn't store bundles in the same table as their items because one bundle can hold many products, and one product can be in multiple bundles.

4. Supplier_Product Bridge Table

I made a many-to-many relationship for suppliers and products since in business one product can have multiple suppliers and one supplier can supply many products.

5. Indexes & Constraints

- UNIQUE(product_id, warehouse_id) in inventory to prevent duplicates
- UNIQUE(sku, company_id) if SKU is only unique inside a company; else
 UNIQUE(sku) globally
- o Foreign keys to maintain data integrity

6. Currency in Product Table

I included currency_code in case different companies trade in different currencies.

7. Soft Delete for Products

Set an active field instead of deleting rows, so past orders or transaction history can still link to them.

8. Datetime Fields

Every table that tracks changes or creation has timestamp fields so we can audit and report.

SQL DDL: StockFlow Database:

```
1. Companies Table
Purpose: Stores company-level data
==========*/
CREATE TABLE companies (
id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,
name VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,
created_at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
);
```

```
2. Warehouses Table
 Purpose: Stores company warehouses
 One company can have multiple warehouses
 CREATE TABLE warehouses (
 id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO INCREMENT,
 company_id INT NOT NULL,
 name VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,
 location VARCHAR(255),
 created at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT TIMESTAMP,
 FOREIGN KEY (company_id) REFERENCES companies(id)
);
3. Products Table
 Purpose: Stores all products for companies
 CREATE TABLE products (
 id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO INCREMENT,
 company id INT NOT NULL,
 name VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,
 sku VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
 price DECIMAL(10,2) NOT NULL,
 currency code CHAR(3) DEFAULT 'INR',
 is bundle BOOLEAN DEFAULT FALSE,
 description TEXT,
 active BOOLEAN DEFAULT TRUE,
 created at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT TIMESTAMP,
 -- SKU uniqueness per company (change to global unique if needed)
 UNIQUE(company id, sku),
 FOREIGN KEY (company id) REFERENCES companies(id)
);
4. Inventory Table
 Purpose: Stores stock quantities across warehouses
 */
CREATE TABLE inventory (
 id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO INCREMENT,
 product_id INT NOT NULL,
 warehouse id INT NOT NULL,
 quantity INT DEFAULT 0,
 UNIQUE(product id, warehouse id), -- Prevent duplicate rows
 FOREIGN KEY (product_id) REFERENCES products(id),
 FOREIGN KEY (warehouse id) REFERENCES warehouses(id)
);
```

```
5. Inventory Transactions Table
 Purpose: Tracks changes to stock with reasons
 CREATE TABLE inventory transactions (
 id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO INCREMENT,
 inventory_id INT NOT NULL,
 change_qty INT NOT NULL, -- Positive or negative change
 reason VARCHAR(255), -- e.g., sale, purchase, adjustment
 changed by user id INT,
 created at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT TIMESTAMP,
 FOREIGN KEY (inventory_id) REFERENCES inventory(id)
);
6. Suppliers Table
 Purpose: Stores supplier contact info
 CREATE TABLE suppliers (
 id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO INCREMENT,
 company id INT NOT NULL,
 name VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,
 contact email VARCHAR(255),
 phone VARCHAR(50),
 FOREIGN KEY (company id) REFERENCES companies(id)
);
7. Supplier Product Table
 Purpose: Many-to-many between suppliers and products
 */
CREATE TABLE supplier product (
 supplier id INT NOT NULL,
 product_id INT NOT NULL,
 lead time days INT,
 min order quantity INT,
 PRIMARY KEY (supplier id, product id),
 FOREIGN KEY (supplier_id) REFERENCES suppliers(id),
 FOREIGN KEY (product id) REFERENCES products(id)
);
8. Product Bundles Table
 Purpose: Stores bundle-product relationships
 */
CREATE TABLE product_bundles (
 bundle product id INT NOT NULL,
 child_product_id INT NOT NULL,
```

```
quantity_per_bundle INT NOT NULL,
PRIMARY KEY (bundle_product_id, child_product_id),
FOREIGN KEY (bundle_product_id) REFERENCES products(id),
FOREIGN KEY (child_product_id) REFERENCES products(id)
);
```

Part 3: API Implementation Alright — now we're moving into Part 3: Low Stock Alerts API, and I'll do it exactly in the "I am doing this work" style so it reads like your own case study submission, not generic AI text. I'll go step-by-step:

Step 1 – Assumptions I Made

Before writing the API code, I had to make some assumptions because not all details were available.

what I am assuming and why:

1. Low stock threshold is stored per product

I assumed there's a column low_stock_threshold in the products table so we can check alert conditions individually.

2. Recent sales activity

I assumed we have a sales or sales_orders table with a sale_date field. For this task, I consider "recent" as **sales in the last 30 days**.

This is a filter so inactive products are not shown in alerts.

3. Stock quantity

I'm pulling stock from the inventory table we designed in Part 2. Since products can exist in multiple warehouses, I'm calculating **current stock per warehouse**.

4. Supplier info

I assumed each product can have one or more suppliers, but for the alert we only return **one preferred supplier** (first linked supplier found in supplier_product).

5. Days until stock-out

I assumed this is calculated based on **average daily sales in the last 30 days** and the current stock. If avg daily sales = 0, we set it as null or "N/A".

6. Multi-warehouse support

The same product may appear in multiple warehouses for the same company, so the alert list will have **one entry per warehouse with low stock**.

7. Company filter

I assume company ID is passed in the URL, and we must only look at **products and** warehouses belonging to that company.

8. Inactive products excluded

Products with active = false are ignored in alerts.

Step 2 – Python Flask Implementation

API endpoint I wrote in Flask using SQLAlchemy:

```
from flask import request
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from app import app, db
```

```
from models import Product, Warehouse, Inventory, Supplier,
Supplier_Product, Inventory_Transactions
@app.route('/api/companies/<int:company_id>/alerts/low-stock',
methods=['GET'])
def get_low_stock_alerts(company_id):
    Returns low-stock alerts for a given company.
    Business rules implemented:
    - Low stock threshold varies by product (stored in
product.low_stock_threshold)
    - Only alert for products with recent sales (last 30 days)
    - Handles multiple warehouses per company
    - Includes supplier info for reordering
    try:
        # Step 1: Set the "recent activity" cut-off date
        recent_cutoff = datetime.now() - timedelta(days=30)
        # Step 2: Query products for the company that are active
        # Join to inventory and warehouses
        results = (
            db.session.query(
                Product.id.label("product_id"),
                Product.name.label("product_name"),
                Product.sku.
                Warehouse.id.label("warehouse_id"),
                Warehouse.name.label("warehouse_name"),
                Inventory.quantity.label("current_stock"),
                Product.low_stock_threshold.label("threshold")
            )
            .join(Inventory, Product.id == Inventory.product_id)
            .join(Warehouse, Inventory.warehouse_id == Warehouse.id)
            .filter(Product.company_id == company_id)
            .filter(Product.active == True)
            .filter(Warehouse.company_id == company_id)
            .all()
        )
        alerts = []
```

```
for row in results:
            # Step 3: Average daily sales in the last 30 days for
this product
            avg_daily_sales = (
                db.session.query(
                    db.func.coalesce(
db.func.sum(Inventory_Transactions.change_qty * -1), 0
                    ) / 30.0
                .join(Inventory, Inventory_Transactions.inventory_id
== Inventory.id)
                .filter(Inventory.product_id == row.product_id)
                .filter(Inventory_Transactions.created_at >=
recent_cutoff)
                .filter(Inventory_Transactions.change_qty < 0) #</pre>
negative = sales/outflow
                .scalar()
            )
            # Step 4: Skip products with no recent sales
            if avg_daily_sales == 0:
                continue
            # Step 5: Check if current stock is below threshold
            if row.current_stock < (row.threshold or ♥):
                # Calculate days until stockout
                days_until_stockout = None
                if avg_daily_sales > 0:
                    days_until_stockout = int(row.current_stock /
avg_daily_sales)
                # Step 6: Get preferred supplier info
                supplier_info = (
                    db.session.query(Supplier)
                    .join(Supplier_Product, Supplier.id ==
Supplier_Product.supplier_id)
                    .filter(Supplier_Product.product_id ==
row.product_id)
                    .first()
```

```
)
            supplier_data = None
            if supplier_info:
                supplier_data = {
                    "id": supplier_info.id,
                    "name": supplier_info.name,
                    "contact_email": supplier_info.contact_email
                }
            # Step 7: Append alert
            alerts.append({
                "product_id": row.product_id,
                "product_name": row.product_name,
                "sku": row.sku,
                "warehouse_id": row.warehouse_id,
                "warehouse_name": row.warehouse_name,
                "current_stock": row.current_stock,
                "threshold": row.threshold,
                "days_until_stockout": days_until_stockout,
                "supplier": supplier_data
            })
    return {
        "alerts": alerts.
        "total_alerts": len(alerts)
    }, 200
except Exception as e:
    return {"error": str(e)}, 500
```

Step 3 – How I Handled Edge Cases

I thought about what could go wrong in real use, and here's how I addressed it:

 No recent sales → I skip the product in alerts, because business rule says "recent activity only".

- Threshold not set → I treat None as 0 so those products won't accidentally flood alerts.
- 3. Average sales = $0 \rightarrow$ Days until stockout is set to None.
- 4. **No supplier** → Supplier object in alert is set to null instead of breaking.
- 5. **Multiple warehouses** → Query joins inventory + warehouse and produces one alert per warehouse.
- 6. Inactive products → Filtered out by Product.active == True.
- 7. **Division by zero** \rightarrow If avg_daily_sales is 0, I don't divide.

Step 4 – My Approach

- Filtering first I wanted to avoid looping through huge data unnecessarily. So I filtered by:
 - o Company ID
 - Active products
 - Joined warehouses within that company
- Calculating average daily sales I based it on 30 days of negative stock movements (sales).
- Warehouse-specific logic I didn't sum across all warehouses; instead, I check alert status per product per warehouse. This gives finer alerts.
- Supplier info I joined through supplier_product so I can get supplier name/email for reorders.
- **Transaction safety** It's a read-only endpoint, but still wrapped in a try/except to handle unexpected DB errors.