🧾 **Session Summary: HRIS Take-Home Project (Late Night Work Log)**  
🕐 **Time Block**  
Started: ~6:00PM  
Wrapped: ~12:15AM  
Total Duration: ~6 hours  
Goal: Finalize project infrastructure, validate endpoints, complete README polish

✅ **Work Completed Tonight**

1. **API Development & Validation**
   * Finalized app.py with two production-ready endpoints:
     + /hiring-metrics (average time-to-hire by department)
     + /applicants/status-summary (applicant counts by status, with filter)
   * Introduced shared error wrapper safe\_query() for structured responses
   * Confirmed resilience and flexibility in handling missing filters and DB errors
2. **Automation & Cron Prep**
   * Created scheduler.py for orchestration of ingestion and transformation
   * Logged pipeline execution results to pipeline\_log.txt
   * Integrated optional alerting with send\_email\_alert() fallback
   * Designed pipeline to be cron-friendly with exit-on-failure logic
3. **Testing Suite Expansion**
   * Completed test\_api.py with validation for:
     + Endpoint reachability
     + Payload structure
     + Query param filtering logic
   * Extended pytest logic from prior test\_views.py into full API coverage
4. **Architectural Decisions Summary**
   * Drafted and refined a comprehensive section explaining all core design choices
   * Covered SQLite selection, Excel input, views, joins, auditing, testing, and automation strategy
   * Integrated into README.md after API Endpoints for clarity and impact
5. **README Cleanup**

* Removed redundant sections and duplicate headings
* Reorganized flow for logical reading: Setup → Flow → API → Architecture → Testing → Automation → Improvements
* Moved mermaid diagram into ## Data Flow and linked correctly from Table of Contents
* Reviewed formatting, consistency, and syntax across sections

🧠 **Strategic Enhancements**

* Standardized naming across scripts and artifacts for audit clarity
* Converted test suites to mirror production behavior and prevent silent failure
* Tuned README tone and hierarchy to satisfy both engineering and HR stakeholders

📊 **Updated Completion Estimate**  
→ ~95–97% Complete  
Remaining: Static visualizations + final README screenshot or hosted preview

Let me know how you want to tackle the HR dashboard or summary chart tomorrow. For now? Hit that pillow knowing you built something robust, transparent, and submission-ready. Sleep well—you’ve earned it.