

**Group 8**

# SylliAI

Using AI models with large context windows to analyze your syllabi.

APRIL 22, 2025



# THE PROBLEM

## Teachers...

- Need an easy way to share course policies
- Don't want to waste time after "Silly week"

## Students...

- Have questions about their syllabus
- Need to accurately understand it

PROGRAMMING TEACHING AND LEARNING

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## The Syllabus Isn't Just a Piece of Paper: How It Can Set the Tone for Student Success

Stephanie Speicher | Assistant Professor, Weber State University

As a new era of higher education emerges, faculty have to continue to create intellectual and emotional growth to help student development and success.

Recently, respected NYU Professor Maitland Jones Jr. was fired after students complained that his organic chemistry course was too hard. In an interview, the professor noted, "It was written down in black and white on the course syllabus." The episode challenges us as instructors to ask foundational questions about craft and mission. And it might even encourage thoughtful reexamination of our syllabi, which is for many the vehicle by which we translate our academic aspirations and intent into a course.

After all, a syllabus serves as much more than a course guide. Beyond the list of assignments, grading system, rules and regulations, a good syllabus spells out the fundamental responsibilities and expectations for both students and the professor.

Upon careful examination, we might find that, while the traditional syllabus has served well enough for many years, it may reinforce tired power dynamics that no longer square with our academic intent. Rather than acting as a catalyst for communication, understanding and shared expectations, the traditional syllabus stands as an obstacle between the professor and student.

What if instead we used the syllabus as an opportunity to instill within each student a sense of belonging? What if, rather than a contract of adhesion, we used the syllabus to foster a deeper connection to the course, the instructor and other students?

[🔗 EvoLLLution Article](#)

# Our Solution

Students need to easily understand their syllabi

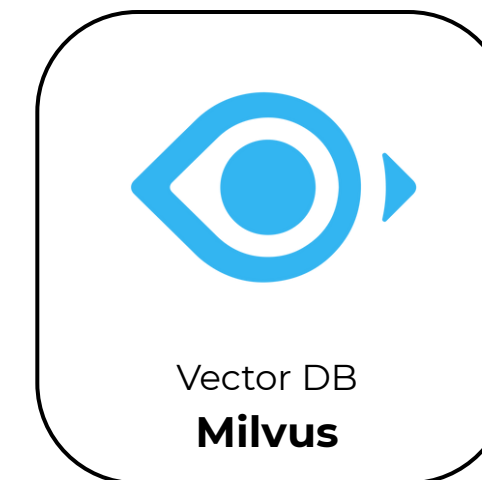
Students need to easily access all their syllabi

No more flipping through Canvas Pages

AI can easily summarize the syllabi

# Architecture + Tech Stack

We designed an MVP that solves the problem in the most efficient way possible, prioritizing an accurate, simpler architecture over a more complex one.



# Why not RAG?

## Non-ideal Chunking

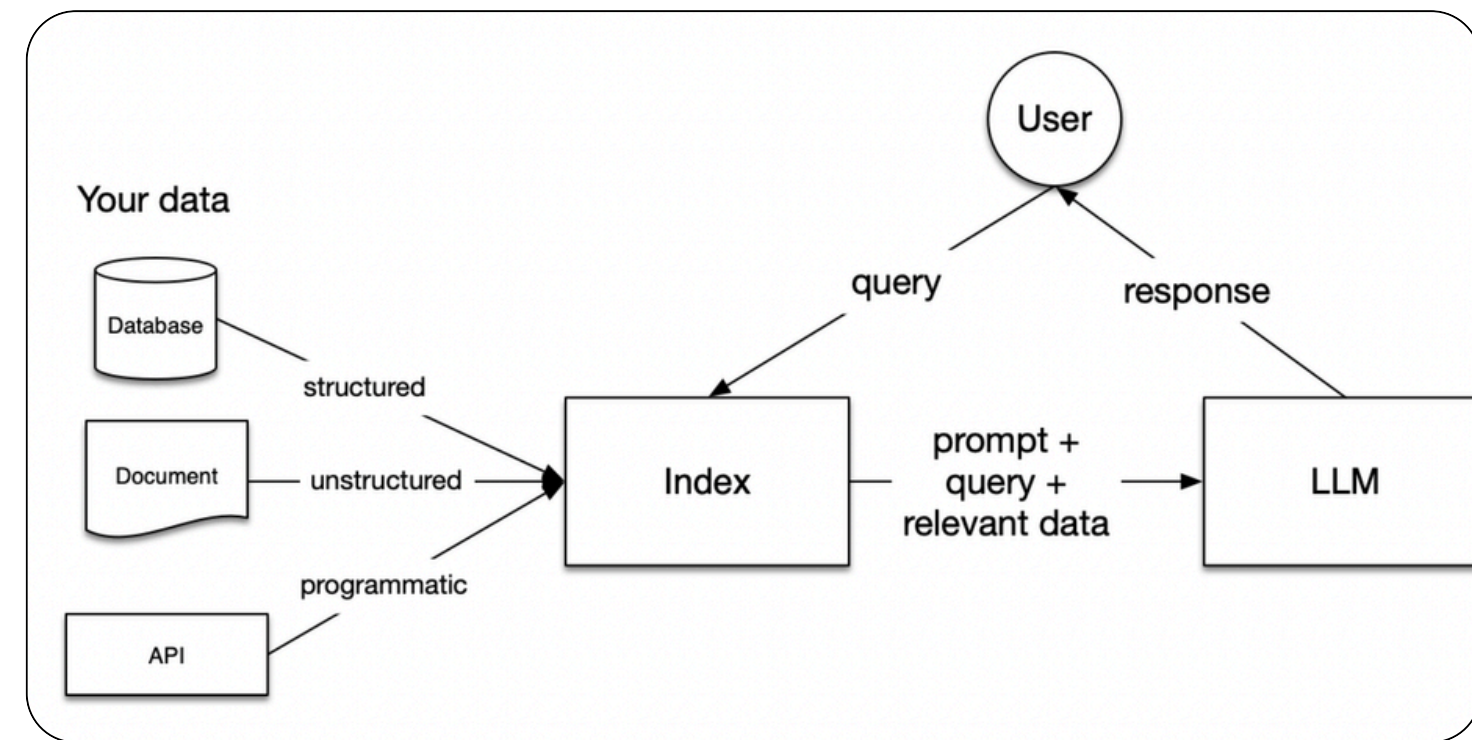
Chunking with syllabi loses context

## Larger Context Window

Gemini 2.5 Pro released

## Slower Prompt Overhead

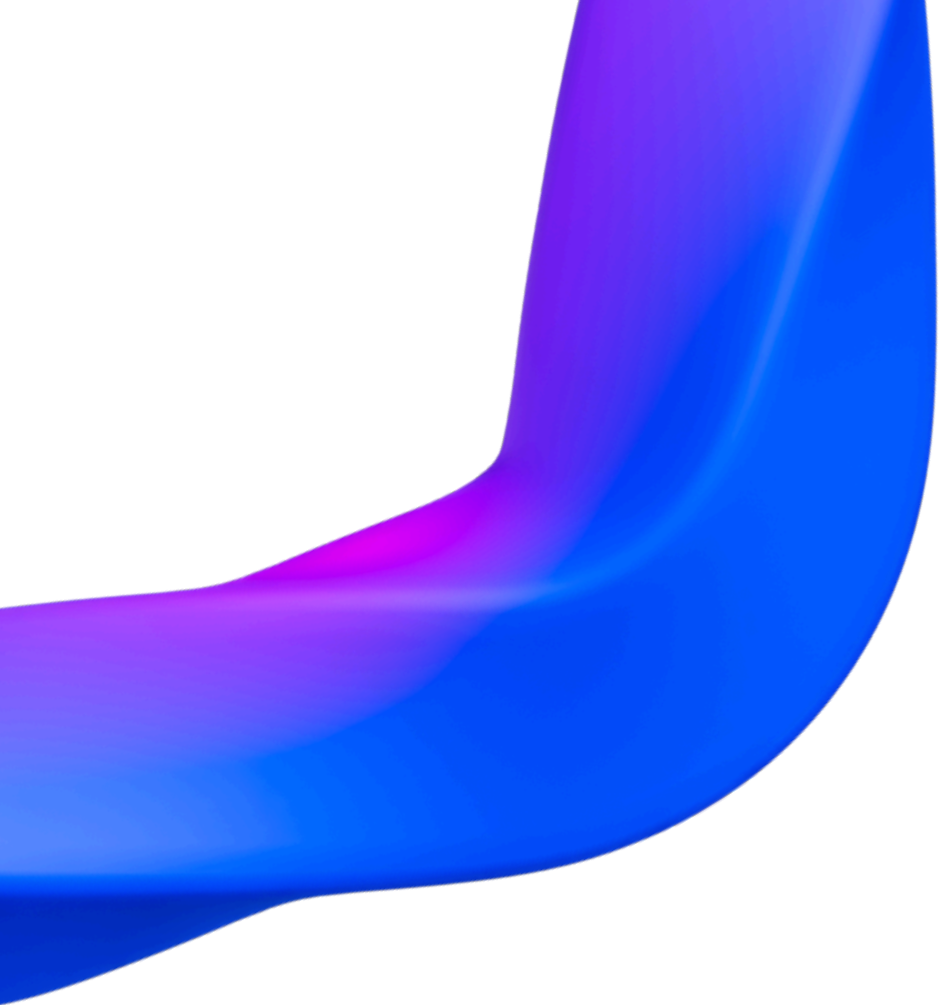
Querying a Vector Database takes time




# Challenges Faced

- **Communication barriers:** We did not have a controlled communication system
- **Gitlab Features:** We weren't used to using GitLab
- **File Formats:** We couldn't process common syllabus types





# The Demo

 <https://mighty-beach-05502-33477b0b4d40.herokuapp.com/>

