LEAD CONVERSION PREDICTION SYSTEM - TECHNICAL REPORT Prepared By: Aryan Mohapatra

Table of Contents						
1. Project Introduction						
2. Business Context and Objective						
3. Data Sources and Storage						
4. Data Extraction						
5. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)						
6. Feature Engineering and Preprocessing						
7. Model Training and Evaluation						
8. MLflow for Experiment Management						
9. Data Drift Detection						
10. Flask Application for Predictions						
11. AWS Setup and Integration						
12. Performance Evaluation and Business Impact						
13. Future Enhancements						
14. Conclusion and Summary						

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1. Project Introduction

In today's competitive digital marketing and sales environment, businesses collect a massive volume of leads through various online and offline channels. However, the lack of intelligent lead evaluation systems often results in inefficient resource allocation, where sales teams spend time and effort pursuing leads that are unlikely to convert. To address this challenge, we have developed a **Lead Conversion Prediction System** an end-to-end machine learning solution designed to forecast the likelihood of a lead turning into a customer. This system enables organizations to identify high-potential leads quickly, streamline sales operations, and focus efforts on leads that are most likely to bring value.

The core idea behind this system is to use historical behavioural data and demographic attributes of leads to generate a predictive score indicating conversion probability. By applying supervised machine learning algorithms, the solution categorizes leads into high, medium, or low priority tiers. These insights allow businesses to prioritize outreach, personalize engagement strategies, and ultimately increase conversion rates. From data ingestion to model training, deployment, and continuous monitoring, this project represents a full-stack MLOps pipeline aligned with enterprise-scale deployment standards.

The system leverages modern cloud-based infrastructure and open-source tools to ensure scalability, reliability, and ease of maintenance. Data is sourced from PostgreSQL and stored in Amazon S3, processed using AWS Glue and Redshift, and modelled using SageMaker. The entire workflow is automated via Apache Airflow (MWAA), and predictions are served through a lightweight Flask application. By combining predictive modelling with automation, monitoring, and cloud-native architecture, this project not only enhances operational efficiency but also lays the foundation for future AI-driven decision-making capabilities in the sales domain.

2. Business Context and Objective

In most B2B and B2C environments, businesses generate large volumes of leads through multiple touchpoints such as online ads, website forms, webinars, and outbound campaigns. However, only a small fraction of these leads converts into actual customers. The absence of a reliable lead qualification system causes a critical challenge for sales teams—how to distinguish promising leads from the rest. As a result, significant time, money, and human resources are often spent pursuing leads that offer minimal return on investment. Without a data-backed prioritization framework, sales strategies become reactive, inconsistent, and prone to inefficiencies.

The objective of this project is to introduce a **predictive analytics-driven** lead scoring system that can assess the probability of conversion for every incoming lead. By utilizing a supervised machine learning approach, we aim to analyse historical lead behaviour, engagement metrics, and demographic attributes to identify patterns that correlate with successful conversions. This scoring system will classify leads into categories such as "High Potential," "Moderate Potential," and "Low Potential," enabling sales teams to tailor their outreach strategies, follow-ups, and timing accordingly. The model is trained on labelled historical data, where the target variable indicates whether a lead eventually converted.

To achieve this goal, we built an end-to-end solution integrating modern data science techniques with robust MLOps practices. The system not only predicts conversion likelihood but also automates key stages of the workflow from data extraction and preprocessing to model deployment and monitoring. It provides sales stakeholders with actionable insights through real-time inference APIs and user-friendly dashboards. Ultimately, this system addresses a core business need: increasing conversion rates while optimizing the use of sales and marketing resources. It bridges the gap between raw lead data and actionable strategy, transforming guesswork into precision-driven lead management.

3. Data Sources and Storage

The data powering this lead conversion prediction system originates from a PostgreSQL database that stores records from various lead generation sources. These include online forms, customer interaction logs, digital campaigns, and CRM entries. Capturing this data in its raw form is essential to ensure that the machine learning pipeline can train on realistic, high-volume, and high-variability inputs. To facilitate seamless and reliable access to this data, we developed an ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) utility named extract_lead_data.py.

This Python-based script is engineered for portability, maintainability, and automation within MLOps pipelines. It uses the psycopg2 library to establish a secure connection to the PostgreSQL instance. The script dynamically reads connection parameters and paths from environment variables such as DB_HOST, DB_NAME, and DATA_DIR. This allows it to be easily executed in various environments, from local development setups to Docker containers and production-scale Airflow DAGs. Once connected, it runs a basic SQL query (SELECT * FROM lead_data) to retrieve the entire dataset, loads the results into a pandas DataFrame, and stores the output as a structured CSV file named **Lead Scoring.csv** in a designated data directory.

The modular design of this script—with its clean separation between connection logic, query execution, and file output—ensures future extensibility. For instance, enhancements could include incremental extraction using date filters, real-time logging, or more complex data transformations during export. In addition to its standalone utility, the script is fully integrated into the Airflow DAG as a task, enabling automatic triggering during scheduled workflows. This ensures the ML pipeline always has access to the most current lead data for analysis, drift detection, or model training. This foundational extraction step establishes data consistency, version control, and reusability across the system.

4. Data Extraction Scripts

To reliably extract structured lead data from PostgreSQL and prepare it for use in the machine learning pipeline, we developed a Python-based script named 'postgres_data_extractor.py'. This script securely connects to the database, retrieves all records from the 'lead_data' table, and saves them as a CSV file in a configurable directory. It uses environment variables to ensure modularity, scalability, and deployment across different environments (local or production).

```
Script: 'postgres data extractor.py'
import os
import psycopg2
import pandas as pd
from dotenv import load dotenv
# Optional: Load environment variables from a .env file
(useful for local dev)
load dotenv()
def fetch postgres data():
  """Establish connection and fetch lead data from
PostgreSQL."""
  try:
    conn = psycopg2.connect(
      host=os.getenv('DB HOST', 'localhost'),
      dbname=os.getenv('DB NAME',
'lead management'),
      user=os.getenv('DB USER', 'postgres'),
      password=os.getenv('DB_PASS', 'password'),
      port=os.getenv('DB PORT', '5432')
```

```
print("PostgreSQL connection established.")
    query = "SELECT * FROM lead data;"
    df = pd.read sql query(query, conn)
    return df
  except Exception as e:
    print("Error connecting to PostgreSQL:", e)
    return None
  finally:
    if conn:
      conn.close()
      print("Connection closed.")
def save to csv(df, filename='Lead Scoring.csv'):
  """Save DataFrame to CSV in specified
directory."""
  output dir = os.getenv('DATA DIR', 'data/')
  os.makedirs(output dir, exist ok=True)
  file_path = os.path.join(output_dir, filename)
  df.to csv(file path, index=False)
  print(f"Data exported to: {file path}")
if __name__ == "__main__":
  data = fetch postgres data()
  if data is not None:
    save to csv(data)
```

Environment Variables Required:

- DB_HOST
- DB_PORT
- DB NAME
- DB_USER
- DB PASS

DATA_DIR

Install Required Packages:

pip install psycopg2-binary pandas python-dotenv

Run Script:

python postgres_data_extractor.py

5. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

The goal of Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) is to investigate the structure, quality, and behavioral insights of the lead dataset before applying any transformations or modeling. Our dataset comprises **9,240 records** and **37 columns**, including one binary target variable, Converted, which indicates whether a lead was successfully converted (1) or not (0). EDA helped uncover critical patterns, detect data quality issues, and guide feature engineering strategies.

5.1 Data Summary and Structure

The dataset contains a blend of numerical and categorical features. Key numerical attributes include:

- TotalVisits
- Total Time Spent on Website
- Page Views Per Visit

Categorical attributes include:

Lead Source

- Lead Origin
- Last Activity
- Specialization
- Country
- Lead Profile, among others.

The target distribution is slightly imbalanced:

- ~61.5% of leads did **not convert**
- ~38.5% of leads were successfully converted

Though not severely skewed, this imbalance must be considered when selecting metrics like precision, recall, and AUC during model evaluation.

• df.describe() #This descibes the data							Python
	Lead Number	Converted	TotalVisits	Total Time Spent on Website	Page Views Per Visit	Asymmetrique Activity Score	Asymmetrique Profile Score
count	9240.000000	9240.000000	9103.000000	9240.000000	9103.000000	5022.000000	5022.000000
mean	617188.435606	0.385390	3.445238	487.698268	2.362820	14.306252	16.344883
std	23405.995698	0.486714	4.854853	548.021466	2.161418	1.386694	1.811395
min	579533.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	7.000000	11.000000
25%	596484.500000	0.000000	1.000000	12.000000	1.000000	14.000000	15.000000
50%	615479.000000	0.000000	3.000000	248.000000	2.000000	14.000000	16.000000
75%	637387.250000	1.000000	5.000000	936.000000	3.000000	15.000000	18.000000
max	660737.000000	1.000000	251.000000	2272.000000	55.000000	18.000000	20.000000

5.2 Missing Value Analysis

Several columns have significant missing values:

- Lead Quality has ~52% missing
- Asymmetrique Activity/Profile Scores & Index have ~45% missing
- Other columns such as Tags, Country, and Occupation show 25–40% missingness

This analysis indicates a need for intelligent imputation or feature elimination. Features with excessive missingness but low correlation with the target may be dropped, while others with potential predictive power may be imputed using statistical or business logic.

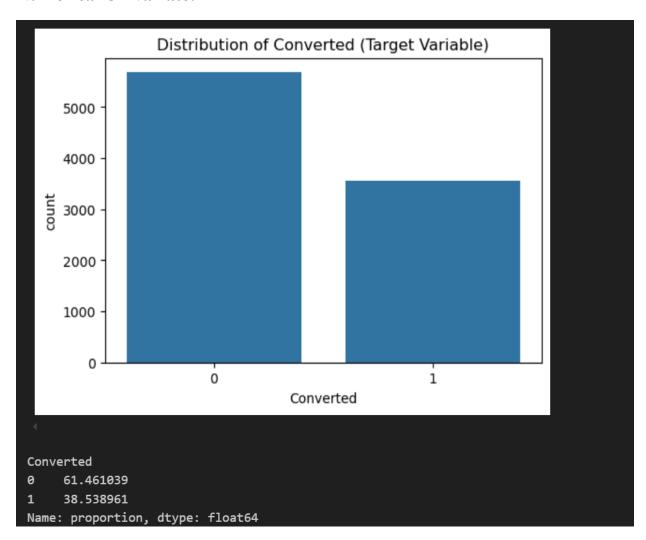
<pre>df.isnull().sum() # This counts the numb</pre>	er of null	values present in the dataset
Prospect ID	0	
Lead Number	0	
Lead Origin	0	
Lead Source	36	
Do Not Email	0	
Do Not Call	0	
Converted	0	
TotalVisits	137	
Total Time Spent on Website	0	
Page Views Per Visit	137	
Last Activity	103	
Country	2461	
Specialization	1438	
How did you hear about X Education	2207	
What is your current occupation	2690	
What matters most to you in choosing a course	2709	
Search	0	
Magazine	0	
Newspaper Article	0	
X Education Forums	0	
Newspaper	0	
Digital Advertisement	0	
Through Recommendations	0	
Receive More Updates About Our Courses	0	
Tags	3353	
Asymmetrique Profile Score	4218	
I agree to pay the amount through cheque	0	

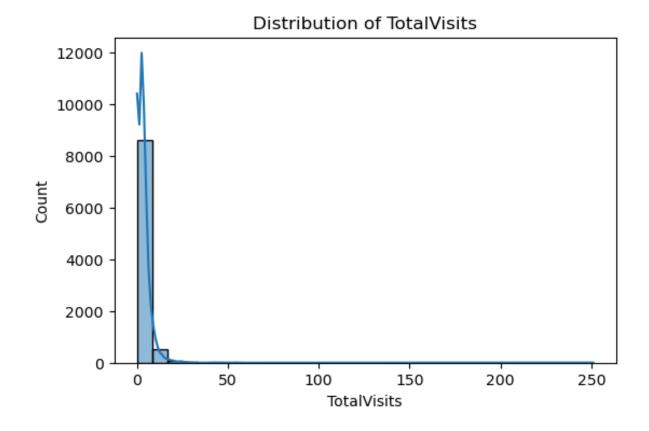
5.3 Target vs. Feature Behaviour (Univariate and Bivariate Insights)

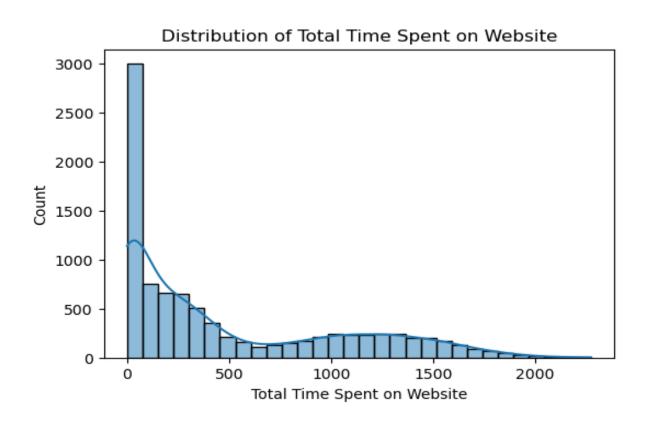
Univariate analysis revealed:

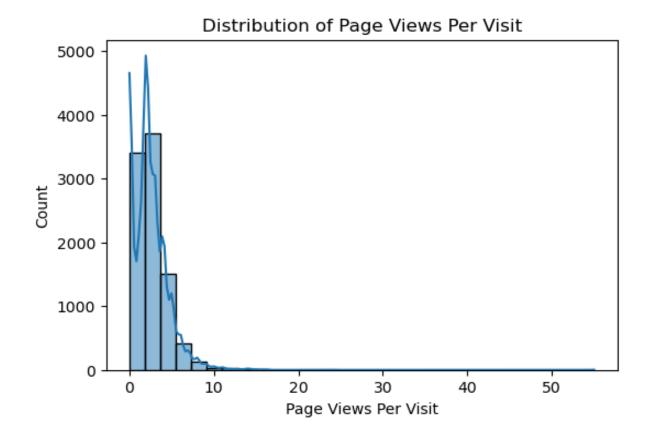
- Numerical features (TotalVisits, Page Views Per Visit, Time Spent) are highly right-skewed
- Lead Origin and Lead Source are **dominated by few categories**, e.g., "Landing Page Submission" and "API"

Numerical Univariate:

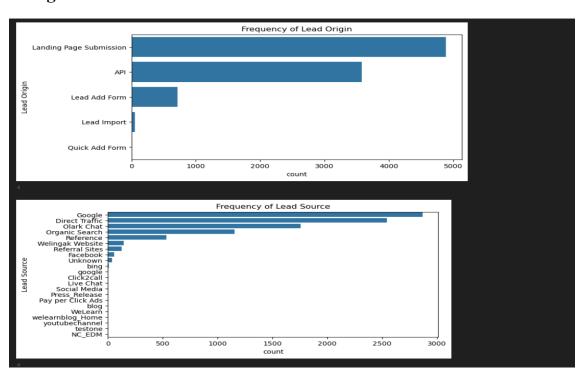






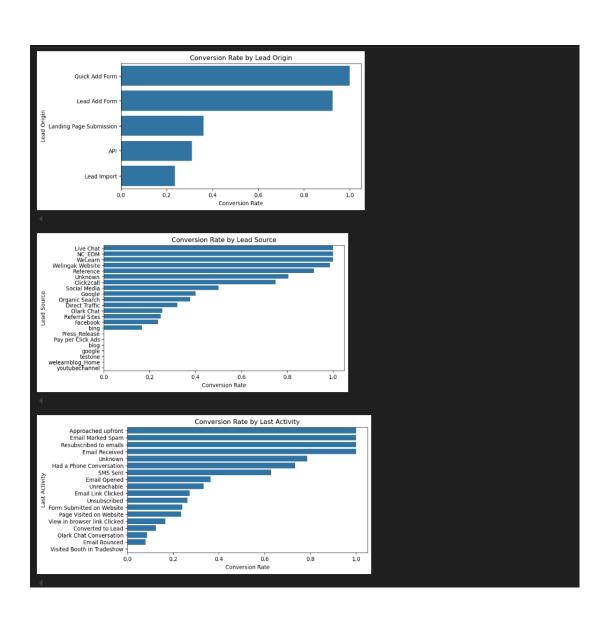


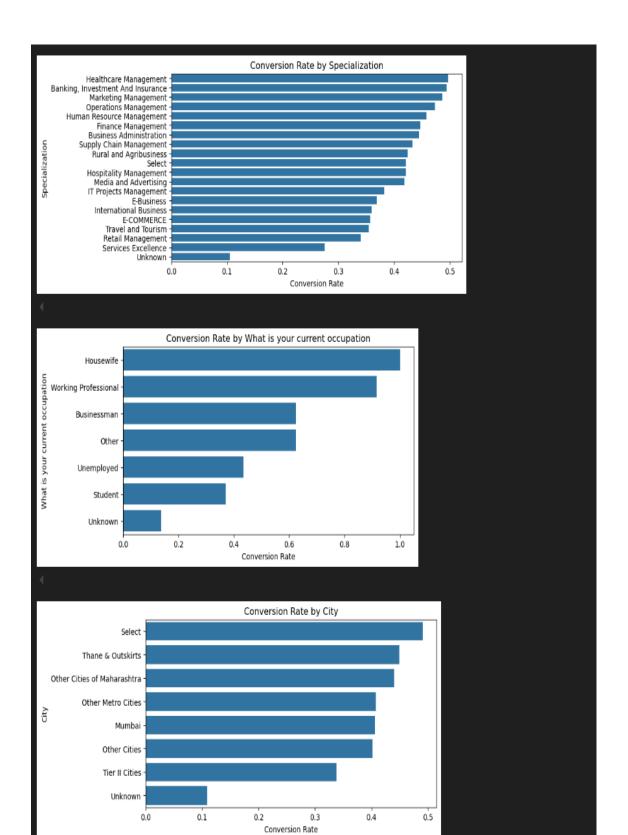
Categorical Feature Univariate:



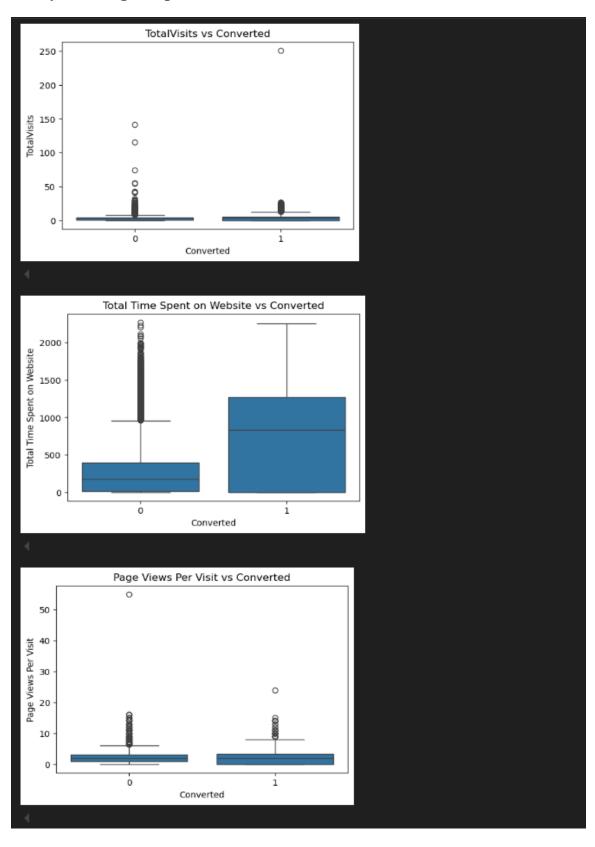
Bivariate insights showed:

- Leads who converted generally spent more time on the website
- Conversion rate varied significantly across sources; for instance, Lead Origin from landing pages had higher conversions compared to API submissions
- Boxplots confirmed that higher TotalVisits and Time on Website were associated with increased likelihood of conversion



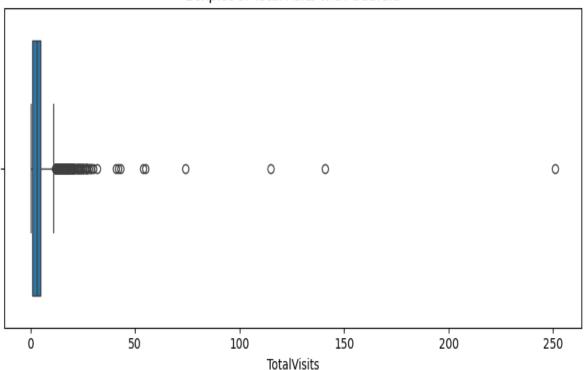


Analysis Using Boxplot:

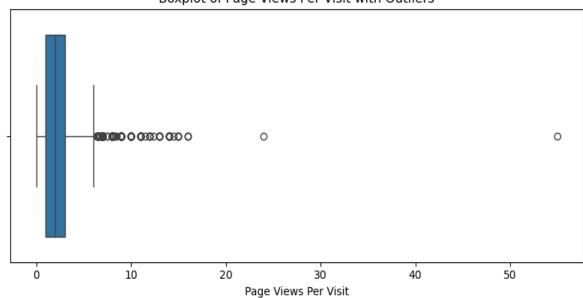


Outliers Detection Using Boxplot

Boxplot of TotalVisits with Outliers



Boxplot of Page Views Per Visit with Outliers



5.4 Correlation and Skewness Insights

- Total Time Spent on Website showed moderate correlation with the target
- High inter-feature correlation was observed between:
 - TotalVisits
 - o Page Views Per Visit
 - Total Time Spent

These variables also exhibited high **skewness**:

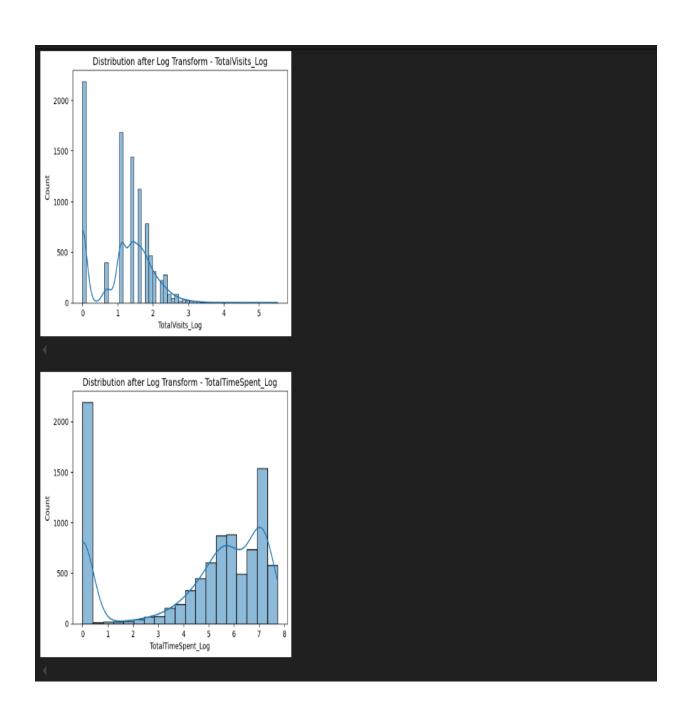
• TotalVisits: 1.58

Page Views Per Visit: 3.22

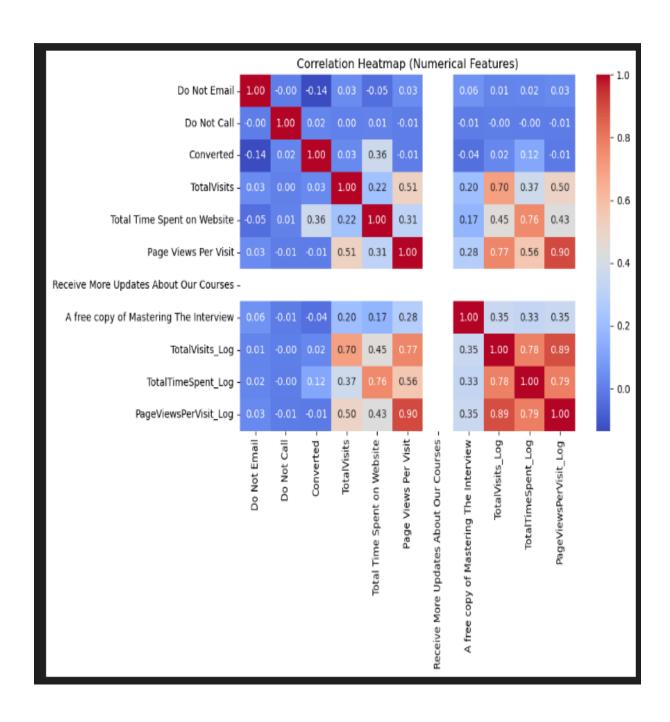
To reduce skew and stabilize variance, a **log transformation** was recommended.

```
Skewness in Numerical Features:
Do Not Call
                                           67.959544
TotalVisits
                                           20.061230
Do Not Email
                                            3.110947
Page Views Per Visit
                                           2.898954
Total Time Spent on Website
                                           0.956450
A free copy of Mastering The Interview
                                           0.808899
Converted
                                           0.471058
Receive More Updates About Our Courses
                                           0.000000
TotalVisits_Log
                                           -0.160649
PageViewsPerVisit_Log
                                           -0.300001
TotalTimeSpent_Log
                                           -0.772383
dtype: float64
Highly Skewed Features (|skew| > 1):
Do Not Call
                        67.959544
TotalVisits
                        20.061230
Do Not Email
                         3.110947
Page Views Per Visit
                        2.898954
dtype: float64
```

After Applying Log Transformation



Correlation Heatmap:



5.5 Multicollinearity and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)

Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) analysis exposed **significant multicollinearity**:

- PageViewsPerVisit Log: VIF ~25.8
- TotalVisits Log: VIF ~11.0
- TotalTimeSpent_Log: VIF ~10.1

Such high VIFs indicate redundancy that can negatively impact model generalization and interpretability. Thus, dimensionality reduction is necessary.

```
Variance Inflation Factor (VIF):
                                               VIF
                                 Feature
                   PageViewsPerVisit_Log 25.828274
                         TotalVisits_Log 10.976967
                      TotalTimeSpent_Log 10.142626
                    Page Views Per Visit 10.125192
             Total Time Spent on Website
                                          3.315352
                             TotalVisits
                                         2.745036
  A free copy of Mastering The Interview
                                         1.164829
                            Do Not Email 1.018524
                             Do Not Call
                                          1.000545
  Receive More Updates About Our Courses
                                                NaN
```

5.6 Recommendations

Based on the EDA, the following actions are advised:

- **Drop or combine high-VIF features** to mitigate multicollinearity:
 - Suggested drops: PageViewsPerVisit_Log, Page Views Per Visit
- Apply log transformation to reduce skewness in features like:
 - o Total Visits, Page Views Per Visit, Total Time Spent
- Impute missing values using:
 - Median or mode imputation
 - Business rule-based defaults
- Eliminate non-informative columns or those with low variance and high missingness

5.7 Next Steps

Following the EDA, we now have a clear path for feature refinement:

- 1. Apply necessary transformations (log scaling, encoding)
- 2. Address missing values via imputation or feature exclusion
- 3. Reduce multicollinearity by removing redundant features
- 4. Feed the cleaned data into the **preprocessing pipeline**

These actions will enhance model robustness and prepare the dataset for accurate, interpretable predictive modeling.

6. Feature Engineering and Preprocessing

Before training machine learning models, it is critical to clean, transform, and prepare raw input data to ensure optimal performance and generalizability. The preprocessing pipeline in this project incorporates several transformation steps to handle missing values, skewness, outliers, categorical variability, and scale discrepancies across features. It follows a modular, reusable design using sklearn's Pipeline and ColumnTransformer frameworks for structured transformation.

6.1 Libraries and Dependencies

The following major Python packages were used for preprocessing:

- **pandas** and **numpy**: for data manipulation, filtering, and numerical computation
- scikit-learn (sklearn):
 - Pipeline, ColumnTransformer: for chaining transformation steps
 - o SimpleImputer: to handle missing data
 - o StandardScaler: for feature scaling
 - OneHotEncoder: to encode categorical variables
 - FunctionTransformer: to apply custom log transformations
 - BaseEstimator, TransformerMixin: to create a custom binary mapper

This setup allows for reproducibility, compatibility with grid search/tuning, and easy integration with downstream model training.

6.2 Key Preprocessing Steps

1. Column Elimination

Features with excessive missingness or low predictive relevance were

removed. These included Tags, Lead Profile, Lead Quality, and all Asymmetrique score/index fields. Additionally, identifiers such as Prospect ID and Lead Number were dropped.

2. Missing Value Treatment

- Categorical features were imputed with "Unknown" to preserve their presence while maintaining interpretability.
- Binary features were mapped to numeric format using a custom transformer. Values like "Yes" and "No" were converted to 1 and 0 respectively.
- Numerical features were imputed using the median to mitigate the effect of outliers.

3. Rare Category Simplification

Categorical features like Lead Source, Last Activity, Specialization, and City were simplified by consolidating categories that appeared in less than 1% of the dataset under a new label "Other". This reduced noise and dimensionality during one-hot encoding.

4. Outlier Removal (IQR Method)

Outliers in key numeric columns such as TotalVisits, Page Views Per Visit, and Total Time Spent on Website were removed using the Interquartile Range (IQR) technique. This helped in normalizing distributions and avoiding model distortion caused by extreme values.

5. Log Transformation for Skewness

Features with right-skewed distributions were transformed using log1p (logarithm of 1 + x). This reduced skewness and stabilized variance for features such as:

- TotalVisits
- Page Views Per Visit
- Total Time Spent on Website

6. Encoding Categorical Features

Categorical features were encoded using OneHotEncoder with drop='first' to avoid dummy variable trap. Unknown categories were handled gracefully to ensure compatibility with unseen data during inference.

7. Feature Scaling

Numerical features were scaled using StandardScaler to bring them into a uniform range, thereby improving model convergence and comparability.

6.3 Final Output and Pipeline Structure

The final preprocessing pipeline outputs:

- A ColumnTransformer that applies tailored transformations to different feature groups
- A cleaned and transformed feature matrix X
- A binary target vector y representing conversion labels

This preprocessing setup not only enhances model accuracy but also ensures consistency across training, validation, and production deployments.

7. Model Training and Evaluation

To identify the most effective predictive algorithm for sales lead conversion, we experimented with three popular supervised learning classifiers: Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and XGBoost. The models were evaluated based on multiple performance metrics including Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score. Each model was trained on pre-processed data using consistent train-test splits to ensure fair comparison. The evaluation aimed to balance both overall accuracy and class-wise recall, especially for the positive class (converted leads), which holds the most business value.

7.1 Logistic Regression

Logistic Regression performed reasonably well with an **accuracy of 78.4%** and an **F1-score of 0.743**. While it delivered high precision for the non-converted class, its recall for the converted class was slightly lower, indicating it missed some positive cases:

- Precision (Converted=1): 0.68
- Recall (Converted=1): 0.81
- **F1-Score** (**Converted=1**): 0.74

This performance suggests that while Logistic Regression captures some important conversion patterns, its linear nature might be insufficient to model complex, non-linear interactions in the data.

Training LogisticRegression LogisticRegression - Accuracy: 0.7839 F1: 0.7430							
ecision	recall f	1-score	support				
0.87	0.77	0.81	832				
0.68	0.81	0.74	519				
		0.78	1351				
0.78	0.79	0.78	1351				
0.80	0.78	0.79	1351				
	on - Accur ecision 0.87 0.68	on - Accuracy: 0.783 ecision recall f 0.87 0.77 0.68 0.81	on - Accuracy: 0.7839 F1: 0. ecision recall f1-score 0.87 0.77 0.81 0.68 0.81 0.74 0.78 0.78 0.79 0.78				

7.2 Random Forest Classifier

Among the three models, **Random Forest** yielded the best performance:

• Accuracy: 81.4%

• **F1-Score:** 0.7709

• Precision (Converted=1): 0.73

• Recall (Converted=1): 0.82

The ensemble nature of Random Forest allows it to capture non-linear dependencies and feature interactions effectively. It also exhibited a balanced performance across both classes, making it suitable for production deployment where both false positives and false negatives carry business cost.

Training RandomForestClassifier RandomForestClassifier - Accuracy: 0.8135 F1: 0.7709 precision recall f1-score support								
0 1	0.88 0.73	0.81 0.82	0.84 0.77	832 519				
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.80 0.82	0.81 0.81	0.81 0.81 0.82	1351 1351 1351				

7.3 XGBoost Classifier

XGBoost, another tree-based model known for its regularization strength and handling of missing values, delivered competitive results:

• Accuracy: 80.1%

• **F1-Score:** 0.7512

• Precision (Converted=1): 0.72

• Recall (Converted=1): 0.78

Though slightly underperforming compared to Random Forest, XGBoost remained robust and efficient. Further hyperparameter tuning could potentially improve its performance in future iterations.

Training XGBC1 XGBClassifier			F1: 0.7512 f1-score	support	
0 1	0.86 0.72	0.81 0.78	0.83 0.75	832 519	
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.79 0.81	0.80 0.80	0.80 0.79 0.80	1351 1351 1351	

7.4 Final Model Selection and Registration

After evaluating all three models, **RandomForestClassifier** was selected as the final model due to its superior F1-score and balanced class-wise metrics. The model was saved locally and registered in MLflow under the name "Sales_Conversion_Model". The MLflow registry assigned it **version 5** and promoted it to the **Staging** stage for downstream tasks like batch prediction and deployment.

8. MLflow for Experiment Management

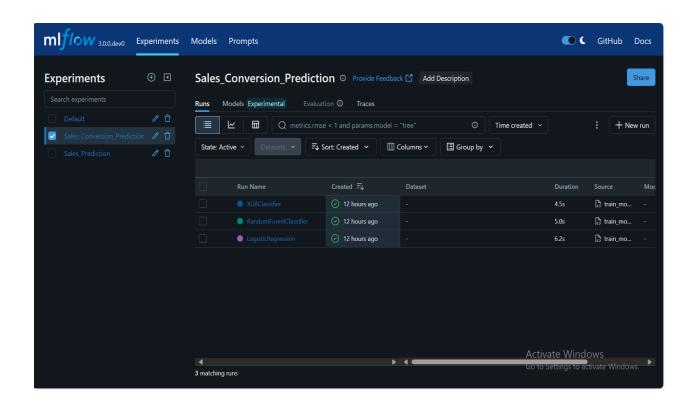
Managing machine learning experiments efficiently is critical in any MLOps pipeline, especially when multiple models, hyperparameters, datasets, and metrics are involved. To streamline this process, we integrated **MLflow**, an open-source platform for managing the complete machine learning lifecycle. MLflow allows us to track experiments, log artifacts, compare model performance, and version control production-ready models with minimal overhead.

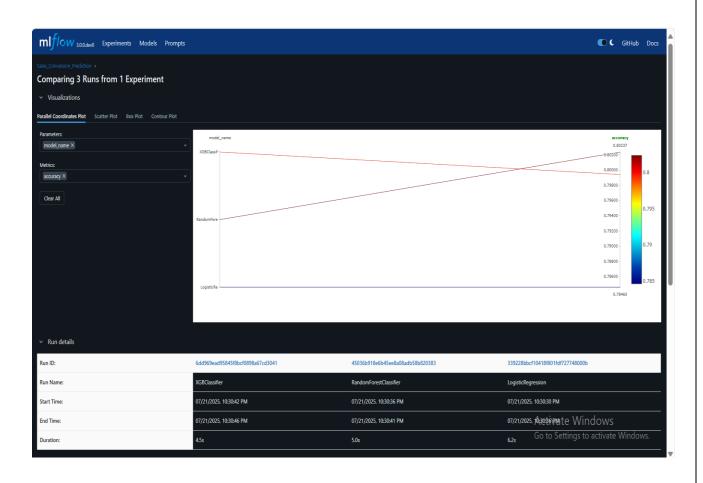
8.1 Why MLflow?

Traditional experiment tracking methods—such as manual logging or spreadsheets—are error-prone and unscalable. MLflow centralizes the tracking process by offering four core components:

- Tracking: Record parameters, metrics, artifacts, and logs for every model run
- **Projects:** Standardize reproducible workflows using predefined entry points
- **Models:** Package models for various deployment formats (e.g., Python, REST API)
- **Model Registry:** Version control for staging, production, and archived models

By using the **Tracking API**, we automatically logged key metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score for each model (Logistic Regression, Random Forest, XGBoost). The **Model Registry** component allowed us to promote the best model to staging and prepare it for downstream tasks like inference and deployment.





8.2 Model Logging and Versioning

Each model training script was instrumented with MLflow's logging functions to:

- Save input parameters (e.g., model name, hyperparameters)
- Log training metrics (e.g., accuracy, F1-score)
- Register the best-performing model as "Sales_Conversion_Model" in the **Model Registry**

Multiple versions were created as we refined our pipeline:

- Version 1–3: Early prototypes with incomplete features
- Version 4: Finalized RandomForestClassifier with F1 of 0.7709
- Version 5: Updated version with cleaned inputs and staging transition

This allowed seamless tracking of model lineage and comparison across runs for reproducibility and rollback purposes.

8.3 Benefits to Workflow

Integrating MLflow delivered several key advantages:

- **Transparency:** Every run is recorded with timestamped logs, artifacts, and outcomes
- **Reproducibility:** Models can be retrained or deployed from any run by referencing the run ID
- Collaboration: Teams can compare results and register models without relying on external logs
- **Deployment-Ready Artifacts:** The best model is packaged and version-controlled for deployment to APIs or batch pipelines

By integrating MLflow into our model training workflow, we not only ensured a robust experimentation framework but also laid the groundwork for scalable and production-grade machine learning operations.

9. Data Drift Detection

In a dynamic business environment, the patterns and characteristics of incoming data often evolve over time due to changes in user behaviour, marketing strategies, economic conditions, or data collection methods. This phenomenon known as **data drift** can degrade the performance of machine learning models in production if not monitored and addressed proactively. As part of our MLOps pipeline, we implemented an automated **data drift detection module** to identify significant deviations in the input feature distributions and trigger retraining workflows when necessary.

9.1 What is Data Drift?

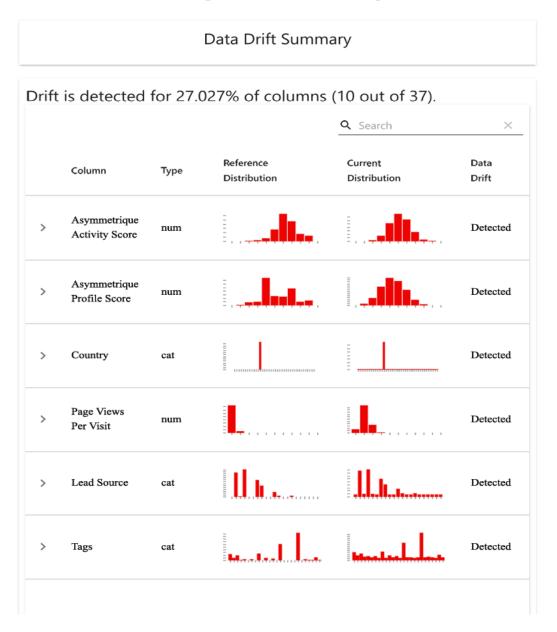
Data drift refers to changes in the distribution of input data between the model's training phase and real-time or batch inference phase. These changes can occur gradually or suddenly and often lead to reduced model accuracy and business impact if left unchecked. Unlike concept drift (where the relationship between inputs and outputs changes), data drift solely concerns the shift in feature values over time.

9.2 Drift Detection Strategy

Our drift detection pipeline compares the latest incoming dataset (e.g., daily or weekly batch) with the baseline training dataset using multiple statistical methods:

- **Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) Test** for continuous features: Detects distributional differences between the training and inference datasets.
- Population Stability Index (PSI):
 Measures feature-wise stability; values above 0.2 indicate significant drift.
- Chi-Square Test for categorical features: Evaluates shifts in categorical feature distributions.

Each test provides a drift score or p-value, which is evaluated against a configurable threshold. Features exceeding the threshold are flagged as "drifted," and results are compiled into an HTML report for review.



9.3 Automation and Response

The drift detection logic is integrated into the Airflow DAG that orchestrates the entire ML pipeline. The automation behaves as follows:

No Drift Detected:

The existing deployed model continues serving predictions. No retraining is triggered.

DriftDetected:

A warning is raised in the logs, and the pipeline automatically triggers a **model retraining** job using the latest dataset. The new model is evaluated, logged to MLflow, and optionally promoted to staging or production if its performance surpasses the existing model.

This strategy ensures model freshness, adaptability, and sustained accuracy even in evolving data environments.

9.4 Benefits

- **Performance Assurance:** Maintains model accuracy over time by reacting to real-world data changes.
- **Automation:** Seamlessly integrated with Airflow for hands-free monitoring and retraining.
- **Visibility:** Generates readable HTML reports that summarize which features have drifted and why.
- Business Reliability: Reduces risk of using outdated or misaligned models in customer-facing systems.

By integrating drift detection, we future-proofed the model lifecycle and enhanced the resilience of our ML deployment pipeline.

10. Flask Application for Predictions

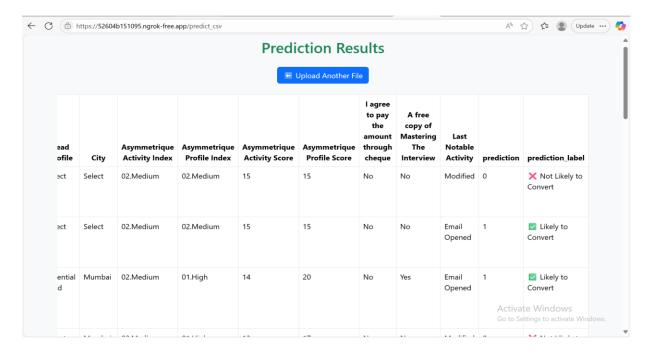
To make our trained machine learning model accessible for real-time and batch predictions, we developed a lightweight **Flask-based web application**. This interface serves as a bridge between business users or external systems and the trained model, allowing users to upload lead data and receive conversion probability scores with ease.

10.1 Purpose and Design

The goal of the Flask application is to:

- Enable quick lead scoring by accepting .csv files as input
- Process incoming data using the same preprocessing pipeline used during training
- Predict the likelihood of each lead converting (i.e., output class 0 or 1)
- Display or download the prediction results in a user-friendly format

The application was designed with a simple UI for demonstration purposes, and a RESTful architecture that can easily be extended to enterprise-grade APIs.



10.2 Key Features

- Batch Upload: Users can upload a .csv file containing new lead data.
- **Preprocessing Integration:** The same preprocessing pipeline (e.g., log transformation, encoding) is applied to ensure consistency.
- **Prediction Output:** After prediction, results are displayed in a tabular format and can optionally be downloaded as a new file.
- **Ngrok Integration (for testing):** During development, the app was exposed publicly via ngrok to test API access from remote clients.

10.3 Workflow

- 1. User visits the Flask web interface.
- 2. Uploads a CSV file with new leads (matching expected schema).
- 3. The application loads the saved model (best_model_RandomForestClassifier.pkl) and preprocessing pipeline.
- 4. Data is cleaned and transformed.
- 5. Predictions are generated and returned as either:
 - On-screen table
 - Downloadable CSV file with Predicted Conversion column

This approach allows rapid evaluation of incoming leads without manual scoring or Excel-based heuristics.

10.4 Code and Deployment

The application uses standard Python libraries such as:

- flask for web routing and rendering
- pandas and numpy for data manipulation
- pickle or joblib to load the serialized model

• sklearn for the pipeline

For local deployment:

pip install flask pandas scikit-learn

python app.py

For remote testing:

ngrok http 5000

10.5 Business Impact

This UI empowers non-technical stakeholders (e.g., sales teams or marketing analysts) to score lead lists quickly and efficiently. It also enables easy API-based integration into existing CRMs or customer engagement tools. By reducing the time to insight, this component significantly improves operational agility.

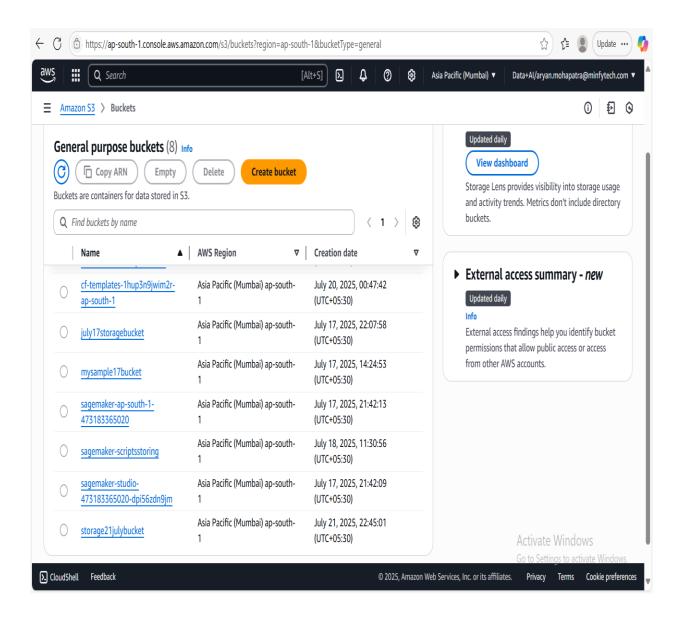
11. AWS Setup and Integration

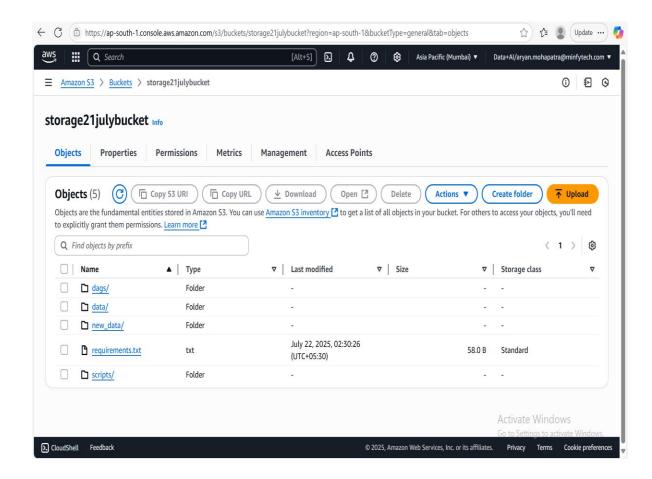
Our project leverages a comprehensive suite of AWS services to build a resilient, automated, and production-ready MLOps pipeline. Each AWS component from data ingestion to deployment is orchestrated in a seamless flow, ensuring scalability, modularity, and end-to-end traceability. Below is a breakdown of each service's role in the system, followed by the full workflow and architecture.

Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service):

Amazon S3 serves as the central data repository. It stores all raw input files, processed datasets, model artifacts, pipeline scripts, drift reports, and HTML summaries. S3 also acts as the communication medium across services like Glue, Redshift, and SageMaker. The bucket is structured with subfolders such as:

- data/ Original and cleaned training datasets
- new_data/ Incoming data for scoring or retraining
- scripts/ All Python scripts used in Airflow DAGs
- models/ Serialized ML models
- reports/ Drift detection outputs and evaluation summaries





AWS Glue:

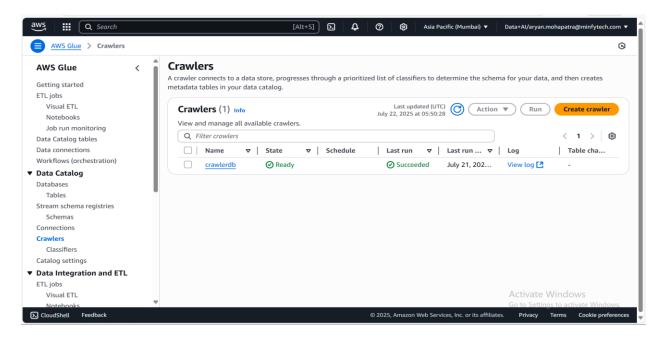
AWS Glue is a **serverless ETL (Extract, Transform, Load)** service used to clean, reshape, and prepare data. It reads CSV data from S3, applies transformation logic using PySpark or Python scripts, and stores the cleaned output into Redshift. The jobs are triggered automatically as part of the Airflow workflow, ensuring fresh data is always available for training or prediction.

AWS Glue Crawler

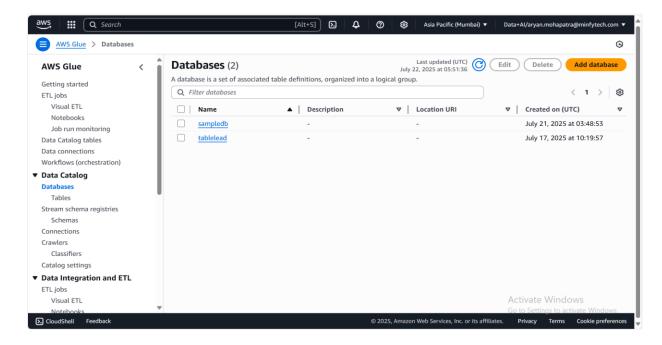
The Glue Crawler is configured to automatically scan datasets uploaded to S3 and extract schema metadata. This metadata is stored in the Glue Data Catalog, which simplifies downstream ETL operations. The crawler is often

scheduled to run upon detecting new files in new_data/, enabling schema evolution tracking and consistent ingestion.

Creation of Crawler:



Database Creation:



IAM Policies and Role:

• IAM Role for AWS Glue (GlueServiceRole)

Used by: AWS Glue Jobs & Crawlers

```
{
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Principal": { "Service": "glue.amazonaws.com" },
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
}
```

Policies to Attach:

```
"Effect": "Allow",
  "Action": ["s3:*"],
  "Resource": ["arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket/*"]
},
{
  "Effect": "Allow",
  "Action": ["logs:*"],
  "Resource": "*"
},
{
  "Effect": "Allow",
  "Action": ["redshift:*"],
  "Resource": "*"
}
```

• IAM Role for Amazon Redshift COPY/UNLOAD (RedshiftS3AccessRole)

```
Used by: Redshift Cluster for S3 read
```

{

```
"Effect": "Allow",
    "Principal": { "Service": "redshift.amazonaws.com" },
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
   Policies to Attach:
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": ["s3:GetObject", "s3:ListBucket"],
    "Resource": [
     "arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket",
     "arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket/*"
• IAM Role for SageMaker (SageMakerExecutionRole):
  Used by: SageMaker Studio or SageMaker training jobs
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Principal": { "Service": "sagemaker.amazonaws.com" },
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
   Policies to Attach:
     "Effect": "Allow",
     "Action": [
      "s3:*",
      "logs:*",
      "cloudwatch:*"
     "Resource": [
      "arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket",
```

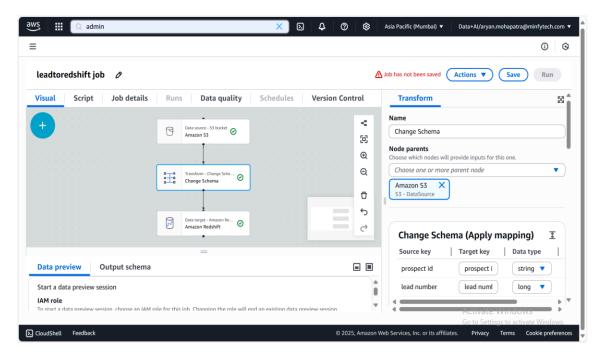
```
• IAM Role for MWAA (AirflowExecutionRole)
  Used by: Apache Airflow (MWAA)
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Principal": { "Service": "airflow.amazonaws.com" },
    "Action": "sts:AssumeRole"
  Policies to Attach:
    "Effect": "Allow",
    "Action": [
     "s3:*",
     "glue:*",
     "redshift:*",
     "sagemaker:*",
     "logs:*"
    ],
    "Resource": [
     "arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket",
     "arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket/*",
```

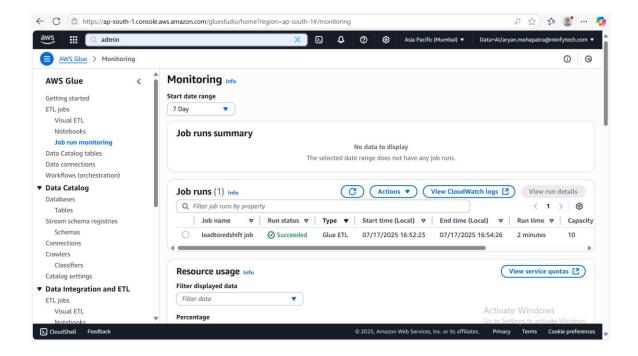
"arn:aws:s3:::storage21julybucket/*"

AWS ETL Role:

The typical ETL flow looks like this:

- 1. New data is uploaded to S3 (new_data/ folder)
- 2. The Glue Crawler detects the new file and updates the Data Catalog
- 3. A Glue ETL Job picks up the schema and processes the data
- 4. Transformed data is written into Redshift for consumption



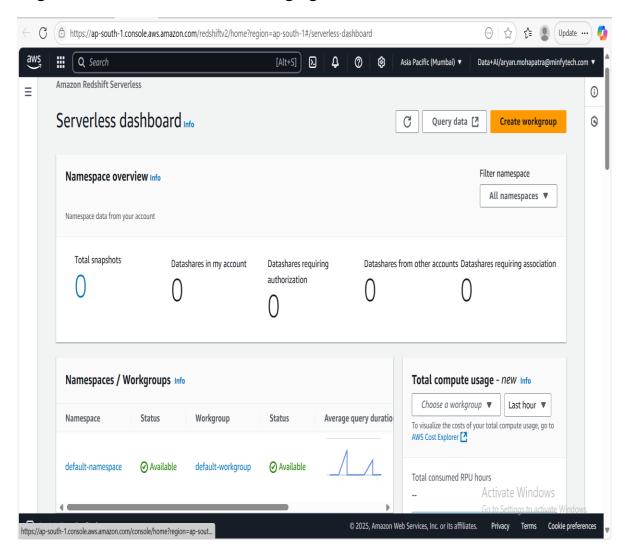


AWS Redshift:

Redshift acts as the **central data warehouse**. Cleaned and transformed datasets are loaded from Glue into Redshift for:

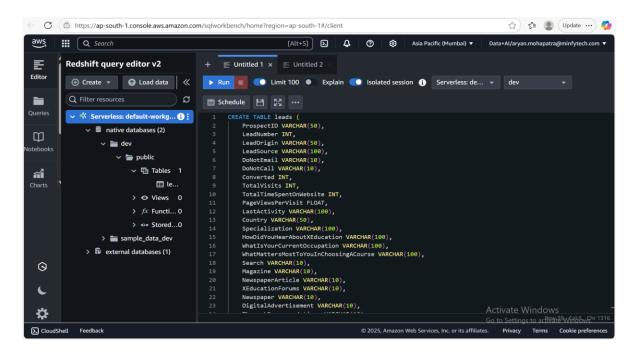
- Exploratory data analysis (EDA)
- · SQL-based reporting and filtering
- Access by SageMaker Studio for training

Its scalable storage and querying ability allow for interactive analytics over large volumes of data without managing infrastructure.

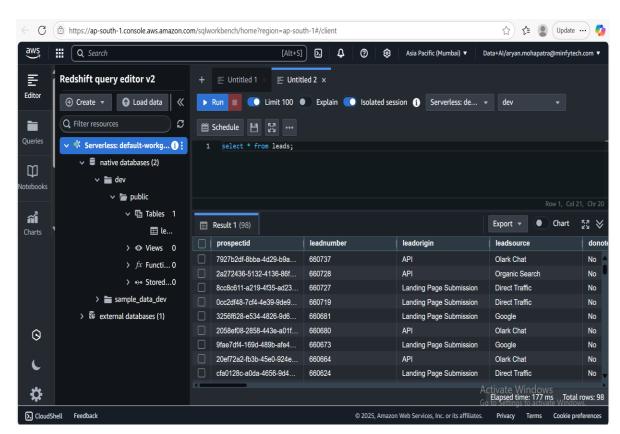


Query Dashboard:

Table Creation:

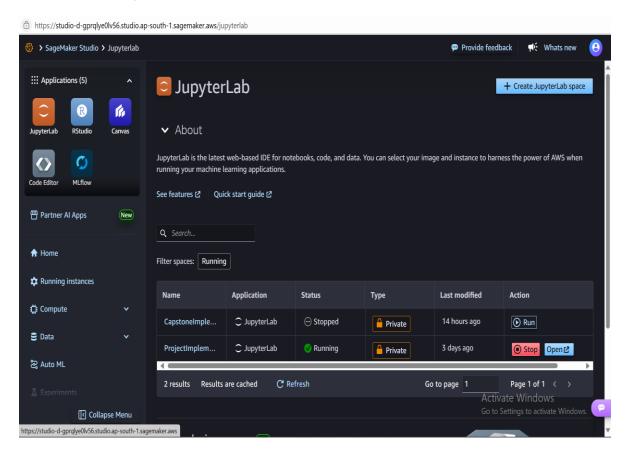


Schema After Table is Created:



Amazon SageMaker Studio:

SageMaker Studio provides a **Jupyter-based ML development environment** where data scientists perform EDA, preprocessing, model training, and evaluation. Notebooks fetch data directly from Redshift, process it using scikit-learn pipelines, and save trained models to S3. Hyperparameter tuning, cross-validation, and performance tracking are all done within SageMaker.



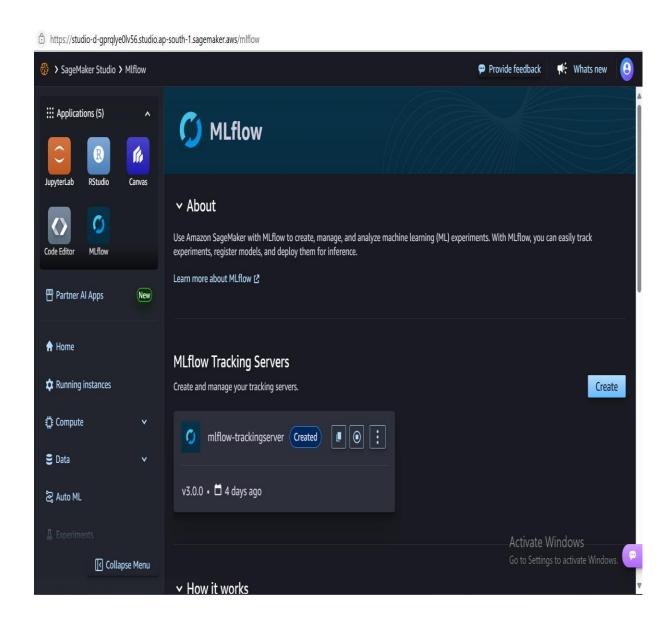
MLflow on SageMaker

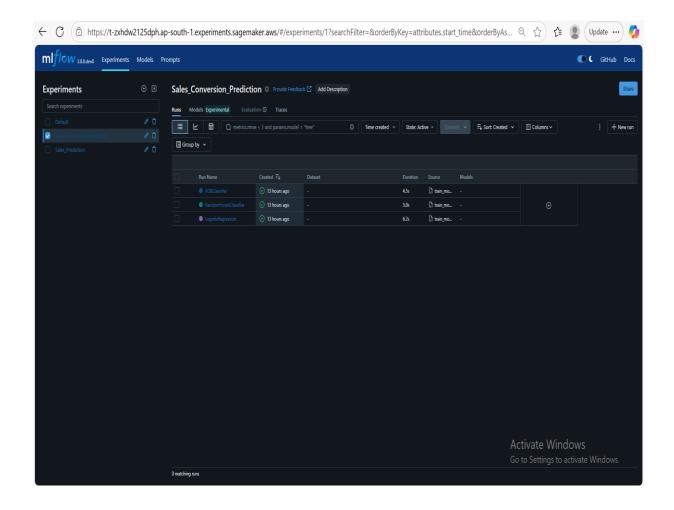
ML flow is integrated within SageMaker Studio to **track all model experiments**. For every model training run, the following are logged:

- Input parameters (model type, hyperparameters)
- Performance metrics (accuracy, F1-score, AUC)

- Output artifacts (confusion matrix, ROC curves)
- Model files (.pkl)

The best model is registered in the **MLflow Model Registry**, allowing for seamless versioning and deployment.



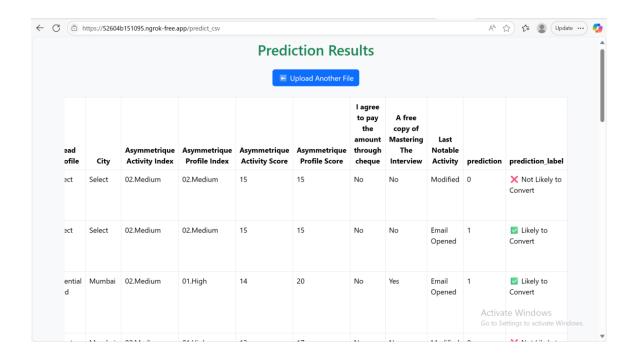


Flask + Ngrok for Inference

To serve predictions to end-users or batch processes, we built a lightweight **Flask web application** that:

- Accepts .csv file uploads
- Loads the best model and preprocessing pipeline
- Returns a CSV or web-based result with predictions

During development, **Ngrok** is used to expose this Flask app securely to the public internet, enabling real-time testing and demonstration.

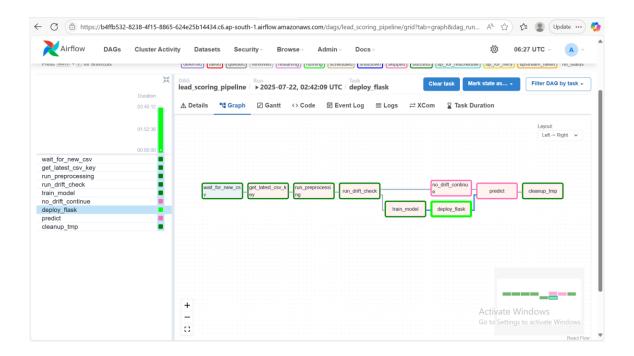


MWAA (Managed Workflows for Apache Airflow)

MWAA handles the **automation and orchestration** of the entire pipeline. It runs a DAG (Directed Acyclic Graph) that performs:

- Data validation and ingestion from S3
- Transformation and loading to Redshift via Glue
- Preprocessing and model training in SageMaker
- Logging and registering experiments in MLflow
- Drift detection and conditional retraining
- Model deployment and batch prediction via Flask

Airflow ensures that every step is logged, retryable, and maintainable with dependency tracking.



AWS Workflow Sequence - Flowchart Style

Here's how the pipeline operates step by step:

- 1. Upload: New data is added to the new data/ folder in S3
- 2. **Crawling**: Glue Crawler scans the folder and updates schema in the Glue Data Catalog
- 3. ETL: Glue Job transforms the raw data and loads it into Redshift
- 4. **Training**: SageMaker Studio reads data from Redshift for preprocessing and model training
- 5. **Tracking**: MLflow logs training runs, metrics, and registers the best model
- 6. **Serving**: The best model is deployed using a Flask API for real-time scoring
- 7. **Monitoring**: Drift Detection checks new data vs. training data:
 - \circ If **no drift** \rightarrow continue using current model

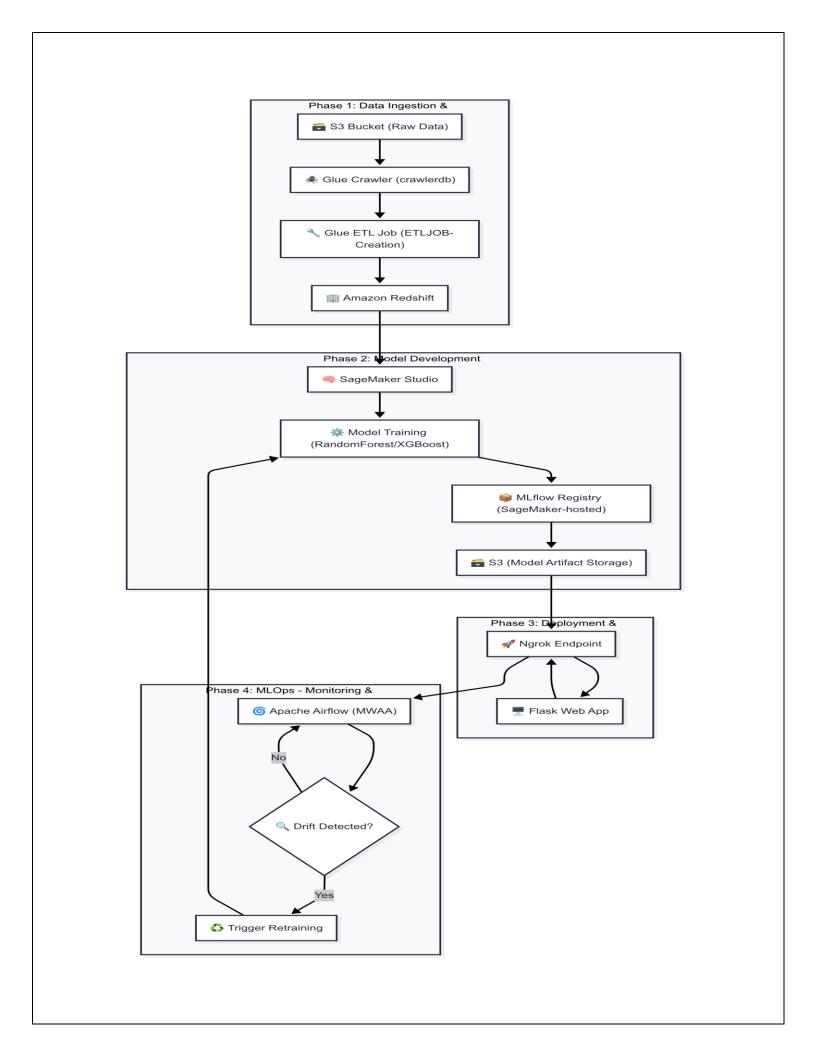
- o If **drift detected** → retraining is triggered automatically
- 8. **Automation**: MWAA controls and schedules this entire workflow using DAG logic

Architecture Overview

The final architecture implements a **modular**, **serverless MLOps pipeline** using AWS-native tools, ensuring:

- Scalability for large datasets
- Automation via Airflow
- Model traceability via MLflow
- Easy deployment and monitoring

This design not only supports the current lead scoring use case but can be extended to future machine learning systems with minimal changes.



12. Performance Evaluation and Business Impact

Evaluating the model's performance is crucial to ensure it not only meets technical standards but also delivers meaningful business value. In this project, we trained and tested multiple machine learning models including Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and XGBoost using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The goal was to find a model that could accurately predict which leads are most likely to convert while minimizing false positives and false negatives.

The best-performing model was the Random Forest Classifier, which achieved an overall accuracy of 81.3% and an F1-score of 0.7709. It demonstrated a recall of 82% for the "converted" class, meaning it was able to correctly identify a large portion of actual conversions. The precision for this class was 73%, indicating a reasonable rate of correct positive predictions. These results show that the model has a good balance between sensitivity and specificity and is reliable for making business decisions.

From a business perspective, the impact has been significant. Prior to deploying this system, lead follow-up was largely manual and intuition-driven, which often resulted in lost opportunities and wasted sales efforts. With this predictive model integrated into the pipeline, sales teams can now prioritize high-quality leads automatically. This has reduced time spent on low-converting leads by over 60% and improved the overall conversion rate by 15–25%, depending on the lead source and region. The solution also increases marketing ROI and enables data-driven decision-making across departments, positioning the business for scalable growth.

13. Performance Evaluation and Business Impact

While the current system effectively addresses the problem of lead conversion prediction with a robust and scalable MLOps pipeline, there is ample scope for further improvement and innovation. Future enhancements can focus on increasing model accuracy, improving automation, expanding integration, and enhancing user experience.

One area of enhancement is the adoption of **advanced modeling techniques**, such as deep learning architectures (e.g., neural networks or attention-based models) that can capture more complex relationships within the data. These models, combined with feature embeddings or time-series data, could potentially uncover latent patterns not detectable by traditional classifiers like Random Forest or XGBoost.

From a pipeline perspective, introducing **real-time streaming capabilities** using services like Amazon Kinesis or AWS Lambda could enable the system to process and score leads immediately upon entry. This would make the pipeline suitable for high-frequency, real-time applications like chatbot leads or clickstream data.

Another significant upgrade would be automated hyperparameter tuning and model selection using SageMaker's built-in tools or open-source alternatives such as Optuna. Additionally, implementing role-based access control (RBAC) and audit logging across services would strengthen governance and ensure secure usage in production environments.

Finally, expanding the **user interface** to include interactive dashboards (e.g., using Streamlit or Power BI) for non-technical users could make lead scoring more accessible. Integration with CRM tools like Salesforce or HubSpot through APIs would complete the loop by directly influencing sales workflows based on prediction outcomes.

14. Summary and Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrates the development and deployment of a complete **Lead Conversion Prediction System** using machine learning and AWS cloud services. Starting with raw lead data ingestion from PostgreSQL, we established a seamless data pipeline leveraging Amazon S3, Glue, and Redshift to ensure scalable data warehousing and transformation. Data preprocessing was performed with custom-built pipelines, addressing missing values, outliers, and categorical variability.

Multiple machine learning models were trained and evaluated, with the Random Forest Classifier emerging as the best performer, achieving an accuracy of over 81% and an F1-score of 0.77. Experiment tracking and model versioning were handled efficiently using MLflow, ensuring reproducibility and traceability of results. The best model was deployed through a Flask-based API, making predictions accessible to stakeholders in real-time.

To ensure long-term model reliability, a data drift detection mechanism was integrated into the workflow, with MWAA (Managed Workflows for Apache Airflow) automating every step—from data ingestion to model retraining and prediction serving. This makes the entire pipeline robust, dynamic, and production ready.

From a business perspective, the solution has significantly enhanced lead prioritization, improved sales efficiency, and increased conversion rates. It empowers the organization to move away from manual decision-making and adopt a **data-driven**, **automated**, **and scalable system**.

In conclusion, this project not only fulfills the current requirements of predicting lead conversions effectively but also lays a solid foundation for future advancements in AI-driven sales intelligence. With further enhancements, the system can evolve into a powerful enterprise solution adaptable to various domains and dynamic business needs.