

CMPS 312



Supabase Cloud Services



Database



Authentication



Storage

Dr. Abdelkarim Erradi

CSE@QU

Outline

1. Supabase Database
2. CRUD Operations
3. Row Level Security (RLS)
4. Realtime Updates
5. File Storage
6. Authentication
7. Access Image Gallery and Camera







Backend-as-Service (BaaS)

- **Purpose:** Provide ready-made backend for web & mobile apps
- **Benefits:**
 - No need to build/manage servers, databases, or APIs
 - Speeds up development and reduces infrastructure complexity & cost
 - Allows developers focus on frontend and core business logic
- **Common Features:** User authentication, Managed databases, File storage, Serverless functions,& Notifications
- **Examples:** **Supabase**, Firebase, AWS Amplify



What is Supabase?

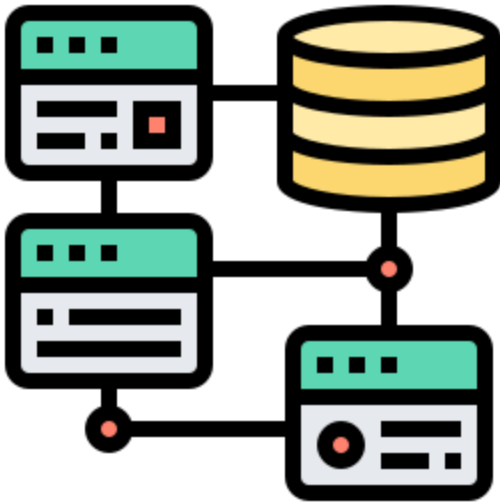
Supabase = Open-source **Backend-as-a-Service** (BaaS) built on PostgreSQL. Core Features:

-  **Database:** Managed PostgreSQL with Row-Level Security (RLS)
-  **Storage:** Scalable file storage with public/signed URLs
-  **Authentication:** Secure user sign-in via email/password & OAuth providers
-  **Realtime:** Broadcast database updates in real time
-  **Edge Functions:** Deploy serverless functions for custom logic
-  **Developer Tools:** SDKs for **Flutter/Dart**, JavaScript, and more

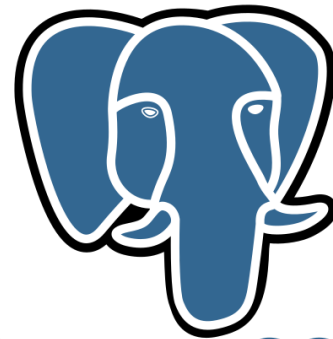
Getting Started

- Add **supabase_flutter** to `pubspec.yaml`
- Initialize Supabase in `main.dart`
 - This Enables database, authentication, and storage features in your Flutter app

```
await Supabase.initialize(  
  url: 'https://your-project.supabase.co',  
  anonKey: 'your-anon-key',  
);
```



Supabase Database



PostgreSQL

Supabase Database

- **Managed PostgreSQL:** Includes tables, views, triggers, and functions
- **Auto-Generated Web APIs** for every table, view and function
 - Use `.from('table')` to read/write from/to tables

API Docs

Read rows

TABLES AND VIEWS

Introduction

owners

pet_owner_view

pets

todos

To read rows in `todos`, use the `select` method.

[Learn more](#)

JavaScript Bash  Project API key: [Hide keys](#)

READ ALL ROWS

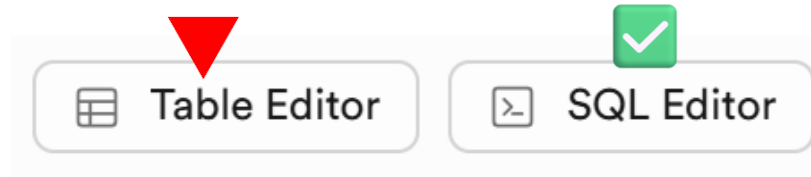
```
curl
'https://yjjocdq1flvamdmrhuyq.supabase.co/r
est/v1/todos?select=*' \
-H "apikey: SUPABASE_KEY" \
-H "Authorization: Bearer SUPABASE_KEY"
```

- **Schema First Design:** Create tables via SQL or Supabase dashboard
- **Row-Level Security (RLS)** with customizable policies



Creating Database Table

- Design tables using **SQL scripts** or Supabase dashboard (visual editor)



-- Example table: todos

```
create table if not exists todos (  
  id uuid primary key default gen_random_uuid(),  
  description text not null,  
  -- Enforce data integrity with constraints  
  type text not null check (type in  
    ('personal', 'work', 'family')),  
  completed boolean not null default false,  
  -- Timestamp when todo was created  
  created_at timestamptz not null default now(),  
  -- Link todos to authenticated users  
  user_id uuid references auth.users(id)  
);
```


PostgreSQL Common Data Types

- **Numeric**
 - INTEGER – General whole numbers
 - BIGINT – Large IDs or counters
 - NUMERIC(p,s) – Exact precision (money)
 - SERIAL – Auto-increment IDs
- **Character**
 - VARCHAR(n) – Variable-length text
 - TEXT – Large/unlimited text
- **Date/Time**
 - DATE – Calendar dates
 - TIMESTAMPTZ – Date/time with time zone
- **Boolean** – True/False flags
- **Other**
 - UUID – Unique identifiers
 - JSONB – Semi-structured data (queryable)

Database Auto-Assigned IDs

Two common strategies for primary keys:

- Use PostgreSQL's **SERIAL** for efficient auto-incremented numeric ID

```
CREATE TABLE todos (  
  id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,  
  ...);
```

- Use PostgreSQL's **gen_random_uuid()** for globally unique IDs

```
create table todos (  
  id uuid primary key default gen_random_uuid(),  
  ...);
```

PostgreSQL: One-to-Many Relationships

- One parent row relates to many child rows (e.g., one author has many books)
 - Enforced via foreign key (FK) from child → parent primary key (PK)
 - Use ON DELETE CASCADE to remove child rows when parent is deleted

```
-- Parent table (one)
CREATE TABLE authors (
  author_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
  name TEXT NOT NULL);
```

```
-- Performance: index FK to
speed-up joins & deletes
CREATE INDEX idx_books_author_id
ON books(author_id);
```

```
-- Child table (many)
CREATE TABLE books (
  book_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY,
  author_id INT NOT NULL,
  title TEXT NOT NULL, ...
  CONSTRAINT fk_books_author
    FOREIGN KEY (author_id)
    REFERENCES authors(author_id)
    ON DELETE CASCADE
);
```



CRUD Operations



CREATE



READ



UPDATE



DELETE

C

R

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D

CRUD

CRUD

- Create: Add new records
 - Read: Retrieve existing records
 - Update: Modify existing records
 - Delete: Remove records
-
- In Supabase perform CRUD via the auto-generated REST APIs

```
// Create
await Supabase.instance.client
  .from('tasks')
  .insert({'title': 'New Task'})
  .execute();

// Update
await Supabase.instance.client
  .from('tasks')
  .update({'done': true})
  .eq('id', 1)
  .execute();

// Delete
await Supabase.instance.client
  .from('tasks')
  .delete()
  .eq('id', 1)
  .execute();
```



Database CRUD Operations

```
final client = Supabase.instance.client;
// CREATE
Future<void> addTodo(Todo todo) async {
  await client.from('todos').insert(todo.toJson());
}
// READ (List)
Future<List<Todo>> getTodos() async {
  final data = await client.from('todos').select().order('created_at', ascending: false);
  return (data as List).map((j) => Todo.fromJson(j)).toList();
}
// READ (single)
Future<Todo?> getTodoById(String id) async {
  final json = await client.from('todos').select().eq('id', id).maybeSingle();
  return json == null ? null : Todo.fromJson(json);
}
// UPDATE
Future<void> updateTodo(Todo todo) async {
  await client.from('todos').update(todo.toJson()).eq('id', todo.id);
}
// DELETE
Future<void> deleteTodo(String id) async {
  await client.from('todos').delete().eq('id', id);
}
// COUNT
Future<int> getTodosCount() async {
  final res = await client.from('todos').select().count(CountOption.exact);
  return res.count;
}
```

Common Filter Methods and Examples

Method	Description	Example
eq	Exact match	<code>client.from('cities').select().eq('name', 'Doha');</code>
neq	Not equal	<code>client.from('cities').select().neq('country_id', 1);</code>
lt / lte	Less than / Less or equal	<code>client.from('cities').select().lt('population', 1000000);</code>
gt / gte	Greater than / Greater or equal	<code>client.from('cities').select().gte('population', 500000);</code>
like	Case-sensitive pattern matching used to find rows where a column contains specific text	<code>client.from('cities').select().like('name', '%Do%');</code>
ilike	Case-insensitive pattern matching	<code>client.from('cities').select().ilike('name', '%shire%');</code>
in_	Membership in a list	<code>client.from('cities').select().in_('country_id', [1, 2, 3]);</code>

Combine Filters for Complex Queries

- This query combines multiple filters to return only students who meet all conditions

```
final students = await client
    .from('students')
    .select()
    .ilike('name', '%ali%')      // name contains "ali"
    .eq('status', 'active')      // only active students
    .gt('gpa', 3.0);             // GPA > 3.0
```

- Find products that are out of stock or very cheap

```
final result = await supabase
    .from('products')
    .select()
    .or('quantity.eq.0,price.lt.10'); // out of stock OR cheap
```


Best Practices

- Apply **Repository Pattern**: implement data read/write operations in repositories
- Use Providers to expose Supabase client and Repositories for easy access across the app
- **Optimize Queries**:
 - Use **projections**: `select('id, name')` instead of `select()` to reduce payload
 - Apply **server-side filtering** to retrieve only relevant data, improving application efficiency and responsiveness
 - Paginate large lists with `range(start, end)`
- **Error Handling**
 - Wrap calls in try/catch and show **user-friendly messages**
 - Log errors for debugging

Providers to expose Supabase client and Repositories

- Use Riverpod providers to expose repositories

```
final supabaseClientProvider = Provider((ref) =>  
  Supabase.instance.client);
```

```
final todoRepositoryProvider = Provider((ref) {  
  final client = ref.watch(supabaseClientProvider);  
  return TodoRepository(client);  
});
```



Row Level Security (RLS)



Row Level Security (RLS)

- RLS: Ensures users can only access and modify the data they have access to
 - You can think of the RLS as automatically inserted WHERE clauses during query and mutation.

-- Enable RLS on the table

```
alter table todos enable row level security;
```

-- Policy: Read own rows. The `user_id` is a built-in variable representing the current user

```
create policy "read own" on todos
  for select using (auth.uid() = user_id);
```

-- Policy: Modify own rows

```
create policy "modify own" on todos
  for all using (auth.uid() = user_id);
```

RSL Syntax

- USING filters **which existing rows** the user may see, modify or delete
- WITH CHECK restricts **which values a user may create or change to**
 - For SELECT: only USING runs
 - For INSERT: only WITH CHECK runs (no existing rows yet)
 - For UPDATE: both may apply (USING on the target row; WITH CHECK on the row after UPDATE)

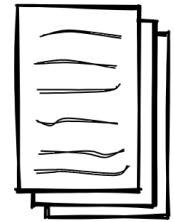
-- Skeleton

```
CREATE POLICY policy_name
ON schema.table_name
TO { public | authenticated }    -- or other roles
FOR { SELECT | INSERT | UPDATE | DELETE }    -- (or: FOR ALL)
-- SELECT/UPDATE/DELETE gate: what rows the user is allowed to
select/update/delete
USING ( boolean_expression_for_existing_rows ) -- (true: FOR ALL)
-- INSERT/UPDATE gate: checks if the new/updated row complies with
the policy expression
WITH CHECK ( boolean_expression_for_new_or_updated_rows );
```

RLS Examples



— create: only for herself →
== update: only for herself →
— read: her own posts and all published posts →



Post

-- 👁 Read Policy

-- allows anyone to read published posts

-- or the author to read their own (including drafts)

create policy "read published or own"

on posts

for select to authenticated, public

using (published = true OR author_id = auth.uid());

-- 🖋 Insert/Update/Delete Policy

-- Owner manage writes (INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE)

create policy "owner writes"

on posts

for all to authenticated

-- SELECT/UPDATE/DELETE gate: what rows the user is allowed to select/update/delete

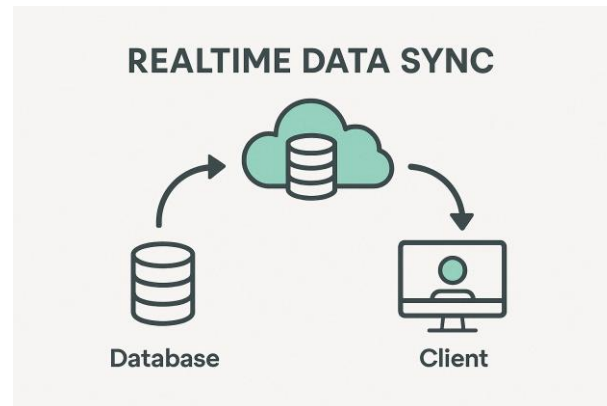
using (author_id = auth.uid())

-- Checks if the new/updated row complies with the policy expression (i.e., author_id must be current user id. Users cannot change the author_id or add for another author)

with check (author_id = auth.uid());



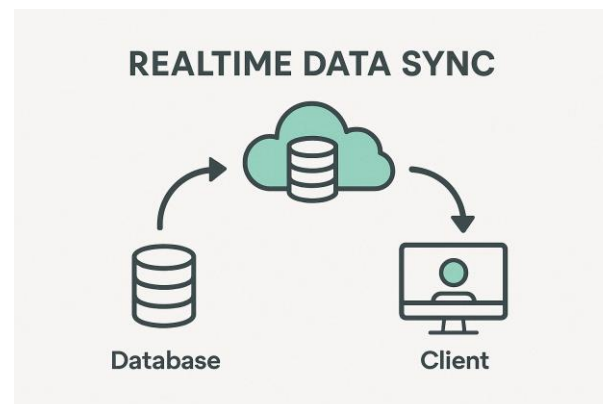
Real-Time Updates










Real-Time Updates

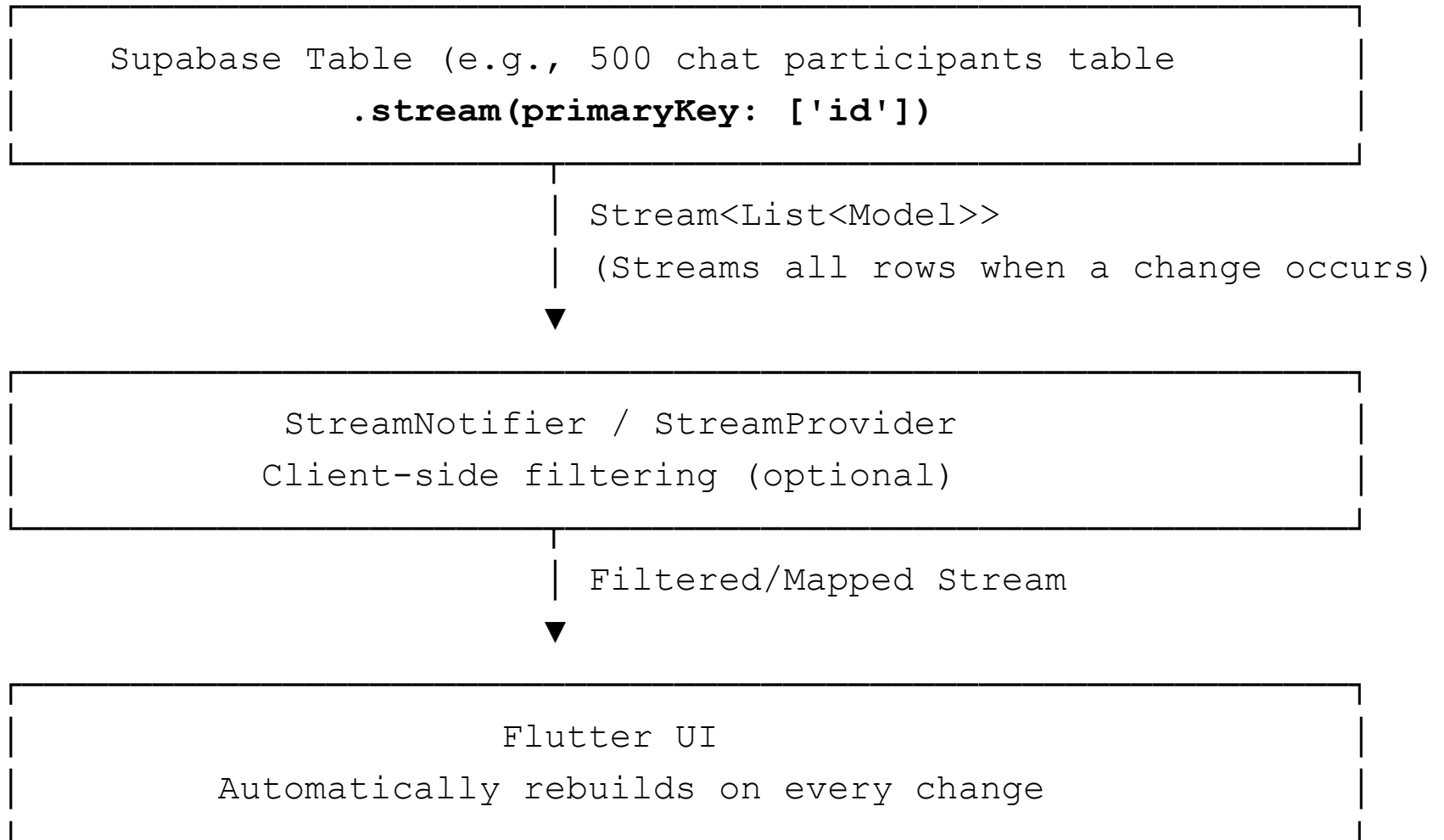
- **What It Does:** Broadcasts database changes instantly to connected clients
 - Enables **instant updates** without manual refresh, improving user engagement
 - Once realtime has been enabled, the table will broadcast any changes to authorized subscribers (i.e., multiple users see updates in real-time)
- **Key Use Cases:** Live chat applications, Real-time dashboards, Multiplayer games
- **Best Practices:**
 - Subscribe only to relevant tables/rows to optimize performance
 - Integrate with state management (e.g., Riverpod providers) for better user experience (UX)



Approach 1: Streams (`.stream()`)

- **Purpose:** streams continuously push **all table data** to your app
 - Best for small (< 1,000 rows), frequently-changing dataset where you need the entire table in memory
- **Real-World Scenarios:**
 -  **Gaming leaderboards** (top 100 players)
 -  **Chat room participant list** (active users)
 -  **Live dashboard metrics** (system stats)
 -  **Online user presence** (who's online)
-  **Don't Use Streams When:**
 - Table has 1,000+ rows (memory issues)
 - You only need filtered subset
 - Performance/scalability critical

Architecture Diagram - Streams



Events: INSERT → New row appears instantly
UPDATE → Row updates instantly
DELETE → Row disappears instantly



Listen to Database Realtime Updates using Streams

Postgrest Stream:

```
.from('table').stream(primaryKey: ['id'])
```

Stream for ToDo list

```
Stream<List<Todo>> observeTodos() {  
  final client = Supabase.instance.client;  
  return client  
    .from('todos')  
    .stream(primaryKey: ['id'])  
    .order('created_at', ascending: false)  
    .map((rows) =>  
      rows.map(Todo.fromJson).toList());  
}
```

Implementation - Streams

// 1. Repository - Stream method

```
class MyRepository {  
    final SupabaseClient _client;  
    MyRepository(this._client);  
    // Stream all rows from table  
    Stream<List<MyModel>> observeItems() {  
        return _client.from('my_table')  
            .stream(primaryKey: ['id'])  
            .map((data) => data.map((json) => MyModel.fromJson(json)).toList());  
    }  
}
```






// 2. Provider - StreamNotifier

```
class MyItemsNotifier extends StreamNotifier<List<MyModel>> {  
    @override  
    Stream<List<MyModel>> build() {  
        final repository = ref.watch(myRepositoryProvider);  
        return repository.observeItems();  
    }  
}  
final myItemsProvider = StreamNotifierProvider<MyItemsNotifier, List<MyModel>>(() => MyItemsNotifier());
```

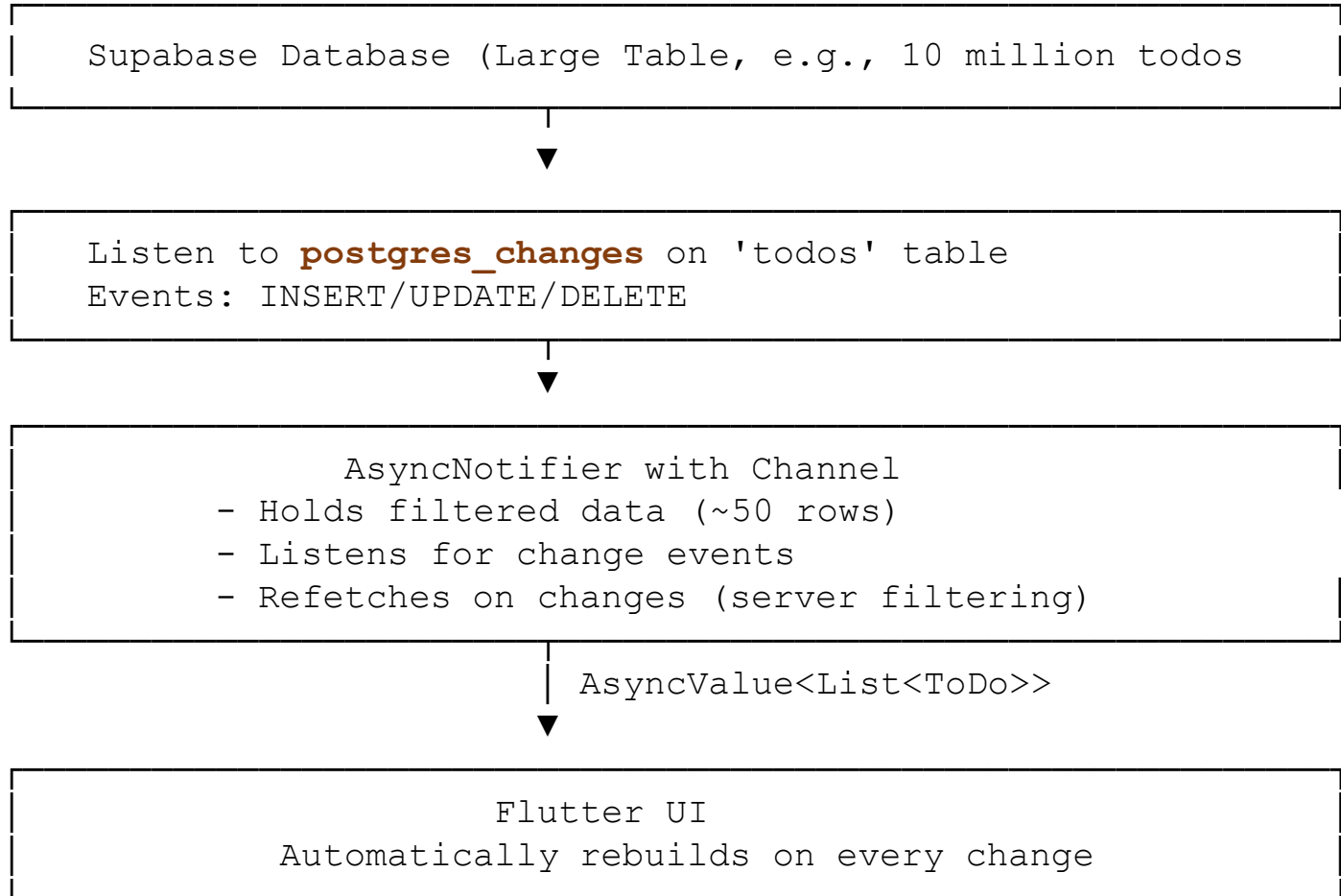
// 3. UI - Consume the stream

```
class MyScreen extends ConsumerWidget {  
    @override  
    Widget build(BuildContext context, WidgetRef ref) {  
        final itemsAsync = ref.watch(myItemsProvider);  
        return itemsAsync.when(  
            data: (items) => ListView.builder(  
                itemCount: items.length,  
                itemBuilder: (context, index) => ListTile(  
                    title: Text(items[index].name),  
                ),  
            ),  
            loading: () => CircularProgressIndicator(),  
            error: (error, stack) => Text('Error: $error'),  
        );  
    }  
}
```

Approach 2: Channels (`.channel()`)

- **Purpose:** Channels listen to **database change events** (INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE) and let you fetch only the data you need
 - Best for large datasets (**1,000+ rows**) with server-side filtering
 - Better performance and scalability
 - More control over what data is loaded
- **Real-World Scenarios:**
 -  **Todo/Task management** (millions of todos, show only user's)
 -  **E-commerce product catalog** (thousands of products, filtered view)
 -  **Email inbox** (show only unread, specific folder)
 -  **Analytics dashboard** (aggregated data)
 -  **User activity feeds** (show last 50)

Architecture Diagram - Channels



Flow:

1. Initial load: Fetch with filters (e.g., 50 rows)
2. Setup: Subscribe to realtime channel
3. Event: INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE detected
4. Action: Re-fetch filtered data (still ~50 rows)
5. Result: UI updates with fresh data

Implementation - Channels

```
// 1. Repository - Regular filtered query
class MyRepository { ...
    // Filtered fetch (server-side WHERE clause)
    Future<List<MyModel>> getFilteredItems({ String? searchQuery }) async {
        var query = _client.from('my_table').select( ... );
        return await query.map((json) => MyModel.fromJson(json)).toList();
    }
}

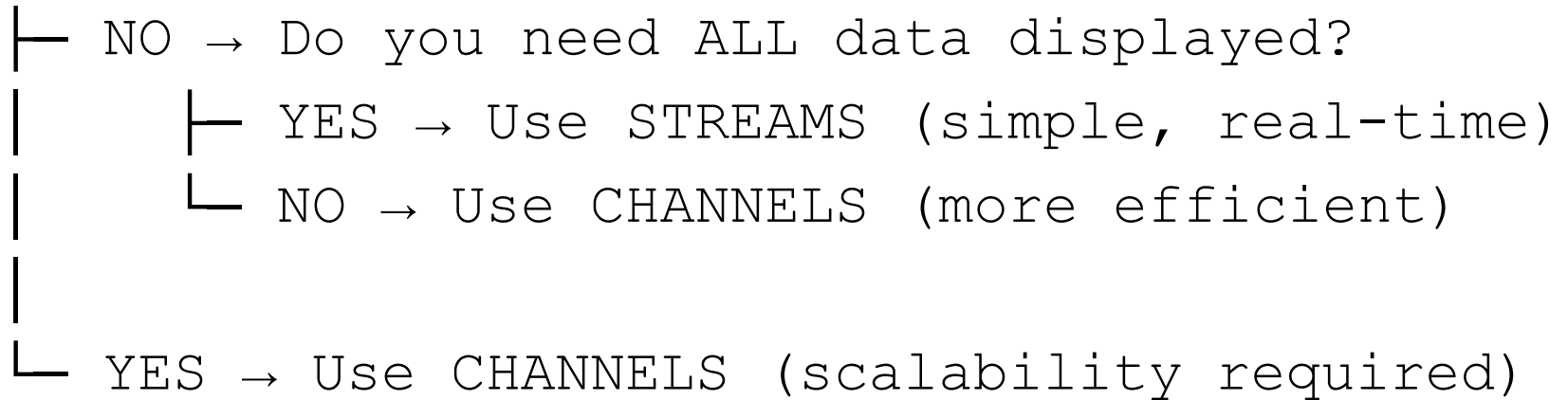
// 2. Provider - AsyncNotifier with Channel
class MyItemsNotifier extends AsyncNotifier<List<MyModel>> {
    RealtimeChannel? _channel;
    @override
    Future<List<MyModel>> build() async {
        final searchQuery = ref.watch(searchQueryProvider);
        ...
        _channel = supabase.channel('my_items_changes')
            .onPostgresChanges(
                event: PostgresChangeEvent.all,
                schema: 'public', table: 'my_table',
                callback: (payload) {
                    refresh(); // Refetch when changes detected
                },
            )
            .subscribe();
    }
    Future<void> refresh() async { ...
        state = await AsyncValue.guard(() => build());
    }
} ...

// 3. UI - Same as streams approach
```


Which Approach to Choose?

Quick Decision Tree

Do you have more than 1,000 rows?





Scenario 1: Small Real-Time App


- **Requirements:** Gaming leaderboard, 100 active players, need instant updates
- **Choice:**  Streams
- **Reasoning:**
 - Small dataset, all data needed, low latency critical
- **Implementation:**

```
.stream(primaryKey: ['id'])
```

Scenario 2: Chat Application

- **Messages:**  Channels (could be millions, paginated)
- **Participants:**  Streams (< 500 users, all displayed)
- **Reasoning:** Different requirements per feature

Scenario 3: Social Media Feed

- **Requirements:** Millions of posts, show last 50, pagination
- **Choice:**  Channels
- **Reasoning:** Massive dataset, paginated, filtered by date
- **Implementation:** `channel() + LIMIT 50`

Summary Recommendations

1. **Default Choice: Use Channels** for most production apps

- Better scalability
- More efficient
- Handles large datasets

2. **Use Streams Only When:**

- Dataset is small (< 1,000 rows)
- Need all data
- Simplicity is priority

3. **Always:**

- Add database indexes
- Enable RLS for security
- Clean up subscriptions

File Storage





File Storage

What It Does:

- Upload, manage, and serve files securely

Key Features:

- Has a simple bucket/folder/file structure
- Upload/download user files or images
- Create storage buckets via Supabase dashboard
- Define file access rules (public, private, signed URLs)

Common Use Cases:

- Store Profile pictures, Documents, Images

Best Practices

- Use UUID file names to avoid collisions
- Keep buckets private and give users temporary access with signed URLs



File Upload

```
final storage = Supabase.instance.client.storage;
/// Upload an avatar using a file path
Future<String> uploadAvatarFromPath(String filePath, String userId) async {
  final file = File(filePath);
  final fileName =
    'avatars/$userId-${DateTime.now().millisecondsSinceEpoch}.png';
  await storage.from('avatars').upload(fileName, file,
    fileOptions: const FileOptions(contentType: 'image/png'),
  );
  // If bucket is public → returns public URL
  return storage.from('avatars').getPublicUrl(fileName);
}
```

```
// Signed URL for private buckets – by default valid for 5 minutes
Future<Uri> getSignedUrl(String path,
  {Duration ttl = const Duration(minutes: 5)}) async {
  final signedUrl = await storage
    .from('avatars')
    .createSignedUrl(path, ttl.inSeconds);
  return Uri.parse(signedUrl);
}
```

Show image in Flutter app
`Image.network(signedUrl);`

List files in a bucket

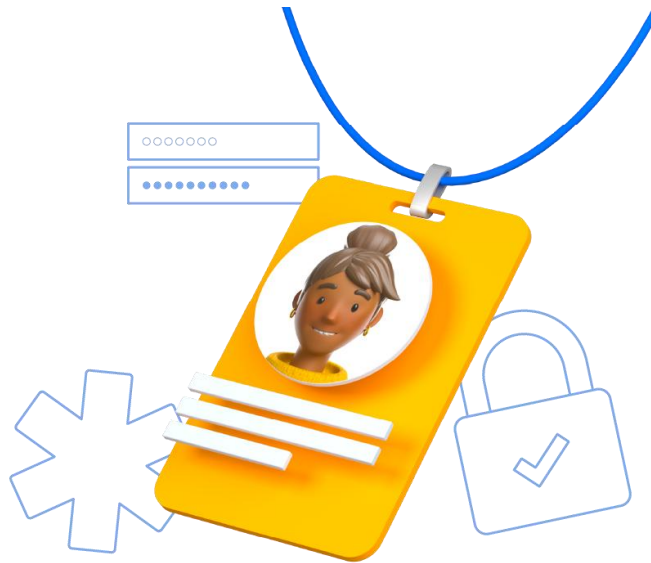
- Get URLs of files in particular subfolder

```
Future<List<String>> getImageUrls() async {  
    final storage = Supabase.instance.client.storage;  
    final files = await storage.from('images').list(path: '');  
    return files.map((f) =>  
        storage.from('images').getPublicUrl(f.name)).toList();  
}
```

 If the bucket is private, use **signed URLs** — temporary, secure links that automatically expire after a set duration to prevent misuse

```
Future<List<String>> getImageUrls() async {  
    final storage = Supabase.instance.client.storage;  
    final files = await storage.from('images').list(path: '');  
    return Future.wait(files.map((f) =>  
        storage.from('images').createSignedUrl(f.name, 300))); //valid for 5 mins  
}
```

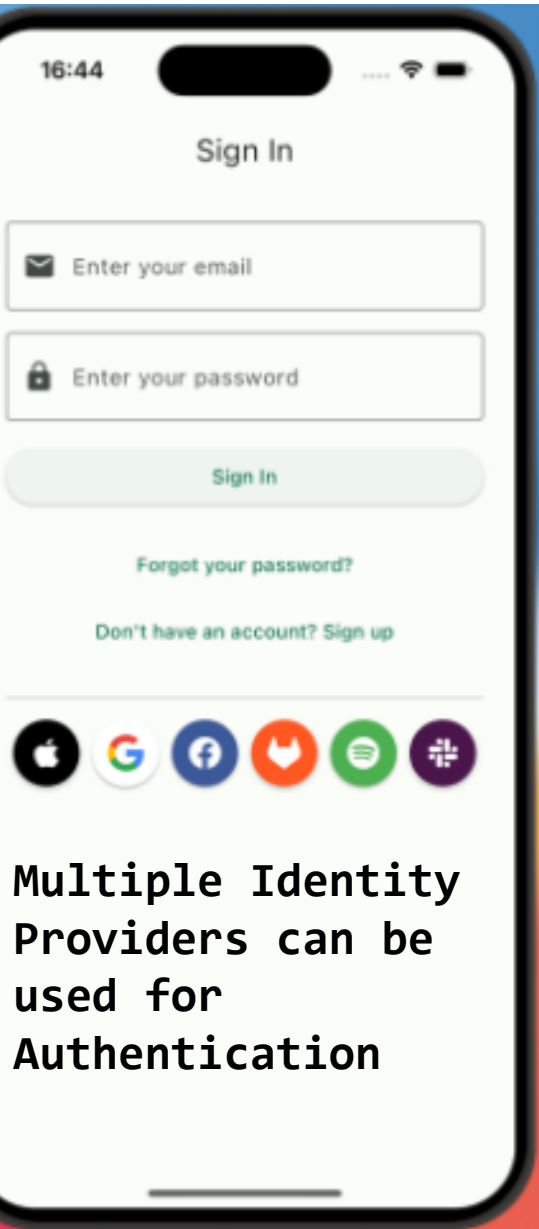
Authentication





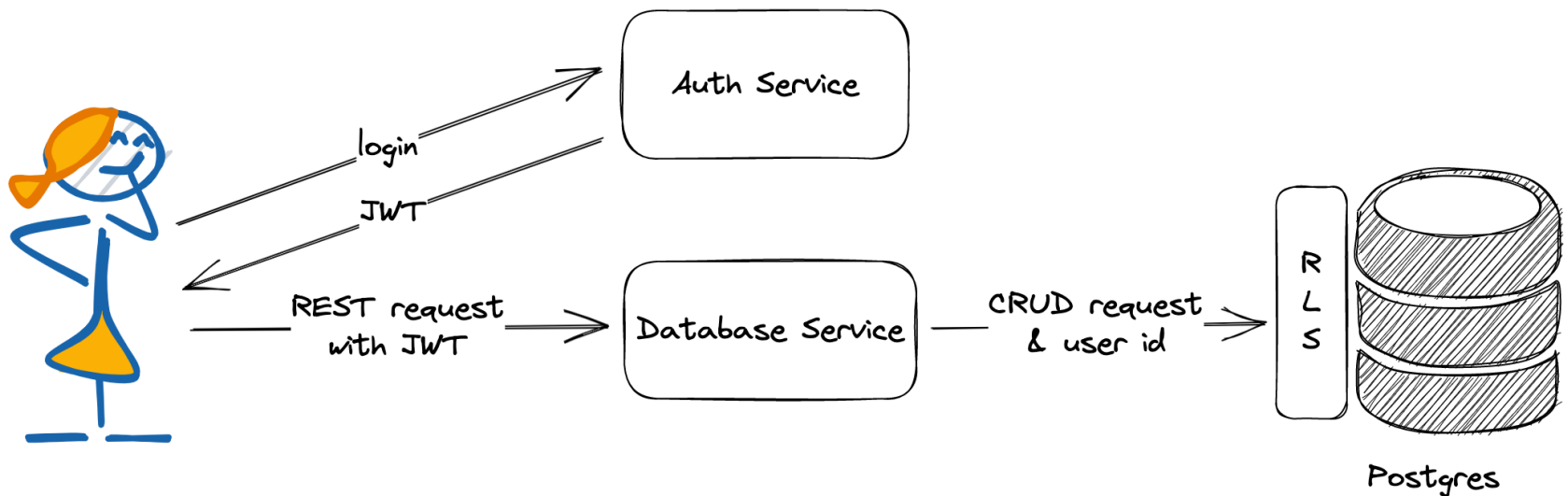
Authentication

- **Definition:** Verifying a user's identity before granting access
- **Key Points:**
 - Confirms the user is who they claim to be
 - Uses credentials (e.g., email/password, Auth providers such as Google)
 - Assigns each user a **unique ID** for tracking and security
 - Enforces **access control**: restricts who can read or write data



Authentication and Authorization flow

- **Login:** Client sends credentials → Auth Service returns a **JWT (JSON Web Token)**
- **Requests:** Client includes JWT in **REST API calls** to Database Service
- **Database:** Service validates JWT, extracts **user ID**, performs **CRUD** on PostgreSQL
- **RLS:** PostgreSQL applies **Row-Level Security** using user ID to restrict access to authorized rows





Authentication

```
final auth = Supabase.instance.client.auth;

// Sign up
Future<void> signUp(String email, String password)
async {
    await auth.signUp(email, password);
}

// Sign in
Future<void> signIn(String email, String password)
async {
    await auth.signInWithPassword(email, password);
}

// Sign out
Future<void> signOut() async {
    await auth.signOut();
}
```

Sign Up and Store User Metadata

```
Future<User?> signUp(User user) async {  
  try {  
  
    final auth = supabase.auth;  
    // ----- Sign up -----  
    final response = await auth.signUp(  
      email: user.email,  
      password: user.password,  
      data: {  
        // Optional metadata stored inside auth.users  
        'firstName': user.firstName,  
        'lastName': user.lastName,  
        'avatar_url': user.avatarUrl  
      },  
  
      return response.user;  
    } catch (e) {  
      print('Error during sign up: $e');  
      return null;  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Get current user details

- Anywhere in the app you can access the details of current user

```
void getCurrentUser() {  
    User? user = supabase.auth.currentUser;  
    if (user != null) {  
        print('User is signed in! Id: ${user.id}');  
        print('User is signed in! Email: ${user.email}');  
        print('Metadata: ${user.userMetadata}');  
    } else {  
        print('No user is signed in.');
```

Listen to auth state

- Real-time Updates: If you need to react to authentication state changes (e.g., a user logs in or out), you should listen to the **onAuthStateChange** stream provided by Supabase Auth

```
final authStateProvider = StreamProvider((ref) {  
    return Supabase.instance.client.auth.onAuthStateChange  
        .map((e) => e.session);  
});
```

Route Auth Guard

- **Purpose:** Use Auth Guards to protect routes based on authentication state
 - Prevent unauthorized access to sensitive screens
 - Redirect unauthenticated users to sign-in
 - Simplify navigation logic using state-based routing

```
// Guard: Redirect if not signed in
final authGuard = GoRoute(
  path: '/account',
  builder: (context, state) => const AccountScreen(),
  redirect: (context, state) {
    final session = context.read(authStateProvider).maybeWhen(
      data: (s) => s,
      orElse: () => null,
    );
    return session == null ? '/signin' : null;
  },
);
```



GitHub Authentication

- **Purpose:** Enable users to sign in using their GitHub account
- **Create GitHub OAuth App**
 - GitHub → Settings → Developer settings → OAuth Apps → *New App*
 - Set Homepage URL: e.g., `myapp://auth/callback`
 - Callback URL:
`https://<project>.supabase.co/auth/v1/callback`
 - Copy **Client ID** and **Client Secret**
- **Enable GitHub in Supabase**
 - Dashboard → **Auth** → **Providers** → **GitHub**
 - Paste credentials and enable provider
- **Trigger Login in Your App**

```
Supabase.instance.client.auth.signInWithOAuth(  
  Provider.github,  
  redirectTo: 'myapp://auth/callback' );
```


Access Image Gallery and Camera



Access Image Gallery and Camera

- Using **image_picker** package for picking images from the image gallery or taking new pictures with the camera

```
Future<File?> pickImage(ImageSource source) async {  
    final imagePicker = ImagePicker();  
    final pickedImage = await imagePicker.pickImage(  
        source: source, // camera or gallery  
        maxWidth: double.infinity,  
    );  
  
    if (pickedImage == null) return null;  
    return File(pickedImage.path);  
}
```

image_picker methods

```
final ImagePicker picker = ImagePicker();  
// Pick an image  
final XFile? image = await picker.pickImage(source: ImageSource.gallery);  
// Capture a photo  
final XFile? photo = await picker.pickImage(source: ImageSource.camera);  
// Pick a video  
final XFile? galleryVideo =  
    await picker.pickVideo(source: ImageSource.gallery);  
// Capture a video  
final XFile? cameraVideo = await picker.pickVideo(source: ImageSource.camera);  
// Pick multiple images  
final List<XFile> images = await picker.pickMultiImage();  
// Pick single image or video  
final XFile? media = await picker.pickMedia();  
// Pick multiple images and videos  
final List<XFile> medias = await picker.pickMultipleMedia();
```

Summary

- **Database:** Store and query app data using tables with defined relationships
- **Authentication:** Built-in backend services for user sign-up and login
 - Supports **email/password** and **Auth providers** (e.g., Google)
- **File Storage:** Securely upload, store, and retrieve files
- **Security:** Protect user data with authentication and authorization policies



References

- **Supabase Flutter Docs:**
<https://supabase.com/docs/guides/getting-started/quickstarts/flutter>
- **RLS Policies:**
<https://supabase.com/docs/guides/auth/row-level-security>
- **Storage:**
<https://supabase.com/docs/guides/storage>
- **Realtime:**
<https://supabase.com/docs/guides/realtime>
- **Auth:** <https://supabase.com/docs/guides/auth>