

# References (delete or hide for presentation)

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- Rubric with tasks - [link](#)
- Team project plan - [link](#)
- Roadmap - [link](#)



# MIDSearch



A RAG based multiplatform search tool for  
the MIDS program

Devin Suy, Nadia Tantsyura, Randy Louie, Robert Greer, Thomas Lai



# Team

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Devin Suy



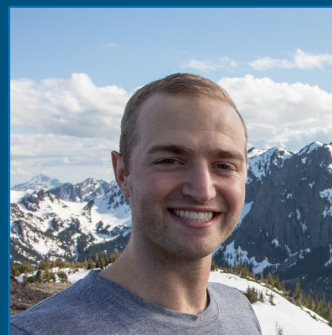
Nadia Tantsyura



Thomas Lai



Randy Louie



Robert Greer

# Problem & Motivation



Home

Syllabus

Assignments

Modules

Grades

Files

People

Collaborations

Announcements

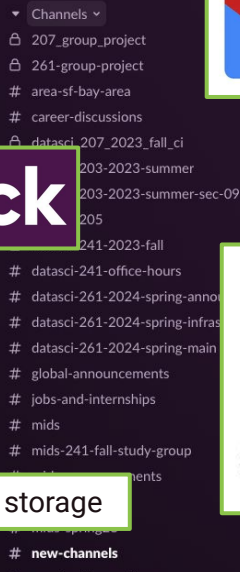
Chat

Gradescope

Media Gallery



Local storage



Gmail



Google Sheets



Berkeley

SCHOOL OF  
INFORMATION

ABOUT

PROGRAMS

COURSES

PEOPLE

RESEARCH

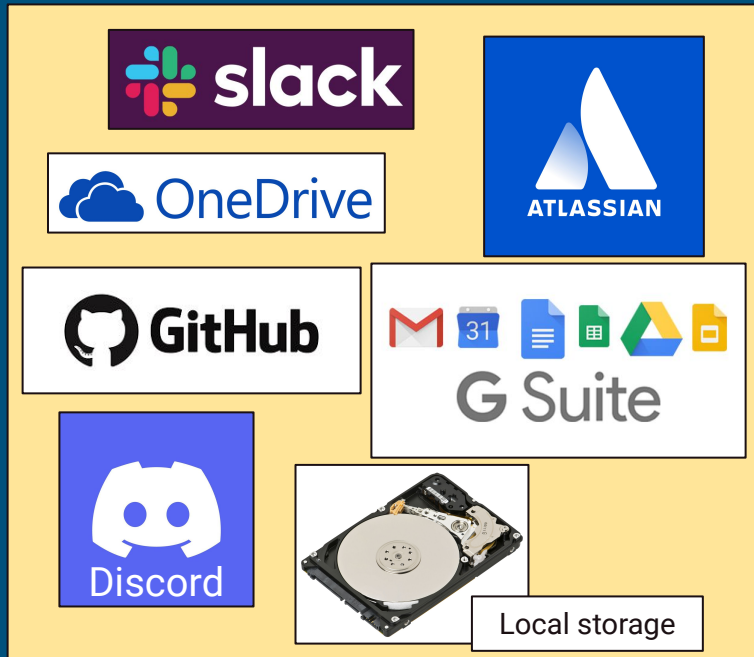
CAREERS

NEWS

EVENTS

# Market research

## Knowledge bases / Chat apps (non-cohesive)

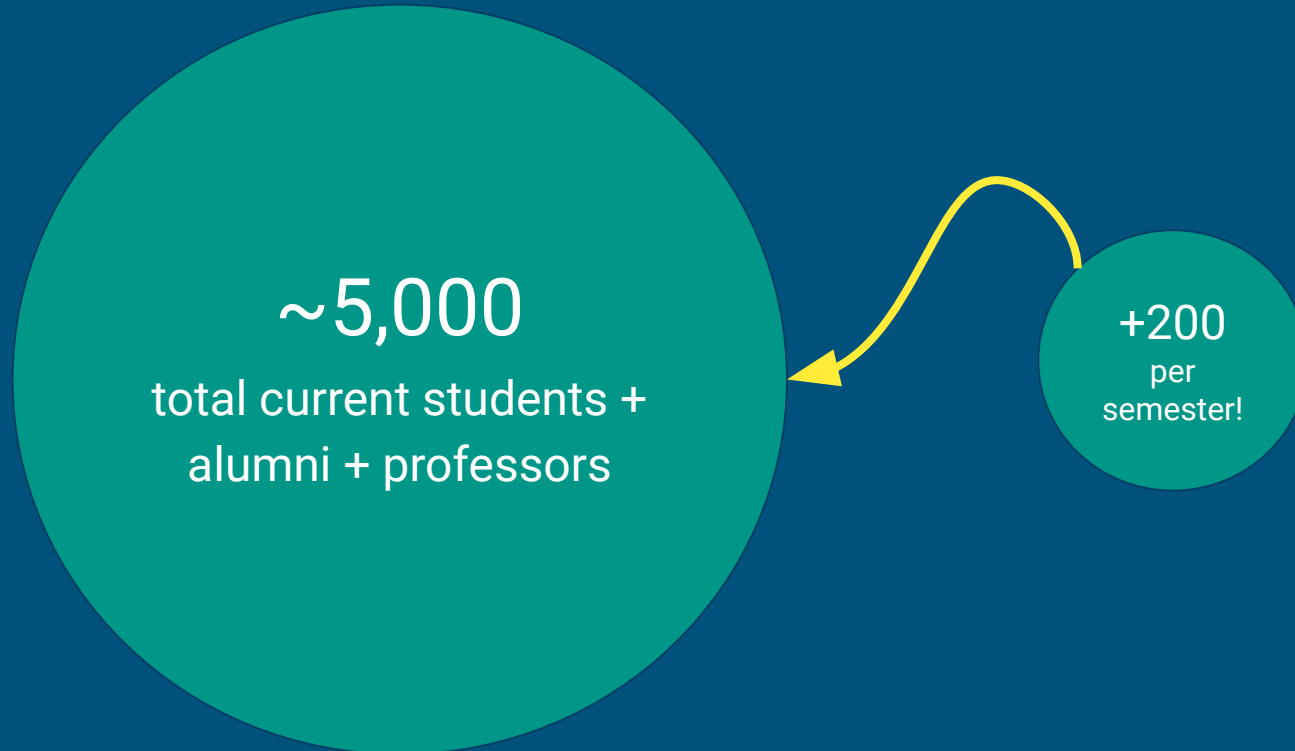


## Cohesive-ish apps



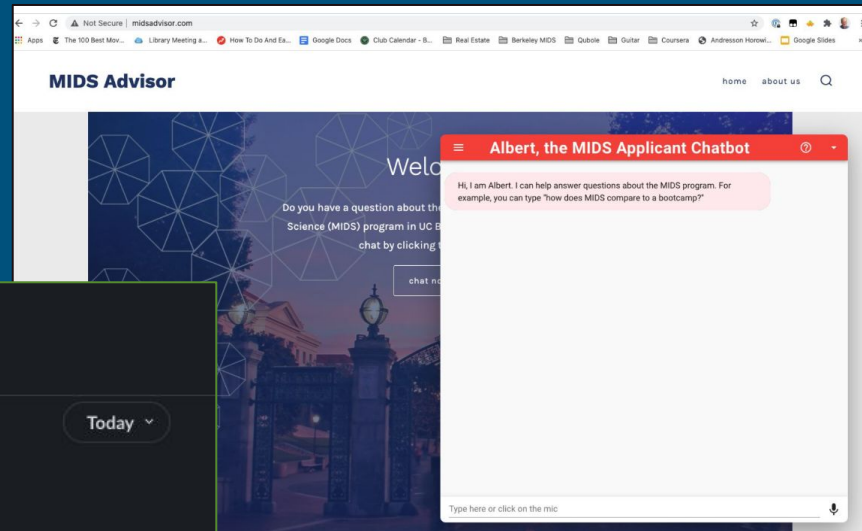
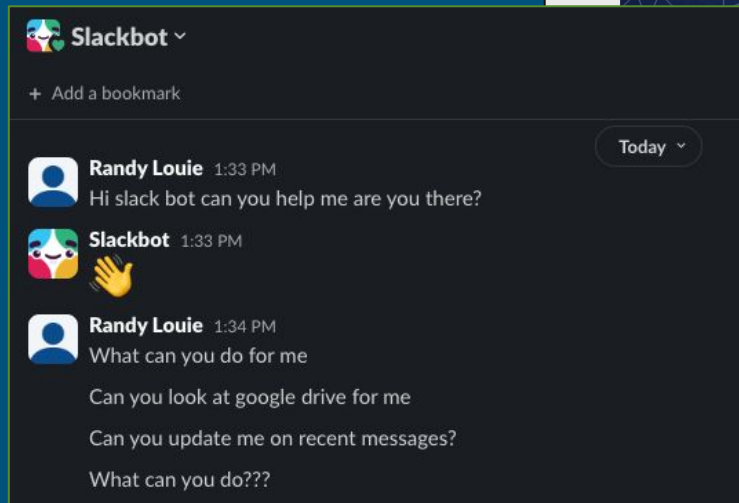
# Market size

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# What has been tried before

- Previous capstone:  
MIDS Applicant Chatbot (Spring 2021)
- Slack bot 👎



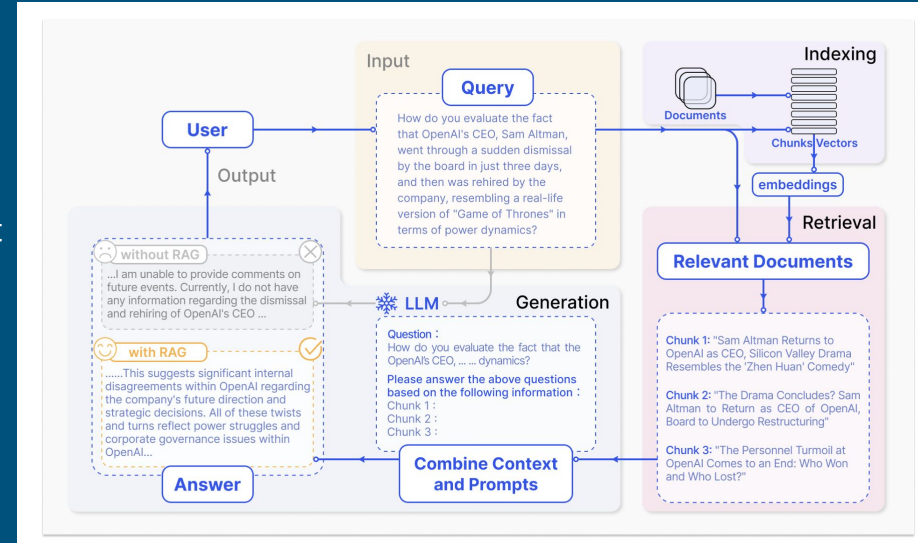
# Our Solution and Improvements

RAG based system : Retrieval-Augmented generation is the process of optimizing the output of a large/small language model, so it references an authoritative knowledge base outside of its training data sources before generating a response.

Small Language Model : similar to Large language Model but smaller

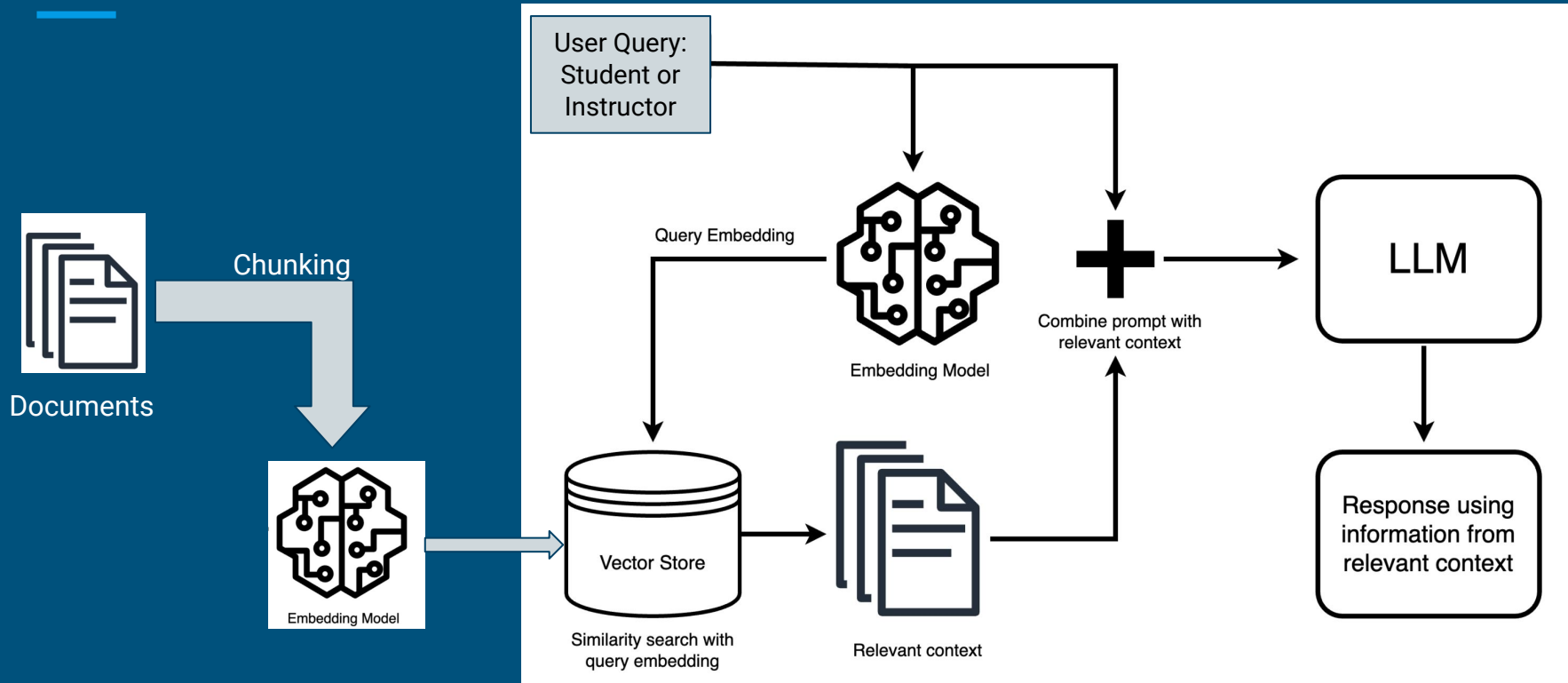
User type and customers : Students and Instructors.

Goal is to Reduce implementation and training costs, improve reliability, improve security





# Deep Dive into RAG components



# Roadmap - Yes, it's week 5 already

|                | Week 7  | Week 10  | Week 12   | Week 14   |
|----------------|---|--|---|---|
| Language Model | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Baseline LLM selected</li><li>SLM Settings</li><li>Default settings implemented</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>LoRA</li><li>User Based Prompting</li><li>Model Compression Techniques</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prompt Tuning</li><li>Hyperparameter Tuning</li></ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>API Chaining</li></ul>                  |
| Retrieval      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vector Database</li><li>Establish Defaults</li></ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Search Strategies</li><li>Reranker</li></ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dynamic Chunking</li><li>Hybrid Vector Database</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establish Protected Documents</li></ul> |
| Data           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collection</li><li>EDA</li><li>Survey Users</li></ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Generate User Specific Responses</li><li>PDF Processing</li></ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Applying additional datasets</li></ul>                    |   |
| DevOps         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AWS Initialization</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UI Prototype</li><li>Security Audit</li></ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gather UI Feedback</li></ul>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Host or Containerize</li></ul>          |
| Evaluation     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research KM KPIs</li><li>Research NLP Metrics</li></ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Apply NLP Experiments</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Automated Testing</li></ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Human Preference (DPO)</li></ul>        |

# MVP

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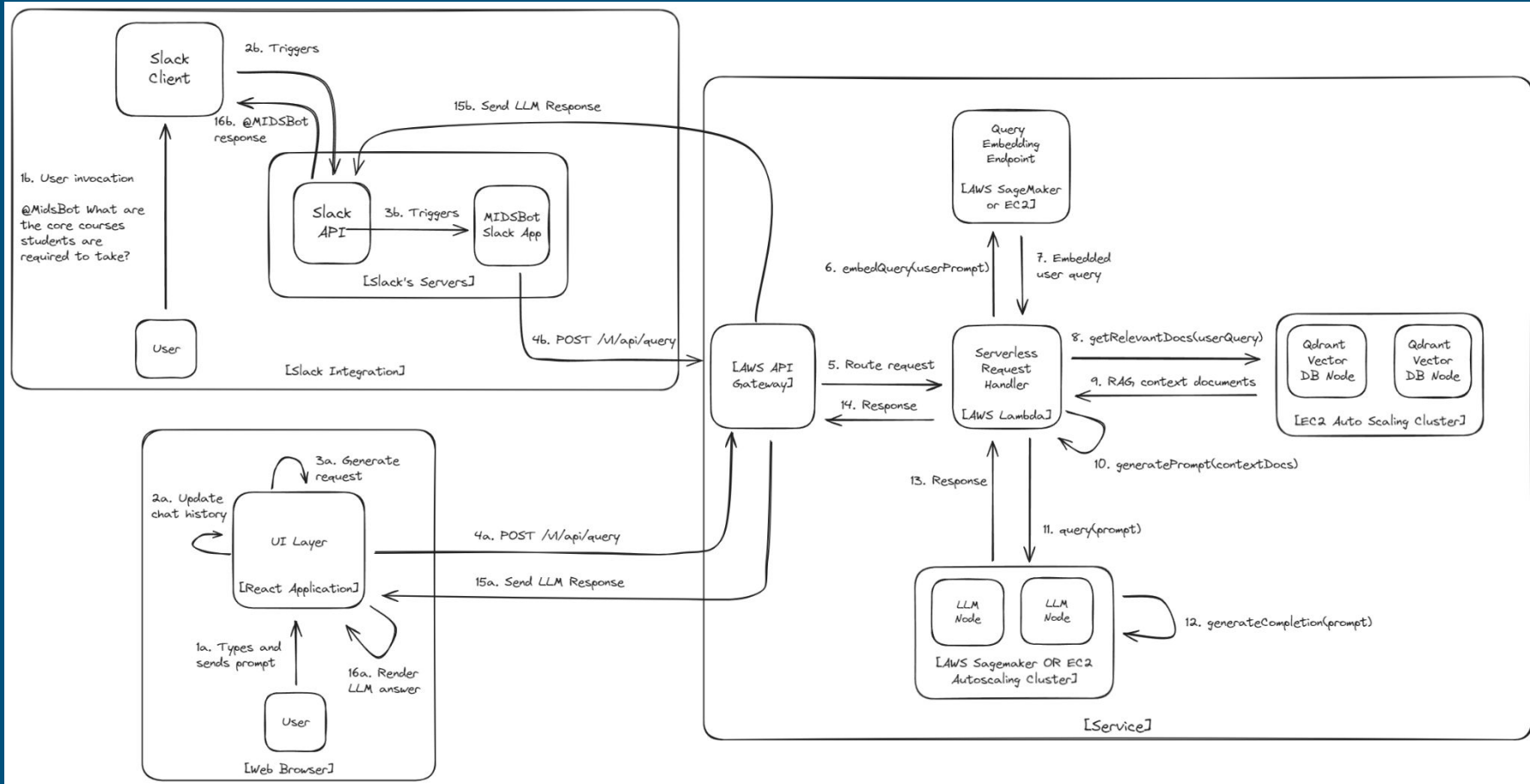


## MIDS Chat

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START CHATTING

# MVP Transition to Real Deal



# Datasets

## Data Collection

- **MIDS Intranet:** BeautifulSoup text scraping
- **Bcourses:** PDF processing MIDS Syllabi
- **Other publicly available sites** as needed
- **Slack:** admin export of #mids-class-rec channel
- **LLM Generated Question Answer Pairs**
  - Google Forms surveying students
  - Using openAi to generate questions AND answers based on available documents

## Data Preparation

### Data Cleansing

- Remove duplicate content (e.g., repetitive links to Facebook)
- Purge unnecessary content to maintain data relevance and reduce noise
- Purge or anonymize all personal information attributes

### Data Partitioning by

- Secure pages
- Public pages
- Course-specific pages

# User Requirements:

Gather user input to understand their requirements, confirm our assumptions about features, user interface elements, system usage and system functionality

- Google form
  - Open Alpha and Beta to small group of students
  - Human feedback via Direct Preference Optimization (DPO)
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# EDA

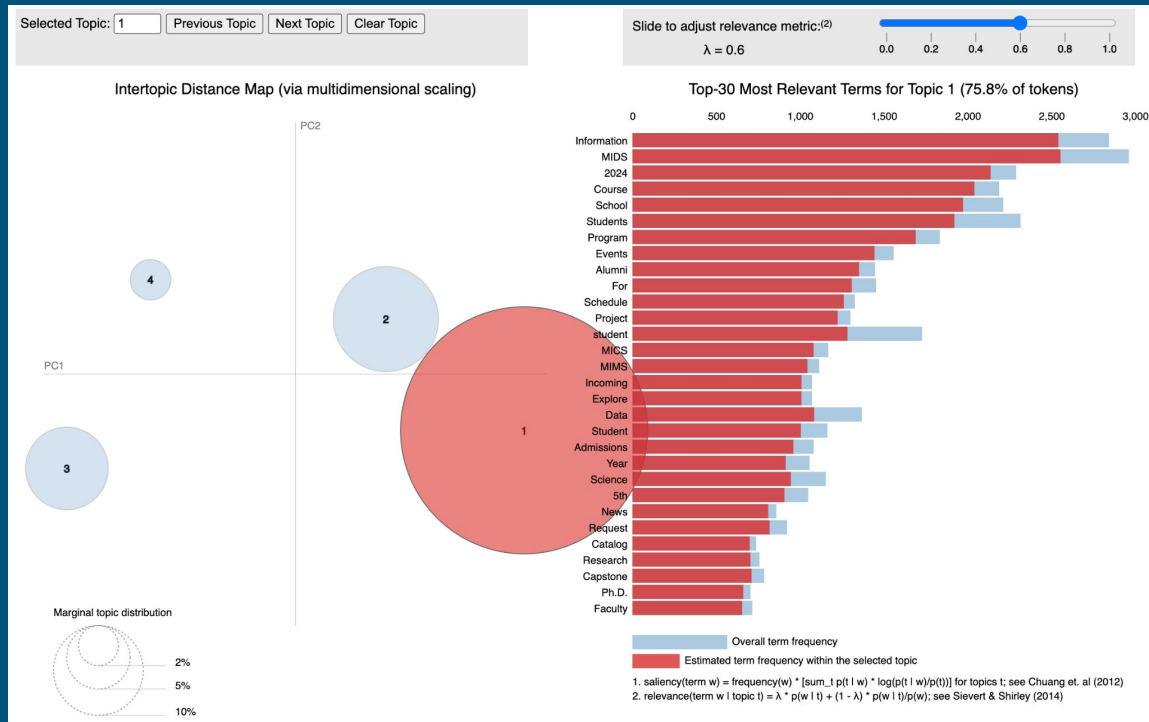
N-gram

Named Entity Recognition

Topic Modeling (LDA)

Topic Complexity

Sentiment Analysis



# Ethics and Privacy

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- Use of Slack
  - Terms and Conditions
- LLM considerations
  - Fine tuning on unbalanced dataset
  - Adversarial attacks
  - Guardrails
- Confidential data
  - PII
  - User sensitive information
  - User Privilege Classification on documents for access



# Open Questions and Challenges

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- RAG related
  - Generating Reference Answers
  - Model evaluation methods
  - Accessing Slack Data
- Deployment
  - MVP will be hosted locally with a static database
  - Can we build a generative system that run locally for an average users?
- A lot of cool ideas, what are the core features that make the cut?
  - Where will we draw the line ?
  - Not everyone can make varsity

# Conclusion

Knowledge is found in many unstructured sources, we unlock it through a RAG-based approach.

MIDS Chat

Welcome to MIDS chat 210 Student!

System

Ask a question related to the MIDS program and MIDSBot will answer using real data.

System

MIDSBot sources from a variety of documents including the iSchool website, course syllabi, and slack discussion threads.


System

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) is used to source a response grounded by the real documents. Try sending a message!

System

What are the prerequisites for taking the 210 course?

SEND



**MIDS Chat**

**Team:**

- Robert Greer
- Thomas Lai
- Randy Louie
- Devin Suy
- Nadia Tantsyura

**Chat Room:**

210 Student • MIDSBot •

# Notes

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Pitching - do we keep SLM? Does that align with BErkeley

- Yes, it minimizes infrastructure and implementation complexity for Berkeley.
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