

Machine Learning Product Design

Product: Real-Time Customer Churn Prediction System

Authors: Emmanuel Kirui Barkacha, Audrey Djiosseu Tiodo and Chist Sagombaye

Date: 2025-10-17

1. BACKGROUND	2. VALUE PROPOSITION	3. OBJECTIVES	4. SOLUTION	5. FEASIBILITY
<p>User: Telecommunications company.</p> <p>Goal: Predict customer churn in real time and understand why a customer is likely to churn(explainability).</p> <p>Pain: High customer churn rate leading to revenue loss.</p>	<p>Product: Real time churn prediction system.</p> <p>Alleviates: Enables proactive retention through timely alerts.</p> <p>Advantages: Improves customer retention and reduces revenue loss.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a churn prediction model with high accuracy.• Implement explainability and transparency.• Deploy real time inference pipeline.• Enable visualization dashboard for churn insights.• Establish automated monitoring and retraining.	<p>Core Features: Data pipeline and preprocessing, model training, real-time inference API, monitoring dashboard.</p> <p>Integration: Integrate with a user interface and database via REST APIs for easier access and management. Also integration with Prometheus and Grafana dashboards for monitoring.</p> <p>Alternatives: Supports batch inference for scheduled predictions when real-time is not required.</p> <p>Constraints: low-latency performance for real-time predictions.</p> <p>Out-of-Scope: Role-specific business workflows and advanced AI models (e.g., reinforcement learning).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data: Kaggle datasets available; production data can be simulated.• Processing: Supports data balancing and preprocessing for model reliability.• Infrastructure: Azure cloud provides required storage, compute and container resources.• Team: Skilled in machine learning, backend, frontend and DevOps for full implementation.

<p>6. DATA & SOURCES</p> <p>Training Data: Uses Kaggle’s Telco Customer Churn dataset. Data is split into training, validation, and testing sets, with sampling techniques (e.g., stratified sampling, SMOTE) to address class imbalance.</p> <p>Production Data: Ingested via secure APIs in batch or real-time modes. Data quality and trust ensured through schema validation and automated monitoring.</p>	<p>7. LABELING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dataset includes a predefined “Churn” label (Yes/No). • The label is converted to binary (1 = churned, 0 = retained). • Key features include demographics, account details (tenure, contract type, payment method), and service usage metrics. • Categorical data is encoded, numerical data is scaled, and class imbalance is addressed using stratified sampling or class weighting. 	<p>8. METRICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-score, ROC-AUC. 	<p>9. EVALUATION</p> <p>Offline: Evaluate models using an 80/20 train-test split with metrics like AUC, Precision, Recall, and F1-score. Compare baselines (Logistic Regression, Random Forest, XGBoost) to select the best model.</p> <p>Online: Simulate real-time evaluation with rolling windows against reference data. Use tools like Evidently AI to detect feature and prediction drift, triggering alerts (i.e if AUC drops by more than 5% or drift is statistically significant).</p>	<p>10. MODELING</p> <p>Iterative experimentation with Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and XGBoost. Use feature selection, hyperparameter tuning, and cross-validation. Initial baselines built using simple rule-based methods before ML models.</p>
<p>11. INFERENCE</p> <p>Real-time (online) inference through REST API for instant churn prediction.</p> <p>Batch inference for periodic churn reports and analytics dashboards.</p>	<p>12. FEEDBACK</p> <p>Continuous model monitoring via Prometheus and Grafana. Human-in-the-loop feedback to review and correct false predictions. Automated drift detection triggers retraining pipeline.</p>	<p>13. PROJECT</p> <p>Team: Skilled in machine learning, backend, frontend and DevOps.</p> <p>Key deliverables: ML model, deployed API, functional frontend, and CI/CD pipeline.</p> <p>Timeline: Project scheduled for 3 weeks duration.</p>		

System design flow diagram

Data pipeline

