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# Master Development Guide: The "Smart Budget Detective" (TrueLayer + Ntropy)

Role: You are the Lead Backend Architect.

Objective: Implement a robust transaction enrichment pipeline that acts as a middleware between TrueLayer (Raw Data) and our Budget Logic.

Core Philosophy: "Clean Input, Deterministic Output." We do not trust raw bank strings. We trust enriched, labeled data.

## 1. The Data Flow Architecture

You are building a pipeline that flows in one direction. Do not mix these stages.

Code snippet

graph TD

```
A[TrueLayer API] -->|Raw JSON| B(Normalization Service)
B -->|Cleaned Object| C[Ntropy SDK]
C -->|Enriched JSON| D{Budget Logic Engine}
D -->|Label: Loan/BNPL| E[Detected Debts List]
D -->|Label: Subscription| F[Recurring Expenses List]
D -->|Label: Unknown| G[Discretionary Spend]
E --> H[User Confirmation UI]
```

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## 2. Implementation Steps (Execution Order)

### Phase 1: The Normalization Service (Source)

**Goal:** Extract raw data from TrueLayer and sanitize it before it touches any other logic.

- **TrueLayer Input:** You will receive a JSON payload from the /transactions endpoint.
- **Critical Handling Rules:**
  - **Amounts:** TrueLayer sends negative numbers for spending (e.g., -45.00). You **MUST** convert these to **absolute (positive) floats** for Ntropy.
  - **Direction:** You must derive incoming vs outgoing based on the TrueLayer

transaction\_type (DEBIT/CREDIT) or the sign of the amount.

- **Dates:** Truncate ISO timestamps (2023-10-27T10:00:00Z) to simple strings ("2023-10-27").

## Phase 2: The Enrichment Integration (Ntropy)

**Goal:** Use the Ntropy Python SDK to turn "dumb" strings into "smart" objects.

- **SDK Setup:** Initialize `ntropy_sdk.SDK` with the API key.
- **The Mapper Function:** Create a function `map_truelayer_to_ntropy(tl_tx)` that returns an `NtropyTransaction` object.
  - *Input:* Your normalized TrueLayer dict.
  - *Output:* `ntropy_sdk.Transaction` object.
  - *Mandatory Fields:* amount (positive), entry\_type, description, date, iso\_currency\_code, transaction\_id.
  - *Crucial Context:* You **MUST** pass `account_holder_id`. Use a hashed version of the user's ID. This allows Ntropy to detect **recurrence** (e.g., "This user pays Netflix every 30 days"). Without this, the "Fixed Cost" detection will fail.

## Phase 3: The "Triage Nurse" Logic (The Budget Engine)

**Goal:** Interpret the Ntropy results to classify the user's spending.

Do not just save the data. You must write a Classifier Function that sorts transactions into three internal buckets based on Ntropy's labels and recurrence fields.

- **Bucket A: "Potential Debt" (The Target)**
  - *Triggers:* Ntropy labels contain loan, mortgage, finance, bnpl, credit card, overdraft.
  - *Action:* Flag for the **"Debt Trap" User UI**.
  - *Budget Impact:* **Excluded** from "Fixed Costs" initially (to prevent double counting).
- **Bucket B: "Fixed Living Costs"**
  - *Triggers:* Ntropy labels contain utilities, insurance, subscription. **OR** recurrence is detected but it is *not* a debt.
  - *Action:* Auto-add to "Monthly Bills."
  - *Budget Impact:* Deducted from Income.
- **Bucket C: "Discretionary"**
  - *Triggers:* food, shopping, entertainment (that are not recurring).
  - *Budget Impact:* Counts towards "Safe to Spend."

## Phase 4: Storage Strategy

- **Database Schema:** Create a `transaction_cache` table.
  - Store the `ntropy_transaction_id`, `merchant_clean_name`, `logo_url`, `is_recurring`, and the `original_raw_description`.
  - **Why?** So we never pay to enrich the same transaction twice. Check this cache before calling the API.

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### 3. User Experience (UX) Requirements

The logic must drive the UI. The user should never see raw JSON or bank codes.

1. **The "Debt Confirmation" Modal:**

- Present the items from **Bucket A** to the user.
- *Copy*: "We found these recurring payments to **[Merchant Name]**. Are these debts you want to pay off?"
- *Visuals*: Use the logo and website URL from Ntropy to display a recognizable icon next to the name.

2. **The "Recurrence" Insight:**

- If Ntropy says a payment is recurring, display a small "cycle" icon next to it.
- *Tooltip*: "Billed monthly on the [Day]th."

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### 4. Replit Agent Specific Instructions

- **Language**: Python (FastAPI) for backend; React for Frontend.
- **Validation**: Use **Pydantic** for all data ingress. Define a `TrueLayerIngestModel` and an `NtropyOutputModel` to ensure type safety.
- **Error Handling**: If Ntropy fails or times out, fallback to a "Raw Mode" where we just display the description and ask the user to classify it manually. **Do not block the app.**
- **Security**: Never log the raw API keys. Use environment variables (`os.environ`).

Final Output Requirement:

Generate the `EnrichmentService` class in Python that handles the full lifecycle: ingest -> convert -> enrich -> classify.