Use case

# Automating a business workflow#

Remember our friend Nathan?

Nathan 🙋: Hello, it's me again. My manager was so impressed with my first workflow automation solution that she entrusted me with more responsibility.  
You 👩‍🔧: More work and responsibility. Congratulations, I guess. What do you need to do now?  
Nathan 🙋: I got access to all our sales data and I'm now responsible for creating two reports: one for regional sales and one for orders prices. They're based on data from different sources and come in different formats.  
You 👩‍🔧: Sounds like a lot of manual work, but the kind that can be automated. Let's do it!

## Workflow design#

Now that we know what Nathan wants to automate, let's list the steps he needs to take to achieve this:

• Get and combine data from all necessary sources.

• Sort the data and format the dates.

• Write binary files.

• Send notifications using email and Discord.

n8n provides core nodes for all these steps. This use case is somewhat complex. We should build it from three separate workflows:

• A workflow that merges the company data with external information.

• A workflow that generates the reports.

• A workflow that monitors errors in the second workflow.

## Workflow prerequisites#

To build the workflows, you will need the following:

• An Airtable account and credentials.

• A Google account and credentials to access Gmail.

• A Discord account and webhook URL (you receive this using email when you sign up for this course).

Next, you will build these three workflows with step-by-step instructions.