



Lecture 4: LLM Application Design (Cont'd)

SPRING 2025

MOHAMED FARAG

FARAG@CMU.EDU

Agenda

- Create Your Vertex AI Cloud Environment
- Generate Vertex AI Credentials
- FlowiseAI Components
- FlowiseAI Exercises

Create Your Vertex AI Cloud Environment

Hint: Enable Compute Engine and Vertex AI APIs

View:

INSTANCES

USER-MANAGED NOTEBOOKS

MANAGED NOTEBOOKS



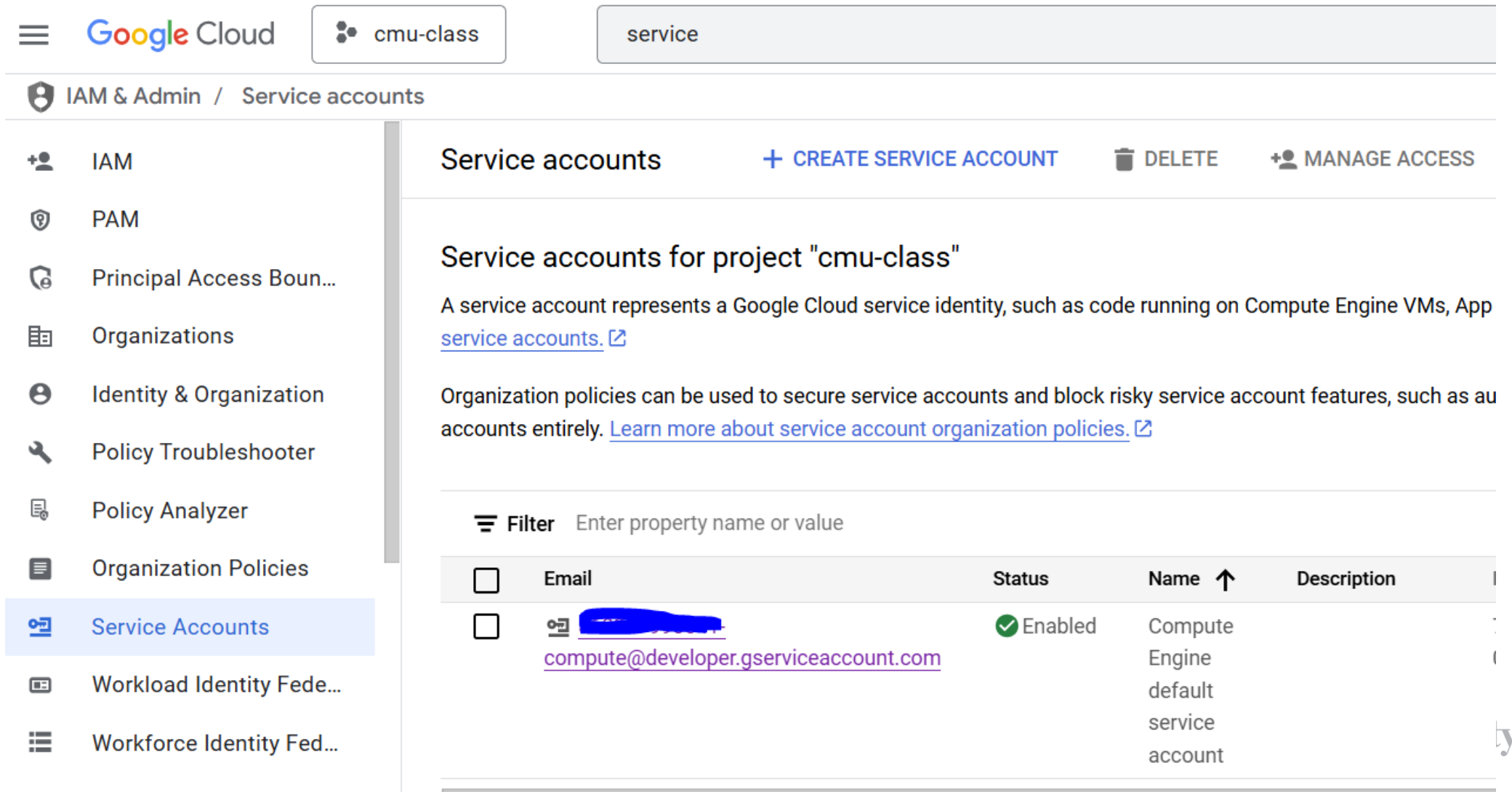
JupyterLab 4 is now available in Vertex AI Workbench.

Workbench Instances have JupyterLab 3 pre-installed and are configured with GPU-enabled machine learning frameworks. [Learn more](#)

Filter

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Instance name		Zone	Auto upgrade	Version	Machine Type	GP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	instance-20250122-223420	OPEN JUPYTERLAB	us-central1-a	—	M127	Efficient Instance: 4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM	No

Generate Vertex API Credentials for FlowiseAI



The screenshot shows the Google Cloud IAM & Admin console. The top navigation bar includes the Google Cloud logo, the project name 'cmu-class', and a search bar containing 'service'. The left sidebar lists various IAM and Admin tools, with 'Service Accounts' highlighted. The main content area displays 'Service accounts' for project 'cmu-class', including a '+ CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT' button and links for 'DELETE' and 'MANAGE ACCESS'. Below this, there is explanatory text about service accounts and a table listing existing accounts.

Google Cloud cmu-class service

IAM & Admin / Service accounts


Service accounts + CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT DELETE + MANAGE ACCESS

Service accounts for project "cmu-class"

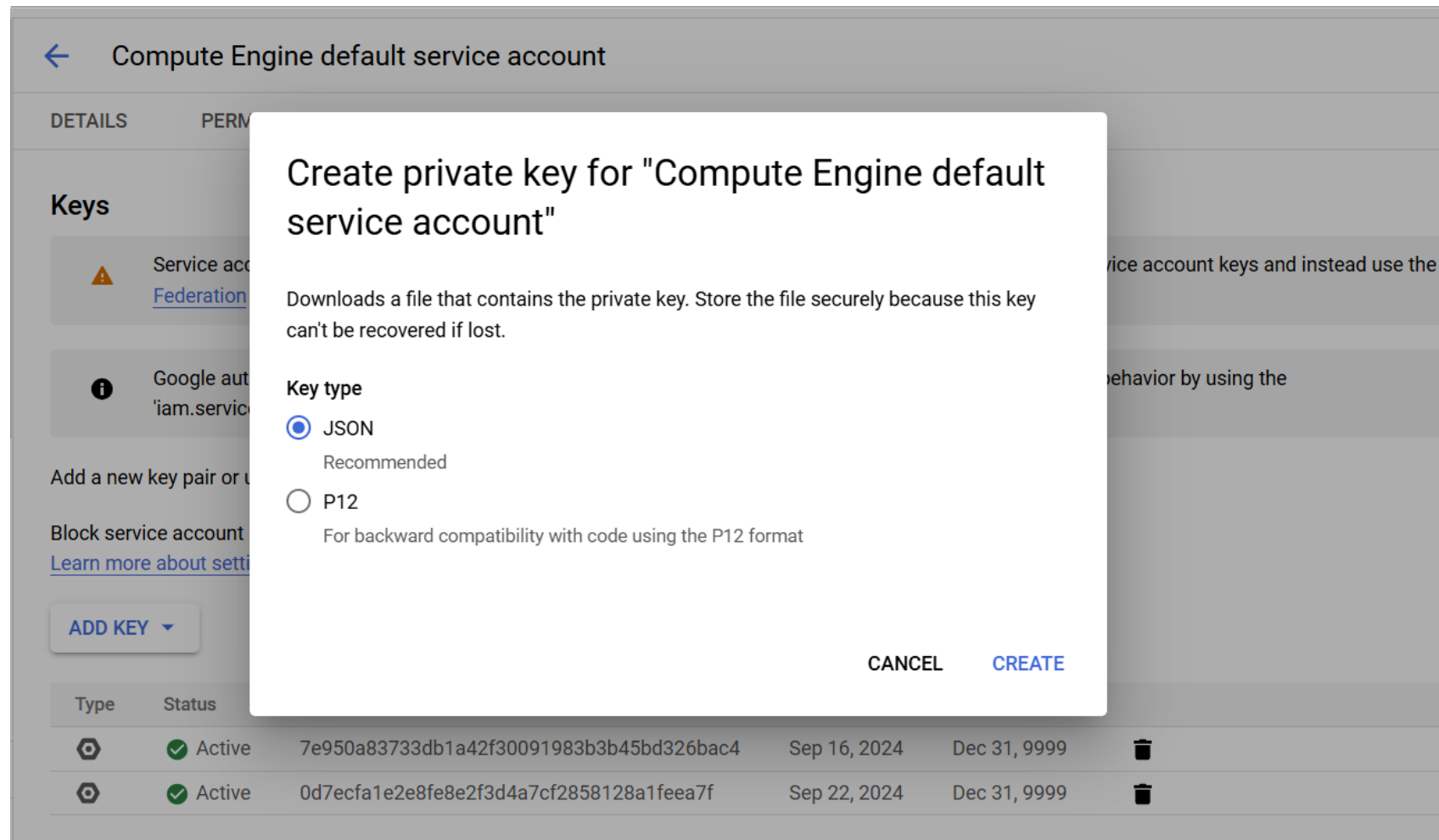
A service account represents a Google Cloud service identity, such as code running on Compute Engine VMs, App [service accounts](#).

Organization policies can be used to secure service accounts and block risky service account features, such as au accounts entirely. [Learn more about service account organization policies](#).

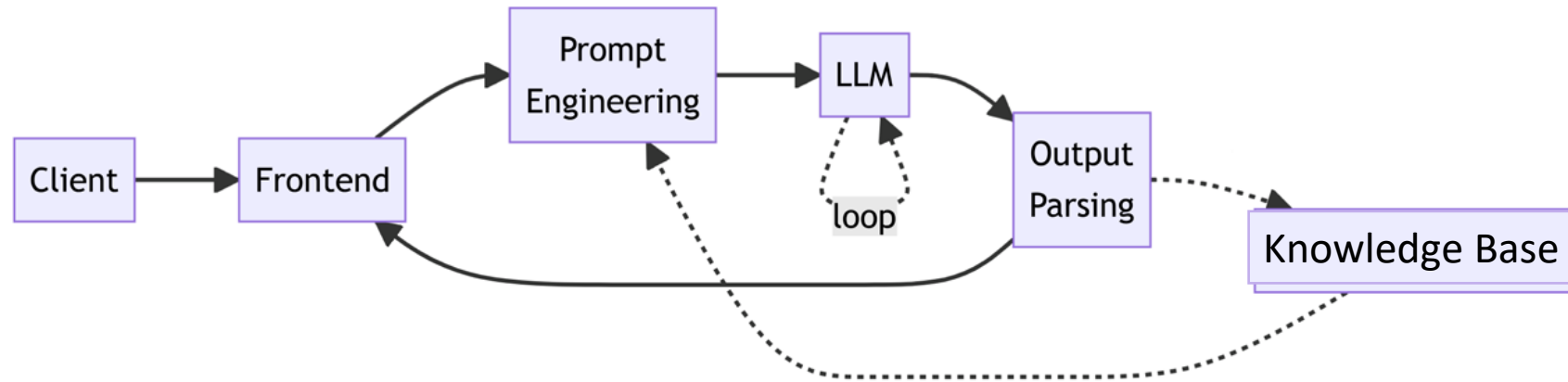
Filter Enter property name or value

<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	Status	Name ↑	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	 compute@developer.gserviceaccount.com	✓ Enabled	Compute Engine default service account	

Create new JSON key and paste JSON file contents into your FlowiseAI credentials



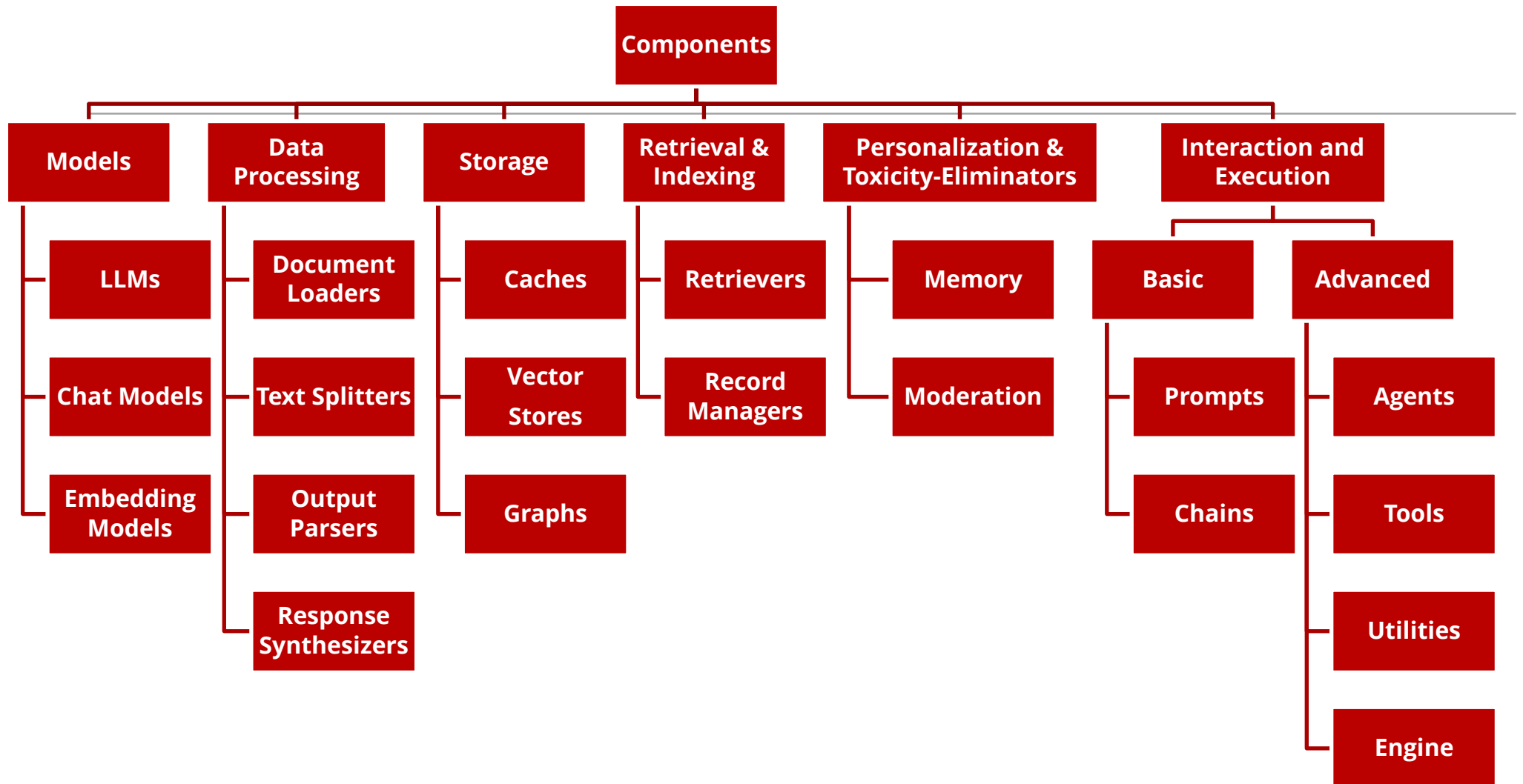
LLM Applications – General Idea



What if we would like to:

- Leverage external documents to enhance the capabilities of the LLM.
- Incorporate previous conversations into the LLM's responses.
- Integrate multiple prompts or functionalities for a cohesive experience
- Use a custom functionality that is not offered out of the box.

FlowiseAI Components



FlowiseAI Components (Cont'd)

Category	Nodes	Purpose
Models	LLMs	Large Language Models for natural language understanding and generation
	Chat Models	Specialized models for conversations
	Embedding Models	Transforming data into vector space for machine learning
Data Processing	Document Loaders	Nodes for ingesting and parsing documents
	Text Splitters	Divide text into smaller chunks for processing
	Output Parsers	Convert model outputs into structured formats
	Response Synthesizer	Combines outputs into cohesive and structured responses (from LlamaIndex)

FlowiseAI Components (Cont'd)

Category	Nodes	Purpose
Storage	Caches	Temporary storage to speed up recurring processes
	Vector Stores	Store and retrieve vector representations of data efficiently
	Graphs	Work with graph-based structures for complex relationships
Retrieval & Indexing	Retrievers	Fetch relevant data from storage for a query
	Record Managers	Organize and manage saved records in a database
Personalization & Toxicity-Eliminators	Memory	Retains context and past interactions
	Moderation	Monitor and restricts inappropriate content

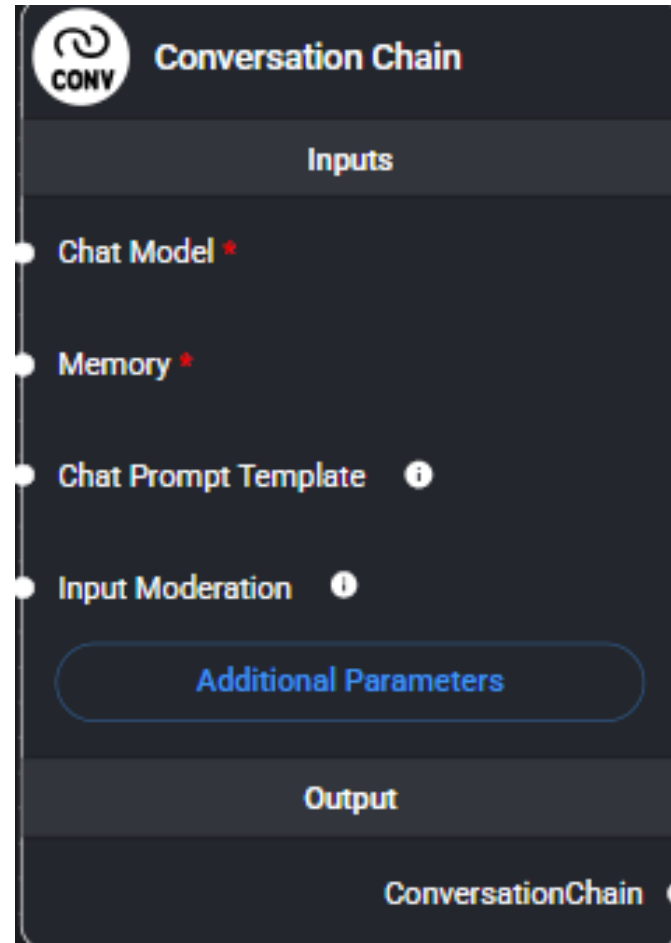


FlowiseAI Components - Chains

Chains are leveraged to assemble modular components into versatile and reusable pipelines. Chains have different types including:

- Conversation Chain: Uses memory to keep track of previous interactions
- Retrieval QA Chain: Retrieves relevant information from a single knowledge base
- Conversational Retrieval QA Chain: Retrieves relevant information from a single knowledge base and optionally uses memory to keep track of previous interactions as well.
- Multi Retrieval QA Chain: Combines multiple retrievers.

Chain Example – Conversation Chain



The screenshot shows a configuration window titled 'Conversation Chain' with a 'CONV' icon. It features a vertical list of inputs on the left and a main configuration area on the right. The inputs are 'Chat Model', 'Memory', 'Chat Prompt Template', and 'Input Moderation', each with a white dot to its left. The main area contains a blue button labeled 'Additional Parameters'. Below the inputs is an 'Output' section, and at the bottom right is a 'ConversationChain' label with a white dot.

Conversation Chain


Inputs

- Chat Model *
- Memory *
- Chat Prompt Template ⓘ
- Input Moderation ⓘ

[Additional Parameters](#)

Output

ConversationChain •



In your opinion,
why would you use a Chain?



FlowiseAI Components - Agents

Agents are autonomous software entities designed to perform actions and execute tasks.

- What are the main differences between agents and chains?




Agents – Cont'd

Agents are autonomous software entities designed to perform actions and execute tasks.

- What are the main differences between agents and chains?
 - Agents orchestrate chains while chains orchestrate lower-level modules.
 - Agents can take actions and perform tasks.

Agent Example

 **Conversational Agent**

Inputs

● Allowed Tools *

● Chat Model *

● Memory *

● Input Moderation ⓘ

Additional Parameters

Output

AgentExecutor ●

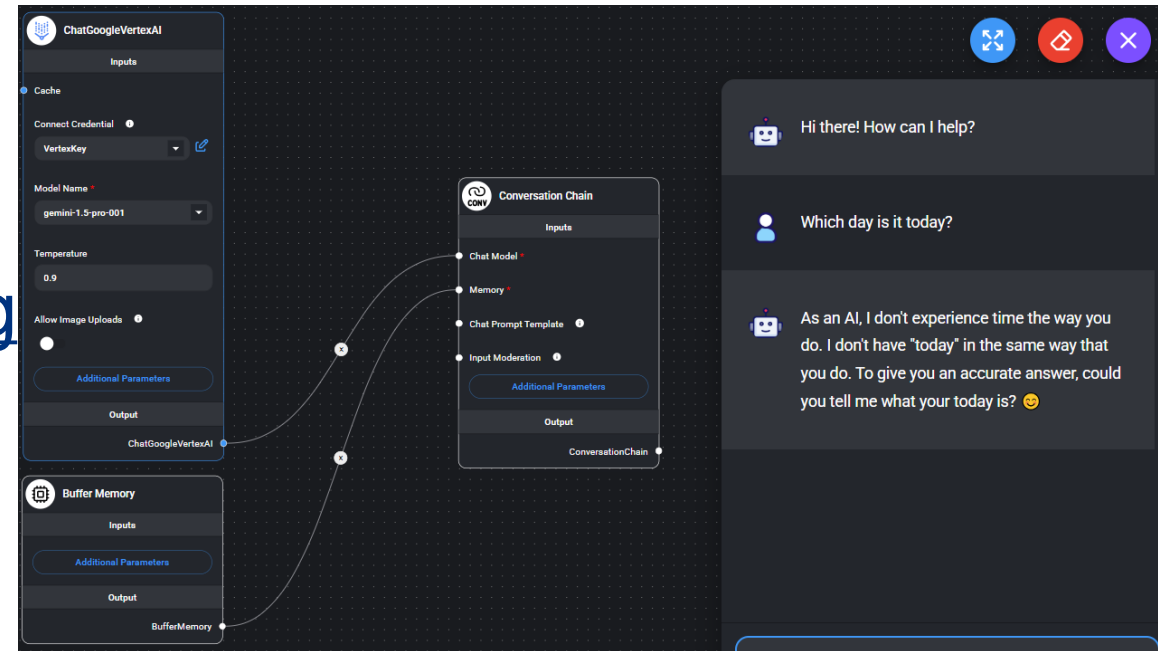


FlowiseAI Components - Tools

- Tools offer modular interfaces that enable agents to connect with external services such as databases and APIs.
- Toolkits organize tools that utilize shared resources.
- Example tools include Web Browser, Calculator, etc.
- You can create your custom tools as well.

Example

- We need to a tool to find today's date or weather since LLMs can't find this information on their own.
- Suggestions: Use <https://open-meteo.com/>
OR
<https://openweathermap.org>
to create your custom tool or agent.





General LLM Application Design Guidelines

- Document Loaders → Text Splitters → Embeddings/Vector Stores
- Chat Models/LLMs → Output Parsers
- Prompts → LLM/Chat Model Chains
- Tools → Agents
- Moderation → Models, Chains, Agents, etc.



Exercises

- Perform Q&A on PDF file.
- Build Custom Tool for retrieving weather by Lat/Long

A decorative plaid pattern with red, green, and yellow lines on a dark blue background, located on the left side of the slide.

Readings

- Create your custom Tool in Flowise AI:
<https://docs.flowiseai.com/integrations/langchain/tools/custom-tool>
 - Important reading for the project and HW-1.