Carnegie Mellon University

Lecture 4:
LLM Application Design (Cont'd)

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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

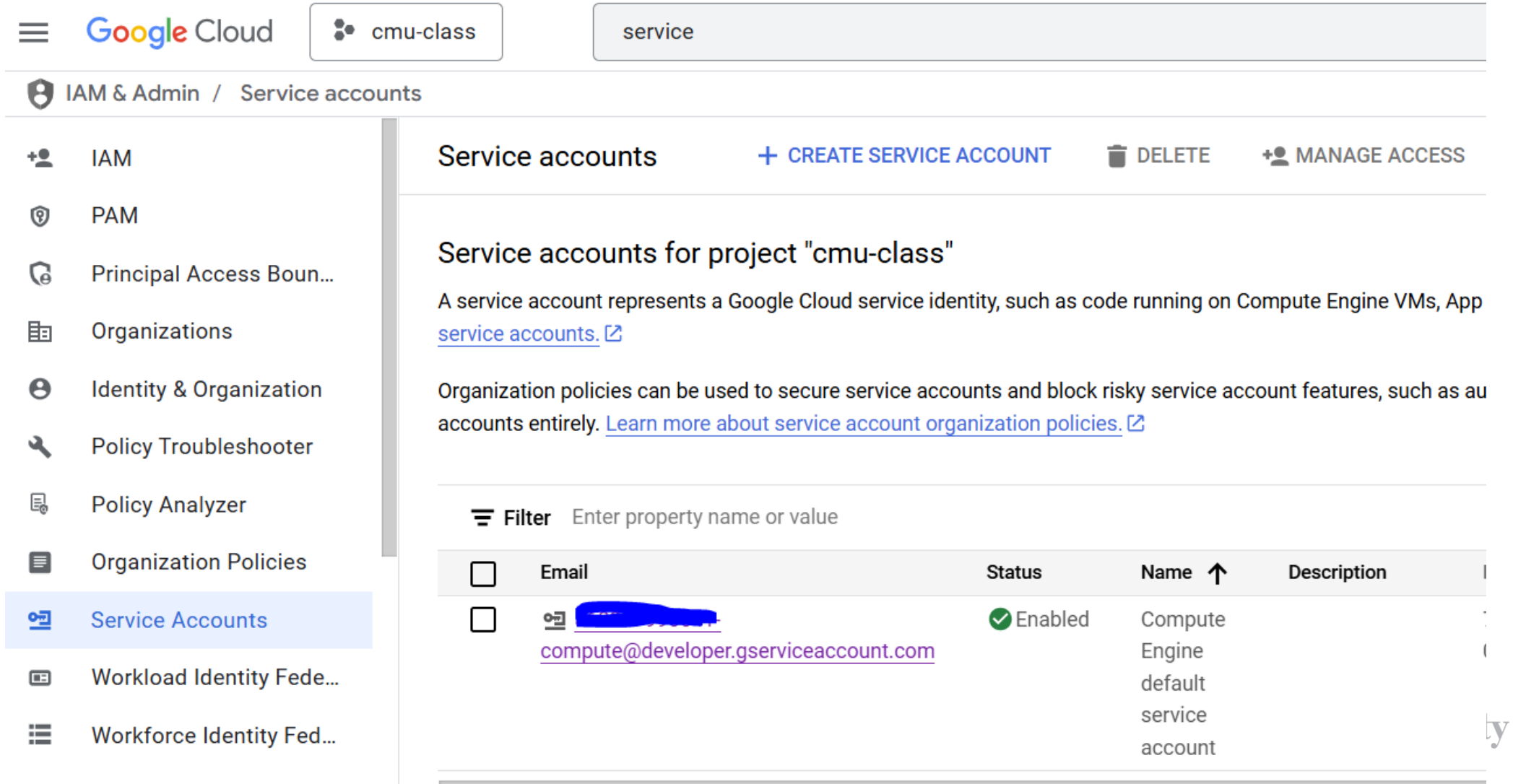
JupyterLab 4 is now available in Vertex AI Workbench.

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

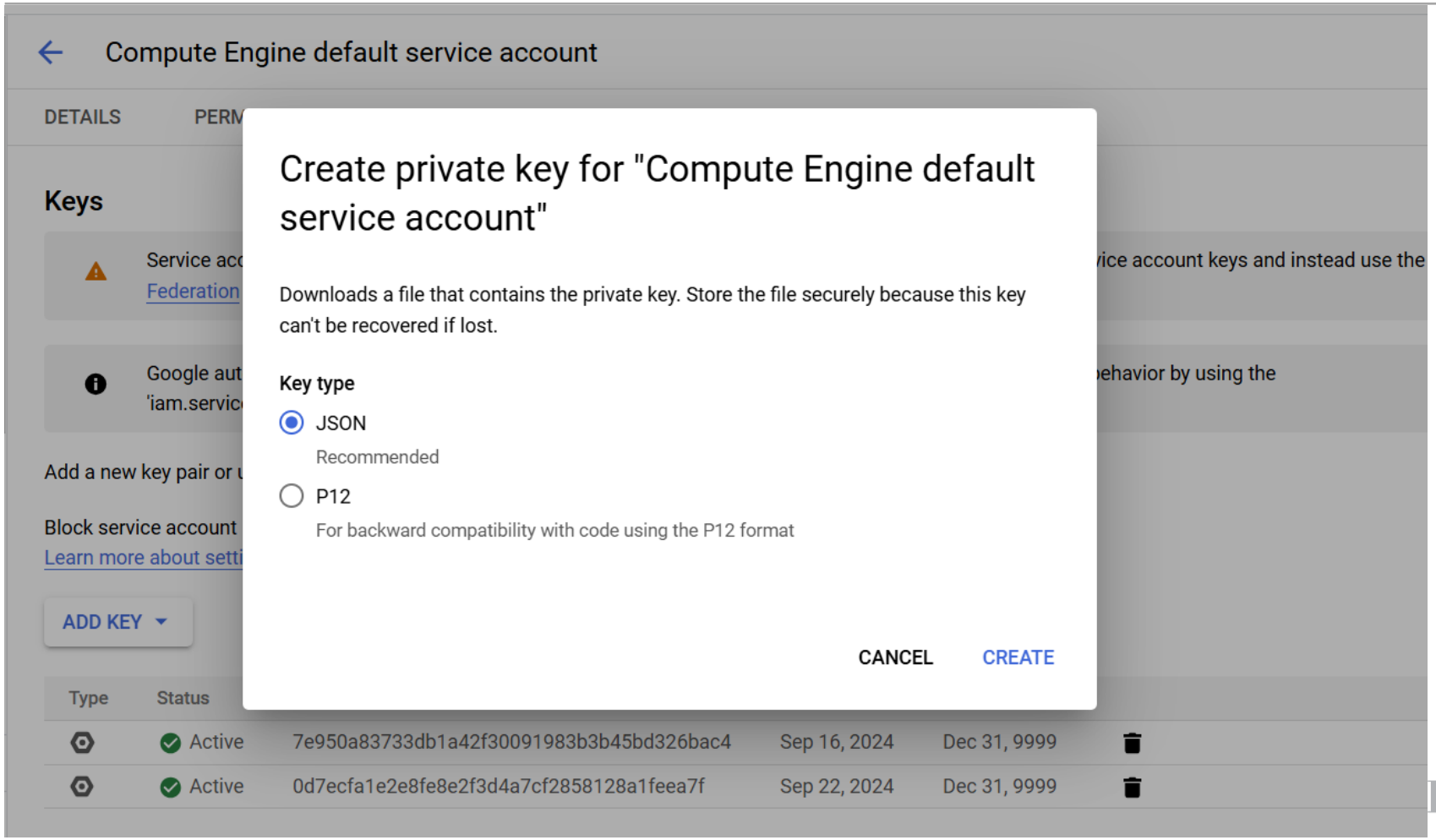
Filter

		Instance name		Zone	Auto upgrade	Version	Machine Type	GP
☐	✓	instance-20250122-223420	OPEN JUPYTERLAB	us-central1-a	—	M127	Efficient Instance: 4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM	No

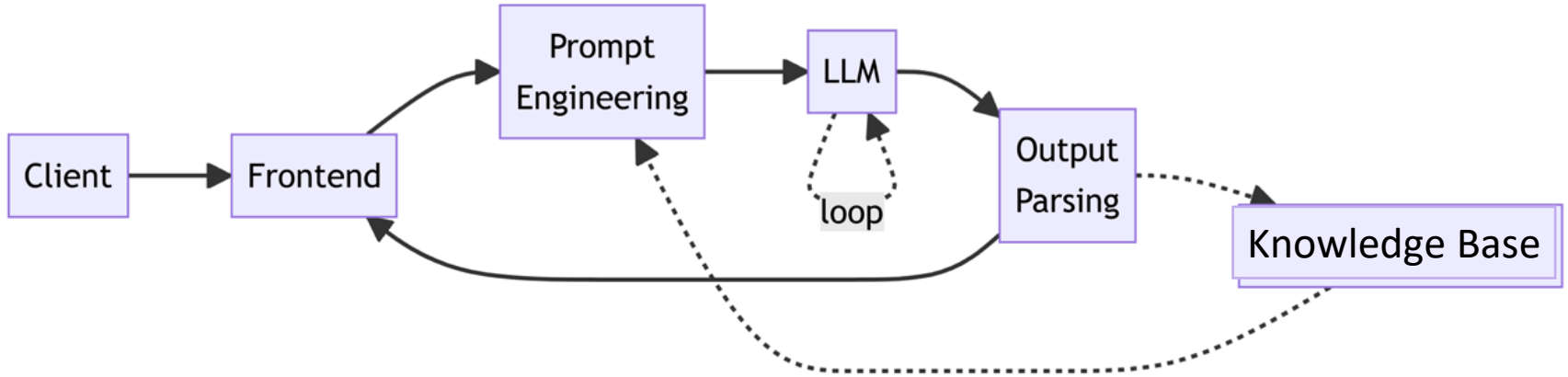
Generate Vertex API Credentials for FlowiseAI



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



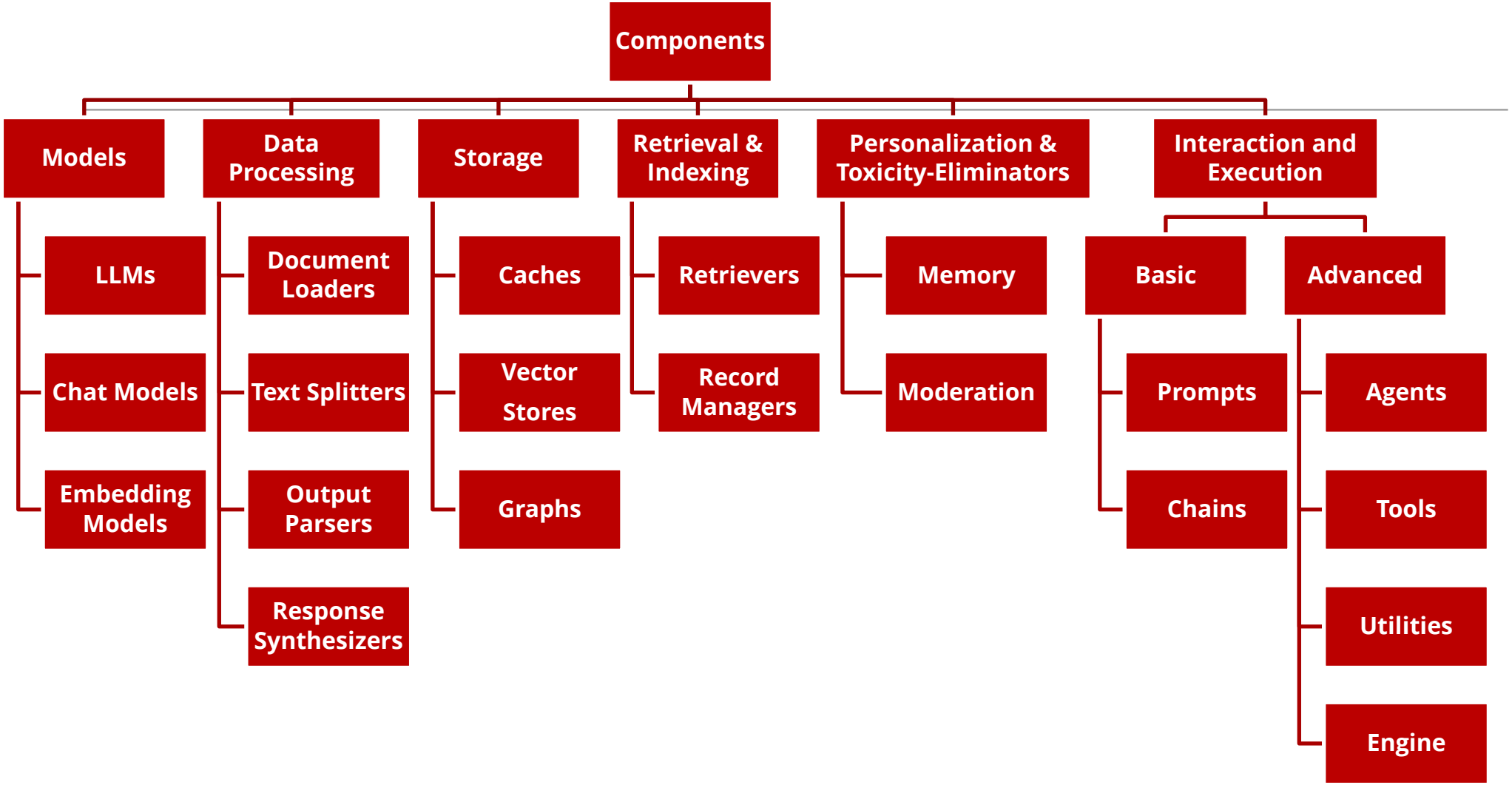
LLM Applications – General Idea



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)

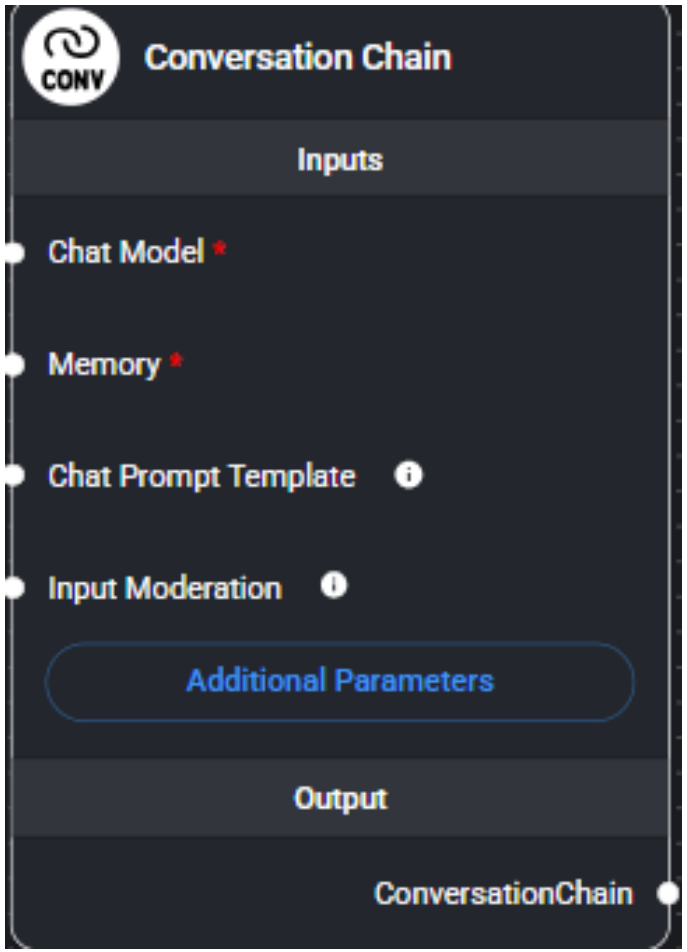
Category	Nodes	Purpose
Storage	Caches	Temporary storage to speed up recurring processes
	Vector Stores	Store and retrieve vector representations of data efficiently
	Graphs	Work with graph-based structures for complex relationships
Retrieval & Indexing	Retrievers	Fetch relevant data from storage for 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



In your opinion,
why would you use a Chain?

FlowiseAI Components - Agents

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

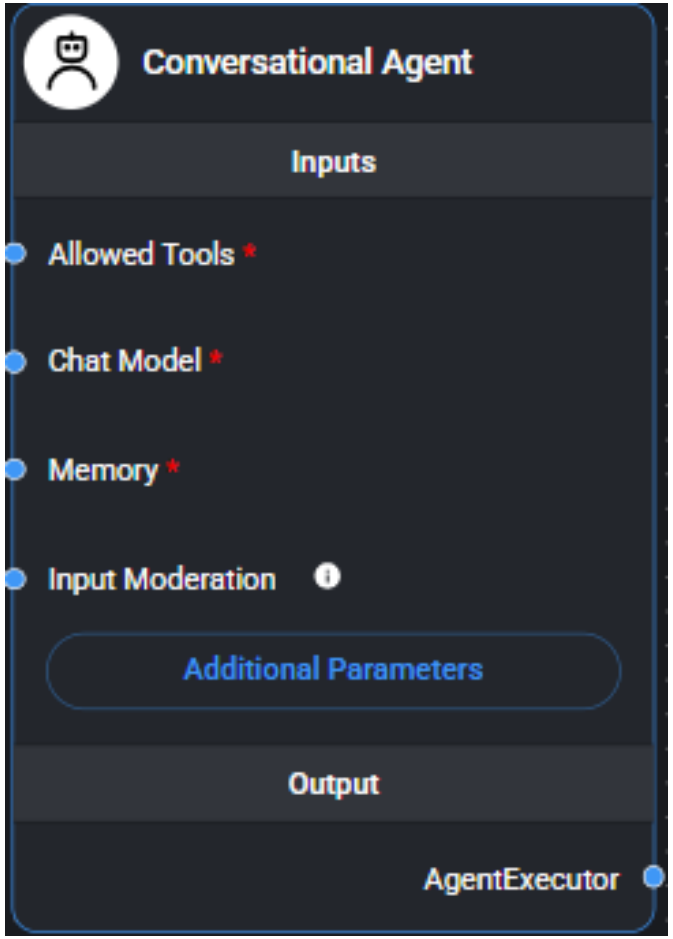
- What are the main differences between agents and chains?

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

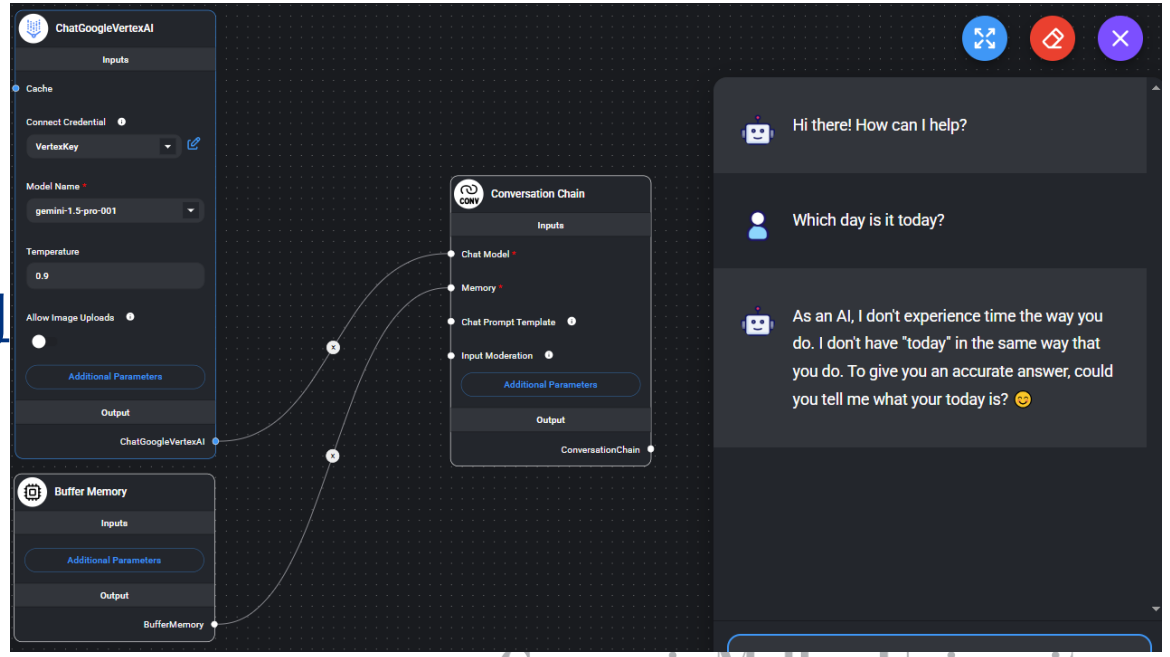


FlowiseAI Components - Tools

- 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

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.