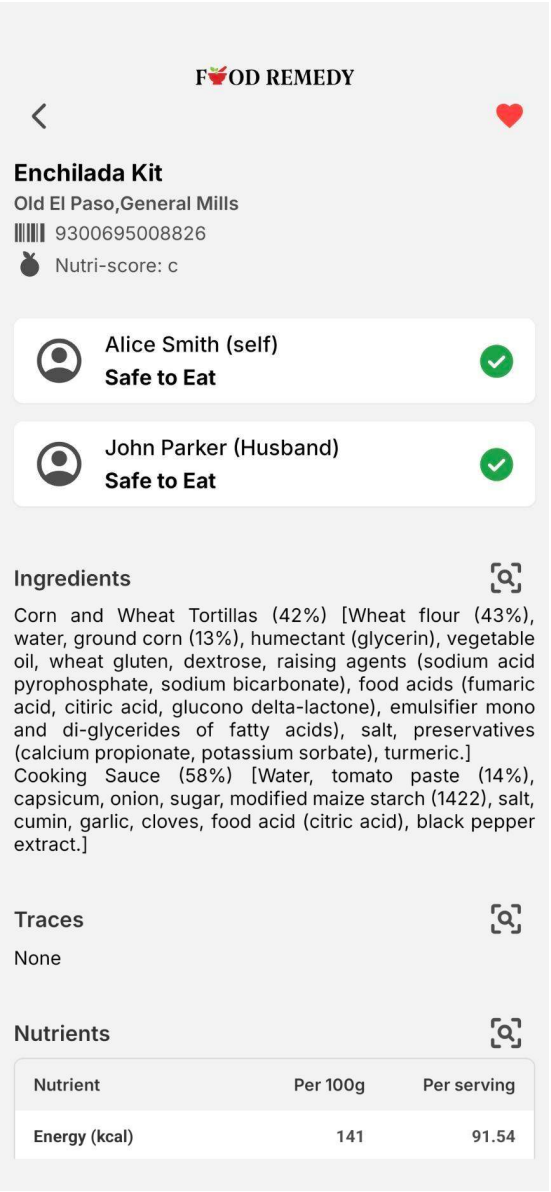
Food Remedy API – My Leadership Journey

From Solo Database

Member

To The Backbone of Project Data



Stepping Up as Leader

Starting Point

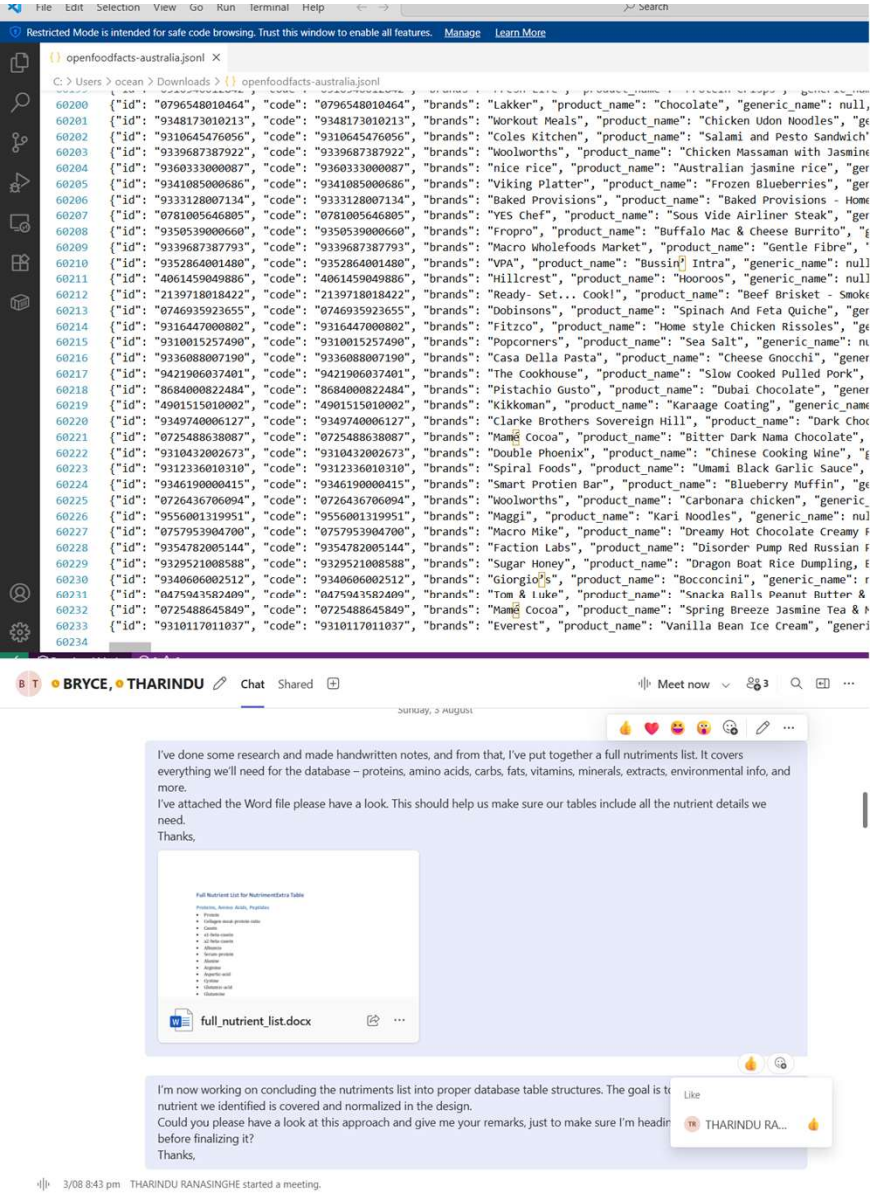
Began as the **sole database member** with strong encouragement from our Project Lead to take ownership of this critical component

Vision Development

Took complete ownership of the **database vision** powering barcode scanning for nutrition data, allergens, and ingredients

Setting Standards

Established the **standards and direction** for all future database development across the entire project lifecycle



Building the Data Foundation

Data Mastery

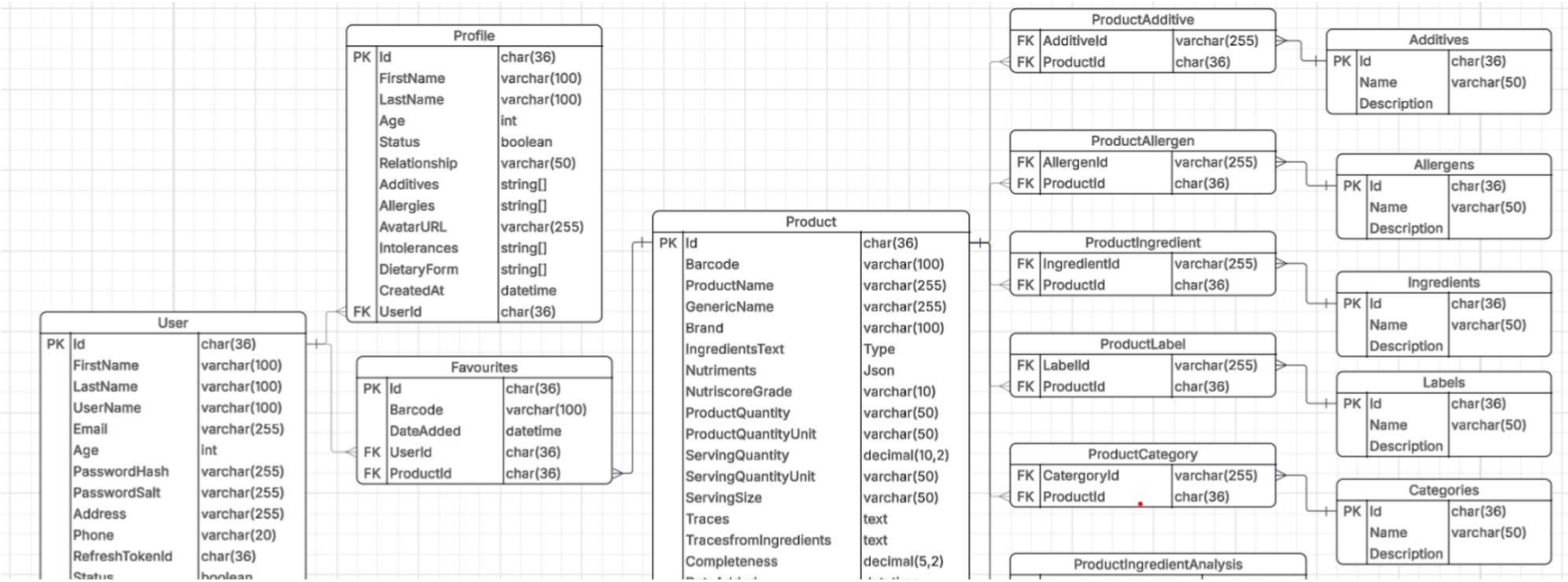
Sourced and cleaned **60,233** **products** using custom Python scripts, transforming raw data into structured, usable information

Tackled complex **nutriment data challenges** by manually processing reports, then automating the entire workflow into efficient JSONL format

Initiative & Independence

Demonstrated strong **initiative** by creating first deliverables without waiting for dependencies from other teams

Built robust data processing pipelines that became the foundation for all future database operations



Architect & Designer

01

ERD Creation

Designed comprehensive **Entity Relationship Diagram** mapping all database entities and their complex relationships

02

Schema Design

Developed robust **schemas and models** with seamless backend alignment for optimal performance

03

Technical Solutions

Resolved critical **Docker and migration errors** using advanced CLI tools and troubleshooting expertise

Leading Through Challenges

1

Database Population Challenge

*Identified **database population** as the project's most complex **technical hurdle** requiring **innovative solutions***

2

Automation Excellence

*Built sophisticated **automated scripts** featuring UUIDv5 generation and optimized batch insertions*

3

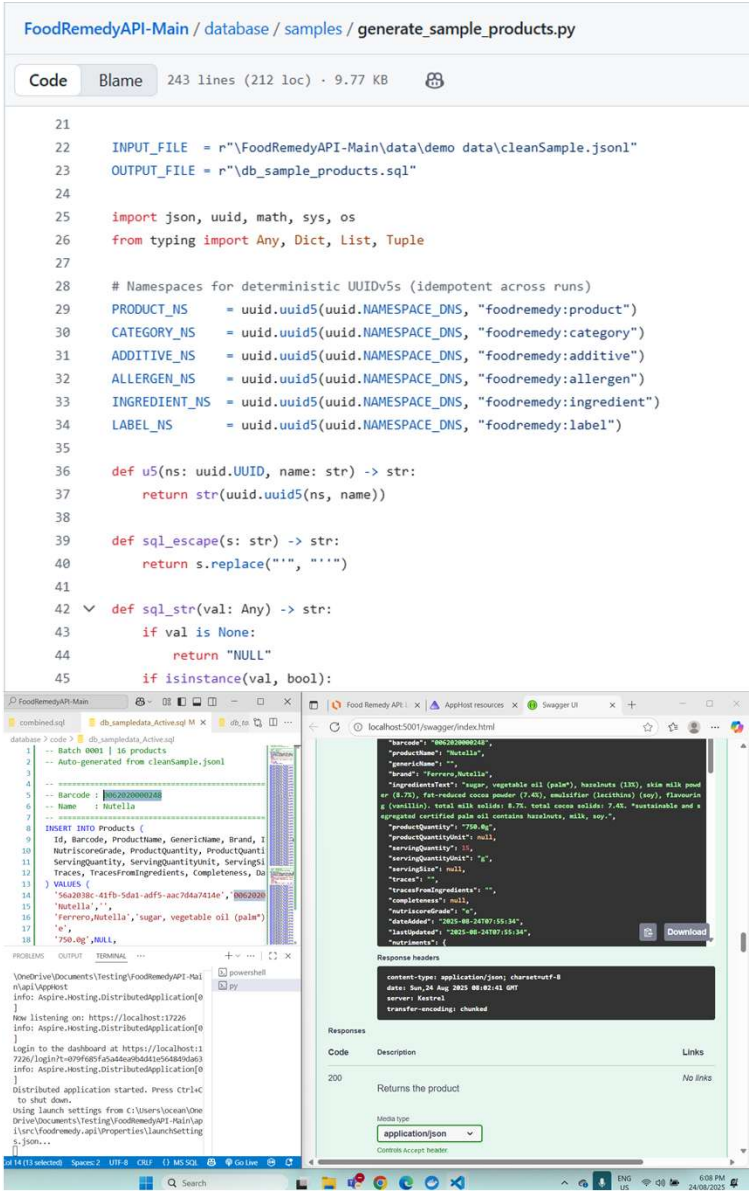
Integration Leadership

*Served as primary **point of contact** for **backend integration**, conducting thorough **Swagger API** testing*

4

Adaptive Resilience

*Demonstrated exceptional **resilience** adapting to **constant updates** and evolving project requirements*



Breakthrough & Recognition

Critical Pivot

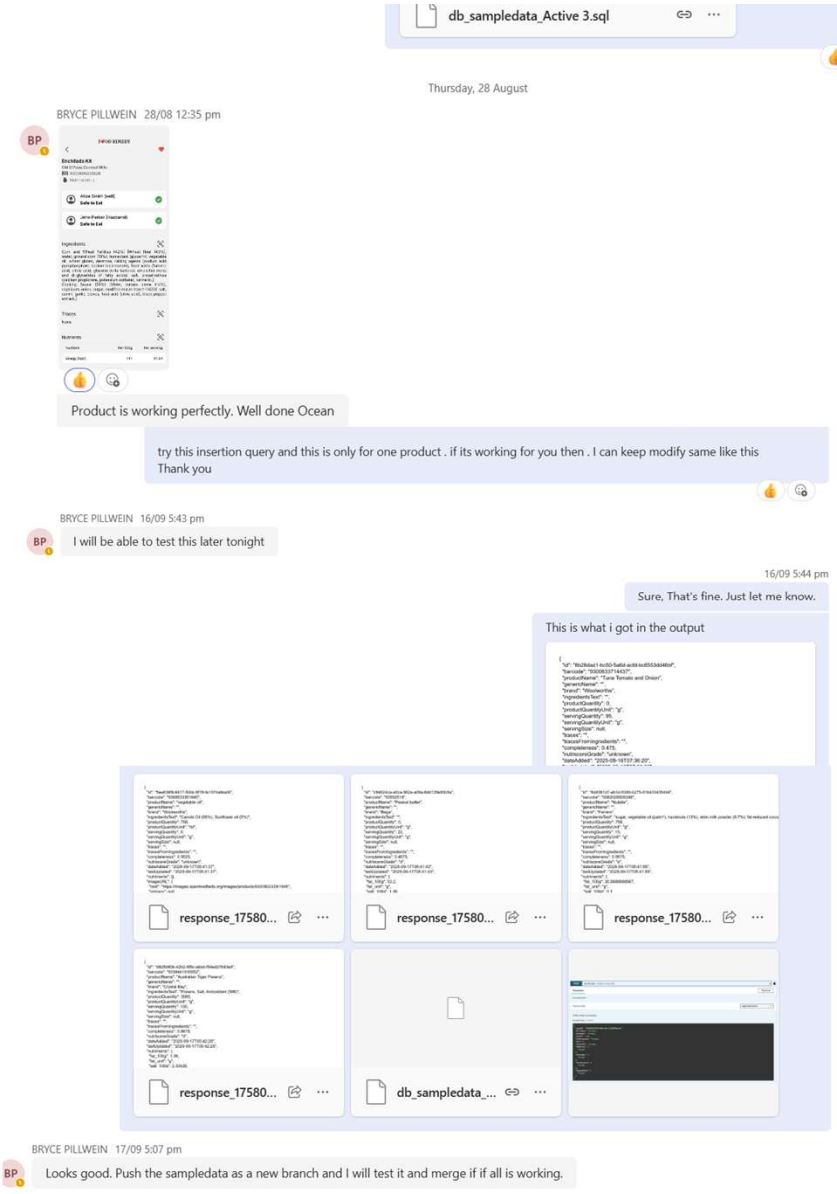
Faced a sudden **demo dataset change** which required me to rebuild the entire insertion script from scratch. Worked closely with the **Project Lead** to test queries, validate outputs, and adapt to new requirements.

Rapid Delivery

Delivered a fully working solution in just **1–2 days**, iterating quickly on feedback (sampledata branch, JSON outputs) and ensuring smooth integration with the backend.

Leadership Validation

Project Lead **validated** my solution as **correct** and production-ready, acknowledging the speed and reliability of my work under pressure.



OCEAN OCEAN 8/08 11:57 am

Weekly Database Progress & Learning Session

Hi Team,
I've noticed that some members are interested in working on database-related tickets but may r
or ongoing work in the database. I also understand that some would like to learn more about it.
To address this, I'll be starting a **weekly database progress update** and organising a **database**
around 6 PM).
I've created a poll in the group to choose a day that works best for everyone, please share your
I'll also be creating additional database tickets before the end of this week to ensure there's eno
Looking forward to everyone's input and participation!
With Regards
Ocean

Weekly Database Progress & Learning Session – Schedule

Hi Team,
Only a few people voted, but the majority preferred Sunday or Tuesday, so we'll hold our weekl
In this session, I'll share the **latest database progress**, talk through current challenges, and offe
more or contributing to database-related work. **Everyone is welcome** to join.
Before the inter-trimester break finishes, I'll create as many new **database tickets** as possible
involved. While I may not get them all done immediately, I'll aim to have the maximum number
Join the meeting here: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTgxODQ2ZWMtZjBhMS00Y2IwLWE5ODItNDQxMWE2MTVmMDRh%40thr
context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22d02378ec-1688-46d5-8540-1c28b5f470f6%22%2c%22Oid%22
see more

OCEAN OCEAN 7/09 6:20 pm

Weekly Database Progress & Learning Session – Update

Hi Team,
Just a quick follow-up — for the past two weeks, no one has joined the scheduled **Sunday DB s**
meetings for now.
If you need **database updates**, want to **contribute to DB tasks**, or plan to work on a **specific t**
Teams anytime — I'll be happy to support or sync up 1:1.
Thanks for understanding! 😊

Leadership Beyond Code

Knowledge Sharing

Initiated **weekly** *database learning sessions for the entire team, fostering collective technical growth*

Individual Mentoring

Provided dedicated **1:1** *mentoring for team members working on database-related tickets and challenges*

Documentation Excellence

Created comprehensive **documentation** *for migrations and queries, ensuring long-term project sustainability*

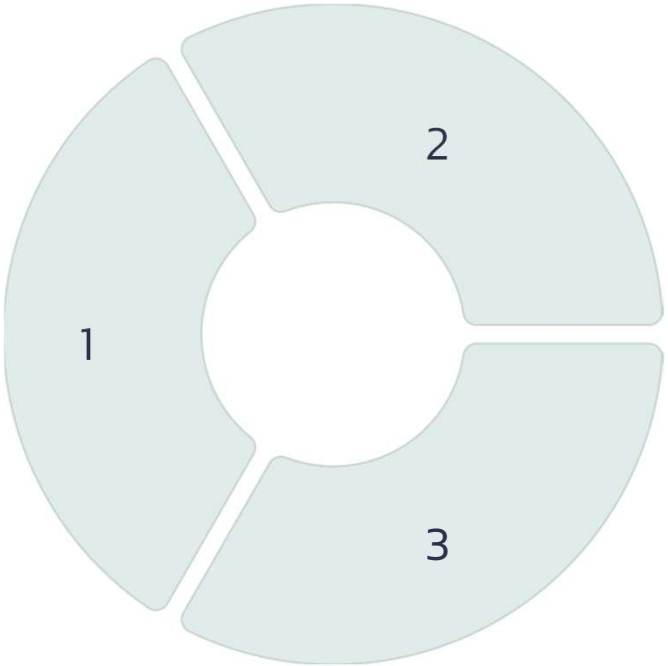
Project Continuity

Authored majority of **database tickets**, *maintaining consistent project momentum and clear deliverables*

Impact & Reflection

Technical Impact

Built the **database backbone** enabling barcode scanning, nutrition retrieval, allergen detection, and future scalability



Leadership Growth

Evolved from database beginner to **trusted technical guide** for the entire development team

Core Message

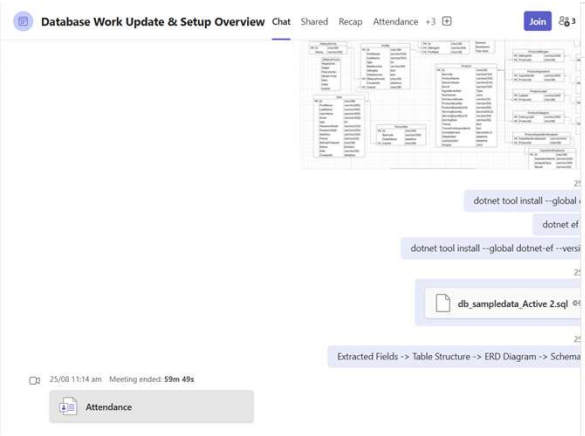
While databases may seem invisible, they are truly the **heart of the application** powering every user interaction

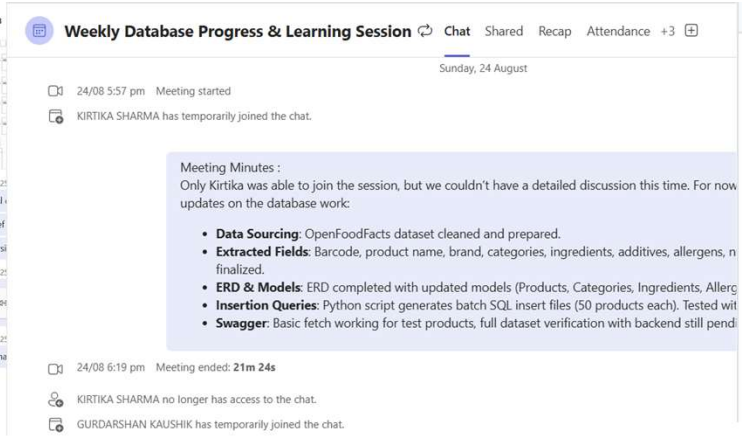
Leadership Testimonial

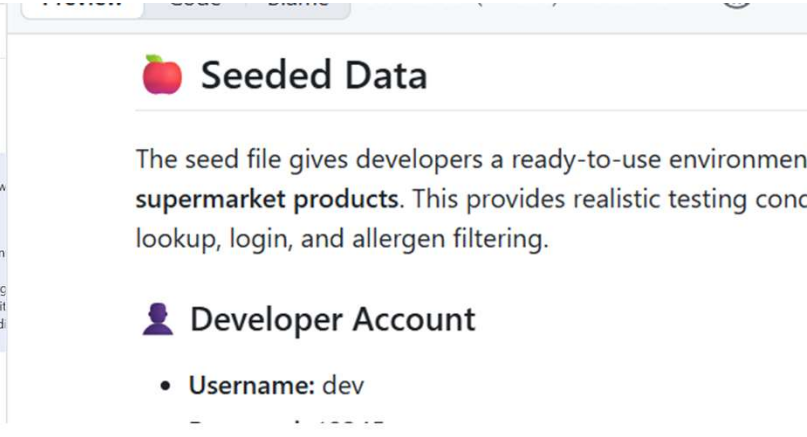
BRYCE PILLWEIN 9:28 am

I meant to send this earlier so you could include it in your presentation, but I've been a bit busy. If you still have time, feel free to add it in. It's a short testimonial from me as Project Lead, an endorsement of your work that you can present to the panel:

"At the start of the trimester, Ocean was hesitant about stepping into a leadership role, unsure if she could commit to the responsibility. With support and encouragement, she not only accepted the challenge but quickly grew into a confident and independent leader. She consistently delivered work promptly, asked thoughtful questions, and proposed effective solutions. Her leadership was evident in the way she developed and reviewed database tickets, ensuring quality and progress for the team. Of all the juniors, Ocean demonstrated the strongest dedication and potential, which is why I have personally endorsed her to take on the Project Lead role next trimester."







Key Leadership Insights

Story-Driven Journey

*From **Start** to **Build** to **Lead** to **Impact** – a complete leadership transformation*

Measurable Results

***60,233** **Products** processed, **ERD** designed, **breakthrough** delivered under pressure*

Future-Ready Foundation

Interactive, scalable database architecture with comprehensive documentation for sustained growth

The database foundation I built doesn't just store data - it powers the entire Food Remedy experience, making nutrition accessible to users worldwide.