

CAMPERSO Framework - Data Engineering System Design Cheat Sheet

1. C - Capture (Ingestion)

Clarification Questions:

- What is the incoming event volume per second?
- Is it real-time (event-time) or batch (ingest-time)?
- Are events pushed or pulled?
- Is ordering important per user/session?

2. A - Audit & Validate

Clarification Questions:

- What data quality rules must be enforced?
- Are schema changes expected frequently?
- How do we handle invalid records?
- Do we need validation at ingestion and after loading?

3. M - Model (Schema Design)

Clarification Questions:

- Should the model support historical changes (SCD2)?
- What metrics are needed? Sessions, clicks, journeys?
- Are we modeling for BI (denormalized) or storage optimized?
- Is there a need for dimensional modeling (star/snowflake)?

4. P - Persist (Storage & Format)

Clarification Questions:

- Do we need ACID, schema evolution, or time travel?
- What's the retention period for raw data?
- Do we query from Spark or SQL engines?
- Do we need incremental loads?

5. E - Expose (Query Layer)

Clarification Questions:

- Are real-time dashboards required?
- Who consumes the data ? BI analysts, apps, ML?
- What are latency requirements (<1 sec or hourly)?
- Are APIs needed to access processed data?

6. R - Resilience (Fault Tolerance)

Clarification Questions:

- What failure scenarios are critical to guard against?
- Should we reprocess failed data or skip?
- What's the tolerance for delayed data?
- Are retries and checkpoints required?

7. S - Security

Clarification Questions:

- Is clickstream data considered PII (e.g., user_id)?
- Do we need to mask or hash identifiers?
- How do we manage access control to raw/curated layers?
- Are we compliant with GDPR or CCPA?

8. **O - Observability**

Clarification Questions:

- How will we detect data pipeline failures?
- Do we track freshness, lineage, and volume drops?
- Do we monitor schema changes over time?
- Should we be alert on processing delays?

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YouTube.com/@FullStackMaster | roopkt@gmail.com

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