

# Inventory Management System – StockFlow

## Take-Home Assignment Submission

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### Part 1: Code Review & Debugging

#### Given Code

```
@app.route('/api/products', methods=['POST'])
def create_product():
    data = request.json
    # Create new product
    product = Product(
        name=data['name'],
        sku=data['sku'],
        price=data['price'],
        warehouse_id=data['warehouse_id']
    )
    db.session.add(product)
    db.session.commit()

    # Update inventory count
    inventory = Inventory(
        product_id=product.id,
        warehouse_id=data['warehouse_id'],
        quantity=data['initial_quantity']
    )
    db.session.add(inventory)
    db.session.commit()
    return {"message": "Product created", "product_id": product.id}
```

#### Issues Identified (Technical + Business)

##### Issue 1:

- ❖ **Product incorrectly tied to a single warehouse**
- ❖ **warehouse\_id** is stored on **Product**
- ❖ But **products can exist in multiple warehouses**

##### Impact

- ❖ Data model violation
- ❖ Cannot represent the same product across warehouses
- ❖ Forces product duplication per warehouse

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##### Issue 2: SKU uniqueness not enforced

- ❖ No check for existing SKU
- ❖ No database constraint shown

##### Impact

Duplicate SKUs break:

- ❖ Integrations
- ❖ Supplier ordering
- ❖ Reporting and reconciliation

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**Issue 3 : No transaction atomicity**

Two separate commits:

- ❖ Product commit
- ❖ Inventory commit

Impact

If inventory creation fails:

- ❖ Product exists without inventory
- ❖ System enters inconsistent state

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**Issue 4 : No input validation**

- ❖ Assumes required fields always exist
- ❖ No type checking

Impact

- ❖ Runtime KeyError
- ❖ Bad data entering system (negative quantity, invalid price)

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**Issue 5 : Price precision not handled**

- ❖ `price=data['price']`
- ❖ Likely using float

Impact

- ❖ Floating-point rounding errors
- ❖ Financial inaccuracies

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**Issue 6 : Optional fields not handled**

- ❖ Some fields “might be optional”
- ❖ Code assumes all are mandatory

Impact

- ❖ API becomes brittle
- ❖ Client-side failures

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**Issue 7 : No error handling**

- ❖ Any DB error → 500 Internal Server Error

Impact

- ❖ Poor observability
- ❖ Hard to debug production issues

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**Final Corrected Code**

```
from decimal import Decimal, InvalidOperation
from flask import request, jsonify
from sqlalchemy.exc import IntegrityError
from sqlalchemy.orm.exc import NoResultFound

@app.route('/api/products', methods=['POST'])
def create_product():
    data = request.get_json() or {}

    # 1. Required field validation
    required_fields = ['name', 'sku', 'price', 'warehouse_id']
    missing = [f for f in required_fields if f not in data]
    if missing:
        return jsonify({"error": f"Missing fields: {' '.join(missing)}"}), 400
```

```

# 2. Type & logical validation
try:
    price = Decimal(str(data['price']))
    if price < 0:
        raise ValueError
except (InvalidOperation, ValueError):
    return jsonify({"error": "Price must be a non-negative decimal"}), 400
try:
    quantity = int(data.get('initial_quantity', 0))
    if quantity < 0:
        raise ValueError
except ValueError:
    return jsonify({"error": "Initial quantity must be a non-negative integer"}), 400

try:
    with db.session.begin():
        # 3. Validate warehouse existence
        warehouse = (
            db.session.query(Warehouse)
            .filter_by(id=data['warehouse_id'])
            .one()
        )

        # 4. Create product
# Assumption: SKU uniqueness is global (can be scoped per company if required)
        product = Product(
            name=data['name'],
            sku=data['sku'],
            price=price
        )
        db.session.add(product)
        db.session.flush()

        # 5. Create inventory record
        inventory = Inventory(
            product_id=product.id,
            warehouse_id=warehouse.id,
            quantity=quantity
        )
        db.session.add(inventory)

    return jsonify({
        "message": "Product created successfully",
        "product_id": product.id
    }), 201

except NoResultFound:
    return jsonify({"error": "Warehouse not found"}), 404

except IntegrityError:
    return jsonify({"error": "SKU already exists"}), 409

except Exception:
    # In production: log exception with request context
    return jsonify({"error": "Internal server error"}), 500

```

## Part 2: Database Design

### 1 Proposed Schema (Textual ERD / Relational Schema Notation (DBMS-agnostic))

```
Company (
  id BIGINT PK,
  name VARCHAR(255),
  created_at TIMESTAMP
)
Warehouse (
  id BIGINT PK,
  company_id BIGINT FK -> Company(id),
  name VARCHAR(255),
  location TEXT
)
Product (
  id BIGINT PK,
  company_id BIGINT FK -> Company(id),
  name VARCHAR(255),
  sku VARCHAR(100) UNIQUE,
  price DECIMAL(10,2),
  product_type VARCHAR(50),
  is_bundle BOOLEAN DEFAULT FALSE
)
Inventory (
  id BIGINT PK,
  product_id BIGINT FK -> Product(id),
  warehouse_id BIGINT FK -> Warehouse(id),
  quantity INT,
  updated_at TIMESTAMP,
  UNIQUE(product_id, warehouse_id)
)
InventoryChangeLog (
  id BIGINT PK,
  inventory_id BIGINT FK -> Inventory(id),
  previous_qty INT,
  new_qty INT,
  changed_at TIMESTAMP,
  reason VARCHAR(100)
)
Supplier (
  id BIGINT PK,
  name VARCHAR(255),
  contact_email VARCHAR(255)
)
ProductSupplier (
  product_id BIGINT FK -> Product(id),
  supplier_id BIGINT FK -> Supplier(id),
  PRIMARY KEY(product_id, supplier_id)
)
ProductBundle (
  bundle_id BIGINT FK -> Product(id),
  component_product_id BIGINT FK -> Product(id),
  quantity INT,
  PRIMARY KEY(bundle_id, component_product_id)
)
Sales (
  id BIGINT PK,
  product_id BIGINT FK,
  warehouse_id BIGINT FK,
  quantity INT,
  sold_at TIMESTAMP
)
```

## 2 Missing Requirements / Questions to Product Team

- ❖ Can SKUs repeat across companies?
- ❖ Do bundles affect inventory automatically?
- ❖ Are suppliers company-specific?
- ❖ What defines “recent sales activity”?
- ❖ Can inventory go negative (backorders)?
- ❖ Should alerts be warehouse-level or aggregated?
- ❖ Are prices warehouse-specific?

## 3 Design Justifications

- ❖ **Separate Inventory table** → supports multi-warehouse products
- ❖ **Change log** → auditability and analytics
- ❖ **Composite uniqueness** → avoids duplicate inventory rows
- ❖ **Indexes**
  - sku
  - (product\_id, warehouse\_id)
  - sold\_at

Scales cleanly to millions of rows.

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## Part 3: Low-Stock Alert API

### Endpoint

GET /api/companies/{company\_id}/alerts/low-stock

### Assumptions

- “Recent sales” = last 30 days
- Threshold stored per product\_type
- Daily sales rate = average of recent sales
- Supplier = primary supplier for product

```

from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from sqlalchemy.sql import func
@app.route('/api/companies/<int:company_id>/alerts/low-stock', methods=['GET'])
def low_stock_alerts(company_id):
    RECENT_DAYS = 30
    recent_cutoff = datetime.utcnow() - timedelta(days=RECENT_DAYS)

    alerts = []
    inventories = (
        db.session.query(Inventory, Product, Warehouse)
        .join(Product)
        .join(Warehouse)
        .filter(Warehouse.company_id == company_id)
        .all()
    )

    for inventory, product, warehouse in inventories:
        sales = (
            db.session.query(func.sum(Sales.quantity))
            .filter(
                Sales.product_id == product.id,
                Sales.warehouse_id == warehouse.id,
                Sales.sold_at >= recent_cutoff
            )
            .scalar() or 0
        )

        if sales == 0:
            continue

        threshold = get_threshold_for_product(product.product_type)

        if inventory.quantity >= threshold:
            continue

        daily_sales_rate = sales / RECENT_DAYS
        days_until_stockout = (
            int(inventory.quantity / daily_sales_rate)
            if daily_sales_rate > 0 else None
        )

        supplier = get_primary_supplier(product.id)

        alerts.append({
            "product_id": product.id,
            "product_name": product.name,
            "sku": product.sku,
            "warehouse_id": warehouse.id,
            "warehouse_name": warehouse.name,
            "current_stock": inventory.quantity,
            "threshold": threshold,
            "days_until_stockout": days_until_stockout,
            "supplier": {
                "id": supplier.id,
                "name": supplier.name,
                "contact_email": supplier.contact_email
            }
        })

    return jsonify({
        "alerts": alerts,
        "total_alerts": len(alerts)
    })

```

**Edge Cases Handled**

- No recent sales → no alert
- Zero sales rate → avoid division by zero
- Multi-warehouse handled independently
- Missing supplier handled via assumption