

Design a Notification System

Problem Statement:

You are tasked with designing a Notification System that supports sending notifications to users across multiple channels. The system should be scalable, extensible, and able to handle a large volume of notifications.

Core Features:

1. User and Notification Management:

- Users can register to receive notifications.
- Notifications can be sent via multiple channels, such as **Email**, **SMS**, and **Push Notifications**.
- Notifications can be personalized for individual users.

2. Notification Scheduling:

- Notifications can be sent **immediately** or **scheduled** to be sent at a specific time in the future.
- Support recurring notifications (e.g., reminders).

3. Prioritization and Batching:

- Notifications should support **priority levels** (e.g., high, medium, low).
- Batch notifications for efficiency, especially for large-scale campaigns.

4. Channel Extensibility:

- New notification channels (e.g., WhatsApp, Slack) should be easily integrated without significant changes to the existing system.

5. Failure Handling and Retries:

- If sending a notification fails (e.g., network issues, invalid contact details), the system should retry with exponential backoff.
- Provide mechanisms to log and monitor failed notifications.

Constraints and Non-Functional Requirements:

- **Scalability:** The system must handle millions of notifications, potentially across different regions.
- **Real-Time vs. Scheduled:** Real-time notifications should have low latency, while scheduled notifications should handle large backlogs efficiently.
- **Fault Tolerance:** The system should gracefully handle failures and ensure eventual delivery.
- **Extensibility:** Adding new notification channels or formats should require minimal effort.

Deliverables:

1. **Class/Component Design:**

- Clear separation of concerns between notification generation, channel delivery, scheduling, and retry logic.
- Interfaces or abstractions for channels to ensure easy extensibility.

2. **Notification Delivery Logic:**

- Implementation of prioritization and scheduling.
- Retry mechanisms for handling transient failures.

3. **APIs:**

- RESTful APIs or equivalents for sending, scheduling, and tracking notifications.
- Support for bulk notification APIs (if applicable).

4. **Database Design:**

- Schema to store user preferences, notification history, and scheduling information.

5. **Unit Tests:**

- Cover priority handling, channel selection, and retry logic.