Splitbuy - Collaborative Group Buying Platform

Splitbuy is a full-stack web platform that connects people who want to benefit from bulk purchase discounts by forming buying groups. Users can create or join group buys to split costs and save money on products that offer volume discounts.

Backend & Infrastructure
- **Firebase Firestore** for real-time database
- **Stripe** integration for payment processing
- **Puppeteer + Cheerio** for web scraping
- **Groq AI** for intelligent product data extraction

Core Services
- **File Upload System** (images/PDFs up to 10MB)
- **Real-time Chat** with WebSocket-like functionality
- **Geocoding & Address Management** with privacy protection
- **Email Verification** system

User Journey & Features

1. Discovery & Listing Creation
- **Smart URL Scraping**: Users paste any e-commerce URL
- **AI-Powered Extraction**: Groq AI extracts product details (name, price, images, bulk discounts)

2. Group Formation
- **Join Requests**: Users browse listings and request to join groups
- **Organizer Approval**: Group creators approve/reject participants

3. Communication
- **Dedicated Chat Rooms**: Each group buy gets a private chat
- **User Profiles**: Public profiles for trust building

- **4. Security & Trust**
- **Payment Method Verification**: Users must add cards before participating
- **Address Privacy**: Coordinates anonymized to ~1km precision
- **File Validation**: Secure upload system with type/size restrictions
- **Permission-Based Access**: Chat and group access controls

Business Model
- **Cost Savings**: Users save money through bulk discounts
- **Social Commerce**: Community-driven purchasing decisions
- **Trust System**: Profile-based reputation and review system
- **Local Pickup**: Geocoded addresses for efficient distribution

Splitbuy transforms individual shopping into collaborative purchasing, making bulk discounts accessible to everyone while building community around shared savings goals.