Data Pipelines Documentation

This document details the main data pipelines in the SmartTrip project, describing how data flows through the system from user interactions to database storage and analytics.

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Recommendation Pipeline

The recommendation pipeline is the core data flow that transforms user preferences into personalized trip recommendations.

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Detailed Steps

1. Frontend: User Interaction & Form Submission

Location: `frontend/src/app/search/page.tsx`

a. Form State Collection When user clicks the "מצא את הטיול שלי" (Find My Trip) button, the `handleSearch()` function collects all form state:

- **Geographic filters**:
  - `selectedLocations` array (countries and continents)
  - Extracted into `countriesIds` (comma-separated country IDs)
  - Extracted into `continents` (comma-separated continent names)
- **Trip preferences**:
  - `selectedType` → `preferred_type_id` (single trip type ID)
  - `selectedThemes` → `preferred_theme_ids` (array of up to 3 theme tag IDs)
- **Constraints**:
  - `minDuration`, `maxDuration` → `min_duration`, `max_duration`
  - `maxBudget` → `budget`
  - `difficulty` → `difficulty` (1-3, or null)
- **Date filters**:
  - `selectedYear` → `year` ('all' or specific year)
  - `selectedMonth` → `month` ('all' or 1-12)

b. Event Tracking Before navigation, the frontend tracks the search submission:

- Calls `trackSearchSubmit(preferences, searchType)` from `tracking.service.ts`
- Classifies search type: `'exploration'` (< 2 filters) or `'focused_search'` (≥ 2 filters)
- Event is queued in `eventQueue` for batch sending
- Calls `flushPendingEvents()` to ensure events are sent before navigation

c. URL Parameter Encoding Preferences are encoded into URL query parameters:

```
const params = new URLSearchParams();
if (countriesIds) params.set('countries', countriesIds);
if (continents) params.set('continents', continents);
if (selectedType) params.set('type', selectedType.toString());
// ... etc
router.push(`/search/results?${params.toString()}`);
```

d. Navigation Next.js router navigates to `/search/results` with query parameters, preserving state in URL for:

- Back button support
- Shareable search URLs
- Browser history

2. Frontend: Results Page Initialization

Location: `frontend/src/app/search/results/page.tsx`

a. URL Parameter Parsing On mount, `useEffect` reads search parameters from URL:

```
const countries = searchParams.get('countries')?.split(',').map(Number) || [];
const continents = searchParams.get('continents')?.split(',') || [];
```

```
const type = searchParams.get('type');
// ... etc
```

b. Preferences Object Construction Rebuilds preferences object from URL params:

```
const preferences = {
  selected_countries: countries,
  selected_continents: continents,
  preferred_type_id: type ? Number(type) : undefined,
  preferred_theme_ids: themes,
  min_duration: minDuration,
  max_duration: maxDuration,
  budget: budget,
  difficulty: difficulty,
  year: year || 'all',
  month: month || 'all',
};
```

c. API Request Makes POST request to backend:

- Endpoint: `POST /api/v2/recommendations`
- Headers: `Content-Type: application/json`
- Body: JSON stringified preferences object
- Timeout: 30 seconds (AbortController)
- Response time tracking: Records start/end time for analytics

d. Response Handling

- Parses JSON response
- Extracts results array, metadata (counts, thresholds, request_id)
- Updates React state for rendering
- Tracks results view event with `useResultsTracking` hook

3. Backend: API Endpoint

Location: `backend/app/api/v2/routes.py` → `POST /api/v2/recommendations`

a. Request Reception

- Flask route handler receives POST request
- Parses JSON body into preferences dict
- Validates required fields (optional - most are optional)
- Generates request ID (UUID) for logging

b. Recommendation Service Call

- Calls `get_recommendations(preferences, format_occurrence_as_trip)`
- Passes formatting function for backward compatibility

4. Backend: Recommendation Service Processing

Location: `backend/app/services/recommendation.py`

The `get_recommendations()` function orchestrates the pipeline:

a. Query Building

- Builds base query with eager loading (joinedload/selectinload)
- Applies geographic filters (countries/continents)
- Applies trip type filter (hard filter)
- Applies date filters (year/month, future dates only)
- Applies status filters (excludes Cancelled/Full)
- Applies difficulty filter (±1 tolerance)
- Applies budget filter (up to 30% over budget)

b. Primary Search

- Loads all candidates matching hard filters
- Scores each trip using `calculate_trip_score()`
- Scoring factors:
  - Base score: 25 points
  - Theme matching: +25 (2+ themes), +12 (1 theme), -15 (none)
  - Difficulty: +15 (exact match)
  - Duration: +12 (ideal), +8 (good, ±4 days)
  - Budget: +12 (within), +8 (110%), +5 (120%)
  - Status bonuses: +7 (Guaranteed), +15 (Last Places)
  - Departing soon: +7 (within 30 days)
  - Geography: +15 (direct country), +5 (continent)
- Sorts by score (descending), then date (ascending)
- Returns top 10 results

c. Relaxed Search (if primary results < 6)

- Expands filters:
  - Geography: Same continent if specific countries selected
  - Trip type: No filter (all types with -10 penalty)
  - Date: ±2 months from selected date
  - Difficulty: ±2 levels (instead of ±1)
  - Budget: 50% over (instead of 30%)
- Applies -20 penalty to all relaxed results
- Scores and sorts relaxed candidates
- Adds needed results to reach 10 total

5. Backend: Response Formatting

Location: `backend/app/api/v2/routes.py` → `format_occurrence_as_trip()`

Converts `TripOccurrence` objects to frontend-compatible format:

- Combines template data (title, description, difficulty) with occurrence data (dates, price, status)
- Includes related entities (country, guide, trip type, tags)
- Adds match score and match details
- Marks relaxed results with `is_relaxed: true`

6. Backend: Logging

Location: `backend/recommender/logging.py`

After returning results, logs the request:

- Request ID (UUID)
- Preferences (full JSON)

- Results (trip IDs, scores)
- Metrics (response time, candidate count, score statistics)
- Search type classification (`exploration` vs `focused_search`)

Storage: `recommendation_requests` table in PostgreSQL

7. Frontend: Results Display & Event Tracking

Location: `frontend/src/app/search/results/page.tsx`

a. Results Rendering

- Maps results array to trip cards
- Displays match scores with color coding (turquoise/orange/red)
- Shows trip details: title, description, dates, price, guide, status
- Separates primary and relaxed results with visual divider

b. Event Tracking

- **Page View**: Tracked via `usePageView('search_results')` hook
- **Results View**: Tracked via `useResultsTracking()` hook with:
  - Result count, primary/relaxed counts
  - Top score, response time
  - Recommendation request ID (for correlation)
- **Impressions**: Tracked via `useImpressionTracking()` hook when trip cards enter viewport (50% visible)
- **Scroll Depth**: Tracked at 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% thresholds
- **Clicks**: Tracked via `trackTripClick()` when user clicks a trip card
  - Includes position, score, source (`search_results` vs `relaxed_results`)
  - Flushes events before navigation to trip detail page

Event Tracking Pipeline

The event tracking pipeline captures user interactions for analytics and personalization.

Flow Overview

```
User Action (Frontend UI)
    ↓
React Event Handler (onClick, onChange, etc.)
    ↓
Tracking Function Call (trackEvent, trackPageView, etc.)
    ↓
Event Queue (tracking.service.ts)
    ↓
Batch Processing (every 5s or 10 events)
    ↓
POST /api/events/batch
    ↓
Event Service (events.py)
    ↓
Validation & User Resolution
    ↓
```

```
Database Storage (events table)
    ↓
Real-time Updates (sessions, users, trip_interactions)
```

Detailed Steps

1. Frontend: User Interaction

Location: Various React components (`frontend/src/app/**/*.tsx`)

User performs an action:

- **Clicks**: Search button, trip card, filter option, etc.
- **Changes**: Filter value, sort option
- **Views**: Page loads, trip card enters viewport
- **Scrolls**: Through results page
- **Navigates**: Between pages

2. Frontend: Event Handler Execution

Location: React component event handlers

Component event handlers call tracking functions:

- `handleSearch()` → `trackSearchSubmit(preferences, searchType)`
- `onClick={() => handleTripClick(...)}` → `trackTripClick(tripId, position, score, source)`
- `useEffect(() => {...}, [])` → `usePageView('page_name')`
- `useEffect(() => {...}, [isVisible])` → `useImpressionTracking(tripId, position, score, source)`

3. Frontend: Tracking Service Processing

Location: `frontend/src/services/tracking.service.ts` , `frontend/src/hooks/useTracking.ts`

a. Identity Management

- Gets or creates `anonymous_id` from localStorage (persists across sessions)
- Gets or creates `session_id` from localStorage (expires after 30 minutes)
- Detects device type from `window.innerWidth` (not user-agent):
  - Mobile: < 768px
  - Tablet: 768px - 1023px
  - Desktop: ≥ 1024px

b. Session Initialization

- On first event, calls `initializeSession()` :
  - POST `/api/session/start` with device_type, referrer, user_agent, IP
  - Backend creates/updates session record
  - Links session to user (anonymous or registered)

c. Event Creation Each tracking function creates an event object:

```
{
  event_type: 'click_trip' | 'search_submit' | 'page_view' | etc.,
  trip_id?: number,
  recommendation_request_id?: string,
```

```
  source?: 'search_results' | 'relaxed_results' | 'homepage' | etc.,
  metadata?: { duration_seconds: 45, filter_name: 'budget', ... },
  position?: number,
  score?: number,
  client_timestamp: '2025-01-01T12:00:00Z',
  page_url: '/search/results',
  referrer: 'https://google.com/...'
}
```

d. Event Queuing

- Events are added to `eventQueue` array
- Queue is processed in batches for efficiency:
  - **Batch size**: 10 events
  - **Batch interval**: 5 seconds
  - **Immediate flush**: If queue reaches 10 events

e. Batch Sending When batch is ready:

- Gets current `anonymous_id` and `session_id`
- Optionally gets authenticated user email (if Supabase auth available)
- Adds identity to each event
- POST `/api/events/batch` with array of events
- Uses `keepalive: true` for reliable delivery during page unload

f. Page Unload Handling

- `beforeunload` and `pagehide` event listeners call `flushPendingEvents()`
- Uses `navigator.sendBeacon()` for reliable delivery during page unload
- Ensures no events are lost when user navigates away

4. Backend: API Endpoint Reception

Location: `backend/app/api/events/routes.py` → `POST /api/events/batch`

Receives batch of events:

- Validates JSON payload
- Checks batch size (max 100 events)
- Processes each event sequentially

2. Session Management

Location: `backend/app/api/events/routes.py` → `POST /api/session/start`

Before tracking events, frontend initializes session:

- Creates/resumes session with 30-minute timeout
- Captures device type from frontend (not user-agent parsing)
- Captures referrer, user agent, IP address
- Links to user (anonymous or registered)

3. Event Service Processing

Location: `backend/app/services/events.py`

a. User Resolution

- Priority 1: Find by Supabase user ID (if authenticated)
- Priority 2: Find by anonymous_id
- Priority 3: Find by email
- Create new user if not found

b. Event Validation

- Validates required fields (event_type, session_id, anonymous_id)
- Validates event type against `VALID_EVENT_TYPES`
- Validates UUID formats
- Validates source (if present) against `VALID_SOURCES`
- Validates trip_id (positive integer)

c. Event Storage

- Creates `Event` record with:
  - Links to `event_types` table (3NF schema)
  - User ID, session ID, anonymous ID
  - Trip ID, recommendation request ID (links to Phase 0)
  - Event data (metadata as JSONB)
  - Position, score, timestamps

d. Real-time Updates

- Updates session counters:
  - `search_count` (on search_submit)
  - `click_count` (on click_trip)
  - `save_count` (on save_trip)
  - `contact_count` (on contact_whatsapp/phone)
- Updates user counters:
  - `total_searches`, `total_clicks`
  - `last_seen_at`
- Updates trip interactions:
  - `impression_count`, `click_count`, `save_count`
  - `whatsapp_contact_count`, `phone_contact_count`
  - `booking_start_count`
  - `total_dwell_time_seconds`, `avg_dwell_time_seconds`
  - Computed rates: CTR, save_rate, contact_rate

4. Batch Processing

Location: `backend/app/api/events/routes.py` → `POST /api/events/batch`

For efficiency, frontend can batch events (max 100):

- Processes events sequentially
- Validates each event
- Tracks valid events
- Returns summary with processed count and errors

Analytics and Metrics Pipeline

The analytics pipeline aggregates recommendation and event data for insights.

Flow Overview

```
Recommendation Requests (recommendation_requests table)
    ↓
Events (events table)
    ↓
Metrics Aggregator (metrics.py)
    ↓
Daily Aggregation
    ↓
API Endpoints (/api/metrics)
    ↓
Dashboard/Reports
```

Detailed Steps

1. Data Collection

Location: `backend/recommender/logging.py` , `backend/app/services/events.py`

Data is collected in real-time:

- **Recommendation Requests**: Logged after each recommendation call
- **Events**: Tracked as users interact with the platform

2. Metrics Aggregation

Location: `backend/recommender/metrics.py`

The `MetricsAggregator` class computes metrics:

a. Daily Metrics (`aggregate_daily_metrics()`)

- Total requests, unique sessions
- Response time statistics (avg, p50, p95, p99, max)
- Score statistics (avg top score)
- Result quality metrics:
  - Relaxed trigger rate
  - No results rate
  - Low score rate (< 50)
- Filter usage:
  - Searches with country/continent/type/themes/budget/dates

b. Current Metrics (`get_current_metrics()`)

- Summary for last N days (default 7)
- Aggregated across date range
- Key performance indicators

c. Top Searches (`get_top_searches()`)

- Most common continents
- Most common trip types
- Most common themes (future)
- Most common countries (future)

3. API Endpoints

Location: `backend/app/api/analytics/routes.py`

GET /api/metrics

- Returns current metrics summary (last 7 days by default)
- Query param: `days` (1-90)

GET /api/metrics/daily

- Returns daily breakdown for date range
- Query params: `start` (YYYY-MM-DD), `end` (YYYY-MM-DD)
- Max range: 90 days

GET /api/metrics/top-searches

- Returns top search patterns
- Query params: `days` (default 7), `limit` (default 10)

4. Evaluation Pipeline

Location: `backend/recommender/evaluation.py`

Automated testing of recommendation quality:

- Loads evaluation scenarios from database
- Runs recommendations for each scenario
- Validates results (count, score thresholds, specific trip requirements)
- Generates pass/fail report

POST /api/evaluation/run

- Runs all scenarios or filtered subset
- Returns evaluation report

GET /api/evaluation/scenarios

- Lists available scenarios without running them

Resource Data Pipeline

The resource pipeline serves reference data (countries, guides, trip types, tags) to the frontend.

Flow Overview

```
Frontend Component Mounts
    ↓
DataStore Provider Initialization
    ↓
API Calls (GET /api/locations, /api/trip-types, /api/tags)
    ↓
Backend Resources API (resources/routes.py)
    ↓
Database Query (Reference Tables)
    ↓
Response to Frontend
```

```
    ↓
React State Update (dataStore.tsx)
    ↓
UI Components Render with Data
```

Detailed Steps

1. Frontend: Component Initialization

Location: `frontend/src/app/search/page.tsx`

a. Component Mount

- Search page component mounts
- `useEffect` hooks trigger data fetching:
  - `fetchCountries()` → calls `getLocations()` from `api.service.ts`
  - `fetchTypesAndTags()` → calls `getTripTypes()` and `getTags()` from `api.service.ts`

b. API Service Calls Location: `frontend/src/services/api.service.ts`

Each function uses `apiFetch()` wrapper:

- Adds authentication headers (if user logged in)
- Handles retries for cold starts (network errors)
- 30-second timeout with AbortController
- Returns standardized `ApiResponse<T>` format

c. Data Mapping

- Maps backend response to frontend types
- Handles field name variations (`name_he` vs `nameHe`)
- Filters data if needed (e.g., only theme tags)

2. Backend: Resource Endpoints

Location: `backend/app/api/resources/routes.py`

GET /api/locations

- Returns all countries and continents
- Used for search dropdown
- Includes Hebrew names
- No filtering (shows all countries in database)

GET /api/countries

- Returns all countries (excludes Antarctica)
- Optional filter: `continent` query param

GET /api/countries/:id

- Returns specific country details

GET /api/guides

- Returns all active guides
- Used for guide selection/filtering

GET /api/trip-types

- Returns all trip types (trip styles)
- Used for trip type filter

GET /api/tags

- Returns all theme tags (trip interests)
- Used for theme selection
- Note: After V2 migration, only theme tags (category column removed)

3. Backend: Database Query

Location: `backend/app/core/database.py` → SQLAlchemy ORM

- Queries reference tables: `countries`, `guides`, `trip_types`, `tags`
- Uses eager loading for related data
- Filters active records (`is_active == True` where applicable)
- Orders results (alphabetically by name)

4. Frontend: Response Handling

Location: `frontend/src/app/search/page.tsx`

a. State Update

- Updates React state with fetched data:
  - `setCountries(mappedCountries)`
  - `setTripTypes(mappedTypes)`
  - `setThemeTags(mappedTags)`
- Clears loading states
- Clears error states on success

b. Error Handling

- Network errors trigger retry logic (for cold starts)
- Shows error UI if retries fail
- Provides retry button for user-initiated retry

5. Frontend: Data Usage in UI

Location: Various React components

a. Search Form Dropdowns

- Countries dropdown: Filtered by search input, grouped by continent
- Continents dropdown: Static list with Hebrew names
- Trip types: Grid of selectable circles with icons
- Theme tags: Grid of selectable circles (max 3) with icons

b. Data Display

- Country names: Display Hebrew names (`nameHe`) in UI
- Trip type names: Display Hebrew names in badges
- Guide names: Display in trip cards and detail pages
- Continent names: Display in location selection

c. DataStore Context (Alternative Pattern) Location: `frontend/src/lib/dataStore.tsx`

Some components use centralized DataStore:

- `DataStoreProvider` wraps app (optional)
- Provides hooks: `useCountries()`, `useTripTypes()`, `useThemeTags()`
- Caches data in React context
- Reduces redundant API calls across components

Authentication Pipeline

The authentication pipeline handles user registration and login via Supabase OAuth.

Flow Overview

```
User Clicks Login Button (Frontend)
    ↓
Supabase Client Sign-In Initiation
    ↓
Redirect to OAuth Provider (Google, etc.)
    ↓
User Authenticates with Provider
    ↓
OAuth Callback to /auth/callback
    ↓
Session Extraction from URL Hash
    ↓
Supabase Session Storage (localStorage)
    ↓
User Identification API Call (/api/user/identify)
    ↓
JWT Token in API Requests (Authorization Header)
```

Detailed Steps

1. Frontend: Login Initiation

Location: `frontend/src/app/auth/page.tsx`

a. User Action

- User clicks "התחבר" (Login) button
- Component calls `supabase.auth.signInWithOAuth({ provider: 'google' })`

b. OAuth Redirect

- Supabase client redirects to Google OAuth consent screen
- User grants permissions
- Google redirects back to app with authorization code

2. Frontend: OAuth Callback Handling

Location: `frontend/src/app/auth/callback/page.tsx`

a. URL Hash Parsing

- Callback page extracts session from URL hash:
  - `access_token`: JWT token

    - `refresh_token` : Refresh token
    - `expires_in` : Token expiration
    - `user` : User object with email, ID, metadata

b. Session Storage

- Stores session in Supabase client (localStorage)
- Session persists across page reloads
- Client automatically refreshes tokens when expired

c. User Identification

- Calls `/api/user/identify` endpoint:
    - Links Supabase user ID to tracking system
    - Associates anonymous_id with registered user
    - Enables cross-device tracking

d. Navigation

- Redirects to original page or `/search`
- User is now authenticated

2. Callback Processing

Location: `frontend/src/app/auth/callback/page.tsx`

- Extracts session from URL hash
- Stores session in Supabase client
- Links Supabase user to tracking system:
    - Calls `/api/user/identify` with email
    - Links anonymous_id to registered user

3. Frontend: JWT Token in API Requests

Location: `frontend/src/services/api.service.ts` → `getAuthHeaders()`

a. Token Retrieval

- `getAuthHeaders()` function called before each API request
- Gets access token from Supabase client: `await getAccessToken()`
- Returns `{ 'Authorization': 'Bearer <token>' }` if token exists
- Returns empty object if no token (unauthenticated requests)

b. Token Inclusion

- All API requests include auth headers automatically
- `apiFetch()` wrapper adds headers to every request
- Backend can identify authenticated users

4. Backend: API Authentication

Location: `backend/app/core/auth.py`

Protected endpoints verify JWT:

- Extracts token from `Authorization` header
- Verifies token signature with Supabase public key
- Validates token expiration

- Extracts user info (email, user ID from 'sub' claim)
- Passes to route handlers via `get_current_user()`
- Returns `None` if token invalid or missing (allows anonymous access)

5. Backend: User Resolution in Events

Location: `backend/app/services/events.py`

When events are tracked:

- Checks for authenticated user via `get_current_user()` (from JWT)
- Priority order for user resolution:
  1. Supabase user ID (from JWT 'sub' claim)
  2. Email (from JWT or event payload)
  3. Anonymous ID (from event payload)
- Links events to registered user if authenticated
- Enables cross-device tracking (same user across devices)
- Updates user's `last_seen_at` timestamp

Database Architecture

Core Tables

Trip Data (V2 Schema)

- **companies**: Trip providers
- **trip_templates**: The "what" of trips (description, pricing, difficulty)
- **trip_occurrences**: The "when" of trips (dates, guide, availability)
- **trip_template_tags**: Many-to-many (templates ↔ themes)
- **trip_template_countries**: Many-to-many (templates ↔ countries)

Reference Data

- **countries**: Country information with Hebrew names
- **guides**: Tour guide information
- **trip_types**: Trip style categories
- **tags**: Theme tags (interests)

Analytics Tables

- **recommendation_requests**: Logged recommendation calls
- **users**: Anonymous and registered users
- **sessions**: Browser sessions with device info
- **events**: User interaction events
- **event_types**: Event type reference (3NF)
- **trip_interactions**: Aggregated trip engagement metrics

Data Relationships

```
TripTemplate (1) ──→ (N) TripOccurrence
TripTemplate (N) ──→ (N) Tag (via trip_template_tags)
TripTemplate (N) ──→ (N) Country (via trip_template_countries)
TripTemplate (1) ──→ (1) Company
TripTemplate (1) ──→ (1) TripType
TripTemplate (1) ──→ (1) Country (primary_country)
```

```
TripOccurrence (1) ──→ (1) Guide
TripOccurrence (1) ──→ (1) TripTemplate

User (1) ──→ (N) Session
User (1) ──→ (N) Event
Session (1) ──→ (N) Event
Event (1) ──→ (1) EventType
Event (N) ──→ (1) TripOccurrence (optional)

TripOccurrence (1) ──→ (1) TripInteraction
```

Data Flow Patterns

Write Pattern

1. Frontend sends request to API
2. API validates input
3. Database transaction begins
4. Data is written/updated
5. Related counters updated (sessions, users, trip_interactions)
6. Transaction commits
7. Response returned to frontend

Read Pattern

1. Frontend requests data
2. API builds optimized query (eager loading)
3. Database query executed
4. Results formatted (to_dict methods)
5. Response returned to frontend

Analytics Pattern

1. Events/recommendations logged in real-time
2. Batch aggregation jobs (future: scheduled daily)
3. Metrics computed from aggregated data
4. API serves metrics to dashboard

Performance Considerations

Query Optimization

- **Eager Loading**: Uses `joinedload` and `selectinload` to avoid N+1 queries
- **Indexes**: Database indexes on foreign keys and frequently filtered columns
- **Connection Pooling**: SQLAlchemy connection pool (5-10 connections)

Caching Strategy

- **Frontend**: Resource data cached in React context
- **Backend**: No caching currently (future: Redis for frequently accessed data)

Batch Processing

- **Events**: Supports batch upload (max 100 events per request)
- **Metrics**: Aggregated on-demand (future: scheduled daily aggregation)

Scalability

- **Read Replicas**: Can add read replicas for analytics queries
- **Partitioning**: `recommendation_requests` and `events` tables can be partitioned by date
- **Archiving**: Old events/recommendations can be archived to separate tables

---

Future Enhancements

1. **Scheduled Aggregation**: Daily batch jobs for metrics computation
2. **Real-time Analytics**: WebSocket updates for live dashboard
3. **Machine Learning**: Use event data to improve recommendation scoring
4. **A/B Testing**: Track recommendation algorithm variants
5. **Personalization**: Use user event history to personalize recommendations
6. **Caching Layer**: Redis for frequently accessed data
7. **Data Warehouse**: ETL pipeline to data warehouse for advanced analytics

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Related Documentation

- API Reference
- Database Schema
- Frontend Overview
- Supabase OAuth Setup