

Introduction to RAG & Fine-Tuning

Building Smarter AI with Your Own Data

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GAIN Dialogue Series
January 2026 Edition



Outline

- 1 The Problem with Generic AI
- 2 What is RAG?
- 3 What is Fine-Tuning?
- 4 RAG + Fine-Tuning Combined
- 5 Today's Workshop
- 6 Let's Build!



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The Problem with Generic AI

LLMs Don't Know Your Data

- GPT doesn't know Ghana's 2021 census results
- Doesn't understand your company's data
- No access to your research papers



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No Local Context

- Doesn't understand "Ashanti Region"
- Doesn't know "GLSS" surveys
- Missing Ghana-specific terminology

Hallucinations

- Makes up statistics
- Sounds plausible but wrong
- No source verification



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The Solution

Combine two powerful techniques:

- **RAG** - Retrieval-Augmented Generation
- **Fine-Tuning** - Domain Adaptation

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What is RAG?

Definition

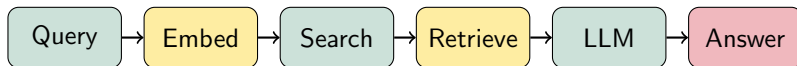
RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) = Fetch relevant documents first, then generate answers based on those documents.



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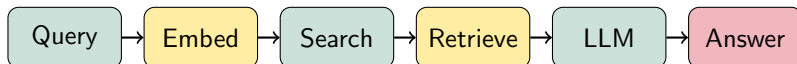
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What is RAG?

Definition

RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) = Fetch relevant documents first, then generate answers based on those documents.



Grounded

Answers backed by
real documents

No Hallucinations

Can't make up
facts

Citable

Shows sources

Updatable

Add new data
easily



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What is Fine-Tuning?

Definition

Fine-Tuning = Train an existing model on your data to improve domain performance.

Before Fine-Tuning

Query: “Kumasi region population”

- ✗ Retrieves wrong documents
- ✗ Doesn't know Kumasi = Ashanti
- ✗ Generic keyword matching

After Fine-Tuning

Query: “Kumasi region population”

- ✓ Returns Ashanti Region: 5.4M
- ✓ Learned Ghana terminology
- ✓ Semantic understanding

Today: Fine-Tuning all-MiniLM-L6-v2

Teaching: “Kumasi” → “Ashanti”, “GLSS” → “Living Standards”

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RAG + Fine-Tuning = Better Together

RAG Alone

- ✓ Grounds responses
- ✗ May miss relevant docs

Fine-Tuning Alone

- ✓ Domain understanding
- ✗ No data access

Combined

- ✓ Accurate retrieval
- ✓ Domain-aware
- ✓ Grounded answers



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Our Architecture

Query → **Fine-Tuned Embeddings** → **ChromaDB** → **Census Docs** →
OpenAI GPT → **Answer + Sources**



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Better Retrieval
for Ghana Terms



Cited Sources
with Every Answer

2 hrs

Build & Deploy Today



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What We'll Build Today

Workshop Modules

- ➊ **Data Preparation** *20 min*
Load & chunk Ghana census data
- ➋ **RAG Pipeline** *25 min*
Embeddings + ChromaDB + GPT
- ➌ **Fine-Tuning** *25 min*
Train on Ghana-specific pairs
- ➍ **Streamlit Deploy** *25 min*
Build & launch chat interface

Tech Stack

- **Python 3.10+**
- **all-MiniLM-L6-v2**
- **Sentence-Transformers**
- **ChromaDB**
- **OpenAI GPT-4o-mini**
- **Streamlit**



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Data Source

Ghana Statistical Service
2021 Population & Housing
Census

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Let's Build!



Ghana Census Q&A Agent

with RAG + Fine-Tuned Embeddings

