# OwLLM: A Learning Management System Prototype with LLM-Assisted Course Interaction

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An Honors Thesis Submitted to the Department of Computer Science and the Honors College Thesis Committee: Dr Imad Antonios, Dr Winnie Yu, and Professor Paul Mckee

# Project Idea

- -Origins
- -Adaptation
- -Context and Relevance

## "Programming the Future of Education"

#### **FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**

- University Plans
  - o Honors Program
  - Capstone program
  - Senior thesis
- Website phases/features
  - o Algorithms (grading, recommendations, progress tracker)
  - C Cycle Fuel System
- Goal: Improve Education → Change World

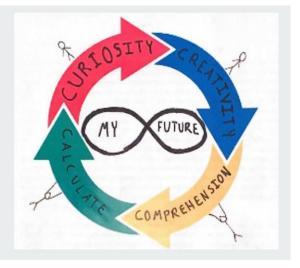




#### **CAPSTONE**

"Programming the future of education"

- Class Idea Proposal
- Website Application



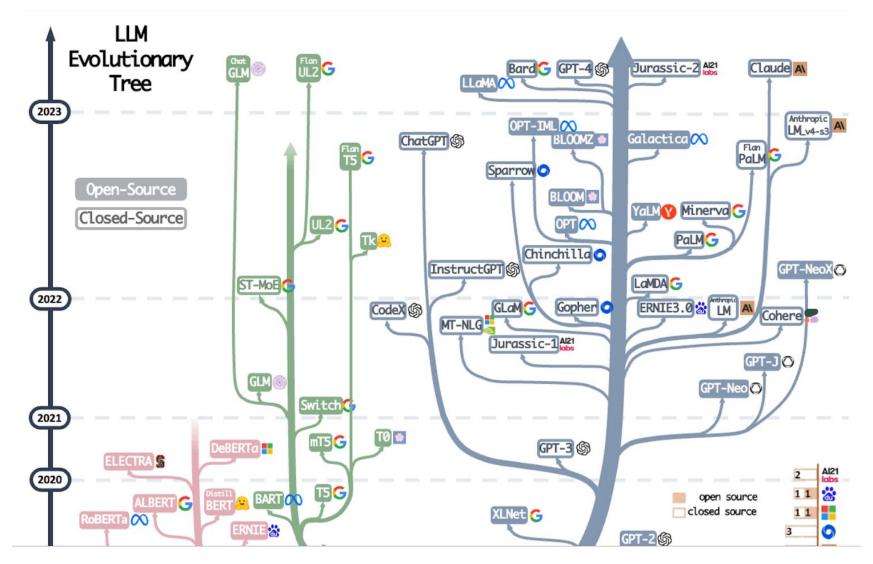
#### **LEARNING STRETCH & TAKEAWAYS**

- New programming languages and concepts
  - Front End/Client Side
    - HTML, CSS, JavaScript languages
  - Backend/Server Side
    - SQL database language
    - Entity-Relationship Diagrams structure and flow
    - Stored Procedures input/output database
  - Application Programming Interface (API)
    - C# coding language
    - ASP. Net MVC architecture framework
    - JSON data formatting
  - Othe
    - Pagination way to track progress
    - Concatenation simplify input/output to database
    - SurveyJS fully customizable content for quizzes/topics
    - Debugging tricks

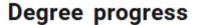
#### Main Process Takeaway



### Evolution and Integration of LLM Technology



#### Computer Science and Honors College







Still needed:

52 credits are required. You currently have 49, you still need 3 more credits.

- 6-Credit Capstone Requirements
  - Departmental HonorsProspectus/Thesis

HON 494	~CSC Honors Prospectus	A-
HON 495	~CSC Departmental Honors	ΙP

Project Idea: Origins, Adaptation, Context and Relevance

# Southern Connecticut State University a Social Justice, Liberal Arts, DEI Institution





# Literature Review

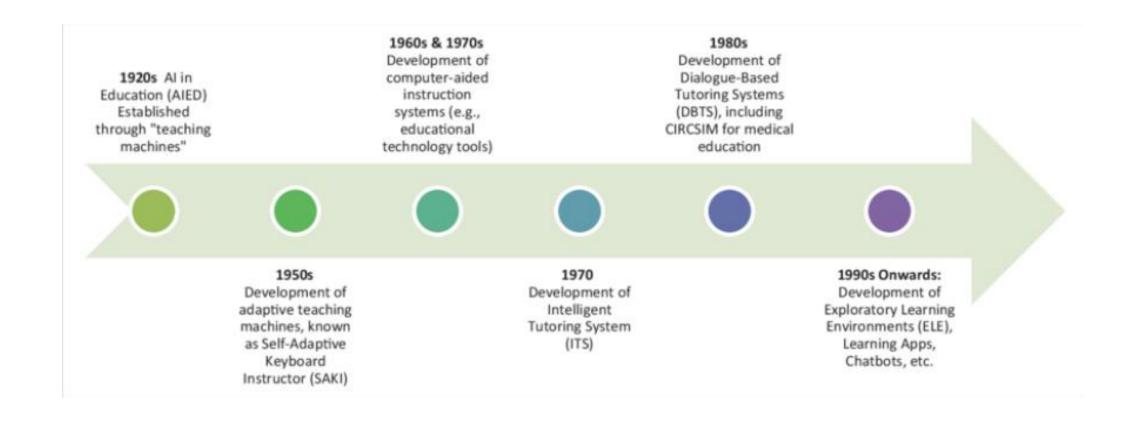
- -Scope
- -Coverage

#### Al in Education: An Overview

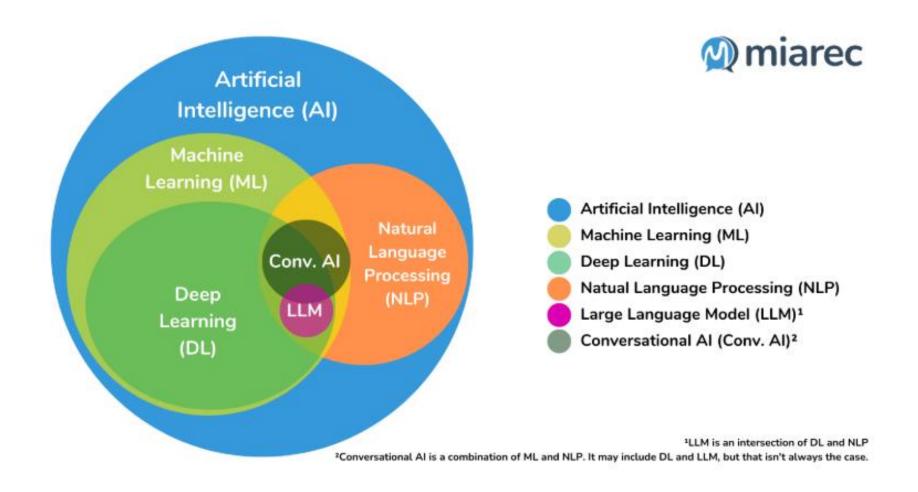


"Al as a Catalyst for Inclusive, Personalized, and Ethical Education: Empowering Teachers and Students for an Equitable Future"

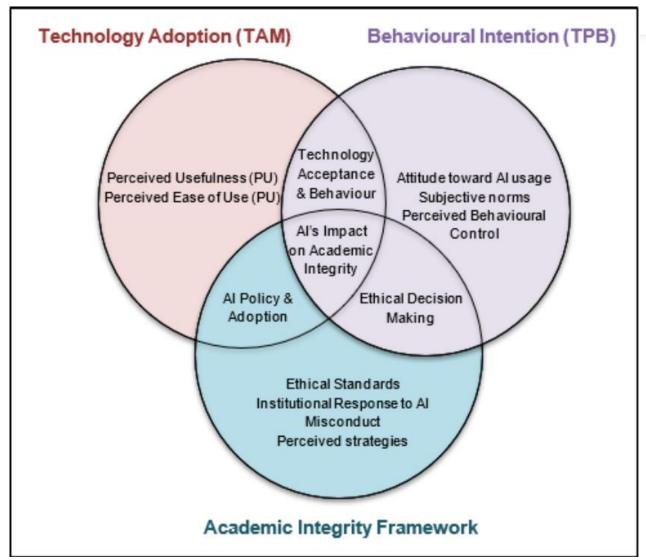
#### Al in Education: An Overview

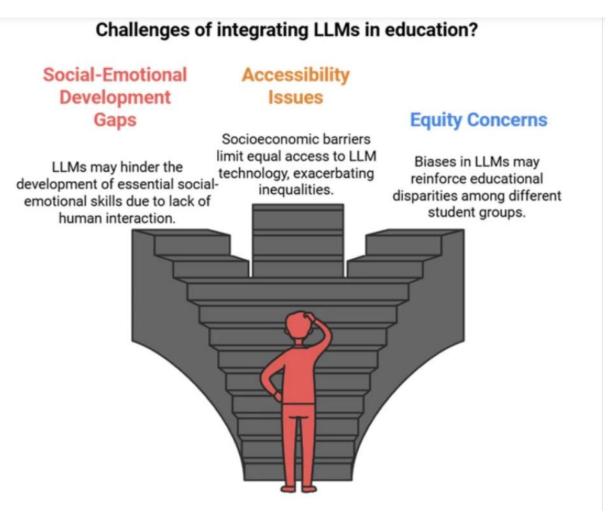


#### Distinguishing AI, Machine Learning, NLP, and LLM



## Ethics and Challenges of Implementation

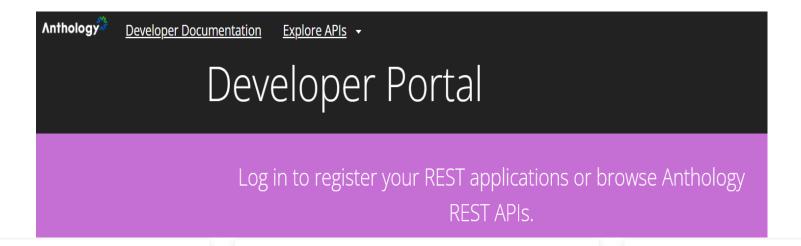




# Conceptual Foundations

- -Key Rationales
- -Neurocognitive Framework

# Learning Management System Compatibility and Web Application Advantages



#### Blackboard ^

Expand on our LMS' capabilities by using LTI and the API to create users, pull assessments, grade data, manage calendars, and more.

Documentation →

#### Student ^

Use Anthology Student APIs to increase institution efficiency through automation and optimization.

Documentation →

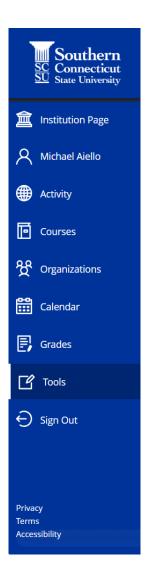
#### **Anthology Ally**

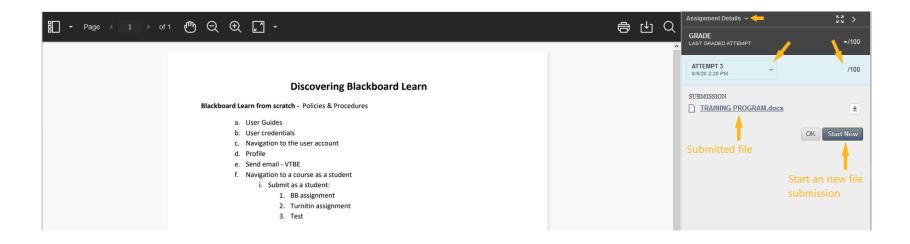
Improve the accessibility of institutional content by using the API to upload files, check the status and retrieve reports.

Documentation →

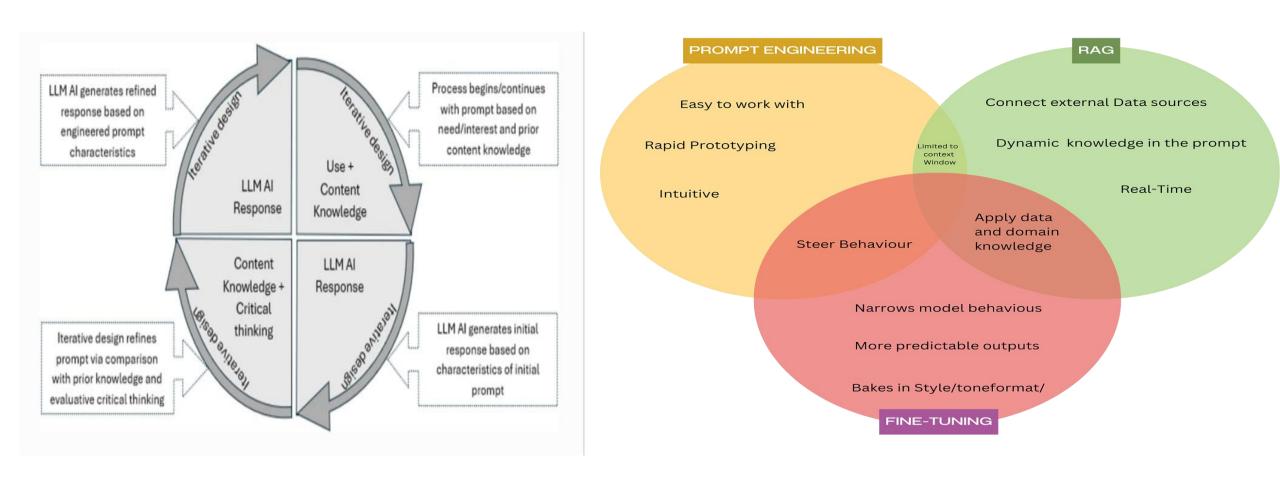
Conceptual Foundations: Key Rationales, and Neurocognitive Framework

#### Close Proximal Placement to Course Material



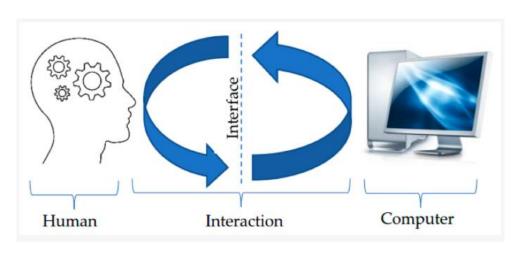


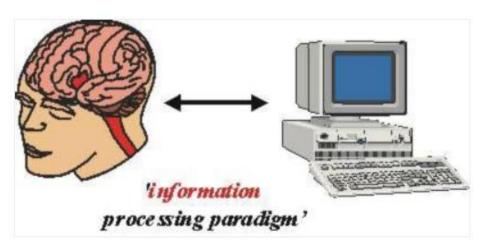
# Data Contextualization and Instruction Based Prompt Engineering for Fine-tuned Responses

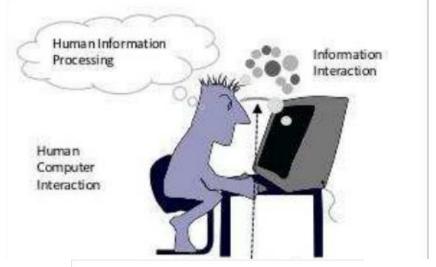


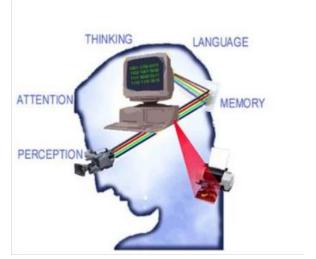
Neurocognitive Psychological Science of

Information Processing

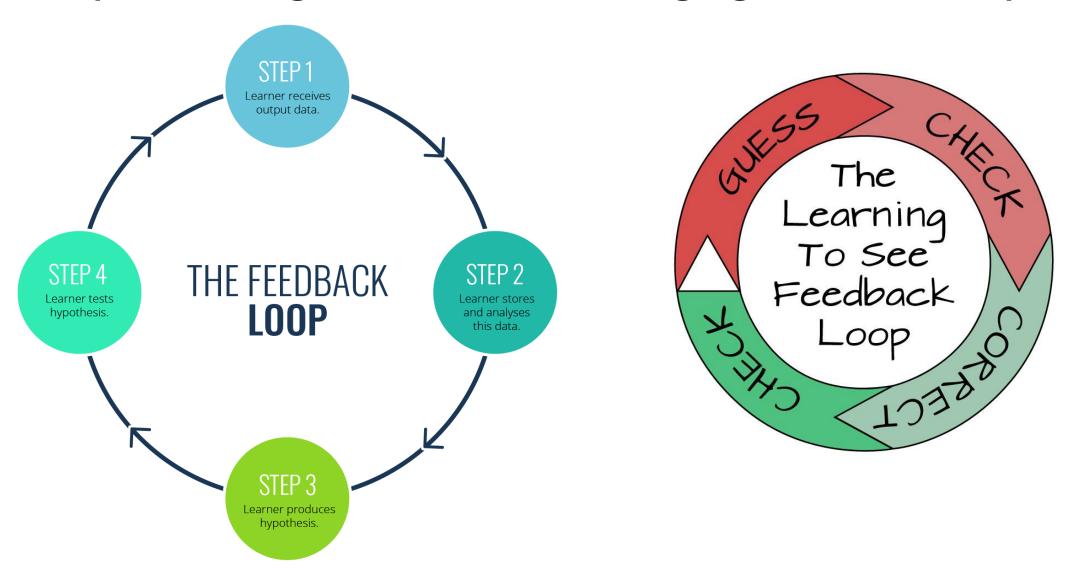




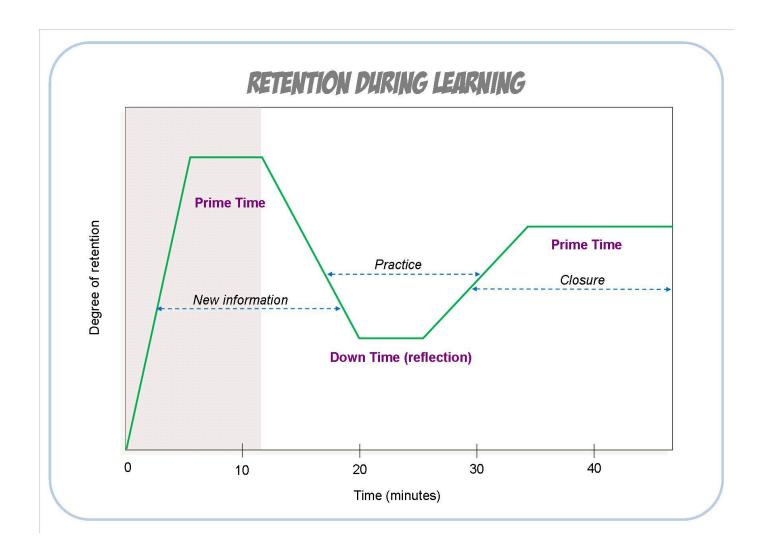




#### Dopaminergic Feedback Engagement Loop

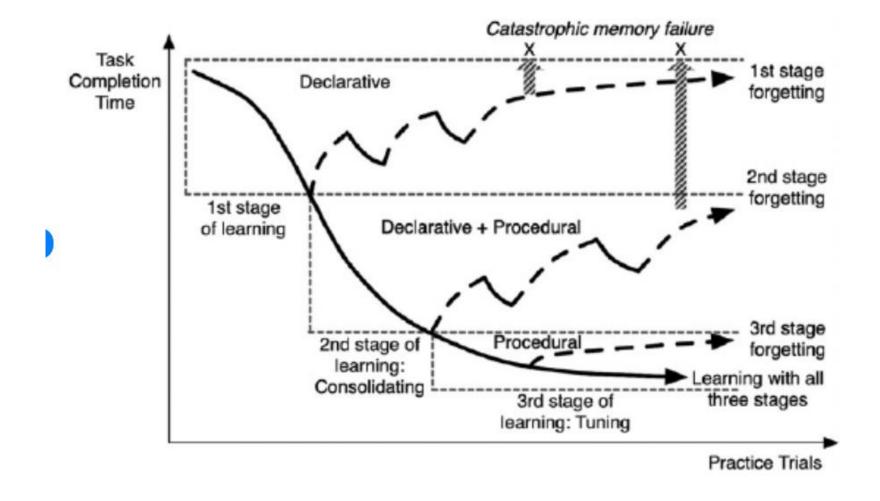


## **Knowledge Retention**

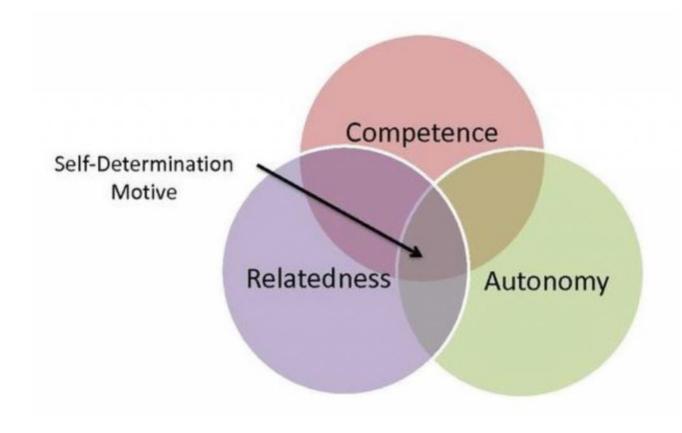


Conceptual Foundations: Key Rationales, and Neurocognitive Framework

#### Consolidation

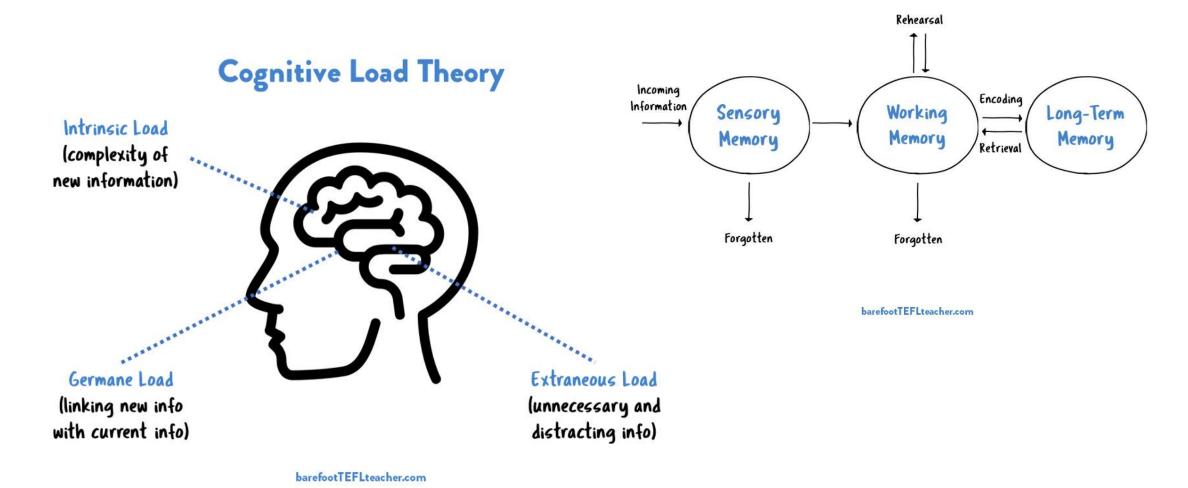


### **Self-Determination Theory**



#### Cognitive Load Theory

#### Information Processing Model



Conceptual Foundations: Key Rationales, and Neurocognitive Framework

# Advocation of Proper Al Use for Positive Learning Outcomes



# Design and Implementation

- -User Stories
- -RAG System
- -Project Organization

### User Stories Purpose and Definition

As a <user role> I want <goal> so that <benefit>.

Design and Implementation: User Stories, RAG System, and Project Organization

#### User Stories: Account Management

- 4.2.1.a. Account Management (Student + Educator + Admin)
- A1. As a student, I should be able to log in using my email and password, so that I can access the main functional components of the application for course interaction. (Figure 1)
- A2. As an educator, I should be able to log in using my email and password, so that I can access the main functional components of the application for course management and student oversight. (Figure 1)

- A3. As an admin, I should be able to log in using my username and password, so that I can access the administrative panel for system management. (Figure 2)
- A4. As a student, when logged in, I should be able to access my profile data, so that I can manage my login credentials and profile information. (Figure 11)
- A5. As an educator, when logged in, I should be able to access my profile data, so that I can manage my login credentials. (Figure 11)
- A6. As an admin, when logged in, I should be able to access my profile data, so that I can manage my login credentials. (Figure 11)
- A7. As a student, when accessing my profile data, I should be able to update my email and password, so that I can maintain the security of my account. (Figure 11)
- A8. As a student, when accessing my profile data, I should be able to include and/or update my profile information that consists of my major, minor, research interests, and career plans/goals so as to later provide LLM context for relevant responses. (Figure 11)
- A9. As an educator, when accessing my profile data, I should be able to update my email and password, so that I can maintain the security of my account. (Figure 11)
- A10. As an admin, when accessing my profile data, I should be able to update my email and password, so that I can maintain the security of my account. (Figure 11)

#### User Stories: Course Access and Navigation

#### 4.2.1.b. Course Access + Navigation (Student + Educator)

- B1. As a student, when logged in, I should be able to access a list of courses I am enrolled in (preconfigured in DB), so that I can easily find and navigate to a course. (Figure 4, Figure 5)
- B2. As a student, when accessing the list of courses, I should be able to select one, so that I can enter a specific course environment for interaction. (Figure 5, Figure 6)
- B3. As a student, after selecting a course, I should be directed to the main course page if I am enrolled in that course, so that I can begin interacting with the course. (Figure 6)
- B4. As a student, once on the main course page, I should be able to view and select a course material. (Figure 7)
- B5. As an educator, when logged in, I should be able to access a list of courses I have been assigned to teach (preconfigured in DB), so that I can easily find and navigate to a course. (Figure 5)
- B6. As an educator, when accessing the list of courses, I should be able to select one, so that I can enter a specific course environment for managing and interaction. (Figure 5)
- B7. As an educator, after selecting a course, I should be directed to the main course page if I am assigned to teach that course, so that I can begin managing and interacting with the course. (Figure 6)
- B8. As an educator, once on the main course page, I should be able to view and select a course material. (Figure 7)

#### User Stories: Content Interaction and LLM Tool

#### 4.2.1.c. Student: Content Interaction + LLM Tool

- C1. As a student, when interacting with the course material section, I should be able to select a course material from a list of supported formats and have it displayed or played in a viewer/player component, as well as have the ability to download a copy of the material. (Figure 6, Figure 7)
- C2. As a student, when interacting with a selected material, I should be able to save notes and questions I have on the material by typing into an assistive LLM tool using the command triggers \note or \question followed by the content. (Figure 7)
- C3. As a student, I should be able to type any question into the assistive LLM tool, and have it respond with a regulated, fine-tuned response. (Figure 7)
- C4. As a student, I should be able to view, update, and delete my saved notes and questions for a course. (Figure 8, Figure 9)
- C5. As a student, I should be able to filter and search my notes and questions using keywords or by selecting a specific material from a dropdown. (Figure 8, Figure 9)

- C6. As a student, I should be able to use the \relevance command to ask how course content relates to my academic and career interests. (Figure 7, Figure 10)
- C7. As a student, I should be able to use the \feedback command to provide feedback about the Al system. (Figure 18, Figure 19)
- C8. As a student, I should be able to view my saved relevance responses in a dedicated section. (Figure 10)

# User Stories: Educator Course Management and Student Oversight

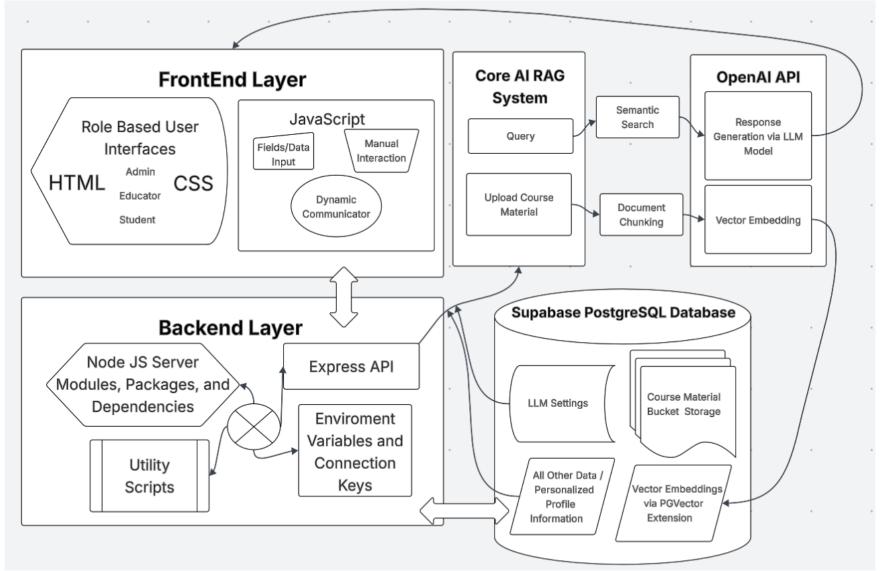
#### 4.2.1.d. Educator: Course Management + Student Oversight

- D1. As an educator, I should be able to upload course materials in supported formats to an organized selectable list on the course material section page. (Figure 12)
- D2. As an educator, I should be able to view or play a selected course material in a viewer/player component and download it. (Figure 6)
- D3. As an educator, I should be able to view a list of students enrolled in my course. (N/A Figure not included in current set)
- D4. As an educator, I should be able to view individual student profiles and see their notes and questions for the course. (Figure 8, Figure 9)
- D5. As an educator, I should be able to view and respond to questions students asked me. (Figure 9)
- D6. As an educator, I should be able to use the LLM tool to ask questions about course content. (Figure 7)
- D7. As an educator, I should be able to use the \feedback command to provide feedback about the Al system. (Figure 18, Figure 19)

# User Stories: Admin System Management and Analytics

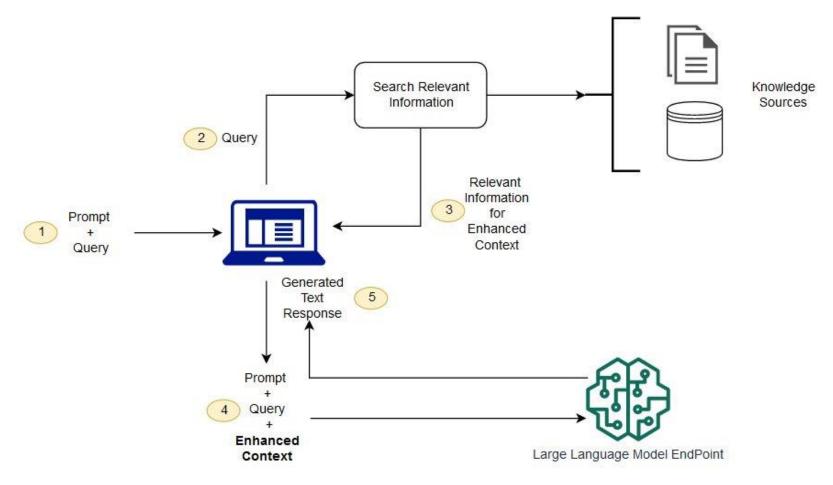
- 4.2.1.e. Admin: System Management + Analytics
- E1. As an admin, I should be able to manage schools by adding, editing, and deleting school information. (Figure 14)
- E2. As an admin, I should be able to manage students by adding, editing, and deleting student accounts. (Figure 12)
- E3. As an admin, I should be able to manage educators by adding, editing, and deleting educator accounts. (N/A – Figure not included in current set)
- E4. As an admin, I should be able to manage courses by adding, editing, and deleting course information. (N/A – Figure not included in current set)
- E5. As an admin, I should be able to manage course enrollments by adding and removing students from courses. (Figure 15)
- E6. As an admin, I should be able to configure LLM settings including model parameters, embedding models, and system prompts. (Figure 16)
- E7. As an admin, I should be able to view and analyze feedback from students and educators. (Figure 18)
- E8. As an admin, I should be able to enable or disable specific features like relevance analysis. (Figure 16)

## Core System Architecture



Design and Implementation: User Stories, RAG System, and Project Organization

## Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) System



Design and Implementation: User Stories, RAG System, and Project Organization

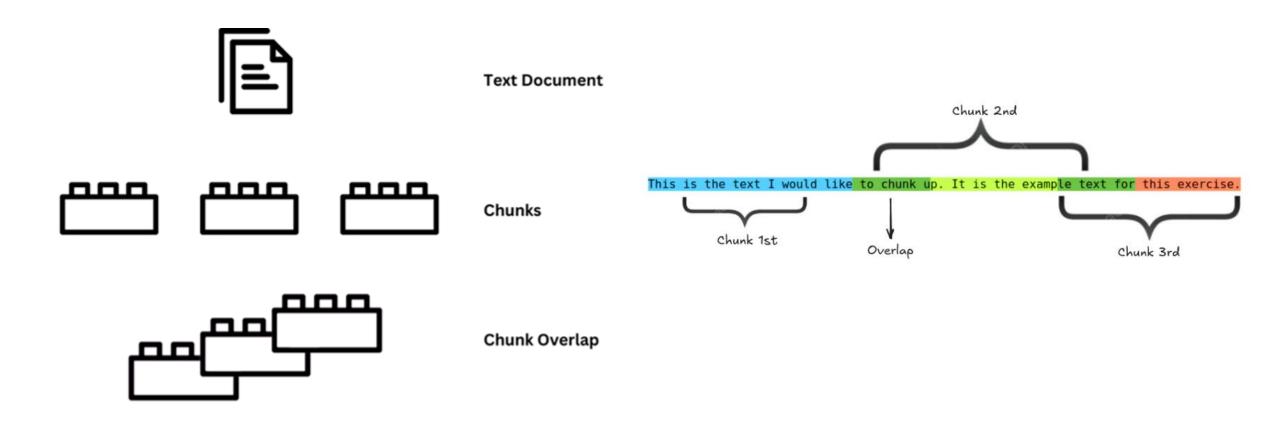
#### **RAG: Tokens**

Tokens Characters

95 444

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaec at cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum

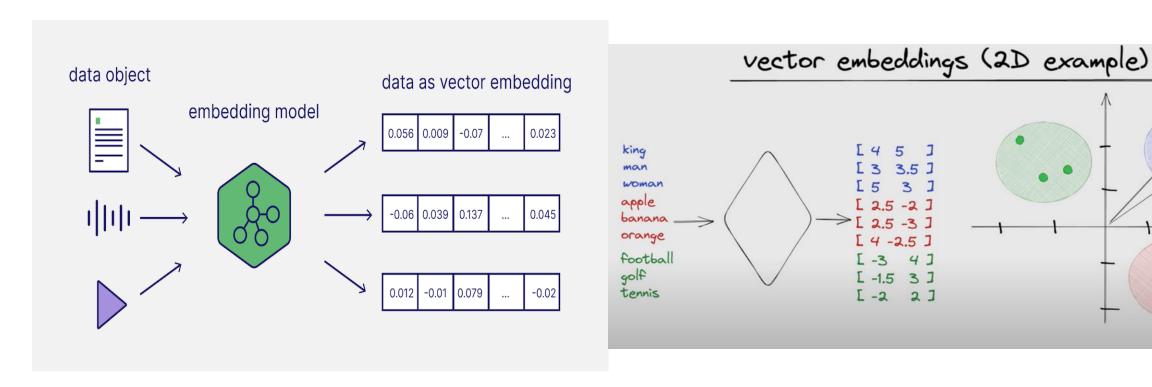
## **RAG: Document Chunking**



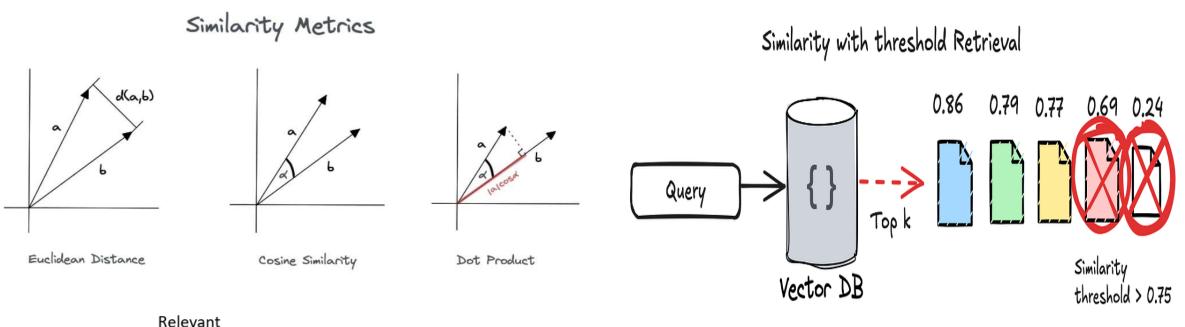
## RAG: Document Chunking – MIME Types

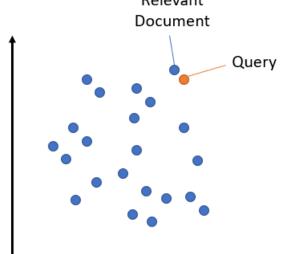
```
type / subtype
                 MIME Type
  e.g. text / plain
       image / png
       application / pdf
```

### RAG: Vector Embeddings



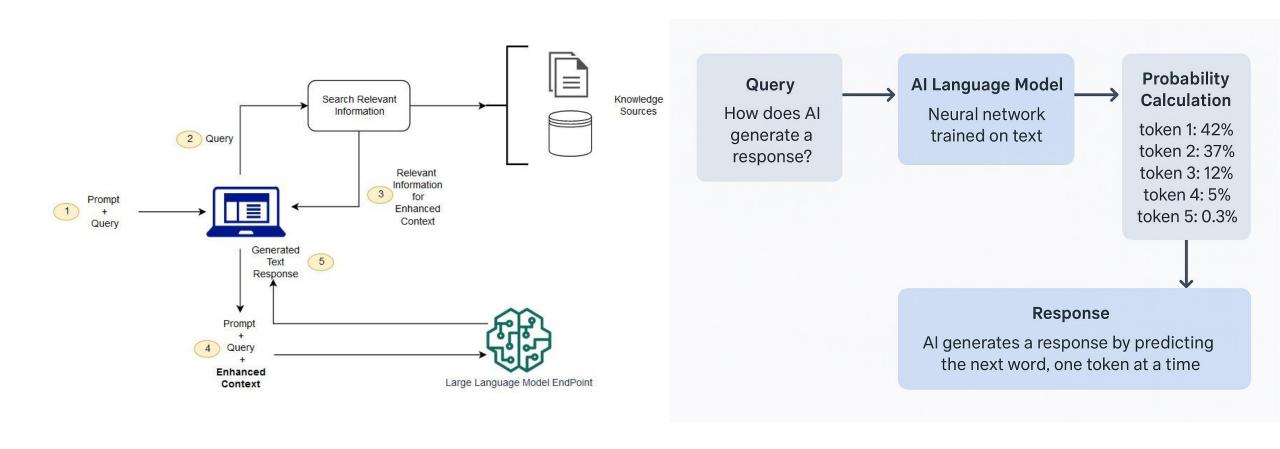
# RAG: Retrieval Mechanism - Similarity Search



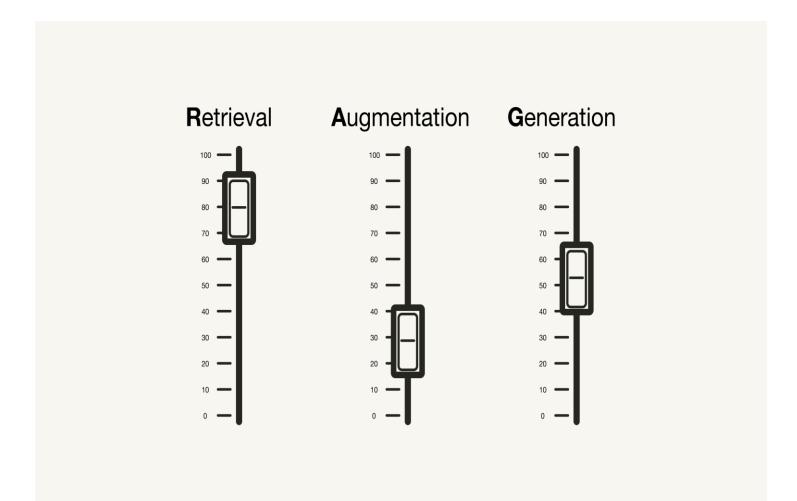


Design and Implementation: User Stories, RAG System, and Project Organization

#### **RAG:** Response Generation

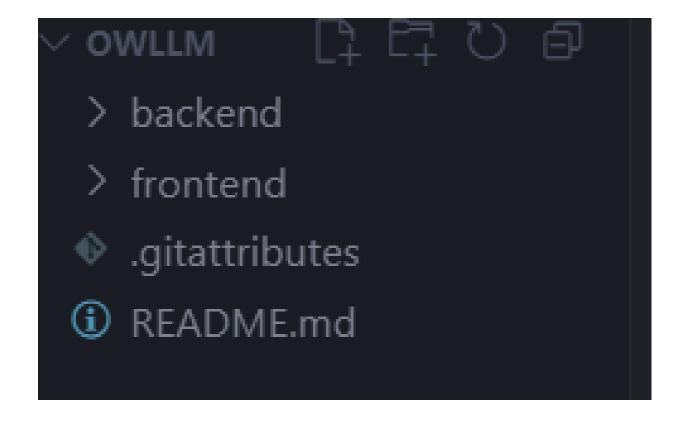


#### RAG: Parameter Finetuning

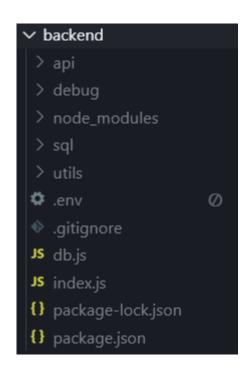


Chunk # of Tokens
Overlap # of Tokens
Temperature
Top P
Frequency Penalty
Prescence Penalty
Max Context Chunks
Max Context Length
Top K Results
Distance Metric
System Prompts
User Role Prompts

#### Project Organization: Root Level



#### Project Organization: Backend - Core



```
JS db.js

JS index.js

{} package-lock.json

{} package.json
```



#### Project Organization: Backend - API Layer

```
OWLLM

∨ backend

 ∨ api
  JS adminAPI.js
  JS educatorAPI.js
  Js studentAPI.js
```

#### Project Organization: Backend - Utility Scripts

```
∨ utils
JS IlmUtils.js
Js server-check.js
Js supabase.js
 JS upload.js
Js validation.js
```

### Project Organization: Backend - SQL Folder

```
∨ sql
■ database-sample-data.sql
■ database.sql
```

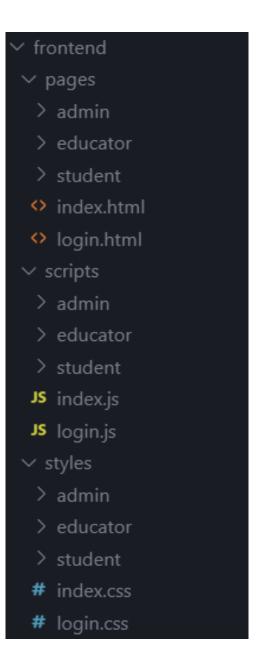
#### Project Organization: Backend - Debugging



```
Js test-mime-types.js
Js test-new-bucket.js
Js test-regular-upload.js
JS test-relevance-command.js
Js test-student-rag.js
Js test-supabase-upload.js
JS test-upload-with-duplex.js
JS test-youtube-download.js
Js test-youtube-endpoint.js
JS test-youtube-frontend.js
Js test-youtube-function.js
JS test-youtube-upload-simulation.js
JS update-llm-settings.js
```

### Project Organization: Frontend

```
frontendpagesscriptsstyles
```



### Demo

http://34.132.142.139:5000/pages/index.html

Admin Login -

Username: admin

Password: admin123

-----

Default Logins -

Username/Email: School Email

Password: {user role}123

#### Al-Assisted Development

Open Up CursorIDE

### Supabase PostgreSQL Database

https://supabase.com/dashboard/project/bjpbzrheuzthfhltduko/database/schemas

### Testing and Evaluation

- -User Story Matrix
- -Strengths and Weaknesses
- -Limitations

### **User Story Matrix**

ID I	Scenario	Figure(s)	Result	Evaluator Notes
A1		2 17	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
	Student login with email/password	Fig. 1		
A2	Educator login with email/password	Fig. 1	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A3	Admin login with username/password	Fig. 2	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A4	Student access profile data	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A5	Educator access profile data	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A6	Admin access profile data	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A7	Student update email/password	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A8	Student update profile information (major, minor, interests, goals)	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A9	Educator update email/password	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
A10	Admin update email/password	Fig. 11	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B1	Student access list of enrolled courses	Fig. 4, Fig. 5	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B2	Student select a course	Fig. 5, Fig. 6	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B3	Student directed to main course page	Fig. 6	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B4	Student view and select course material	Fig. 7	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B5	Educator access list of assigned courses	Fig. 5	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B6	Educator select a course	Fig. 5	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B7	Educator directed to main course page	Fig. 6	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
B8	Educator view and select course material	Fig. 7	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
C1	Student select/display/download course material	Fig. 6, Fig. 7	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
C2	Student save notes/questions using \note or	Fig. 7	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
1 1	\question			
C3	Student ask question with LLM tool and get	Fig. 7	Partial	Most queries were properly an-
	regulated response	_		swered, with the occasional hal-
1 1				lucination, slightly irrelevant re-
				sponse, or error related to LLM
				settings and restraints such as
				max context length that cant be
				changed via admin settings

C4	Student view, update, and delete saved notes/questions	Fig. 8, Fig. 9	Partial	All functionalities were con- firmed except for deleting ques- tions, which is an intended de- sign to consider the importance of questions and how they serve as a dynamic record of evolv- ing understanding, pinpointing areas for deeper exploration.
C5	Student filter/search notes/questions by keyword or material	Fig. 8, Fig. 9	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
C6	Student use \relevance command	Fig. 7, Fig. 10	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
C7	Student use \feedback command	Fig. 18, Fig. 19	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
C8	Student view saved relevance responses	Fig. 10	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D1	Educator upload course materials	Fig. 12	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D2	Educator view/play/download selected course material	Fig. 6	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D3	Educator view list of enrolled students	N/A	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D4	Educator view student profiles, notes, and ques- tions	Fig. 8, Fig. 9	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D5	Educator view and respond to student questions	Fig. 9	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D6	Educator use LLM tool to ask about course content	Fig. 7	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
D7	Educator use \feedback command	Fig. 18, Fig. 19	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E1	Admin manage schools (add, edit, delete)	Fig. 14	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E2	Admin manage students (add, edit, delete)	Fig. 12	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E3	Admin manage educators (add, edit, delete)	N/A	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E4	Admin manage courses (add, edit, delete)	N/A	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E5	Admin manage course enrollments	Fig. 15	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E6	Admin configure LLM settings	Fig. 16	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E7	Admin view and analyze feedback	Fig. 18	Passed	All functionalities confirmed
E8	Admin enable/disable specific features (e.g., rel- evance analysis)	Fig. 16	Passed	All functionalities confirmed

## Al Interaction and Command Trigger Testing: Command Parsing Accuracy

95%-100%

# Al Interaction and Command Trigger Testing: Relevance Responses

- Inherently subjective (Needs more evaluation)
- Consistently incorporates and mentions profile information and makes a relative attempt

# Al Interaction and Command Trigger Testing: Feedback System Engagement

#### **User Feedback System**

View and analyze feedback from students and educators about the AI system performance. This helps identify areas for improvement and user satisfaction.

Total Submissions

Average Rating
4.25

2 Educator Feedback 6 Student Feedback

Not clear if the AI assistant used any contents from the slides.

can see pdf content as well.

I logged in as student and can now see the docx file content.

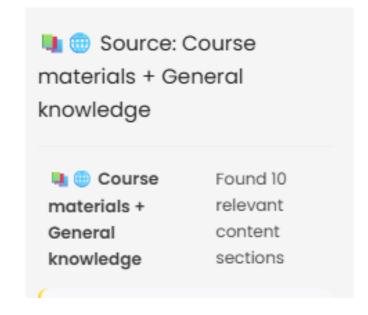
nice job

the youtube was uploaded as a mp4, why only audio? You did say that I will only hear the audio. I am just curious. I will find another mp4 file and check if video works. Good job.

Quite impressive.. I asked the assistant to provide an example of a command that's covered in the material and it did. It was also able to answer questions about commands not covered in the material provided but it correctly pointed out that it wasn't covered when asked.

#### General Query Response Accuracy

- User Story "As a student, I should be able to type any question into the assistive LLM tool, and have it respond with a regulated, fine-tuned response."
- Open-ended in nature
- Would require more evaluation / ongoing process
- However, relatively accurate and correct
- Source of response supplement



# Summary Analysis and Observations: Strengths

- Role Based Navigation
- Simple Intuitive Interface
- Note and Questions
- Well formatted query = Relatively Strong
   Contextual Understanding

## Summary Analysis and Observations: Weaknesses

- Improperly formatted query = Weak contextual understanding
- Determining learning impact of using tool (Further evaluation needed)
- Not perfectly adaptable to all scenarios
- Inconsistency in functionality / edge cases
- Audio only YouTube video downloads
- Inability to understand visuals within documents
- Cannot handle all specialized academic content formats
- Supabase free tier upload size limit (50mb)

#### Constraints, and Limitations

- Constrained to intended choice of course path and courses
- Not in a Board of Ed, institutional committee, or staffed worker role
- Proof of concept project as compared to legit implementation
- Shadow doubt and variability in user circumstances

### **Future Directions**

- -Research Studies Design
- -Extended Functionality
- -Scalability

#### Proposed User Study Design

- Longitudinal study
- Cognitive, Emotional and Behavioral measures
- In-depth methodology
- Ongoing qualitative data
- Ethics
- Goals and objectives

# Additional Features and Extended Functionality

- First address the weaknesses and current shortcomings
- Advanced Learning Insights
- Personalized Learning Paths
- Multimodal Content Tools
- Educator Support
- Advanced AI Capabilities

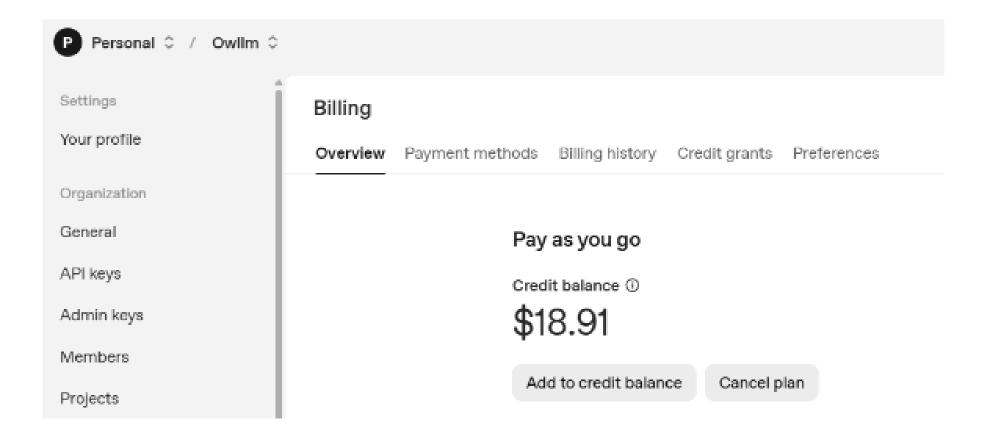
### Technical Enhancements and Scalability

- Scalable Architecture
- Offline Capabilities
- Security & Compliance
- LLM Model API Ecosystem
- Performance Optimization

#### Equity and Accessibility

- Neurodivergent Support
- English Language Learners (ELLs)
- Inclusive Design Goal
- Outcomes

#### Rough Estimate Cost Breakdown



#### Rough Estimate Cost Breakdown

Total Cost = Transcription Cost + Embedding Cost + Vision Cost + LLM Usage Cost

Transcription (Whisper):

Transcription Cost =  $(L \times D_l + V \times D_v) \times C_l$ 

L: Number of lectures

 $D_l$ : Duration of each lecture (minutes)

V: Number of video assignments

 $D_v$ : Duration of each video (minutes)

 $C_l$ : Cost per minute of Whisper (approx. \$0.006)

5.3.3.b. B. Embedding (Text, Slides, etc.):

Lecture Tokens =  $L \times D_l \times WPM \times T_k$ 

Textbook Tokens = Chapters  $\times$  Pages per chapter  $\times$  Words per page  $\times$   $T_k$ 

Slide Tokens = Slides  $\times$  Words per slide  $\times$   $T_k$ 

Assignment Tokens = Assignments  $\times$  Words per assignment  $\times$   $T_k$ 

Video Homework Tokens =  $V \times D_v \times \mathsf{WPM} \times T_k$ 

Total Tokens = Sum of all tokens above

Embedding Cost =  $\left(\frac{\text{Total Tokens}}{1000}\right) \times C_e$ 

 $T_k$ : Tokens per word  $\approx 1.33$ 

 $C_e$ : Embedding cost per 1,000 tokens  $\approx \$0.0004$ 

5.3.3.c. C. Vision (Captured Video Frames for Context):

Vision Cost =  $S \times F \times C_f$ 

S: Number of students

F: Frames captured per student

 $C_f$ : Cost per frame  $\approx \$0.05$ 

5.3.3.d. D. LLM Usage (Queries, Feedback, Summarization, Tutoring, etc.):

LLM Usage Cost 
$$= Q imes T_q imes \left( rac{C_q}{1000} 
ight)$$

Q: Total queries (e.g., per student  $\times$  number of students)

 $T_q$ : Average tokens per query + response

 $C_q$ : Cost per 1,000 tokens (varies by model)

GPT-40: \$0.02 per 1K tokens

GPT-3.5: \$0.0035 per 1K tokens

#### Rough Estimate Cost Breakdown

#### II. Parameter Sets

5.3.3.e. Less Intensive Course

- L = 20,  $D_l = 30$  minutes, WPM = 140
- Chapters = 8, Pages per chapter = 8, Words per page = 400
- Slides = 400, Words per slide = 15
- Assignments = 5, Words per assignment = 600
- V=5,  $D_v=5$  minutes
- S = 30, F = 15
- $T_k = 1.33$
- $Q = 100 \times 30 = 3000$
- $T_q = 700$
- Cost constants:  $C_l = 0.006$ ,  $C_e = 0.0004$ ,  $C_f = 0.05$ ,  $C_q = 0.02$

#### 5.3.3.f. More Intensive Course

- L = 50,  $D_l = 60$  minutes, WPM = 160
- Chapters = 20, Pages per chapter = 15, Words per page = 600
- Slides = 2500, Words per slide = 25
- Assignments = 15, Words per assignment = 1500
- $V = 15, D_v = 15 \text{ minutes}$
- S = 100, F = 30
- $T_k = 1.33$
- $Q = 300 \times 100 = 30000$
- $T_a = 1000$
- Cost constants: same as above

Component	Less Intensive	More Intensive
Whisper Cost	\$3.90	\$20.70
Embedding Cost	\$0.07	\$0.42
Vision Frame Cost	\$22.50	\$150.00
LLM Usage Cost	\$42.00	\$600.00
Total Cost	\$68.47	\$771.12

## Thankyou

### Questions?