

Architecting Scalable AI RAG Systems:

From Startup to Enterprise. A Live Coding Session



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Data & Analytics



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Our Global Delivery Centres

Global Reach, Local Insight - Ciklum bridges the best in tech from the three key IT regions





Our speakers





Lucian Gruia Principal Al Technology Lead

- AI Tech Lead with over 11 years of hands-on experience in Telecom, Fintech, and Aerospace. He specializes in AI, data integrity, fraud detection, system performance, architecting frameworks and solutions for real-time systems.
- Develops an AI upskill program for 300 engineers at Ciklum.



Ivan Shelonik Expert Data Scientist

- Certified Professional Machine Learning Expert with 7 years of commercial experience in developing Machine Learning projects from the ground to delivery into the Cloud (AWS 5+YoE).
- Has worked and delivered primarily for customers from S&P 500



Daniel-Mihai Gorgan Senior JS Developer

- Tech enthusiast specializing in Node.js, SQL/NoSQL and Cloud technologies with 5+ years of experience
- Hands-on experience in projects across outsourcing and product companies, contributing to the development of in-house products, smart chatbots, and voicebots by leveraging different AI technologies

Our speakers





Saikumar Uckoo Conversational Al expert

 Cloud Architect specialized in building, deploying, and maintaining AI solutions on Microsoft cloud platforms. Leads deliveries on platforms like Microsoft PVA, KoreAI, and custom GenAI solutions built on open-source tech.



Mariana Batiuk Principal TCoE Lead

- Mariana leads the technical council on the QA maturity assessment, test strategy, pre-sales, new services development, initiatives, and quality engineering activities.
- Has proficient experience in QA Management, Agile Methodologies, Testing, Team Management, and Coaching.



Maksym Lypivskyi Global Head of Cloud Platforms

- Specializing in cloud computing architectures and generative AI applications, he focuses on creating, deploying, and optimizing cutting-edge solutions across global platforms.
 - A mentor and community builder, he actively shares his insights on generative AI, cloud technologies, and leadership.

Playing in all parts of the AI stack



	User Experie	nces & Engagement			Emerging Stack Trends	Partners
End-to- End Apps	Opera	Apps ting Systems & API Layers	C	Applications	The rise of cloud-based generative AI and LLMs, accessible via APIs and embedded in other applications, will allow companies to use them as-is or customize with their data	OpenAI Weights & Biases WI Humanloop
		Model Hubs		Fine-Tuning	The need for model fine-tuning will drive demand for a diverse skill set, such as software engineering, psychology, linguistics, etc.	
	Closed Source	Hyper-local AI Models	s 🌔	Foundation Models	The market will evolve and diversify with the emergence of more pre-trained models , offering options for size, transparency, versatility &	ගි OpenAI
		Specific AI Models	C			
		Open-Source	C		performance balance	
	Fo	oundational AI Models		Data	Mastery of new and diverse data types and volumes will be crucial for success, with GenAI features in modern data platforms facilitating adoption at scale	♦ appen ♥ redis ☆ snowflake*
	Clou	d Platforms			Essential for GenAI deployment, cloud	Azure aws
Computer Hardware				Infrastructure	infrastructure will help manage costs and carbon emissions, necessitating data center retrofitting and advancements in chinset	Google Cloud
Applicatio	ns Models	s 🗌 Infrastructure 🏾 🕡 Wł	here we work		architectures, hardware & algorithms	

Agenda



01 What is RAG	05 Build with Javascript
02 LLM Wrappers and Docker	06 Deploy RAG app in AWS
03 Build with Java	07 Deploy RAG app in Azure
04 Build with Python	08 Challenges in QA and more

Session's Tech map





What is RAG



A RAG system essentially correlates a **user's prompt** with a relevant **data chunk.** It does this by identifying **the most semantically similar** chunk from the database.

This chunk then becomes **the context** for the prompt.

When **passed to the Large Language Model** (LLM), it enables the system to provide a relevant answer within the given context.



LLM Wrapper

- Build with **Java**
- Deploy locally
- Integrate a 3rd party client



Why do we need RAG?



• Expands Knowledge Base RAG accesses a vast external database, enriching its knowledge beyond initial training data

Improves

Accuracy

Enhances response precision by integrating relevant, real-time information

• Adaptable

Effectively handles novel and niche queries

Increases

Efficiency

Applications

Streamlines information retrieval and generation process

• Versatile

Useful across various fields, from customer support to research



Source: What Is Retrieval-Augmented Generation, aka RAG?

AWS

- Build with **Python**
- Build Docker images
- Semantic search with FAISS
- Deploy on AWS



Data Chunking and LLMs



LLMs also have a limited capacity for context.

Just as humans **cannot digest unlimited context**, these models have a specific size limit for the content they can process.

So, what about situations involving very large amounts of data?

Consider a specific use case, such as a book. It's too large to pass the entire book as **the context** for the current prompt, so it **needs to be divided** before being stored in the database.

This process is known as **data chunking**.

Types of Data chunking (by size):

- Fixed-size
- Variable Chunking
- Semantic Chunking



Generated with DALL-E 3

JavaScript

- Build with **TypeScript**
- Semantic Search with Pg vector



Embeddings. Similarity





Numerical representations of concepts, in a high-dimensional space, capturing semantic meaning.

• Similarity:

- Lexical: entities are alike in appearance
- Semantic: entities are alike in meaning
- In RAG we represent entities by describing them. This is a form of knowledge representation.

Example: Mountain, River, Canal

One hot encoding		2-Dimensional Space			
			[Natural vs Artificial, Mobility]		
Mountain:	1	Mountain:	[-0.7,	-0.8]	
River:	2	River:	[-0.3,	0.7]	
Canal:	3	Canal:	[0.4,	0.5]	



Read more: Wikipedia - Cosine Similarity

Azure

- Deploy on **Azure**
- Semantic Search with Qdrant
- Conversation history



RAG Architecture





Benefits of RAG

new data.



1. Providing up-to-date and accurate responses RAG ensures that the response of an LLM is not based solely on static, stale training data. Rather, the model uses up-to-date external provide data sources to responses. hallucinations 2. Reducing inaccurate responses, or By grounding the LLM model's output on relevant, external knowledge, RAG attempts to mitigate the risk of responding with incorrect or fabricated information (also known as hallucinations). Outputs can include citations of original sources, allowing human verification. 3. Providing domain-specific, relevant responses Using RAG, the LLM will be able to provide contextually relevant responses tailored to an organization's proprietary or domain-specific data. Being efficient cost-effective and 4. Compared to other approaches to customizing LLMs with domain-specific data, RAG is simple and cost-effective. Organizations can deploy RAG without needing to customize the model. This is especially beneficial when models need to be updated frequently with

QA & Testing

- SW characteristics
- Top 5 risks
- Methods and tools
- Balanced **success** factors



Software Characteristics





AI-specific Characteristics							
Flexibility & Adaptability	Autonomy	Evolution	Bias	Side-effects & Reward Hacking	Ethics	Transparency, Interpretability & Explainability	Safety



Top 5 current shortcomings and risks





21

Methods & tools

that help us mitigate risks and ensure proper testing of AI

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Some essential elements



that should be considered when verifying AI systems



Interact

- **Prompt** Engineering
- Fine-tuning



The optimization flow



What is a good prompt

Act as an experienced Learning specialist. I need to improve my upselling skills. Prepare an educational program for me to improve that skills. Program should be for 2 month with 4 hours effort per week.

Please provide answer with the next output: Topic: Name

- blocks
- ...

Books:

Example:

Topic: Negotiation basics

- Win-win strategy
- Active listening strategy

Books: "Getting to Yes" by Roger Fisher and William Ury



Instruction Context Role Formatting Tone Examples

Prompt tactics



* Shot Prompting

Zero Add 2+2:

One Add 3+3: 6 Add 2+2:

Few Add 3+3: 6 Add 5+5: 10 Add 2+2:

Model-guided prompting

Before answering, I want you to first ask for any extra information that helps you produce a better answer.

If you got no questions, please provide an answer instead.

Self-evaluating prompting

Can this program be improved?



Chain of thoughts

Virma has three bags, each of which fits five shirts. How many shirts can Virma fit in her bags? Let's think step-by-step.





Thread-of-Thought

Virma has three bags, each of which fits five shirts. How many shirts can Virma fit in her bags?

Walk me through this context in manageable parts step by step, summarizing and analyzing as we go.

Prompt

Long, complicated context

"Walk me through this context in manageable parts step by step, summarizing and analyzing as we go"

Response

Part 1, its summary, and its analysis

Part 2, its summary, and its analysis

etc



Thank you!



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