

**Weaviate**

# Introduction to **Vector Databases**

**Conf42 Machine Learning 2023**

**Zain Hasan**



# Zain Hasan

Senior Developer  
Advocate

Weaviate



# From keyword search to **semantic** search






```
{"title": "How to build a REST API?"}
```

```
{"title": "Programming languages for data scientists"}
```

semantically similar, using ML


"Python"

No results found ...

 Is python a poisonous snake?

*Traditional, keyword-based search*

"Python"

 Programming languages for data scientists

*ML-based (semantic) search*



It is difficult to **process**,  
**understand** and **search** through  
unstructured data



It is difficult to process,  
understand and search through  
unstructured data in a **scalable**  
and **secure** way



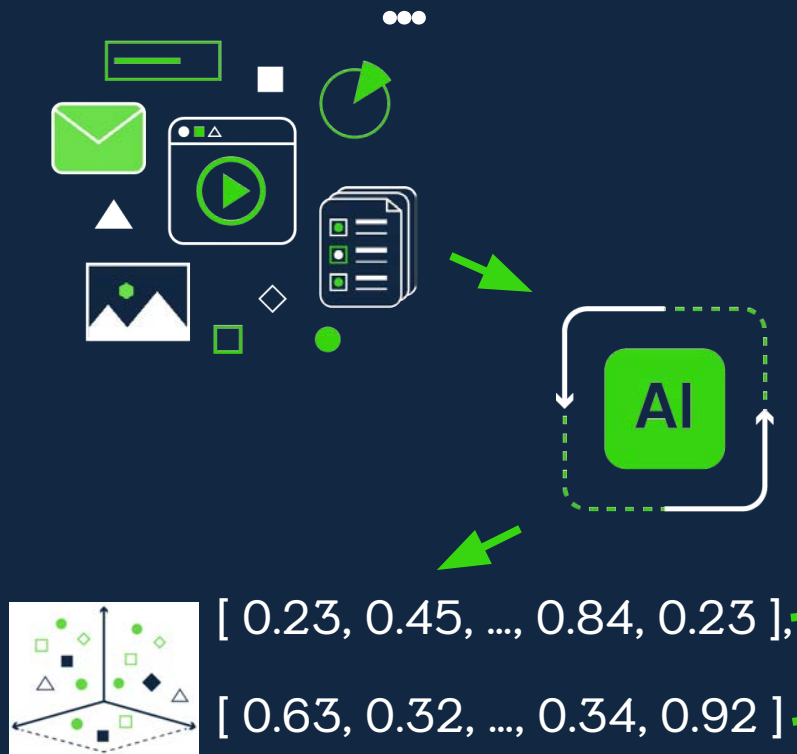
It is difficult to process, understand and search through unstructured data

---

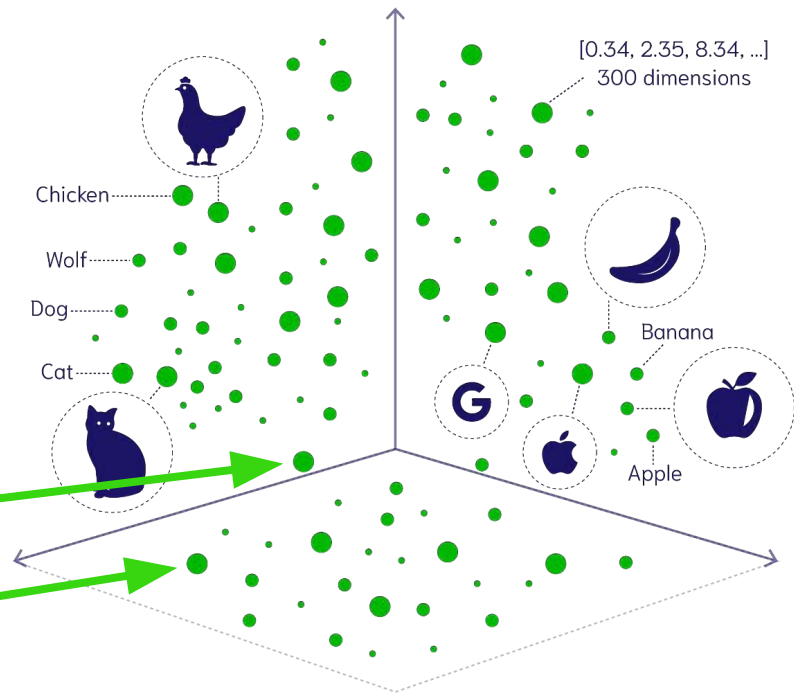
1. We use **Machine Learning** to understand the **context** of unstructured data.



# Machine Learning models

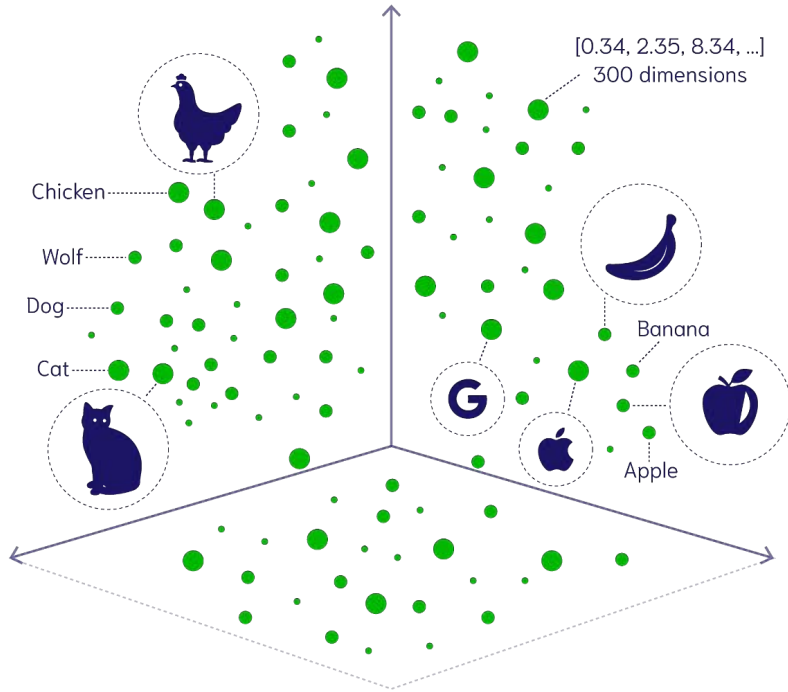


## ... create vector representations





# Vector representations



**Millions** of data entries & vectors  
& many **queries** per second

# How to search through it on large scale?

Store & Retrieve large amounts of  
vectors & non-vector data

Scale ML models to work  
reliably in production

Real-time full CRUD support

It is difficult to use machine learning models in a scalable and secure way

---

## 2. **Vector Databases** are the solution to these challenges



A **vector database** indexes and stores data objects *and* its **vector embeddings** enabling efficient similarity search combined with structured filtering in a **scalable way**.

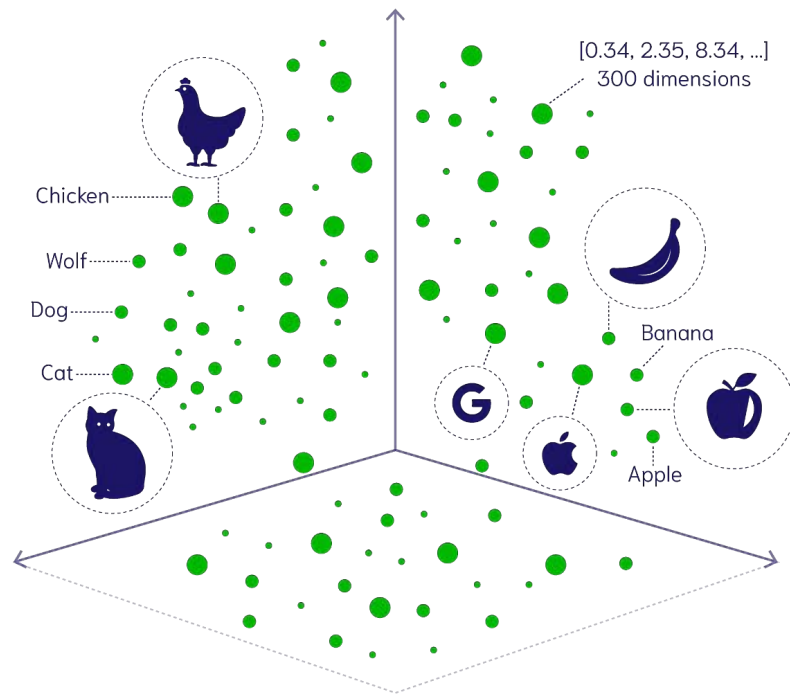


# What is a **vector database**?

Stores **data objects** & **vector embeddings**

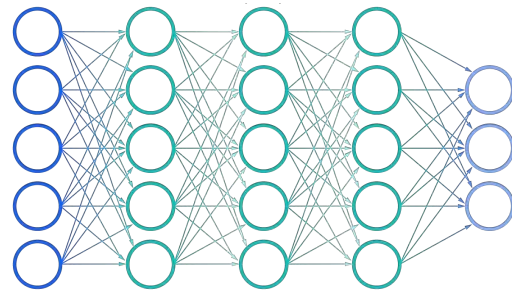
**Similarity Search** combined with **Structured Filtertering**

Real-time full **CRUD** support & **ANN** search algorithms



# Vector databases

1. Vectorize and index data, using ML



ResNet-50  
PRETRAINED MODEL

co:here



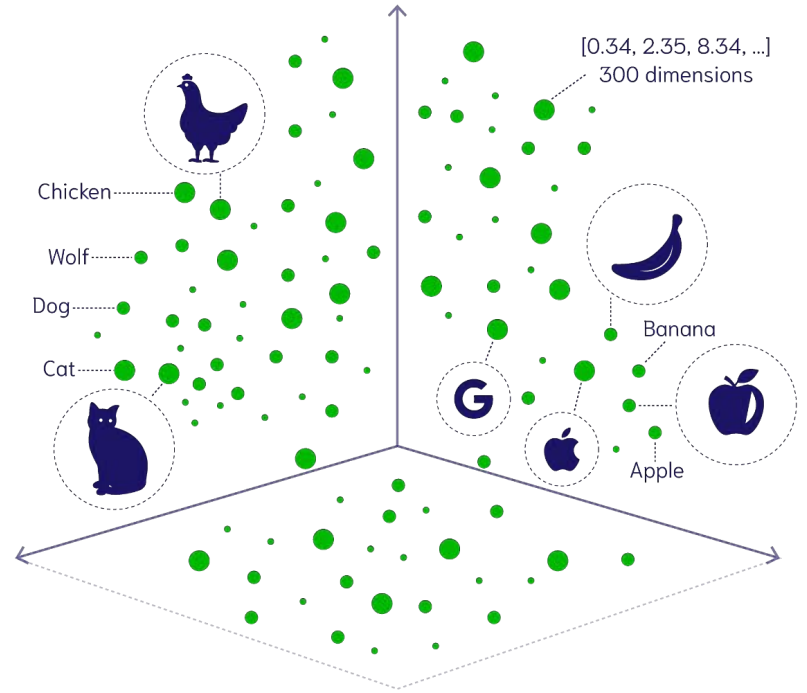
HUGGING FACE



# Vector databases

1. Vectorize and index data, using ML

## Example search

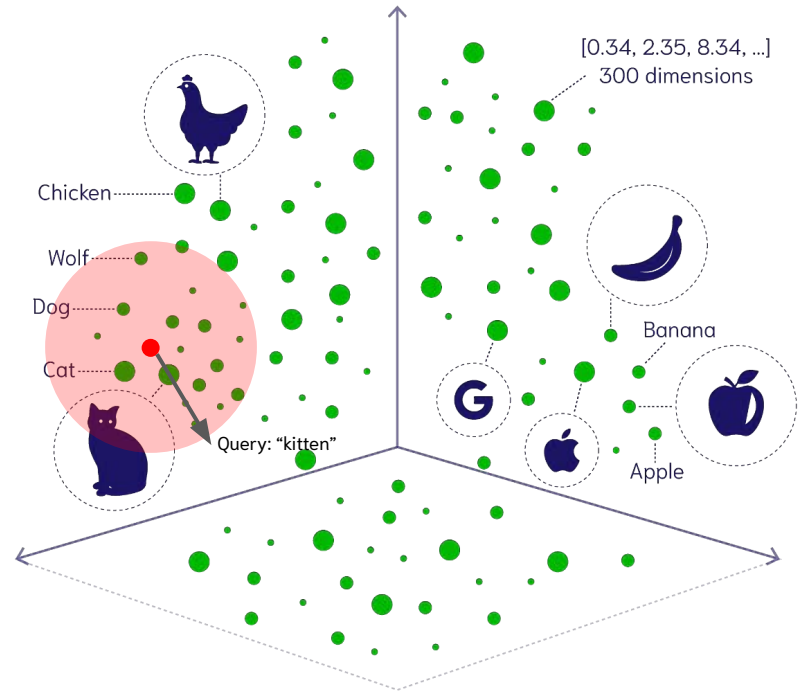


# Vector databases

1. Vectorize and index data, using ML

2. Vectorize search query, using ML

## Example search



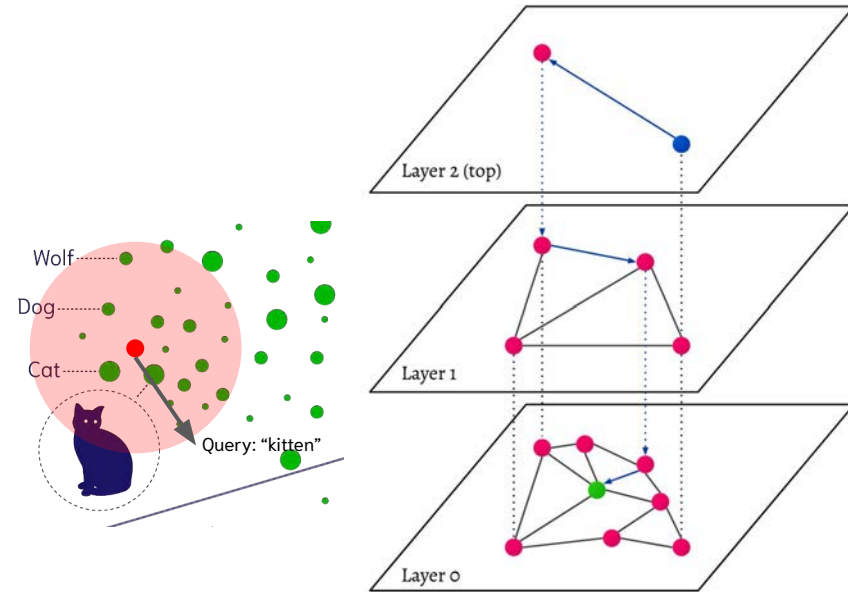
# Vector databases

1. Vectorize and index data, using ML

2. Vectorize search query, using ML

3. Retrieve ANN results (using HNSW)

## Example search

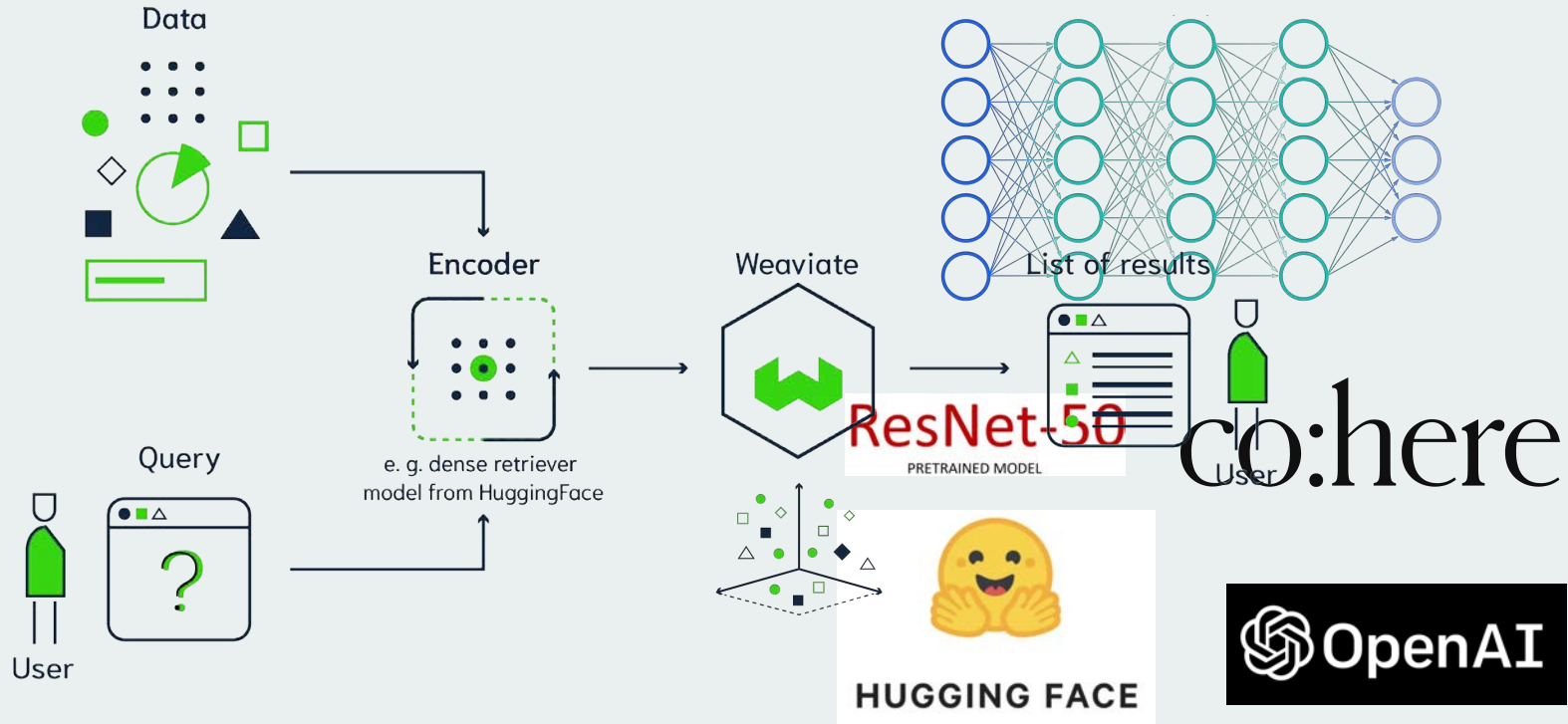




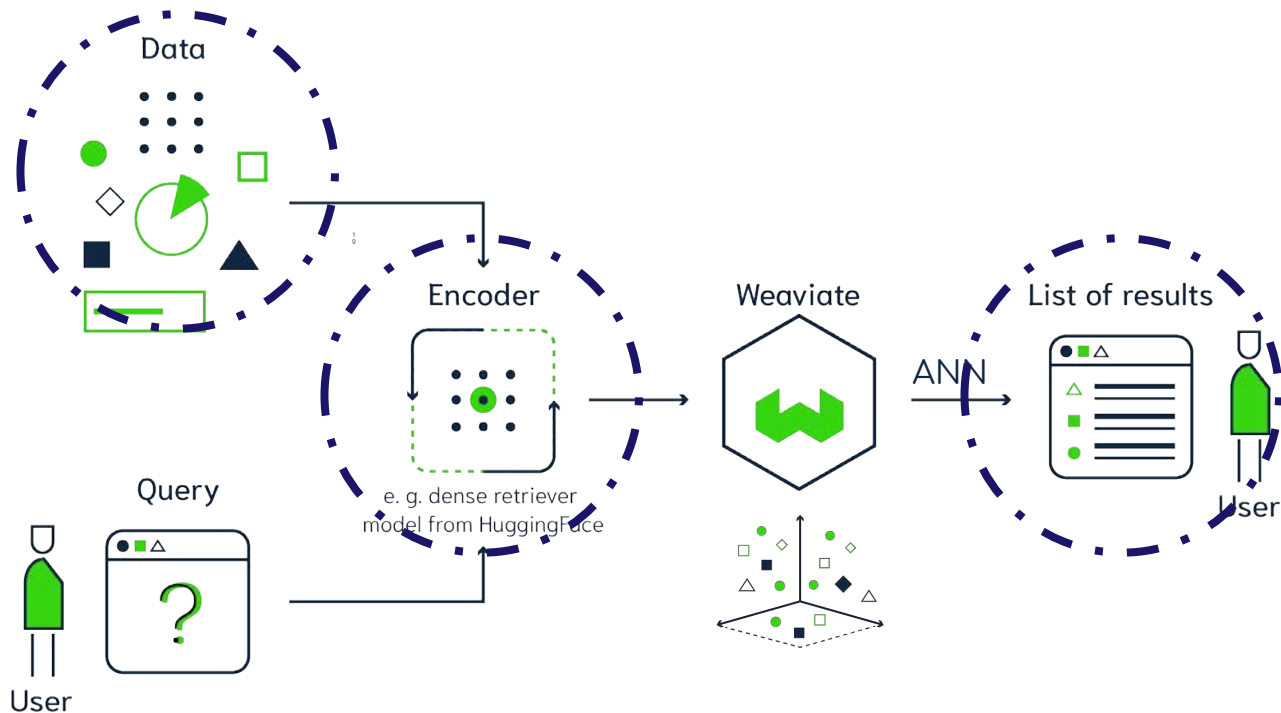
# Weaviate: An open-source vector database that understands your data



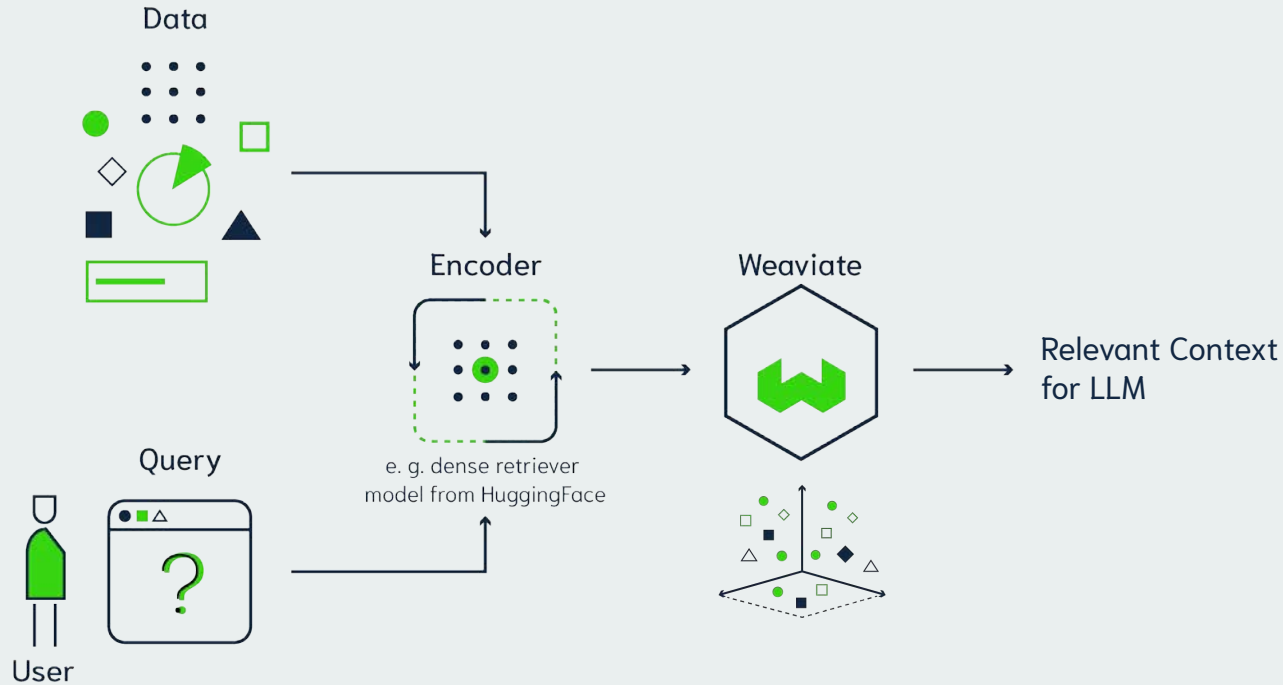
# A vector search pipeline



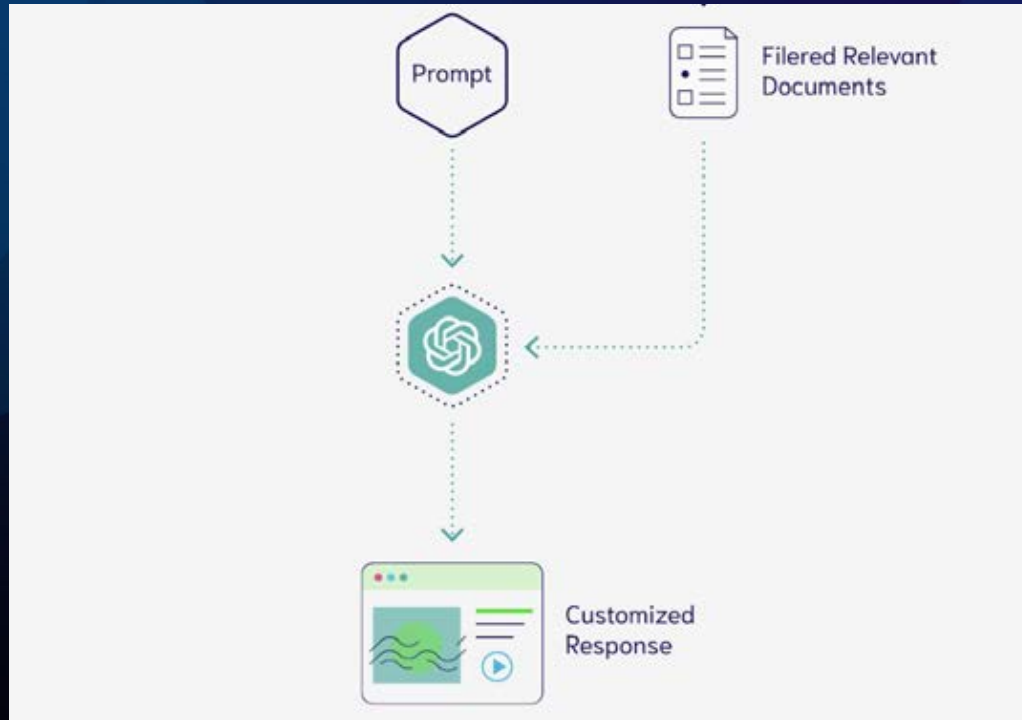
# Weaviate is modular: flexible search pipelines



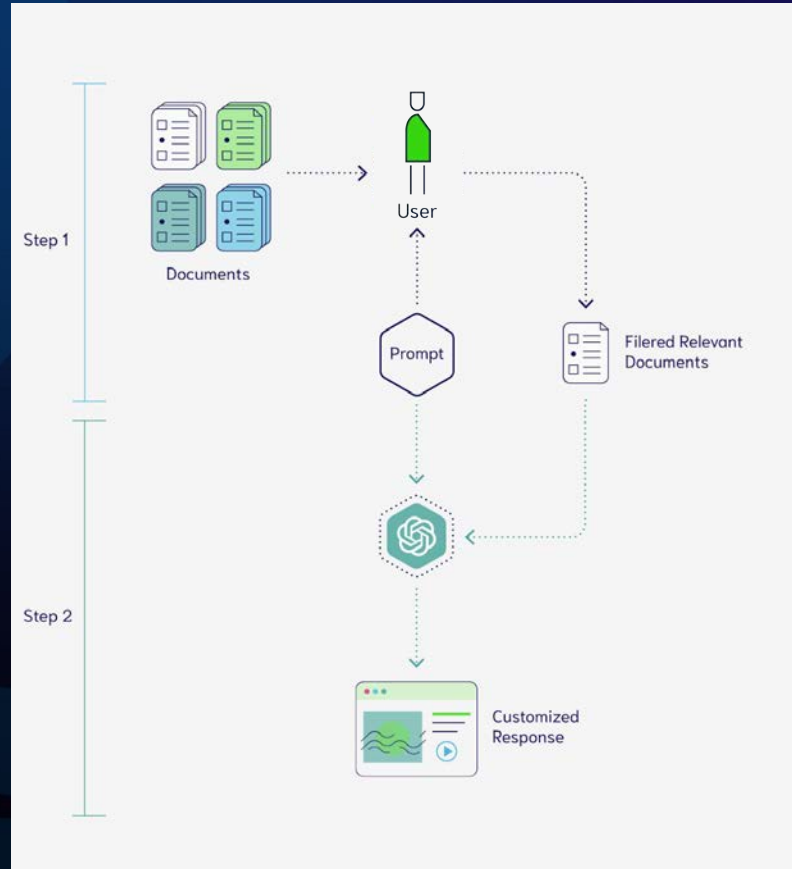
# Using **vector search** to provide LLMs context



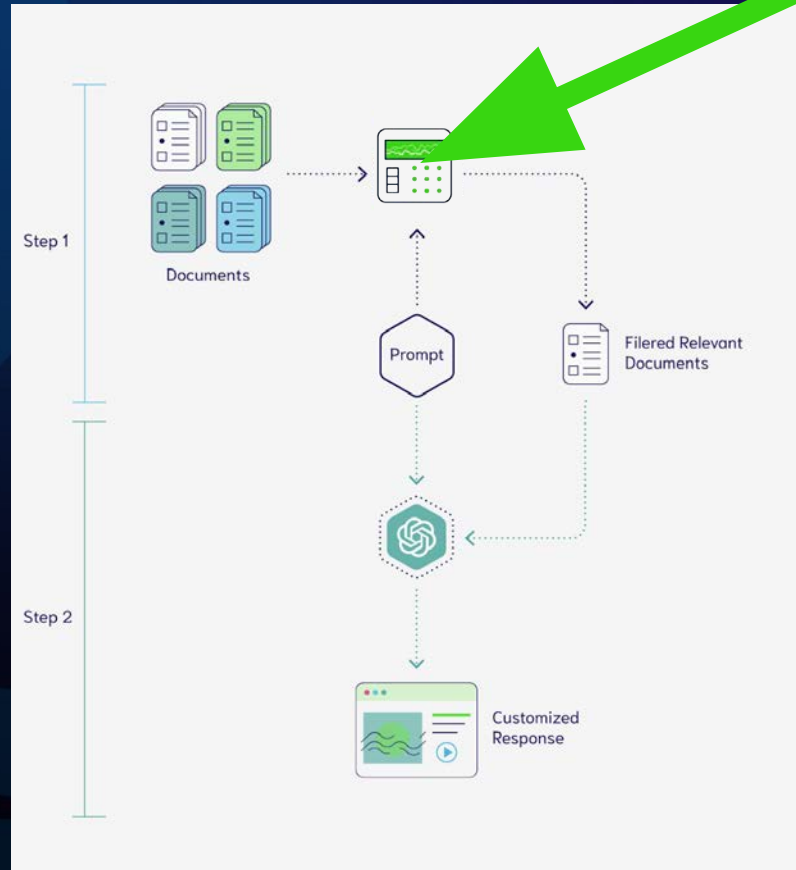
**Say to ChatGPT: Answer my question, here's everything relevant you need to know.**



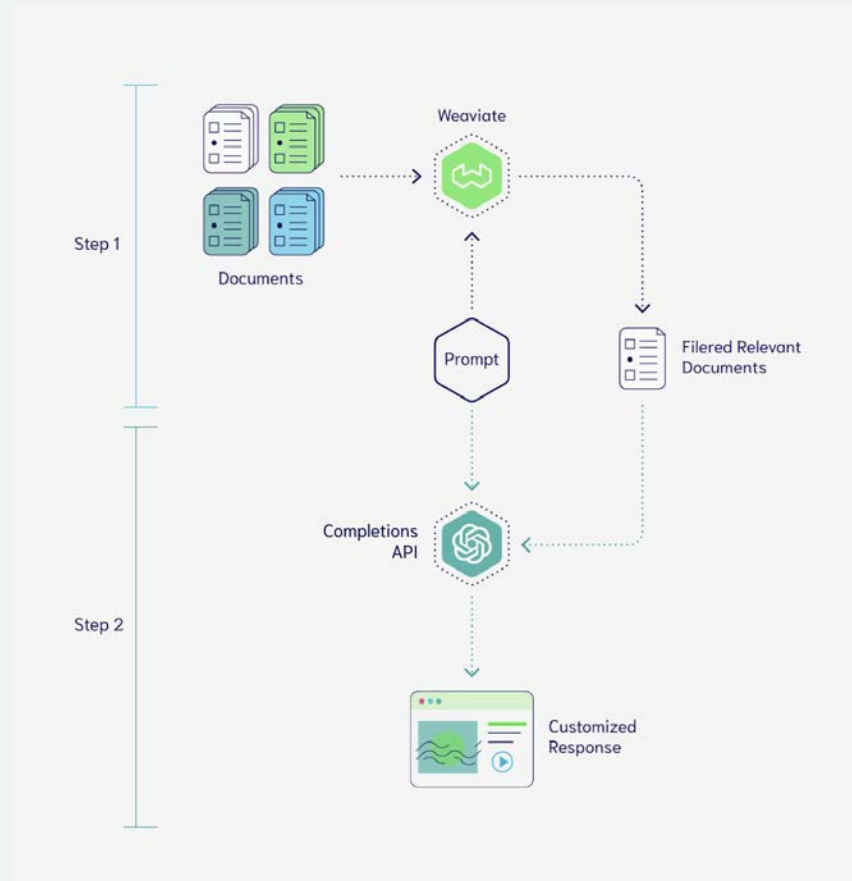
# Manually filter documents to identify relevant context



# To scale this approach we need a **Vector Database!**



# Customizing Large Language Models using Vector Databases





# Demo!



# Connect with me!



## Zain Hasan



@zainhasan6



[linkedin.com/in/zainhas/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zainhas/)



# Thank you!



weaviate.io



weaviate/weaviate



@weaviate\_io

