

Caterpillar – Supplier Quality Inspection

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Introduction

- **Caterpillar** relies on consistent supplier quality inspections to ensure reliability
- Currently dependent on **multiple disconnected systems and limited history visibility**
- Developed **centralized inspection platform** for efficient inspections
- Allow for data to be stored accessible to **improve auditor learning curve**
- Built using **Django, SQLite, and Ollama**, targeting reduced inspection time and standardized audits

Accomplished Goals

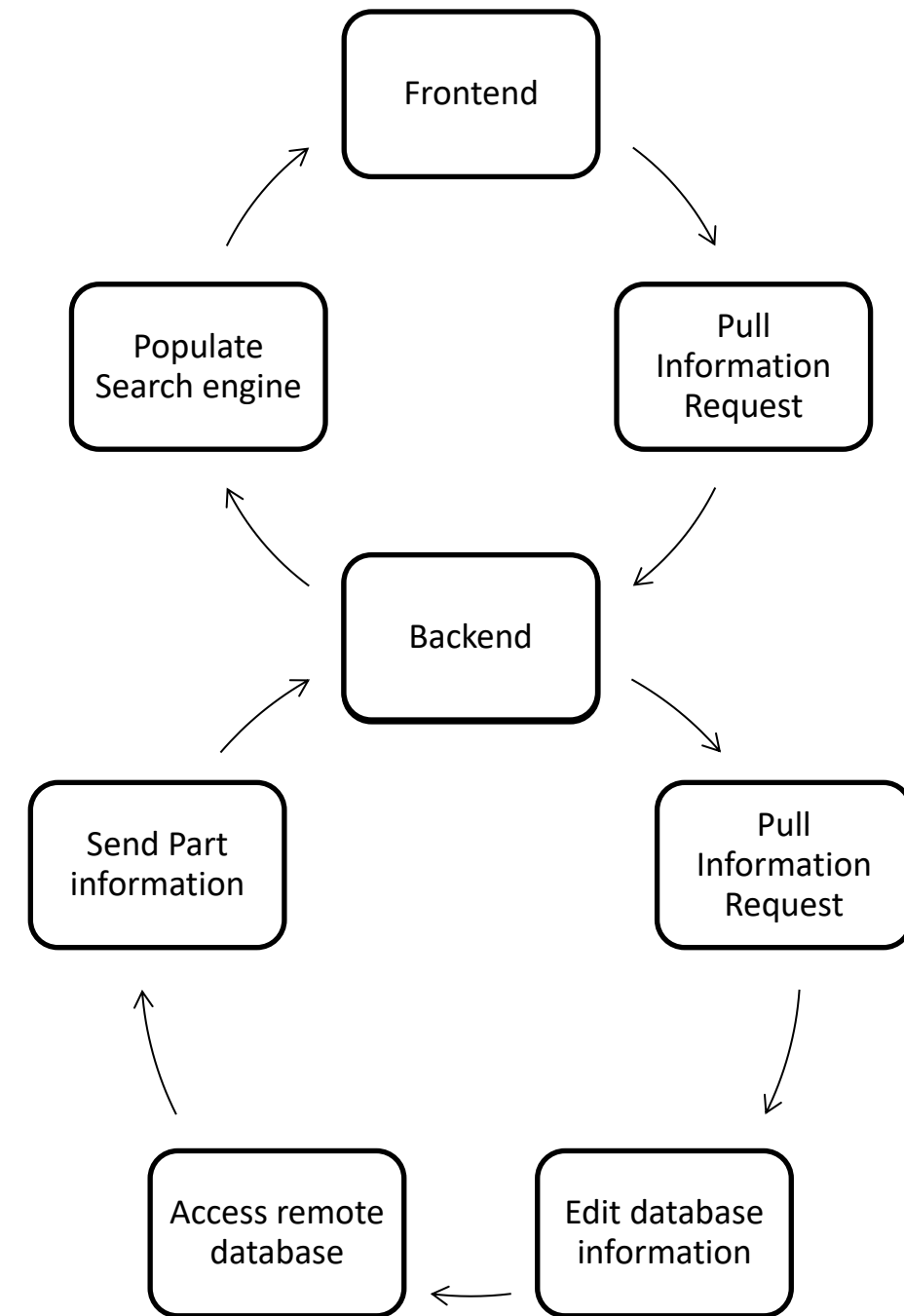
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- Allow for admin to change part grouping
- View parts by specified criteria (i.e. grouping, design control)
- Inspection criteria entry for admin
- Ability to enter inspections
- Get predetermined risk
- Time audits
- AI summary of past part history

System Design

Figure 1: System design cycle overview



Research Methodology

Frontend

Formulate Workflow Modules:

- Map inspection processes to simplistic and clear app modules.

Design and Integrate UI:

- Designed mockups in **Figma** before implementation
- Built frontend using **HTML/CSS**
- Improve visual clarity while retaining original functionality
- Fetch and display backend data

Backend

Clean and Structure Database:

- Convert CSV data to local **SQLite** for efficiency
- Add local changes to the remote database

Search and Retrieve Information:

- Query database utilizing **Django API**.
- Search, retrieve, and update part groupings

Develop and Refine LLM Summaries:

- Generate summaries using **Ollama** (local LLM) from part groupings, past summaries, and current inspection findings.

Inspection Criteria Page

Figure 2: Dashboard — inspection criteria page

The screenshot shows a dashboard with a search bar for Supplier Code, PO Number, and CAT Identification Number. Below it are fields for Specific Audit Information: Met Lab Plan, Suggested Plan, and Current Plan. There are also sections for AI Historical Scrub for Part Grouping, Receiving Inspection, and Comments/Notes. A 'Save inspection' button is at the bottom.

The flowchart on the right shows the process: Search fields based on part grouping, ID, PO number, and supplier code → See suggested plans and risk level → 4 point AI summary → Enter notes → Save Inspection.

Conclusion

- **Centralized Inspection System:** Combines inspection guidance, criteria, and historical data into one streamlined workflow.
- **Updated Interface :** Captures inspection knowledge to reduce rework and ensure consistent inspection across sites.
- **Better Visibility:** Gives inspectors cleaner access to past inspections to support faster, more informed decisions.

Future Goals

Expand timer:

- Record information about the audit and how long it took. Use start and stop time, the date, whether it passed or failed, and the nonconformance number if it failed to identify patterns and improve inspection accountability
- Store information from the timer in a data table.

Login screen:

- Create login screen and implement role-based authentication and permissions to ensure data security and controlled access across inspection sites

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