RAG with In-Memory Java Microservices

Phil Chung Director of Product Management Enterprise Cloud Native Java May 13, 2025



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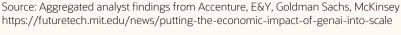
Agenda

- Introduction
- Anatomy of RAG
- Cloud Native RAG with Helidon and Coherence

The Economic Potential of Generative Al

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GDP Financial Impact of Generative Al





What is the scale of your ambition? – Stephanie Zhan, Sequoia VC

- NVIDIA says robotics could become the world's biggest multi-trillion dollar industry
 - Open sourced world's first humanoid robot brain LLM GROOT N1
 - CUDA DTX CUDA Distributed Execution runtime announced, planned for 2027
- Edge, locally hosted Al positioned to benefit most from explosion of open source LLMs
 - Tariffs incentivize vendor/country neutral open source at Edge and locally hosted
- Java and Al modular, portable, powerful together
 - Scale from single, small robotics, drones to complex edge interaction, Al data centers
 - Leverage Java for Inference, RAG, Agents post training + Java cloud native apps/services
 - Al workloads that create economically valuable work



Enhancing existing systems with AI

- Anomaly and fraud detection
 - Cell Tower equipment monitoring
 - Financial transactions monitoring, insurance fraud
 - Hospitals, diagnostics testing in radiology, pathology, cardiology and dermatology
- Language translation and NLP
 - Customer support at retail, healthcare, restaurants
 - Interactive Voice Response
- Similarity Matching in Recommendation system audio/video streaming, retail, restaurant
- Secure personalized content
 - Medicine, ads, sales reports, response generation
- Image recognition
 - Identify objects, classify images, and track motion
 - In-vehicle autonomous systems aircraft, car, boat, rocket

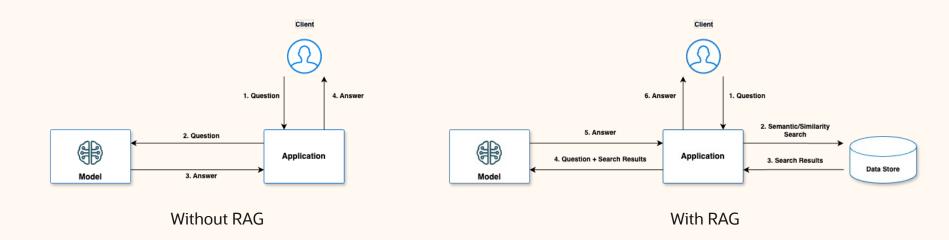


Generative AI challenges

- Improve accuracy
- Reduce hallucinations
- Keep up to date
- Security and Privacy
- Costs



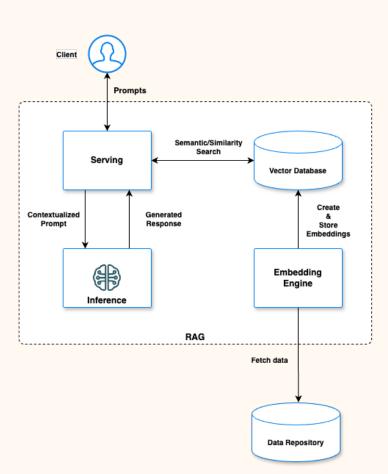
Enter RAG



RAG: A technique for improving the output of pre-trained Large Language Models in Generative AI, by augmenting questions with retrieved contextual information for the model generating answers.

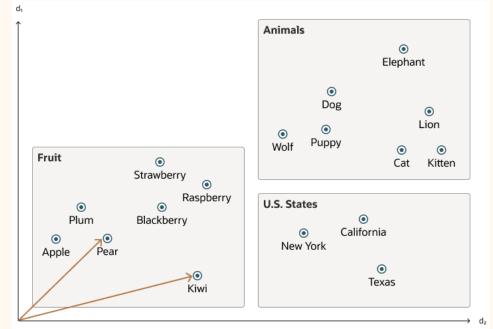


Anatomy of RAG



What is a Vector Database?

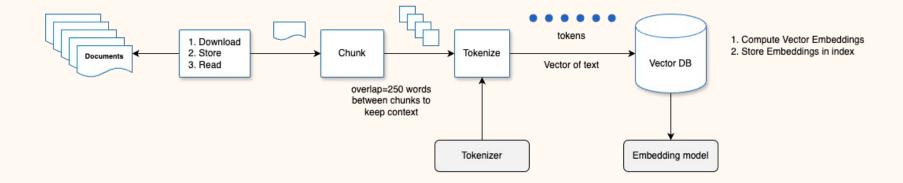
- A database that stores Vector embeddings
- A Vector embedding:
 - Is a vector of floating point numbers
 - Has magnitude and direction
- Embeddings are used for:
 - Search
 - Clustering
 - Recommendations
 - Anomaly detection
 - ...



• Use distance metrics (e.g. cosine distance) to search for similar items

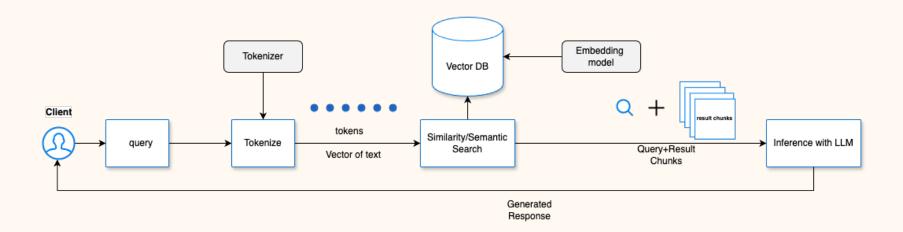


Embedding Process

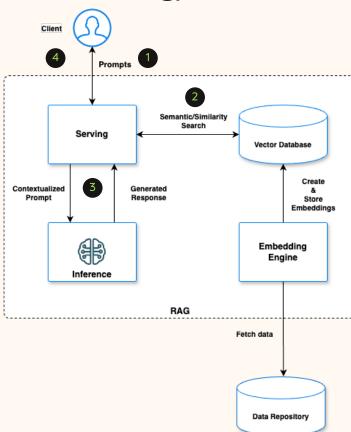




Query Process



Anatomy of RAG (post embedding)

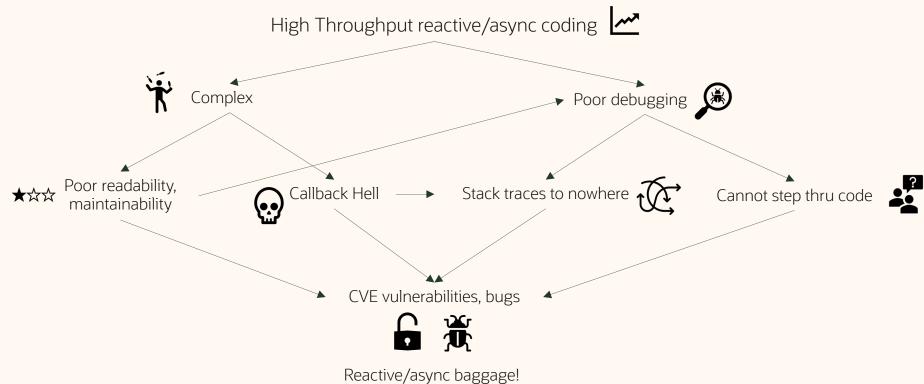


Cloud Native RAG

Build a cloud native RAG with Helidon and Coherence



Rethinking microservices and Al Agents



Reactive Java is a trap

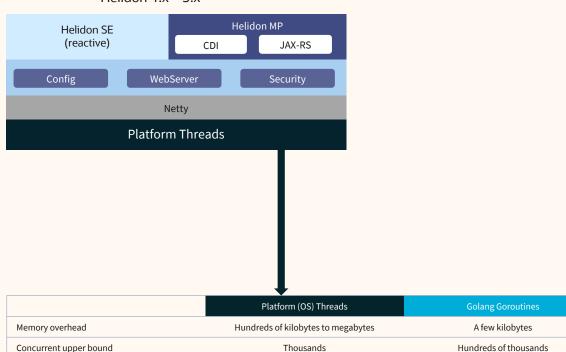




Helidon 1.x-3.x

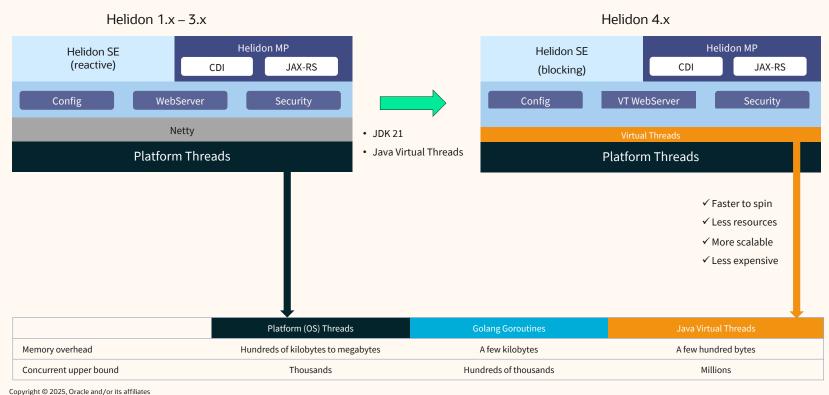
Architectural evolution

Helidon 1.x - 3.x



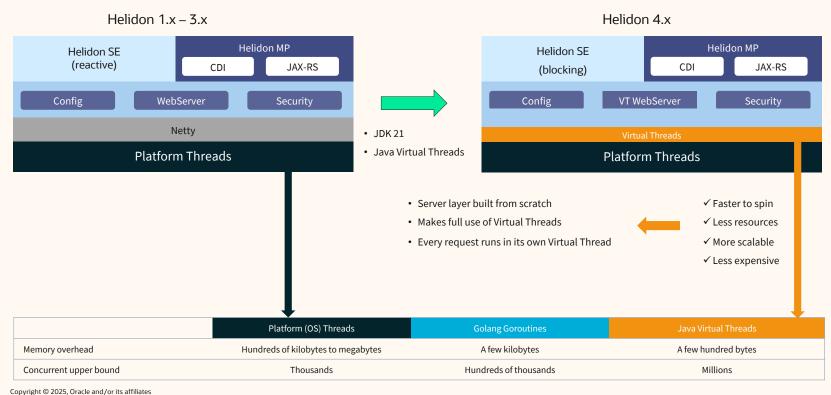
Helidon 4

Architectural evolution



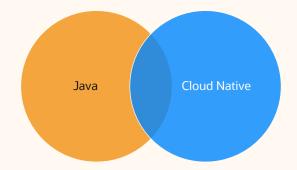
Helidon 4

Architectural evolution: scalability of reactive, simplicity of 1 thread per request



Helidon: An introduction

- Modern, open-source Java framework for developing cloud native micro-services
 - Created, maintained, supported and fully owned by Oracle
 - Container, Kubernetes and CNCF-friendly
 - Only framework to implement Virtual Threads from the socket up





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 - Only framework to implement Virtual Threads from the socket up
- Developer-friendly, flexible, observable
 - Scalability of reactive, simplicity of thread per request
 - Easy to write *clean* code, understand, debug, maintain
 - Lower learning curve cloud native for Jakarta EE developers

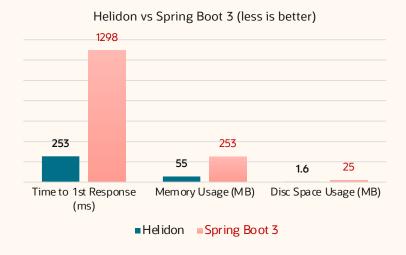






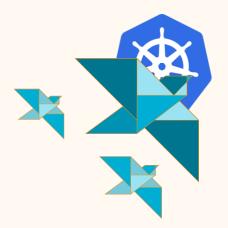
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- Developer-friendly, flexible, observable
 - Scalability of reactive, simplicity of thread per request
 - Easy to write *clean* code, understand, debug, maintain
 - Lower learning curve cloud native for Jakarta EE developers
- Light, fast and secure
 - No app server required
 - Adoption of cutting-edge Java features to improve performance & productivity
 - Judicious use of external dependencies to minimize CVEs



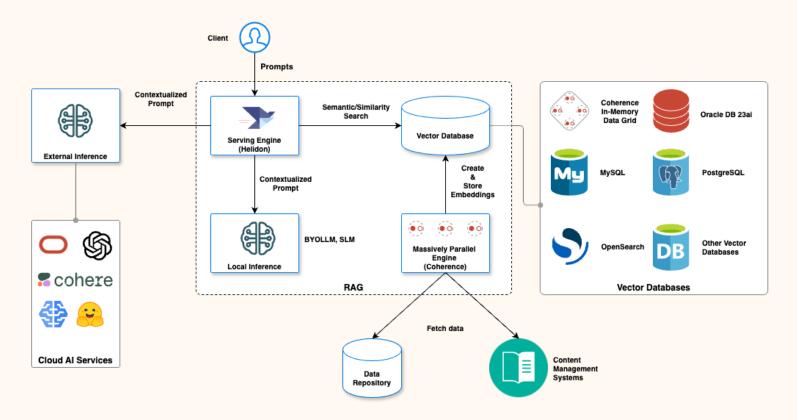
Helidon Al

- Designed for light, fast, scalable, cloud native Al agents as microservices
 - Easy to cleanly scale Al Agents to millions of requests w/o reactive code technical debt
- Support for LangChain4j
 - Best-in-class Al Integration framework for Java
 - Provides a unified API to experiment, develop and use AI with Java
 - Support for common abstractions, patterns and techniques e.g.
 - Prompt templates, parsers, document loaders, splitters
 - Support for various LLMs and Vector Stores, including Oracle DB 23ai
 - Chat memory management, Function calling
 - LLM Extension with RAG, Agent
- Simplifies building Al-enabled microservices in a cloud-native way
 - OpenTelemetry, Health, compile time Dependency Injection for Config





Building a RAG-based system with Helidon



Helidon

Helidon provides a LangChain4j integration module that simplifies building Al-driven applications while leveraging Helidon's programming model and style.

Helidon's LangChain4j integration provides the following advantages instead of adding LangChain4j's library manually:

- · Integration with Helidon Inject
 - Automatically creates and registers selected LangChain4j components in the Helidon service registry based on configuration.
- · Convention Over Configuration
 - Simplifies configuration by offering sensible defaults, reducing manual setup for common use cases.
- Declarative Al Services
 - Supports LangChain4j's Al Services within the declarative programming model, allowing for clean, easy-to-manage code structures.
- Integration with CDI
 - Using the Helidon Inject to CDI bridge, LangChain4j components can be used in CDI environments, such as Helidon MP (MicroProfile) applications.

These features significantly reduce the complexity of incorporating LangChain4j into Helidon Applications.

For detailed explanation and usage of LangChain4j integration feature, see the Helidon documentation.



Helidon Integration

Helidon provides a LangChain4j integration module that simplifies building Al-driven applications while leveraging Helidon's programming model and style.

You can find the detailed explanation and usage of LangChain4j integration feature here.

Supported versions

Helidon's LangChain4j integration requires Java 21 and Helidon 4.2.

Examples

We have created several sample applications for you to explore. These samples demonstrate all aspects of using LangChain4j in Helidon applications.

Coffee Shop Assistant

The Coffee Shop Assistant is a demo application that showcases how to build an Al-powered assistant for a coffee shop. This assistant can answer questions about the menu, provide recommendations, and create orders. It utilizes an embedding store initialized from a JSON file.

Key features:

- · Integration with OpenAI chat models
- · Utilization of embedding models, an embedding store, an ingestor, and a content retriever
- · Helidon Inject for dependency injection
- · Embedding store initialization from a JSON file
- · Support for callback functions to enhance interactions

Check it out







README.md

Coffee Shop Assistant (Helidon MP Version)

This is a **demo application** showcasing the **Helidon integration with LangChain4J**. It demonstrates how to build an **Al-powered coffee shop assistant** using **Helidon Inject**, OpenAl models, and embedding storage.

Features

- · Integration with OpenAI chat models.
- Utilization of embedding models, embedding store, ingestor, and content retriever.
- · Helidon Inject for dependency injection.
- . Embedding store initialization from a JSON file.
- · Support for callback functions to enhance interactions.

Demo: Helidon MP

Example Code: https://github.com/helidon-io/helidon-

examples/tree/4.2.0/examples/integrations/langchain4j/coffee-shop-assistant-mp



README.md HOL: Building AI-Powered Applications with Helidon and LangChain4J In this hands-on lab, you will build an Al-powered chat assistant for a coffee shop using Helidon and LangChain4J. The assistant will understand natural language, provide menu recommendations, and guide users through the ordering process. What You'll Learn How to use Helidon and LangChain4J to build an Al-powered assistant. · How to use Helidon Inject for dependency injection. · How to create embeddings from structured data and store them in an embeddings store. . How to query the embeddings store using natural language. · What ingestors and content providers are, and how to implement them. . How to fine-tune your AI assistant for better responses. **Table of Contents** 1. Setting Up the Environment 2. Setting Up the Project 3. Enabling Al Capabilities in the Project 4. Building Al Service 5. Adding Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) 6. Preparing Application Data 7. Filling Embedding Store 8. Fine-Tuning AI Responses

Demo: Helidon SE

Example Code: https://github.com/helidon-io/helidon-

examples/tree/4.2.0/examples/integrations/langchain4j/coffee-shop-assistant-se

Hands-on lab: https://livelabs.oracle.com/pls/apex/dbpm/r/livelabs/view-workshop?wid=4115

Let's get started! 🛷

https://github.com/helidon-io/helidon-labs/tree/main/hols/langchain4j

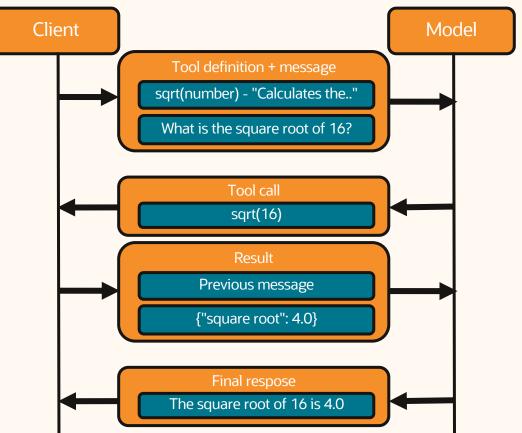


Basic Chat API



Tools: Function Calling

```
class Calculator {
    @Tool("Calculates the square root of a
number")
    double sqrt(int x) {
       return Math.sqrt(x);
    }
}
```





```
Tools: Function Calling
```

.apiKey("demo")

.strictTools(true)

ChatLanguageModel model = OpenAiChatModel.builder()

.modelName(OpenAiChatModelName.GPT 4 0 MINI

```
class Calculator {
    @Tool("Calculates the square root of
a number")
    double sqrt(int x) {
        return Math.sqrt(x);
   interface Assistant {
       String chat(String userMessage);
```



Comparison with official OpenAl Java client

```
var client = OpenAIOkHttpClient.builder().apiKey(TOKEN).build();
     .model(ChatModel.GPT 40 MINI)
             .name("sqrt")
             .description("Calculates the square root of a number")
             .strict(true)
                .putAdditionalProperty("type", JsonValue.from("object"))
                .putAdditionalProperty("properties", JsonValue.from(Map.of("number", Map.of("type", "number"))))
               .putAdditionalProperty("required", JsonValue.from(List.of("number")))
                .putAdditionalProperty("additionalProperties", JsonValue.from(false))
      addUserMessage("What is a square root of 16?")
     .filter(call -> call.function().name().equals("sqrt"))
int toolArgument = jsonMapper().readValue(toolCall.function().arguments(), JsonNode.class).get("number").asInt();
                = new Calculator().sqrt(toolArgument);
                                                                                                         class Calculator {
                                                                                                                 double sqrt(int x) {
                                                                                                                          return Math.sqrt(x);
```

Switch to Ollama model

```
ChatLanguageModel model = OllamaChatModel.builder()
ChatLanguageModel model = OpenAiChatModel.builder()
                                                                         .modelName("llama3-groq-tool-use:8b")
           .apiKey("demo")
                                                                        .baseUrl("http://localhost:11434")
           .modelName(OpenAiChatModelName.GPT 4 0 MINI)
                                                                        .build();
           .strictTools(true)
           .build();
                                                              Assistant assistant = AiServices.builder(Assistant.class)
Assistant assistant = AiServices.builder(Assistant.class)
                                                                        .chatLanguageModel(model)
           .chatLanguageModel(model)
                                                                        .tools(new Calculator())
           .tools(new Calculator()
                                                                        .chatMemorv(
           .chatMemory(
                                                                           MessageWindowChatMemory.withMaxMessages(10))
             MessageWindowChatMemory.withMaxMessages(10))
                                                                        .build();
           .build();
String answer = assistant
                                                              String answer = assistant
                                                                        .chat("What is the square root of 16?");
           .chat("What is the square root of 16?");
```



The most popular LLM Java library

- API abstraction
- Easy to use: Ai Services
- Easy to switch models!
- Lots of goodies: RAG, Tools etc.

• Feedback and community support.





LangChain4j Integration

Helidon & Al



LangChain4J Integration

Preview feature in Helidon 4.2

- Brings the power of AI to Helidon Applications
- Based on Helidon Inject
 - Build-time
 - No impact on performance



- All features of LangChain4J
- Convention over configuration (for selected components)
- Declarative Al Services
- Bridge to CDI
 - Create once, use in Helidon SE or Helidon MP
 - Selective two-way injection





```
LangChain4j
@Ai.Service
public interface ChatAiService {
    String chat(String question);
}
```

```
var chatSvc = Services.get(ChatAiService.class);
String response = chatSvc.chat("Tell me a joke please.");
```

```
langchain4j:
   open-ai:
     chat-model:
        enabled: true
        api-key: "demo"
        model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
```



```
LangChain4j - Tools
```

```
@Ai.Service
public interface ChatAiService {
    String chat(String question);
@Service.Singleton
public class CalculatorService {
    @Tool("Calculates the square root of a number")
    double sqrt(int x) {
        return Math.sqrt(x);
var chatSvc = Services.get(ChatAiService.class);
String response = chatSvc.chat("What is the square root of 16?");
```

```
langchain4j:
   open-ai:
     chat-model:
        enabled: true
        api-key: "demo"
        model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
```



```
LangChain4j – Switching models
@Ai.Service
public interface ChatAiService {
    String chat(String question);
@Service.Singleton
public class CalculatorService {
    @Tool("Calculates the square root of a number")
    double sqrt(int x) {
        return Math.sqrt(x);
var chatSvc = Services.get(ChatAiService.class);
String response = chatSvc.chat("What is the square root of 16?");
```

```
langchain4j:
  open-ai:
    chat-model:
     enabled: true
     api-key: "demo"
     model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
```

```
LangChain4j – Switching models
@Ai.Service
public interface ChatAiService {
    String chat(String question);
@Service.Singleton
public class CalculatorService {
    @Tool("Calculates the square root of a number")
    double sqrt(int x) {
        return Math.sqrt(x);
var chatSvc = Services.get(ChatAiService.class);
String response = chatSvc.chat("What is the square root of 16?");
```

```
langchain4j:
  ollama:
    chat-model:
       enabled: true
       model-name: llama3-groq-tool-use:8b
      base-url: http://localhost:11434
```



LangChain4j - Embedding

```
langchain4j:
    open-ai:
        chat-model:
            enabled: true
            api-key: "demo"
            model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
    rag:
        embedding-store-content-retriever:
        enabled: true
        max-results: 10
        min-score: 0.6
        embedding-store: "EmbeddingStore"
```



```
LangChain4j - Embedding
@Service.Singleton
public class EmbeddingModelFactory implements Supplier<EmbeddingModel>
    @Override
    public EmbeddingModel get() {
        return new AllMiniLmL6V2EmbeddingModel();
@Service.Singleton
public class EmbeddingStoreFactory
                  implements Supplier<EmbeddingStore<TextSegment>> {
   @Override
    public EmbeddingStore<TextSegment> get() {
        return new InMemoryEmbeddingStore<>();
```

```
langchain4j:
    open-ai:
        chat-model:
            enabled: true
            api-key: "demo"
            model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
    rag:
        embedding-store-content-retriever:
        enabled: true
        max-results: 10
        min-score: 0.6
        embedding-store: "EmbeddingStore"
```



```
LangChain4j - Embedding
```

```
@Service.Singleton
public class MenuItemsIngestor {
    private final EmbeddingStore<TextSegment> embeddingStore;
    private final EmbeddingModel embeddingModel;
    @Service.Inject
   MenuItemsIngestor(EmbeddingStore<TextSegment> embeddingStore,
                      EmbeddingModel embeddingModel) {
        this.embeddingStore = embeddingStore;
        this.embeddingModel = embeddingModel;
    public void ingest(List<String> menuItems) {
        var ingestor = EmbeddingStoreIngestor.builder()
                .embeddingModel(embeddingModel)
                .embeddingStore(embeddingStore)
                .build();
        ingestor.ingest(menuItems.stream()
                                 .map(Document::from)
                                 .toList());
```

```
langchain4j:
    open-ai:
        chat-model:
            enabled: true
            api-key: "demo"
            model-name: "gpt-4o-mini"
    rag:
        embedding-store-content-retriever:
            enabled: true
            max-results: 10
            min-score: 0.6
            embedding-store: "EmbeddingStore"
```



Helidon for Agentic Al Design Patterns

- Reflection
 - examine and review own response, iterative improvement
- Tool use
 - LLM decides to call API in Agent to access external system/tool
- Planning
 - decompose complex task to a sequence of smaller items and execute
- Multi-agent, multi-LLM collaboration
 - Specialized agents, LLMs collaborate
 - Philosophy similar to UNIX, microservices orchestration of subtasks











Coherence: A jewel in Oracle's middleware



- In-memory data grid with persistence
- Out-of-the-box integration with Oracle Database, MySQL, PostgreSQL
- More than just another cache: distributed processing, eventing, continuous querying
- Fast, scalable, reliable, multi-site capable
- Successful adoption by large customers
- Used in mission critical systems, analytics
- {Kubernetes, cloud, polyglot}-ready
 - Open source Kubernetes operator
 - Native Java, C++, .Net, Go, Python, JavaScript libraries + REST, gRPC, GraphQL, OpenTelemetry



Coherence AI: A new jewel facet

- Two major things added to become a Vector Store/Database
 - 1. Calculating and Storing Vector Embeddings





Massively parallel RAG engine

2. Semantic Similarity Search











Pattern Analysis

Innovating with Coherence CE - Al Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)

Innovating with Coherence and Helidon

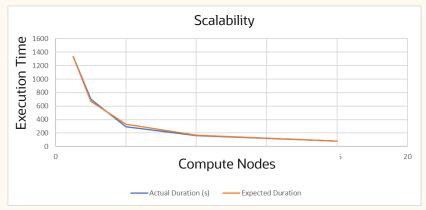
Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)

- Technique for improving output of LLMs in Generative Al
- Augment LLMs with specialized content
- Requires ingestion and vectorization of data

Coherence distributed computing uniquely suited to RAG

- Vector store already in Coherence CE 24.09
 Developed RAG system on Coherence + Helidon
- Highly scalable data ingestion (millions of docs)
- Improves accuracy, reduces hallucinations
- Integration with popular Al libraries, vector DBs







How Can Coherence (and Helidon) Do This?

Using existing Coherence features that Redis and OCI Cache don't have:

- Cache Stores: read/write-behind cache to document sources and Oracle DB
- Server-Side Events: parallel content fetching, splitting and vectorization
- Queries & Aggregators: parallel vector-based proximity search
- Custom Indexes: HNSW, Binary Quantization, Cosine Distance, Hybrid semantic similarity + exact filter searches
- Elastic Data: to store documents, document chunks and vectors on disk (commercial feature)

Using existing Helidon features:

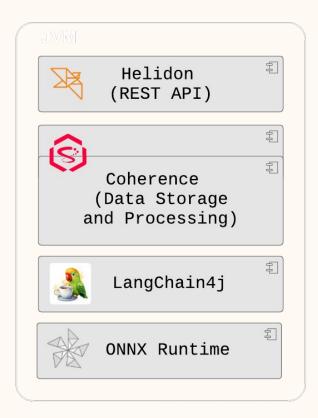
- Virtual Threads to scale to millions of requests w/o reactive code technical debt
- Web Server: serve REST endpoints we want to expose to clients; static content (Chatbot UI)
- Web Client: make REST calls to fetch documents to index, create vector embeddings
- Configuration: fast, light, secure compile time Dependency Injection to configure various integration components (LLMs, DMS, DB, etc.)

Using existing open source libraries:

- Langchain4j: content extraction and splitting, LLM integration, etc.
- ONNX Runtime: localized embeddings creation/content vectorization



Architecture: Single Member





Architecture: Cluster



























Architecture: Cluster







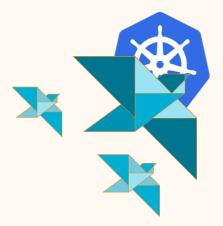


Summary



Benefits of Helidon and Al

- Easy way for building Al Agents/services and RAG in Java
 - Unified API for many LLMs, Vector Stores/DB
 - RAG pipeline, prompt templating, chat memory mgmt
- Helidon's Philosophy
 - "Simple things should be simple, complex things should be possible" Alan Kay
 - Easy to cleanly scale Al Agents to millions of requests w/o reactive technical debt
 - Simplicity Thin jars, fewer dependencies, fewer CVEs
 - Cloud native, k8s friendly
- Built in
 - OpenAPI, OpenTelemetry, MicroProfile Config, JAX-RS, Health Checks, FT, etc.
- Community driven, standards based open source







Unique to Coherence AI – Elegant Simplicity at Edge

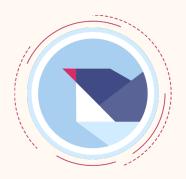
- ✓ Multipurpose In-Memory Data Grid w/ Vector Store/DB capabilities
- ✓ Scale from 1 JVM on Raspberry Pi to thousands in Data Center
- ✓ Unlimited data types
- ✓ Distributed Cache w/ auto rebalancing, fault tolerance
- ✓ In-memory vector storage and similarity search + metadata filtering
- ✓ Continuous Query cache & pub/sub events
- ✓ Polyglot, GraphQL, CohQL
- ✓ Observability using Mbeans, OpenTelemetry
- ✓ Optional Integration w/ any document storage system
 - ✓ Oracle DB 23ai



Great time to be an Agentic Al Developer



Thank you





@helidon_project



helidon.io



medium.com/helidon



github.com/helidon-io/helidon



youtube.com/Helidon_Project



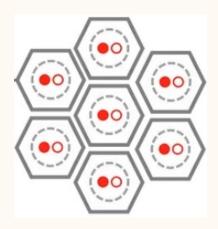
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Thank you





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coherence.community



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github.com/oracle/coherence



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oraclecoherence.slack.com



oracle-coherence.bksy.social

