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Eviden Dynamic Pricing

VAIS / DataSentics

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Topics for today

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Accelerators

Eviden Vertical AI Solutions (VAIS)

Real Impact AI Solutions for Enterprises



Vertical AI CoE

200+ data scientists and ML/data engineers in CoE in Europe and US



Eviden

57.000+ digital transformation, cloud, and data experts



15+

Solutions & Value Accelerators

What We Do:

Data AI Industry Use Cases and Accelerators

Key Industries:

- Manufacturing
- Financial Services
- Retail & CPG
- Life Sciences
- Energy & Utilities



Building Modern Data+AI Products and Platforms

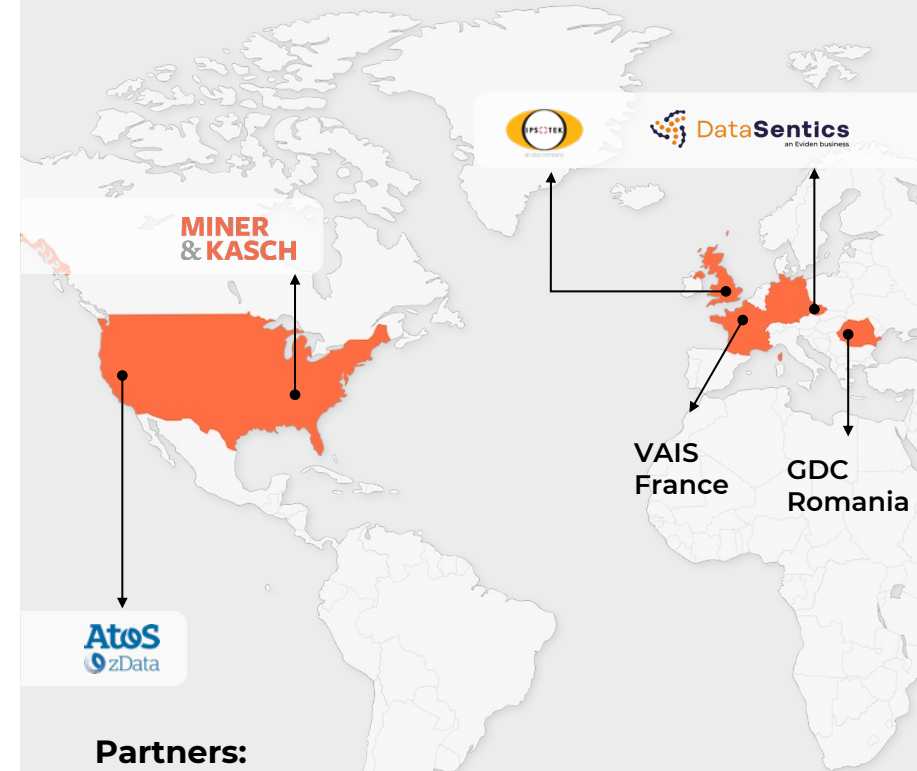
Focusing on:

- MLOps
- Generative AI
- Computer Vision labs
- Databricks implementations
- AI product development



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Eviden Vertical AI Team Innovative AI Startup history



Atos
zData

Partners:

databricks aws Google Cloud Azure

Selected Customers:

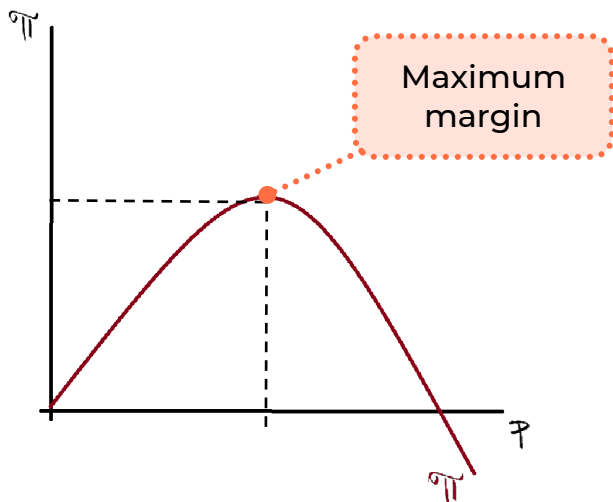
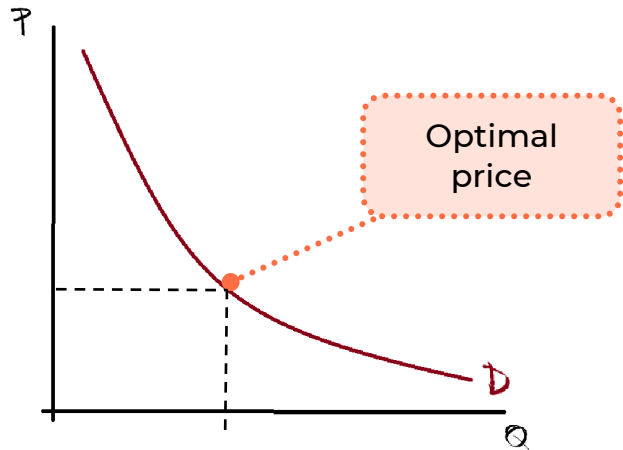
sanofi Coca-Cola HBC ERSTE Group L'ORÉAL BAYER

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01. Solution

Pricing in retail

“What price should we set to reach maximum margin?”



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Key challenges in pricing:

- Ensuring the price is truly **optimal**
- **High number of factors** influencing customer demand
- Pricing of **substitute** or complementary products
- Existence of **competition**
- Timely reaction to **changes** in demand
- **Real-time** product pricing
- **Capacity** control

Traditional approaches to pricing and their shortcomings

Classical methods

Based on cost & competition

- ✘ Disregards customer demand & other factors

Survey methods

- ✘ Slow
- ✘ Limited insights

Market price tests

- ✘ Slow,
- ✘ Expensive,
- ✘ Limited insights

Econometric methods

Elasticity estimates

- ✘ Low accuracy,
- ✘ Assumes specific demand curve shape,
- ✘ Typically disregards seasonality or other factors, internal cannibalization, external competition and other factors




These issues can be solved using new **AI & machine learning** methods

Our dynamic pricing approach

Dynamic approach to pricing:

- Helping retail companies **set optimal markups** for their products
- Aiming to **optimize their target metrics** such as revenue, margin, consumer base or capacity fulfilment
- Based on AI & machine learning methods

Complex e-2-e solution that directly returns optimal price, encompassing:

-  Data processing
-  Advanced ML algorithm
-  Optimization algorithm

Benefits of our dynamic pricing approach

- ✔ Can capture **non-linear relationship** between price and quantity demanded
- ✔ Can navigate issues with **data scarcity** of some or all products
- ✔ Works with high number of additional features and factors affecting demand such as **seasonality, cannibalization, competition**, product or customer **characteristics**
- ✔ Does not need additional processing of the results -> directly **returns optimal price**
- ✔ Has **higher accuracy**

Our basic dynamic pricing approach

Data

Internal



Historical sales
(Transactions, quantities)



Prices
(Historical prices of products or its substitutes)



Customer features
(Loyalty / non-loyalty etc., demographics)



Product data
(Attributes, descriptions, reviews)

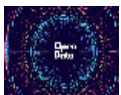


Marketing campaigns & seasonal factors

External



Purchased Data
(Pricing of competition)



Public data
(Weather, public holidays)

Demand estimation

- ML model/s predicting quantity sold based on product's price and other factors
- Predicted quantity should be highly sensitive to change in price

Our DP Accelerators:



PRICING KNOWLEDGE



DEMAND FORECASTING

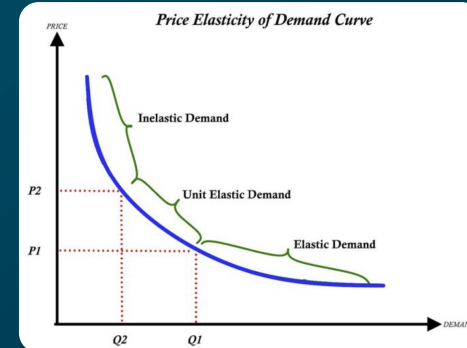


BASELINE PRICING MODEL



PLATFORM

- For each possible price we predict quantity that customer would purchase
- Resulting set of prices and quantities represents **demand curves** => optimization search space



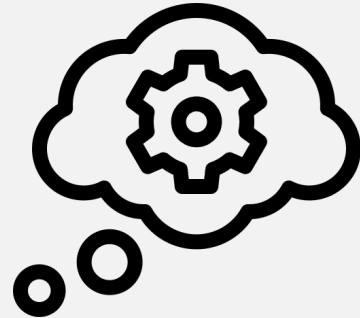
Price optimization / Revenue maximization

Solving optimization problem using estimated demand curves via optimization algorithm:

- given set of possible prices & quantities
- under constraints (price relationship, capacity, etc.)
- with objective to maximize revenue
- for current and/or all future time periods

What to consider?

Our custom dynamic pricing solution is adjusted based on company-specific requirements, needs & circumstances.



Data availability / variability



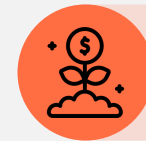
Business constraints



Canibalization effect



Search space size



Evaluation of optimal price

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02. Commercial offering

Dynamic Pricing Business model

accelerator, not an end-to-end product → Implementation project

Business model

Use case driven development

Ownership + T&M consumption

- We provide a cross-functional team
- The team is independently able to handle the end-to-end development
- The team can also be combined with client's internal people ("joint team")
- Pre-built accelerators (currently for free)
- T&M consumption of a fixed budget



Pricing

Blended rate: 700-900 EUR/MD
(depending on a country)

POC (optionally)

- 50 MDs

MVP, AB tests, Roll out

- T&M or priced individually



Reference project

CEE pharmacy chain project:

- Currently 4 FTE team
(i.e. approx. 1000 MDs per year)
- Started with 2 FTEs
- Multi-year roadmap
- Approx. **EUR 0.7 mil annually**



Our USPs and Competition

Our unique delivery model

Custom development

- All risk on you
- Hard to hire all the people
- Losing time by “reinventing the wheel”
- Complicated SLAs

VS

Modular White Box product & Joint strike teams

1. Deployed into the client’s existing platform in a 100 % transparent & security-compliant way



2. Accelerator-based – not starting from scratch

3. Empowering your data people, not replacing

4. No vendor lock

5. Tailored

6. SLAs & OPS

VS

Black Box products

- Vendor lock-in
- Limited customisations
- Giving data to 3rd party
- Complicated implementation needed
- Another tool
- Buying again what you already have
- Mostly not focusing on retail



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03. Engagement model

Typical Timeline

1

POC

Building the POC of the demand model using our accelerators based on the available data

Deliverables: Price elasticities, ML approach evaluation

50 MDs
2-3 months

2

MVP

End-to-end solution generating prices to be deployed to production

Deliverables: New optimised prices ready to be deployed

100-400 MDs
3-5 months

3

AB Tests

Design of the test, deployment, measurement and evaluation

Deliverables: Measured results

20-60 MDs
1-2 months

4

Roll-out

Building the robust target solution and roll-out to individual entities

Deliverables: Robust end-to-end pricing solution

T&M

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04. References

Dynamic pricing solution

Selecting optimal price for each product based on actual market conditions

Problem

The client aims to replace their current dynamic pricing solution, which lacks the capability to consider several critical factors such as competitors' prices, market share or specific product characteristics.

Technical challenges

- 1 Low price volatility.** Historically only a few price points per each product were observed.
- 2** Because of the low price volatility, traditional approaches may mistakenly regard the product's price as an insignificant feature.
- 3** For price points, which are far from observed values, traditional approaches might encounter **non-monotonicity issues and constant demand issues**, where the model predicts higher or constant demand for higher prices.

Solution

Our solution integrates various factors, including market dynamics and competitors pricing, to provide more comprehensive and effective pricing strategy. Furthermore, it can deal with low volatility of the observed prices and maintains strict monotonicity for all considered price points.

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Key Benefits



Can be optimized for chosen financial metric (Revenue, GP...)



Integration of various data sources (such as competitor prices, market share or seasonality)



Higher customer retention due to the fair prices



Our solution is **tailored to each product**, effectively accounting for variations in sales frequency

AB test results

Our new solution outperformed the current solution by **36 % increase in revenue**, while still beating the current solution by **4% in GP**.

About the client

The client is a pharmacy chain operating in many countries across Europe. The client is dedicated to enhancing the level of healthcare by ensuring access to wide range of medicines and services.

NDA

Dynamic pricing solution

Dynamic pricing of air tickets & baggage allowance for unique air flight products in highly competitive environment

Goal

Maximize the revenue from air ticket sales by optimizing the margin in highly competitive market

Maximize revenue from sales of baggage options with high rate of substitability

Solution

Combination of 3 models to find optimal price of air tickets:

- **Search-to-click** model to estimate demand sensitivity to price in a competitive environment
- **Click-to-book** model to predict conversion rate after a click
- **Ancillaries model** to allow for air ticket discounting based on expected revenue from other channels

Real-time dynamic pricing model for baggage:

- **Demand model** for each type of bag
- **Price optimization** module to find the optimal prices of all bag options
- Additional **constraints** to ensure maximization of total revenue without harming conversion rates

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About the client

Travel fare agregator

NDA

Value



Real-time application with price tailored to each unique product/customer



Higher volume of sales thanks to **discounted** prices



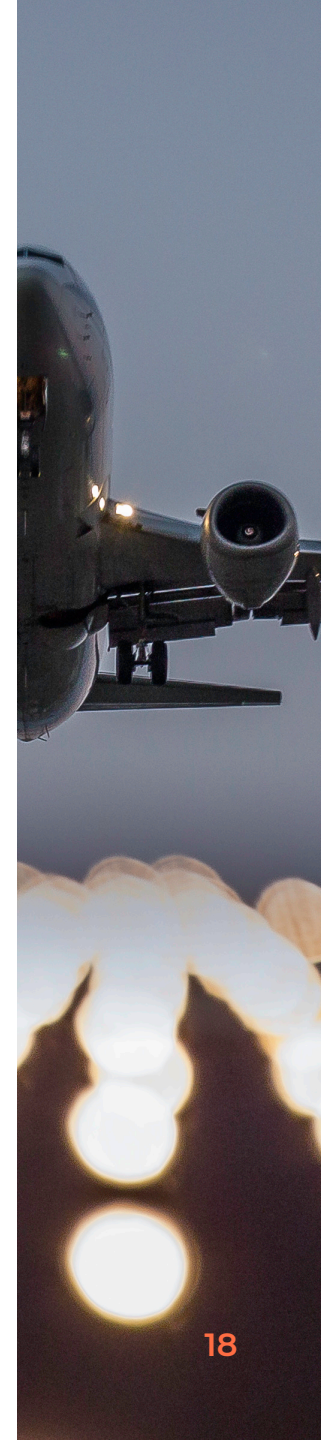
Integration of **competitor** prices & **seasonal** factors in highly competitive environment



Optimization tailored to chosen financial metric/s

Technical challenges

- **Low price volatility** in historical rule-based pricing
- **Competition prices** are immediately visible to customer
- **Canibalization effect** between highly similar products
- Demand **insensitive to price** changes for some flights
- **Real-time optimization** across large search space & high traffic



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05. Accelerators

Dynamic pricing solution materials

Dynamic pricing best practices

- Knowledge base related to pricing strategies in e-commerce
- Detailed architecture of our AI dynamic pricing approach
- Solutions to most common challenges in pricing
- Alternative approaches to pricing, their usage & application
- Know-how from past pricing projects

Dynamic pricing demo & base model

- Dynamic pricing demo comparing our AI pricing approach & its results with standard (inferior) models
- Reusable code used in the demo, that serves as a baseline for custom development of our AI pricing model



Table of contents

- Import libraries
- > Create data generator functions
- > Create GLM predictions
- > Create XGBoost predictions
- Evaluation metrics => improvement over baseline
- Predict demand on various price combinations
- Simulate revenue on multiple generations

Dynamic pricing knowledge base

Pricing strategies in e-commerce companies

[Why should we estimate elasticity?](#)

[How is Elasticity Estimated?](#)

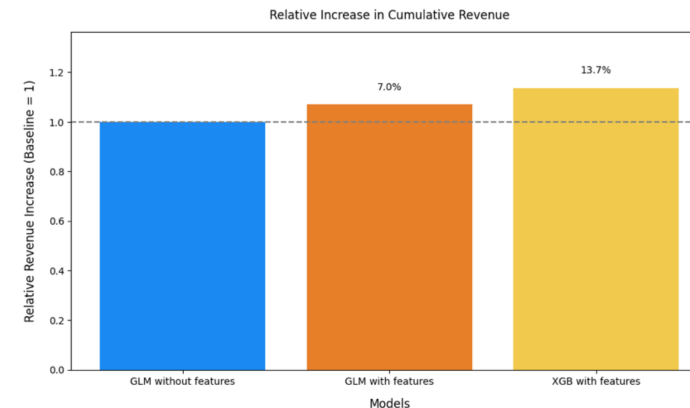
[Price optimization vs dynamic pricing vs automatic pricing](#)

Price optimization with machine learning

[Standard dynamic pricing approach](#)

[Common challenges a modifications to the standard approach](#)

[Alternative pricing approaches](#)



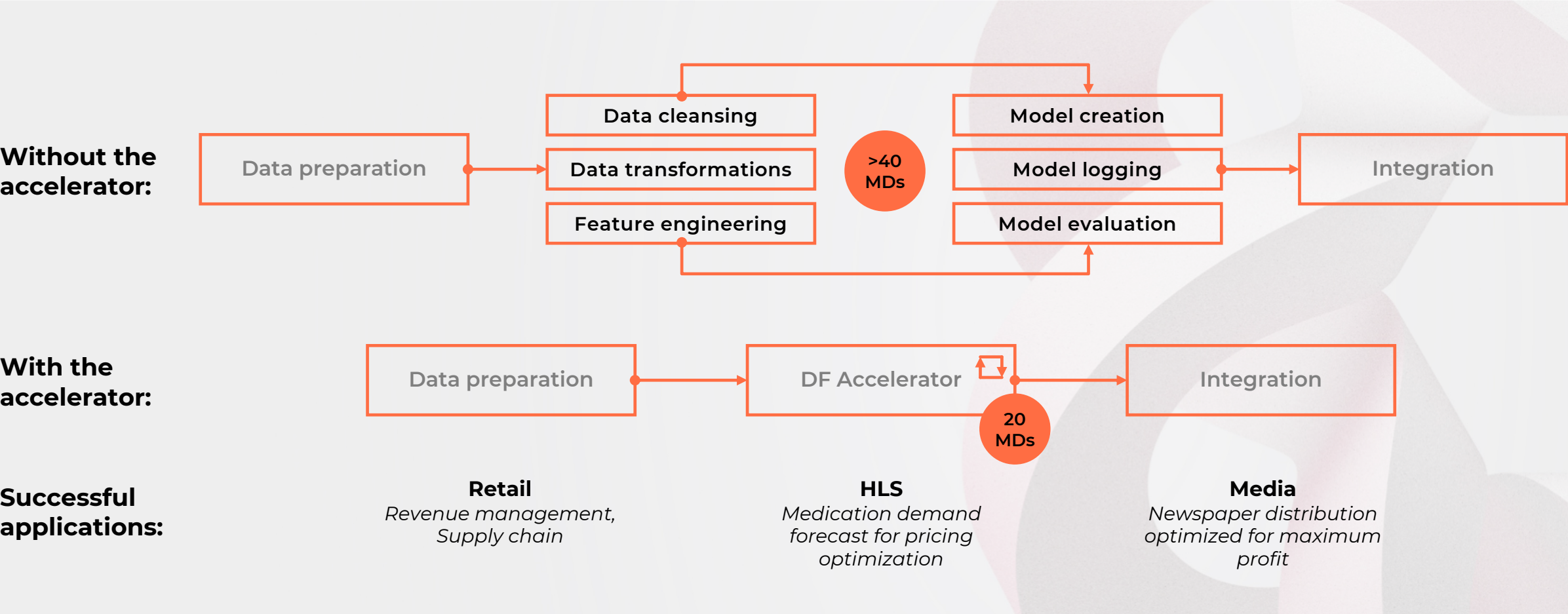
Fit XGBoost with all features

```
def fit_xgb(df: pd.DataFrame, item: int):
    xgb_model = xgb.XGBRegressor(
        objective='reg:squarederror',
        n_estimators=100,
        max_depth=3,
        learning_rate=0.1,
        #random_state=12345,
        n_jobs=-1,
        monotone_constraints=(-1, 1, 1,
    )
    xgb_model.fit(
        X=df[[f'price_{item}', f'price_
        y=df[f'demand_{item}']],
    )
    return xgb_model
```

```
_, ax = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(15,
for i in range(2):
    sns.scatterplot(data=df_train, y=f'd
    xgb_model = fit_xgb(df_train, i + 1)
    train_predicted = xgb_model.predict(
        'dummy_weekends']]
    sns.lineplot(x=df_train[f'price_{i
        ax[i][0].set_title(f'Item {i + 1} T
    sns.scatterplot(data=df_test, y=f'd
    test_predicted = xgb_model.predict(
```

Demand Forecasting Accelerator

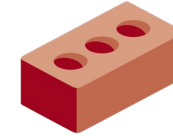
Speed up the development of new time-series based use-cases without the usual pains of feature creation and explorative modeling.



Data Platform Infrastructure Accelerator Bujon

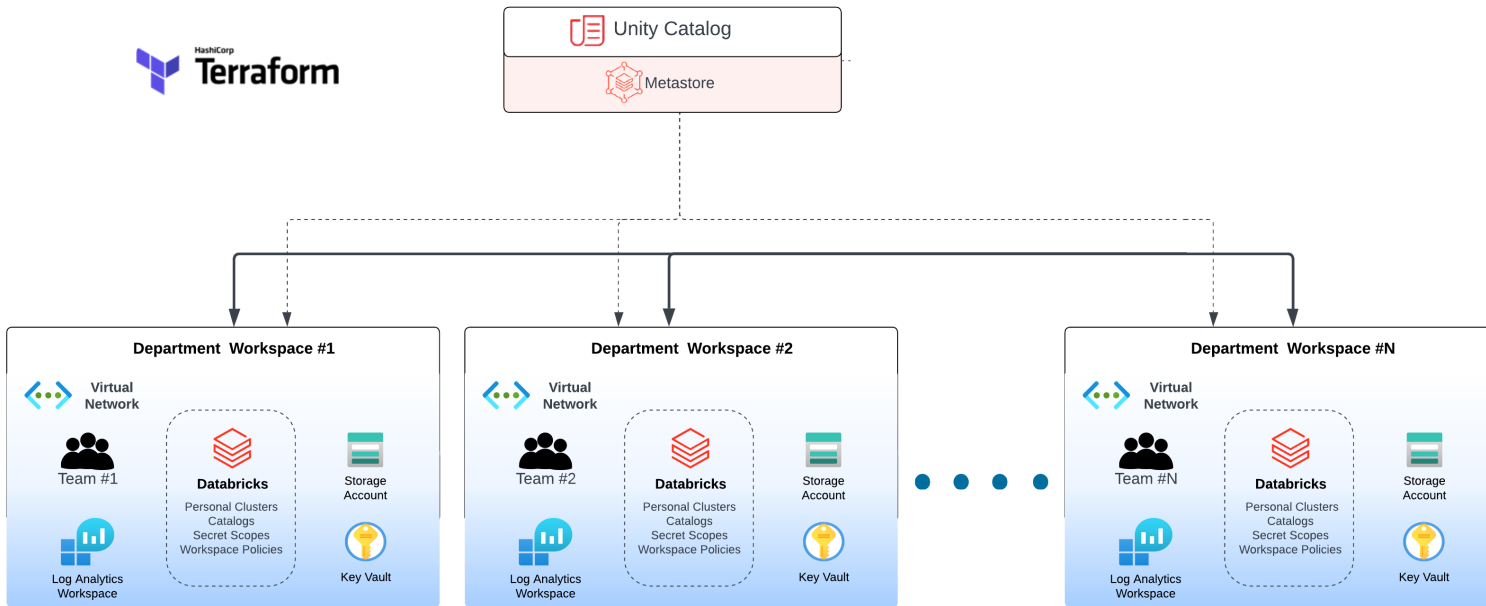
Multi-workspace loosely coupled data platform as a code

- Data teams can **focus on building use-cases** rather than provisioning infrastructure
- Complex multi-provider systems (Azure x Databricks) can be deployed in a span of minutes rather than days and weeks.
- Data-platform can be easily hand-overed to the client.



Key features

- Easier to maintain the infrastructure
- Can be used to setup one time infra or used in CI/CD
- Detailed execution plan
- Modularity
- Complex multi-provider systems can be deployed quickly
- Version control



A **free and open-source** Infrastructure as Code tool used for managing and deploying infrastructure and applications in the cloud.

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