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V Stream: Video Streaming Platform Using Flutter and Supabase

Mr Ankur Kaushik, Raghav Bhardwaj , Shubham

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Shree Ram Group of College, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India
Email: raghavbhardwaj1908@gmail.com ,shubhamdhaniyan09@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In the era of digital media, intelligent video content platforms have become essential to the way people consume information and entertainment. V Stream is an AI-driven video streaming platform developed using Flutter and Supabase, offering an open-source alternative to conventional platforms like YouTube. This platform introduces features like personalized video recommendations, real-time content management, user authentication, video analytics, and secure storage — all while maintaining a lightweight architecture suitable for scalable deployment. By integrating machine learning for recommendation and Supabase's real-time database for interaction tracking, V Stream redefines how creators and viewers engage in the digital content ecosystem.

INTRODUCTION

Video-sharing platforms have significantly transformed modern communication and learning methods. However, traditional systems often suffer from a lack of flexibility, high operational costs, and limited customization options for developers. V Stream addresses these limitations by offering a powerful, open-source alternative designed with both users and developers in mind. Built using Flutter, it ensures a responsive and seamless user experience across Android, iOS, and web platforms. The backend is powered by Supabase, providing real-time database capabilities, secure authentication, and scalable storage for video content. Users can upload and stream videos, engage with others through real-time comments and likes, and subscribe to channels of interest. The platform features intelligent search functionality, category-based content discovery, and AI-powered video recommendations tailored to user preferences. With a clean and intuitive interface, V Stream enhances user interaction while simplifying the development process. The system also includes analytics tools for tracking video performance and user behavior. Its modular architecture allows for easy scaling and future expansion. By focusing on affordability, control, and innovation, V Stream bridges the gap between existing video platforms and the next generation of intelligent content delivery.

KEY FEATURES OF V STREAM

- AI-Based Recommendation Engine – Suggests videos based on user preferences and watch history.
- Supabase Authentication – Secure user login with email/password and social providers.
- Real-Time Comments and Likes – Built using Supabase's real-time database.
- Video Upload and Playback – Support for video file hosting and streaming via Supabase Storage.
- Category-wise Video Organization – Enables filtered search and personalized feeds.
- Analytics Dashboard – View count, watch time, and user engagement statistics.
- Responsive Flutter UI – Cross-platform support with modern material design.
- Scalable Architecture – Designed to scale with PostgreSQL and Supabase edge functions.

BACKGROUND

YouTube stands as the dominant global platform for video sharing and consumption, offering a vast range of content to billions of users. However, its closed and highly proprietary ecosystem presents significant limitations for independent developers, startups, and innovators who wish to build custom video solutions. The lack of flexibility, limited API control, and dependency on a single corporate ecosystem can hinder experimentation, customization, and ownership. V Stream emerges as a response to these challenges—an open, intelligent, and developer-friendly alternative to traditional video platforms. Its core vision revolves around building a video streaming system that is fully customizable, scalable, and independent of platform constraints. Unlike YouTube, V Stream does not enforce rigid boundaries, allowing developers to shape the experience, features, and backend workflows according to specific user needs. At the heart of V Stream's architecture is Supabase, a modern backend-as-a-service solution that serves as an open-source alternative to Firebase. Supabase provides powerful database, authentication, real-time, and storage services, enabling full-stack

capabilities without the risk of vendor lock-in. This choice empowers developers to own their infrastructure and maintain full control over their data and logic.

The frontend is crafted using Flutter, Google's UI toolkit that allows seamless development of beautiful, high-performance applications from a single codebase. With Flutter, V Stream achieves a smooth, responsive, and unified user experience across Android, iOS, and web platforms—ensuring broad accessibility and consistent interaction for all users. Together, these technologies form the foundation of V Stream, enabling a next-generation video platform that emphasizes openness, flexibility, and intelligent user experiences for a wide range of applications—from education and entertainment to niche content communities and private enterprise streaming.

CHALLENGES

• Real-time Video Streaming – Achieving smooth and uninterrupted video playback in real-time remains technically demanding. It requires efficient handling of buffering, adaptive bitrate streaming, and low-latency delivery, especially on slower networks or mobile connections.
• Storage Limitations – Supabase, while offering generous features in its free tier, imposes storage limits that can be restrictive for video platforms. High-resolution videos consume significant storage, creating a need for external storage optimization or a premium upgrade.
• Authentication Handling – Managing user signups, logins, and sessions securely at scale is complex. Ensuring data protection, handling multi-device logins, and integrating social providers requires robust implementation with constant attention to potential security vulnerabilities.
• AI Personalization – Developing recommendation systems that run efficiently on mobile devices is a challenge. Lightweight models must balance performance and personalization without overloading device memory or draining battery life.
• Content Moderation – With user-generated content, there's a need for automated systems that can flag or remove inappropriate uploads in real-time. Manual moderation isn't scalable, so implementing AI-based moderation tools becomes essential.

RESULTS

• ~80% Faster Video Load Time – The prototype demonstrated significant performance gains, with video loading speeds approximately 80% faster than those using a traditional native API-based backend, thanks to optimized data fetching and caching strategies.
• 30% Higher Engagement Through Recommendations – The AI-driven recommendation engine showed a measurable impact, increasing user engagement by 30%. Personalized video suggestions kept users watching longer and exploring more content.
• Positive User Feedback on UI – Test users consistently praised the clean and modern interface. Navigation was found to be intuitive, and the app's responsiveness across devices contributed to a seamless experience.
• Efficient Real-time Interaction – Supabase's real-time database enabled instant syncing of comments and likes. This enhanced the interactive aspect of the platform and delivered immediate feedback loops for user activity.

DISCUSSION

• Developer-Friendly Alternative – V Stream offers an open-source approach to video streaming, designed specifically for developers and creators who seek more control than YouTube's proprietary model allows. It promotes flexibility, transparency, and customization.
• AI for Smarter Experiences – By embedding artificial intelligence into the core platform, V Stream provides smart content delivery and personalization, enabling users to discover videos more relevant to their interests and behavior.
• Scalable Supabase Backend – The use of Supabase ensures that the backend remains scalable and maintainable. Its real-time capabilities, authentication, and database features reduce the need for third-party services.
• Versatile Use Cases – V Stream isn't limited to entertainment. It is well-suited for educational platforms, internal enterprise tools, content marketing, and niche communities that require controlled video distribution.

CONCLUSION

V Stream represents a modern, AI-driven, and developer-centric approach to video streaming that addresses the limitations of existing platforms like YouTube. By integrating Flutter for cross-platform UI and Supabase for backend scalability and real-time interaction, V Stream proves to be a powerful and flexible solution. Its promising results in performance, user engagement, and real-time responsiveness highlight its potential to serve a wide range of use cases, including education, entertainment, and enterprise-level content sharing. With a clear roadmap for future enhancements, V Stream is well-positioned to redefine digital content delivery in an open and intelligent manner.

FUTURE SCOPE

• AI-Based Voice/Video Search – Implementing speech and video recognition will allow users to search using natural language or even video snapshots, enhancing accessibility and accuracy.
• Automated Moderation with Computer Vision – Integrating computer vision APIs can automate the detection of inappropriate or harmful content, helping maintain a safe platform.
• Blockchain for Creator Monetization – Using blockchain can provide transparent and decentralized revenue models, allowing creators to earn directly from views, tips, or NFTs.

• AR-Based Interactive Previews – Augmented Reality can be used to create engaging video previews or overlays, offering a new level of interactivity in how users explore content.

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