

Runway

The Last-Minute Life Saver

An AI agent that does the hard first step of a commitment, so you start it instead of just remembering it.

Vibe2Ship Hackathon Submission | Problem Statement 1 | Built solo by Sai Girish Anga, IIT Guwahati

Deployed App: <https://first-domino-341818417558.asia-southeast1.run.app>

GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/Joker2841/Runway.git>

Project Description: this document.

Problem Statement Selected

Problem Statement 1: The Last-Minute Life Saver.

I chose this one because I have lived it. The night before a deadline, the problem was almost never that I forgot. I knew about the task for days. The problem was that I never started.

The Problem, Stated Plainly

Most productivity tools are built on a wrong guess. They assume people miss deadlines because they forget, so they add more reminders, alarms, and red badges. But a reminder only tells you about a task you already knew about. It does nothing to make the task easier to begin.

The real wall is the first step. Writing the first line of a cover letter. Wording an email you are nervous about. Opening the blank document for a report. That first step is where commitments quietly die. Once you are past it, the rest is usually fine.

So I built a tool that does the first step for you.

Solution Overview

Runway is an AI agent that does the hard first piece of a commitment and hands you something real to work with. I call it the first domino. Knock over the hardest first move, and the rest of the line falls on its own.

Here is the full loop in plain terms:

1. You add a commitment and a deadline, for example a cover letter for an internship, due Friday.
2. Runway reads what kind of task it is and does the actual first piece of work. For a job application, that means a real, tailored cover letter, not advice about how to write one.
3. It plans backward from your deadline and tells you the latest safe moment to start, with a live countdown ticking toward it.

4. When you are ready to act, it can push the work straight into your real Google tools: send the email, block the time on your calendar, add the checklist to your tasks, or open it as a Google Doc.

The difference from a normal reminder app is simple. A reminder says: this is due Friday. Runway says: this is due Friday, here is the draft, here is the latest you can start, and here is the button to act on it.

How It Works: One Real Example

Say a recruiter emails you about an internship and asks you to confirm by Friday.

- Runway's Radar scans the inbox, spots that this email needs an action, and flags it as a commitment with a Friday deadline. You did not type anything.
- It sorts the task as an Inbound Inquiry and drafts a complete, first-person reply with a subject line, ready to read and send.
- It works out how long the task should take, subtracts that from the Friday deadline, and shows the latest moment you can safely start, counting down by the second.
- When you are happy, one tap sends the reply through Gmail and blocks the time on your Google Calendar.

You went from an unread email to a sent reply and a protected slot on your calendar, without opening a blank page once.

Key Features

The First Domino engine. The core of the product. Runway sorts every commitment into one of four types and does the matching first piece of real work:

- **Inbound Inquiry:** a ready-to-send email reply, with a subject line and greeting.
- **Job Application:** a tailored cover letter that maps your real background to what the role is asking for.
- **Long-form Writing:** a clear outline plus the opening paragraph, so the blank page is already broken.
- **Actionable Task:** a checklist where step one is already done for you. Not a note saying do step one, but the real command, query, or text you can copy and use right away.

Honest drafting that never makes things up. When a fact is missing, like a company name or a recipient, Runway first looks everywhere it reasonably can: the sender's email domain, the job description, your profile, the task text. Only if the fact truly is not there does it leave a clear marker like [INSERT PROJECT NAME HERE] for you to fill in. It will not invent a detail just to sound finished. A confident wrong draft is worse than an honest gap.

The Radar. Runway can scan your inbox and catch the commitments hiding in it: an interview to schedule, an invitation to accept, a draft a professor is waiting on. It flags only the emails that actually need an action and ignores the noise, then drafts the first step for each.

Time Defense. Every commitment gets real deadline math, not guesswork. Runway turns a phrase like Friday into an exact moment, plans backward by the estimated effort to find your latest safe start time, and shows a live countdown. Each card carries an honest status: On Track, Cutting It Close, Critical, or Landed once it is done. When you want, it writes a real event to your Google Calendar to protect the time.

Pre-flight Briefing. A short, plain-language read on where you stand across all your commitments right now: what is urgent, what can wait, and what to do first. It reads like a person telling you the state of play, not a wall of rows.

Zero-friction access, with power on demand. The access design is one of the parts I am most proud of, so it has its own section next.

See It In Action

The core of Runway works in the browser with no sign-in, so you can try the agent yourself right away. The live Google actions below write to real Gmail, Calendar, Tasks, and Docs, so I have recorded each one working on real data. The clips are short and go straight to the point.

The Radar (Gmail). The agent scans a real inbox, catches the emails that need an action, and drafts the first reply automatically.

Watch:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QYVkJynfzP0qH5BSySteqXD5XwYb4-Yn/view?usp=sharing>

Time Defense (Google Calendar). One tap creates a real event on Google Calendar to protect the time a task needs.

Watch:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_HS25auSTHMLQ7E_s_bcD6fN_x18g82J/view?usp=sharing

Checklist Sync (Google Tasks). A generated checklist, with the first step already done, syncs straight into Google Tasks.

Watch:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qJYUaGeVWge_eGe3PtNHQORQJ_uyxDjd/view?usp=sharing

Long-form to Doc (Google Docs). An outline and opening paragraph become a real Google Doc with one click, ready to keep writing.

Watch:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-CSL_KdvK0JGNk3X8fK5H4_DgstiXFsW/view?usp=sharing

The Access Design: Open by Default, Powerful on Demand

Plenty of apps that touch your email and calendar force you to sign in and hand over those permissions before you can even see what the app does. That is backwards. You should not have to give an app access to your Gmail just to find out whether it is any good.

Runway is built the other way around.

- Anyone can open Runway and use the heart of it right away, with no sign-in at all. You can add commitments, watch the agent do the first step, see your deadlines and live countdowns, and try the Radar on a demo inbox. Every visitor quietly gets their own private workspace that remembers their commitments between visits.
- You are only asked to sign in with Google at the exact moment you choose to do something that needs it, like sending a real email or writing to your real calendar. The app asks for power only when you reach for it.

This is a deliberate design choice, and it is better on two fronts. It is friendlier, because the value shows up in the first ten seconds with zero setup. And it is safer, because it follows the principle of least privilege: Runway never holds permission to your private accounts until you have a specific reason to grant it. Sensitive access is opt-in, tied to a single action, and never the price of admission.

Technologies Used

- **Frontend:** React and Tailwind CSS, built with Vite, with Framer Motion for the animation and feel.
- **Backend:** a Node and Express server written in TypeScript, bundled with esbuild.
- **Identity and data:** Firebase Authentication for sign-in and Cloud Firestore for storing commitments, protected by strict security rules that tie every record to its owner and check every field before it is saved.
- **Offline-friendly storage:** for signed-out users, commitments are kept privately in the browser, so the app works fully without an account and remembers your work across reloads.
- **Deployment:** Google Cloud Run, deployed through Google AI Studio.
- **AI:** Google Gemini.

A note on correctness. All of the time logic, the deadline parsing, the backward start-time planning, and the countdowns, is done in plain, deterministic code, not by the AI model. The model is great at judgment, like estimating effort or writing a draft, but dates need to be exact and repeatable. So I gave the model the jobs it is good at and kept the math in code. That is what keeps every countdown correct and consistent, every time.

Google Technologies Utilized

Runway is built on Google technology end to end, from the model that does the thinking to the cloud that serves it.

Google Technology	How Runway uses it
Google AI Studio	The whole application was built and deployed here. It is the home base of the project.
Google Gemini	The reasoning engine. It reads each commitment, decides what kind of task it is, estimates the effort, and writes every draft.

Google Cloud Run	Hosts the live, public application that anyone can open in a browser.
Firebase Authentication	Handles Google Sign-In and gives every user a private identity.
Cloud Firestore	Stores a signed-in user's commitments, locked down by security rules so each person can only ever touch their own data.
Gmail API	Powers the Radar's inbox scan and sends the replies the agent drafts.
Google Calendar API	Writes real calendar events to protect the time a task needs.
Google Tasks API	Syncs the generated checklists into the user's task list.
Google Docs API	Turns a long-form draft into a real Google Doc with one tap.

In One Line

Runway started from a simple, honest observation: people do not fail because they forget, they fail because they cannot start. Everything in the product comes back to that one idea. It does the first step, so you can take the next one.