

The 10-Hour Reporting Fix

A high-level framework for pulling your business data out of five different logins and into one dashboard you actually check every morning — using free tools.

Why this exists

We used to spend hours every week pulling numbers from Shopify, our inventory system, our support desk, and our fulfillment platform — just to know what was actually going on in the business. Manually. Every week.

We rebuilt it as an automated pipeline that now updates itself every morning, for free, using free-tier tools. This guide is the high-level version of how we did it — enough to see the shape of it and decide if it's a project you want to tackle yourself.

The framework, at a glance

1. Identify your data sources

List every place a number you care about currently lives — your storefront (e.g. Shopify), inventory system (e.g. Cin7), customer support tool (e.g. Gorgias), supply chain / EDI platform (e.g. SPS), invoicing, or anything else you check manually. Most of these already offer a free developer API.

2. Pull the data automatically via APIs

Instead of logging in and exporting reports, connect directly to each platform's API so the data comes to you on a schedule. This is the step that removes the manual work permanently, not just once.

3. Centralize it in one place

Send everything into a single, simple database rather than leaving it scattered across five tools. A free-tier database (like Supabase) is enough to hold and organize all of it in one spot.

4. Automate the workflow

Use an automation tool to handle the scheduling, data cleanup, and logic — checking for issues, flagging anomalies, and moving data where it needs to go without anyone touching it. This is where a tool like n8n (free, self-hostable) and AI can do the heavy lifting.

5. Display it somewhere you'll actually see it

Build a simple dashboard page — hosted for free (e.g. on Cloudflare) — that shows the handful of numbers that actually matter to you: sales, inventory issues, recurring product problems, open support tickets. Make it accessible from your phone so it's part of your morning routine, not another tab you forget to open.

The free tool stack we used

None of these require a paid plan to get started. This is the general category of tool, not a step-by-step setup — swap in whatever platforms match your business.

Tool	What it's for	Cost
Platform APIs	Shopify, Cin7, Gorgias, SPS, or your own tools — pulling data out automatically	Free (dev tier)
Supabase	Centralized database to hold everything in one place	Free tier
n8n	Automation engine that moves and processes data on a schedule	Free (self-hosted)
Cloudflare Workers	Hosting for the dashboard page itself	Free tier
AI (LLM)	Summarizing, flagging anomalies, spotting patterns in the data	Free/low-cost tier

What this actually unlocks

- Know your numbers before your first coffee — no logging into five platforms
- Spot sales dips or inventory issues the same day, not weeks later
- See which product issues keep coming up, instead of hearing about them one at a time
- Make decisions off real numbers instead of gut feel or scattered spreadsheets

Is this a DIY project, or should you get help?

If you're comfortable with APIs and don't mind spending real time wiring things together, everything in this stack is free and buildable on your own.

If you'd rather have it built, tested, and handed to you working — with the specific numbers that matter to your business, not just the general framework — that's exactly the kind of project we take on.

Want us to just build it for you?

Tell us what's eating your time, and we'll scope a fixed project — with a guarantee tied to the hours you want back. fixoperations.com | luis@fixoperations.com

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