**Working as a Data Scientist: A Day in the Life**

In his “Honest Review of Working as a Data Scientist,” Cornellius Yudha Wijaya—who has been working professionally for over half a decade—offers a candid look into the daily routines, challenges, and rewards of this role.

**Daily Responsibilities**

One of the most striking truths of a data scientist’s role is the extent of cross-functional collaboration. Wijaya emphasizes that much of his daily work involves working with other departments—ranging from domain experts and business owners to data engineers, governance specialists, and DevOps teams. This interdisciplinary engagement ensures that insights and models are not built in a vacuum but address real business needs.

A typical day often begins—and largely revolves—around data preprocessing, exploration, and analysis. According to Wijaya, around 70% of the project time is spent ensuring data quality, cleaning, and preparing it for modeling.

Model development and validation remain central tasks, though they don’t always dominate every day. Beyond building models, much attention goes into designing, tuning, validating models, and establishing algorithm choices, parameter settings, and cross-validation schemes.

As models move toward deployment, data scientists increasingly find themselves involved in MLOps—developing, monitoring, and maintaining models in production. Though Wijaya acknowledges being relatively new to MLOps, he highlights its growing importance, especially when leveraging cloud services like AWS.

Another crucial responsibility is presenting insights to non-technical stakeholders. Translating technical outcomes into visual storytelling that drives business decisions is a fundamental aspect of this work.

Finally, continuous learning plays a big role. R&D isn’t optional; reading academic papers and experimenting with emerging technologies remain essential to improving and adding business value.

**Specialist or Full-Stack?**

By Wijaya’s account, a data scientist today is more a **full-stack professional** than a specialist. While certain phases—like modeling or visualization—require specialized technical skills, the breadth of his work spans everything from data wrangling and modeling to MLOps, stakeholder communication, and research.

**Career Trajectory**

Career progression offers multiple pathways. Entry-level data scientists focus primarily on coding, modeling, and analytics, while senior roles increasingly require leadership, project oversight, and strategic decision-making. Specialization within domains (e.g., deep learning, NLP, big data) remains an option, and roles may evolve toward data science management or leadership, such as Chief Data Officer. Others branch into data engineering, analytics, freelancing, or consulting.

**Work-Life Balance & Compensation**

The field’s intellectual depth and financial prospects are appealing; data scientists typically earn competitive salaries, even though global disparities exist. However, high expectations and tight project deadlines often demand occasional long hours. Stress can arise from ambiguity or the pressure to deliver actionable insights quickly.

Organizations that acknowledge these demands often support flexibility—remote work, flexible hours, and generous leave policies can help maintain balance.

**Conclusion**

In summary, data scientists, as exemplified by Wijaya, operate as full-stack professionals: they are deeply technical but also communicative, adaptable, and collaborative. Their daily work spans data engineering, modeling, deployment, storytelling, and continuous innovation. While demanding, the role is fulfilling—especially when balanced with organizational support and opportunities for growth.

**Source:**  [**Nb Data**](https://www.nb-data.com/p/honest-review-of-working-as-a-data)