Steve Kruger, MS

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Data & Analytics │ Software Development │ Modeling & Visualization

Solves data puzzles with depth of technical and interpersonal skills to deliver solutions that advance business objectives. Curious about exploring new things with a passion for finding cutting edge ways to improve the end user experience. Connects software solutions to engineering needs. Instills confidence from cross-functional stakeholders to drive change and support business strategies. Self-motivated professional looking for the right next challenge to add value to enterprise innovation.

Hypothesis Testing │ Design of Experiments │ Data & Analytics Strategy │ Version Control
Python HTML CSS C++ │ Predictive Modeling │ Software Development │ Machine Learning
Docker│ Critical Thinking │SQL │ Adaptive Communication │Django Frameworks | Rest API | GUI

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Data & Analytics Expertise: applies insights gained as an end-user to take idea to execution that delivers scalable solutions for the enterprise. *Donaldson Co., Inc., Polaris Industries.*
> Experience: 5 years of increasing data and analytics leadership in highly technical, matrixed environments with key role in intellectual property protection and engineering

Enterprise Software Development: partners with the cross-functional business stakeholders to understand their needs, determines the best approach to collect the right data, and leads the deployment of software that maximize ease of use in engineering departments. *Donaldson Co., Inc..*
> Impact: saved over $1M annually with deployment of platform that automated fuel cell testing

Data Transformation: develops clear understanding of the business operations, evaluates existing tools and workflows, designs the data collection, develops data visualization, and champions the solutions to drive change. *Polaris Industries.*
> Result: cut time from 36 hours/week to 5 minutes/week through the development of a patent sorting algorithm that accelerated business intelligence

Full Cycle Data Project Management: met with stakeholders to gather the requirements, translated the business needs into technical specifications, designed the plan, and served as the voice of the end user while providing hands-on leadership through the full project lifecycle. *Donaldson Co., Inc., Polaris Industries.*
> Projects: multiple projects at a time at the enterprise level with teams comprised of data scientists, engineers, legal, and manufacturing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Donaldson Co. Inc., Minneapolis, MN (January 2018 – Present)
Senior Applications Engineer (April 2021 – Present)
Promoted based on strong performance leading data, analytics and software initiatives for the filtration products manufacturer and distributor serving industrial, aerospace/defense, and energy clients across the globe.
Achievements:
- Leads multiple data and analytics projects at a time with varying complexity and technologies.
- Contributes to the design and implementation of data based software for multiple manufacturing and product testing business lines.
- Interacts with cross-functional partners to design, test, and deploy dashboards and workflow automations.
- Performs the root cause analysis to identify the business needs and creates data strategies to solve cutting edge use cases for the highly regulated manufacturer.

Responsibilities:
- Consults internally on design, development, and improvement of programs and tools to support data and analytics initiatives for the enterprise.
- Understands and develops business process improvements addressing technology gaps with single tools.
- Partners across the matrixed enterprise to engineer software solutions with emerging technology.
- Shares knowledge and provides feedback to support the implementation of technology transformation.

Applications Engineer (January 2018 – April 2021)
Returned to the filtration manufacturer in a permanent capacity to translate business needs into data and analytics solutions that add value to the enterprise with highly complex operational needs.
Achievements:
- Owned multiple data and analytics projects that required comprehensive understanding of the manufacturing process and engineering to derive at effective software tools for the business.
- Provided continuous improvement for the architecture and data models to improve quality and utilization of the data tools.
- Engineered comprehensive, fully integrated predictive models that addressed short-term business needs and protected the assets for the long-term.
Responsibilities:
- Validated, enhanced, and updated data models and tools with hands-on technical support.
- Evaluated the business needs and produced software solutions to deliver scalable data utilization.
- Applied emerging technologies and data architecture to create and scale layered solutions.
- Developed independently the tools to analyze and improve products.

Polaris Industries, Wyoming, MN
IP Engineer (June 2015 – January 2018)
Accepted the permanent role with the outdoors equipment and vehicle manufacturer as part of the engineering department to protect intellectual property through the full product lifecycle.
Achievements:
- Served as the internal engineering subject matter expert protecting the enterprise intellectual property as the key link between outside counsel, in-house legal, accounting, and engineering.
- Designed, developed, and deployed a business intelligence tool that visualized the data of competitors patents to maximize R&D spend while also mitigating risks and capturing market share.
- Created a classification algorithm that automatically sorted competitive IP and historic data to cut weekly workload time from 36 hours/week to 5 – 10 minutes/week on average.
- Applied mechanical engineering knowledge and business acumen to perform comprehensive reviews of powersports products to document and guide legal and engineering strategy.
Responsibilities:
- Generated and implemented ideas to improve the engineering, legal, and operational strategies for the products through the utilization of data.
- Evaluated, implemented, and deployed emerging tools and processes to automate the workflows.
- Served as a technical leader that found solutions and obtained buy-in with excellent interpersonal skills.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE
Engineer (contract), *Donaldson Co. Inc.*, Minneapolis, MN (May 2014 – May 2015)
Design Engineer, *Capital Safety*, Minneapolis, MN (July 2012 – May 2014)

SKILLS HIGHLIGHTS

Software:	Ansys, Django, Docker, Git, Jupyter Notebook, Project Libre, Matplotlib, Microsoft (Excel, Project, PowerPoint, SharePoint), Minitab, NumPy, Pandas, Power BI, SciKit-Learn, SciPy, SQL, Tableau, TensorFlow, Tkinter, XGBoost
Programming:	C++, CSS, DAX, HTML, NoSQL, Python, SQL
Statistics & Models	ANOVA, Artificial Neural networks, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), Design of Experiments, Decision Trees, Finite Element Analysis (FEA), Gage Studies, Hypothesis Testing, Learning Algorithms, Multivariable Linear Regression
Certifications:	**Machine Learning Specialization**, *Stanford University* ● **Supervised Machine Learning: Regression and Classification**, **Advanced Learning Algorithms**, **Unsupervised Learning & Reinforcement Learning** **Google Advanced Data Analytics (*enrolled*)** **Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt***, Normandale Community College* **Registered Patent Agent***, US Patent and Trademark Office* – Agent No. 76,007
Education:	**Master of Science – Mechanical Engineering** (May 2019) *University of St. Thomas*, Minneapolis, MN **Bachelor of Science – Engineering** (June 2012) *Minnesota State University*, Mankato, MN