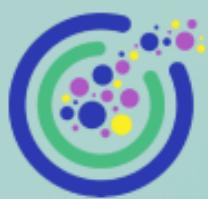


Building a Career in Data Science



Standing out from the data science crowd is more important than ever.

While the demand for data scientists is still on the rise (even though slower than in previous years), you need to be on top of certain trends like the surge for data engineering skills and relevant work experience.

This means you need to be smart about how you are building your portfolio and that's exactly what we will discuss about.



Importance of a Portfolio!

There is a famous saying: **don't tell me, show me.**

Even if you have a referral, the ability to show potential employers what you can do instead of just telling them you can do something makes all the difference.

1. Your portfolio should demonstrate your potential as a data scientist as well as your important and highly sought out skills.
2. Your portfolio should bear the footprint of your capabilities.

What is changing in Data Science roles?

Keep in mind that industries are not looking for an amateur data scientist who is only able to play around with some models when provided with a cleaned, curated and well-fitted dataset. There's lot more required than modelling.

Looking at your GitHub profile hiring managers might be interested to call you for an interview or might lose the interest altogether.

Let's discuss some guidelines that will help you to stand out in the crowd.



Building your Portfolio!

Be picky on the Projects

Yes! Don't just do what everyone else is doing like Kaggle Titanic competition.

Focus on projects that have a substantial value and a real-world connection, e.g. improving a business, making a difference in society.

A problem that has breadth is usually cross-disciplinary requiring collaboration among domain expertise, specialists on the topic, data scientists, data engineers, and software engineers

Describe the steps you took in developing the dataset, validating the annotations, and establishing the ground truths.

Advance your skills on Messy Data

It is better to pick a dataset that shows a diversity of data types, such as a mix of numerical and categorical features, as well as a lot of missing values, outliers and a data distribution far away from Gaussian Distribution as most of the real-world dataset suffer from these issues.

Demonstrate you can build models for deployment

The recruiters are very much interested to know if you have developed something that has been deployed. Mention that you have deployment experience, the codes are available in my portfolio as an open source project.

You may integrate your model with a streamlit app, or a flask API

Follow Software Engineering Standards

Arrange your code in an object oriented manner, always put focus on the readability of your codes, follow PEP-8 standards, write enough comments, include doc strings.

Write computationally efficient codes, follow modular design principles. Your portfolio should indicate your ability to write production level codes.

Create well Organized Presentations

As a good data scientist you need to become a good story teller, as most of the time you will be discussing with stakeholders may not have a technical background.

For each of your projects, create a markdown README file that describes the problem, including the architecture diagram, some insightful visualization that describes the methodology and the impact of the solution

Some Dont's

1. Never ever put a script on your GitHub without a readme file and proper description. Nobody has the time to decode your script to find out what you have done.
2. Some people try to develop toy projects or use toy datasets in developing a project and put them in the portfolio. May be a good idea in the learning phase but not good for demonstrating that you are still a child data scientist playing with toys!
3. Recruiters and hiring managers visit a lot of GitHub repositories and are able to catch plagiarism on the first glance. Even if you are able to fool them during the initial screening in the interview phase you will be knocked out.

Do you want to build your
Portfolio by contributing to
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