Taylor Dickson

Data Engineer · IT & Systems Professional

1–647–518–2894 | mail@twdickson.com | twdickson.com | TWDickson | TWDickson

Summary

Data Engineer with 7+ years building data pipelines and leading teams through complex projects. Strong advocate for open source solutions, implementing tools like DBT and modern git workflows for government teams, helping them move away from legacy systems toward more collaborative approaches. Quick to learn and implement new technologies, with hands-on experience across Python, SQL, Linux infrastructure, cloud platforms, and whatever tools the project demands.

Skills

Data Engineering	Python, DBT, SQL, Azure Data Factory, Databricks, ETL/ELT Pipelines
Cloud & Infrastructure	Azure, Linux Administration, Docker, Shell Scripting (BASH), Networking
Development	Git, Python, Django, Flask, Go Lang, JavaScript, REST APIs
Frontend	Vue, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
Leadership	Team Management, Project Management, Stakeholder Communication, Agile Methodologies

Experience

Data Engineer

Toronto, Canada

Ontario Public Service — Ministry of the Attorney General

2024 — Present

- Led adoption of Data Build Tool (DBT) for our data transformation pipeline, bringing modern practices to handle legacy mainframe court data during the 7-year system migration.
- Working with sensitive judicial data in a high-security environment, maintaining strict compliance with data protection standards throughout the migration process.
- Built dimensional data warehouse using Kimball methodology to keep court reporting running smoothly while legacy systems are migrated to a unified platform.
- Managed Azure cloud infrastructure, inlcuding Databricks and Azure Data Factory (ADF) processing environments, utilizing command-line expertise to troubleshoot and optimize configuration, diagnotics, and montioring.
- Developing DBT transformations that convert anchor-modeled data into dimensional models, leveraging Spark for large dataset testing. Ensuring analysts stay connected to critical court metrics throughout the migration.
- Established git workflows for our small team using feature branches and conventional commits, improving code organization and collaboration on data models and documentation.
- Use Agile methods to keep our team organized and coordinate with other groups, ensuring we deliver data solutions on schedule, with a fair division of labour.

Data Engineer/Team Lead

Toronto, Canada

Ontario Public Service — Treasury Board Secretariat

2019 — 2024

- Led the division's data overhaul project, modernizing digital infrastructure using Python and Pandas for processing, SQLAlchemy for data integration, and building robust data models for advanced analytics.
- Managed a team of 5 in building data pipelines, ETL processes, and data warehousing solutions that improved data accessibility and analytics capabilities across the organization.
- Architected and deployed cloud infrastructure on Azure, configuring Linux servers and network environments to support scalable data processing and ensure reliable system performance.
- Implemented CI/CD practices with GitHub for version control, managing pull requests and repositories in an Agile environment to improve collaboration and development workflow efficiency.
- Conducted regular code reviews and provided technical guidance on data modeling, integration, and pipeline optimization to maintain high-quality, maintainable code.
- Built data audit tools using RESTful APIs with Flask/Django and Node for internal data cleaning and validation by stakeholder analytics teams.
- Tackled complex name entity recognition challenges using Levenshtein distances and NLTK library in Python, improving data accuracy and processing efficiency for large datasets.

Workforce Analyst

Toronto, Canada

Ontario Public Service — Ministry of Government & Consumer Services

2017 — 2019

- Used SQL, MS Access, Excel, VBA, and Python for data management, reporting, and visualization, supporting business operations with timely and accurate insights.
- Automated generation and distribution of over 7,000 customized documents, significantly reducing manual work and enabling directors to quickly access staff information.
- Created and optimized reports comparing content across multiple documents, improving efficiency and accuracy while reducing manual workload.
- Ensured data integrity across multiple systems through regular quality checks and recommended enhancements to improve overall data reliability.