Taylor Dickson

Data Engineer · IT & Systems Professional

Toronto, Canada

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Summary

As a data engineering and project management professional with expertise in technical support and system administration, I am dedicated to delivering results and driving innovation. I am skilled in Python, Pandas, SQL, and Agile methodology, and have a passion for finding creative solutions to complex problems. Outside of work, you can find me biking through the city, experimenting in the kitchen with new baking recipes, or exploring the latest video games. I am excited to bring my skills and interests to a dynamic and innovative team.

Skills

Front-end	Javascript, Vue, SASS, HTML, CSS
Back-end	Python, Django, Flask, Go Lang, Node, Express, REST API
DevOps	Docker, Docker-Compose, Shell Scripting (BASH), Networking (HTTP, TCP/IP, DNS), Mac and Linux Administration
Data	Python, Data Build Tool (DBT), Azure Data Factory, Databricks
Soft	Communication, Team Management, Project Management, Software and Data Architecture, Writing

Experience

Data Engineer
Toronto, Canada

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE — ATTORNEY GENERAL
2024 — Present

- Working in a high security environment with sensitive data
- Implemented Data Build Tool (DBT) for data transformation and modelling, enhancing data quality and consistency across multiple data sources.
- Implemented dimensional model of data warehouse using Kimball methodology, improving data accessibility and reporting capabilities.
- Collaborated cross-functional teams to define data requirements, ensuring alignment with business objectives and enhancing data-driven decision-making processes.
- Conducted performance tuning and optimization of existing ETL processes, resulting in improved data processing times and reduced resource consumption.
- Developed comprehensive documentation for data models, ETL processes, and system architecture to facilitate knowledge transfer and ensure maintainability of solutions.
- Created and maintained project gantt charts and timelines, ordering tasks and deliverables to ensure meeting production timelines.

Data Engineer/Team Lead
Toronto, Canada

ONTARIO PUBLIC SERVICE — TREASURY BOARD SECRETARIAT
2019 — 2024

- Led the division's data overhaul project, modernizing and enhancing digital data infrastructure. Utilized Python and Pandas for local data processing, uploading data from Excel inputs to an Azure cloud database using SQLAlchemy, and building robust data models to support advanced analytics.
- Directed a team of 5 in data pipeline development, orchestrating ETL processes, data warehousing solutions, and real-time data streaming to improve data accessibility and analytics capabilities.
- Managed the procurement and implementation of advanced data engineering tools and technologies, including Azure Data Factory, Azure SQL Server, and Azure PowerApps, leading to over $100k in cost savings.
- Suggested and implemented tools such as GitHub for version control and CMSs for content management, improving collaboration and workflow efficiency.
- Supervised the hiring, onboarding, and mentorship of co-op students and new staff, assigned tasks, managed pull requests, git repositories, and branches, fostering a collaborative and productive team environment.
- Conducted regular team meetings, acted as a manager, and provided leadership in project planning and execution, ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Coordinated with cross-functional teams to design robust software architectures, define technical requirements, and ensure seamless integration of data engineering solutions across various platforms.
- Conducted regular code reviews, provided technical guidance on data modelling, data integration, and pipeline optimization, promoting high-quality and maintainable code.
- Developed internal data cleaning and transformation tools using RESTful API design with Flask/Django/Node, and Vue.js, connected to an Azure database, enhancing data quality and consistency.
- Tackled significant challenges in name entity recognition using Levenshtein distances and the NLTK library in Python, improving data accuracy and processing efficiency.

Workforce Analyst

Workforce Analyst   *Toronto, Canada*

Ontario Public Service — Ministry of Government & Consumer Services   *2017 — 2019*

- Utilized SQL, MS Access, Excel, VBA, and Python for data management, reporting, visualization, and process automation, supporting business operations with timely and accurate data insights.
- Automated the generation and distribution of over 7000 customized documents, significantly reducing manual labor and enabling directors to quickly access and analyze their staff information.
- Created and optimized reports comparing content across multiple documents, improving efficiency and accuracy in data reporting and reducing manual workload.
- Ensured data integrity across multiple systems through regular data quality checks and recommended enhancements to data management processes to improve overall data reliability.

Linux System Administrator   *Toronto, Canada*

Soho VFX   *2016 — 2017*

- Upgraded the render farm by setting up, installing, and configuring new servers, resulting in improved performance and reduced rendering times for large-scale visual effects projects.
- Automated repetitive tasks, upgraded software, and optimized systems to provide efficient technical support, saving significant time and ensuring high system performance.
- Recognized for outstanding contributions as a Systems Administrator in the production of the movie Logan (2017).
- Performed routine maintenance and troubleshooting of hardware and software, ensuring smooth operation and minimal downtime, which was crucial for meeting production deadlines.