

Thorben Wölk

Head of Data Platform

thorben.woelk@gmail.com
https://thorbenwoelk.github.io/
Hamburg, Germany

SUMMARY

Experienced Data Platform Lead and Cloud Engineer focusing on big data, serverless architectures, and DataOps. Combining technical expertise with leadership skills to develop and implement data-driven solutions. Particularly interested in clean code, agile leadership, and AI-based efficiency improvements.

EXPERIENCE

ZEIT ONLINE - Head of Data Platform	May 2023 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leading data platform strategy and development for a major online news publisherManaging a team of 5+ data engineers, analytics engineers, and tracking expertsImplementing user story mapping, a Kanban process, and release management	
ZEIT ONLINE - Software Engineer Big Data	Oct 2021 – Apr 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Designed and built a scalable analytics and data science platform leveraging Google Cloud, Kubernetes, dbt Cloud, and LookerDeveloped Python apps for batch and streaming data ingestion on event-driven and pipeline architecturesOnboarded tools and experts to the data platform in collaboration with my managerImplemented IaC using Terraform as well as branching concepts, CI/CD workflows, and coding best practices	
EOS Group - Software Engineer	Jan 2019 – Sep 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resigned and operated a machine learning platform for a fintech companyMigrated legacy Scala monolith to a microservice architectureImplemented AWS-backed solutions using AWS Sagemaker, Lambda, S3, and RedshiftAutomated infrastructure and ML model deployment using ansible, cdk, CloudFormation, and Jenkins	
Forward3D - Junior PPC Analyst	Sep 2017 – Nov 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed and optimized pay-per-click campaigns for retail clientsAutomated daily and weekly reportings with Python and SQL	
briq - Research Assistant	Apr 2016 – May 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted data analysis with Python and R for economic researchContributed to publications on neuroeconomics and moral reasoning	

EDUCATION

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn	2014 – 2017
<i>Master of Science in Economics</i> Focus on Behavioral Economics. Thesis on "Diffusion of Responsibility".	
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel	2010 – 2013
<i>Bachelor of Science in Business Administration</i>	
Fernuniversität in Hagen	2012 - 2019
<i>Bachelor of Arts in Psychology</i>	
Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne	2013 - 2014
<i>Erasmus Exchange in Economics</i>	

PROJECTS

Data Ingestion Framework OOP batch ingestion framework built with Python on Kubernetes and GCP. Property of DIE ZEIT	Data Pipeline Manager An API for engineers to manage and operate data ingestion jobs. Property of DIE ZEIT	Jira Assistant AI-based assistant for JIRA workflow optimization. Request access on GitHub	Photography Portfolio A website showcasing photography work. Built with Svelte on Google Cloud Run. View Portfolio
---	---	---	---

SKILLS

Programming Languages Python, SQL, JavaScript/TypeScript
Cloud Platforms Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Amazon Web Services (AWS)
Data Technologies BigQuery, PostgreSQL, dbt core, dbt Cloud, Dataflow, PySpark, Pub/Sub, Kafka, Redshift
Machine Learning and AI MLOps, Cursor, Claude Code, Anthropic API, OpenAI API
DevOps, CI/CD Kubernetes, Docker, GitHub Actions, ansible, Grafana
Methods Agile Coaching, User Story Mapping, Test Driven Development

LANGUAGES

German (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Good working knowledge), French (Basic)

CERTIFICATIONS

Agile Coach	2021
Beratung Judith Andresen	
AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate	2020

PUBLICATIONS

"Spreading inequality: neural computations underlying paying-it-forward reciprocity"	2018
Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience	