Sara Zanzottera

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I am a GenAI software engineer and experienced open-source maintainer with a focus on Python. I worked on projects ranging from voice agents to particle accelerators to LLM frameworks, data pipelines, IoT projects, and web apps. I love learning and diving deep into unfamiliar domains until I master them. I thrive in remote, unstructured, multicultural teams where quick iteration cycles and continuous delivery are key. I am a very experienced open-source maintainer with several years of experience on large OSS projects and smaller ones alike. I am also skilled at writing documentation, tutorials, blog posts and giving talks.

Check out my blog (https://www.zansara.dev/). and my GitHub profile (https://github.com/ZanSara/).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

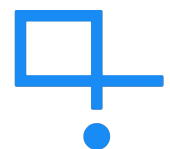**Lead AI Engineer**

Kwal Inc. - *Apr. 2024 to present*

AI and LLM expert, working on voice LLM recruiters at scale. I implemented several iterations of our in-house agents, making them able to handle spoken conversations of arbitrarily large complexity and length. I worked on the design, validation and testing of the prompts driving the agents, the agents behavior, and the offline conversation analysis.

NLP Engineer

deepset GmbH - *Sep. 2021 to Feb. 2024*

Core maintainer of the Haystack framework (https://github.com/deepset-ai/haystack/). Haystack is a mature open-source project which started out as the main NLP framework for semantic search and question answering and evolved into a complete LLM framework. My tasks included implementing new features, writing plugins, handling community over GitHub and Discord, managing external PRs, writing documentation, tutorials, Colab notebooks, blog posts, and hosting office hours, webinars, meetup talks, conference talks.

Software Engineer

CERN - *Feb. 2018 to Aug. 2021*

Python expert of the group, mentoring several colleagues. I led the renovation of a Python data pipeline for the accelerator's instrumentation, closely iterated with the PyQt GUIs team to develop a RAD framework for physicists, and developed a Java application for particle accelerator technicians to manage low-level applications.

Full Stack Developer

CAI (Italian Alpine Club) - *2015 to 2021*

Several contracts, mostly focusing on small web apps. Notable is the ZanzoCam Project (https://zanzocam.github.io/en), an autonomous webcam based on Raspberry Pi, in operation since 2021 in ~100 huts on the Italian Alps.

EDUCATION

Double MSc in Data Science
EIT Digital, POLIMI & UNS
2016 - 2018

BSc in Computer Engineering
POLIMI & Tongji
2013 - 2016