Andrea Valente, PhD

AWS Solutions Architect & Data Scientist | Cloud Consultant

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Professional Summary

After 10 years of experience as a data scientist, I have transitioned into cloud architecture, specializing in AWS high-performing and scalable solutions. As a certified AWS Solutions Architect Associate, I focus on designing and implementing serverless and containerized architectures tailored to business needs. My background in startups, consulting, and research has equipped me with a problem-solving mindset and the ability to deliver efficient, innovative cloud-based solutions.

Certifications

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect Associate
- Data Science MicroMaster (UC San Diego, EdX)

Technical Skills

- Cloud: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda, CloudFormation, Terraform, IAM, RDS, DynamoDB, AWS Glue, Athena, API Gateway, Cognito, Amplify, Route 53)
- Programming: Python (FastAPI, Pandas, Scikit-learn), SQL
- Machine Learning: NLP (FastText, Transformers), XGBoost, Random Forest, Regression
- **DevOps**: Git, Jira, Cloud Deployment (Azure, AWS)
- Data Visualization: Power BI, Tableau
- Other: Java (basic), Technical Writing, Data Pipeline Optimization

Professional Experience

AWS Solutions Architect | Freelancer

Nov 2024 - Present

 Building a portfolio of AWS-based projects, including serverless architectures, containerized applications, and database migrations, to showcase expertise in designing scalable and cost-effective cloud solutions.

- Gained hands-on experience with AWS services such as Lambda, API Gateway, EC2, RDS, DynamoDB, AWS Glue, Athena and S3 through practical projects.
- Achieved AWS Solutions Architect Associate certification in November 2024, demonstrating proficiency in designing secure, high-performing, and resilient architectures on AWS.
- Proactively enhancing skills by exploring serverless frameworks, SAM CLI, and GitHub Actions for professional-grade project deployment and management.
- Leveraging 6 months of dedicated learning (June–November 2024) to expand the data science career to cloud architecture, focusing on mastering AWS tools and methodologies.

Proddis LTD, Limassol, Cyprus Senior Data Scientist | Cloud developer Feb 2023 – Jun 2024

- Developed and deployed a Medical Encoder for adverse event classification, integrating FastText and LLMs with cloud-hosted APIs.
- Streamlined workflows for productionizing machine learning models using FastAPI.
- Initiated cloud-based deployments adhering to best practices, bridging product management and technical execution.

Bottomline Technologies, Reading, UK **Data Scientist** | *Jan 2020 – Feb 2023*

- Designed and deployed an **Anomaly Detection** model for financial transactions using Python.
- Spearheaded **White Space Analysis** to drive upselling strategies, improving data pipelines and ML-based recommendations.
- Collaborated with DevOps teams to transition models into scalable, cloud-based solutions.

Tesco Mobile, Slough, UK Data Scientist | Nov 2018 – Jan 2020

- Built the company's first **customer churn prediction model** using R, enhancing retention strategies.
- Optimized SQL pipelines for data analysis, supporting the company's analytics roadmap.

Cognizant, London, UK Data Scientist | Apr 2016 - Oct 2018

- Led development of an **XGBoost ML model** for aircraft stand allocation at Heathrow Airport, deployed on **Azure**.
- Built an **operations dashboard** in **Power BI** to monitor key metrics, integrating real-time data feeds and actionable insights.

Selected Projects

- Developed and launched a web-based civic tool for reporting illegal waste across Cyprus, built entirely on AWS using a fully serverless architecture. Features include geotagged photo uploads, Google login via Cognito, interactive heatmaps, and real-time reporting powered by Lambda, API Gateway, S3, and DynamoDB.
- Designed, deployed, and automated the hosting of my consulting website on AWS, integrating S3, CloudFront, Route 53, and ACM with CI/CD via GitHub Actions.
 Implemented a professional, scalable infrastructure to showcase services for startups and small businesses
- Developed a fully containerized FastAPI application deployed on AWS ECS (EC2 launch type) with an S3-hosted web UI. Automated infrastructure using AWS CDK and integrated Docker, ECS, and S3 to build a scalable cloud application for analyzing running activity data
- Medical Encoder (*Proddis LTD*): Automated adverse event classification leveraging LLMs, implemented cloud-based deployment.
- Anomaly Detection for Payments (*Bottomline Technologies*): Full-stack ML solution coded in Java and Python for fraud detection.
- Aircraft Stand Allocation Prediction (Cognizant): Developed and deployed an ML model in Azure for operational efficiency at Heathrow Airport.
- Heathrow Operations Dashboard (Cognizant): Designed a comprehensive Power
 BI dashboard to monitor airport operations.

Education

PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Geneva, CH | Jan 2014

Languages

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent)