François Michonneau

francois.michonneau@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/francois-michonneau • https://francoismichonneau.net

Leader, Engineer, and Educator with 7+ years of non-profit and startup experience. Empathetic and curious, I thrive in collaborative environments to empower customers to get the most out of their data.

As a **people leader**, I have managed remote teams of 6 engineers and UX/UI designers. I enjoy leading the hiring process to assemble the right team to deliver projects on time.

With 20+ years of experience with R and a quantitative background (Ph.D. in marine biology specializing in biodiversity), I love analyzing data and understanding its value for making informed decisions. I have worked with PostgreSQL and DuckDB (with their respective geospatial extensions), and put in production Shiny applications on AWS using Docker. I have technical expertise in OLAP databases and in the Apache Arrow ecosystem.

Open source maintainer of several R packages, including {foghorn} and {rotl}, I specialize in developing interfaces to web API, and reproducible data pipelines.

Because data literacy is a life-changing skill, I have taught 25+ workshops worldwide and worked with online communities to empower researchers adopt data science and scientific computing best practices in inclusive learning environments.

Open for Remote work opportunities (based in France).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Training Engineer   04/2023 - Present
Voltron Data • Remote

- Liaise with customers (pre-sales and post-sales) to gather their feedback and escalate issues with engineering team
- Crafted and delivered training presentations about our products to 100+ partners' account executives worldwide
- Wrote an online book in collaboration with Engineers and Marketing team, driving website traffic by 50%
- Developed vision and multi-year roadmap to pioneer Training program

Lead Training Engineer   08/2022 - 04/2023
Voltron Data • Remote

- Led the development and delivery of webinars (150+ attendees) for open source tools (Python library Ibis), amplifying community engagement
- Wrote and edited 10+ how-to articles, demos, tutorials, and social media posts to drive adoption of open source tools in the developer community

Senior Director Of Technology   03/2020 - 08/2022
The Carpentries • Remote

- Member of the Executive Team: managed day-to-day operations, led cross-team initiatives, developed strategic planning, oversaw hiring and onboarding, directly supervised 6 people

- Directed team of 3 engineers developing The Carpentries data management web app (Python/Django) to develop GDPR compliance features
- Led product and engineering for new curriculum infrastructure (R/RMarkdown + GItHub Actions), used across 100+ lessons with over 50k unique visitors/month
- Secured >$400k in grant funding opportunities

Curriculum Development Lead
The Carpentries • Remote

02/2018 - 02/2020

- Managed technical infrastructure, including migrating to cloud services (AWS) and Docker
- Developed monitoring system, dashboards (Shiny), and automated reports to increase reliability (99.9% uptime) and scale up our operations (50% year-to-year increase in the number of workshops)
- Coordinated 60+ community maintainers and oversaw the development of 10+ lessons

Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Florida

01/2015 - 02/2018

- Synthesized marine biodiversity records for the United States: using R (tidyverse, ggplot2, geospatial tools) and PostgreSQL to reconcile 3+ million records from 5 public databases using web API and web scrapping to identify knowledge gaps
- Led collaborative development of R packages to access biodiversity data through web APIs (5000+ monthly downloads, 360+ scientific citations)
- Designed and organized workshops and hackathons for biodiversity data digitization and analysis

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD in Biology, Zoology
University of Florida   01/2006 - 12/2014

Master's degree in Ecology, Biodiversity, Evolution
Pierre and Marie Curie University, Paris   01/2004 - 12/2005

Master's degree in Tropical Biology
Université de La Réunion   01/2003 - 12/2004

Bachelor of Science - BS in Population Biology
La Rochelle Université   01/2001 - 12/2003

CERTIFICATIONS

RStudio Certified Trainer (tidyverse)   04/2019 - Present
Posit PBC

VOLUNTEERING & LEADERSHIP

ROpenSci   01/2024 - Present
Mentor

Mentoring members of the R developer community who are interested in writing, maintaining, or contributing to an R package.

The Carpentries   09/2014 - Present

Instructor Trainer, Lesson Maintainer, Instructor

▸ Instructor (2014-present): 25 workshops taught in the US, Europe, and the Caribbean.

▸ Lesson Maintainer for Data Carpentry R Ecology lesson, https://datacarpentry.org/R-ecology-lesson
(2014-2023): This is the most taught and accessed Carpentries lesson (30,000+ unique visitors a month). Wrote
the lesson and evaluated community contributions.

▸ Instructor Trainer (2017-2022): I teach the pedagogical concepts that used in Carpentries workshops to future
instructors and participate in overseeing their certification process.

SKILLS

Technical Skills: Apache Arrow, Data Science, Docker, DuckDB, Git, Github + GitHub Actions, Jekyll, Linux (
Ubuntu), R, SQL, tidyverse

Leadership Skills: Developer Advocacy, Pedagogy, Product Education, Product Management, Project
Management, Remote Team Management