Gary Nicholson

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Data Analysis Portfolio

Personal Statement

A conscientious information technology professional with extensive experience in technical, leadership and management roles, currently seeking a new position as a Data Analyst/Engineer/Scientist. Able to communicate and build strong positive working relationships with clients, stakeholders, and colleagues. A passion for quality, efficiency and delivering results, is supported by strong drive, attention to detail, logical thinking and technical ability in the area of development and statistical programming. Highly organised, committed and efficient individual, whose thorough and precise approach to projects has consistently yielded excellent results.

Key Skills

- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Passionate with getting the details and the numbers correct.
- Excels in solving problems, supported by detailed analysis and exploration of possible solutions.
- Statistical programming and machine learning using Python.
- Architecting interactive dashboards to support data visualisation, decision making and strategic planning.
- Experienced technical, project and business manager.

Technical Skills

- Data pipelines, ETL
- Web services, REST API, microservices, XML, JSON
- Data Mining and Data Cleaning
- Data processing - Python, Pandas, NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Beautiful Soup, bokeh
- Predictive data analysis and machine learning – scikit-learn
- Azure SQL Server, SQL Server, SSRS, Oracle SQL, MySQL, Redis, MS Access, Adabas
- Date warehouse, Actuate, MicroStrategy, ProClarity
- SQL (T-SQL, PL/SQL)
- Spreadsheets (Excel, Google Sheets)
- VBA, C#, PowerShell, Java, Visual Basic, Delphi, Pascal, Modula2, Prolog, Smalltalk, Natural, Cobol
- Microsoft Azure: Kubernetes, Virtual Machines, SQL Elastic Pools, SQL Databases, Service Bus, Storage Accounts, Redis, Logic Apps, APIM
- Microsoft: MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, Visio, MS Project, MS Access, Teams, Yammer, OneDrive, Planner, Flow, Power Automate, Power Apps, Power BI, InfoPath, SharePoint, SharePoint Designer (including workflows)
- HTML, VBScript, JavaScript, Active Server Pages (ASP), PHP, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), Perl
- Internet Information Server (IIS), ColdFusion, Vignette StoryServer, Apache HTTP Server, Apache TomCat
- Azure DevOps – Repos, Pipeline, Releases
- Postman
- Docker
- Datadog
- Octopus
- JIRA
- JMeter, Taurus, Blazemeter, e-Load, webLOAD, WinRunner, Quick Test Professional, TestDirector & LoadRunner

Employment History

Lead Performance Engineer | Sorted Group Ltd (UK)   **Jun 2022 – Mar 2023**

- Successfully led a team of Performance Engineers working on providing an excellent and performant delivery platform for customers with specific focus on readiness of the platform for handling of seasonal peak trading volumes.
- Analysed historical and forecast trading volumes and patterns to devise load and performance testing models in readiness for peak trading on Black Friday 2022 and over seasonal end of year trading periods.
- Worked with the business and clients to build confidence in the ability of systems and components to handle the exceptional traffic volumes and to deliver acceptable system performance levels when under loaded conditions.
- Delivery platforms all performed exceptionally over the peak trading periods with recognition from the business and clients as to platform performance and stability.

Lead Consultant | Expleo Group (South Africa)   **Jul 2004 – Dec 2020**

- Pioneered the development of PowerBI solutions for management and analytic models to support all departments within the organisation – spanning Finance, Sales, HR, Operations, Professional Services.
- Primary focus on profitability, resource utilisation and performance to budget and forecast.
- Encompassing all levels of operational and management reporting – daily, weekly, monthly, and annual.
- Included extraction and aggregation of data from feeder systems into a consolidated management information platform that provided interactive dashboards and reporting to support operational and strategic decision making.

Business Intelligence Lead | Business Connexion (South Africa)   **Jan 2003 – Jun 2004**

- Worked in the Professional Services division of Business Connexion overseeing clients in the retail sector.
- Managed a team of up to 10 Business Intelligence consultants and developers.
- Guide clients with the design and deployment of Decision Support Systems – typically centred on a hosted data warehouse.
- Leading the development of interfaces between client transactional systems and 2nd-tier analytical systems.
- Development and maintenance of ETL processes, reporting, and analytical toolsets.
- Working with the Sales team to assist clients' selection, implementation, and training of suitable BI toolsets. Toolsets included: MicroStrategy, Actuate, COGNOS, Arthur Planning, Arthur Assortment Panning, JustEnough and ProClarity.

Prior Work History

- **Cresta Testing Inc. (USA)**
- **Cresta Group Ltd (UK)**
- **Chase Manhattan Bank (UK)**
- **McCarthy Information Systems (SA)**

Education & Qualifications

- Data Analyst Skills Bootcamp (Cambridge Spark)
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science – focus on AI (Artificial Intelligence)
  - Majors: Business Information Systems, Mathematics, Computer Science
  - Degree awarded cum laude (with distinction)
- UK Drivers Licence – full and clean – categories AM, A, B, BE

Languages

- English
- Afrikaans