Olaf Górski

Lead Python GenAI Software Engineer

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About

An engineer who started seeing Human & Business side of developing Products based on reliable data and evidence instead of only Engineering.
Code is only a tool used to solve problems.
Focus on them, not on your tool. Have humility in what you do and believe in **meritocracy, not hierarchy.**
Other than being a big Python/LLM enthusiast, I have taken a liking to certain functional programming aspects and **working with people**.
Scaling the app quite often is easy, scaling the team so it performs better, not so much. Dabbling with Product
Ownership/Management/Leadership, yet my interests still mainly stay with technology. Also, an **author with a published** book **about Python.**

Experience

Senior/Lead Python GenAI Software Engineer   09/2023 - currently

The Engineers

Here I've helped to **lead and drive the whole process of developing teams and GenAI projects** for clients such as **Raffaisen Bank**, **PwC** and others.
My responsibilities included, but were not limited to: **design, architect, implement and maintain projects focused on harnessing the power of AI** and **LLMs**, **shape company-wide strategies**, policies and guidelines when it comes to both **product-level strategy** and **engineering-level principles** lastly - contribute as an **individual contributor and main developer** on the project, doing lots of hands-on work.
The projects were both **enterprise** and **startup** grade. I had to work **directly with the stakeholders**, gathering requirements, helping to find best use cases and then deliver them. Wearing many hats and working with uncertainty if needed is something I actually enjoy.

Examples of projects I've worked on:
- Voice Assistant
- Raport Draft Generator
- Customer Support Assistants/Automation
- Automatic API Agents
- Transcription and customer insights extraction

Technologies: Langchain, CrewAI, Langfuse, Python, deepeval, FastAPI, Prompt Engineering, STT/TTS, Websockets, function calling, OpenAI

Senior AI Software Engineer   03/2023 - 09/2023

SumUp/Fivestars, Remote

Managed to drive & lead a full production grade genAI, LLM based conversational AI automation solution for Customer Service for $8B company, driving the start of the whole AI initiative in the company, researching, implementing and exploring new ways we could translate AI keywords in real life business value, especially in Customer Service.
Technologies: GPT models, Langchain, openA, Vector Databases, Qdrant, GPTCache, llm-security, guardrails, Azure OpenAI, Cloud, Terraform

Lead Python Developer   12/2021 - currently

OnionMindset, Self-Employed

Contractor work for various clients.
As a Lead Developer I was a manager being responsible for **a team of around 8 engineers**, their development, daily work, happiness and results that the team delivers.
Other than purely **leadership** and **coaching** aspects of professional life I also had to take **part in the engineering effort developing features myself** and have overview over the whole product tech stack and progress, constantly doing **research** about our **system design**, **architecture** and everything related, being responsible for everything engineering related and the technology.
Coordinating the teams' cooperation with other departments, ensuring smoothness of the process spanning from **business requirements gathering** to implementation and tech choices.
Technologies: Python3, Django, Docker, FastAPI, cloud

Owner   04/2021 - 11/2021

The Engineers, Remote

I took a shot at running my own company, where I had to manage two product teams, 7-8 people in total while also taking active part in development process.
I had to manage them, **coordinate their work**, talk with the clients and **manage their expectations**, do the recruitment, hiring, HR, actively source clients and code a bit.
Basically had a bit of stuff to do at **every level of development**.
Managing the business side of things, HR and finances while also being an **active tech lead** on two bigger projects that multiple teams were working on, where I was designing architecture, taking part in the major implementation effort and holding key domain concepts/business requirements gathered during meetings with clients which later I turned into technical documentation/requirements/contracts.
Scaled from 1 to 8 people in 4 months.
Technologies: Python3, Django, DRF, Docker, Ansible, AWS, Azure, Celery, Postgres, Redis

Technical Product Analyst   12/2020 - 11/2021

Starburst Data, Remote

At Starburst I worked as a contractor doing **Competitive Analysis** for **data-oriented** products.
I had to work on, **deploy**, manage, **compare**, **analyze** and **benchmark** many **big-data products** (eg. Hive, Impala, Dremio) in **different cloud environments**, gathering various insights from that process.
After that came **producing reports/presentations** that sales, solution architects, or engineers could use and leverage to gain competitive

advantage, be it in the sales process, coming up with product development roadmap, or just to brag how awesome Starburst is compared to the competition in marketing campaigns.

I had to **discuss the results** of my work and **produce content** understandable for a **broad range of audiences**, ranging from very tech-savvy **engineers** to more marketing-oriented **salespeople**.

Technologies: Starburst, Trino, SQL, Bash, Python, Scripting, Linux, AWS, GCP, Azure, Kubernetes.

Product Engineer   06/2019 - 11/2020
thirty3, Remote

Building innovative data-driven Products in a cross-functional team. Other than being a **lead engineer**, I've stepped up to become something more - took part and ownership of the Product too, learning to be the **Product Owner**, guiding the team in some aspects, and, most importantly, building/scaling it while doing so, while still remaining a lead engineer/architect, building and designing RESTful APIs.

As someone present in the Company since its birth, I've taken part in shaping and creating its structures, culture, and strategies, team.

Also **mentoring junior employees** on their path forward, on-boarding and managing people.

Technologies: Python3, Django, DRF, Docker, Ansible, AWS, Celery, Postgres, RESTful APIs

Software Engineering consultant   02/2019 - 05/2020
DevsData LLC, Remote

I was tasked with testing, vetting and **recruiting** candidates for various clients.

Other than that I served as a **Python consultant** for various projects eg. from American corporate financial sector, who helped set up and guide internal tools development by designing the architecture, doing code reviews, setting up the development flow and guidelines.

Junior Python Developer   12/2018 - 06/2019
Synerise, Warsaw

Synerise is an AI-driven marketing platform. It's cool and all, but in order to make it work seamlessly, you have to **integrate with your client's data**, get it into your system. Do it quickly and without errors. **ETL at scale** basically.

That's what the team of which I was a part of, did. Therefore I often was responsible for importing our client's data into our systems, converting it into the proper format desired by data/AI teams, validating it and automatization of these actions with Unix tools/bash scripts and Python on a scale.

Later **I've also started developing a product on my own** whose purpose was to provide a possibility for the client to **Inspect and Validate data** on their own, based on my experience with that process.

Technologies: Python, Sanic, Django, DRF, Postgres, Docker, Kubernetes, Kafka, Redis, Azure

Python Backend Developer   08/2018 - 02/2019
iMeshup.com, Warsaw

Despite my small experience, through hard work and dedication to the project, I've managed to become a core developer in the project, having at least some part in writing almost every functionality together with the rest of the team.We created the code from scratch, so we could choose our dream stack, and we did precisely that - AWS, Kubernetes, Python, Django, Celery, DRF and PostgreSQL, worked out great for our back-end, enabling us to provide a **scalable solution to demanding service of versioning, converting and compressing 3D files** as a SaaS, so it was an application heavy on asynchronous computation and REST API.

Technologies: Python3, Django, DRF, Celery, AWS, Kubernetes, Postgres, Docker, RESTful APIs

Junior Software Developer   12/2017 - 08/2018
Yumasoft sp. z o. o., Remote

This role was mostly composed of maintenance of a big, monolithic Pylons application that was being used by our international corporate client in many of their branches **for data visualization**. I maintained part of the backend and some of the frontend parts, often **debugging complex and unexpected issues spanning multiple levels of application** design.

Technologies: Python2, Pylons, Java, OracleSQL, SQLAlchemy

Skills

Python: Python, Django, Django Rest Framework, Celery, FastAPI, Kafka
AI: LLMs, OpenAI, Azure OpenAI, LLama2, Langchain, guardrails, instructor, llm-security, Lakera
Cloud: AWS, Azure, Kubernetes, Starburst/Trino, Query Engines, Big Data Tools, Kafka, Redis
Tools: git, Vim, Linux, CLI, Docker, BitBucket/GitLab Pipelines, CI/CD
Other: TDD, PEP8, OOP, REST, Microservices, TPC benchmarks, Automation, CSVs, ETLs, System Design, Architecture, Bare-Metal

Examples of work and personal projects

grski.pl - Personal blog. Recommend to check it out, it contains tech articles but also some of my personal opinions - that way you'll be able to know what kind of person I am. Some of the better articles you'll find in the section below.
braindead - Braindead is a braindead simple static site generator for minimalists, that has support for markdown and code highlighting. Recommended: How braindead came to be - an article.
ratrace - visualize insights from you git repo. When is the team committing the most code? Repo lifecycle. Very early phase project.
Mentoring - volunteered and taught a couple of people, for some of them this resulted in a successful career change. 3 success stories so far.
bRAG - example of implementing basic retrieval augmented generation without lanchain using OpenAI, qdrant and PDF stack

Recommended reading

Why your brain is 3 milion more times efficient than GPT-4 - dead simple introduction to Embeddings, HNSW, ANNS, Vector Databases and their comparison based on experience from production project. My best article as of yet.
Build your own LLM RAG API without lanchain using OpenAI, qdrant and PDF stack - RAG the alternative way.
Performance of different string concatenation methods in Python-why f-strings are awesome: an article that compares different methods of

joining strings in Python, their performance and some trivia.

Tenancy pattern in a SaaS Product: article I co-authored together with my protegee on smart management of data in a SaaS product.

Behind the Scenes of Data Inspector: architecture & Behind the Scenes of Data Inspector: tooling: two quite lengthy articles explaining architecture, tooling and patterns that I've decided to use when designing a new tool during my time at Synerise - Data Inspector.

References

For references you might want to contact (with prior written consent):

Sebastian Opałczyński - Head of Development at Numarics; thirty3 co-founder, CTO;

Szymon Bolczyk - VC Investor, Chief Investment Officer @ N1.fund

Joanna Mosur - Founder & CEO at MasterMatch.online;