

Ian Huston

Engineering and Data Science Leader – bringing data thinking to software development teams, and agile methodology to data scientists.

ianhuston.net, github.com/ihuston

May 2018 - Present: Engineering Director, Pivotal R&D, Dublin (now part of VMware Tanzu)

Software Engineering Director in Pivotal Cloud R&D org focused on attracting, growing, and retaining exceptional product engineers to deliver industry leading distributed cloud technologies.

- Directing all five engineering teams in Dublin (35 people), including Kubernetes and Site Reliability Engineering efforts. Accountability for team composition and health, project execution and success as part of greater product success, and ideation for future team opportunities.
- Completed explore phase of Pivotal's first Kubernetes offering (Pivotal Container Service PKS) with 100+ enterprise customers, and successfully handed over to US location for expand phase.
- Running global production instance of Pivotal Tracker with a small platform operations team developing appropriate Site Reliability Engineering approaches to Kubernetes and Cloud Foundry.
- Recent focus on designing a container based secure software supply chain into Pivotal's internal product delivery process.
- Leading recruitment for the Dublin engineering team, responsible for strategy, execution, and decision making as hiring manager, focusing on improving inclusivity of interview process.
- People management of 20+ engineers (direct & indirect) including 5 managers. Accountable for all people issues including design and execution of performance & compensation reviews, professional skills development, performance improvement planning, and reductions in force.

2017 - 2018: Associate Director, Pivotal Labs, Dublin

Led a team of 15 engineers, product managers, and design consultants and was responsible for:

- representing Pivotal in customer presales interactions and workshops,
- working with sales teams in Europe and the US to design and book client projects,
- ensuring team and project success with delivery teams,
- acting as the liaison and escalation path for client stakeholders,
- recruiting & managing of engineers, product managers, product designers, and data scientists.

2016 - 2017: Principal Data Scientist, Pivotal Dublin

Led consulting teams using data science with Python (PyData stack), Java Spring, Apache Spark, and PostgreSQL/Greenplum. Deployed cloud based data science micro-services using Spring Cloud Data Flow and on Cloud Foundry, AWS, and GCP.

2013 - 2016: Senior Data Scientist, Pivotal London

Consulted on multi-disciplinary teams with major clients working on data science specific and broader app development engagements.

2010 - 2012: Postdoctoral Researcher, Queen Mary, University of London

Designed and built distributed numerical computational systems for early universe cosmology using Python, Fortran, and C. Created open source libraries still used in the field.

Team and Project Highlights

Production Operations	Directed the operations team running the global production installations of Pivotal Tracker, a leading agile project management tool with 100k+ daily users. With a data driven approach using Site Reliability Engineering techniques, and a solid technology base of Cloud Foundry and Kubernetes, we operate a 24/7 on-call policy with only a handful of call outs each year.
Kubernetes system	Directed 3 engineering teams on Pivotal's first Kubernetes product, Pivotal Container Service (PKS), balancing team and people health with product success and senior stakeholder management. Worked closely with product leadership to scale customer base up to 100+ significant enterprise customers as part of our initial product exploration phase. Designed and executed handover plan to a US based team over 6 months with emphasis on sustainable working conditions, continued product success, and enabling new teams for maximum success.
Top 10 Car Maker	Developed a new data driven supply chain ordering process for a global top 10 automobile manufacturer. This system is now in production across European markets and realising savings of millions of Euro per year. Led the 4 data scientists in our 10 person team through the 6 month project, which included guiding client data scientists in Java & Python, Test Driven Development, Pair Programming, and coordination as part of a User Centred product team. <i>Python, Hadoop, Java, Cloud Foundry</i>
Global High Street Bank	Designed a new personalised messaging experience for retail customers. The tailored communications app for retail users incorporated insights and predictions from individuals' live transaction data. Driving the iOS application is a pipeline of data processing and transforming micro-services, including overdraft entry prediction, anomaly detection and simple thresholding. Led the data science efforts of our combined team of data engineers, software engineers, and product managers for 6 months. <i>Spring Cloud Data Flow (Java), Python, Cloud Foundry, AWS</i>

Education

2006-2010	PhD, Theoretical Cosmology , Queen Mary, University of London
2005-2006	MSc (with distinction), Theoretical Physics , Imperial College London
2001-2005	BSc (1st), Mathematical Physics , University College Dublin

Technical Experience

Programming Languages	Python: Over 10 years experience with the scientific Python stack. Java: Extensive use of Java in client projects over 5 years including Spring. Working knowledge of R, Fortran, MATLAB, Kotlin, C
Other Tech	Kubernetes, Concourse (CI/CD), Tableau, PostgreSQL/Greenplum, Cloud Foundry