# Michael Wieher

**Professional Summary**

Senior Python Software Engineer & Engineering Lead with 15+ years of experience designing, developing, and leading backend and AI-driven systems across financial services, healthcare, publishing, and technology industries. Proven expertise in Python development, Big Data engineering, and cloud-native architecture (GCP, AWS, Kubernetes, Docker), with a strong record of delivering scalable, high-performance solutions.

Recognized for evolving into technical leadership roles, serving as Team Lead, SRE, and Junior Architect across multiple projects. Adept at ETL pipeline design, distributed systems optimization, and AI/LLM engineering, including RAG architectures and no-code integrations with Claude, ChatGPT, and Augment.

**Key accomplishments include:**

* AI Engineering Leadership – Founded Mirora AI, delivering Python-powered SaaS solutions, guard-railed chatbots, and LLM-integrated applications.
* Big Data Optimization – Reduced ETL runtimes from 2 weeks to 6 hours at OnTrak by designing advanced concurrency models in Python.
* Cloud & Data Engineering – Led Wells Fargo’s Python/ETL migration to GCP BigTable using Airflow/Composer.
* Microservices Modernization – Refactored customer-specific legacy systems at SteepRock into RESTful Python microservices deployed on Docker/Kubernetes.
* Enterprise Systems Development – Designed, maintained, and optimized Python/Django/PostgreSQL backends for clients including Citadel, Thomson Reuters, Safari Books Online, Sears, and GE Healthcare.
* Highly skilled in mentoring teams, enforcing best practices (TDD, PEP8, Python Black), and driving engineering quality and scalability. A lifelong coder who began programming at age 10, blending deep technical expertise with a passion for clean, reliable, and forward-looking software engineering.

**Work History**

**Mirora AI, LLC**

**Founder & AI Engineering Lead** | July 2025 – Present | Sole Proprietor, Off Hours

* Founded an AI-first SaaS and consulting firm, specializing in Python-powered LLM integrations and AI engineering.
* Designed and deployed RAG-based architectures with Claude, Augment, and ChatGPT.
* Built a trainable, guard-railed chatbot SaaS for businesses, leveraging Python, Next.js, React, Supabase, and Vercel.
* Delivered structured prompt-engineering solutions, including a RAG-powered representation of a documented Tarot system to optimize chunking strategies.

**Wells Fargo**

**Senior Python Engineer / Tech Lead (Contractor)** | June 2022 – May 2025 | Hybrid

* Designed and implemented Python-based ETL pipelines orchestrated with Airflow (Composer) to migrate Big Data workloads into GCP BigTable.
* Developed complex migration DAGs for structured and unstructured data ingestion.
* Acted as Engineering Lead on debugging, optimizing Airflow jobs, and mentoring junior engineers in Python best practices.
* Tools: Python, GCP, GCS, Airflow, PyCharm, GitHub CoPilot.

**Citadel**

**Senior Python Data Engineer (Contractor)** | April 2022 – June 2022 | Remote

* Built and optimized Python ETL engines using Airflow and Pandas for high-volume data ingestion workflows.
* Designed extensible ingestion adapters and configuration-driven pipelines.
* Improved job reliability, reduced downtime, and contributed to long-term architectural scalability.

**SteepRock**

**Senior Software Engineer (Python & Microservices)** | May 2021 – Feb 2022 | Remote

* Extracted shared backend functionality from a legacy customer-specific system into RESTful Python microservices.
* Built containerized services with Docker & Kubernetes, supporting large-scale client workloads.
* Championed Python engineering standards and mentored peers on refactoring strategies.

**OnTrak**

**Team Lead / Senior Python Engineer (Contractor → FTE)** | June 2019 – Feb 2021 | Remote

* Designed a scalable Big Data ETL pipeline in Python + MongoDB to handle billions of records with complex real-time calculations.
* Reduced data processing time from 2 weeks to 6 hours by engineering concurrency models around computation and I/O bottlenecks.
* Assumed a Tech Lead / Junior Architect role, guiding architecture decisions and team execution.

**Rich Context**

**Python Backend Engineer (Contractor)** | Mar 2018 – Sept 2018 | Remote

* Delivered AWS Serverless and Docker-based backend services.
* Contributed to infrastructure automation and critical Python microservices.

**Comprendo**

**Senior Python Backend Engineer (Contractor)** | May 2017 – Mar 2018 | Remote

* Designed a custom REST framework on Google App Engine, reducing development cycles from weeks to hours.
* Leveraged Python introspection and JSON schema to auto-generate REST APIs, enabling rapid app deployment.
* Acted as backend lead, mentoring peers and standardizing API development.

**Strongbox Data Solutions**

**Python Developer (Contractor)** | Feb 2017 – Apr 2017 | Remote

* Built a versioned file system using Python, MongoDB, MySQL, and ZeroMQ.
* Took ownership of a project 6+ months behind schedule, leading recovery and delivery efforts.

**Starmaker Interactive**

**Backend Python Engineer (FTE)** | Aug 2015 – Nov 2016 | Remote

* Supported and extended a high-availability REST API powering Android/iOS apps.
* Applied TDD, scaling backend systems in Python/GAE.

**Press Ganey**

**Python Engineer (Contractor)** | Aug 2014 – Jan 2015 | Remote

* Supported distributed healthcare survey systems using Python, Django, and AWS.

**UIC Library**

**Python Developer (Contractor)** | May 2014 – Jul 2014 | Remote

* Built a Django/PostgreSQL repository for cataloging digital collections across Chicago libraries.

**Virdocs Publishing**

**Python Backend Developer (FTE)** | Oct 2013 – Mar 2014 | Onsite

* Created ingestion & translation pipelines for PDF → digital textbook formats.

**Safari Books Online**

**Python Web Developer (Contractor)** | Apr 2013 – Jul 2013 | Remote

* Maintained and improved the Safari Online web portal backend (Python/Django).

**Thomson Reuters**

**Python Backend Developer (Contractor)** | Jan 2013 – Mar 2013 | Onsite

* Transitioned vendor-owned code into in-house Python REST APIs.

**GE Healthcare**

**Python Software Engineer (Contractor)** | Aug 2012 – Jan 2013 | Onsite

* Developed and maintained Linux-based Python reporting systems.

**IP Ghoster**

**Python Developer (Contractor)** | Jun 2012 – Aug 2012 | Onsite

* Built a distributed web proxy hopping system in Python/MongoDB/RabbitMQ.

**Sears Holding Corporation**

**Senior Python Developer (Contractor → FTE)** | Apr 2011 – Mar 2012 | Onsite

* Maintained an in-house Graphite visualization platform.
* Built integrations using Django, MySQL, MongoDB, and RabbitMQ.

**Mediamark GFK Research Inc.**

**Software Engineer (Python/C++)** | Jan 2008 – May 2009 | Onsite

* Developed a proprietary Python-powered HTTP engine for querying custom data formats.

**Textura LLC**

**Python Developer** | Mar 2007 – Dec 2007 | Onsite

* Built online contractual management systems with Python/PostgreSQL.

**OpinionLab**

**Python Developer** | Aug 2006 – Mar 2007 | Onsite

* Migrated ASP systems to Python/MySQL.

**Education**

**B.S. Mathematics & Computer Science** – University of Illinois at Chicago, 2006

**Certifications**

[Udemy Certificate Link](https://www.udemy.com/certificate/UC-b37dc9d8-2e56-4ff1-ac59-889a2bb183d5/)