

Kristi Esta

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SUMMARY

Data Engineering Leader with over 20 years of experience building scalable data solutions and guiding cross-functional teams. I would relish the opportunity to utilize the AI/ML skills I've attained through advanced training in machine learning, deep learning, and model interpretability. Proficient in Python, SQL, and machine learning frameworks, with a strong focus on transforming complex challenges into data-driven insights. Demonstrated ability to collaborate with stakeholders to drive strategic decisions and optimize operational efficiencies.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming & Tools:** Python, SQL, Java, SQL/NoSQL, JSON, XML, HTML/CSS
- **Machine Learning & Analysis:** Python, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, Keras, Classification, Regression, Ensemble Methods, Neural Networks, Model Tuning, Statistical Principles, Computer Vision, Matplotlib, PyTorch, RAG, Gen AI, Vector DB
- **Data Engineering & Professional Attributes:** Technical Leadership (5 years), Data pipelines, ETL, BMC, DataStage, Docker, Kubernetes, Cloud data platforms (AWS S3, Snowflake), SQL/NoSQL Relational and Columnar Database Platforms, Helm

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

USAA | Sr. Data Engineer

May 2014 - Feb 2024

- Maintained large-scale data pipelines for the bank business unit, facilitating real-time/batch data ingestion for operational analytics.
- Led as Program Tech Lead - 3 Engineering teams - in migrating an on-prem bank data to the cloud using in-house pipelining tools, Kubernetes, Docker, OpenShift, HelmChart, AWS S3, Snowflake, Python.
- Orchestrated the successful delivery of multiple mortgage-focused software projects as Team Tech Lead, ensuring all were completed on time and within budget.
- Worked extensively with on-prem data (Hadoop, DB2, Netezza Platforms) utilizing query optimization, API creation (URL+endpoints), data lineage, security/compliance.
- Planned iterative development resources/tasks utilizing Agile/SaFE Methodology in Asana, Jira, RTC (Rational Team Concert) with Data Governance, Project Manager, Scrum Master, Stakeholder and Product Owner collaboration.
- Extended DB2 database and Hadoop platform for Bank data distribution hub (BODDH) as Tech Lead for a team of 13 engineers.
- Worked extensively with Data Governance teams and Compliance/Regulatory on requirements.
- Cleansing of product data to improve data mining and analysis on banking trends for Data Scientists and Analysts.
- Developed first departmental Salesforce application, enhancing employee worklist flow codes for business users while allowing interactivity with users and data.
- Collaborated with the SQL Server team to create databases within one week for 'Government Shutdown' project.
- Initiated IT Wiki entries by crafting standardized departmental templates for Hadoop, Operational Data Hub, and Netezza project work.
- Extensive experience with data governance, lineage and data integrity/security.
- Mentored junior and senior engineers.

USAA | Software Engineer

May 2006 - Dec 2014

- Developed back-end services for USAA's first tablet e-sign application, streamlining document signing for Financial Brokers.
- Created back-end storage and data transformation solutions for usaa.com budgeting tools.
- Collaborated with the Tech Lead to design and implement a comprehensive budgeting database.
- Developed services to effectively transport, transform, and store budgeting data for USAA members.
- Engineered back-end services for the initial deployment of USAA's employee tablet applications.
- Supported and maintained various Mortgage applications/Vendors for Bank applications.
- Coordinated disaster recovery efforts for Bank applications and managed batch processes for Bank.
- Contributed to expanding the documentation storage system for the first online lending application on usaa.com, which enabled members to enter, submit, and receive approvals.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

University of Texas at Austin

Oct 2025

Post Graduate Program, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

- **Topics:** Supervised & unsupervised learning, data science, deep learning, model tuning, ensemble methods, Gen AI, RAG, Prompt Engineering, Computer Vision, fairness & explainability.

University of Louisiana at Monroe

Dec 2005

B.S., Computer Science