Luis **de Sousa**

DATA AND ANALYTICS CONSULTANT

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Profile

With 16 years of experience in data and analytics consulting, I specialise in designing and building tailored data solutions for large organisations. My expertise spans data warehousing, integration, analysis, visualisation, and deployment in production environments. Additionally, I excel in leading cross-functional teams in dynamic settings. I firmly believe in the power of technology to drive sustainable change and am passionate about problem-solving and fostering collaboration and transparency. I take pride in finding unique and practical solutions to challenges. Outside work, my interests include reading, exercising (CrossFit and running), dancing, exploring note-taking systems, and co-organising user groups.

Work

Syeop
Johannesburg, South Africa

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT: DATA AND ANALYTICS & DIRECTOR
May. 2007 - Present

- I lead high-impact data and analytics initiatives across diverse sectors such as real estate, food and beverage, and banking. My managerial responsibilities encompass prospecting, negotiating, and overseeing business and project management. Additionally, I contribute to team development by recruiting, training, and mentoring staff. My technical expertise includes market analysis, consolidating financial data on cloud platforms, forecasting, and developing Management Information Systems (MIS) architectures. I have worked with various technologies in these projects, such as the Microsoft Data Platform, MySQL, Google BigQuery, Azure Databricks, and FiveTran. I am proficient in SQL, R, and Python.

Cyest Corporation
Johannesburg, South Africa

SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT
August 2004 - April 2007

- Before DevOps emerged, I served as a deployment automation engineer. I designed, developed, and managed a custom SQL replication framework using SSIS in this capacity. My responsibilities also included overseeing system upgrades, providing technical support, and implementing additional integrations. Throughout these projects, I extensively utilised Microsoft Data Platform and Microsoft BizTalk technologies.

Artec Computer Systems
Johannesburg, South Africa

IT PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT
July 2002 - July 2004

- My role involved providing technical support for applications, desktops, networks, and servers primarily in Microsoft environments. This included working with Microsoft technologies such as Windows 98, NT4, 2000, and 2003, as well as MS SQL Server and Exchange in clustered configurations. Beyond Microsoft technologies, I managed Cisco's LAN, WAN, and VOIP systems, worked with Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technologies, and maintained Dell & EMC hardware.

Consulting Projects

Real Estate

DATA CAPACITY SERVICES
2024

- As a senior data consultant, I created data structures that allowed researchers to analyse South Africa's property markets for the CityMark report. I used MSSQL for data management and R for spatial analysis to generate insights across national and metropolitan areas.

Real Estate

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL WAREHOUSE
2023

- As part of a two-person senior consulting team, we created and implemented a unified overview of the company's financial performance across all its entities. We used financial systems like Xero, JDE, and LOB applications. For this project, we employed FiveTran for data integration, BigQuery for data storage and analytics, Looker Studio for data visualisation, and Google Sheets for data sharing and collaboration.

International Chain

DATABRICKS PROOF OF VALUE
2023

- As a senior consultant in a two-person team, I co-engineered and implemented a Databricks solution in the cloud for both development and production environments. This project involved using technologies such as Azure Databricks, Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2, Azure DevOps, KeyVault, Data Factory, and PowerBI.

Food and Beverage

Forecasting Capability Building   *2021-2022*

- As the project lead and senior consultant on a two-person team, we developed and implemented an automated statistical forecasting system for SKUs within a valuable supply chain. For this initiative, we used R and Microsoft SQL Server.

Banking - Innovation Division

MIS Solutions Architecture   *2010-2020*

- As the lead and senior consultant for a five-person team in the innovation business unit, I managed all Management Information. My responsibilities included reporting and analytics for various payment systems like domestic and cross-border remittances, e-wallets, mobile payments, and banking transactions conducted via the Internet, apps, ATMs, and USSD. I also oversaw the integration of third-party systems, point-of-sale devices, prepaid services, and transit products. Our efforts extended to regulatory reporting, fraud analytics, sanctions screening, and performance monitoring. We developed, maintained, and updated a data warehouse utilising the Microsoft Data Platform, employing technologies such as Microsoft SQL Server, Integration Services, Analysis Services, Reporting Services, and R.

Entertainment

Software Project Lead   *2007-2010*

- I played a crucial role in supporting and revamping a royalty calculation engine. This pivotal project involved developing a C# front-end to manage complex financial processes seamlessly integrated with the SAP ERP system. We utilised the Microsoft Data Platform and leveraged Microsoft BizTalk for seamless integration.

Education

Wits   *Johannesburg, South Africa*

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Software and Information Engineering   *2015*

- Investigation Report: Using agile principles during software procurement in build versus buy decision-making.

Community

Johannesburg R User Group   *Johannesburg, South Africa*

Co Organiser   *2018 to current*

- This group serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, networking, and promoting the use of R in various statistical, data analysis, and programming endeavors within the Johannesburg area. https://www.rusergroup.co.za

PyData Johannesburg   *Johannesburg, South Africa*

Co Organiser   *Starting Feb 2023*

- This local chapter of an international initiative focuses on nurturing community growth and engagement through Python and data science topics tailored to Johannesburg. https://www.pydata.co.za

Presentations

Data and AI Community Day Johannesburg

Building a RAG Application with Azure OpenAI and Microsoft Fabric   *2024-04-09*

AI/ML and Data Infusion Roadshow Durban

Deploying a LLM with Vector Search in Databricks   *2023-11-11*

Data Saturday Cape Town 2023

Gently Exploring the Azure Databricks Lakehouse   *2023-09-30*

Data Saturday Durban 2023

Gently Exploring the Azure Databricks Lakehouse   *2023-08-19*

Data Saturday Johannesburg 2023

Gently Exploring the Azure Databricks Lakehouse   *2023-08-05*

Johannesburg R User Group

Key Insights for Data Scientists from Microsoft Build   *2023-06-13*

Johannesburg R User Group

Databricks for R developers   *2023-05-09*

Open Source

Aerial Mzansi *Johannesburg, South Africa*

Author *2022 to current*

- A proof of concept project, open-source, aimed at highlighting the beauty of South Africa. This endeavour utilises various technologies, including Quarto, GitHub Actions, AzureStor, and mapbotverse. https://www.aerialmzansi.com/

Accreditation Courses

2024	Talend Data Health Explorer	*Talend*
2024	Solutions Architect Essentials	*Databricks*
2023	Generative AI Fundamentals	*Databricks*
2023	Azure Databricks Platform Architect	*Databricks*
2023	Databricks Platform Administrator	*Databricks*
2023	Databricks Lakehouse Fundamentals	*Databricks*
2019	RStudio Professional Administrator Certification	*R Studio*
2018	R Software Fundamentals with Applications to Statistical Analyses and Modelling	*Wits*
2009	Introduction to CMMI V1.2	*ISACA*
2009	TOGAF 9 Foundation and Certified (Level 1 and 2)	*The Open Group*
2004	Implementing Data Protection on Dell Storage - IDPDS	*Dell*
2004	Implementing Dell Enterprise Storage Solutions - IDESS	*Dell*

Certifications

2024	Microsoft Certified: Fabric Analytics Engineer Associate	*Microsoft*
2023	Databricks Certified Data Engineer Associate	*Databricks*
2023	Databricks Certified Data Analyst Associate	*Databricks*
2022	Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Engineer Associate	*Microsoft*
2022	Microsoft Certified: Power BI Data Analyst Associate	*Microsoft*
2022	Microsoft Certified: Dynamics 365 Fundamentals (ERP)	*Microsoft*
2022	Microsoft 365 Certified: Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Power Platform Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Dynamics 365 Fundamentals (CRM)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Expert (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Microsoft Excel Expert (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Microsoft Word Expert (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Associate (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: PowerPoint Associate (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Excel Associate (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Office Specialist: Word Associate (Office 2019)	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2021	Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals	*Microsoft*
2017	Microsoft Certified Professional	*Microsoft*
2017	SAFe Agilist (SA)	*Scaled Agile*
2011	IASA Architect CITA-F (Foundation) Core	*IASA Global*
2006	CompTIA CTT+ Classroom Trainer	*CompTIA*
2006	Microsoft Certified Trainer - MCT	*Microsoft*
2005	LPI (Linux Professional Institute) 101	*LPI*
2003	ICDL (International Computer Drivers Licence)	*ICDL*
2002	CompTIA Network Infrastructure Professional – CNIP Stackable Certification	*CompTIA*
2002	CompTIA Server+	*CompTIA*
2002	CompTIA IT Operations Specialist – CIOS Stackable Certification	*CompTIA*
2002	CompTIA Network+	*CompTIA*
2002	CompTIA A+	*CompTIA*