Phillip Kesling

Staff-Level Data Engineer

Greater Madison Area, WI | Open to Remote

phillip.kesling@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/phillipkesling | pkesling.github.io

SUMMARY

Staff-level data engineer with deep experience leading the design and delivery of end-to-end data platforms and data-backed products. Skilled in cloud-based analytical systems, orchestration, and Python/SQL transformation layers. Proven track record delivering durable pipelines, data models, APIs, and analytics systems used across large, distributed organizations. Known for cross-functional leadership, mentoring engineers, and enabling analytics and ML teams through reliable, well-governed data foundations.

EXPERIENCE

R&D Engineer, Software 6

Broadcom (VMware by Broadcom) · Remote · *Nov 2023 – Sept 2025*

- Led data platform, architecture, and analytics development for the Secure Release Platform, a cross-product initiative securing and auditing the software development lifecycle across VMware's product portfolio.
- Designed and built end-to-end data platforms including pipelines, curated datasets, APIs, and analytics surfaces supporting compliance, auditability, and executive visibility.
- Developed backend services modeling complex relationships across SCMs, CI/CD systems, build pipelines, infrastructure, and software supply chain components, enabling traceability across releases.
- Owned analytical data stores and platform reliability (PostgreSQL-backed), ensuring data was explainable, trustworthy, and suitable for internal and external audit use cases.
- Partnered cross-functionally with engineering, security, and product teams to define data contracts, clarify ownership boundaries, and evolve systems safely over time.

Staff II Engineer

VMware · Hybrid · *Aug 2013 – Nov 2023*

- Progressed from Senior MTS to Staff II Engineer, serving as a technical leader who drove architecture and delivery across data platforms, analytics, and engineering enablement.
- Designed and delivered scalable data platforms supporting engineering telemetry, KPIs, product usage, and customer lifecycle analytics across VMware's R&D organization.
- Architected VMware's internal R&D data warehouse, defining canonical data models, ingestion patterns, Python/SQL transformation layers, and governance practices that enabled scalable self-service analytics for engineering, product, and executive stakeholders.
- Built semantic layers and analytics abstractions on top of shared data foundations, enabling consistent, self-service reporting for executive leadership and individual engineers.

- Delivered curated, ML-ready datasets and platform capabilities supporting data science teams and experimentation workflows.
- Brought into ambiguous or at-risk initiatives to clarify direction, stabilize architecture, and align stakeholders across teams with competing priorities.
- Mentored and coached engineers globally, raising systems thinking, technical judgment, and consistency in engineering practices.

R&D Application Development Manager

VMware · On-site · *Jan 2008 – Aug 2013*

- Led design and evolution of large-scale internal platforms supporting VMware's product quality and release lifecycle, used by thousands of engineers.
- Oversaw systems spanning test automation, quality analytics, security scanning, and partner enablement.
- Established early practices around platform ownership, automation, and data-driven visibility that informed later enterprise data initiatives.

MTS – Lead Developer

VMware · On-site · *Apr 2006 – Dec 2007*

- Designed and built automation frameworks and internal tools enabling ISV partners and internal teams to validate integrations with VMware software.
- Developed systems supporting test lifecycle management, results aggregation, and reporting across manual and automated workflows.

Software Engineer, Storage

SGI · Mountain View, CA · On-site · *1998 – 2006*

- Built automation frameworks and tooling for testing, validating, and supporting high-end storage systems integrated with UNIX and Linux platforms.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Data & Platforms:** Data Engineering; Data Platforms; Data Pipelines; Data Modeling; Python; SQL; PostgreSQL
- **Pipelines & Reliability:** Apache Airflow; dbt; Data Quality; Data Observability; Python
- **Backend & Serving:** API Development; Microservices; Go (Golang); Python
- **Analytics:** Analytics Platforms; Business Intelligence (BI); Apache Superset; Tableau; Grafana
- **ML Enablement:** ML-Ready Datasets; Feature Engineering; Experimentation Support

LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION

Technical Leadership · Mentorship · Systems Thinking · Cross-Functional Collaboration · Globally Distributed & Remote Teamwork

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Computer Science; Minor, Mathematics
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, 1996 – 2000