Alex Santonastaso

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Software Engineer with a background in Computer Science and Big Data Science. Experienced in building automation tools, data pipelines, and machine learning models using Python. I have a good understanding of APIs and cloud services, and I'm quick to learn new technologies on the job. I enjoy solving real world problems through efficient, maintainable code and collaborating to build great products and services.

SKILLS

Programming Languages & Tools: Python, Java, SQL, Git
Backend & Automation: Selenium, OpenPyXL, Pandas, REST APIs, Email Automation (SMTP)
Web & Frontend: React, HTML, CSS
Cloud & DevOps: GitHub Actions, Docker, AWS
Soft Skills: Problem Solving, Team Collaboration, Effective Communication, Agile, Scrum, Bilingual (English & Italian)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intech Centre (National Careers Service Partner)   London, UK
Python Automation Engineer   *Jun 2024 – Present*
- **Built and deployed multiple Python automation tools** using Selenium and Pandas to eliminate repetitive admin tasks, **reducing manual workload by over 30 hours per week**.
- **Developed exam results processing system** for the City & Guilds Evolve platform, improving reporting speed, accuracy, and turnaround.
- **Automated exam results emails** by integrating Amelia API data, improving client response time and satisfaction.
- **Automated data entry, form submissions, and reporting** to support data-driven decisions and audit readiness.
- Managed enquiries, bookings, and scheduling for private courses and exams, maintaining smooth service delivery.

Queen Mary University of London   London, UK
Lab Demonstrator   *Sep 2023 – Apr 2024*
- **Offered individual support to students** in writing and debugging Python code for Machine Learning projects.
- **Helped students understand software engineering concepts**, including data structures and algorithms.

PROJECTS

Automated Facial Emotion Recognition
- Implemented facial emotion recognition using **GoogLeNet CNN**, achieving **high accuracy** on a deployment dataset and improving the model's capabilities.
- Prepared and pre-processed a FER dataset, including **face detection, face alignment, data augmentation, image duplicates removal**, and trained a second model for **recognising emotions in blurred images.**

Ethereum Blockchain Data Analysis
- Performed analysis on the raw high volume data of Ethereum blockchain by implementing a set of **Hadoop** and **PySpark** Map/Reduce operations such as aggregation, moving window technique.
- Implemented data visualisation using **Matplotlib** and **Seaborn** to present key insights and trends.

EDUCATION

Queen Mary University of London   London, UK
Master of Science in Big Data Science with Machine Learning Systems, **Distinction**   *Jan 2022 - Jan 2023*

University of Westminster   London, UK
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, **First Class Honours**   *Sep 2018 - Sep 2021*