

Stephen Nicholson

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As a seasoned Data Engineer and Software Engineer with over 3 years of hands-on experience, I have consistently delivered high-impact projects that have significantly contributed to organisational success. Armed with expertise in Python, SQL, and data workflows, coupled with a profound understanding of Machine Learning Operations (MLOps), I have successfully spearheaded initiatives resulting in substantial cost savings, increased efficiency, and improved fraud detection capabilities. With a solid foundation in Computer Science and a Master's degree in Big Data, I am now seeking a senior-level role where I can leverage my skills and leadership to drive innovation and excellence in data engineering and software development.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Python
- SQL
- Data Engineering
- Machine Learning
- ETL
- Cloud Technologies (AWS, Azure)
- Apache Spark
- DevOps
- Data Analytics
- Agile Methodologies

SOFT SKILLS

- Leadership
- Problem-Solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Attention to Detail
- Time Management
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Decision Making

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Senior Data Engineer - Smart Data Foundry, Edinburgh

August 2023 — Present

- Engineered high-performance data pipelines utilising Apache Arrow and Polars in Python, slashing processing times by 65% and optimising data management for 4 key data partners.
- Spearheaded the adoption of Airflow workflows, streamlining processes and boosting overall efficiency by 30%.
- Instrumental in deploying Python data pipelines on AWS, powering R Shiny dashboards, and enabling crucial insights into the cost-of-living crisis while reducing operational costs by 25%.

Machine Learning Engineer - NatWest Group, Edinburgh

July 2022 — August 2023

- Led the development of ETL pipelines using Apache Spark and Python, resulting in a 20% increase in accuracy for a critical fraud detection model.
- Pioneered the implementation of MLOps best practices, enhancing the scalability and performance of machine learning models across diverse platforms.
- Developed PySpark pipelines on Hadoop to ensure GDPR compliance for customer data processing, encompassing 19 million records.

Data Engineer - NatWest Group, Edinburgh

November 2020 — July 2022

- Orchestrated the integration of customer data into Neo4j using PySpark pipelines, delivering a £7M cost-saving initiative and fortifying fraud detection capabilities.
- Collaborated closely with data scientists to engineer features for ML models, significantly improving predictive accuracy by 15%.
- Championed the development and adoption of Python packages for building data pipelines, driving efficiency and standardisation bank-wide.

Graduate Automation Engineer - Momenta Group Global, Glasgow

May 2020 — November 2020

- Developed a Python-based automation solution for bot statistics reporting, resulting in a 25% boost in team productivity.
- Consulted with clients to refine RPA bot requirements, ensuring seamless integration and optimal performance.
- Enhanced incident resolution and performance of Automation Anywhere and UiPath bots, minimising downtime by 30% and improving overall efficiency by 20%.

Data Scientist - The Scottish Government, Edinburgh

June 2019 — August 2019

- Leveraged R programming to develop predictive regression models, providing actionable insights for informed decision-making.
- Spearheaded the adoption of R programming within the team, leading to substantial cost savings for software licence fees.
- Provided comprehensive training in R programming, empowering colleagues to leverage advanced analytics techniques effectively.

EDUCATION

Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Big Data - University of Stirling, Stirling

2019

- Distinction

Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Computer Science - The University of Stirling, Stirling

2018