Ting Zhang

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EXPERIENCE

Brown Institute, Senior Engineer — June 2020–Present

Data Engineer for the Local News Initiative, a small team developing open-source tools to help small- and medium-sized local newsrooms sustain their businesses.

Code Cooperative, Technical Mentor — May 2020–Present

Mentor justice-involved individuals with a curriculum they co-create.

BuzzFeed, Senior Software Engineer — Oct 2018–June 2020

Data Engineer on the Distribution Tools team; use Python, Tornado, NSQ, MySQL, Redis, BigQuery, Airflow, Jupyter, Pandas, Sklearn, Datadog.

- Collaborated on architecture and implementation of a publishing pipeline, which auto-uploads and smart-recommends content that drives 15% of the company's social link clicks (96M in a three month span).
- Designed and implemented a channel relevance prediction API, increasing pipeline flexibility and visibility.
- Developed an ML model to predict earning potential for video recirculation, correctly classifying the highest earning content in one of the top two earning buckets 86% of the time.
- Redesigned our model training and serving infrastructure with the goals of job isolation and resilience.
- Managed a successful summer intern whose project reduced recommendation dismissal rate by 57%.
- Mentored data scientists and more junior engineers in software architecture and technical document writing.

Sabbatical, Participant at Recurse Center — July 2018–Sep 2018

Participant focusing on machine learning fundamentals and data ethics at a self-structured technical learning retreat.

BuzzFeed, Software Engineer ➜ Senior Software Engineer — Feb 2015–June 2018

Backend Engineer on the Video Infrastructure team & Data Pipeline Engineer on the Data Infrastructure team; used Python, Tornado, Django, NSQ, MySQL, Amazon Elasticsearch, Amazon S3, Datadog.

- Collaborated on architecture design for in-house data collection pipeline infrastructure.
- Implemented monitoring for our data collection pipeline to surface when and why ETL processes fail.
- Designed and integrated stats collection from external APIs, including YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.
- Architected and implemented a microservice-oriented approach to internal video search.
- Designed and implemented an API providing canonical user references across the company's tech ecosystem.
- Implemented an asynchronous video release process to provide transcoded videos for distribution.
- Collaborated with a group of six diverse engineers to write our tech organization's Code of Conduct.

Girl Develop It, Instructor — Jul 2015–Mar 2017

Instructed a two-hour Intro to Algorithms course.

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Proficient with Python; Familiar with Java, JavaScript, Perl, Ruby
Frameworks: Proficient Tornado; Familiar with Django, Rails, Sinatra, T3JS
Data Warehouses: Proficient with Elasticsearch, MySQL; Familiar with Redis, BigQuery
Tools: Proficient with NSQ; Familiar with Airflow, Jupyter, Pandas, Sklearn
Natural Languages: Proficient in English, Spanish; Familiar with French, Italian, Mandarin

EDUCATION

Columbia University – New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Cultural Anthropology, May 2013