BRYCE CHAMBERLAIN, ASA, MS-ADS
Independent Senior Contractor for Analytical Projects
bryce@brycechamberlainllc.com 801.879.6339 www.brycechamberlainllc.com

I'm an independent contractor helping companies build custom cloud apps and leverage data science, visual analytics, and AI.

I've only recently gone independent, but I already have a few public projects where you can view my work:
- https://github.com/superchordate/aware-chicago (React, OpenLayers)
- https://github.com/superchordate/ASEC-census-helper (R Shiny, Census Data)

I have worked in analytics for over 12 years, recently building a team of developers from scratch to support a custom analytics platform running over a hundred custom apps. I'm a credentialed actuary (ASA) and earned a Masters in Applied Data Science (MS-ADS). I have experience with many technologies, blending data engineering, data science, and web development and I've built custom end-to-end analytical applications for the web with a penchant for efficiency and design that results in lower cost, faster turnaround, and easier maintenance after my part in a project ends.

I offer affordable rates, free consultation and estimates, project-based guarantees, and no minimums, so contact me today and let's chat about how I can help! Here are some ideas:

- **Custom Business Intelligence in the Cloud**: *reporting, visualization, data management, process support, serverless cloud infrastructure.* A custom solution gives better odds of success than an off-the-shelf option (Power BI, Tableau) and might even cost you less. I spent the last five years building a team and platform supporting over a hundred R Shiny applications. I've seen it all and have deep expertise in this technology. I also have experience with React and Streamlit (Python).

- **Generative AI and Large Language Models**: *design/build/test/deploy AI agents.* Agents are programs that take user input and then go through a series of structured prompts to help users get consistent, structured, and optimized results from models like ChatGPT. I can build agents and use open-source models to save money. I can also fine-tune models for your specific use case.

- **Data Science:** *predictive and inference modeling, neural networks, clustering, recommendation systems.* These open-ended projects can quickly grow outside the initial scope, so I use an approach that focuses on beginning with a clear and achievable goal and then efficiently working towards it. As an actuary, I take a careful approach to ensure you get a model that adds value. If you have a problem and some data, I can help you make the connection.

- **R/Python Coding & Automation:** *optimization, code review, testing, code writing, and modification.* I am the main contributor to the easyr package and have extensive knowledge in R, including how to write it so that it takes a fraction of the time to run. I have also worked with Python, SAS, Java, VBA, and more. I can easily plug into any code-based project to help you manage code or automate manual processes.

- **Expert Technical Support & Leadership:** *hiring, training, code review, troubleshooting.* An expert can solve a problem in minutes, which would take hours for an entry-level hire. If you need an expert, projects may take longer than they need to. I provide just-in-time expertise and mentorship so you can make an entry-level hire while having expert support when needed. I can also lend my team-building expertise to help you grow your team.

Frequently Asked Questions

I can't share data with outside contractors. What options does that leave us, and what flexibility do you offer to ensure sensitive information stays secure?

We can build a solution on dummy data. Saving sensitive data until production is part of a best-practice secure software development life cycle. I will carefully follow requirements from your IT team, work on hardware and networks that you provide, or even come on-site to complete a project. I have experience building enterprise solutions that are accessed over the public internet and, therefore, must meet stringent security standards, including Dynamic and Static Application Security Testing (DAST, SAST).

What is the benefit of hiring an independent contractor vs hiring a full-time employee?

We usually hire because current capacity is strained, but we don't have enough extra work to fill a 40-hour week. As a result, we are forced to put stress on current employees while we wait for that unfilled capacity to grow until we can make the case that a hire is needed. When we make a hire, they don't have enough work and must find low-impact projects to fill their day, and these low-impact temporary projects can become permanent.

A better approach is to work with a contractor as soon as your current team is becoming stressed. Then, once that contractor is doing work that approaches a full-time employee, you can hire a new person to take over the role and release the contractor.

Another situation where contractors can help is when an expert is needed. An expert is only required for about 25% of the work in a typical project. If you contract with an expert, you can hire an entry-level employee and use a contractor to provide expert support and mentorship only as needed instead of hiring an expert and having them spend 75% of their time on entry-level work. Over time, your employees will gain the expertise themselves, and you can release the contractor.

Contractors can fill in for all those problems that a full-time employee doesn't solve efficiently. Unfortunately, all the contracting companies I've worked with require a full-time employee or more, making these benefits impossible to realize. However, with an independent contractor, the minimums are unnecessary, so it is the perfect solution!

In addition, emerging trends like overemployment and quiet quitting are making hiring employees more difficult and risky. With an independent contractor, the working relationship is simpler and more flexible, and you can get a summary of how hours are being spent, reducing the risk of paying a full-time salary for part-time work.

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EDUCATION

Master of Science in Applied Data Science @ University of Chicago — May 2022
Broad education using data science to solve business problems. *Won Best in Show in my cohort capstone project.*

Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA) @ Society of Actuaries *(Credential)* — Feb 2016
Rigorous exams, modules, and courses over a span of 8 years (Actuarial Science, Finance, Statistics).

B.S. Mathematics - Actuarial Science Emphasis @ Utah State University — Dec 2010
Minors in Economics and Statistics. Cum Laude.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Technical Contractor @ Independent — Present / Jan 2024
- I became an independent contractor in 2024. I help clients by providing expert analytics support.

Principal @ Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting — Jan 2024 / Oct 2017
- Built two web-based products from ideas into national offerings with over $4 million combined revenue.
- Grew a profitable and happy team of 5 developers. Fully responsible for hiring, training, mentoring, etc. Managed over 20 projects at a time and over 900 hours of work each month.
- Developed a novel approach to serving apps on AWS with elastic compute and minimal license cost.
- Created data science pipelines for efficient and explainable decision support.
- Negotiated major, national IT transitions to minimize client and team impact.
- Represented firm in trade magazines, webinars, and speaking opportunities.

Sr. Information Analyst, Sales Operations @ The Vitality Group — Oct 2017 / Feb 2015
- Recruited by prior employer as a result of outstanding work in prior role.
- Salesforce.com support including development, front-end design, admin, custom integrations/automation, alerts, analytics, and marketing automation.
- Designed, developed, and deployed solutions including cost modeling, document automation with VBA, web development, custom analytics and dashboards, monitoring and integration for lead-generation, statistical model selection, analyzing and propensity-matching data, and data extraction.

Actuarial Analyst @ Anthem — Feb 2015 / Aug 2013
- Established best practices for application design/implementation and SQL queries.
- Built and implemented an underwriting application using MS Access with embedded Excel.

Actuarial Analyst @ The Vitality Group — Aug 2013 / Apr 2011
- Worked with an international team in the US, UK, South Africa, and China.
- Designed and performed propensity matching analysis which won a C. Everett Koop Award.

SKILLS & INDEPENDENT WORK

Expert: Leadership, Team Development & Management, Product & Project Management, Data Viz, R, R Shiny, JS/CSS/HTML, Git, Highcharts, Excel, Classification/Regression, Data Engineering, Model Training/Testing/Monitoring.

Advanced: Big Data (Optimization/Spark/Hadoop), Cloud Engineering, Statistics, UX, DevOps, Salesforce.com (Admin/Visualforce/Apex), Python, Pytorch, SQL, Time Series.

Familiar: PHP, Java, PowerPoint, VBA. Proven ability to research, learn, optimize, and lead in any new technology.

Public work at GitHub and LinkedIn (Articles, Projects, and Publications).

Personal interests: Meditation & Buddhist Philosophy, Video & Board Games, Travel, Reading, Music (published two albums as a solo singer-songwriter).