

Arni Mar Thrastarson

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A staff-level engineer with 13 years experience, delivering consistent impact in highly complex technical and business domains, including at **Meta (Facebook)**, **Microsoft**, and a boutique **prop trading** firm.

Employment

Meta. Staff Data Engineer, 2023-2025.

Meta. Senior Data Engineer, 2021-2023.

Tech lead for a team of DEs in Ads across Gaming and Ecommerce verticals. Domain expert in the App Ads horizontal, an ads business with ownership of double digit billion dollars ARR. Reported to a Director.

I delivered full stack monitoring that is reviewed daily by Ads leadership at VP level and informed company strategy and investments on a billion dollar scale.

DE TL for a multi-year program to improve probabilistic ad campaign attribution internally and with 3rd party solution providers. Identified opportunities that at launch had ~1.5% incremental revenue lift for Meta.

Developed a new ML model to segment revenue accounts into advertising verticals, improving accuracy by 30pp, with significant implications to revenue tracking and ads product growth.

Paid for more than my salary every year by making measurable improvements in efficiency of production pipelines and systems.

I mostly worked with Python, Spark, SQL, PyTorch, and in-house dashboarding tools.

Microsoft. Senior Data Engineer, 2020.

Microsoft. Data Engineer II, 2018-2020.

On the Data Science team supporting Dynamics 365 Guides, a Mixed Reality business application for the HoloLens. I developed production pipelines for machine learning and ETL, and AI product features.

I worked with large distributed data systems similar to Hadoop, using Python with Spark and Kubernetes. I build event-driven serverless AI services in Azure. I led the work on privacy and enterprise data compliance for our organization.

Coltrane Ewing. Data Engineer, 2014-2018.

I worked on a professional sports betting prop trading shop run by Haralobos Voulgaris, the most successful basketball sports bettor of all time.

I owned all production data (e.g. high-frequency player tracking data) across multiple supports, used for quantitative research and worked closely with the smartest quant researchers in the field.

I developed an ML model for a key feature in our prediction models that outperforms any public result for a known problem in sports analytics. Other modelling projects included clustering, regression analysis, supervised classification and ranking.

I was the lead developer of a system for placing hundreds of betting orders simultaneously through automated bots to maximize throughput and minimize adverse price movements. This was a core system to the organization's bottom line.

Two Circles. Lead Engineer, 2020-2021.

I was the tech lead for a team developing a modern data analytics platform for a major client servicing all college sports in the US. Python, Spark, Delta Lake, Tableau, Azure, and Databricks.

University of British Columbia. Graduate Research Assistant, 2013-2014.

I did research on change detection in structured relational data, to propagate valuable updates from applications to original sources.

Landsvirkjun (Iceland National Power Company). Software Engineer, 2010-2012.

R&D department. I wrote software that enabled management to monetize losses due to spills in Iceland's main energy generation system.

Education

M.Sc. in Computer Science. University of British Columbia, 2014.

Thesis topic: Update propagation in distributed data systems. Supervisor: Dr. Rachel Pottinger.

B.Sc. in Computer Science, Software Engineering. Double major. University of Iceland, 2012.

1st class honours.

Stanford Summer International Honors Program. Stanford University, 2011.

I was chosen to be a part of a small group of excellent international students to attend this program on a full scholarship. I completed 3 fully accredited courses with a GPA of over 3.9/4.0.

Studentsprof. Commercial College of Iceland. 2008.

Comparable to two years of university-level foundation courses in an American junior college.

Technical Experience

Programming languages:

Python (incl. numpy, pandas, pyspark, scikit-learn, pytorch), SQL, JavaScript. (Most current proficiency)

Java, Scala, C#, PHP, R, d3.js. (Intermediate proficiency)

Other tools:

Kubernetes, Azure, AWS, Apache Kafka, MySQL, DataBricks.

Teaching

University of British Columbia. Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2012-2013.

Led tutorials, gave office hours, graded projects in five offerings of the course Introduction to Relational Databases. Tools: SQL, Eclipse.

University of Iceland. Teaching Assistant, 2010-2012.

In the courses Introduction to Programming, Data Structures and Algorithms, Discrete Mathematics, and Analysis of Algorithms. Tools: Java.

Extracurricular Activities

Commercial College of Iceland. Student body president, 2007-2008.

I coordinated all social activities in the largest student organization in Iceland. I led negotiations with some of the largest companies in the country, and supervised the operation of 120 student volunteers.

Student Alliance of Icelandic Colleges. Chairman, 2007-2008.

I played an active role in protecting the interests of college students and organized lobbying on both the provincial and federal level.

Commercial College of Iceland. Captain of the trivia team, 2004-2008.

I competed in the nationally broadcast *Gettu betur* trivia quiz competition between Icelandic colleges. My team won a silver medal, as well as reaching semifinals twice and quarterfinals once. In 2006 I was the captain of the school's intercollegiate debate team.

Awards

Stanford University. Full scholarship to attend the selective Stanford Summer International Honors program, 2011.

Islandsbanki (Bank of Iceland). Scholarship for outstanding students in higher institutions, 2010.

Commercial College of Iceland, 100 year achievement fund. Award for an outstanding contribution to student life, 2008.