

Interview Subject: Meghan Thomason
Company: Denali Publisher and Triller
Company size: 20 – 50 employees
Company holding: Private
Job Title: Data Scientist
Interview Date: 8/16/2019
Interview Format: Phone call
Approximate Interview Length: 30 minutes

1. How would you describe your company's industry?

Denali published and Triller function in the digital media and social networking industries. Denali publisher creates games for mobile devices and Triller is a social network.

2. How would you describe your role within your company?

Meghan's title is Data Scientist, however currently she describes her role as more similar to data engineering. Recently she has started taking on more management responsibilities and anticipates these to expand.

3. What is the size of your primary team?

She works in a small team of three other data scientists.

4. On a daily basis, what do spend most of your time doing?

She spends most of her time organizing data using SQL and other tools. She is currently designing a data pipeline to help organize the company's data and hopes to utilize machine learning in the near future after the data are organized.

5. Is this your first data science role and how did you find this position?

Yes. She learned about the position from a contact she made at a tech conference.

Interview Subject: Heather Passmoore
Company: Great Schools
Company size: 51-200
Company holding: Nonprofit
Job Title: Data Science Analyst
Interview Date: 8/27/2019
Interview Format: Phone
Approximate Interview Length: 30 minutes

1. How would you describe your company's industry?

Great Schools functions mostly in the non-profit sector, although does generate some income from advertising.

2. How would you describe your role within your company?

Heather works on the data team as the sole data scientist. Her direct supervisor also possesses data science skills and they anticipate expanding their data science team in the future, which would probably involve her assuming some additional, official supervisory responsibilities.

3. What is the size of your primary team?

Heather works in a small team of eight workers supervised by a single person.

4. On a daily basis, what do you spend most of your time doing?

Heather spends most of her time writing new code or revising old code using R. Most of this work relates to the company's website. She also conducts some research, data cleaning and data management.

5. Is this your first data science role and how did you find this position?

This is Heather's first data science role. She found the position through a personal contact from her brother.

Interview Subject: George Mendoza
Company: Hypergiant
Company size: 180
Company holding: Private, start-up
Job Title: Data Scientist
Interview Date: 9/10/2019
Interview Format: Phone call
Approximate Interview Length: 20 minutes

1. How would you describe your company's industry?

Hypergiant operates as technology consulting firm offering machine learning and product development solutions for industry and government clients. Clients include those from diverse industries.

2. How would you describe your role within your company?

George works as a data scientist, concentrating on applied uses of machine learning to solve client problems. His duties vary depending on the client. He takes a business-focused approach to his job. His responsibilities sometimes involve project management.

3. What is the size of your primary team?

George works in a group of 12 data scientists in the data division. Based on the project, he teams with one to three other data scientists at a time. Team composition rotates as well, based on the individual project.

4. On a daily basis, what do spend most of your time doing?

George uses machine learning tools in his role. His current project involves the use of NLP to classify written notes entered by field workers to maximize the efficiency of responses to alarms resulting in emergency equipment maintenance.

5. Is this your first data science role and how did you find this position?

George's current position represents his first data science role, but he previously worked in data-centric jobs. His current job was the first he obtained after finishing the Data Science Career Track at Springboard. He landed his job by selectively applying to job adds posted online. His experienced relatively high success in his initial job search, obtaining three interviews out of four applications, and receiving two offers. Although his current job initially offered less than the other offering, he eventually negotiated a raise. He attributes this to the flexibility of a small company and doubts whether a similar role in a large company would offer a similar opportunity to negotiate a raise.

Interview Subject: Dmitriy Kats

Company: Spyglaz

Company size: ?

Company holding: ?

Job Title: Lead Data Scientist

Interview Date: TDB – early October

Interview Format: Phone

Approximate Interview Length: TDB

1. How would you describe your company's industry?

2. How would you describe your role within your company?

3. What is the size of your primary team?

4. On a daily basis, what do spend most of your time doing?

5. Is this your first data science role and how did you find this position?

Interview Subject: E. Chris Lynch

Company: Contra Costa County

Company size: ?

Company holding: Government

Job Title: ?

Interview Date: TBD

Interview Format: Phone

Approximate Interview Length: TBD

1. How would you describe your company's industry?

2. How would you describe your role within your company?

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