



## Walt Wells

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[waltwells.com](http://waltwells.com)

**Software Engineer  
with Background in  
Applied Data Science**

## Skills

Python

R

SQL

Linux

AWS / GCP

Docker

Terraform

Git

Jenkins / GHA

Model Deployment

Machine Learning

## Publications

Visit:

[linkedin.com/in/walt-wells/](https://linkedin.com/in/walt-wells/)

**Summary:** Fast learner, force multiplier and problem solver with diverse experiences in applied machine learning, data engineering, data science, nonprofits and music. Servant leader looking to join, contribute to and grow talented teams tasked with solving hard technical, cultural and organizational problems.

**Interests:** Applied machine learning, distributed systems, Python, cloud native

**Seeking:** Opportunities in NE Ohio or remote work

## Employment History

### Progressive Insurance

#### Data/ML Engineer Lead

MARCH 2019

- Evaluated, scoped and currently delivering an enterprise data orchestration platform using Prefect Cloud to support Progressive's analytics, data science and data warehousing communities.
  - Currently delivering software libraries and Prefect execution environment infrastructure abstractions to hide complexity and increase user adoption.
- Team lead for design and delivery of secure and scalable machine learning services integrated with Progressive.com resulting in > \$150MM annual value, accelerated lead time to value and business customers empowered to run regular experiments.
  - Delivered accompanying python CLIs to accelerate Q/A and simulate request data generation.
  - Leveraged Dockerized and idempotent CI/CD deployment patterns with automated unit and integration testing.
  - Enabled model health monitoring and alerting through ML logging with flask and structlog, AWS Cloudwatch, AWS Kinesis, AWS Lambda, and AWS Athena.
  - Delivered "batch" validation tooling using AWS ephemeral resources and multiprocessing in python.
  - Developed long term vision for a model-serving product beyond the initial effort and socialized across business and IT leadership. Received executive buy-in to grow headcount and staff a product team.
- Started as first data-oriented software engineer hire at Progressive, helping to establish a highly productive work culture based on openness, transparency, fast feedback and servant leadership where a good idea can come from any one at any time.
  - Showed value in software engineering approach to data/ml and got leadership buy-in to scale aggressively and transform existing IT data organization.
  - Mentored 3 junior team members who have received multiple promotions.

#### Data / ML Engineer Senior

MARCH 2018 — MARCH 2019

- Modernized key underwriting modeling process using R, H2O, OpenStack, Ansible, and Terraform resulting in ~\$1.5 MM annual improvements in profitability.
- Demonstrated ingestion process of TiBs of speech to text call data into Hadoop analytic data warehouse using Python, Dask, Sqoop and Hive.

## Center for Computational Science Research

### Director of Operations

JUNE 2015 — FEBRUARY 2018

- Managed stakeholders across government, business, and academia for data science 501c3 that operates the Open Commons Consortium, BloodPAC and the Data Mining Group.
- Facilitated relationships with NASA and NOAA to openly redistribute satellite data.
- Served as release and community manager for PMML and PFA, standards in predictive analytic deployment.
- Organized Data Group, Data Experience and Data Modeler working groups for national scale liquid biopsy data sharing project.

### Operations Manager

MARCH 2012 — MAY 2015

- Served as community and development manager for petabyte scale science clouds.
- Analyzed and modeled recommended uses for allocating available community resources.
- Managed governance for data contribution, data access, authentication and authorization for multiple major projects.

## Cause Effective

### Administrator

AUGUST 2004 — APRIL 2012

- Supported administrative needs for a 501c3 providing fundraising, board building and resource development services for NYC area nonprofits.

## Independent Professional Musician

JANUARY 2003

- Musician/Composer/Co-Founder of Jones Street Station. Regular side-man in NYC.

## Education

Masters of Science (MS) in Data Science, CUNY - *August 2018*

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Ethnomusicology, Indiana University - *December 2001*

## Github Contributions at Progressive Insurance

~3k contributions to the Progressive organization's inner-source codebases

