Aaron D. Gonzalez

LEAD DATA ENGINEER

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Experience

People, Inc.   *New York, New York*

LEAD DATA ENGINEER   *Feb. 2025 - Present*

SENIOR DATA ENGINEER - 2   *Oct. 2023 - Feb. 2025*

- Project managed the DataOps roll out of CICD pipelines.
  - Collaborated with stakeholders to ensure each team's acceptance criteria were included in the resulting pipelines.
  - Maintained and implemented new tests to increase code quality and accuracy.
  - Evaluated emerging data engineering technologies, frameworks, and best practices, and adopted their use.
    * Reduced Jenkins build times by 87%.
- Principal technical owner of our dbt platform migration off dbt Cloud.
  - Successfully migrated approx. 500 dbt models & tests to dbt core.
  - Led educational sessions on how to develop with the dbt CLI.
  - Identified inefficiencies in BigQuery queries and implemented optimizations.
    * Reduced data scanned by 81%, cutting cost and improving performance.
- Optimized data orchestration workflows.
  - Investigated and planned migration of legacy DAGs from cron schedules to event-based Dataset schedules.
  - Fine-tuned DAG configurations dependent on Serverless technologies to prioritize cost savings.
- Focused on Platform Engineering features to allow for increased self-service.
  - Deployment of dev dbt Airflow DAGs.
- Offered technical leadership by supervising direct reports & mentoring junior developers.
  - Hosted an ongoing Lunch & Learn to encourage peer-led team learning for technical & non-technical audiences.
  - Due to my comprehensive understanding of our codebase, I was tasked with mentoring and/or pair programming with new hires.

Density   *New York, New York*

SENIOR DATA ENGINEER   *Jul. 2022 - Oct. 2023*

- Designed and implemented data pipelines to ingest into our data lake and warehouses.
  - Configured Fivetran connectors & wrote Python ELT pipelines to our data warehouse.
  - Securely containerized pipelines; deployed on Amazon ECS and GCP Cloud Run.
  - Set up AWS' CloudWatch metric alarms and SNS to add a level of data observability that was previously missing prior to my joining the team.
  - Advocated to adopt usage of a more robust Data Orchestration option; single-handedly ported legacy repos to use Prefect 2.0.
  - Wrote robust CI/CD workflows for our pipeline Git repositories.
- Managed our team's GCP project.
  - Designed and deployed our Data Analytics and Engineering team's data infrastructure.
  - With security in mind, configured custom IAM roles to adhere to the principle of least privilege.
- Owned and maintained the Data Analytics and Engineering team's dbt project.
  - Increased visibility of data lineage by securely hosting dbt docs for our organization.
  - Utilized data modeling strategies dependent on end use cases (e.g., Kimball dimensional vs Inmon normalized models).
- Contributed to our OpenAI integration to develop a self-service data analytics feature for our customers.

Dotdash Meredith   *New York, New York*

SENIOR DATA ENGINEER   *Dec. 2021 - Jul. 2022*

DATA ENGINEER   *Dec. 2017 - Dec. 2021*

- Interfaced with end users (e.g., Data Science, Performance Marketing, etc.) to implement custom data pipeline solutions to address requirements.
- Conducted design and code reviews with an emphasis on teaching junior members.
- Maintained, optimized, and developed new data integrations to curate our Presto & BigQuery data lake.
  - Optimistic Partition Adder reduced task execution time from >20 hours to a number of seconds.
  - Refactored a legacy PySpark job, resulting in a 92% reduction in execution time.
- Decreased the introduction of tech debt in key repos by leveraging previously unused Git hooks.

Skills

Cloud Providers	Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform - Professional Data Engineer Certified
Technologies	Python, SQL, bash, Rust, git, dbt, Docker, Airflow, Prefect, Kubernetes, Fivetran, Looker, CI/CD, Github Actions, Jenkins Pipeline, Terraform, PySpark, Apache Beam, Hive

Education

Cornell University   *Ithaca, New York*

B.A., AMERICAN STUDIES

Brooklyn College, The City University of New York   *New York, New York*

M.S., EDUCATION

Hunter College, The City University of New York   *New York, New York*

M.S.W