Alex Narayan (Data Engineer)

email: alex@alexandarnarayan.com | website: gigatexal.blog | LinkedIn: alexandarnarayan | Location: Berlin, Germany | Nationality: American

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Summary:

Pragmatic and capable engineer with over 12 years of experience in data engineering. I have worn many hats over the years: Database Adminstrator, Python Developer, Site Reliability Engineer, Senior Data Engineer, and Lead Data Engineer. All of my experience from those previous roles has shaped me into a well-rounded and capable engineer that seeks solutions that are managable, cost-effective, well tested, and practical. Alongside technical skills I am a leader who enjoys building performant, happy teams.

Skills: SQL; Python; Terraform, Amazon Web Services (AWS); Google Cloud Platform (GCP); S3; Airflow; ETL; ELT; Kafka; Git; Shell Scripting; Linux; K8s; Documentation; Training; Data-Modeling; Public Speaking

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Experience:

Data Platform Engineer Blacklane GmbH October 2024 - Current

Senior Data Engineer focusing primarily on building out a scalable data platform for use of Data Science and Data Analysts in batch reporting and forecasting

- Led a team of 3 data engineers building out data infrastructure via Terraform on AWS to support Snowflake and Analysts using dbt-core
- Built ingestion infrastructure on AWS using Terraform and SQS, Kinesis, Firehose and S3 to process in near real-time 15M records per day compressing and storing it on S3 with no custom written Python reducing potential bug surface areas and maintainance costs
- Assisted in the migration of a dbt project (100+ models) from EMR/Hive/Presto to Snowflake
- Monitored and Maintained >20+ python source integrations (legacy) and >20+ sources in Fivetran
- Developed tooling around Snowflake to make development easier (ex. permission aware database cloning)
- Authored new and improved existing Airflow DAGs for use with dbt-core
- Championed documentation and knowledge sharing
- Led internal trainings
- Mentored junior engineers and analysts
- Leveraged data quality tools and testing practices to ensure data quality
- Created data ingestion and data quality dashboards to monitor data quality
- Participated in code reviews, data architecture planning

- Planned sprints, aligning greater department goals with each sprint

Lead Data Engineer Smartbroker AG Nov 2023 - Oct 2024

- Led a team of 4 senior data engineers in a multi-cloud (AWS & GCP) environment, delivering operational dashboards for stakeholders (reduced delivery time by >70%).
- Championed data democratization by designing & implementing a central BigQuery data warehouse (Snowflake-style), reducing new insight delivery from days to hours.
- Ensured GDPR compliance through BigQuery Data Catalog & data masking.
- Owned data engineering best practices: source control, code linting/formatting, & development workflows.
- Fostered a collaborative environment with regular retrospectives, documentation, & mentorship.
- Collaborated with stakeholders on cross-team initiatives (e.g., customer deduplication service for improved support success).

Senior Data Engineer Delivery Hero GmbH Jun 2020 - Nov 2023

- Designed & operationalized in-house Google Analytics replacement
- Coordinated with teams to define key metrics via RFC & ad-hoc investigations. Created GDPR-compliant schema for event ingestion.
- Designed, implemented, deployed, & documented CI/CD pipeline for AWS Lambda functions using Github Actions (HR Data Analysts). Prototyped design without production data access.
- Migrated >5TB Datawarehouse from Redshift to BigQuery. Validated requirements & migrated core fact and dimension tables. Optimized partitioning & clustering. Migrated Airflow DAGs.
- Championed performant & cost-effective BigQuery practices. Reviewed code for efficient queries & identified anti-patterns. Enforced partition filtering where applicable.
- Improved interview process: replaced take-home projects with pair-programming coding challenges in Python & SQL during technical interviews. Reduced offer time from 1-2 months to 3 weeks.
- Increased code documentation to >95% for critical infrastructure & models with a code review checklist & requirement for Confluence documentation.
- Created internal Git & Github guides (written & video) & conducted training after identifying engineer struggles.
- Helped to design and operationalize an in-house replacement for Google Analytics.
- Educated Analysts from other teams on how to best use our datasets.

Site Reliability Engineer Finleap Connect Oct 2019 - Mar 2020

- Assisted other SREs in building DevOps culture & improve cloud-native

deployment.

- Created monitoring dashboards & consulted on SLAs. Helped maintain Kubernetes infrastructure.
- Developed datalake consuming streaming data (Pub/Sub & Cloud Functions) using BigQuery to reduce operational overhead & increase reporting capabilities by >5X.

Python Software Engineer Finleap Connect (Formerly Figo GmbH) Nov 2018 - Oct 2019

- Migrated >1TB core product database to Kubernetes using CockroachDB. Wrote scripts for data export & validation. Saved days of engineering time & enabled seamless scaling.
- Developed features for the flagship Fintech banking API service in Flask/Python.

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Datawarehouse Engineer CorVel Corporation Sep 2017 - Apr 2018

- Managed, extended, & triaged internal ETL tool (C# & SSIS).
- Designed & deployed extensions to existing dimension and fact tables.
- Identified & fixed data quality issues.
- Ran, extended, and triaged internally designed ETL tool written in C# that leveraged Microsoft SSIS APIs.

Database Administrator CorVel Corporation Aug 2013 - Sep 2017

- Assisted Senior DBAs in configuring, securing, & performance testing SQL Servers.
- Reviewed SQL queries & fixed bottlenecks.
- Owned database object deployments (21+ databases across 3 environments) & daily production deployments.
- Provided on-call support.
- Maintained source control (TFS) & trained engineers in best practices.
- Developed Python & C# tools to aid DBAs.

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Education: BSc. Financial Economics - Brigham Young University - Idaho 2009-2013

References: Available on request

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