Michael Siers

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Data science appeals to my fascination with learning - I'm always learning about data through books, online courses, and talking to people. During my PhD candidature, I worked in a consulting-style role through the university and as a contracting data scientist for a multi-million-dollar Melbourne company. This involved working on several medium-large scale projects including: implementation of bespoke machine learning (ML) software for NSW Health, data analysis to discover how to improve the lives of ageing people for a chain of aged care organisations, directly pitching ML opportunities to business owners and executives, helping to build a $500,000+ data science team, and delivering tailored big data strategies for the next 1 to 2-years.

EXPERIENCE

Data Scientist (Contract) @ CREDIT CLEAR, MELBOURNE

March 2017 – May 2018

The groundwork that I did here convinced the directors to invest in a data science team which I've been largely involved in building. I report directly to the Chief Technology Officer and compose documents for presentation to the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities:

- Design of 1 to 2-year big data and machine learning strategies (Azure, ML)
- Predictive modelling and machine learning (Python, R, Java)
- Actionable insights extraction (Decision Trees, Clustering, SQL, R, dplyr)
- Directly work with CTO to build a team of data scientists
- Algorithm designs for enhancing current processes by incorporating machine learning

Achievements:

- Demonstrated how data science can enhance current business processes, thereby convincing the directors to plan for a $500K+ investment into a data science team.
- Designed several features which are now championed publicly to sell the product.
- Analysed the current state of the company to assess the skills and technologies required to implement the 1 to 2-year data strategy. This was thoroughly documented and is used to recruit data science candidates. The documentation is also used heavily to generate candidate suitability documentation for each applicant.

Owner/Data Scientist @ LAB COAT INSIGHTS

January 2017 – Present

I started Lab Coat Insights to carry out consulting work. Lab Coat Insights offers predictive modelling, data science consulting, machine learning and data analysis services. Most notable project includes Data science consulting for Credit Clear. For more details on this project, see the above role.

Research Officer (Data Science) @ CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

July 2015 – April 2017

I was fortunate to work in a consulting capacity for organisations external to the university. This included some awesome data science projects for the NSW government, local businesses, and aged care organisations. In this role, I was fortunate enough to work with 4 other brilliantly talented data scientists.

Responsibilities:

- Pitching data science projects to executives face-to-face.
- Actionable insights extraction (decision trees and clustering)
- Data wrangling & cleaning (Python, R, Java, Excel, Google Sheets)
- Data visualization (Tableau, Excel, Google Sheets)
- Database storage and querying (SQL, MS SQL, SQLite)

Achievements:

- Developed machine learning based software for the client: NSW Health. The software is now deployed and currently used by the client's data scientists to explore questions such as: "Which patients are most likely to be readmitted and why?" using advanced data mining algorithms.
- Discovered several key avenues for improvement in the quality of life for ageing persons. These were documented and presented to the project client – a chain of ageing persons' organisations.

Python Assessment Marker @ CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
March 2016 – March 2017

In this role, I marked Master's and Bachelor's degree assessments for Python programming.

Responsibilities:

- Program unit tests to run the student's python code against.
- Give constructive feedback on each element of the submission.
- Communicate with the student to settle marking disputes.

Achievements:

- As part of the teaching team for these two subjects, we achieved the Teaching Excellence award.

EDUCATION

PhD in Data Science @ CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
2015 - 2018 (Thesis is now being finalised.)
Thesis: "Data Science for Class Imbalanced and Cost-Sensitive Data"

Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) @ CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
2014
GPA: 7.0/7.0. Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award 2014.
Thesis: "The Application of Cost-Sensitive Data Mining to Software Defect Prediction."

Bachelor of Computer Science @ CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY
2010-2013
GPA: 5.4/7.0

DATA SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

My works on the topic of data science have been presented at four international conferences and in two highly regarded peer reviewed journals. Please refer to my google scholar profile to see the full collection.