Christofer Bäcklin

Senior Data Engineer

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Personal Statement

After my algorithm-heavy PhD I dived deep into engineering and have come to love working with software architecture and processes. As a social developer I like that it's technically challenging, inherently collaborative, and never the same from case to case.

Key Skills

Machine Learning Engineering. In my 15 years of professional experience with ML I have worked with all stages of the typical end-to-end pipeline: Ingesting business data, encoding into analyzable form, building models, decoding output to actionable form, testing, serving, presenting, and evaluating performance.

Software Development. I meet with product managers and customers' IT and business users on a weekly basis to design data intensive application features, then coordinate implementation across teams. Detailing the work well and keeping progress visible in Jira, Asana, or Trello is a given.

Technical Communication. Giving presentations, demos, lectures and writing documentation is a great way to solidify your skills on a given topic. I've done lots of it, on topics such as ML, causal inference, API design, functional programming, and best practices with specific tools. I also enjoy the aspect of performing for an audience.

Employment History

Senior Data Engineer. RELEX Solutions, Stockholm · Since 2022

Goto person for complex data model questions and data sharing across applications. Data Product Manager for promotions in the company-wide (~1000 developers) Snowflake data mesh (alpha stage).

Wrote mission-critical integrations to customer ERP systems, both modern cloud stacks and legacy retail systems (e.g. Oracle).

Highly engaged in operations enablement (tooling development and education), which is our main bottleneck for scaling the business.

Data Engineer / Data scientist. Formulate, Stockholm · 2016 – 2022

Was part of the small team that matured a Python prototype into a fully-fledged SaaS service for promotion analytics and optimization, run on Google Cloud Platform, and later acquired by RELEX Solutions.

Lead developer of in-house tools for data ingestion and ETL. Wrote a tool similar to DBT (2 years ahead of their initial release) that is still powering the vast majority of our OLAP and ML data prep workloads.

Routinely participated in customer dialogues (sales, onboarding, customer success) to solve data issues and explain our product to less technical audiences.

Data Scientist. Ocado Technology, Hatfield, UK · 2015 – 2016

Developed a method to predict the groceries that individual customers would buy in their next orders. Supplied the retail and web development departments with customer behavior and operational insights based on large volumes of data.

Education

PhD in Medical Bioinformatics. Uppsala University · 2010 – 2015.

Defended a thesis titled "Machine Learning Based Analysis of DNA Methylation Patterns in Pediatric Acute Leukemia based" containing **4 scientific publications** and one worldwide **patent application**. The work centered around predicting treatment outcome and risk of relapses based on large scale epigenetic data.

Department board member for 2 years, representing 100+ PhD students.

Taught a course in multivariate data analysis and design of experiments for bachelor students majoring in biotechnology for 4 years.

Earned a **StackOverflow reputation of 14.6k** from 229 posts reaching 1.2 million users, mostly on R programming.

BSc and MSc in Bioinformatics. Uppsala University · 2003 – 2009.

Highest grade in 48% of the courses.

Awarded six scholarships for my academic achievements and work with music related extracurricular activities, see "Other Merits" below.

Exchange Studies. Kyoto University, Japan · 2005 – 2006.

Studied Japanese, economics, and Asian political history out of personal interest.

Other Merits

External Presentations. Gave a commissioned **keynote on AI** at a conference in 2023 by Visma partner WH Group, focusing on retail applications for a non-expert audience.

Presented a **technical talk on event sourcing** at Stockholm Golang MeetUp's full-day conference in 2018, including live demo.

Languages. Speaks and writes **English** fluently. Native speaker of **Swedish**.

Music. Sang tenor 1 in **Stockholms Studentsångare** for 3 years (website).

Recorded an album with a world music band in 2013 (available on Spotify).

Played at the Nobel Banquet with the big band Phontrattarne in 2007 (website).

Arranged orchestral music and conducted a student orchestra for 6 years.
Chairmanned the Swedish national student orchestra association.

References

Submitted upon request.