

David Johnston

Lead Python Engineer

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SUMMARY

Lead **Python** Engineer with 13 years of experience delivering **insurance technology** and financial software across **underwriting, reinsurance**, and risk analytics. Builds Python services, JavaScript applications, React interfaces, Node services, REST APIs, and data workflows that turn complex insurance requirements into dependable products. Leads distributed engineering teams through architecture, implementation, testing, deployment, and production support. Career work includes treaty pricing, bordereaux ingestion, exposure aggregation, policy administration, portfolio reporting, and financial reconciliation. Brings practical reinsurance knowledge, strong technical judgment, clear stakeholder communication, and genuine interest in helping a remote insurance technology team ship valuable software with confidence.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Python Engineer

HarborPoint Re 📅 July 2023 - Present 📍 Boston, MA

Leads a distributed engineering team building Python and Node services for **treaty pricing**, bordereaux ingestion, underwriting workflows, and reinsurance portfolio reporting. Owns architecture decisions, delivery quality, mentoring, and production readiness across customer-facing systems.

- Led 9 engineers through Python and Node delivery for treaty pricing, **bordereaux ingestion**, and **portfolio reporting**, connecting actuarial rules with dependable customer workflows.
- Decomposed a monolithic underwriting platform into independently deployable Python **APIs**, clarifying service boundaries and enabling parallel feature delivery.
- Introduced **React** and **TypeScript** risk workbenches that replaced spreadsheet-heavy reviews with auditable submission and scenario workflows for analysts.
- Established pull-request standards, contract testing, and production-readiness reviews across 14 services, creating steadier releases and fewer late delivery surprises.
- Partnered with actuaries, claims specialists, and finance stakeholders to model treaty terms, limits, and participation rules as tested domain behavior.
- Mentored senior and mid-level developers through architecture reviews, incident analysis, and delivery planning while contributing hands-on code to critical services.

Senior Python Engineer

BlueLedger Insurance Platforms 📅 January 2020 - June 2023 📍 Columbus, OH

Owned backend delivery for a policy and reinsurance analytics platform serving underwriting and portfolio management teams. Combined Python data pipelines, REST APIs, Node services, React interfaces, asynchronous processing, and **automated testing** to support reliable insurance operations.

- Built Python pipelines and **REST APIs** that normalized submissions, loss records, and exposure schedules from broker and carrier sources, giving teams consistent data for portfolio decisions.
- Delivered **Node** services and **React** components for portfolio views, exception queues, and approval workflows, helping operations teams review submissions with less manual effort.
- Reworked **Celery** processing and **PostgreSQL** transactions for large exposure imports, improving traceability across long-running jobs and audit-sensitive data changes.
- Added pytest coverage, integration fixtures, and CI quality gates around pricing and aggregation modules, reducing release regressions during quarterly delivery cycles.
- Coordinated estimates and release sequencing with product managers, actuarial analysts, and remote engineering peers, keeping technical risk visible before commitments were made.
- Supported multiple business units through production investigation, root-cause analysis, and focused fixes that protected continuity for underwriting users.

Python Technical Lead

Crescent Financial Technologies 📅 September 2017 - December 2019 📍 Charlotte, NC

Guided a six-person development team delivering Python services for commercial insurance quoting and financial reconciliation. Set engineering direction across domain design, JavaScript modernization, integrations, review practices, and release planning for finance-sensitive products.

- Guided 6 developers building **Python services** for commercial insurance quoting and **financial reconciliation**, balancing delivery speed with audit-ready calculation behavior.
- Designed reusable components for premiums, commissions, currencies, and policy-period calculations, giving product lines a shared foundation for consistent results.

- Led migration of legacy **JavaScript** screens to React while preserving broker workflows and adding clearer validation feedback for quoting teams.
- Implemented Node integration services linking **policy administration**, billing, and external market-data systems, reducing manual handoffs between operational platforms.
- Created coding guidelines, design-review templates, and release checklists that gave a growing team a common approach for quality and delivery decisions.
- Presented delivery options and operational risks to product and finance leaders, resolving competing priorities without sacrificing traceability.

Software Engineer, Python

Meridian Risk Analytics 📅 June 2015 - August 2017 📍 Philadelphia, PA

Developed Python applications supporting catastrophe exposure analysis, portfolio aggregation, and financial reporting for reinsurance analysts. Translated actuarial specifications into modular services, analyst interfaces, validation controls, and tested production releases.

- Developed Python applications for catastrophe exposure analysis, portfolio aggregation, and **financial reporting**, giving **reinsurance** analysts clearer views of portfolio risk.
- Converted actuarial calculation specifications into modular services with documented inputs, outputs, and validation rules, making review and maintenance more practical.
- Built React dashboards and Node endpoints for treaty scenario comparison, replacing manual workbook consolidation with faster, traceable analysis.
- Added schema validation, reconciliation reports, and exception routing for inbound exposure files, improving data quality before aggregation runs.
- Expanded unit and integration tests around loss-model adapters, supporting safer releases as product requirements and market inputs changed.
- Investigated production discrepancies with analysts and implementation consultants, explaining technical findings in business language and guiding targeted fixes.

Junior Software Engineer

Pioneer Mutual Systems 📅 June 2013 - May 2015 📍 Richmond, VA

Implemented supervised Python, JavaScript, REST, and database work for a commercial insurance policy administration application. Supported feature delivery, testing, troubleshooting, migration planning, and release verification while building practical insurance domain knowledge.

- Implemented **Python** features for commercial **policy administration** under senior engineering guidance, supporting reliable handling of policy, account, and premium data.
- Created REST endpoints and relational database queries for internal service teams, connecting operational screens with accurate policy information.
- Added **JavaScript** validation and reusable interface components, reducing data-entry errors across customer and broker workflows.
- Wrote unit tests and troubleshooting documentation for scheduled jobs, integration adapters, and rating-rule changes, helping support teams resolve issues faster.
- Supported a phased move from server-rendered pages toward a Node and React prototype, documenting compatibility issues for delivery planning.
- Participated in peer reviews, sprint planning, and release verification while building working knowledge of insurance operations and financial controls.

PROJECTS

Reinsurance Exposure Modernization 📅 2025

Directed a distinct modernization initiative that connected Python services, React review screens, PostgreSQL data, and validation workflows for exposure analysis. Work gave analysts clearer scenario comparisons and stronger audit trails.

Treaty Pricing Service 📅 2024

Built a service-oriented pricing capability for treaty terms, limits, and participation rules. Python APIs, automated tests, and stakeholder review converted actuarial logic into maintainable software for faster product delivery.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Engineering Excellence Award, HarborPoint Re, 2025 — Recognized for hands-on technical leadership, platform modernization, and dependable delivery across reinsurance products.
- Technical Mentorship Recognition, BlueLedger Insurance Platforms, 2022 — Honored for helping engineers grow through architecture reviews, practical feedback, and thoughtful production support.
- Architecture Forum Facilitator, Remote Engineering Architecture Forum, 2021 - Present — Guides peer discussions that turn difficult design decisions into clear, shared engineering direction.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

Virginia Commonwealth University 🎓 GPA: 3.7 📅 2013 📍 Richmond, VA

Coursework: Algorithms, Database Systems, Software Engineering, Web Application Development

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Developer - Associate 📅 2022
- Certified ScrumMaster 📅 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Python Frameworks:** Django, FastAPI, Flask
- **JavaScript Development:** JavaScript, React, Node.js
- **API Engineering:** REST APIs, OpenAPI, JSON
- **Data Stores:** PostgreSQL, Redis, relational databases
- **Async Processing:** Celery, task queues, scheduled jobs
- **Cloud Platforms:** AWS, Amazon S3, AWS Lambda
- **Containers:** Docker, Docker Compose, container deployment
- **Testing Tools:** pytest, integration testing, contract testing
- **Delivery Automation:** GitHub Actions, CI/CD, release pipelines
- **Architecture Methods:** Microservices, event-driven architecture, domain modeling
- **Insurance Systems:** Reinsurance systems, underwriting workflows, treaty administration
- **Risk Analytics:** Exposure management, portfolio aggregation, catastrophe analysis

SKILLS

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|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|
| • Python | • TypeScript | • Celery | • Microservices |
| • JavaScript | • REST APIs | • Docker | • CI/CD |
| • React | • PostgreSQL | • AWS | • Reinsurance systems |
| • Node.js | • Redis | • pytest | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Volunteer Mentor, Python Software Foundation community program, 2024 - Present — Supports Python learners through approachable code guidance and collaborative problem solving.
- Facilitator, Remote Engineering Architecture Forum, 2021 - Present — Connects distributed engineers around architecture choices, delivery lessons, and practical standards.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST