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Hiring Manager
Northstar Portal Systems
Denver, Colorado
Denver, Colorado, United States

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am applying for the Python Developer - Associate position at Northstar Portal Systems. My work has centered on the difficult part of data extraction: making automation reliable when a portal is JavaScript-heavy, authentication-secured, and prone to changing without notice. Over seven years, I have built Python services for financial, healthcare, legal, and enterprise portals using Playwright, asynchronous Python, requests, Scrapy, and AWS.

In my current role, I reworked MFA, cookie, session, and token handling into isolated authentication components backed by AWS Secrets Manager. I also orchestrated Lambda and Step Functions workloads that distribute extraction across portal accounts while enforcing retries, timeouts, and rate controls. CloudWatch dashboards and structured logs made it possible to distinguish a failed navigation from a CAPTCHA interruption or an incomplete record, giving the operations team a clear next step instead of a generic job failure.

Earlier, I used browser network inspection to replace fragile page parsing with requests-based API calls when stable endpoints were available. I built pipelines for JavaScript-rendered claims and document portals, added validation for JSON and XML outputs, and created checkpointing and duplicate detection for recurring jobs. Docker-based pytest integration tests covered headless browser flows, authentication utilities, parsers, and portal regressions. These practices helped keep changes manageable as source systems evolved.

Northstar's focus on secure portals and scalable AWS workflows matches the work I do best. I would bring practical experience with Lambda, Step Functions, S3, IAM, CloudWatch, Secrets Manager, Terraform, CloudFormation, and CI/CD, along with a habit of documenting authentication behavior and operational recovery paths. I would welcome the chance to discuss how I could contribute to your scraping and automation systems.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Luke Todd

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