

Zayden Strickland

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📍 Cambridge, MA 02139

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Hiring Manager
Northstar Data Systems
Worcester, MA

Dear Hiring Manager:

I am applying for the Senior Python Developer role at Northstar Data Systems. In my current position with Northstar, I design and support Python services for order intelligence, workflow automation, and near-real-time reporting across 14 production environments. The work has required more than writing application code: I have helped shape designs, tune databases, strengthen deployment processes, and investigate failures after release.

One recent focus has been improving data-intensive services that process more than 80 million records each month. I reworked PostgreSQL schemas, indexes, and query plans, and helped build enrichment and deduplication workflows that preserved analytical flexibility without sacrificing processing reliability. I also introduced asynchronous workers, idempotent processing, controlled retries, health checks, and structured logging so that distributed jobs could recover cleanly and provide better operational evidence when something went wrong.

I bring 11 years of experience across the full software lifecycle, including Python development, PostgreSQL, Oracle, and MS SQL Server; automated testing with pytest; CI/CD with GitHub Actions and Jenkins; and production environments using Docker and Kubernetes. At Harborline Financial Services, I replaced repeated data scans with bounded lookups and queue-based processing for exception-heavy workloads. At CivicGrid Solutions, I diagnosed duplicate records, stalled jobs, and inconsistent status updates through log analysis, SQL inspection, and targeted reproductions. These experiences taught me to look for the underlying cause rather than treat only the visible symptom.

I also enjoy the collaborative parts of senior engineering work. I have authored architecture decision records, participated in design reviews, partnered with product and operations teams to clarify uncertain requirements, and mentored five developers through code reviews and production-readiness practices. I would welcome the opportunity to bring that combination of hands-on development, operational judgment, and clear communication to Northstar's engineering team.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be glad to discuss how my experience could support Northstar's Python applications and data platforms.

Sincerely,

Zayden Strickland

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