Zayden Strickland

Senior Python Developer

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SUMMARY

Senior Python Developer with 11 years of experience building, releasing, and supporting **enterprise-grade applications**, **data-intensive services**, and **automation platforms** in distributed production environments. Brings hands-on command of Python, relational database design, query tuning, algorithms, secure coding, **automated testing**, observability, and full SDLC delivery from requirements through production support. Recent work has processed more than 80 million monthly records across 14 production environments while improving reliability through asynchronous workers, idempotent processing, retry controls, health checks, structured logging, and rollback safeguards. Trusted by product managers, data scientists, infrastructure teams, operations engineers, and business analysts to turn unclear business needs into maintainable solutions. Eager to bring practical engineering judgment, calm incident leadership, and a collaborative mentoring style to Northstar Data Systems.

STRENGTHS

Production Debugging
Tracked memory pressure and database contention through logs, traces, and metrics; incident teams gained clear fixes and fewer repeat failures.

Data Engineering
Built validation, enrichment, and deduplication pipelines for large datasets; finance and operations teams received cleaner, more trusted reports.

Resilient Design
Used idempotency, retries, health checks, and asynchronous workers in distributed services; peers sought advice on dependable processing choices.

Technical Mentoring
Guided five developers through code reviews and readiness checks; thoughtful questions became a regular part of team delivery conversations.

Stakeholder Partnership
Turned unclear business workflows into testable designs with product and data partners; shared trade-offs built confidence across delivery groups.

SKILLS

Python SQL PostgreSQL Oracle MS SQL Server FastAPI REST APIs pandas NumPy pytest Docker Kubernetes CI/CD Agile SDLC

EXPERIENCE

Senior Python Developer

Northstar Data Systems January 2022 - Present Cambridge, MA

Owns architecture, delivery, and production support for Python services, workflow automation, data enrichment, and near-real-time reporting across 14 production environments. Leads design reviews, **incident response**, coding standards, release quality, and mentoring efforts that protect uptime while keeping multiple initiatives moving.

- Directed Python service delivery for order intelligence and workflow automation, aligning product, data, and infrastructure needs across 14 production environments.
- Reworked PostgreSQL schemas, indexes, and query plans for data pipelines processing more than 80 million monthly records, improving throughput without limiting analytical use.
- Established asynchronous workers, idempotent processing, retry controls, health checks, and structured logging, giving distributed workloads stronger **fault tolerance** and operational visibility.
- Built **GitHub Actions** and Jenkins **CI/CD** workflows with Docker and Kubernetes, adding unit, integration, security, rollback, and monitoring checks for safer releases.
- Led investigations into memory pressure, database contention, and delayed message delivery by correlating traces, logs, and metrics, removing recurring production failure causes.
- Authored **architecture** decision records for enrichment, **deduplication**, and dashboard services, then mentored five developers through peer reviews and production-readiness checks.

Python Developer

Harborline Financial Services January 2019 - December 2021 Boston, MA

Delivered Python applications for transaction reconciliation, exception management, and compliance **reporting** in a regulated financial setting. Connected business analysts, product managers, infrastructure engineers, and finance operations through Agile planning, testable service design, data quality controls, and dependable release practices.

- Delivered **Python** services for reconciliation and exception management, converting loosely defined finance workflows into testable designs that supported dependable review.
- Built extraction, validation, enrichment, and deduplication pipelines across Oracle and **MS SQL Server** sources, adding audit trails for trusted compliance reporting.
- Tuned stored queries, indexes, and batch routines for large reconciliation jobs, moving results into earlier morning review windows for finance operations.
- Introduced pytest unit and integration coverage, contract checks, and Jenkins deployment gates, limiting regressions across independently released services.
- Replaced repeated data scans with bounded lookups and queue-based processing after algorithm analysis, improving **computational efficiency** for exception-heavy workloads.
- Partnered with **business analysts**, **product managers**, and infrastructure engineers through Scrum planning, refinement, demos, and retrospectives while tracking concurrent delivery risks.

LANGUAGES

English — Native

Spanish — Intermediate

MY CAREER

- Senior Python Developer at Northstar Data Systems (4.6 Years)
- Python Developer at Harborline Financial Services (2.9 Years)
- Software Engineer at CivicGrid Solutions (2.4 Years)
- Associate Software Engineer at Meridian Technical Group (1.4 Years)

Software Engineer

CivicGrid Solutions | July 2016 - December 2018 | Providence, RI

Developed authenticated Python APIs, scheduled services, data models, operational dashboards, and production support practices for municipal case-management workflows. Took ownership of components from design through release, helping internal reviewers and agency partners receive consistent status data and service insight.

- Developed authenticated Python APIs and scheduled services for case management and agency integrations, improving dependable exchange of case and status data.
- Designed PostgreSQL tables, migration scripts, and **validation** routines for case and document records, preserving referential integrity as requirements changed.
- Added pytest API, integration, and regression tests with mocked dependencies, giving release teams repeatable evidence before production deployment.
- Diagnosed duplicate records, stalled jobs, and inconsistent status updates through **log analysis**, SQL inspection, and targeted reproductions, then documented preventative fixes.
- Created Python reporting **dashboards** and **data visualizations** for queue age, processing volume, and service health, helping program managers spot operational pressure.
- Contributed to Scrum ceremonies, peer reviews, **secure coding** checklists, and **release** runbooks while coordinating support for internal and external stakeholders.

Associate Software Engineer

Meridian Technical Group | January 2015 - June 2016 | Hartford, CT

Built Python automation and document-processing modules under senior engineering guidance, supporting internal operations through reusable data-access patterns, SQL changes, testing, and controlled releases. Participated in production-support rotations and translated recurring manual checks into consistent utilities.

- Built Python modules for automation and document processing under senior guidance, applying object-oriented design and reusable data-access patterns to recurring workflows.
- Wrote SQL queries and schema changes for **PostgreSQL** and **Oracle** repositories, validating records and correcting edge cases found during integration testing.
- Developed unit tests and fixtures for parsing, **transformation**, and error handling, improving confidence in scheduled jobs before controlled releases.
- Investigated failed batch tasks through application logs, input records, and database transactions, then supplied support staff with root causes and practical remedies.
- Converted spreadsheet-based checks into repeatable Python utilities, giving analysts consistent validation results across recurring operational files.
- Maintained design notes, deployment instructions, and defect records while participating in Agile planning, **code reviews**, and supervised production support.

PROJECTS

Near-Real-Time Data Quality Platform | 2025

Created a Python platform for extraction, validation, deduplication, enrichment, and dashboard reporting across batch and near-real-time workloads. Added observability, retry handling, Kubernetes deployment, and PostgreSQL tuning for dependable large-scale processing.

Enterprise Release Reliability Program | 2024

Unified GitHub Actions and Jenkins workflows with Docker, Kubernetes, automated testing, security checks, rollback controls, and release monitoring. Program gave engineering and operations teams clearer evidence before production changes.

Operational Insight Dashboard Suite | 2023

Delivered Python reporting services and data visualizations that combined application logs, metrics, queue data, and database results. Dashboards helped business and operations teams identify bottlenecks, service health trends, and preventative actions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Engineering Excellence Award, Northstar Data Systems, 2025, recognized for reliable Python platforms and architecture leadership.

- Operational Reliability Recognition, Harborline Financial Services, 2021, honored for production stability and incident prevention.
- Civic Technology Innovation Award, CivicGrid Solutions, 2018, recognized for practical public-service software improvements.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

University of Connecticut GPA: 3.7 2014 Storrs, CT

Coursework: *Data Structures, Algorithms, Database Systems, Software Engineering, Operating Systems*

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Developer - Associate 2023
- Certified Kubernetes Application Developer 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, SQL, Bash
- **Python Frameworks:** Django, FastAPI, pytest
- **Relational Databases:** PostgreSQL, Oracle, MS SQL Server
- **Data Engineering:** pandas, NumPy, ETL
- **Container Platforms:** Docker, Kubernetes, Helm
- **CI/CD Platforms:** GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Docker
- **API Development:** REST APIs, OpenAPI, JSON
- **Testing Practices:** Unit testing, integration testing, contract testing
- **Distributed Systems:** Asynchronous processing, message queues, concurrency
- **Reliability Engineering:** Fault tolerance, retry controls, idempotency
- **Observability Tools:** Structured logging, metrics, application traces
- **Database Engineering:** Schema design, query tuning, indexes
- **Secure Development:** Secure coding, security testing, authenticated APIs
- **Delivery Methods:** SDLC, Agile, Scrum
- **Operations Support:** Incident response, log analysis, post-incident reviews

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Python Engineering Mentor, Northstar Data Systems, 2023 - Present; supports five developers through reviews and technical coaching.
- Architecture Review Guild, Northstar Data Systems, 2022 - Present; contributes design guidance, standards, and trade-off discussions.
- Volunteer Technical Mentor, Code for New England, 2019 - 2022; coached community contributors on Python delivery practices.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST