Simon **Picard**

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Experience

Self-employed, Consulting & Entrepreneurship, Belgium & United Kingdom   *Sep 22 - Now*

- Piloted pioneering AI ventures at Entrepreneur First London startup incubator (0.6% acceptance), harnessing Gen AI to accelerate 2D animation, computer vision for precise real estate appraisal... Embraced challenges with enthusiasm and creativity, although the journey pivoted due to lack of co-founder-space match
- Trained a real estate valuation model for a Belgian PropTech startup, outperforming its competition
- Orchestrated training sessions on (Generative) AI use cases and implementation for a FinTech scale-up
- Engineered Urbanex: a groundbreaking urbanism permit reference search and document archive utilizing Large Language Models (LLMs)

Wequity, Chief Technical Officer, Belgium   *Oct 21 – Sep 22*

- Catalyzed the growth of Wequity, leading as its first employee. Developed and scaled an ESG NLP data pipeline that extracts insights from millions of news and social media posts using ML & LLM
- Spearheaded engineering team expansion from 1 to 5 FTE, effectively identifying needs, crafting job descriptions, and recruiting junior and senior colleagues for ML, data, and web roles
- Implemented sustainable and agile software development practices, integrating CI/CD pipelines to ensure robust code quality, non-breaking changes and test coverage
- Empowered data-driven decision-making by establishing automated dashboards, tracking overall cloud costs, recruitment funnel, data pipeline usage, development pace...

McKinsey & Company, Lead data scientist, Belgium, US, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland...   *Sep 18 – Oct 21*

- Amplified profit margins by 15% for multiple manufacturing plants with throughput optimization, leading cross-functional teams to recommend optimal plant parameters using supervised learning from sensor data
- Built capabilities for tech-savvy employees covering data science use case, project management and approaches as well as educating C-level profiles on the value and implementation of advanced analytics
- Crafted and presented advanced analytics strategies and roadmaps for diverse F500 companies' C-suite, identifying and prioritizing AI use cases across functions such as operations and supply chain
- Played a pivotal role as technical lead for predictive maintenance, reducing unplanned downtime of blood-cell analyzers by 9% through a predictive model trained on test signal outputs and alarms
- Disrupted the car leasing industry by implementing a machine learning-based car valuation engine, reducing valuation time from weeks to hours by leveraging used auto market and third-party data

Devoteam — Google Cloud Partner, Cloud engineer, Belgium   *Dec 17 – Jul 18*

- Successfully onboarded customers to Google Cloud Platform, by migrating large-scale BI batch data pipelines to GCP, creating ML proofs of concept, like customer segmentation based on social demographic data...

Education & Achievements

Kedro Contributor, an open-source framework for data science code   *Nov 21*

Google Cloud certified, Professional Data Engineer and Associate Cloud Engineer   *Jun 18*

1st place, McKinsey AI hackathon, predicting drug effectiveness, outperforming 109 participants   *Mar 18*

MSc Management, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Magna cum laude, Spain   *Sep 16 – Jun 17*

BSc & MSc Computer Science, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Magna cum laude, Belgium   *Sep 11 – Jun 16*

Skills

Software & Cloud Engineering	Python, SQL, JavaScript, C++, GCP, AWS, Cloudera
Data Science & ML	Kedro, scikit-learn, Transformers, Pandas, Matplotlib, spaCy, NLTK, pytest, OpenAI
DevOps & MLOps	Docker, Git, Linux, Terraform, GitHub Actions, Cron Job, APIs, SonarQube
Data Engineering	Spark, Apache Beam, BigQuery, Function-as-a-Service, Grafana, Looker Studio
Web Development	Node.js, React, Next.js, Tailwind, Prisma, Auth.js, Vercel, Netlify
Languages	French - native, English - fluent, Dutch - basic, Spanish - basic