

Simon Picard

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Experience

Self-employed, Consulting & Entrepreneurship, Belgium, UK, US

Sep 22 - Now

- Led AI efforts for a startup offering image generation tools for marketing teams, leveraging research to select and optimize ML models via quantization, distillation, and LoRA... then deploying them into a robust backend
- 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...
- 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 growth as the company's first employee by developing an ESG NLP data pipeline to extract insights from millions of online news and social media posts using ML and LLM technologies
- Expanded the engineering team from 1 to 5 FTE, crafting job descriptions and recruiting for ML, data, and web roles to meet company needs
- Established sustainable and agile software practices with CI/CD pipelines and automated dashboards for tracking cloud costs, recruitment, and development metrics

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

Published paper at an international conference on real-time systems about MC schedulability

Nov 24

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, Luigi

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