

Rhyno Strydom

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Data & AI/ML Consultant (MEng) with 7+ years of commercial Python backend experience. Specialist in designing distributed systems, autonomous AI agents, and custom enterprise integrations. Proven track record of bridging the gap between enterprise legacy systems and modern AI platforms, including deep expertise in NLP, automated telephony/ASR pipelines, and scalable cloud architectures (AWS/GCP/Azure) Strong customer-facing engineering background with a "doer" mindset focused on radical operational efficiency

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Core AI & Telephony: Autonomous AI Agents (N8N, MCP), LLMs, RAG, ASR (Whisper, Wav2Vec, AWS/Azure Speech), NLP

Backend Engineering: Python (7+ yrs), Bash (5+ yrs), Java, C/C++, JavaScript (Node.js), SQL, FastAPI

Systems & Integration: REST APIs, Swagger, Docker, Linux, CI/CD (GitHub Actions), Microservices Architecture

Data & Cloud: AWS, GCP, Azure, DBT, Airflow, Snowflake, Astro, PostgreSQL, Vector Databases

EXPERIENCE

AI & Data Consultant

Jan 2024 – Present

Daemon (AWS Partner Network)

Remote / Pretoria

- **AI Agent Productivity (Sainsbury's):** Engineered and deployed an internal suite of **Autonomous AI coding agents** and deterministic templates to systemize workflows; **reduced new Java service spin-up time from 3 days to 10 minutes.**
- **Enterprise Integration:** Built agentic N8N workflows utilizing Azure foundry models and custom Java MCP servers to monitor, enrich, and automatically remediate infrastructure alerts in NewRelic.
- **Technical Leadership & Enablement:** Established engineering guardrails and deployment standards that accelerated workflows for senior developers, fostering cross-team collaboration through rigorous code reviews and agile delivery checks.
- **AWS Startup Product Delivery (Tachmed):** Architected scalable backend solutions for various ML startups. Leveraged Generative AI to build a research search engine backed by FastAPI, Next.js, Postgres, and Terraform across distinct dev/prod AWS environments. One of the most notable startups was Tachmed, where the AI platform reduced research time by 50% and won a worldwide AWS Innovation Award at re:Invent.
- **Data Infrastructure:** Designed scalable enterprise data pipelines using **DBT, Airflow, and Snowflake**, automating complex ETL workflows for Sainsbury's Finance and promoting strict data governance.
- **Customer Partnership:** Bridged communication gaps by leading regular delivery reviews with stakeholders, gathering technical requirements, and defining architectural strategy for AI/Data initiatives.

Machine Learning Engineer

Feb 2022 – Dec 2023

Synthesis Software Technologies

Pretoria, SA

- **Telephony & Voice Pipelines:** Acted as Technical Lead to spearhead the implementation and optimization of call centre compliance monitoring for major financial institutions. By utilizing multiple ASR systems (including Whisper, Wav2Vec, AWS Transcribe), this initiative directly reduced regulatory fines that historically reached as high as \$3 million every six months.
- **Custom LLM Solutions:** Collaborated directly with OpenAI to customize GPT-3 for enterprise survey generation, developing proprietary techniques to optimize NLP routing capabilities on Amazon SageMaker.
- **Reliability & Scale:** Managed comprehensive CI/CD deployment pipelines across multiple AWS accounts, coordinating closely with third-party vendors and ensuring high availability of ML services.

Quantitative Software Developer

Jul 2021 – Jan 2022

Invictus Alpha

Pretoria, SA

- **Distributed Trading Systems:** Designed and deployed highly reliable Python-based crypto trading bots utilizing finite state machines. Containerized services via Docker and deployed on Google Cloud to minimize execution latency.
- **API Integrations:** Architected robust, high-frequency REST API integrations across nine cryptocurrency exchanges (FTX, Binance, Okex) to actively manage and monitor \$3.4M in cross-exchange arbitrage capital.

Junior Software Developer (IoT)

Jan 2021 – Jul 2021

G-Matrix Systems

Pretoria, SA

- **System Architecture:** Designed and documented custom, device-specific REST APIs using Swagger to bridge communication between proprietary IoT hardware protocols (SigFox/LoRa) and cloud interfaces.
- **Client Advisory:** Acted as the primary technical liaison, managing client expectations and translating business needs to contracted developers.

LEADERSHIP & INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

Wildlife Census Application | *Technical Lead* 2025

- Led a team of two engineers to architect and deploy a comprehensive data collection platform. Solved complex technical challenges including ensuring robust offline functionality, automating farm map generation from GPS point cloud data, and enabling seamless post-collection data aggregation across multiple phones.

AI Video Security System | *Co-Creator* 2019 – 2020

- Co-designed an edge-computing security system using Nvidia’s Jetson Nano platform to detect, localize, and classify individuals in real-time using deep neural networks.
- Integrated multiple camera video streams into a custom web dashboard for monitoring, and engineered automated snapshot alerts via the Telegram application for intrusion events.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

North-West University

Master of Engineering (MEng) in Computing & Electronic Engineering

Potchefstroom, SA

Focus: NLP & ML (Published)

University of Pretoria

Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Electronic Engineering

Pretoria, SA

Focus: Signal Processing

Certifications: AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner, Microsoft Azure Data Scientist Associate, Snowflake Data Warehousing, Udacity Self-Driving Car Engineer Nano Degree (9-months)