

Daniel Foster

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SUMMARY

Data engineer with 4 years of experience building and maintaining ETL pipelines that move data reliably between operational systems and analytics warehouses. Comfortable working across Python, SQL, and cloud data platforms, and enjoy partnering with analysts to make sure the data they get is actually the data they need.

EXPERIENCE

Data Engineer, Fernwood Analytics Aug 2023 – Present

Chicago, IL

- Build and maintain ETL pipelines in Python and Airflow that process roughly 15 million records daily from six source systems into a Snowflake warehouse.
- Redesigned a nightly batch job that was taking 5 hours to run, cutting runtime to under 90 minutes by rewriting slow joins and adding incremental loading.
- Wrote data quality checks that catch schema drift and null spikes before they reach downstream dashboards, cutting data incident tickets by 40%.
- Partnered with the analytics team to design a star schema for the sales reporting mart, replacing a set of ad hoc spreadsheets.

Junior Data Engineer, Meridian Retail Group Jun 2021 – Aug 2023

Chicago, IL

- Developed Python scripts to ingest vendor CSV and API feeds into a PostgreSQL staging database.
- Automated a manual reporting process that previously took an analyst two days each month, reducing it to a scheduled job that runs overnight.
- Wrote SQL transformations in dbt to clean and standardize product and inventory data used across three teams.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Computer Science, University of Illinois at Chicago

Graduated May 2021

SKILLS

Languages: Python, SQL, Bash

Data Tools: Airflow, dbt, Snowflake, PostgreSQL, Apache Spark

Other: AWS (S3, Glue, Redshift), Git, Docker, data modeling