

Alex Begg

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I have served as the Head of Data at two companies: Currency (a FinTech company specializing in financing for large equipment expenditures such as heavy machinery, trucks & aircraft) and MedMen (at the time the largest cannabis company in the United States with a \$1.6-billion valuation). During my tenure at both companies I was involved in all aspects of the data platform: data engineering, modeling, and analytics.

I have built data pipelines, provided KPI and sales reports to executives, provided sales commission reports to accounting, and oversaw the architecture of new operational databases for both businesses. I have experience in Python, Apache Airflow, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, Power BI, Tableau, Kubernetes, Docker, DevOps, and I have been an Apache Airflow open-source contributor.

Currency (now part of Sandhills Global)

Data Engineering Manager

Nov 2020 – Jan 2023

- Leading the development and migration to a new core operational database for use with an in-house workflow management solution for all Currency employees to use day-to-day for managing all of the business's financing applications. Lead the team through all phases of the project lifecycle from planning, requirements gathering, design, development, testing, and go live.
- Lead the automation and migration of all sales commissions reports and vendor referral fees & rebates reports to be generated off of the Data Warehouse directly instead of data exports imported into Excel. This reduced the turnaround time from what used to be 5 days down to less than 1 hour. Sales staff and vendors are now able to receive their commissions in the first week of the month instead of mid-month.
- Migrating data workflows that pass data between Azure SQL databases from traditional ETL pipelines to Elastic Queries in Azure SQL.
- Providing reports to executives (CFO, COO, Director of Sales). Managing all Power BI reports and updating those reports to include new metrics. Working with the data analytics department to migrate reports to Tableau.
- Started on a migration of the existing SQL Server data warehouse to a Snowflake data cloud by replacing data loading tasks in Airflow with automated continuous data load using Microsoft Azure Event Grid and Snowflake's Snowpipe.

Senior Data Engineer

Feb 2020 – Nov 2020

- Helped maintain and optimize the data warehouse, data lake, and various databases (SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Cosmos DB).
- Built new data pipelines and reports.
- Migrated Apache Airflow from virtual machines to Azure Kubernetes Service.
- Refactored all Airflow pipelines to use Jinja templating.
- Added PagerDuty integration in Airflow to create incident alerts when critical pipelines fail.
- Expanded the integration with Salesforce API and payment processing systems (Payrix, First Data, CardConnect).
- Contributed to Apache Airflow, provided multiple UI and back-end bug fixes to the software.

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MedMen

Senior Director of Technology

Nov 2017 – Jan 2020

Founding engineer (first employee) at one the first cannabis multi-state operators in the United States. I served as Head of Data as well as an interim Head of Technology (Nov-Dec 2017) while the company transitioned from a private startup into a large public corporation with a valuation of \$1.65 billion dollars.

- 2018-2020: Managed the extraction and load of data from many data sources into a data warehouse.
 - Stack: Python, Node.js
 - Data: Snowflake, PostgreSQL, SQL Server, MySQL, many third-party APIs (Airtable, Facebook, Namely, Paragon Payroll, etc.)
 - Tools: Apache Airflow, Docker, Azure Container Instances, Azure Functions, S3, Fivetran
- 2017-2019: Sole maintainer of the legacy monolith point-of-sale, inventory management, and cultivation tracking system and implemented Docker containerization for full deployment into Azure. Implemented a DevOps deployment strategy to allow for easier deployment and maintenance.
 - Tools: Docker Compose, Azure Web Apps for Containers, Azure DevOps CI/CD Pipelines
- 2018-2019: Worked with a PM on development of a new cultivation tracking system. Visited cultivation facilities across the country to find ways to streamline, modernize, and standardize cultivation technology.
- 2018: Worked with PMs on developing a new version of MedMen's point-of-sale software to be mobile based. Tasked by the SVP of Technology to ensure there were no gap in features and functionality between the existing system and the new system. Met with PMs, finance teams, and compliance teams to ensure correct functionality in the new system.
- 2018: Worked with the Supply Chain team, ERP developers and PM on migrating all inventory and lab testing records into Microsoft Dynamics NAV. Also helped facilitate with ingestion and inventory updates from physical inventory counts.
- 2017-2018: Managed hundreds of iPad in stores throughout California, Nevada and New York using both Apple and Cisco Meraki mobile device management (MDM) solutions to remotely manage devices and pre-configure devices for new store openings.

Senior Software Engineer

Jul 2012 – Nov 2017

- 2012-2017: Since inception developed point of sale, inventory management, cultivation, and manufacturing systems for facilities in California, Nevada, Arizona, New York, and Florida. Integrated software with multiple types of retail and industrial printers.
 - Stack: Python, Django, PostgreSQL, Celery, Redis, Backbone.js. (Prior: PHP, CodeIgniter)
 - Tools: NGINX, Tornado, RequireJS, Jinja, Handlebars, SASS, FPDF, Supervisor, Fabric, uWSGI, Azure Web Apps, EC2, S3, Azure DevOps CI/CD Pipelines
- 2016 - 2017: Built the first iOS app for iPads inside all of its California stores as well as iPads used by cultivation technicians in facilities in California and Nevada.
 - Stack: Objective-C, Swift, Backbone.js
 - Tools: Apache Cordova, Socket Mobile scanners

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- 2013 - 2017: Integrated software with receipt printers, label printers, and plant tag printers.
 - Stack: CUPS, Printer Control Languages (ZPL, PCL, ESC/P)
- 2012 - 2017: Built all of the company's websites up until 2017.
 - Stack: jQuery, Jade/Pug, Wagtail, WordPress, MySQL, SQLite

ModMan Enterprises

Lead Web Developer

Oct 2009 – Jul 2012

- Developing front-end website design and user interfaces as well as PHP development for membership, event, e-commerce and content management systems for a wide variety of business clients such as Kreation Juice, Go Greek Yogurt, UCLA Dermatology, Exchange LA nightclub, Stop Soldier Suicide organization, as well as medical groups, law firms, and real estate clients.
 - Stack: jQuery, PHP, MySQL, dedicated Linux web server running cPanel
 - Tools: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Animate

Gunslinger Digital

Graphics and Effects Artist

Sep 2007 – Aug 2008

- Motion graphics, visual effects, compositing, and title sequences for shows on various television networks (CBS, FOX, MTV). Shows I worked on include *Hell's Kitchen*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Back To You*, and *Viva La Bam*. At the time the company also did graphics for the Academy Awards.
 - Tools: Autodesk 3ds Max, Autodesk Maya, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Photoshop

Education

The Art Institute of California - Los Angeles

Bachelor of Science, 2009

Media Arts & Animation