

KYLE DARDEN

Data Engineer | Backend Systems

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Data engineer with a backend-engineering foundation, building data platforms end to end — Python ingestion, PostgreSQL warehouses, dbt modeling, and the FastAPI services that expose them, with CI and automated tests throughout. Physics-trained, with quantitative depth; strong in Python and system design.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, SQL, TypeScript

Data: PostgreSQL, dbt, dimensional modeling, ETL, data warehousing

Backend & APIs: FastAPI, REST, SQLAlchemy, Alembic, AWS Cognito

Infrastructure: Docker, GitHub Actions (CI/CD), Render, Git

Testing: pytest, Playwright

EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder & Lead Backend Developer — FreightFolio

Mar 2025 – Present

Logistics SaaS · Remote

- Architected the backend as five modular FastAPI services over PostgreSQL, each with Alembic migrations and containerized with Docker.
- Built a production-grade authentication layer on AWS Cognito — JWKS fetching with a thread-safe cache, key rotation, and RS256 signature/audience/issuer verification — enforced at the router level across all services.

Independent Software Developer — Self-employed

Mar 2024 – Present

Remote

- Design and build backend and data systems: modular FastAPI services, PostgreSQL schema and migration design, containerized runtimes, and GitHub Actions CI.
- Delivered a live, end-to-end analytics platform (CS2 Analytics, below) spanning ingestion, warehouse, API, and a deployed frontend.

Server — Sage Hospitality Group

Nov 2018 – Present

Austin, TX

- High-volume, customer-facing role maintained through career transition and technical coursework.

PROJECTS

CS2 Analytics — live, end-to-end data platform

github.com/dardenkyle/CS2-analytics · dardenkyle.github.io/CS2-analytics

- Built the full pipeline — Python ingestion, a Render-hosted FastAPI service and PostgreSQL database, and a React/TypeScript dashboard on GitHub Pages — deployed end to end.
- Operable via a Typer CLI with incremental and backfill ingestion modes for running and reprocessing the pipeline.
- 137 automated tests with CI gates on both backend and frontend.

movie_analytics_etl — dimensional data warehouse

github.com/dardenkyle/movie_analytics_etl

- Kimball star-schema warehouse over 176M+ IMDb records built with dbt: staging and marts layers and ~30 data-quality tests, on PostgreSQL.

site-sentry — automated QA & reliability monitoring

github.com/dardenkyle/site-sentry

- Playwright + pytest suite monitoring kyledarden.com, running twice daily via GitHub Actions.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Physics — The University of Texas at Austin

2016 – 2021

Post-Graduate Certificate, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning — Texas McCombs School of Business

2023 – 2024

Computer Science coursework (in progress) — Austin Community College

Data Structures & Algorithms, Discrete Mathematics, Programming Fundamentals