



Kara Gunawardena

Python Developer

Bringing 6 years of experience building and maintaining Python applications with Django, Flask, PostgreSQL, and REST API design, with an AWS Certified Developer Associate credential. Refactored Django view logic and integrated Redis caching layers, improving page load times by 22.4% across customer-facing portals, and shortened CI/CD deployment time by 18.6% by consolidating Docker image layers and removing unused dependencies.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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EDUCATION

BS Computer Science
Dakota State University, Madison, SD
2016 – 2020

KEY SKILLS

- Python
- Django
- Flask
- PostgreSQL
- REST API Design
- Agile/Scrum Methodology
- Docker
- Git
- OAuth2
- JWT
- SQL
- CI/CD Pipelines

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Python Developer, Prairie Basin Software Group, Watertown, SD**
2023 – Present
 - Refactored Django view logic and integrated Redis caching layers, improving page load times by 22.4% across 3 customer-facing portals.
 - Completed an average of 11 sprint stories per cycle over 14 consecutive sprints by breaking features into testable units tracked in Jira.
 - Conferred with project managers to scope feasibility for 7 new microservice endpoints, delivering all within a 6-week timeline.
 - Reduced deployment duration from 48 minutes to 29 minutes by restructuring Jenkins pipeline stages and parallelizing build steps.
- **Python Developer, Glacial Ridge Technologies, Aberdeen, SD**
2021 – 2023
 - Built and shipped 4 Django-based internal tools that cut average sprint carryover from 3 stories to 1 story per cycle.
 - Analyzed user requirements and system constraints for a PostgreSQL migration, completing data transfer of 1.3 million rows in 9 hours.
 - Shortened CI/CD deployment time by 18.6% after consolidating Docker image layers and removing unused dependencies in GitLab pipelines.
 - Wrote REST API documentation and OAuth2 token-refresh workflows, reducing onboarding ramp-up for new developers from 12 days to 7 days.
- **Junior Python Developer, Cottonwood Bluff Digital, Brookings, SD**
2020 – 2021
 - Analyzed stakeholder feedback and system limitations to plan 9 modifications to an existing Flask application, completing each within the scheduled sprint window.
 - Improved average page load time on an internal dashboard from 4.1 seconds to 3.2 seconds by optimizing Pandas data queries.
 - Maintained deployment scripts in Jenkins that supported 2-week release cycles, averaging 13 stories shipped per quarter.

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Developer Associate, Amazon Web Services, 2023