**James Forrister**

**Senior Python Full-Stack Developer**

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Panama City, FL

**SUMMARY**

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Seasoned Senior Python Engineer with hands-on experience in building strong and scalable backend systems. I have worked closely with startups, small teams, and larger companies. I enjoy turning ideas into solid, reliable applications that meet real business needs. My focus is not just on writing code, but also on listening, asking the right questions, and finding simple answers to complex problems. In past roles, I helped reduce technical debt and improve performance by keeping systems clean and easy to support. I believe that the best software lasts when it's built with care, strong communication, and a clear understanding of its purpose.

**SKILLS**

* **Languages& Frameworks:** Python, JavaScript, Django, Django REST Framework (DRF), FastAPI, Flask, Celery, RabbitMQ, RESTful APIs, GraphQL (Ariadne, Strawberry), gRPC
* **Frontend Technologies:** React, Next.js, Angular, Storybook, Redux, NgRx, RxJS, SCSS, Tailwind CSS, Bootstrap, D3.js
* **Cloud:** AWS (Lambda, RDS, S3, CloudFront, API Gateway), Google Cloud Platform (Cloud Run, GKE), Cloudflare
* **Database:** PostgreSQL, MySQL, Oracle, SQL Server, MongoDB, DynamoDB, CosmosDB, Redis
* **DevOps:** Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD (Jenkins, Azure DevOps, CodePipeline), GitHub Actions, Nginx,
* **Security & Performance:** OAuth, MFA, SSO, API Gateway, SSL/TLS
* **Project Management:** Agile/Scrum, Waterfall, CI/CD, Jenkins, Microservices, JIRA, ClickUp, Vibe Coding
* **Stakeholder Engagement:** Requirement Gathering, Product Vision Communication
* **Quality Assurance:** PyTest, Factory Boy, Cypress, Jest, BDD, Code Review, Test-Driven Development (TDD), SOLID

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science, [**Florida Gulf Coast University**](https://www.fgcu.edu/) 2009 - 2013

**EXPERIENCE**

**Senior Full Stack Developer** Apr 2022 – Apr 2025

[**Ratio**](https://www.ratiotech.com/) *| San Mateo, California*

* Integrated OpenAI GPT-4 and LangChain APIs into client SaaS products, powering intelligent customer support chatbots, dynamic onboarding, and AI-driven analytics dashboards.
* Built a B2B consulting marketplace platform from scratch to connect businesses with independent consultants, delivering the initial MVP in under 4 months which enabled the startup to secure a $500K seed funding.
* Designed and implemented GraphQL APIs (Ariadne) that enabled multi‑tenant integrations with Stripe & Zoho.
* Developed a React / Next.js dashboard (WCAG 2.1 AA) with live Socket.IO updates for transaction status and fraud alerts; boosted user trust and decreased support tickets.
* Built Celery, RabbitMQ‑driven reconciliation pipelines for daily batch processing of payments, reducing manual error rates.
* Containerized services in Docker and deployed to AWS ECS with Terraform IaC, creating zero‑downtime CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions.
* Integrated DataDog and New Relic APM for end‑to‑end monitoring; engineered alerting strategies via PagerDuty to handle SLA breaches under 5 min.
* Collaborated daily with business analysts and compliance teams to interpret PCI DSS requirements, shaping RBAC and audit logging standards.
* Adapted to rapidly changing requirements and wore multiple hats (development, DevOps, QA) in a small startup team, delivering new features in weekly sprints and demonstrating strong startup agility.
* Wrote PyTest & Factory Boy test suites and maintained OpenAPI documentation via Redoc for API consumers.
* Coached junior developers in T3 stack, Python/Django, and best practices for integration.
* Enabled product teams to experiment with LLM-based feature ideation using GitHub Copilot, Tabnine, and AI-assisted code reviews, cutting delivery time for new features.

**Backend Python Developer, Founding Engineer** Aug 2017 – Mar 2022

[**Finxact**](https://www.finxact.com/) | *Jacksonville, Florida*

* Spearheaded 0–to–1 MVP launch for Finxact’s banking API platform using Django, FastAPI, and gRPC, enabling digital account creation, real-time payments, and instant fund transfers for neobank partners.
* Designed and implemented PCI-DSS-compliant payment orchestration microservices (Kafka, Celery), processing ACH, Stripe, and Plaid transactions while enabling rapid onboarding of third-party payment gateways.
* Deployed end-to-end fraud detection pipeline using TensorFlow, PyTorch, and Pandas, automating real-time risk scoring, anomaly alerts, and account hold triggers for suspicious activity.
* Integrated blockchain ledger APIs for transaction logging, audit trails, and immutable compliance reporting, meeting ISO 20022 and GDPR standards for international remittance flows.
* Built and maintained a real-time financial data lake (PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Kafka) supporting regulatory, KYC, AML, and FATCA reporting requirements for B2B fintech clients.
* Developed OpenAPI/Swagger-driven developer portal and React-based dashboard (D3.js) for client banks, enabling partner onboarding and customizable account management.
* Rolled out secure, scalable cloud infrastructure (Kubernetes, Terraform) on AWS and GCP, improving platform resilience and reducing downtime during traffic spikes.
* Instrumented ELK stack and Prometheus/Grafana for API latency, transaction monitoring, and user behavior analytics, supporting internal ops and client success teams.
* Established CI/CD, TDD, and pair programming as core engineering practices, ensuring code quality, compliance, and rapid delivery of new fintech features.
* Collaborated with compliance/legal teams to ship innovative neobank and FaaS modules under strict regulatory deadlines.
* Reduced API latency and increased system throughput by optimizing database indexing and introducing asynchronous task queues, improving customer transaction experience.

**Python Developer, Engineering Coordinator** Jul 2015 – Jul 2017

[**TAO Connect**](https://www.taoconnect.org/) | *St. Petersburg, Florida*

* Re-architected the mental health portal by migrating legacy PHP to Django/React, enabling secure, HIPAA-compliant video counseling and resource scheduling for thousands of users in higher-ed settings.
* Developed patient intake and appointment modules with FastAPI and PostgreSQL, streamlining onboarding, insurance validation, and cross-provider scheduling for clinicians and care teams.
* Built HL7/FHIR integration middleware with Pydantic and Celery, automating secure EMR/EHR data exchange and reducing manual charting effort for healthcare staff.
* Launched mood tracking and engagement scoring via scikit-learn and React, increasing clinician insight into at-risk patients.
* Embedded OAuth2/JWT authentication and granular RBAC to safeguard PHI, pass compliance audits, and support cross-institutional SSO integrations for university clients.
* Automated patient SMS/email reminders by integrating Twilio and SendGrid APIs, significantly reducing appointment no-shows and supporting proactive follow-ups.
* Configured Kubernetes and Docker-based CI/CD pipelines on AWS CloudFront/S3, ensuring reliable rollout of new features and compliance with health IT uptime requirements.
* Instrumented Prometheus/Grafana monitoring for latency, API errors, and patient engagement.
* Led Agile sprints and partnered with UX to redesign telehealth flows, improving patient and clinician satisfaction.

**Software Engineer**  Jul 2013 – Jul 2015

[**Clikpak**](https://www.clikpakgroup.com/) | *Tamarac, Florida*

* Engineered order management service using Django and Celery, streamlining transaction-heavy order processing for over 10,000 SKUs and enabling same-day fulfillment across the US retail network.
* Developed a headless checkout API (Flask, FastAPI) to decouple cart and payment flows, reducing page latency and supporting omnichannel shopping carts for mobile and PWA users.
* Implemented responsive front-end components (Angular) to enhance user experiences, balancing full-stack responsibilities.
* Integrated payment gateways (Stripe & Twillio) and shipping APIs, ensuring PCI-DSS-compliant transaction processing and secure OAuth-based authentication.
* Developed RESTful APIs for order processing; enhanced API documentation using Swagger.
* Deployed containerized environments with Docker and Kubernetes, improving deployment reliability for new product launches.
* Enhanced SEO and PWA features in the headless React storefront, increasing organic traffic and enabling offline shopping experiences for mobile-first users.
* Collaborated with design and ops teams to deliver a seamless cross-platform experience (Material UI, Bootstrap).