

Nevin Zheng

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Summary

Software Engineer with 4 years of experience at Google designing and implementing foundational components for large-scale distributed data systems. I am passionate about database internals and am seeking new challenges. My experience on the BigQuery team, particularly in evolving its core architecture to handle new data paradigms, aligns directly with the goals of this role.

Professional Experience

Google | Software Engineer, BigQuery | Seattle, WA | 2021 - Present

Project: Streaming for BigLake

- Owned the productionization of a novel streaming feature, driving the end-to-end testing strategy, release process, and SRE collaboration to successfully transition a local prototype into a reliable, production-ready system for customer previews.
- Drove design refinements and API negotiations across 3 core teams (BigQuery, WriteAPI, SRE) to solve integration challenges in a complex microservices architecture, ensuring the final design was robust and maintainable.
- Played a key role in the incident management process for a critical production outage, implementing necessary code changes under pressure and contributing to post-mortem analysis to improve overall system resilience.

Project: Row Level & Column Level Security for BigLake

- Owned the end-to-end integration of Row Level and Column Level Security for a new table format, ensuring feature parity for a security-critical, enterprise-ready product.
- Designed and executed a comprehensive validation strategy across multiple query surfaces (e.g., BigQuery API, Read API), which identified and led to the resolution of several critical bugs in dependent systems, preventing potential data leaks.

Technical Skills

- Languages & Tools: C++, Java, Python, SQL, Shell, Terraform
- Distributed Systems: Database Internals (LSM Trees, Consensus), Query Processing & Optimization, Fault-Tolerant Architectures, Data Lakes, Streaming Data Pipelines, Distributed File Systems
- Platforms: Google Cloud Platform (GCP), BigQuery, Google Spanner

Education

Carnegie Mellon University | Master of Science, Computer Engineering | 2019 - 2022

Specialization in Database Systems with Professor Andy Pavlo.

Boston University | Bachelor of Science, Computer and Electrical Engineering (Double Major) | 2013 - 2017