Tharindu Harith Withana (Harith) (he/him)

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PROFILE

Motivated Master's in Artificial Intelligence student at RMIT Melbourne with 4+ years of experience in data science and machine learning. Skilled in building scalable ML solutions, leading cross-functional teams, and collaborating on global projects. Passionate about ethical AI, agile product development, and innovation for social good.

KEY SKILLS

- Programming: Python, R, Java, MySQL
- Data Science: Machine Learning, Deep Learning, NLP, Computer Vision, Forecasting
- Data Visualization: Tableau, PowerBI
- Tools & Platforms: GitHub, Jupyter, CI/CD Pipelines, REST APIs
- Cloud Services: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda, RDS, ECR, API Gateway), Azure (incl. OpenAI)
- Project Management: Agile/Scrum, Sprint Planning, Stakeholder Engagement

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

RMIT University - Master in Artificial Intelligence   2024-2025
- Coursework : Practical Data Science with Python, Big Data Processing, Social Media Analysis, AI, Programming Autonomous Robots, Cloud Computing, Computational ML
- Minor Thesis : "Using Large Language Models to Simulate Users to Analyse Music Recommendations"
- RMIT Big Industry Challenge Melbourne (Sept 2024) : Team Leader for the Micro Internship

National Institute of Technology Durgapur - B. Tech in Computer Science and Engineering - First Class.   2015-2019
- Capstone project : Detecting the handwritten texts on letters (the address) using OCR and deep learning.
- Awarded Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Scholarship Indian Council for Cultural Relationship (ICCR) India for Sri Lankan Nationals through University Grant Commission, Sri Lanka.

Coursera & other certifications   2017-2022
- AI for Medical Diagnosis course on Coursera [2022], "Deep Learning Specialization" course on Coursera [2020]
- Project based training on "Core Java" in MTA India, and recognized as Microsoft Technology associate for Software Development Fundamentals [2017]

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Science Intern | Integra Technology Solutions   July 2025 - Present
Leverage LLMs, Generative AI and Machine Learning to process documents, extract insights, and develop automation solutions.

Project Lead | Omdena   Apr 2024 - Jan 2025
Omdena is the world´s largest grassroots AI organization. https://www.omdena.com/
- Led team of 2 developers to optimize gender and social inclusion (GESI) conversation analysis in Sri Lanka
- Defined product goals, facilitated stakeholder communication, and managed agile sprints
- Delivered actionable insights to NGO partners

Casual Employee | Ital Biscuits   Aug 2024 - Present
- Food production (Pentanone cakes & biscuits): recipe measurement, mixing, pick-packing, and stock handling

Machine Learning Engineer | Intermediate Data Systems   Sep 2023 to Feb 2024

IDT is a South African based IT consulting company which I got the chance to work with through Omdena top-talents. https://www.linkedin.com/company/intermediate-data-systems/
- Our client was an Insurance company where they already had 5 major issues and we as AI engineers initially had to figure out solutions and scope and then started prioritizing the projects.
- I worked on the project to help our client with matching their customers for their marketing campaigns; customer segmentation/profiling and right party & when to contact.
- We used LLM to enhance their chatbot for their client interactions using Azure OpenAI.

Data Scientist | EngenuityAi   Jul 2021 to Feb 2024
Data Analytics & AI start-up in Sri Lanka https://www.engenuityai.com/
- I joined EngenuityAi as a data scientist and got the experience of a start-up environment and saw how the company grew in the span of years and I was really happy to be a part of that growth and I was promoted to a senior position in the process.
- I led a small team of data scientists collaborating with the front-end team to build an environmental conservation product which went through a lot of industry research, meet-ups with government organizations as well as collaboration with University of Colombo professors to succeed. Remote sensing, computer vision and machine learning was used for the product and I deployed it on AWS.
- Forecasting of sales for a local beverage company using Machine Learning and presenting the results in an interactive dashboard.
- Building a computer vision based application where the vehicle insurer can get users to upload the damaged vehicle(in an accident) and produce an accident report prior to visiting.

ML Engineer | Omdena   June 2020 to April 2023
http://www.omdena.com
- Omdena is the collaborative platform consisting of Data Scientists from all around the world to build innovative, ethical, and efficient AI and Data Science solutions to real-world problems.
- TrashOut Project - https://omdena.com/blog/illegal-dumping/ : I use computer vision to identify the type of trash and suggest where to dump. Identify and forecast illegal dumping sites using ML.
- WRI Project : Analyzing and tracking the clients contributions using their platforms and recommending their future projects using NLP, Recommender Systems and Machine Learning. https://medium.com/omdena/climate-change-visualizations-from-words-to-actionable-insights-60f9b7dcc17c
- HRI Project - Social media scraping and Human rights violations analysis using NLP and providing an interactive dashboard using NLP and Machine Learning.

Jr Data Scientist | LB Finance PLC   Feb 2020 to July 2021
LB Finance PLC is Sri Lanka's leader in innovative financial services.
- Work with stakeholders throughout the organization to identify opportunities for leveraging company data to drive business solutions.
- Mine and analyze data from company databases to drive optimization and improvement of product development , marketing techniques and business strategies.
- Use predictive modeling to increase and optimize customer experiences, revenue generation, ad targeting and other business outcomes.Use tools like Tableau to monitor and analyze model performance and data accuracy.

Software Engineering Trainee | HDFC Bank   May 2018 to June 2018
https://www.hdfc.lk/
- In my internship I worked on their System Software Development using ASP.Net in Visual Studio and Oracle DB, developing extensions required for their existing systems.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS & PERSONAL INTERESTS
- Cricketer – **RMIT Cricket Club** & **Whittlesea Cricket Club**
- Swimmer, AI Ethics Enthusiast, Community Builder
- Chief Organizer – NITPL 2024 Cricket Tournament at NIT Durgapur India

VOLUNTEERING
- **WellFed Victoria** – Food Preperation Volunteer
- **RUSU Queer Department** (*RMIT University*) – Community Volunteer
- **RUSL Club** (*RMIT University*) – Event Coordinator
- **Arohan Festival** (*NIT Durgapur India*) – Volunteer

REFEREES
- Mohan Ganavarapu (Director and Senior Consulting Engineer - Adroit Engtech)

- Dr Aditya Joshi - School of CSE, UNSW

*Contact informations can be provided upon request