Nikita Chirkov

Data Lead (Engineering & Analytics)

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SUMMARY

I have 9 years in data: fintech lending, FMCG at PepsiCo, banking and the public sector. At Novacard I built the data team from scratch and now own the warehouse, its budget and data governance. At PepsiCo I ran 20 people through three team leads: analytics, data engineering and data science. We took demand forecasting to production in 8 markets of South-East Europe. I still go deep into SQL, Python, Airflow and Spark myself. Over the last two years a good part of my work was LLMs inside analytics, for example a report generator for MoneyCat's C-level.

SKILLS

Data engineering: Airflow, Spark, Debezium (CDC), dbt, ETL/ELT
Databases: ClickHouse, PostgreSQL, Snowflake, MS SQL Server, Teradata
DWH: data modelling, schema design, data quality, DWH migration
BI: Power BI, Superset, Grafana, Tableau, Oracle BI
Languages: SQL, Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn), Bash
ML and LLM: demand forecasting, anomaly detection, A/B testing, LLM apps and agents
Management: hiring and onboarding, sprint planning, data governance, infra budget, OKRs, work with C-level

EXPERIENCE

Lead Data Engineer, Novacard Feb 2025 – present
Remote from Belgrade. Consumer lender in Mexico.

- Built the data team from scratch: hired, onboarded and mentored 5 people.
- Set up sprint planning and one backlog for all requests from collections, risk and finance. Priorities get reviewed with the business regularly.
- Joined as BI Lead. Now I own the DWH architecture, infra budget and data governance.
- Rebuilt the DWH on ClickHouse with Debezium CDC and Spark, and changed the storage structure, query patterns and access policies. More than 10 sources load in near real time. Queries got about 35% faster and infra costs went down 28%.
- Had a temporary mandate over collections for 3 weeks. I changed the collection strategy, and the repayment rate went from 51% to 85%, a company record.
- Added anomaly detection on collections data. It flags high-risk accounts about 48 hours before the manual check would catch them.

Lead Data Engineer (part-time consulting), MoneyCat Financing Jan 2024 – Dec 2025
Remote. Consumer lending in South-East Asia and Latin America.

- Set up the BI stack: ClickHouse and Airflow underneath, Power BI, Superset and Grafana on top.
- Wrote an LLM-based report generator for the C-level team, and a semantic-layer generator.
- Automated pipelines that people used to run by hand. Operational costs went down about 30% year over year. A self-serve data layer cut feature time-to-market by roughly 25%.
- Managed a distributed team of 7.

Industry Expert, Data Analytics, TU Berlin Aug 2024 – Jan 2025
Berlin, Germany.

- Taught applied lectures on Python, SQL and Power BI for MSc Data Science students. Built course modules around real fintech cases.

Tech Lead, Data and Analytics, PepsiCo Oct 2022 – Aug 2024

Belgrade, Serbia.

- Led 20 people through 3 team leads: analytics, data engineering and data science. Scope was demand forecasting, BI and reporting for SE Europe.
- Our ML demand forecast went to production in 8 markets (Snowflake, ClickHouse, Airflow, Power BI). Supply costs down 3%, shipment frequency up 11%, sell-out up 12%.
- Executive reporting used to take 3 days to prepare. After automation it took 4 hours, and all 8 markets got the same data format.

Chief Expert, Data and BI, IT Department of Moscow Government Jul 2021 – Oct 2022

Moscow, Russia.

- Connected 15+ external systems. Wrote an automated data loader that saved analysts around 200 hours a month, and made the main BI pipeline about 3x faster.
- Automated metadata checks. Known schema issues disappeared and data quality incidents fell by 60%.

Senior Data Analyst, VTB Bank Jan 2020 – Jul 2021

Moscow, Russia.

- BI system for retail credit and risk. Heavy SQL on multi-terabyte data, data marts used by 500+ people.

BI Implementation Consultant, CROC Aug 2017 – Jan 2020

Moscow, Russia.

- Supported BI for enterprise clients in Targit, SSRS and Power BI. Built ETL integrations and wrote technical documentation.

EDUCATION

M.Sc. Data Science (part-time), Technische Universität Berlin 2022 – 2024

B.Sc. Information Technology, RUDN University, Moscow 2016 – 2020

CERTIFICATES

- Microsoft DA-100: Analyzing Data with Power BI
- Microsoft 70-461: Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012/2014
- Technical Task Development, Specialist.ru
- Knowledge Base and Requirements Analysis, CROC