Director of Technology & Data

Job Description:

FinRegLab, a Washington, D.C. based research organization, is seeking a highly-motivated individual to join as the Director of Technology & Data. This position will help to lead and manage FinRegLab’s research agenda. In particular, the Director of Technology & Data will help to plan and execute a number of financial technology research projects and provide thought leadership to the financial sector and public policy stakeholders. This is an opportunity for a data scientist seeking to apply his/her technical expertise in the use of data and AI/machine learning technology to the field of financial services and public policy.

The successful candidate will possess:

- A deep sense of curiosity about the potential of data and technology as applied to the financial sector,
- Experience utilizing or evaluating applied data and computer science technologies in finance or other adjacent sectors,
- Demonstrated ability to build and lead the execution of research projects, data and technology evaluations, and experiments
- The ability to lead others, including internal and external stakeholders and partners
- Additionally, a systems thinking approach will prove immensely valuable.

Background:

FinRegLab is a nonprofit research center that tests new technologies and data to inform the financial marketplace and public policy and drive the financial sector toward a responsible and inclusive financial marketplace. With our research insights, we facilitate discourse across the financial ecosystem to inform public policy and market practices.

The Data Scientist will report to the Deputy Director and will assist the Deputy Director and the CEO by:

Role and Responsibilities:

- Work with the CEO and Deputy Director to prioritize and design empirical studies addressing gaps between financial regulations and industry on topics related to emerging technologies;
- Oversee the execution of multi-party experiments (including industry, academic, and government partners), ensuring objective, thorough and verifiable tests;
- Perform final technical review of all test planning, conduct and data analysis;
- Engage with regulators, banks, non-banks, academia, and other stakeholders on technology-related issues;
- Contribute to strategic planning
Our research priorities are informed through input from industry, academia, and advocate organizations and engagement with policymakers. We examine the particular policy and regulatory matters that are raised by the use of new technology and data in the financial sector. Informed by our research, we build and facilitate dialogue across the financial ecosystem vis-à-vis working groups to inform public policy and market practices.

Current and future potential policy relevant research areas include:

- The assessment of machine learning algorithms in credit underwriting models and implications for policy expectations
- The potential of new data and technology to improve identity verification, KYC, fraud mitigation, and AML requirements
- The policy, consumer, and industry implications of expanded data access and data portability
- The way in which machine learning algorithms can utilize vast amounts of data to better assess and mitigate fraud risks, thus enabling faster payments products and services
- The policy implications of using new types of data and technology to address insurance access and insurance markets
- The potential use of distributed ledger technology for a variety of financial services ledger purposes, such as debt registries, identity registries, etc.

**Skills Needed:**

**Essential Qualifications:**

- Graduate degree, preferably in computer science, statistics, mathematics, or engineering
- 8+ years developing statistical models, algorithms and analytics on large datasets, preferably in the financial services industry
- Familiarity and comfort with subjects such as probability and statistics, cryptography, and distributed systems; especially as they apply to machine learning, blockchain, and privacy;
- Proven experience provisioning cloud-based (AWS) managed services and applications, launching and configuring servers (nodes), configuring analytical software, securing cloud resources (managing least privilege, configuring security groups, whitelisting ports), managing logical access to data
- Demonstrable ability with data cleansing and ETL on both structured (schema rich/relational) and unstructured data (No-SQL)
- Experience identifying and working with multiple data sources and use cases complimentary to original project/use case
- Experience with test design and execution to achieve thorough and verifiable results;
- Strong desire to drive the financial industry to greater inclusion through the responsible evolution of technology and uses of data;
- Excellent written language and verbal communication skills, including the ability to present research findings in a clear and compelling way by tailoring presentation style and content to the needs of the audience.
• High standards and disciplined about meeting commitments and delivering high quality results within agreed timeframes.
• Ability to plan and work with others to deliver practical, value add results and products.

Good to have:

• Strong competency with R, Python, Hadoop/Spark, Linux, Shiny/Tableau, Elasticsearch/Kibana
• Understanding of enterprise data management best practices (data retention, disaster recovery)
• Understanding of cloud environment and system(s) hardening
• Experience with identity and access management solutions (AWS IAM, LDAP, Kerberos, Active Directory)
• Experience with resource and service audit and monitoring (AWS Cloudtrail/Cloudwatch, Nagios, Splunk)
• Experience with AWI Elastic MapReduce, AWS Kineses, AWS Redshift, AWS DynamoDB, Chef/Puppet/Ansible/Terraform/AWS cloudformation
• Strong competency with R, Python, Hadoop/Spark, Linux, Shiny/Tableau, Elasticsearch/Kibana
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Salary, Benefits, and Location

The salary will be commensurate with experience and includes a competitive benefits package.

The position will be based in Washington, D.C. with some domestic and international travel.

If you are interested in joining FinRegLab for this position, please send us your resume at: admin@finreglab.org