

AFSAR ALI, D.Eng.

Data Scientist · Operations & Finance Analytics · Applied AI

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SUMMARY

Data scientist who turns operating and financial data into decisions leaders trust, with AI built in. At Uber and Amazon Web Services, built the reporting executives run spend and performance reviews from, put recurring business reviews on push-button decks with AI-written narratives, tested language models before trusting them, and replaced long-standing manual finance processes with automation. Doctor of Engineering whose published research grounds robotaxi fleet-mix, staging and pricing decisions in rider demand behavior; professorial lecturer and doctoral praxis advisor at George Washington University; U.S. Air Force veteran with roots in accounting and financial operations.

CORE SKILLS

Data & methods: SQL · Spark SQL · Python · R · ETL · feature engineering · clustering · statistical testing · forecasting

Applied AI: LLM integration and evaluation · hallucination testing · local inference · retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) · AI-generated narratives

BI & finance: Tableau · QuickSight · Redshift · Athena · executive reporting · KPI systems · business reviews (MBR/QBR) · reconciliation

EXPERIENCE

Uber — San Francisco Bay Area

Dec 2021 – Present

Data Scientist

- Gave leadership one consistent view of spend pacing and performance across marketing channels, lines of business and multi-billion-dollar verticals by building a cross-functional KPI reporting system; owned the executive reporting portfolio end to end and cut reporting time ~40%.
- Reduced monthly and quarterly business-review deck drafting to one click by building an AI automation that refreshed slide screenshots and wrote data-grounded performance narratives through layered queries and review.
- Led the consolidation of fragmented reports into one governed analytics product that caught metric-definition drift and delivery failures before users saw them; parity checks before cutover, a rollback path and automated quality gates kept reporting at 99.9% uptime.
- Shifted analytics investment decisions from anecdote to observed usage by building product- and feature-level telemetry that turned engagement into keep, improve, consolidate or retire calls across the team's analytics products.
- Identified where a lower-cost local LLM was usable and where it hallucinated or failed to flag uncertainty by designing a replayable evaluation—frozen question bank, hallucination and abstention traps—and validating the grading harness before scoring the model.

George Washington University — Washington, DC (remote)

Nov 2025 – Present

Professorial Lecturer of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering · Doctoral Praxis Advisor/Director

- Direct quantitative methods and evaluation design for doctoral research in healthcare AI, smart-venue operations and aviation software security; examined evidence and decision relevance at five successful Doctor of Engineering defenses.

Amazon Web Services — Seattle, WA

Oct 2018 – Dec 2021

Business Intelligence Engineer

- Cut ad-hoc reporting requests ~80% by launching eight production dashboards behind the managed-services business's weekly operating review and 24 customer-delivery managers; took over three ETL pipelines and added 32 scorecard measures.
- Cut a monthly finance reconciliation from about three days to three hours (~87% less manual effort) by automating an Excel process that had run by hand for over six years; recognized in the monthly business review.
- Unblocked a Japan expansion and a Kindle launch by scoping test cases, running them and driving sign-off for automated accounting across 11 settlement currencies.
- Sized the price increase a service option needed to break even under higher staffing costs with a cost-and-revenue model, then prototyped a new billing calculation in SQL across account, product, usage, rate-card and pricing-plan data.
- Reduced a recurring financial cleanup from 8 hours to about 20 minutes by designing and launching an ETL query that replaced a manual process in place for over two years.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Independent AI Products — alidoes.ai

2026 – Present

- Launched a live property-operations web app bringing maintenance, documents and onboarding together for residents, managers and owners; owned product and AI-assisted delivery, including a local-LLM assistant that answers only from each user's permitted records.
- Built and open-sourced a deterministic Python detector for data feeds and scheduled jobs that stop silently, scoring ~84% accuracy (~82% recall, ~86% specificity) on a 105-case synthetic benchmark loaded with hard threshold-boundary cases.

EARLIER CAREER

- U.S. Government Accountability Office — Business Analyst Intern, Financial Management & Assurance (2017): improved audit-model efficiency ~40% using IDEA and R and drafted federal financial-audit findings from data-reliability analysis · Discovery Health — Startup finance (2017 – 2018): led maritime-health financial modeling, market sizing and pricing.
- JPD Financial — Program and client-account management (2014 – 2016): reached 210% of quota and drove 48% of company revenue (up to 63% in a quarter) running financial-recovery programs, forecasts and executive QBRs for large enterprise accounts; lifted audit efficiency 28% · Consulting engagements for Ploom, CalVet and Ground Control (2013 – 2014): spreadsheet automation, a cloud payment redesign and an ERP migration, with 100% audit readiness on Ploom.
- U.S. Air Force — Accounting & Operations (2007 – 2013): six years running financial operations, resource planning and process improvement while training and leading frontline teams.

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.), Engineering Management — George Washington University

2025

Doctoral praxis (dissertation): "Optimizing Robotaxi Deployment Through Behavior-Based Demand Clustering: A Case Study in Urban Mobility" — published via ProQuest, 2025.

- Turned ~70K rows of Boston ride-hailing data into hub-design, fleet-mix, staging, scheduling and pricing recommendations by engineering behavioral features, validating demand clusters with Kruskal-Wallis tests and benchmarking them against geographic segmentation.

Professional MBA and M.S. in Business Analytics — Seattle University · Certificate in Quantitative Economic Analysis

2018

B.S. Business Administration, Accounting (Cum Laude) — Hawai'i Pacific University

2012

LEADERSHIP & CIVIC SERVICE

- Board Member, Marina Bay Northshore HOA, 2022 – 2026, including two terms as President — secured \$364K+ in rebates covering 100% of installation costs for a 70-station Level 2 EV rollout by layering public incentive programs, and led a ~\$4M four-building restoration from capital planning into delivery.
- Commissioner, Richmond Economic Development Commission, 2026 – Present — won the chair's backing and introduced a 40-metric economic report card to the commission, leading its AI-assisted build: 6 pillars, a source-traced data dictionary, source-reviewed metric explainers and a working prototype.
- Global Co-Chair, Vets @ Uber, Mar 2022 – Dec 2025 — recognized in a year-end manager review for strong leadership impact while co-leading a global veteran employee network: ran leadership syncs, all-hands and executive presentations alongside full data science work.