Cesairé Owen Tobias

Technology Strategy Consultant | Advisory & Technical Leadership

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Professional Summary

Technology strategy consultant with over 12 years of experience spanning data science, analytics, and technical leadership. Background spanning from building analytical tools and data-driven solutions to advising senior leadership on technology strategy — including build vs. buy decisions, process design, and engineering team oversight. With experience across the finance, management consulting, e-commerce, entertainment, and technology sectors.

Technical Skills

- **Leadership & Advisory**: Technology Strategy, Build vs. Buy Analysis, Scope Management, Team Management, Technical Mentorship
- **Programming**: R, SQL, Python
- **R Ecosystem**: Shiny, tidyverse, Package Development
- **Business Intelligence**: Tableau, Metabase, Power BI, Interactive Visualization, A/B Testing
- **Machine Learning**: Supervised & Unsupervised Learning
- **Databases & Cloud**: Google BigQuery, AWS Athena, PostgreSQL
- **Data Practices**: Data Governance, Data Quality Standards, ETL Pipelines
- **Automation Platforms**: Microsoft Power Platform, Power Automate
- **Strategic Analysis**: Financial Modelling, Statistical Analysis, Monte Carlo Simulation, Scenario Analysis

Professional Experience

Founder & Principal Consultant | Sheet Solved

September 2022 - Present (part-time alongside employment until January 2025; full-time thereafter)

Technology consultancy advising senior leadership on technology strategy, process design, and solution delivery.

Current Engagement: Consulting Technical Lead | Precise Digital

January 2025 - Present

- Advise the CTO on technology strategy, preparing build vs. buy analyses that weigh time-to-value against cost to inform executive decision-making.
- Introduced version control and established coding standards, data governance practices, and quality assurance processes where none previously existed.
- Draft scopes of work and manage delivery against them, engaging with leadership to prevent scope creep and keep engineering efforts aligned with business priorities.
- Lead the development team, overseeing architecture decisions and sprint planning.

Additional Clients

- Built a dashboard for BlueAlpha Investments that ingests, normalises, and aggregates spreadsheet data into a clean panel database for fund benchmarking and performance analysis.
- Reviewed and enhanced valuation models for Gananda Connect.

Finance Project Analyst (Contract) | CDW, Cape Town

January 2024 - December 2024

- Led cross-functional improvement initiatives within the CFO's Tactical Solutions Team, collaborating with stakeholders across Finance, HR, and BI departments.
- Designed and built Power Automate approval workflows that reduced processing time and eliminated manual bottlenecks.

- Developed custom automated data aggregation solutions that consolidated information from multiple disparate sources, reducing hours spent on manual operations.

Senior Business Analyst | GoDaddy, Cape Town

April 2022 - December 2023

- Designed, implemented, and analysed A/B experiments within the Mobile Ventures experimentation framework, applying statistical rigour to inform product strategy decisions.
- Built interactive dashboards using Metabase and Tableau that enabled product managers to self-serve key performance metrics and track experiment outcomes.
- Leveraged Google BigQuery and AWS Athena to analyse user behaviour patterns across platforms, translating insights into actionable recommendations that increased user engagement.

Business Development Analyst | Takealot, Cape Town

July 2021 - April 2022

- Developed analytical models to assess new business opportunities across the Takealot Group (Takealot.com, Superbalist, Mr D).
- Built business case frameworks for the on-demand grocery initiative and TakealotMORE subscription plan.
- Performed benchmark analysis against international e-commerce leaders to identify feature gaps and growth opportunities.

Consultant | Fractal Value Advisors, Cape Town

August 2018 - July 2021

- Built and maintained financial models for corporate valuation and strategic decision analysis.
- Developed interactive dashboards using Excel and Power BI that visualized complex financial metrics for C-suite executives.
- Created web-scraping tools that automated data collection, reducing research time and improving data accuracy.
- Implemented scenario analysis and Monte Carlo simulations to stress-test strategic initiatives.

Ninety-One, Cape Town

Quantitative Analyst

January 2016 - August 2018

- Helped build the analytics capability from the ground up for the global Emerging Market Fixed Income team spanning Cape Town, London, and Singapore.
- Created R packages for data extraction and analysis that standardized reporting and established data quality practices across international teams.
- Developed interactive Shiny applications that democratized complex analytics, enabling non-technical portfolio managers and analysts to self-serve insights.
- Designed and implemented regression models to predict sovereign bond performance and recession risk, directly informing investment decisions.

Graduate Intern

January 2015 - December 2015

- Rotated through Operations (Business Change team) and Investments (South African Rates team).
- Assisted in econometric projects and operational process improvements.

Selected Projects

Full portfolio at sheetsolved.com/built.

- **RTP – Rugby Tournament Predictor** — Glicko-2 rating engine and Monte Carlo simulator that forecasts rugby tournaments from every senior men's international on record, back to 1871. Accuracy is measured by walk-forward backtest and published beside the forecasts. *Python, XGBoost, SQLite, Next.js, TypeScript.*
- **tidylearn** — R package on CRAN giving one tidyverse-shaped interface over glmnet, randomForest, xgboost and others, from reading data through modelling to publishing results. *R, tidyverse.*

- **Wood Wiz** — Normalises firewood pricing across online storefronts to rand per kilogram. Scraped daily into static JSON the site reads directly. *Next.js, TypeScript, Cheerio, Zod.*

Education

- **MPhil Financial Technology** | University of Cape Town
  January 2024 - December 2025 | Awarded with distinction, September 2026
- **BBusSci (Economics)** | University of Cape Town
  January 2010 - December 2014
  - 3rd Place, Allan Gray essay competition (2014)
  - 3rd Overall position, EDU Business Science 2010 cohort (2013)
  - 2nd Overall position, EDU Business Science 2010 cohort (2012)
- **National Senior Certificate** | St. George's Grammar School, Cape Town
  December 2009

Certifications

- Certified Data Carpentries Instructor (June 2023)
- AWS Partner Technical Accreditation (June 2021)
- AWS Partner Business Accreditation (May 2021)
- AWS Partner Cloud Economics Accreditation (May 2021)

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "An unbalanced approach to assessing public interest," *Catalyst* (DealMakers), June Quarter 2021, co-authored with David Holland: Read Article
- Ready Before Run(): A Practical Guide to Gear Up for Data Science

Presentations

- Guest Lecturer, "The Economy and its Financial Markets," Economics Honours, University of Cape Town (September 2019)
- "Productivity Hacks with your .Rprofile," satRday Joburg (2020): Watch Presentation
- "EXCELsioR!" on integrating Excel with R, satRday Joburg (2019): Watch Presentation