

CMA Strategy Consulting

CMA Strategy Consulting is a boutique consulting firm focused on the telecommunications, media, and high tech industries. With millions of rows of data coming in for analysis, CMA saw an opportunity to evolve its capabilities and ensure its services remained on the cutting edge. Metis was selected to skill up 75% of the company, from analysts and managers to principals, through a contextualized curriculum taught in-person and live online. As a result of developing their Python skills through Metis, the team could build models 22.5 times faster than before.

SITUATION

As the datasets CMA used in studies for corporate and governmental customers began to grow exponentially, the firm found that Excel's limitations as a data analysis tool were impeding its ability to process data at the volume and speed it needed. The team recognized that proactively upskilling their competency with Python would increase efficiency while maintaining the high quality of analysis they were known for. After initially providing informal training, CMA soon realized that engaging experts in data science instruction could help move its analysts' skill sets ahead of the curve and execute a company-wide transformation of its data analysis.

Solution

Metis delivered a two-day Python for Data Analysis training to 75% of CMA's employees — including senior executives. The training was contextualized to CMA's vision and needs. It covered data cleaning and analysis, interacting with Excel, and integrating Python into their workflow.

The curriculum also covered quality assurance to help managers assess all analyses performed in Python and check them for accuracy and relevance. Furthermore, the firm's actual data was used as an integral part of the training to demonstrate how to reproduce previous work and extend it to create additional value.

Metis also livestreamed the training from the in-person classroom in Boston to CMA's office in San Francisco, utilizing a dedicated teaching assistant to moderate the west coast training and maximize the value of the engagement.

"Metis's experience providing customized coding training to non-coders was apparent from the get-go. They showed tremendous adaptability to my company's pedagogical and scheduling needs and provided an instructor who was enthusiastic, deeply knowledgeable, and effortlessly engaging over the course of multiple day-long sessions. I'd happily hire them again for a similar engagement."

- ALEX KING, PRINCIPAL, CMA

Outcome

Throughout the training, Metis worked closely with CMA to ensure that the curriculum was relevant to its specific business needs. Rave reviews and immediate adoption of the techniques learned demonstrated that the training was successful, with results indicating that analyses using the team's new Python skills ran 22.5 times faster than before.

Metis also provided each employee with custom feedback, ensuring each got the most out of the experience. All 30 participants graduated from the training and returned to their roles with renewed energy and new skills they could apply immediately. As one analyst said, Metis's ability to "fit our exact needs with our own datasets was invaluable."

"Metis was able to engage employees at all skill levels, from those with no background in Python to those who were experienced. Moving large data models over to new systems is a risky proposition, but through Metis we have the tools to do it now, and we've started moving some of our most important project models over to Python."

- PETER LEE, CONSULTANT, CMA











