

<https://www.execcapital.co.uk/job/data-architect-technical-lead-founding-data-hire/>

Data Architect / Technical Lead – Founding Data Hire

Description

Location: London (hybrid)

Employment type: Full-time

Package: £80,000–£140,000, dependent on experience

Reporting to: Founder/CEO

Search led by: Exec Capital

The Opportunity

Our client is a London-based youth-culture media group whose brands reach an audience of more than 120 million people every month, producing work for 75+ global brand partners. The business is building the next layer of its offering: a first-party behavioural data engine that turns what its audience watches, joins and responds to into structured, consented signal — the foundation for the audience-intelligence work that follows.

This is a genuine founding appointment. You would be the company's first senior data hire, owning the architecture and technical direction of the data engine end-to-end, with a direct line to the founder/CEO. There is no technical layer above you on this project — the design decisions are yours to own and defend.

The Role

You will design and stand up the data warehouse and ELT architecture, define the behavioural signal schema, and set the data governance model the business will be judged on by clients and investors. You'll work with editorial and social teams to embed data collection into daily content operations, and prepare the datasets that future intelligence and modelling work — including a planned AI venture — will be built on. You may also scope and hire supporting engineering resource as the function grows.

Responsibilities

What You'll Do

- Architect the cloud data warehouse and ELT pipeline strategy: daily automated ingestion from TikTok, Instagram, YouTube and other platform APIs, Google Analytics, newsletter/CRM and commerce sources
- Design and evolve the behavioural signal schema — spanning attention, engagement, sentiment, intent, trend-adoption dynamics and outcomes — with consistent cohort dimensions across sources
- Set data governance as a product feature: retention windows, consent flags, provenance and audit trail design that will stand up to client and investor scrutiny
- Work with editorial and social teams to build data collection into the daily content operation without slowing it down
- Curate a validation benchmark from historical campaign stimulus-to-outcome pairs, structured for future modelling work

Hiring organization

Exec Capital

Employment Type

Full-time

Beginning of employment

1st October 2026

Duration of employment

Perm

Industry

Technology

Job Location

London, South East, United Kingdom

Working Hours

9-5

Base Salary

£ 80,000 - £ 140,000

Date posted

September 11, 2026

Valid through

30.09.2026

- Define the technical roadmap for the data function, including scoping any future hires

Qualifications

What We're Looking For

- **Architecture-level experience** — a track record designing, not just implementing, data warehouse and ELT architecture from scratch (e.g. BigQuery or Snowflake with Fivetran, Airbyte or custom ingestion, and dbt)
- **Strong SQL and Python**, with deep experience integrating third-party APIs, including handling auth, rate limits, pagination and schema drift at scale
- **Data governance expertise** — genuine command of GDPR-aware design: retention, consent and deletion architecture, treated as a product feature rather than an afterthought
- **Judgement and communication** — able to set technical direction independently, explain schema decisions to non-technical stakeholders, and defend governance design to legal and client audiences
- Prior experience as a founding or senior data engineer, data architect, or technical lead standing up a data platform from zero is important

Nice to have: social or media analytics experience, dbt semantic modelling, orchestration tools such as Airflow or Dagster, and a genuine interest in the data foundations behind machine learning and simulation.

Job Benefits

Why Apply

- Founding scope — you architect the asset the next phase of the company is valued on, with no legacy systems or technical debt to inherit
- Real scale from day one, with pipelines feeding channels reaching 120 million+ people monthly
- A direct line to the founder and to the company's key technical and commercial decisions
- Genuine growth path as the data and technical function builds out around you
- Exposure to a founder-led business building a genuinely new, technically ambitious product line