Founding Investment Data Engineer

Job description · October 30, 2026

Own the investment data behind Helmsted, the AI-native operating system for wealth advisors of complex households.

Location	Remote (US) today; eventual relocation as the team centralizes
Type	Full-time
Reports to	Co-founders

About Helmsted

Advisors use Helmsted for financial planning, tax and estate analysis, meetings and their client portal, and our goal is to replace a firm's entire tech stack. We are a small team, live with pilot firms and shipping every day.

The role

You will own how investment data comes into Helmsted, how it is protected, and everything built on it, from daily custodial files to performance reporting, fee billing and, in time, trading. You will work with our CTO on architecture and with our CEO, a CFA charterholder and CFP® professional, on methodology.

What you'll do

- Own the investment data foundation, so account data arrives clean and reconciled every day
- Protect client PII at every step: secure file transfer from custodians, encryption, least-privilege access, and masking account numbers and tax IDs anywhere they aren't needed, including what reaches an AI model
- Build the checks that catch bad data before an advisor sees it
- Build performance reporting that advisors can defend to clients and examiners
- Build fee billing that is right to the dollar, every cycle
- Grow our data connections to custodians and other providers, and lay the groundwork for trading and rebalancing
- Bring in market and research data (prices, corporate actions, filings, news) so Helmsted's AI can analyze investments and cite its sources
- Keep the data clean and traceable to source, so Helmsted's AI can reason over it and cite it
- Put new models to work on data tasks (extraction, reconciliation, exception handling) as they ship, and keep the cost of running AI over every account, every day, under control

What you bring

- 5+ years in data engineering, with real depth in investment data and strong Python and SQL
- Investment data files: how custodial files actually behave (positions, transactions, securities, cost basis), including late, missing and restated files, and how they tie out
- Performance nuances: TWR vs. MWR, gross vs. net of fees, cash-flow timing, trade-date accounting and accrued income, why two systems can disagree on one account, and the standards behind it all (GIPS, the SEC Marketing Rule)
- Fee billing and its rules: tiered and household schedules, breakpoints, exclusions, advance vs. arrears, proration and custodian fee deduction, plus keeping fees matched to the advisory agreement and Form ADV, where SEC examiners often find errors
- Precision with money: decimal math, idempotent pipelines, audit trails and a reconciliation mindset
- Fintech security instincts: you know which data is sensitive (account numbers, tax IDs, balances, holdings), how it leaks (logs, exports, test data, AI prompts), and how to minimize, mask and audit it
- Pro-AI: you can work through AI tools almost exclusively, and still get it done without them when you have to

Highly preferred

- Built performance, billing or trading systems at a portfolio accounting, reporting or wealthtech company
- Operations experience at an RIA, family office, broker-dealer or custodian
- Experience with trading systems (rebalancing, order management, trade files) or account aggregation data
- Handling sensitive client data under SOC 2 and the SEC's Reg S-P, including the 72-hour breach notice advisors must require from vendors like us
- Experience with market and reference data vendors, including their licensing and redistribution rules

Why join

- Founding equity and real ownership of the data foundation everything else runs on
- Start remote anywhere in the US
- A modern stack and no legacy systems to work around
- Work directly with the founders and our pilot firms, with every AI tool you need covered

Pay and details

Base salary	$120,000–$180,000
Equity	Early-team grant, sized by experience
Benefits	Paid sick leave; health insurance and a 401(k) are under discussion but not offered yet
AI tools	All covered
Applications	Accepted on an ongoing basis
Background check	Final offers are contingent on a background check

How to apply

Skip the cover letter. Email careers@helmsted.ai with short answers to these; bullets are fine. We want to see how you think AI will change this work and how you would build for it, securely. Use AI to help you answer, and tell us how you did.

1. How do you work today? Walk us through the AI tools and agents in your data work, what you trust them with and what you still check by hand.
2. Reconciliation, performance and billing are still run largely by people chasing exceptions in spreadsheets. How will AI change that work over the next five years, and what would you build first?
3. Pick one: a custodian restates a week of transactions, two systems show different quarterly returns for the same account, or a mid-quarter deposit crosses a household billing breakpoint. How would an agent catch it, resolve it and show its work?
4. Which parts of this work would you let an agent run end to end, and where would you keep a person in the loop? How would you secure client data and keep an audit trail either way?
5. A nightly custodial file lands with account numbers, tax IDs and balances for every client. Walk us through how it gets from the custodian to an AI-written client report without exposing PII to anyone, or any model, that doesn't need it.

Add a resume or LinkedIn. We move fast.

Helmsted, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. We evaluate candidates on merit and do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, veteran status, or disability.