

DHIRAJ RAIKANTIWAR

ENTERPRISE DATA & AI TRANSFORMATION LEADER

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Enterprise data and AI transformation leader with 16+ years of experience spanning retail, financial services, and global consulting. Combines enterprise strategy, modern data engineering, data-product leadership, platform modernization, governance, operational discipline, and responsible GenAI enablement. Progressed through four enterprise-data roles at PetSmart, from senior engineer to Manager, Data Delivery. Builds strong teams, converts complex business priorities into executable roadmaps, and moves emerging technology from experimentation toward secure, governed, and business-owned execution.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO

Enterprise Transformation Data strategy, products, modernization, and business alignment	Responsible AI Enablement Human-validated prototypes, controls, and adoption practices	Operating Model & Governance Ownership, reliability, cost visibility, and delivery discipline
Executive Decision Support Decision-ready reporting for high-priority business moments	Global Team Leadership Hiring, mentoring, capability growth, and accountable execution	Technology Leadership Databricks, Snowflake, cloud platforms, analytics, and BI

SELECTED LEADERSHIP IMPACT

- Enterprise data products:** Led cross-functional delivery supporting pricing, promotion, merchandising, product-data, analytics, and operational decision-making while preserving trusted reporting and business continuity.
- Platform modernization:** Directed automation of a complex enterprise cutover workflow, materially improving processing speed, repeatability, and operational readiness.
- Responsible AI:** Built an AI-assisted reporting prototype from a plain-English request, prototyped a semantic-analysis accelerator with human validation, and governed team-led AI-assisted engineering practices.
- Governance and reliability:** Advanced catalog and governance modernization, clearer service ownership, technical-debt reduction, operational playbooks, and proactive readiness practices across a broad data portfolio.
- Leadership at scale:** Strengthened global delivery through hiring, mentoring, certification support, role clarity, and end-to-end ownership while progressing from hands-on engineering into people and portfolio leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Manager, Data Delivery | PetSmart | 2023-Present

- Lead multidisciplinary enterprise data delivery across engineering, data products, analytics and BI, platform modernization, governance, and operational reliability.
- Connect business priorities to portfolio roadmaps, investment decisions, delivery plans, operating readiness, and measurable outcome hypotheses across complex retail domains.
- Direct enterprise pricing and promotion data initiatives aligned to revenue, margin, workload efficiency, and trusted decision support without compromising reporting continuity.
- Advance platform and governance modernization by strengthening metadata, ownership, migration discipline, cost visibility, technical-debt management, and production controls.
- Established repeatable reliability practices spanning readiness scorecards, operating procedures, incident learning, and clearer Build-It/Run-It accountability.
- Provide senior leaders with timely, decision-ready reporting during critical business windows and translate complex technology risks into clear actions and tradeoffs.
- Develop engineering capability through hiring, coaching, mentoring, certification support, stretch ownership, cross-team learning, and structured feedback rhythms.
- Embed responsible AI-assisted engineering through rapid prototyping, human validation, security awareness, peer review, change governance, and explicit ownership language.

PETSMART LEADERSHIP PROGRESSION

IT Engineering Manager, Enterprise Information Management | PetSmart | 2023

- Transitioned from technical leadership into formal people and portfolio management, strengthening planning, partner communication, accountability, and continuity across business-critical data work.

Lead Enterprise Information Management Engineer | PetSmart | 2022-2023

- Led enterprise initiatives spanning supply chain, merchandising, pricing, self-service analytics, and real-time reporting while establishing reusable patterns for modern data products and delivery.
- Developed team capability through hands-on technical leadership, mentoring, training, and clear ownership across business and technology partners.

Senior Information Management Engineer | PetSmart | 2021-2022

- Delivered enterprise data-engineering and business-intelligence solutions across retail domains and progressed rapidly from technical contributor to organizational leader.

EARLIER CAREER

BI Consulting & Delivery Leadership | InfoCepts | 2012-2021

Progressive consulting and delivery roles across India, Singapore, and the United States.

- Progressed through consulting and delivery responsibilities for enterprise and financial-services clients, building nearly a decade of experience in analytics, data warehousing, stakeholder management, and cross-cultural leadership.
- Led distributed delivery across solution planning, data modeling, engineering, BI modernization, resource coordination, risk management, and executive communication.
- Helped teams translate business requirements into scalable data and analytics solutions using cloud, warehouse, semantic-modeling, and enterprise-reporting technologies.

Software Engineer | Persistent Systems | 2010-2011

- Built a foundation in enterprise business intelligence, data modeling, analytics architecture, SQL optimization, and customer-focused problem solving.

EDUCATION

- Master of Business Administration, Organizational Leadership | Eastern University, 2026 | GPA: 3.88
- Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Engineering | University of Pune, India

SELECTED CREDENTIALS

- Databricks Academy | Building Reliable Conversational Agents with Genie, 2026
- McKinsey.org Forward Program | McKinsey & Company, 2025
- Google Data Analytics Certificate | Google, 2022
- Certified SAFe 5 Product Owner/Product Manager | Scaled Agile, 2021

ENTERPRISE & TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

Strategy & Leadership: Enterprise data strategy; AI transformation; data products; portfolio leadership; operating models; executive communication; global delivery; talent development

Data Platforms: Databricks; Snowflake; Azure; GCP; data lakehouse; data warehousing; ETL/ELT; data modeling; metadata and governance

Analytics & Engineering: Power BI; ThoughtSpot; MicroStrategy; Python; PySpark; SQL; self-service analytics; CI/CD; production reliability

Responsible AI: AI-assisted engineering; rapid prototyping; human validation; security awareness; peer review; change governance; use-case tracking