Data Gist

magazine



Top Data Breaches of 2025

Think in Problems, Not Tools

Master the Fundamentals

Together, We Go Further: The Power of Community

Data Engineering Community

A Strategic Framework for Flourishing in Data: The 2026 Guide

Musili Adebayo

Building Data Systems That Scale

CDE 3.0

vol 1

2026

Building Data Systems That Scale

A certified Data and Analytics Engineer, Musili Adebayo's journey into data began during her undergraduate days, through her thesis work, where she applied tools such as SPSS, Excel, and MATLAB to address financial challenges faced by farmers. That experience revealed the transformative power of data in solving real-world problems. It was a defining moment one decision that shaped her career path and set her firmly on a journey she has never looked back from.


Musili Adebayo

With over four years of experience across aviation, fintech, health technology, and retail industry, she has built end-to-end data systems, predictive analytics, and business intelligence solutions that drives smarter decisions and measurable improvements in operational performance across global teams.

Discipline in the face of challenges

For Musili, discipline in the face of challenges means staying committed even when motivation fades or the path forward becomes unclear.

"The ability to show up consistently is key. No challenge is ever the same twice you return wiser each time."

Through consistency, complex problems become manageable, allowing steady progress despite uncertainty or setbacks.
She has learned that growth in the data field rarely comes from comfort, but from persistence choosing to learn, adapt, and improve even when the work feels overwhelming. Discipline keeps her focused on long-term goals while navigating short-term difficulties, and it remains one of the most defining traits shaping her career journey.

My biggest fear is becoming complacent, getting too comfortable and stopping the habit of continuous learning and growth that this field demands.

Moment that ultimately made me stronger *- fail fast*

Early in my career, I led the rollout of a business intelligence system that worked perfectly from a technical standpoint, yet failed to reflect how the business truly measured success. While the solution was well engineered, it missed the mark because it was built without enough input from the people who would use it.

The feedback was uncomfortable, but it forced my team to pause, challenge our assumptions, and bring business users into the design process. By rebuilding the solution collaboratively, the team created a system that truly supported decision-making and delivered far greater impact reinforcing the lesson that the real value of data lies in solving the right problems, not just building elegant systems.

Project i'm most proud of

I took a role in an unfamiliar industry where I was tasked with an intimidating objective, to launch a new business division and its analytics framework from the ground up. I still remember the feeling it wasn't just a learning curve; it was a mountain. I felt like I had been thrown into the deep end without knowing how to swim.

The project, however, remains the one I am most proud of, it stripped me of my comfort zone, I had to learn the art of radical collaboration. I relied on the wisdom of mentors and the grit of my team.



"True growth is found on the other side of fear, specifically when you are brave enough to lean on others."

Together, we turned that chaotic start into a streamlined operation that boosted the company's revenue by 20%. It changed my philosophy on work entirely:

How I approach learning a new tool

My secret to learning quickly is to stand on the shoulders of giants. Instead of diving in blind, I look for people who have already mastered the tool. I ask for their 'cheat sheets', the specific tips, tricks, and structured guides that helped them succeed. This mentorship-first approach helps me cut through the clutter, narrowing my focus to what truly matters so I can be effective within a tight timeframe.

Balancing technical engineering with business impact

I operate on the principle that technology is a vehicle, not a destination. A mentor once taught me a crucial lesson: you can build a technically flawless system, but if you cannot articulate its value, it will never gain traction.
That advice drives me to act as a translator between the data team and stakeholders. I don't just present technical outcomes; I convert them into business narratives, explaining exactly what changed, why it matters, and how it accelerates decision-making. This discipline ensures that our engineering excellence isn't just theoretical; it is a direct driver of strategy and growth.

Career advice

My advice, Trust the process because this field is a marathon, not a sprint. Enjoy the journey and embrace the learning curve it never ends, don't hide your progress. I would tell my younger self to showcase her work confidently and let go of the fear of judgment.

"Visibility is just as important as ability."

Top Data Breaches of 2025

1. Yale New Haven Health System Data Breach
   Date: March 2025
   Impact: 5.5 million records

2. SK Telecom Breach
   Date: April 2025
   Impact: 27 million users

3. Marks & Spencer Ransomware Attack
   Date: April 2025
   Impact: £300 million in losses

4. Blue Shield of California Breach
   Date: April 2025
   Impact: 4.7 million records

5. The 16 Billion Passwords Leak
   Date: June 2025
   Impact: 16 billion user credentials and passwords

6. Qantas Data Breach
   Date: June 2025
   Impact: 5.7 million records

7. TransUnion Data Breach
   Date: July 2025
   Impact: 4.4 million customer records

8. Allianz Life Breach
   Date: July 2025
   Impact: 2.8 million records

9. Farmers Insurance Data Breach
   Date: August 2025
   Impact: 1.1 million records

10. Red Hat GitLab Breach
    Date: October 2025
    Impact: 570GB of data from over 28,000 repositories

A Strategic Framework for Flourishing in Data: The 2026 Guide

Thriving in data is not defined by the number of tools you know or the complexity of your queries, but by your ability to think clearly, solve meaningful problems, and remain relevant in an evolving field.

Master the Fundamentals Tools change. Principles don't.

Building a solid understanding of the basics, how data is structured, how to reason with numbers, how SQL works, and how data connects to real business problems, makes learning new tools feel less stressful and more like a natural next step. When you understand why data behaves the way it does, the how becomes easier. Strong foundations build long careers.

Think in Problems, Not Tools

Data exists to answer questions and support decisions.

Before opening any tools asks:

- What decision is being made?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- What does success look like?

Tools execute. Thinking directs.

To thrive don't start with code, but rather start with clarity.

Build for People, Not Just for Precision

Effective data work is clear, explainable, and actionable. Its true value lies in translating insights into simple language, visuals, and narratives that non-technical audiences can understand and act on.

Perfect models that no one understands fail.

If stakeholders trust your explanations, they will trust your data.

Clean data is not glamorous it is powerful.

Treating data quality as non-negotiable is essential. No matter how advanced the analysis, bad data inevitably leads to bad decisions.

Learn to speak the language of business fluently.

Develop business and domain intelligence by grounding data in context because without an understanding of industry, market dynamics, and operational realities, data is just noise and insights fall short.

Embrace Continuous Learning Strategically

Together, We Go Further: The Power of Community

Progress moves faster when you're not carrying everything alone. Having people to think with, lean on, and grow alongside makes navigating your career and work less overwhelming and more intentional. Learning happens naturally through shared experiences. You hear how others approached challenges you're facing, pick up ideas you wouldn't have considered, and suddenly things begin to click. In a fast-moving, data-driven world, these shared perspectives can save time, reduce stress, and help you avoid costly wrong turns.

When you feel supported, you're more open about what you don't know, more willing to try new ideas, and more comfortable asking for help. That openness builds momentum, turning small efforts into progress that lasts. It also creates a sense of belonging a reminder that you're not behind, not alone, and not expected to figure everything out by yourself.

Even with all our technology and automation, progress remains deeply human. It's through connection that ideas become conversations, learning becomes confidence, and growth truly happens together.

@ Where to Connect in 2026

Data Engineering Community
http://dataengineeringcommunity.com

Data Community Africa
https://www.datacommunityafrica.org

Keep an eye on CDE 3.0 info @

Core DataEngineers
https://www.coredataengineers.com