

Founding Engineer

Dystopic tests AI agents before they ship. The platform models the systems an agent acts on, including internal databases, services and external APIs, runs the agent against a large suite of scenarios inside that model, and grades what the agent did to those systems rather than what it reported doing. The result arrives as a check on every pull request. Dystopic is a pre-seed company in New York, funded by Sierra Ventures, boldstart and Anti-fund.

THE ROLE

This is the first engineering hire. The role combines platform engineering with customer delivery: roughly two thirds of the time is spent building the platform, and the remaining third is spent working directly with customers on implementation and maintenance. It does not involve embedding full time in customer teams or writing customer application code.

Platform engineering

Design and build distributed simulation infrastructure that holds consistent state across long, multi-step agent tasks.

Build execution infrastructure that runs large volumes of agent workloads in parallel under real cost and latency constraints.

Develop evaluation and scoring systems for non-deterministic software, including the methods needed to separate signal from variance.

Build the integrations that deliver results into customer development workflows.

Customer implementation

Onboard new customers, modeling their systems on the platform and integrating their agents.

Design evaluation suites alongside customer engineering teams and validate that those suites produce results the team can rely on.

Support customer deployments once they are live.

Turn what customer work exposes into platform capability.

REQUIREMENTS

Two or more years writing production software.

Direct experience with LLM-agent systems, whether building them, evaluating them, or working on the infrastructure underneath them.

End-to-end ownership of a system at an early-stage company.

Strong Python.

Experience with distributed systems and comfort working in codebases you did not write.

Ability to read a trace, diagnose why an agent behaved as it did, and document the explanation clearly.

COMPENSATION

Salary \$150,000 – \$200,000 DOE

Equity 0.5% – 1.5% founding

Location New York, in person

Insurance Medical, dental, vision, life

Paid time off Unlimited

Food stipend \$500 monthly

PROCESS

A 30-minute introductory conversation.

A take-home exercise, completed within 48 hours, followed by a 30-minute presentation and discussion.

A 60-minute collaborative technical session.

References, then an offer.

APPLY

Email piper@dystopic.ai with a short note and a link to something you have built. Cover letters are not required.