

Cracking the PM Interview: How to Land a Product Manager Job in Technology

Gayle Laakmann McDowell, Jackie Bavaro



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How many pizzas are delivered in Manhattan? How do you design an alarm clock for the blind? What is your favorite piece of software and why? How would you launch a video rental service in India? This book will teach you how to answer these questions and more.

Cracking the PM Interview is a comprehensive book about landing a product management role in a startup or bigger tech company. Learn how the ambiguously-named "PM" (product manager / program manager) role varies across companies, what experience you need, how to make your existing experience translate, what a great PM resume and cover letter look like, and finally, how to master the PM interview questions (estimation questions, behavioral questions, case questions, product questions, technical questions, and the super important "pitch").

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The Product Manager Role

What is a PM? Functions of a PM Top Myths about Product Management Project Managers and Program Managers

Companies

How the PM Role Varies Google Microsoft Apple Facebook Amazon Yahoo Twitter Startups

Getting the Right Experience

New Grads Making the Most of Career Fairs Do you need an MBA? Why Technical Experience Matters Transitioning from Engineer to Product Manager Transitioning from Designer to Product Manager Transitioning from Other Roles What Makes a Good Side Project?

Career Advancement

Tips and Tricks for Career Advancement Q & A: Fernando Delgado, Sr. Director, Product Management at Yahoo Q & A: Ashley Carroll, Senior Director of Product Management, DocuSign Q & A: Brandon Bray, Principal Group Program Manager, Microsoft Q & A: Thomas Arend, International Product Lead, Airbnb Q & A: Johanna Wright, VP at Google Q & A: Lisa Kostova Ogata, VP of Product at Bright.com

Behind the Interview Scenes

Google Microsoft Facebook Apple Amazon Yahoo Twitter Dropbox

Resumes

The 15 Second Rule The Rules Attributes of a Good PM Resume What to Include

Real Resumes: Before & After

Cover Letters

Elements of a Good PM Cover Letter The Cover Letter Template A Great Cover Letter

Company Research

The Product The Strategy The Culture The Role The Questions

Define Yourself

"Tell Me About Yourself" (The Pitch) "Why do you want to work here?" "Why should we hire you?" "Why are you leaving your current job?" "What do you like to do in your spare time?" "Where do you see yourself in five years?" "What are your strengths and weaknesses?" Sample Strengths and Weaknesses

Behavioral Questions

Why These Questions Are Asked Preparation Follow-Up Questions Types of Behavioral Questions

Estimation Questions

Approach Numbers Cheat Sheet Tips and Tricks Example Interview Sample Questions

Product Questions

About the Product Question Type 1: Designing a Product Type 2: Improving a Product Type 3: Favorite Product Preparation Tips and Tricks Sample Questions

Case Questions

The Case Question: Consultants vs. PMs What Interviewers Look For Useful Frameworks Product Metrics Interview Questions

Coding Questions

Who Needs To Code What You Need To Know How You Are Evaluated How To Approach Developing an Algorithm Additional Questions & Solutions

Appendix

Top 1% PMs vs. Top 10% PMs Be a Great Product Leader The Inputs to a Great Product Roadmap How to Hire a Product Manager

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Terry Palladino:

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Kimberly Spradlin:

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