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Career Advice

Facebook - How to succeed as E6 engineer

C   **Cepm02**   Amazon
    May 31

I am joining soon Facebook Seattle as an E6 engineer. I have 12 years industry experience and have expertise in building distributed systems. Currently building ML infrastructure. I have experience in dealing with ambiguous problems and I collaborate with other engineers to solve any business problems. I need guidance in succeeding at Facebook.

Facebook   Machine Learning

Questions

1. What are the expectations from an E6 engineer? What is the typical scope of problems E6 engineers deal with? It will be great if you can explain with an example project

   100 words minimum.

2. How to succeed as an E6 engineer? Any tips and tricks that will help me succeeding in this role?

   100 words minimum.

3. What should I do in the first 90 days? 6 months and in 1 year?

   100 words minimum.

4. Best orgs/teams in Facebook Seattle. I define best team as following - Interesting technical challenges Collaborative team Visionary management chain Management that cares about engineer work life balance

   50 words minimum.

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1. What are the expectations from an E6 engineer? What is the typical scope of problems E6 engineers deal with? It will be great if you can explain with an example project

I support a few E6 eng on my team, so I'm pretty familiar with the expectations. E6s tend to operate 1 level higher than "senior", which typically means taking on major initiatives for the team or projects that span multiple teams and require complicated handling of dependencies. E6s are usually very good at taking a large and nebulous project and breaking it into shippable chunks to iterate quickly and prove impact.

We measure impact across 4 axes:

- Project impact, how much value you're producing by shipping code and technical leadership.
- Eng excellence: how much you're contributing to an increase in codebase quality. This is new and more important for established orgs with a larger legacy codebase.
- Direction: typically product direction, how able are you to discover impact and guide those around you. E6s are sometimes expected to run a team in the absence of a strong EM or PM.
- People: how much do you make the people around you better. Are you a force multiplier, can you coach and mentor?

2. How to succeed as an E6 engineer? Any tips and tricks that will help me succeeding in this role?

This might sound somewhat obvious, but view the people around you as partners. E6s are expected to be higher autonomous, and to discover impact and direct the people around you. This often times means discovering what the needs on the team are, big bets, what people are passionate about, etc. and providing product direction to move the needle.

A good general piece of advice is to question everything, and to show a healthy amount of skepticism to each decision. This might apply most to technical assumptions and decisions, project sequencing or priorities. Learn to develop an informed opinion and be influential in whatever way you're most comfortable with: product, people, technology. E6s are typically a leader in one of those areas.

3. What should I do in the first 90 days? 6 months and in 1 year?

90: This is all about bootcamp, onboarding, landing on a team, and starting to learn the codebase and workflows. Very little is expected other than learning.

180: You'll be wrapping up your onboarding around now. Aim to have an understanding of how the codebase and team works. What are the biggest challenges? How does the roadmap produce value to the team? What are the biggest risks and bets? How does your work ladder up to produce value? This context is really important for most senior engineers to understand.

365: You'll hopefully be fairly established on the team and know how the world works around you. How can you leverage adjacent teams? Who are the XFN partners you should be working most closely with (if any)? What junior engineers can you help coach and grow?

4. Best orgs/teams in Facebook Seattle. I define best team as following - Interesting technical challenges Collaborative team Visionary management chain Management that cares about engineer work life balance

I actually work in the Seattle office, although more in product than ML/infra. Large teams here are Messenger, Marketplace, Oculus, Ads, some AI and internal teams. Infra is mostly moving to the Bellevue location, as a heads up.

WLB tends to vary heavily by team and org, so it's hard to say too much here. Ads is known for having poor WLB. I'd recommend sitting with teams in bootcamp and asking peers about this (not the manager). You'll get an honest answer.

C   Cepm02 ★★★★☆

This is helpful. An example project for the first question would have provided better clarity on the expectations. None the less, this is very useful info. Thanks.

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1. What are the expectations from an E6 engineer? What is the typical scope of problems E6 engineers deal with? It will be great if you can explain with an example project

E6 play a critical role in helping to set the direction and goals for team, in terms of project impact, product quality, and engineering efficiency. You are expected to lead at least one major initiative successfully and to solve technical problems that few others can. You are sought out for this ability and are a strong mentor for other engineers. You are typically the one who implements the hardest parts of the system or feature. You are able to lead/coordinate rollouts and phased releases (including coordination across team and activities such as migrations) of major initiatives. Since mentioned you are building ML infrastructure. One example could be understand current ml infra and to improve/scale model training and ser

2. How to succeed as an E6 engineer? Any tips and tricks that will help me succeeding in this role?

The first year would be tough due to ramp up and relative high expectation. Picking a right team is crucial. Make sure you fit in well with the team and the manager. Another importance thing is to keep good relationship with the manager. Keep good communication and be straightforward in 1:1. Ask clearly what's the manager's expectation and how you are doing. Periodically ask for feedback from the manager so you know if you are on the right track. You also need to make cross team impact, so talk and collaborate with people from other teams to make more visibility.

3. What should I do in the first 90 days? 6 months and in 1 year?

You will go through usually 6-8 weeks of bootcamp process, during which you will select a team to join if you are not pre-allocated. I know someone stayed in bootcamp for 13 weeks before choosing a team. So in the first 90 days, the most important thing is to choose a team you enjoy working with. You can sit and work with the team, talk to the team members and have lunch with them. Once you join a team, you will have time to ramp up (you can ask the manager when you choose team their expectation on the time for you to ramp up). After that, you are expected to own and lead some areas.

4. Best orgs/teams in Facebook Seattle. I define best team as following - Interesting technical challenges Collaborative team Visionary management chain Management that cares about engineer work life balance

I am based in MPK so I am not quite clear about the teams in Seattle. But you can get all the information through bootcamp team selection. Sit and work with the team and you can get the team culture and WLB. Talk to the managers and team member to understand their projects/challenges, and see if they have passion about what they are doing.

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Overall good information. Answer for 3rd question could have been better.

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