Behavioral Interview Questions

This document contains a comprehensive collection of behavioral interview questions for Engineering Manager positions, organized by category.

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ambiguity

1. Describe how you managed a project that was failing or significantly deviating from its original plan.

Difficulty: Hard

 ${\bf Company:}\ {\rm Google}$

Tags: STAR-focused, Problem Solving, Adaptability

2. Tell me about a time a project you were leading was failing or significantly off-track. What actions did you take?

Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Problem Solving

3. Describe a time you had to make decisions in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment.

Difficulty: Hard

Company: TikTok

Tags: STAR-focused, Regulatory Compliance, Ambiguous Requirements

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Difficulty: Medium
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Googleyness, Decision Making

18. Tell me about a time you had to quickly learn something new or adapt to a significant change in your work environment or project.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Learn and Be Curious, Adaptability

19. Give an example of a calculated risk you took where speed was critical. How did you make the decision and manage the risk?

Difficulty: Medium Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Bias for Action, Decision Making

20. Share an experience where project requirements were unclear or constantly changing. How did you lead your team through it?

Difficulty: MediumCompany: MetaTags: STAR-focused

 ${\bf 21.}\,$ Describe a time you had to persevere through significant challenges or setbacks.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Uber

Tags: STAR-focused, Perseverance, Resilience

22. Tell me about a time you had to make a critical decision with incomplete information under time pressure.

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Netflix

Tags: STAR-focused, Judgment, Decision Making

23. Tell me about a time you had to learn a new technology or domain quickly to solve a business problem.

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communication

1. Tell me about a time you influenced stakeholders or senior management without formal authority to adopt your idea or approach.

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Googleyness, Influence

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Difficulty: Hard
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Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Think Big, Strategic Thinking

3. Describe a situation where you had to influence a senior leader or a group of stakeholders without direct authority.

Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

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Company: Startups & Scale-ups

Tags: STAR-focused, Customer Development, Product-Market Fit

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Difficulty: Medium Company: Reddit

Tags: STAR-focused, Transparent Communication, Authentic Leadership

28. Describe how you've optimized user experience for both hosts and guests in a marketplace.

Difficulty: Medium Company: Airbnb

Tags: STAR-focused, User Experience, Marketplace UX

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Difficulty: Medium

Company: Anthropic

Tags: Hypothetical, Research Communication, AI Safety

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Company: Snowflake

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Difficulty: Medium
Company: OpenAI

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conflict_resolution

1. Describe a time you disagreed with a manager or a popular decision. How did you voice your concerns, and what happened next? Did you commit to the final decision?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Have Backbone; Disagree and Commit, Integrity

2. Describe a time you mediated a conflict between stakeholders with differing priorities.

Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Stakeholder Management

3. Tell me about a time you had to navigate disagreement between researchers and engineers on AI safety approaches.

Difficulty: Hard
Company: OpenAI

Tags: STAR-focused, Cross-functional Collaboration, AI Safety

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Tags: STAR-focused, Cross-functional Collaboration, AI Safety

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Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Have Backbone; Disagree and Commit, Integrity

11. Describe a time you mediated a conflict between stakeholders with differing priorities.

Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Stakeholder Management

12. Tell me about a time you had to navigate disagreement between researchers and engineers on AI safety approaches.

Difficulty: Hard
Company: OpenAI

Tags: STAR-focused, Cross-functional Collaboration, AI Safety

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Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Meta
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22. Describe a conflict you had with a team member or a peer. How did you approach resolving it, and what was the outcome?

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Google
Tags: STAR-focused

23. Tell me about a situation where you had to build or rebuild trust with a colleague, team, or customer.

Difficulty: Medium Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Earn Trust, Interpersonal Skills

24. How do you foster an environment where healthy debate is encouraged but destructive conflict is minimized?

Difficulty: Medium Company: Meta

Tags: Hypothetical, Team Culture

- 25. Tell me about a time you had to balance research goals with practical engineering constraints.

Difficulty: Medium Company: Anthropic

Tags: STAR-focused, Research vs Engineering, Trade-offs

26. Tell me about a time you had to address a conflict between team members with different perspectives.

Difficulty: Medium Company: Microsoft

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leadership

1. Describe how you've scaled an engineering team from 5 to 50+ people.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Startups & Scale-ups

Tags: STAR-focused, Team Scaling, High Growth

2. Tell me about a time you built a product or platform from 0 to 1 in a resource-constrained environment.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Startups & Scale-ups

Tags: STAR-focused, 0-1 Building, Resource Constraints

3. Tell me about how you've built recommendation systems that serve billions of users globally.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: TikTok

Tags: STAR-focused, Recommendation Systems, Global Scale

4. Tell me about a time you built technology solutions for diverse global markets with different needs.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Uber

Tags: STAR-focused, Global Scale, Localization

5. Tell me about a time you had to make a difficult decision that required courage and went against popular opinion.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Netflix

Tags: STAR-focused, Courage, High Performance Culture

6. Tell me about a time you built an AI/ML platform from scratch in a fast-paced startup environment.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Scale AI

Tags: STAR-focused, AI/ML Platform, Startup Scaling

7. Tell me about a time you led a research team through a complex AI safety challenge.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Anthropic

Tags: STAR-focused, AI Safety Research, Research Leadership

8. Tell me about a time you led a data platform migration or major infrastructure change.

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Company: Snowflake

Tags: STAR-focused, Data Platform, Technical Leadership

9. Tell me about a time you had to balance innovation speed with responsible AI development practices.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: OpenAI

Tags: STAR-focused, AI Safety, Ethical Decision-Making

10. Describe how you've led a team working on cutting-edge AI research while ensuring safety considerations.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

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Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, People Management

42. Share an example of a challenging goal you were responsible for achieving. How did you ensure you delivered results, especially when facing obstacles?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Deliver Results, Execution

43. Describe a situation where you had to make a tough decision that impacted your team. How did you manage the change and communicate it?

Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta Tags: STAR-focused, Decision Making, Change Management

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Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

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Tags: STAR-focused, People Management

60. Describe a time when you led a team through a challenging project.

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management

61. Tell me about how you've built systems that empower diverse online communities.

 ${\bf Difficulty:} \ {\bf Medium} \ [{\bf CRITICAL}] \ {\bf Critical}$

Company: Reddit

Tags: STAR-focused, Community Empowerment, Forum Systems

62. Tell me about how you've built products that create a sense of belonging for diverse global communities.

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Airbnb

Tags: STAR-focused, Belonging, Global Communities

63. Tell me about how you've built products that help professionals advance their careers.

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: LinkedIn

Tags: STAR-focused, Member Focus, Professional Development

64. Describe how you've built and maintained a high-performance engineering team.

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

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65. Describe how you've scaled an engineering team during rapid company growth.

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Scale AI

Tags: STAR-focused, Team Scaling, High-Growth Environment

66. Describe how you've built a customer-obsessed engineering culture. What specific practices did you implement?

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Snowflake

Tags: STAR-focused, Customer Focus, Culture Building

67. Describe how you've built an inclusive and diverse engineering team. What specific actions did you take?

Difficulty: Medium [CRITICAL] Critical

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Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management

103. What is your philosophy on developing engineers and fostering their career growth?

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Google

Tags: Hypothetical, Coaching, People Management

104. How do you approach motivating a team, especially when dealing with low performers or team members with differing levels of experience?

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Google

Tags: Hypothetical, STAR-focused, People Management

105. Tell me about a time you led a team through a challenging project or a period of significant change.

Difficulty: MediumCompany: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management, Change Management

106. Describe your approach to hiring and developing talent. Give an example of how you've mentored someone to success or helped improve a team member's performance.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Amazon

 ${\bf Tags:}$ STAR-focused, LP: Hire and Develop the Best, People Management

107. Tell me about a time you took responsibility for a project or task that was outside your defined role. What was the outcome?

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Ownership, Initiative

108. How do you motivate and develop team members, especially high-potentials and those who are stagnating?

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: Hypothetical, People Management, Coaching

109. Tell me about how you've led engineering teams across different cultures and time zones.

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** TikTok

Tags: STAR-focused, Cross-Cultural Leadership, Global Teams

110. Tell me about how you've balanced the needs of different sides of a marketplace (riders vs drivers).

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Uber

Tags: STAR-focused, Marketplace Dynamics, Stakeholder Management

111. Give an example of how you've coached and developed a team member who was struggling.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Microsoft

Tags: STAR-focused, Coaching, People Management

112. What is your philosophy on developing engineers and fostering their career growth?

Difficulty: MediumCompany: Google

Tags: Hypothetical, Coaching, People Management

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Difficulty: Medium
Company: Google

Tags: Hypothetical, STAR-focused, People Management

114. Tell me about a time you led a team through a challenging project or a period of significant change.

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management, Change Management

115. Describe your approach to hiring and developing talent. Give an example of how you've mentored someone to success or helped improve a team member's performance.

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Hire and Develop the Best, People Management

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Company: Meta

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Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, People Management

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Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management

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Company: Google

 ${\bf Tags:}\ {\bf Hypothetical},\ {\bf STAR-focused},\ {\bf People\ Management}$

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Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Project Management

team_building

1. How do you build psychological safety within a team?

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Google

Tags: Hypothetical, Team Culture, Googleyness

2. Describe a situation where you had to collaborate with a crossfunctional team with different goals or priorities. How did you align

them?

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Cross-functional

3. How have you fostered diversity and inclusion within your teams? Provide a specific example.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Googleyness, D&I

4. How do you foster a collaborative environment within your team and with cross-functional partners?

Difficulty: Medium Company: Amazon

Tags: Hypothetical, LP:Deliver Results, LP:Hire and Develop the Best, Team

Culture

5. Describe a time when you needed to influence a peer or another team who had a differing opinion or priorities to achieve a shared

goal.

Difficulty: MediumCompany: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Earn Trust, LP:Deliver Results, Influence

6. How do you ensure effective collaboration between your team and other teams (e.g., product, design, other engineering teams)?

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: Hypothetical, Process

7. Describe a time you had to collaborate with a difficult cross-functional partner. How did you make it work?

Difficulty: Medium
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8. Give an example of how you've built or improved a high-performing engineering team.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Hiring, Team Culture

9. Describe how you've established engineering culture and practices from scratch.

Difficulty: Medium

Company: Startups & Scale-ups

Tags: STAR-focused, Culture Building, Engineering Practices

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10. Describe how you've built privacy-first engineering practices into your team's development process.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Reddit

Tags: STAR-focused, Privacy by Design, Engineering Practices

11. Tell me about a time you had to be resourceful and creative to solve a problem with limited resources.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Airbnb

Tags: STAR-focused, Resourcefulness, Creative Problem-Solving

12. Tell me about how you've fostered authentic relationships and

trust within your engineering team.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: LinkedIn

Tags: STAR-focused, Relationship Building, Trust

13. Describe how you've built a customer-focused engineering culture in a B2B AI company.

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Scale AI

Tags: STAR-focused, Customer Focus, B2B Product Development

14. Tell me about how you've scaled an engineering team to support rapid business growth.

Difficulty: Medium

Company: Snowflake

Tags: STAR-focused, Team Scaling, Execution Excellence

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Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Amazon

Tags: Hypothetical, LP:Deliver Results, LP:Hire and Develop the Best, Team

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Company: Meta

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technical_decisions

1. Describe a content moderation system you've built that balances free speech with community safety.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Reddit

Tags: STAR-focused, Content Moderation, Community Guidelines

2. Describe a content moderation or safety system you've built for a social media platform.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: TikTok

Tags: STAR-focused, Content Safety, Social Media Platforms

 ${\bf 3.}$ Describe a trust and safety system you've built for a marketplace platform.

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Airbnb

Tags: STAR-focused, Trust & Safety, Marketplace Platforms

4. Describe a real-time matching or routing system you've built. How did you handle scale and latency requirements?

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Uber

Tags: STAR-focused, Real-time Systems, Marketplace Technology

5. Describe how you've approached building interpretable and safe AI systems. What methodologies did you use?

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Anthropic

Tags: STAR-focused, AI Interpretability, Safety-First Engineering

6. Describe a complex AI/ML system you've architected. What safety and ethical considerations did you incorporate?

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: OpenAI

Tags: STAR-focused, AI/ML Systems, Safety-First Design

7. Describe a technical decision you made that had significant customer impact. How did you ensure it met customer needs?

Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Microsoft

Tags: STAR-focused, Customer Focus, Technical Leadership

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Difficulty: Hard [CRITICAL] Critical

Company: Microsoft

Tags: STAR-focused, Customer Focus, Technical Leadership

29. Describe a time you had to make a significant technical trade-off. What factors did you consider, and what was the result?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Trade-offs

30. Tell me about a complex technical challenge your team faced. What was your role in the decision-making and problem-solving process?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

Tags: STAR-focused, Technical Leadership

31. Describe a critical decision you made based on your judgment, perhaps with incomplete data, that proved to be correct. What was your reasoning?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Are Right, A Lot, Judgment

32. Explain a situation where you had to dive deep into data or a complex problem to understand the root cause. What was your process and what did you uncover?

Difficulty: Hard

Company: Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Dive Deep, Analytical Skills

33. Describe a critical technical decision you made with limited information or under pressure. What was your process and the trade-offs?

Difficulty: Hard

Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Trade-offs

34. Tell me about a complex technical problem your team faced. What was your role in solving it, and what was the outcome?

Difficulty: Hard

Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Technical Leadership

35. Describe a recommendation system or search algorithm you've built for professional networking.
Difficulty: Hard
Company: LinkedIn
Tags: STAR-focused, Recommendation Systems, Professional Networks
36. Tell me about a time you architected a system to handle massive global scale with high availability requirements.
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Netflix
Tags: STAR-focused, Global Scale, Distributed Systems
37. Tell me about a time you had to make critical architecture decisions with limited time and resources.
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Scale AI
Tags: STAR-focused, Architecture Decisions, Resource Constraints
38. Describe a time you had to optimize data processing performance for a critical customer use case.
Difficulty: Hard

39. Describe a time you had to make a significant technical trade-off. What factors did you consider, and what was the result?

Tags: STAR-focused, Performance Optimization, Customer Impact

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

Company: Snowflake

 ${\bf Tags:}\ {\bf STAR}\text{-}{\bf focused},\ {\bf Trade\text{-}offs}$

40. Tell me about a complex technical challenge your team faced. What was your role in the decision-making and problem-solving process?
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google
Tags: STAR-focused, Technical Leadership
41. Describe a critical decision you made based on your judgment, perhaps with incomplete data, that proved to be correct. What was your reasoning?
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon
Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Are Right, A Lot, Judgment
42. Explain a situation where you had to dive deep into data or a complex problem to understand the root cause. What was your process and what did you uncover?
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon
Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Dive Deep, Analytical Skills
43. Describe a critical technical decision you made with limited information or under pressure. What was your process and the tradeoffs?
Difficulty: Hard
Company: Meta
Tags: STAR-focused, Trade-offs

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Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta Tags: STAR-focused, Technical Leadership 45. Describe a recommendation system or search algorithm you've built for professional networking. Difficulty: Hard Company: LinkedIn Tags: STAR-focused, Recommendation Systems, Professional Networks 46. Tell me about a time you architected a system to handle massive global scale with high availability requirements. Difficulty: Hard Company: Netflix Tags: STAR-focused, Global Scale, Distributed Systems 47. Tell me about a time you had to make critical architecture decisions with limited time and resources. Difficulty: Hard Company: Scale AI Tags: STAR-focused, Architecture Decisions, Resource Constraints 48. Describe a time you had to optimize data processing performance for a critical customer use case. Difficulty: Hard Company: Snowflake Tags: STAR-focused, Performance Optimization, Customer Impact 49. Describe a time you had to make a significant technical trade-off. What factors did you consider, and what was the result?

Difficulty: Hard
Company: Google

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Company: Amazon

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Difficulty: Hard
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Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Dive Deep, Analytical Skills

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Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

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Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Dive Deep, Analytical Skills

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Difficulty: Hard
Company: Amazon

 ${\bf Tags:}\ {\bf STAR}\hbox{-focused, LP:} Dive\ {\bf Deep,\ Analytical\ Skills}$

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Difficulty: Hard Company: Meta

Tags: STAR-focused, Technical Leadership

81. Give an example of a complex problem you solved with a simple or innovative solution. How did you identify the opportunity to simplify?

Difficulty: Medium **Company:** Amazon

Tags: STAR-focused, LP:Invent and Simplify, Innovation

82. How do you balance the need to 'Move Fast' with maintaining high quality and technical excellence in your team's work?

Difficulty: Medium
Company: Meta

Tags: Hypothetical, Meta Values, Trade-offs

83. Tell me about a time you had to make pragmatic technology choices to ship quickly while maintaining quality.

Difficulty: Medium

Company: Startups & Scale-ups

Tags: STAR-focused, Pragmatic Decisions, Speed vs Quality

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