

CRACKING the TECH CAREER

INSIDER ADVICE ON LANDING A JOB AT
GOOGLE, MICROSOFT, APPLE, OR
ANY TOP TECH COMPANY



GAYLE LAAKMANN McDOWELL
AUTHOR OF CRACKING THE CODING INTERVIEW

WILEY

Big vs Little

Is a start-up right for you?



Risk and Reward

Start-Ups are high-risk and high-reward.
For the right person with the right opportunity
a start-up opportunity can be fantastic.

The Good



Speed, Innovation, risk, learning and impact.

Some people love start-ups.



Diversity of Skills

Start-ups never have enough people to fill every roll. The smaller the company the more hats you will have to wear.

You will get to develop a more diverse skill set, which will help you in your future job search.

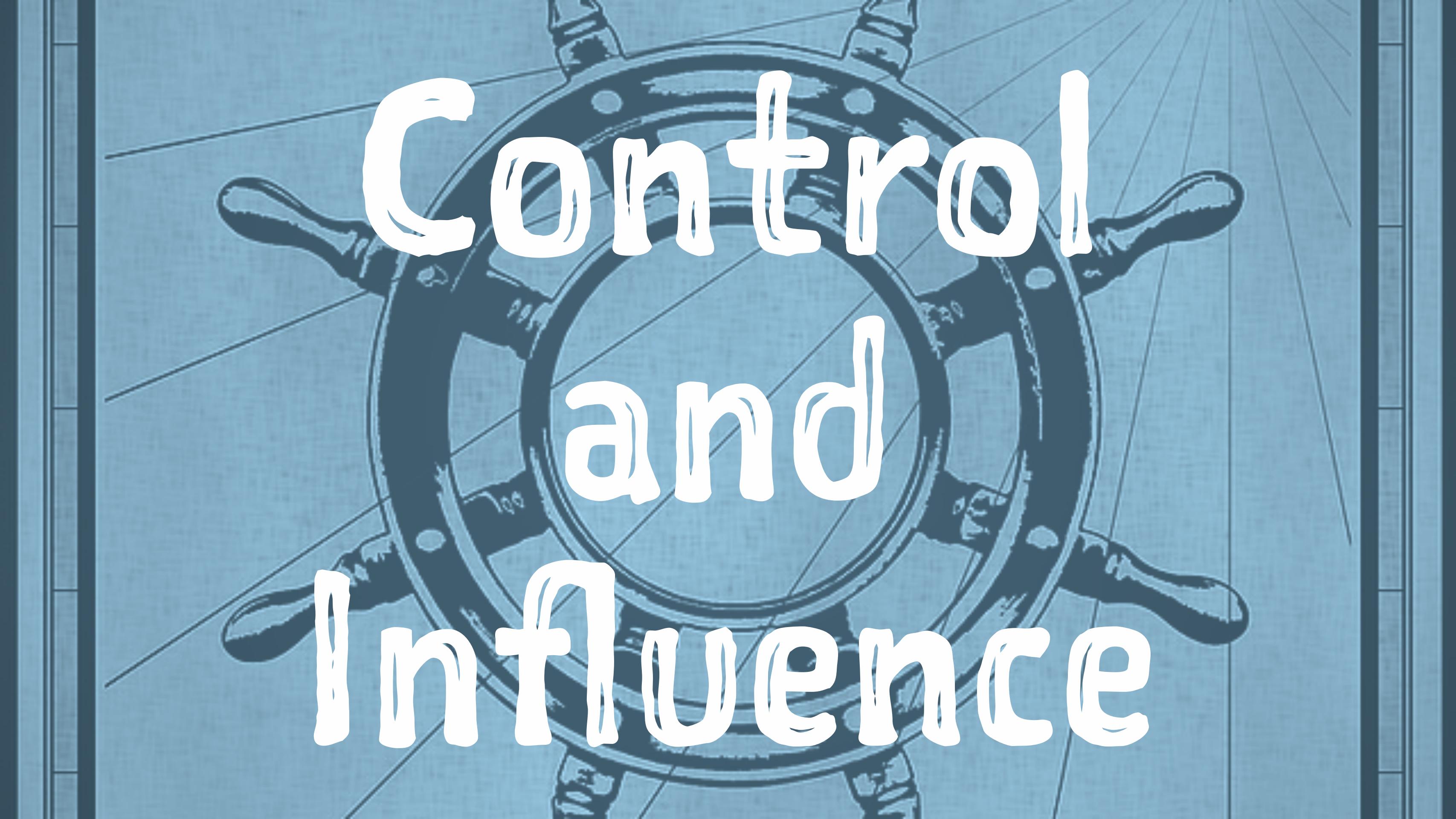
Leadership Opportunities



When, or if, your start-up grows you will be in a great position to lead your own team.

Many people join start-ups and find that within months they are expected to move into managing new hires.

At bigger companies it can take years for this opportunity.



Control and Influence

Would you rather have a small influence on a small tool at a big company, or drive a major project at an obscure start-up?

Both are valid answers.

Rapid Results



You won't have to wait years to see your work out in the real-world.

This can enable you to learn from your mistakes (and successes) much faster.

High Reward



All the risk isn't for nothing.

Start-ups can make you very very rich if you are lucky.

Its much more likely to do absolutely nothing for you financially.



The Bad

Start-up burning out is a real thing.

Long Hours

The bare minimum isn't enough.
Start-ups will fire underperformers.



Lower Pay

Lower pay compensated with stock options.
Most companies fail making options
worthless.



Unclear Job Description

Not my job isn't acceptable.
Start-ups are short on staff. Everyone
needs to pitch in.

Limited Credibility

If the company fails you could be looking for work with a no-name company on your resume.



Less Mentorship

Start-ups lack the resources and knowledge to do this.



Instability

This is the norm.



The Ugly

Things can get messy.

BroKEn Promises

Very often the promotion, assistant, team, or the project you were promised is never reality.

Many times these promises were well meaning, but overly optimistic.



Bad Management

Many start-up CEOs and managers are first time managers.

Leadership is a trait, management is a skill.
They are going to screw up - a lot.

Lost Work

Cancelled projects before or after launch are a part of the tech industry. Its much more common at start-ups.

Questions?