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# Microsoft: Product Management Internship Summer 2023



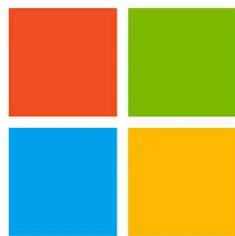
Pearl Pullan

5 min read · Mar 1, 2023

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# Microsoft

Company: Microsoft

Role: Product Management Intern

When did you begin applying: July-August

**Which platform did you apply through for this job: Company Website  
(<https://apmlist.com/>)**

**Number of rounds: 5**

## **Round 1**

**Role of the interviewer in the company: HR**



**Questions asked by the interviewer:**

1. Why technology?
2. Why PM?
3. Why Microsoft/that particular company?
4. Describe a time when you had to work with people who were not very easy to work with.
5. Describe a time when the project team members lost motivation to work because of some issues like communication was hard, resources were not being allocated, etc. How did you take charge and resolve the issue and bring back motivation?
6. Describe a time when you had to work on a new technology/software that was new for you. How did you learn it?

**Questions I asked the interviewer:**

1. What does the day-to-day of a PM intern at Microsoft look like?
2. I have heard a lot of positive feedback about the company's culture back in India. How is the culture here, is it different or the same?

## Duration before mail for next round: 2 weeks

*Rounds 2–5 were 1 hour each and were scheduled on the same day, at an interval of an hour or so.*

## Round 2

Role of the interviewer in the company: Principal SRE Manager



Questions asked by the interviewer:

The interview was more like a conversation, we spoke a lot about what I liked to do in the past time, if I loved pets (because the interviewer had both a cat and a dog), if I had visited NH or not and what were my plans for the Fall.

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What is your favorite MS Product?
3. If you had all the resources/technology in the world what product would you build for Microsoft?
4. Tell me about your experience in resolving a technical customer query.

(Follow-up questions to the answer)

5. Tell me about a time when you were asked to do something unethical and you did not do it.
6. How do you learn a new skill?

7. If you were to design a T-shirt for yourself with one word on it that describes you, what would the word be?

### Questions I asked the interviewer:

1. What does the day-to-day of a PM Intern look like?
2. Any tips/suggestions for a budding PM?



**Duration before mail for next round:** NA (the next round was scheduled the same day, 2 hours later)

## Round 3

**Role of the interviewer in the company:** Principal Product Manager

### Questions asked by the interviewer:

1. Tell me about yourself
2. As a PM at Microsoft, design a Fridge to be launched in 1 year (Follow up questions)
3. What would be the next step after you finish the design?
4. How will you launch it to test it out in the market?

### Questions I asked the interviewer:

1. What is the difficult part of being a Product Manager?
2. Asked a few questions regarding my answer because the interviewer had asked me twice to take time and think again while I was answering. The

interviewer shared their thoughts on my answer and approach.

**Duration before mail for next round:** NA (the next round was scheduled the same day, 1 hour later)

## Round 4

**Role of the interviewer in the company:** Senior Security Crisis Manager



**Questions asked by the interviewer:**

1. Tell me about a time when I worked with a challenging cross-functional team and delivered an exceptional product.
2. Tell me about a time when you had a conflict with a coworker.
3. Tell me about a time when you improved a code/design/media.
4. Tell me about a time when you had to learn a new technology.
5. Consider a customer walks up to you and says that they want you to build them an elevator, as a PM what more requirements will you gather from the customer?

**Questions I asked the interviewer:**

1. How important are technical skills for a PM at Microsoft?
2. Since you have transitioned from a Technical role to a Managerial one, which role do you enjoy more? What are the pros and cons of each role?

**Duration before mail for next round:** NA (the next round was scheduled the same day, 1 hour later)

## Round 5

**Role of the interviewer in the company:** Senior Security Product / Program Manager

**Questions asked by the interviewer:**

1. What do you understand by B2B and B2C products?
2. What are the challenges of B2B and B2C products? (Follow-up Questions)
3. What type of product (B2B or B2C) have you worked on?
4. What is your experience in Cyber Security?
5. What is the latest tool/technology that you have learned?

**Questions I asked the interviewer:**

1. Should a PM stick to the domain they got their break in or is it okay to transition and explore different types of PM roles?
2. How do I decide what type of a PM I should be?
3. What resources (books, blogs, podcasts) do you follow to stay updated with security advancements/news?

**Duration before mail for the next round:** I got the offer within 3 days because I had a withstanding offer from another company and had to confirm with them.

## Final Thoughts

1. While preparing for my interview, I received advice that completely shifted my mindset. Rather than setting high expectations, I was

encouraged to view it as an opportunity to engage with some of the most brilliant minds at one of the top companies. This advice stayed with me throughout the interview process and helped me in getting over the pressure and anxiety and have fun in the interview.

2. Interviews are often akin to **conversations**, allowing both parties to get to know each other better. During my interview, I took the chance to learn about my interviewers' personal lives, including their office preferences, pets, and future plans. I found that it's acceptable to initiate small talk if it feels appropriate, demonstrating that you're a cultural fit for the company, without appearing pushy.
3. If you have multiple interviews scheduled on the same day, make sure you **eat, rest and refresh after each round** because it can be exhausting and stressful. Also, don't let your performance in one round affect your performance in other rounds. Each interviewer has their own decision-making process, so one mistake in a round does not necessarily determine the outcome of the entire interview process. Make sure to give your 100% in each round.
4. It's **perfectly okay to admit when you don't know the answer** to a question instead of guessing or pretending to know. In fact, it demonstrates honesty and integrity, which are valuable qualities.
5. I found that **practicing mock interviews** was incredibly beneficial. I participated in over 25 mock interviews with peers, colleagues, and other aspiring product managers I met through mock interview platforms. I highly recommend practicing mock interviews to anyone who is gearing up for an interview.
6. **Inform the recruiter if you have offers or are interviewing with multiple companies** to avoid feeling pressured to make hasty decisions. It allows

the recruiter to fast-track the interview process and provides you with sufficient time to evaluate all offers before making a decision.

*7. Have a bright smile during the interview, look into the camera, and speak with energy and passion and the rest will follow!!*

## Resources that helped

I have created a list of resources that I used for the interview preparation:



[Check the List here](#)

Experience shared by [Priyanka Tyagi](#)

[Interview Questions](#)

[Interview](#)

[Product Management](#)



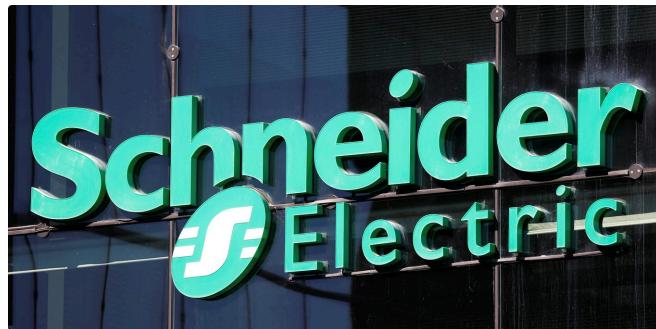
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I post about interview experiences of my batchmates

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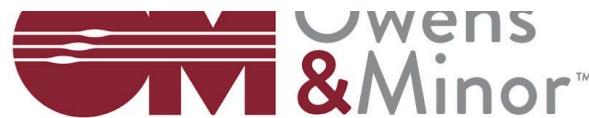
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- Company: Schneider Electric USA Inc

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Company: Owens & Minor Halyard



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- Developed Amazon checkout and payment services to handle traffic of 10 Million daily global transactions
- Integrated iFrames for credit cards and bank accounts to secure 80% of all consumer traffic and prevent CSRF, cross-site scripting, and cookie-jacking
- Led Your Transactions implementation for JavaScript front-end framework to showcase consumer transactions and reduced all server costs by \$25 Million
- Recovered Saudi Arabia checkout failure impacting 4000+ customers due to incorrect GET form redirection

### Projects

- NinjaPrep.io (React)**
- Platform to offer coding problem practice with built in code editor and written + video solutions in React
  - Utilized Nginx to reverse proxy IP address on Digital Ocean hosts
  - Developed using Styled-Components for 95% CSS styling to ensure proper CSS scoping
  - Implemented Docker with Seccomp to safely run user submitted code with < 2.2s runtime
- HeatMap (JavaScript)**
- Visualized Google Takeout location data of location history using Google Maps API and Google Maps heatmap code with React
  - Included local file system storage to reliably handle SMB of location history data
  - Implemented Express to include routing between pages and jQuery to parse Google Map and implement heatmap overlay

 Alexander Nguyen in Level Up Coding

## The resume that got a software engineer a \$300,000 job at Google.

1-page. Well-formatted.

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 Erick Arwa, Doctor of Scholarships

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## Lists



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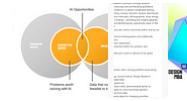
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10 stories · 501 saves



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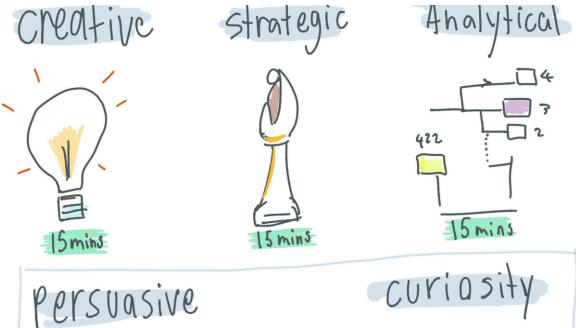


 Zachary Allegretti in Better Programming

## I Hosted a Google Intern and Learned a Hard Lesson About...

Being a good leader is harder than it looks

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 Brad Dunn in Xross Functional

## Why We Don't Interview Product Managers Anymore

Firstly, job interviews are mostly nonsense. There are huge volumes of research from...

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 Julia Winn

## What makes an associate product manager (APM) resume stand out?

Shopify's most recent round of APM applications saw over 12,000 applicants for ...

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 Garrett Rysko in Bootcamp

## Crush your PM interview with storytelling

Learn how to crafting compelling interview stories on the fly to make you stand out...

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