**Sample Behavioral Interview Questions (for more click**[**here**](https://interviewsteps.com/blogs/news/amazon-leadership-principles-interview)**)**

**This is a**[**fantastic article**](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-interview-amazon-leadership-david-anderson/)**written by David Anderson, Head of Technology for Amazon FreeTime.  It goes into depth about the rationale behind each leadership principle and the characteristics we look for in potential leaders. (**<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-interview-amazon-leadership-david-anderson/>)

• **Leadership Principles:** Amazon *really* does live day to day by our Leadership Principles. Study them and have a few examples that share traits of each of them. ([HERE](https://aws.amazon.com/careers/culture/))

**Systems Design preparation links:**

<https://www.educative.io/categories/prepare-for-interview>

[https://www.hiredintech.com](https://www.hiredintech.com/)

 Read articles on [highscalability.com](http://highscalability.com/) about how several websites are built, for ex: [Pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com/)

• Use a whiteboard to demonstrate your coding and architecture skills

• Preparing for the whiteboard.

* + <https://skillcrush.com/2016/03/29/rock-your-next-whiteboard-test/>

Job Description:

Interview preparation: <https://www.amazon.jobs/en/landing_pages/interviewing-at-amazon>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgDcPve-BTU&feature=youtube>

About EC2 Nitro: <https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/aws/amazon-ec2-update-additional-instance-types-nitro-system-and-cpu-options/>

Great place to start is this link on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=system+design+interview+questions) and [this](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=system+design+interview+questions). I find SuccessInTech guy to be more comprehensive though.

Kafka messaging

Nosql

Storm/spark

Ringpop

Consistent hashing

Node.js for async messaging, event driven framework

Web socket

Gossip protocol

Cell id , request-type,

Trip, user, destination

Bigtable Cassandra

Hadoop hdfs hive/pig

url reputation(innovation),

Eraser review (embarrassing story)

Pytest introduced in team

Memory graph was not coming down in our persistence runs

Tough bug on exhausting the pthread\_keys in the system.

Crash on a particular sample, that was hard to reproduce.

Performance enhancements

* Tell me about a time when you were faced with a problem that had a number of possible solutions. What was the problem and how did you determine the course of action? What was the outcome of that choice?
* When did you take a risk, make a mistake, or fail? How did you respond, and how did you grow from that experience?
* Describe a time you took the lead on a project.
* What did you do when you needed to motivate a group of individuals or promote collaboration on a particular project?
* How have you leveraged data to develop a strategy?
* CUSTOMER OBSESSION:

*Walk us through a time when you helped a customer through a difficult process and what that looked like.*

Who was your most difficult customer?

**S – Google was integrating Stargate and they started facing problems that when scanning very big files, the scanning process was taking obscenely long time. When the support team reached out to us, they did not had much information what is going on at the customer end. Only information we had was that they are scanning big files. I spent time enhancing our 7 engines PDF, RAR, 7Z, ZIP, MIME, TAR, GZ that we knew Google was processing. I measured the performance of the all the engines for very large sample sets and figured out that in some cases when system is under load and it starts giving out errors FPs. The 7z and RAR solid archives particularly had a restart flow in case of errors. When we handed out the fix to them they were very happy that all the engines are performing way beyond the level compared to our competitor.**

**S- CSAPI Live update bug: The situation that was reported to us was that one of our components was leaking temporary files on the disk and over a period of 7-8 days the disk space would reach to 10G. So the defect was assigned to me.. So during my investigation I assumed that it is a bug in our component and spent around a day to reproduce it. But couldn’t find anything wrong. Even the stress under heavy load test, we were gracefully exiting. The next day I asked one of the integrating team developer… During live update they were spawning a new child process and that child process was inheriting all the parent processes handle even the once that were opened by scanner.**

**S- Message labs- They had a big ask for support the repair of office files. office crd feature.**

**S - Google when they had a very different model of scanning. They spawn a process, scan the file and tear down the process. Then I implemented a lazy initializer that would load definition only on need basis and then we trimmed down the definitions size and relied more on the cloud detections. That way loading is slow but a separate thread can in parallel get the cloud reputation for the file.**

• Give me an example of a time when you did not meet a client’s expectation. What happened, and how did you attempt to rectify the situation?

• When you’re working with a large number of customers, it’s tricky to deliver excellent service to them all. How do you go about prioritizing your customers’ needs?

• Tell the story of the last time you had to apologize to someone

**Datasource bug: in extents freeing up incorrectly.**

* OWNERSHIP: *Give me a example of when you took a risk and it failed.*

**PST scanning support**

**Eraser vshadow repair.**

• Tell me about a time when you had to leave a task unfinished. – PST file format support

• Tell me about a time when you had to work on a project with unclear responsibilities. – **Stargate stress test crashing because of exhausting pthread\_keys**

* INVENT AND SIMPLIFY:

*Tell me a time when you created an innovative product.*

**Implementation of Eraser vshadow repair feature.**

**Detecting users against URL spoofing**

* ARE RIGHT, A LOT:*Tell me about a time when you observed two business*o*pportunities to improve ROI, and how did you determine that they were connected.*
* *Tell me about a time you made a mistake. – Datasource bug*
* *Tell me about a time you disagreed with a colleague (or a boss). What is the process you used to work it out?*

*This happened when I was new to the Stargate team. And I saw we were still using the monolithic ways of writing tests for our system tests. At this time, I started looking for alternative approach in python that would make our test script writing more like a template. You focus only on the test you want to write, and the requirement are declarative.* ***The I finalized on pytest****. There was*

*I was nice but firm on implementing the pytest model for our testing framework.*

*Nice ,calmly. Had an hour long discussion with the developer on this. Still the next day he said no in the meeting. Then I implemented the pytest for one our script and developed the framework on my own personal time and then showed to the team and the architect really liked it and then we were on board. And now we have a pytest based model of testing. I am not saying its perfect world after that, but sure the testing has eased a lot. Any newcomer doesn’t have to bogged down with the frame work, they can use the template for any test script they need to write. And The frame work keeps on growing organically .*

* *Give me an example of making an important decision in the absence of good data. What was the situation and how did you arrive at your decision? Did the decision turn out to be the correct one?*
* LEARN AND BE CURIOUS: *How do you find the time to stay inspired, acquire new knowledge, innovate in your work?*

Read blogs on design, security and test out the recent exploits, books. New language that is closely relevant to the work I am doing.

• *Tell me about a time when you influenced a change by only asking questions.*

**In stargate the unit test were written very brittle. I have introduced the process where we question every new unit test that is to be written by it brittle nature. I make sure in the review I do I check each unit test that it is passing the MVP test, that it is testing one thing only and it will not easily break on changing production code.**

*• Tell me about a time when you solved a problem through just superior knowledge or observation.*

* HIRE AND DEVELOP THE BEST: *Tell me about a time when you had to deal with a poor performer on your team.*

Mentored the intern and new hires.

* INSIST ON THE HIGHEST STANDARDS: *Tell me about a time when you could have stopped working but persisted.*

*Tell me about a time when you couldn’t meet your own expectations on a project.*

*Tell me about a time when a team member didn’t meet your expectations on a project.*

* THINK BIG: *Tell me about a time when you proposed a new business.*
* BIAS FOR ACTION: *Describe how you would handle a busy situation where three people are waiting for help from you*.
* FRUGALITY: *Tell me about a time where you thought of a clever new way to save money for the company.*
* EARN TRUST: *Tell me a time when you earned trust of a group.*
* DIVE DEEP: *Tell me about a time when you had to dive deep into the data and the results you achieved.*
* HAVE BACKBONE, DISAGREE AND COMMIT*: Tell me about the most difficult interaction you had at work.*
* DELIVER RESULTS**:**Tell me about a time where you overcame an obstacle and delivered results

Start amz prep --

leadership principles

2 stories for each success and failure cases. customer cases

programming questions

- 2 days fast pace go through the new question and the old document

system design

- understand the common design patterns

Databases-- fast databases, distributed databases, inmemory databases, nosql

- Fast server responses

- Chat servers

- whatsapp

-Social media sites

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Tell me about a situation where you had a conflict with someone on your team. What was it about? What did you do? How did they react? What was the outcome?

Give an example of when you saw a peer struggling and decided to step in and help. What was the situation and what actions did you take? What was the outcome?  
Tell me about a time you committed a mistake?

Tell me about a time when your earned your teammate's trust?

Tell me about a time when you couldn't meet your deadline?

Tell me about a time when your teammate didn't agree with you? What did you do?

Tell me about a time when you invented something?

Tell me about a time when you took important decision without any data?

Tell me about a time when you helped one of your teammates?

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to make a choice among a few options, but did not have a lot of time to explore each option

Have you ever failed at something? What did you learn from it?

name time when you went out of your way to help someone?

Time when you came up with novel solution.  
Received negative feedback from manager and how you responded.  
Time when you went above and beyond your job responsibilities.  
Time when you did not have enough data and had to use judgement to make decision.  
Time when you helped someone in their work.  
Time when you helped someone grow in career and it benefited them.  
Time when you helped someone grow but did not benefit them.  
Time when you were 75% through a project and realized you had the wrong goal.  
Time when your team members were not supporting something but you pushed and went for a more optimal solution.  
Time when you pushed back a decision from your management for better long term benefits.  
Time when you failed to meet your commitment

Tell me about yourself. Tell me about a project you're working on.

Time when you were working on a project on a time constraint

Time when you didn't meet a deadline

Time when you needed help from somebody

Tell me about yourself.  
Tell me about a time you had to help a team member struggling with a task.  
Tell me about a time you faced an obstacle and how you overcame it.

Tell me about one of your projects?  
Tell me about one of your projects so the same as the first guy.  
Tell me a time you took some on some risk

Have you ever gone out of your way to help a peer? (ownership)  
Have you ever had to make a tough decision without consulting anybody? (bias for action)  
asked me about my past projects that I've worked on and gave me detailed explaination about the Internship.

Tell me about a time when you learned new technologies  
Tell me about a time when you took a decision on your own without the manager's prior approval  
Tell me about a time you had multiple solutions and you had to select an optimal one

Tell me about a time when you innovated and exceeded the expectation

Tell me about a time where you had to make a decision based on limited information and how it impacted the outcome.

Tell me about a time where you had limited time and how it impacted

Tell me about a time where you did not know something and how you tackled it(Something related to it)

first one was about handling a tight deadline, second is setbacks on projects?

Handling a tight deadline  
How would you help a new employee who is facing technical difficulties?

disagree and commit and ownership LPs.

Tell me about your yourself (the general icebreaker).  
Tell me about tim when you faced a difficult challenge.  
Tell me about a time when you needed help from someone during a project.

Tell me about a time when you thought of an unpopular idea.  
Tell me about a time when you had to decide upon something without consulting your superior.  
Tell me about a time when you had to face tight time constraints during a project.

Tell me about yourself.  
Tell me about a time when you did not meet your deadlines for a project.  
Tell me about a time when you had conflicting ideas with your teammates and how did you resolve them?

a project you're proud of  
a time when you faced a setback initially but still achieved the goal.  
a time when you had to cut corners to meet a deadline

"Tell me about a time when you felt under pressure that you wouldn't be able to get something done or had to take a pivot at the last minute"