Rob Hooper

Technical Program Manager | Driving AI Infrastructure Strategy & Execution

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SUMMARY

Technical Program Manager with 10+ years of experience driving execution at the intersection of AI infrastructure, distributed systems, and enterprise platforms. Skilled at partnering with executives and engineering leaders to align software and hardware roadmaps, de-risk delivery, and implement governance frameworks that accelerate adoption. Known for thriving in ambiguity, influencing stakeholders, and scaling programs that turn strategic intent into measurable outcomes.

EXPERIENCE

Scala Computing — Technical Program Manager | Mar 2022 – Present

Partner with executives and engineering leadership to deliver Scala's AI/LLM network simulation platform at data center scale. Translate strategic vision into execution roadmaps, driving X% adoption growth and reducing customer time-to-value by X weeks. Act as a chief-of-staff for program leadership, ensuring priorities are clear, risks are tracked, and governance processes keep stakeholders aligned. Built and scaled dashboards, RAID logs, and sprint cadences that increased transparency and reduced decision latency. Coach distributed software and hardware engineering teams through complex, interdependent deliverables. By validating use cases, enforcing success criteria, and identifying cross-team risks early, kept multi-rail simulation, orchestration, and infra programs on track. Influenced product and infra leadership to align simulation capabilities with customer needs, de-scoping low-value work and re-prioritizing features. Created measurable improvement in velocity and execution predictability across the program portfolio.

Elemica — Technical Project Manager | May 2019 – Feb 2022

Owned delivery of SaaS and on-premise TMS solutions for Fortune 500 manufacturers, guiding onboarding and integrations from requirements through go-live. Reduced deployment cycles by X weeks and improved customer satisfaction by X%. Coordinated executive, product, and IT stakeholders during a high-stakes acquisition integration. Developed governance playbooks and reusable processes that scaled to X enterprise deployments, ensuring seamless transition with minimal disruption. Led cross-functional teams in ambiguous, global environments. Proactively resolved risks, enforced milestone tracking, and coached teams to adopt new processes that improved release predictability by X%. Acted as the escalation point for deployment programs, bridging customer expectations with internal engineering capacity. Leadership reduced downtime by X hours and directly improved retention.

Dorman Products — Senior Business Analyst | Apr 2016 – May 2019

Architected and launched the company's first cloud-native API suite on Azure ↔ SAP stack. By modernizing integration workflows, reduced defects by X% and accelerated feature delivery across multiple business units. Built single-pane-of-glass tools to improve customer support operations, reducing call times by X% and enabling measurable improvements in service efficiency. Partnered with engineering and operations leadership to align platform modernization with business priorities. Cross-functional coordination de-risked delivery and enabled API-first practices to scale across the enterprise.

McKean Defense — Technical Program Manager / Software Developer | 2010 – 2016

Delivered high-reliability naval steering and navigation software, standardizing systems and replacing legacy tech to improve performance. Built C# API-driven simulation tools that reduced iteration cycles and streamlined engineering workflows.

Booz Allen Hamilton — Software Developer | 2009

Developed C++ software fusing GPS, laser, and PDA data, cutting comms latency by X% and achieving X× speedup over legacy workflows.

Penn State University (NC2IF Lab) — Research Assistant | 2008 – 2009

Supported Cisco- and MITRE-sponsored research on network-centric cognition. Co-authored publication on decision-making under uncertainty.

EDUCATION

Penn State University — B.S. Information Science & Technology, Minor in Security & Risk Analysis (2009)