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An annual open source gathering
by **Open Source Community Africa.**

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Breaking into Product Management with open Source

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Meet Shebuel Inyang

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Breaking into Product Management is easy! 😉

The competition is high, and most roles require you to have 2–3 years of experience before applying.

The road to becoming a PM can often be long and unpredictable.

How many try to break into Product Mangaement

- Internal transition at a large company

- Finding a junior PM role at a large company

- Joining a startup with a burning need

- Starting your own company/Side Project

"The main way product managers are brought up is through on-the-job experience."

Susana Videira Lopes

"Few people are taking advantage of what is possibly the most under-utilised path to practical product management experience."

David Ryan

The essence of getting an entry-level product role is to introduce you to the product management discipline in a way that builds up your confidence,

while at the same time delivering value for the organisation as early as possible.

Core product management activities

- **Product vision**

- **Product strategy**

- **Problem discovery and validation**

- **Problem prioritisation**

- **Solution discovery and validation**

- **Delivery execution**

Answer

All of it.
But in smaller, less risky
quantities.

???

How much of the product management
discipline is the responsibility of a first time
product manager?"

Strategy

How does this solve a key challenge for the people we are helping? How does this fit amongst other software, tools, etc.? Why are we the right people to solve this?

User research

How are people using it and what does it solve for them? Even if it is a developer tool there are users.

Linking strategy to the work done day-to-day

How do we avoid scope creep based on our strategy?

General decision facilitation

How do we make the best decisions as we build things?

A useful framing is to ***avoid the trap of trying to apply product management skills to an open-source project*** and instead express them as questions.

The ones that resonate the most with the team or community are those that can become priorities.

Some Examples:

- What problem or opportunity is being explored?

- How is the solution being framed to tackle this problem?

- What is being measured to determine if this is successful?

- Who are the people that this solution serves?

- How are they being informed about it?

- How are they learning to actually use or benefit from it?

- How are they involved in collaborating on the solution with us?

- What is the experience like for new collaborators getting started?

- How does the solution fit with both the immediate and wider ecosystem?

- Where is the documentation being maintained on the project?

- Do we understand accessibility requirements? Are we meeting them?

A large number of the core purpose questions can be mapped in a handful of tools we use in product management, such as "*a lean canvas*" and "*a value proposition canvas.*"

Add in some "*personas*," and a "*customer journey map*," and some attention to both UX and overall design elements.

This would be the kind of experience and portfolio building that would go a long way to developing career potential.

How Do you find Open Source Projects?

- Product manager communities such as Mind The Product.

- Product managers working at larger open source companies such as GitLab, Mozilla, Elastic, etc.

- Open source advocates and DevRel teams at open source companies.

- Open source companies on AngelList or popular open source products on Product Hunt.

- Local meetups and open source conferences.

OPEN SOURCE

A Beginner's Guide to Open Source

Ruth Ikegah · Aug 6, 2020 · 5 min read

Do some research on the project, community, or organization before joining, and when you do, ask questions where not clear.

When you join the community, try to be active by introducing yourself and stating areas where you can help the project

"Everything you contribute to an open source project becomes a powerful public record of your development as a product manager."

Thank You!
Daalu!
Nagode!
Ese!

I'm Shebuel, currently open to any awesome opportunity around product and Community.

@heyshebuel

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