

FREE WORKING GUIDE

The Big Tech Playbook

A short, practical guide to choosing a target, proving your value, and showing how you think.

6 PAGES	3 WORKSHEETS	1 WEEK
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Built from Amit's path into Google, four years working there, and the lessons that stayed useful afterward.

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You do not need a hundred tactics. You need three useful outputs.

Use this guide in order. Finish one page before adding another resource to your prep.

01

Choose one target

Pick one role family. Read three to five current postings. Write down the repeated problems, skills, and signals.

02

Build evidence

Turn past work into receipts: the problem, your move, what changed, and what you learned.

03

Practice your thinking

Confirm the actual interview loop, then rehearse clarification, trade-offs, testing, and recovery.

YOUR TARGET

The role I am preparing for is...

Finish line: one role brief, three receipts, four reusable stories, and a practice loop you have reviewed honestly.

Map the role to evidence before you polish your resume.

A famous logo cannot rescue a vague target. Start with the work the role actually requires.

ROLE BRIEF

Role, level, location, and the type of problem I want to solve:

WHAT THE ROLE NEEDS	MY BEST RECEIPT	GAP OR NEXT MOVE
01 Repeated need:	Project or moment:	What is missing?
02 Repeated need:	Project or moment:	What is missing?
03 Repeated need:	Project or moment:	What is missing?

Decision rule: If you cannot name the problem the role solves and show one related receipt, keep researching before you apply.

Build three receipts, not a list of claims.

A receipt is specific enough that another person can understand what changed because you were there.

RECEIPT 1

Problem: What needed to change?

My move: What did I personally do?

Result + lesson: What changed, and what did I learn?

RECEIPT 2

Problem: What needed to change?

My move: What did I personally do?

Result + lesson: What changed, and what did I learn?

RECEIPT 3

Problem: What needed to change?

My move: What did I personally do?

Result + lesson: What changed, and what did I learn?

Useful test: Replace every "we" with "I" for one pass. Add the team back after your own contribution is clear.

Practice the behaviours that transfer across interview formats.

The exact loop changes. These four moves remain useful in technical, product, behavioural, and case interviews.

MOVE	WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE
01 Clarify	"Before I start, I want to confirm the goal and constraints."
02 Plan	"I will break this into three parts, then test the risky assumption first."
03 Work aloud	"My current assumption is... The trade-off is..."
04 Test	"I would check this with... The failure case I am watching is..."

WHEN YOU GET STUCK

Pause. Restate the goal. Name what is unclear. Ask one useful question. Restart with the smallest next step.

"I am missing one piece of context. Let me say what I know, what I am assuming, and where I would restart."

PRACTICE LOG

Question I tried / where I got stuck / the move I will repeat next time:

The most important lessons from four years at Google were not technical.

The skills that helped me contribute were also the skills that made me easier to work with.

01 / EMPATHY

Understand the person and the context before you optimize the work.

Practice: What does this person need me to understand?

02 / INITIATIVE

Notice useful work, propose a small next step, and own the follow-through.

Practice: What is one useful move I can take responsibility for?

03 / CURIOSITY

Listen, process, then ask the question that improves everyone's understanding.

Practice: What am I missing? What would change my mind?

A SIMPLE SEVEN-DAY START

DAY 1	Choose one role
DAY 2	Find three repeated needs
DAY 3	Write receipt one
DAY 4	Write receipts two and three
DAY 5	Practice one interview question
DAY 6	Practice recovery once
DAY 7	Review, tighten, and apply

Read the companion insight: agenticamit.com/insight/four-years-at-google-three-lessons

This guide reflects Amit Maraj's personal experience. It is not an official Google hiring or career framework. Confirm current interview details with the role posting and recruiter.