Chris Carnell

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Anthropic
Strategic Product Management team,
I am applying for the *Strategic Product Management* position within the Product category of the Current Job Openings on Anthropic's Career Site.

In my experience, most cover letters start with an applicant sharing *what* they've done - their accolades - and *how* they believe they may be a good fit for the position. While consistency and conformity can be helpful in a lot of context and places (e.g. MCP Protocol), I prefer to approach important decisions in my life with, **"Why?"**

My life's "Why?" is to *continuously use all capabilities to learn, improve, and evolve—to help others with access to tools for creating opportunities.* Not just help people; to identify ways to help people help themselves.

The position has a "How we're different" section and it says, "The easiest way to understand our research directions is to read our recent research". So I did. 1.) Interpretability, 2.) Alignment, and 3.) Societal Impacts

The researchers and authors behind the years of hard work are deeply inspirational. So, I have also explored Anthropic's work culture. I think it's safe to say experience, intelligence, curiosity, shared virtues, and talent are valued. Within talent, it seems Anthropic appreciates technical capabilities and urgency with rapid internal prototyping. I share the same values and appreciation, but my technical experience is somewhat limited. I've spent a decade with software, collaborating directly with tech- and non-technical startup founders, UI/UX, devs, and many more to solve problems and build solutions. While I've built low-code automations, can have conversations, and have technical knowledge, my resume and GitHub won't show much past, "Hello World!"

So, I thought the best way to possibly share, show, and prove my worth would be to align with the team before I even submitted my resume. You can visit chrisbuildswithclaude.com. It will be my real-/passtime work & more technical learning. Rest assured, I followed Anthropic's application AI Policy by not using AI to assist with any communications for my resume, cover letter, or application themselves. I *am* of course using Claude (and now Claude Code!) to help build the project. I hope my actions can speak louder than any words ever could.

For formality, here is brief information most cover letters include: For 15 years I have poured myself into large, complex, and ambiguous problems requiring new products, processes, systems, and programs that mostly had no frameworks to model after for creation and scale. I have repeatedly led the successful strategy, design & development, and growth of software products & programs, from whiteboards to the White House, from the tech founders to their millions of users and customers. I have simultaneously collaborated & implemented strategies & operations to grow an entire startup- & tech-based ecosystem from a vacant intersection in a small town's downtown to a multi-state initiative, $100MM economic impact, with national recognition. I aim to be an empathetic worker and servant leader. I have built frameworks to help people make decisions and manage through ambiguity. Per the first bullet under Responsibilities, I have a relentless drive to do whatever it takes.

I am hopeful that my background is unique to others who you may consider for this position. I look forward to playing even a small part throughout Anthropic in creating reliable, interpretable, and steerable AI systems that ensure a positive impact on society as it becomes increasingly advanced and capable.

Thank you for your consideration. Best,
Chris Carnell