

Yakub Sheikh

Technical Product Manager

Data Products | Web3 | Applied AI

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PROFILE

Founder-turned Product Lead and Technical Product Manager with hands-on experience across Web3, fintech, and esports. Led an eight-person team at Impulse Labs and nine direct reports within a roughly 15-person GG Labs company, secured \$500K in angel and grant funding, grew GG Labs to approximately 20K registered accounts, built investment tooling covering 11K+ public crypto funding rounds, and helped increase opened B2B accounts 5x in three months. Bridges customer discovery and business outcomes with APIs, data workflows, and delivery alongside engineering.

EXPERIENCE

Independent Applied ML Project | Hyperliquid Research Platform 2026 - Present

Part-time independent project | Perpetual-market research

- Co-building a research platform for systematically testing market-regime and trading hypotheses over approximately 2 TB of Hyperliquid node data stored in ClickHouse.
- Testing XGBoost, CatBoost, and LSTM models with walk-forward validation using regime-classification accuracy and estimated basis-point performance.
- Contributing new node-derived data sources and experiment infrastructure across ingestion, feature generation, model evaluation, and historical replay.

V3V Ventures | Research Lead & Venture Analyst - Internal Tooling & Data Products Jan 2026 - Mar 2026

Six-person boutique venture fund focused on early-stage crypto and AI

- Worked independently and directly with the founder on investment screening, diligence, portfolio research, and market analysis.
- Owned requirements, data model, and workflow design for vc-analyzer, aggregating 11K+ public crypto funding rounds and their investor relationships for sourcing and co-investor research.
- Delivered decision-ready diligence on crypto, AI, and infrastructure projects through memos, competitive analyses, risk assessments, and open-source code testing.

Independent Ventures | Founder & Product Lead Jul 2023 - Sep 2025

GG Labs and Impulse Labs | Two concurrent funded ventures | \$500K total angel and grant funding

- **GG Labs:** Owned product development in a team that grew to approximately 15 people, with nine direct reports: two developers, one architect, one UX designer, and a five-person marketing team.
- Led the product from concept to approximately 20K registered accounts; raised a \$350K angel round, then led the stop decision, investor communication, and 100% capital return after paid participation did not validate.
- **Impulse Labs:** Led an eight-person cross-functional team spanning illustration, UX, frontend, Unity, smart contracts, and game design.
- Secured \$150K in Gear and Starknet grants and led product requirements, gameplay, economy, player flows, and delivery across three fully onchain products deployed to mainnet.

Gear Technologies | Head of Gaming Oct 2022 - Jul 2023

Approximately 50-person Rust/WASM smart-contract platform company

- Worked directly with the founder, owning gaming PRDs and coordinating implementation with two developers without formal line management.
- Translated platform constraints and builder research into product concepts, onboarding requirements, and prioritized developer-experience needs.

EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

Astar Network | Head of Ecosystem Success

Nov 2021 - Feb 2022

Approximately 50-person EVM/WASM-compatible Polkadot platform company

- Worked directly with the founder as an individual contributor, coordinating portal, wallet, onboarding, and ecosystem requirements across users, builders, partners, and the platform team.
- Acted as the product liaison for project onboarding, partner success, and technical dependency communication.

Robonomics Network | Chief Marketing Officer

Oct 2020 - Nov 2021

Customer development, developer education, and trader community | Decentralized network for IoT and robotics

- Established the customer-development practice and conducted 100+ interviews with robotics and IoT engineers worldwide to identify developer personas, use cases, and onboarding gaps.
- Translated research insights into the first online Robonomics Academy, where approximately 300 people registered and completed lesson one versus prior cohorts of no more than 20.
- Built and managed an international XRT trader community, connecting product, token, and ecosystem updates with market-facing communication and community feedback.
- During my CMO tenure, XRT appreciated approximately 20x; I also personally arranged \$500K in OTC XRT deals to fund the developer DAO. The price move is market context, not a sole-causality claim.

Crypto-friendly Neobank | Head of Growth

Jan 2020 - Oct 2020

Product onboarding and commercial growth | Early-stage B2B fintech product

- Owned and redesigned the end-to-end client-onboarding workflow, reducing average onboarding from 10 to 5 business days.
- Implemented data collection, first-pass compliance checks, case routing, status visibility, and escalation workflows for internal operators.
- Designed a B2B lead-generation channel attributed to 35% of revenue; during the same growth period, opened corporate accounts increased 5x within three months.

SWIDOM | Chief Operating Officer

Nov 2018 - Feb 2019

Blockchain growth and token-sale advisory agency

- Led go-to-market and token-sale execution at SWIDOM and supported corresponding work at Iskander.vc for agency clients that collectively raised \$50M+ across their campaigns.
- Owned market research, positioning, investor materials, community and acquisition strategy, coordinating SMM, community, copywriting, influencer, and paid-campaign execution.

Iskander.vc | Product Marketer & Analyst

Feb 2018 - Nov 2018

Web3 venture and marketing agency | Client GTM and in-house product work

- Scored the project pipeline and shaped market positioning, customer segmentation, and community-growth strategies for blockchain clients.
- Managed content, design, SMM, and community teams; translated EOS and community-tooling research into architecture and engagement requirements for the in-house Join.chat product.

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL WORK

Built research and prototype systems for exchange execution, time-aware backtesting, and prediction-market data (Rialto, Watson, and Polymarket infrastructure), focused on APIs, state integrity, risk controls, reconciliation, replay, and data quality.

SKILLS

Product: Product Management, 0-to-1 Product Development, Customer Discovery, Requirements & Acceptance Criteria, Prioritization, Roadmapping, API & Integration Products, Product Analytics, Go-to-Market, Stakeholder Alignment, Cross-functional Team Leadership.

Technical: SQL, PostgreSQL, ClickHouse, Python, TypeScript, Rust, XGBoost, CatBoost, LSTM, REST & WebSocket APIs, Data Pipelines, Docker.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Independent Advisor / Research, Feb 2019 - Jan 2020 | Law & Trust - Legal Intern, 2017

EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

Russian Foreign Trade Academy - Law, 2017 | English - C1 | Russian - Native