Tech Interview: 101

@annjanar
November 2020

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Interview 101
3. Prepare
4. Practice
5. Present

Annjana Ramesh

Engineering Manager
@annjanar

Interviews 101

- Interviewing is a skill on it's own
- Interviewing is a muscle that needs to be strengthened
- An Interview is a 2-way street (do not forget this!)

"Where do I begin?"

- Identify the role you want to interview for
- Identify any companies you want to work for
- Join virtual meetups or hackathons to help you network
- Keep your resume up-to-date
- Prepare an action plan (more about this in the next section)

Stages of Interviewing

1 _____

Prepare

_____

2 _____

Practice

_____

3 _____

Present

_____

Prepare

How to prepare for technical interviews

Prepare: (Technical) Company agnostic

How to prepare for technical interviews

Generic technical prep

- **Coding**
  - **Plan**
  - **Break it down**
    - Start with Cracking the coding interview **book.**
    - Practice coding! For example, how about 1 easy, 1 medium and 1 hard problem a day? (~2-3 hours)

    [http://www.geeksforgeeks.org/, http://www.careercup.com/page, http://www.codechef.com/, https://projecteuler.net/,

    http://www.algorithmist.com/, https://leetcode.com/]

- **System design**
  - For a graduate hire, it's important you know all the concepts. However, it is not expected that you have industry experience in scaling distributed systems [https://www.hiredintech.com/system-design or Grokking the system design interview]

Prepare: (Technical) Company specific

How to prepare for technical interviews

Guidelines on the interview process, preparation for each of the interviews
- Understand the interview process
    - What is expected of you at each stage?
- Ask clarifying questions on the process, and request for any resources available
    - "Are there any books or blog posts that I can read?"
- Prepare role-specific action plan
    - Identify knowledge gaps
    - Implement side projects
    - Time-box
- Prepare questions for each round (take the time to think about questions in advance)

Prepare: Non-technical interviews

How to prepare for non-technical and behavioral interviews

1   **Who are you outside of your resume?**
Showcase your personality wherever you can

2   **How well do you know your resume? What don't you know much about?**
Honesty, Transparency and Clarity

3   **What have _you_ worked on?**
Ability to describe technical aspects in detail. High level overview to detailed work you have done

4   **What are your takeaways from each project?**
Growth mindset, self awareness, STAR

5   **Would you do things differently?**
Ability to learn, and think through different solutions

6   **Communication, Collaboration, Culture diversity**
What are you bringing to the table? Would you fit into the existing ecosystem while also bringing in a diverse point of view?

Practice

Practice what you've learnt and prepared for

Practice

1

Mock Interviews

https://www.pramp.com/, https://interviewing.io/

And actual interviews
(irrespective of the outcome)

2

Ask for help where needed

3

Quick side projects to validate your learnings

Present

Let's put your preparation and practice in action

Present

1

Bring your whole self to an interview
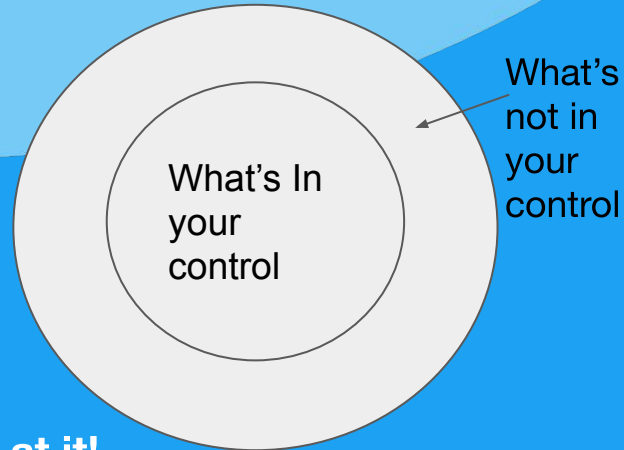
2

Stay calm, confident and humble

3

Keep distractions away

Post-Interview

- Mistakes I've made (the "Don't(s)"!)
  - Run-through the interview in my head, going over every question and my answer
  - Beating myself over rejections

What's In your control

What's not in your control

Never give up! Keep at it!

Thank you