Preparing for Your Technical Interview

Objectives

1. Understand the importance and characteristics of technical interviews.
2. Understand how to articulate previous technical experience.
3. Identify and locate resources to prepare for the technical interview.

Characteristics and Components of a Technical Interview

Importance of a Technical Interview

Technical interview questions assess a candidate's problem solving skills, reasoning abilities, and technological skill level. Technical interview components can include:

- At-home coding challenges
- Phone screenings
- In-person questions
- Assessments

These questions can include puzzles, trivia, pair-programming, and coding problems. For example:

- *You're given a binary tree and two nodes in the tree. Find the lowest common ancestor of the two given nodes in O(n) time.*

Purpose of Technical Interviews

Companies utilize the technical interview to assess specific technical knowledge required for the occupation and the organization. While the technology industry is the most common user of this interview type, other industries utilize this method when hiring technical positions within the finance, healthcare, and manufacturing industries.

A critical part of understanding the technical interview process involves first assessing technical skills by inventorying your skill set and experiences. Consider:

- *What technical-based courses (i.e. Data Structures and Algorithms) have I taken?*
- *What relevant class projects or certificates did I complete?*
- *What transferrable skills did I develop through my experiential learning opportunities (i.e. Internships, Shadowing, Coding boot camps, Part-time jobs, Hack-a-Thon) translate to this position?*
- *How do I articulate my competencies built through personal projects or other work?*

Summary

Preparation is key to enhancing outcomes of the technical interview process. Candidates who possess the ability to communicate their technical skill set may find themselves experiencing interviews that are more successful. It is recommended to utilize the following resources, complete a Mock Interview, and attend an Interviewing workshop.

Activities and Resources

Meet with a Career Advisor about additional information and/or resources that might be helpful for your technical interview. See Hours of operation: http://www.career.fsu.edu/about-us/hours-of-operation

- Drop in hours at the Career Center Library

- Career Liaison to the College of Arts & Sciences: Physical Sciences, Technology, & Mathematics
- Career Liaison to the College of Business
- Career Liaison to the College of Communication and Information

Schedule a Mock Interview to hone your interviewing skills while developing confidence in your ability to deliver strong interview performances. www.career.fsu.edu/mock-interview

Attend a Nole to ProfessioNole Ace the Interview workshop. Learn how to ace the interview from start to finish. Career.fsu.edu/workshops

View Career Spot Videos on how to successfully prepare for and perform well in an interview. http://www.career.fsu.edu/students/prepare-for-the-next-step/career-spots

Review Interviewing Guides such as The First Job Interview, Preparing for a Telephone Interview, Preparing for your Second Interview and Preparing for a Technical Interview. http://www.career.fsu.edu/resources/career-guides

Visit the Career Portfolio platform to view sample Business, Computer Science, and Information Technology portfolios. http://career.fsu.edu/portfolio/sample-portfolios

Visit the following online resources:

- **Hacker Rank** Participate in solving code challenges, which is one of the best ways to prepare for programming interviews. https://www.hackerrank.com/
- **The Muse** -Find some tips that are helpful to ace any technical interview and to map out your strategy. https://www.themuse.com/advice/how-to-ace-your-technical-interview
- **Tech Interview** - Search for technical interview questions, brain teasers, puzzles, quizzes and other things that make you think. https://www.techinterview.org/
- **Google Interview** - See two Google engineers demonstrate a mock interview question. After they code, the engineers highlight best practices for interviewing at Google. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKu_SEDAykw –
- **"The Internship"** - a sample of what not to do in an interview. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28L5epip9TQ-

Visit the Career Center Library to view books related to preparing for the Case Interview.

General Interview Preparation

Ace Your Interview……VB W4
Boost Your Interview IQ.....VB M3
Interview Preparation Binder.....VB C62
Knock 'Em Dead Job Interview: How to Turn Job Interviews into Job Offers…….....VB Y3
Sell Yourself!: Master the Job Interview Process.....VB W5

Skill-Based/Technical Interview Preparation

Case in Point: Complete Case Interview Preparation.....VB C6
Competency-Based Interviews.....VB K4
Cracking the Coding Interview: 150 Programming Interview Questions and Solutions ……VB M32
How to Ace the Brain Teaser Interview.....VB K3
Programming Interviews Exposed: Secrets to Landing Your Next Job.....VB M66
Vault Guide to the Top Tech Employers.....VIB5 P3