Guidewire Phone Call

Gary Hartigan & Eoin Fitzsimons

# General Questions:

## 1. Can you tell me a bit about yourself?

I’m currently a student at the National College of Ireland, pursuing a degree in Computing. I have a strong passion for software development and have gained experience through various projects and internships. I enjoy working on both front-end and back-end development and have a keen interest in Agile methodologies. Outside of academics, I lead the Gaming Society and serve as a Class Representative, which has helped me develop strong leadership and communication skills.

## 2. Why are you interested in this role at Guidewire?

Eve who was with you last year has constantly praised the experience so that definitely put it on my radar and the presentation was very good too. As for this role vs the other one, I see myself in more of an initial growth stage in life and then as people and products move on, I let them go when it’s the right time to move on to something new. While there is creativity in customising a customer’s product, there is nothing freer than being the one designing the initial framework products.

## 3. What do you know about Guidewire and our products?

Guidewire is a leading provider of software solutions for the insurance industry. You’re trying to work with Axa, you’re currently working with another Irish company, I don’t quite remember the name though.

For AXA, the largest insurer in Belgium, the benefits of a cloud migration far outweighed the risks. With Accenture’s help, it implemented the Guidewire ClaimCenter claims management system and sought ways to make the most of the new technology.

Gosu (programming language)—Wikipedia—It seemed very interesting. It is similar to Java, which is my main, but I like the look of enhancements. To add this functionality with Java, you’d create a util class with the base building block.

Policy, Claim, and Billing Centre are the products. All are under the insurance suite.

A screenshot of guidewire products


# Experience and Skills:

## 4. Can you describe your CV and highlight your most relevant experiences?

I have experience in full-stack software development, having developed a map-based event discovery website where I handled both front-end and back-end tasks. I used Agile methodologies and tools like Trello to manage the project. I have also worked as a Teaching Assistant at WhizzKids Discover IT Summer Camp, where I taught young students computer skills and Python projects. My roles as a Student Leader and International Peer Mentor at the National College of Ireland have further honed my leadership and communication skills.

## 5. What programming languages and technologies are you most comfortable with?

I am most comfortable with Java, Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and SQL. I also have experience with C++, C#, and various frameworks and tools like EJS and Excel.

## 6. Can you describe a project where you had to solve a tough technical problem?

One challenging project was the development of the map-based event discovery website. I had to implement secure user authentication and session management, which required a deep understanding of API key encoding and data security principles. I also had to ensure the website’s interface was intuitive and user-friendly, which involved extensive testing and iteration.

# Motivation and Fit:

## 7. What motivates you to look for new challenges?

I am motivated by a genuine curiosity and love for technology. I enjoy solving complex problems and continuously learning new skills. The dynamic nature of the tech industry and the opportunity to work on innovative projects drive me to seek new challenges.

## 8. How do you stay up to date with the latest technologies and trends in software development?

I joined up with Codú, Ireland’s largest coding community, it has been a bit daunting putting myself out there with people further in their coding lifecycle but it’s a great opportunity to learn more and share interesting ideas.

## 9. Why do you think you would be a good fit for this role and our team?

I believe I would be a good fit because I have a strong technical background, a passion for continuous learning, and a collaborative mindset. My experience with Agile methodologies and my ability to work well in a team align with Guidewire’s values. I am also committed to delivering high-quality software and contributing to the team’s success.

# Behavioural Questions:

## 10. Tell me about when you had to work closely with a team to achieve a goal.

During my time as a Student Leader, I worked closely with a team to organize orientation events for new students. We had to coordinate various activities, manage logistics, and ensure a smooth experience for over 300 students. Effective communication and collaboration were key to our success, and we received positive feedback from both students and faculty.

## 11. How do you handle feedback and criticism?

I view feedback and criticism as opportunities for growth. I listen carefully, ask clarifying questions if needed, and reflect on the feedback to understand how I can improve. I appreciate constructive criticism and use it to enhance my skills and performance.

## 12. Can you give an example of how you demonstrated accountability in a previous role?

As a Teaching Assistant at WhizzKids Discover IT Summer Camp, I was responsible for leading classes and ensuring all students progressed. I took accountability for their learning outcomes by tailoring my teaching methods to accommodate different skill levels and providing additional support when needed. My commitment to their success was recognized with positive feedback from both students and supervisors.

# Company-Specific Questions:

## 13. What do you know about Guidewire’s core values and how do they align with your values?

Guidewire’s core values include integrity, quality, and collaboration. These values resonate with me as I believe in building truthful relationships, delivering high-quality work, and working collaboratively with others. I strive to embody these values in my professional and personal life.

## 14. How do you approach learning new technologies or methodologies?

I approach learning new technologies with curiosity and enthusiasm. I start by researching and understanding the fundamentals, then apply what I’ve learned through hands-on projects or exercises. I also seek out resources like online courses, tutorials, and community forums to deepen my knowledge and stay current with best practices.