

What I learned – Interview Phase – Week 2

This week ended up being tough to deal with, as I received my feedback of the interview, I had last week, but through the week I started a new course on algorithms based on a book I got recommended and I kept learning new topics.

It was not a surprise when I received my feedback this week, as I had an idea after I finished the interview, I lacked knowledge mainly on algorithms and OOP, and I could not get above a mixed evaluation on the other areas. This meant I knew vaguely every topic of the interview and could not form a concrete definition on any of them. It got me down for some time, but it helps me to guide my learning path, as I did not know what to learn I could say I had no direction. Now I know how I need to learn things, with as much needed depth and being able to explain it clearly without contradicting myself or going back to the same things.

In consequence of my performance in the interview I started a course on algorithms, which now I have covered the fundamentals, from why we create algorithms, to measuring their time complexity with the O notation and learning about best, worst and average cases. As well I learned about the Union find problem and the algorithms that exist for it, like Quick Union or quick find. Separate from the course I have investigated various algorithms like bubble sort, quick sort and binary search, but I still want to look into more and more importantly learn their time complexity in order to help to measure it in other algorithms.

Some other topics I learned through the week were about the Software Development Life Cycle (SDCL) which is the process of creating software projects with high quality and low cost. As well as the waterfall and spiral models which derive from the SDCL process.

Since last week I've kept reading the book "Cracking the code interview", which it has helped with the preparation for this week's mock interview. This dynamic will consist to make interviews with my peers, some will be the interviewer and others the interviewee. In my case I am going to be the interviewer, which in some way will help to learn deeply into pretty much all the questions I had in my interview. The book has helped me to understand how the interviews are supposed to be done, and how questions have multiple level answers, this way you can evaluate multiple candidates with the same questions. Although this week's interview is only about technical questions the book also gives tips for the coding part of the interview. Which now I implement these tips on coding problems I have been resolving, I try to put them into practice to obtain a better algorithm.

This phase now allows me something I have not been able to do the past months, which is to focus my energy and time into learning a specific programming language and all the fundamentals to software engineering. Since my background is not mainly focused into programming I have struggle with the bases of programming, and now I can give myself time for that and with the guidance I have received from my mentors and people from the academy I have a clearer path onto what I want to achieve and learn.