

What I learned – Interview Phase – Week 3

This week was mostly focused on working in the Interviewmania activity, but with the help of these activities I was able to learn a lot about basic concepts for interviews. As well we were tasked to watch some videos, which I learn some interesting mentalities I will mention later in the essay.

The objective of the Interviewmania is to make more acquainted with interviews either from the interviewer and interviewee perspective, as is what we are going to go through in our next years as developers, if we choose to continue this path. As I mention last week, I was the interviewer on this first round (next round I am the interviewee), I constructed a rubric to evaluate the interviewee, this helped to organize the structure of my interview, as well as to be able to give a score to every answer the candidate would give. Through the process of creating this rubric I had to investigate deep enough to have answers from a poor (1 point) to excellent (4 points) level, this helped me too, to understand deeply basic questions like arrays vs linked lists, agile methodology SCRUM and Kanban, complexity of algorithms, interfaces vs abstract classes, more types of testing like smoke and integrated testing, strict mode in JS, `==` vs `===` operators. I got to learn and more importantly for my future, I have now a basic outline to a programming interview, of course it needs more questions, but so far, I feel what I have done I feel is decently complete and I can just keep adding to it. Although I learned all of that, I know I will not retain everything forever so I think these types of questions is something one should relearn every time you will need them, in this case, an interview. Something I want to mention that was like a “duh” moment I had in the week, was that I’ve always hear that I should know the differences between lists and arrays, the problem is, that in a lot of programming languages arrays are called lists, so I was confused on how to search the differences, until finally I understand that what I should have been looking for was for linked lists vs arrays, although it seems pretty dumb I did not know about it until this week.

Some insights I gain this week through the videos I mentioned earlier were mainly about mastery of what you do and how can you get in that zone to perform the best you can. Although the examples were mainly into either sports and music, the same goes into doing something you like and want to excel in it. I learned that the more material you need to learn, the less likely you will be able to master it, which seem obvious, but sometimes we want to take tons of information and force us to learn it in a short period of time expecting that we will remember everything, so the smaller the insight or example, the more you will be able to master it. Something else I got from this week is the thought that sometimes the more we force us to accomplish something or that we keep thinking too intense on doing something, the less likely we are going to achieve it, as sometimes we just have to let flow or let it happen and you should not judge yourself too often for not being able to do something, you have to trust yourself that you can.

Although at one point was stressful to make the rubric I really enjoyed the week, because one thing I realized is that I would like to participate as an interviewer in the future, and not just that but also to teach what I know, being in this program made me feel fortunate that I could have this experience of guidance through what I thought was a really difficult path, so I am really grateful for this.