What I learned – Interview Phase – Month

The goal of this month was to familiarize us with the dynamics behind interviews in tech companies. This is to show us how are these interviews done, and to understand the process of evaluation behind them, although it was not only for that, but also to let us learn subjects we were weak at, this way we can perform better when the day comes of a real interview.

Everything started with an evaluation interview, which made me realized I knew nothing at the time, and I had a long path to become a software developer. Although I know that theorical knowledge is not everything it certainly helps to have strong bases to start investigating more complicated topics, and it is something that is necessary if you want to get hired by a tech company. In order to help us with this we had an activity called Interviewmania, which we simulated interviews with each other (interns) first round theorical and second round solving coding problems. The activity helped to research about interview questions and dig deep so I could know what an excellent answer would look like, of course this was through my perspective.

Another aspect about interviews which this month helped me with, was about behavioural questions, since I think this is the part, I could struggle the most preparing for, because for technical questions you know you must study and probably you already know what to study. On the other side, behavioural questions are more personal, so you must know yourself well to sell yourself to the company. Most of the time I can be self conscious and insecure, which is why whenever I encounter this type of questions, I do not know what to answer, but through this phase I know this is something you also prepare yourself to, and it is normal not to know what to answer.

Through this month other than practicing for interviews, the thing I did most was learning software development. Since I do not have a software development background, a lot of things were new to me, but these are the topics I study through the month and some I am still reviewing. First, I started with the SDLC the cycle of creating a software project, at first, I though it was something intuitive but there is a process which all methodologies follow, and one of these methodologies is Agile. Then I learn about agile, waterfall and spiral methodologies. One big topic was algorithms, as I did not know anything about them, so I started from understanding how the complexity of an algorithm is measured and then I started looking into finding, searching and now sorting algorithms. Some of these are already implemented withing some programming languages, but others you can create them by yourself, and this is important to know because you start to form your problem-solving skills, because you think in different ways, of course this is important but also to practice coding problems.

Then I looked into data structures, which was relative easier to investigate into, but with the help of understanding complexity on algorithms you can understand the difference in complexity within the actions that occur with data structures. The next topic was really hard for me as the terms where entirely new which was about programming paradigms, especially about OOP, involving the 4 pillars of object-oriented programming and as well SOLID, which is with what I have struggle the most, because I have found to understand and explain it. Then I looked into testing although I had already research about TDD and Unit testing, so I just needed a reread about topics.

Finally, I researched about my stack, although I have not done such an intense investigation into all the topics that are questioned during interviews. At the beginning of the phase my stack were JS and Python, although because of my inexperience with programming topics, I dropped for the moment Python, so I could focus my attention on coding with JS and researching about it.

After all of these topics one thing I have done which has and will help me a lot, is that I have written all the information I have researched and I have created a question and answer database, with examples and some pictures, as I know this can help to prepare myself for future interviews.