

Prepare for a cloud security job interview

Your resume is often going to be a potential employer's first impression of you. So, it's important to make a good first impression in your interview—the next big step in your job search! The interview is an opportunity for potential employers to get to know you better, to discuss your skills and experience, and for you to determine if they're a good fit for your career goals. At this point, you may have started thinking about how you can prepare for future interviews—and in this reading, you're going to explore some tips for cloud security job interviews.

Connect to the job description

You've already explored how to tailor your resume to job descriptions in order to align with an organization's expectations for candidates. Now the interview is another opportunity to connect your skills and experience with the job description! This will help ensure that your interviewer feels you're relevant to the organization's needs. To guide your interview, you can:

- **Search for keywords:** Read the job description carefully to find out what language they're using to describe the role you're applying for. Are there any keywords you can highlight and focus on during the interview that will showcase your understanding of their needs?
- **Consider skills and responsibilities:** If you notice that the job description lists skills you have or responsibilities you're prepared to take on, it's a good idea to discuss them with interviewers! This will show that you have a good understanding of the position and also how you can fill that role effectively.
- **Research:** A large part of your job search is going to be research. Researching the business that posted the job listing can reveal the kinds of roles that exist within their organization and how they approach data roles in general. This can give you a better idea of how their teams function and how you can fit in.

General tips for job interviews

In addition to connecting to the job description, there are some other general tips you can keep in mind during the interview itself.

- **Focus on data:** As you start to think about things you want to highlight in your interview, don't forget to include *data*. This helps your interviewer understand your overall achievements, and how big of an impact you made. What data can you provide that tells the story of your experience in terms of the needs of this position? The data can be in an equation form like this: *I accomplished X as measured by Y doing Z*. Here's

an example: “I reduced time spent configuring resources by 30% by designing and implementing infrastructure as code.”

If you don’t have access to this kind of data from a previous position, you can still indicate the scope you were accountable for and strengthen the language you use when describing your responsibilities by including action words like *provided*, *created*, *developed*, *supported*, *implemented*, and *generated*. For example: “I implemented a new system of security controls that saved employees time and improved infrastructure security.”

- **Think back to past work experiences:** Review your work history. That may not sound like something you need to prepare for, but most of us have done more than we think and it’s easy to forget some of our own wins (and lessons we learned from mistakes). Think of examples of times you achieved something so you’re prepared to answer questions like “Tell me about a time when . . .” or “How would you approach this situation . . .?”

People often diminish or ignore their past job experiences if they don’t seem similar to the position they’re applying for. Remember, you likely bring a lot of transferable skills from past experiences that might be useful—you just have to frame them the right way. Think about communication skills you might have gained from a previous assignment that can help you connect with stakeholders in a new role.

- **Come ready with questions:** Next, come to the interview with your own questions, such as “What are some upcoming projects I’d be working on? What current goals is the company focused on? Can you tell me about the team I’ll be working with?” This shows you care about understanding the company and the position you’re applying for. Besides, this is your opportunity to interview them as well to find out if this position is a good fit for you.

This type of preparation will help you feel confident and prepared to talk about yourself and the position. It will enable you to fully explore your experience, the position, and your career aspirations. What’s more, good preparation can really help you to connect with your interviewer.

Key takeaways

Interviewing is going to be an important part of your job search process. You’ll probably go through several job interviews as you try to find the right position for your next career step. These tips can be a great way to prepare for the interview and guide you through the interview process itself.