

EP 21 - Top 11 Resources to Crack the System Design Interview

Proven Resources to Prepare for System Design Interview from NK



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Hello guys, *Javin* here! I write the *Javarevisited Newsletter*. It offers simplified weekly discussions on Java and coding interview questions. Consider subscribing to my newsletter. And prepare for your next interview for *FREE*.

This is a guest post by NK, if you also want to write a guest post for this publication, feel free to contact me or just comment on this article.

Now over to NK.

Hey, *NK* here! I write the *System Design Newsletter*. It offers simplified weekly case studies on system design. Consider subscribing to my newsletter. And get the powerful template to approach system design for *FREE*.

I wanted to share with you the list of the top 11 resources to prepare for the system design interview.

Note: Affiliate links included in this post were not added by me.

Not everybody is lucky enough to work on a distributed system. Besides each system solves a different problem. So the best way to master system design is by studying real-world architectures.

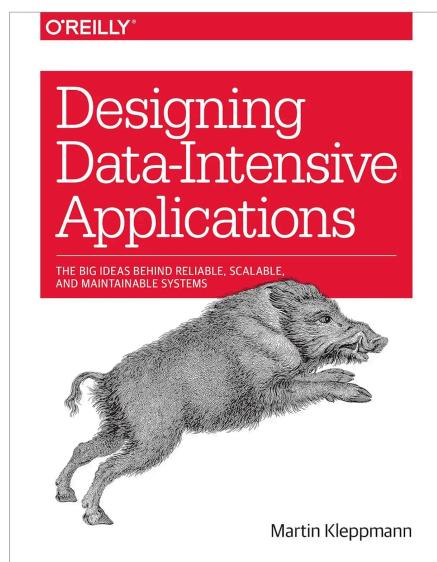
Yet it's not needed to have knowledge of every technology to pass the system design interview. But it's important to provide a solution that makes sense.

Also depth and breadth of the interview depend on the seniority level that you apply for.

Here is the list of the top 11 resources to prepare for the system design interview:

1. Designing Data-Intensive Applications

This is the sacred book for system design. So consider reading it even if you're a junior engineer. Because it will fill your theoretical knowledge gaps.



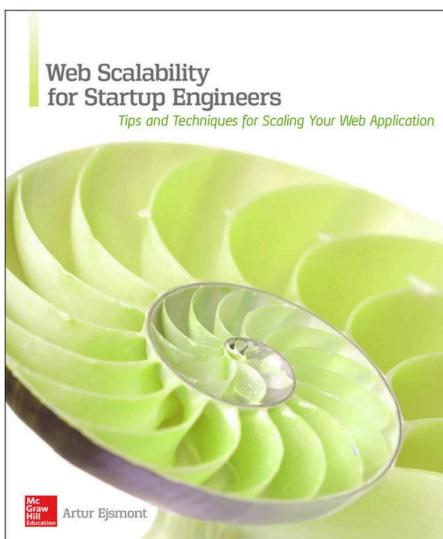
But this book will not prepare you for a 45-minute time-boxed system design interview.

And if you don't understand any specific topic in the book, you can use the references to do extra study.

Also don't forget that the system design interview is a discussion. So the interview might test your knowledge of the fundamentals.

2. Web Scalability for Startup Engineers

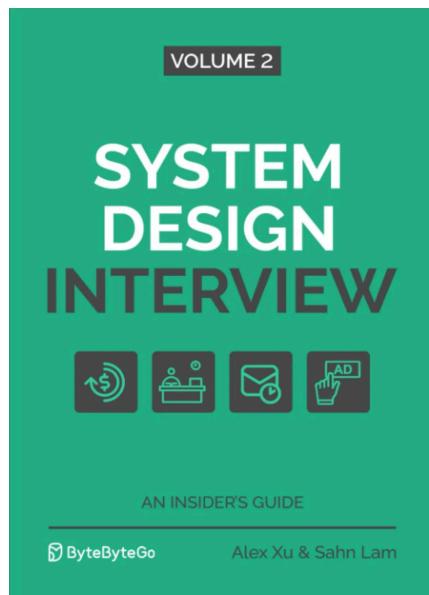
This is a simple book to learn about scalable architectures. And distributed systems.



If you're getting started with system design, consider reading it.

3. System Design Interview Vol 2

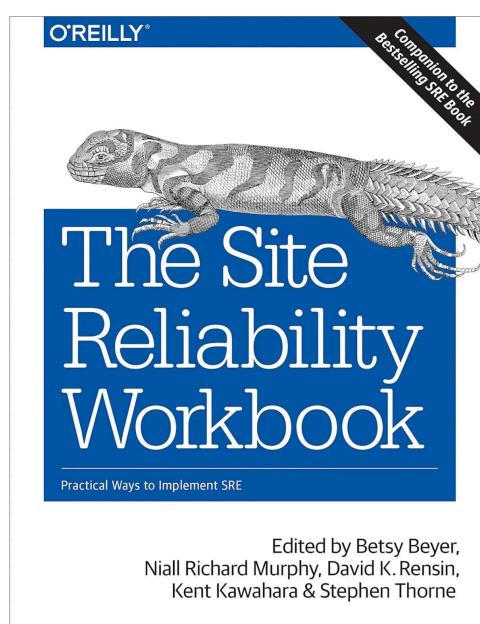
This book gives you a framework to approach system design interviews. You can also checkout [ByteByteGo](#) by Alex Xu, which contains content from both volumes 1 and 2 for the System design interview plus a lot more content.



It's a well-known book for system design interview preparation.

4. [The Site Reliability Workbook](#)

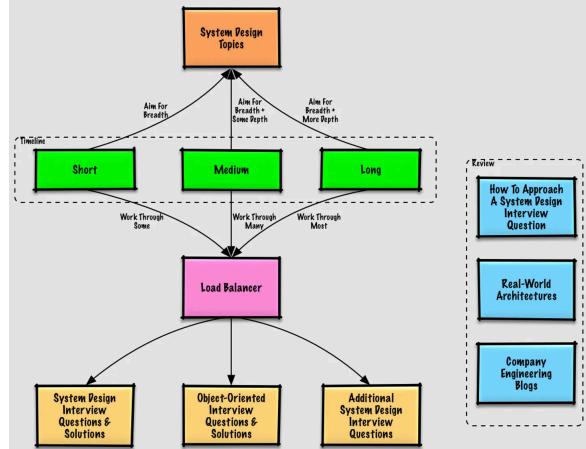
Google offers the online version of this [book](#) for free.



If you want to study capacity planning for system design, consider reading it. The chapter [Introducing Non-Abstract Large System Design](#) covers it well.

5. [System Design Primer](#)

If you're a beginner to system design. And wants to study the system design concepts. This is probably the best free resource.



Source: [GitHub](#)

6. [Design Gurus](#)

They offer the famous *Grokkering the System Design Interview* course.



Source: [designgurus.io](#)

It gives you a reliable framework to approach the interview. And the course is an easy read.

7. [InfoQ](#)

This platform offers excellent articles and videos on software architecture.

It helps you to deepen your knowledge.

8. [Scale YouTube Channel](#)

It contains a ton of content on real-world systems and scalability concepts.

An extra resource to deepen your system design skills.

9. [MIT Distributed Systems YouTube Channel](#)

It covers the fundamentals of distributed systems.

And covers lots of theory well.

10. [USENIX YouTube Channel](#)

It offers videos on best engineering practices. And software architecture.

11. Amazon Dynamo Whitepaper

If you don't have time to read *many* white papers. Then consider reading this one.

Are you looking for a weekly newsletter on system design? Consider subscribing to my [newsletter](#). And get simplified system design case studies delivered straight to your inbox. I cover the fundamentals and deep dives in my newsletter.

And good luck with your system design interview.



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A guest post by

Neo Kim

I write a weekly newsletter to help you learn system design.

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