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Job Interviews

Airbnb Software Engineer Interview

A **Anonymous**
May 15

I'm looking for insights on interviews for Software Engineers at Airbnb.

Airbnb   Interview   Software Developer   Interview Process

Questions

1. Can you give me an overview of interview process for software engineers at Airbnb?

    50 words minimum.

2. What kind of questions I need to expect and what does Airbnb want to find out?

    50 words minimum.

1 Answer

rory   Airbnb
May 15

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1. Can you give me an overview of interview process for software engineers at Airbnb?

Basically Airbnb interview process includes one phone screen and the onsite interview.

For phone interview, interviewer usually ask you one coding question and you need to come up with solutions as well as implement it in a shared coding environment. One tricky thing for Airbnb interview, which is different from other company is that, interviewer expected that the code you should compile, and you need to write the test cases and your code should pass the test cases.

For onsite interview, the it usually includes 6 rounds.
- 2 generalist coding interviews (45 mins each)
- 1 experience/project related interview (45 mins)
- 1 architecture interview (45 mins)
- 2 cross functional interviews (30 mins each)

2. What kind of questions I need to expect and what does Airbnb want to find out?

The following includes the details of each round and some preparation tips:

General Coding: This round is pretty similar to phone interview. Airbnb allows you to use your own computer or use one of Airbnb's to implement the code, compile the code and test your code. You won't be given all the information you need to solve the problem. Instead, you'll need to ask clarifying questions to identify use cases, edge/corner cases, etc. This is to get a sense of how you approach a problem. It's going to be a very interactive interview, so ask a lot of questions and only start implementing your solution when you feel you have a good understanding of the problem. If you start struggling with your solution, explain what you did and why so the interviewers are able to give you hints to get you moving along. The goal is ultimately to evaluate your ability to write good code. Make sure to refresh your memory of the data structures and algorithms before going to the coding interview. The questions in leetcode.com with Airbnb tag are good questions to prepare.

Experience Interview: This will be a deep dive into projects you've worked on, technologies used, and architectural decisions. Make sure you're able to speak of an interesting/challenging project you worked on and be able to explain the challenges faced, lessons learned, and technical details. They'll be looking for excitement or interest in the projects you worked on as it is always great to work alongside engineers who are passionate about what they do. Start at a high level explaining the project (why was it needed, what was it used for, who would use it, etc.) then explain what your team did, then what you were responsible for. Make sure you have a good understanding of the decisions that were made and a holistic understanding of the work.

Architecture and Design: This will focus on your ability to design good software. Most questions are fairly open-ended and may have a variety of different answers. They'll give you an idea of a module/feature and ask you to architect the system design/application for it. This is a very abstract problem so make sure to ask a lot of questions. They'll want you to architect an Application and then they'll prod into your design asking questions about your system. Make sure you understand the technologies you chose for your design and aren't just using the latest buzz word. They'll be looking for how you make design decisions, how strong the design is, and does the design fulfill the requirement. They will also be interested in how you take design suggestions into account. In the best cases, we hope the interviewer can learn something from you.

Cross functional interviews: These will be more holistic conversations to consider how you'll be successful at Airbnb outside of just the team and role you're interviewing for. It's important to think about your story with Airbnb, how the product of Airbnb is changing the world, how it affects hosts and guests, and the possibilities ahead. These conversations will also be based on why you'd want to work at Airbnb, role and team aside, with a greater focus on the mission.

A   Anonymous ★★★★★

Very thorough overview of Airbnb's interview process. This will help me a lot in my upcoming interview.

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