

Elevator Pitch

I grew up in a world where technology was always advancing. From social platforms to video games, I'm engaged in all of it. Having a love for video games, I started teaching myself how to use different gaming engines such as Unreal Engine and Unity, and got to a point where I needed functionality for the worlds I was creating. That's when I decided to become a Software Developer.

After teaching myself all I could through different Udemy Courses and online materials, I discovered CodeWorks. Over the past few months I've been able to learn so much, and have had the opportunity to build some amazing applications using current frameworks and languages such as Vuejs, Nodejs, and C#. One application I'm particularly proud of is Tally. I acted as the scrum master on a team of 5 talented software developers to create an application that can be used to host game nights with your friends, and keep track of your wins for every game in your "game cabinet".

I want to find a place where I can continue to learn software development, that also gives me an opportunity to speak up and create stunning applications that not only provide excellent user experiences, but push the limits of what technology can do. Someday I'd love to use the knowledge I've gained to create inspiring video games that can influence others in positive ways.

Behavioral Interview Questions

1. Talk about a time when you had to work closely with someone whose personality was very different from yours.

SITUATION

During my capstone I worked with someone who had very different opinions on how our application should look, and they were very aggressive about how their ideas were better than everyone else's.

TASK

We were given two weeks to imagine, design and build a full stack application using Vuejs and Nodejs frameworks. While designing our figma, one team member was very adamant about how they wanted things to be. Although they were trying to be productive and helpful, the way they presented their opinions often offended other members of our team and caused them emotional pain.

ACTION

I noticed how this member of our team would often say things that discouraged other members, and I didn't want to create further tension in our group since we had such a short time to complete this application. I had to think of a way to uplift the members who felt attacked while at the same time understand where this team member was coming from. So I decided that everytime something negative was said towards another member that I would find something that member did great, and express my appreciation for their hard work.

RESOLUTION

I know that the member of our team who was very aggressive was only trying to help. As I started to encourage our team by providing positive feedback on their work, this member started to include some positive things as well while giving their opinion. Our team started to have a better morale which in turn improved our final application.

2. Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with the situation?

SITUATION

When I was 19, I decided to go to college even though I had no idea what I wanted to do. Everyone always talked about how I'd be able to figure it out when I get there, and I believed them for a while.

TASK

School was just about to start, and I tried to pick a variety of classes just to work on my generals, but I had to choose a major I wanted to do. I thought about it for a few days of what I'd want to do for the rest of my life, which was a little dramatic, but I was young and didn't know any better. I chose to major in history to become a high school history teacher, but when my history classes started, I quickly realized that this wasn't for me. I started failing my classes because I was anxious and depressed, thinking if I couldn't do well at history, something I thought I enjoyed, how would I ever do anything else in my life.

ACTION

A few weeks went by, and I ended up dropping out of this college. I still had no clue what I wanted to do for a career, and now I had spent a lot of money going somewhere I felt like I learned nothing. Since I didn't know what I wanted to do, I decided to just work and talk to people I looked up to about their career fields and why they chose to go those routes.

RESOLUTION

After talking to a lot of friends and family, and working for a couple years, I found software development. Even though I failed college, it lead me to a career that I do enjoy, and now I'm also not thousands of dollars in debt for a history degree that I probably couldn't use very well.

3. Tell me about a time you set a goal for yourself. How did you go about ensuring that you would meet your objective?

SITUATION

When I stopped going to BSU after deciding I didn't enjoy accounting, I was sort of in a rut. I wasn't helping my wife financially, and Covid happened, so it was hard to find a job. I didn't know what to do, but I felt useless just staying at home.

TASK

I decided to set a goal for myself to figure out what career I wanted. I needed to make a list of all my interests, and delve into them to figure out exactly what was right for me, so that when the chance came for getting a job or going back to school I would know what field to go into.

ACTION

I set a daily schedule for teaching myself new skills. Every week I chose a different career off of my list, and would spend nearly 40 hours a week finding the ins and outs of that career such as where I could go to school, what certifications I needed to get a job, and so forth.

RESOLUTION

After a couple months of researching careers, making lists of interests, and talking with people I trusted, I was able to not only learn a lot about different fields, but find a career that I was interested in. Knowing what I wanted to do, I could now make a plan for learning the things I needed to know and building my portfolio.

4. Describe a time when you saw some problem and took the initiative to correct it rather than waiting for someone else to do it.

SITUATION

I was working at an aquatic center as a cashier, and a lot of customers when they would go to leave would tell me about how gross our facility was. This usually had to do with the locker rooms that people were using.

TASK

We had a maintenance closet that stored all of the facilities cleaning supplies, but it was very disorganized. Other staff members would just throw whatever they used back into the closet and never put anything where it should go. This made it difficult for us to have the desire to clean because the closet was never clean, and it was hard to find the things you needed.

ACTION

After a number of people talked to me about how messy the locker rooms were, I decided to do something about it. Usually during lap swim hours, I didn't have a lot that I needed to do, so instead of just waiting around, I took the initiative and organized our maintenance closet. I also took on another job as a cleaner for the facility, so I would go in after hours and clean the whole building.

RESOLUTION

Now that the closet was clean and everything was organized on the shelves, our staff started to use the proper cleaning supplies, and everything was much cleaner. Members of our facility would come in and express gratitude for how well we were keeping the pool, and we eventually had more business because people felt comfortable coming into the aquatic center.

5. Give me an example of a time when you did not meet a client's expectation. What happened, and how did you attempt to rectify the situation?

SITUATION

While I was working at an aquatic center, I had the opportunity of engaging with clients who held memberships at our facilities. Usually members who come for lap swimming are a little bit older than the staff who work there, and things were always changing around our facility.

TASK

One day, I had a lady come in who was very dramatic and abrasive about what amenities were available at the pool. She Came to the desk where I was working as a cashier and demanded that a staff member should come and clean the

locker room again, after it had just been cleaned because there was supposedly something gross that she found.

ACTION

Being the only staff member in the office area, I politely asked her to take a seat, and I'd go find someone who could help since I obviously couldn't go in there myself. The only female staff member that was working was a lifeguard, and she was currently out on duty. So I found another lifeguard who could switch with her for just a moment while she went into the locker room with the client and fixed her issue.

RESOLUTION

The lifeguard went with the customer and cleaned whatever it was that was distasteful for this lady. Even though I couldn't directly solve the problem on my own, I tried my best to help the client with their problem, even if it meant finding someone else who could actually help them.

What I can do to prepare for an interview

I think the most important thing I can do to prepare for an interview is learn about what company I am interviewing for. If I don't understand and hold the same values as them, I'm not going to fit in with the culture. I need to know what makes that company special, and how my role there can fit in with their core beliefs and values.

Another way I can prepare for an interview is by studying the material that I'm applying for. I need to know the job description that I'm applying for, and be able to answer questions honestly regarding my experience and qualifications for that role.

In preparation for an interview, I need to figure out how I am going to be of value to that company. What unique characteristics do I have that could provide value? In what ways do I fit into their culture?

Whiteboard Challenges

What challenge, who was your partner, and what do you think you could do better

The first whiteboard challenge I did was with Aaron. We started off with an easier question where we had to write a function that would

count the number of vowels in a string. We solved it by writing two nested for loops with an array of vowels that we would iterate over the string to find. I think one thing we could have done better was although it was a simpler question, it's still important to pseudo code as you answer it. You want whoever is interviewing you to understand your thought process, and how you go about solving the problem.

The second whiteboard challenge I worked on was with Luc. Kurtis gave us a harder question that involved jumping between objects in an array to get the highest value without touching an object directly next to another. This one was a lot more complicated, and involved multiple nested loops to solve. One thing we could have fixed was our communication. We both had different ideas of how to solve the problem, but we were trying to force it one way or the other rather than talking through it together.

QUESTIONS TO ASK EMPLOYER AT END OF INTERVIEW

1. What sort of continual learning opportunities does your company offer to employees?
2. When can I expect to hear back from you?
3. Is there anything that you would like me to clarify about my skills, or things you might be skeptical about regarding my abilities?
4. What have others who've held this position accomplished over their first few years, and what opportunities for growth have they had?
5. Do your team members have opportunities to get together outside of work for activities or events?

