Technical Case Interview

What is a technical case interview?
Simply put, a problem solving exercise with an interviewer. Some cases are real business problems and others are created by our interviewers. In the interview, you will put your technical, quantitative, conceptual and analytical skills to use in order to find a specific answer or make a business decision. The case builds as you work through each problem, as new factors are introduced, so you'll need to take notes as you go along so that you can refer back as the interview progresses.

What can I expect during the interview?
During your interview, you will be given information about a particular problem and be asked to solve it. The problem may be related to the financial industry, or it might be something completely different. You should be prepared to deal with topics such as:

- Customer data protection
- Cost benefit
- Customer experience
- Product development and design

What is the case interviewer looking for?
The case interviewer is trying to assess your various skills and competencies such as:
- **Conceptual Problem Solving** – do you understand all aspects of the problem and how they interact?
- **Advanced Conceptual Problem Solving** – do you understand and consider 2nd and 3rd order effects?
- **Analytical Skills** - do you know how to structure your solution to the problem?
- **Quantitative Skills** – can you utilize your technical skills and apply technical knowledge to solve the business problem
- **Communication Skills** – can you articulate your thoughts and approaches effectively? Are you able to explain technical concepts in a non-technical manner that can be easily understood?
- **Energy/Drive** – are you interested and engaged in the activity? Do you show passion for this type of problem solving?
- **Confidence** – do you exhibit composure and poise in a stressful environment?
- **Industry Knowledge** – do you demonstrate any industry specific knowledge to support your answers?
- **Technical Skills** – (Specific to engineering roles) do you demonstrate code at the level you would expect to write on the job?

What other tips can you give me to help during the case study interview?
- The case is intended to be very interactive – so share what you're thinking and ask questions along the way, especially if you feel the objective of the case is not clear.
- Do not get too caught up in reality. Some cases are made up and are designed with unrealistic assumptions and/or constraints. If you are unsure, ask questions.
- Do not be afraid to question assumptions in the case.
- When solving the problem, ask yourself these questions:
    - What question am I trying to answer?
    - How should I solve this problem?
    - What DO I know?
    - What DON'T I know?
    - What are my constraints, sensitivities and assumptions?
  - Articulate your thoughts and always be prepared to answer the question, "Why?"

- Be confident and be prepared to defend your solution
- Take your time…speed is usually not as important as accuracy and thoroughness.
- Try to put yourself in the position of the interviewer and anticipate their sensitivities. Ask yourself, "What would I be looking for in an ideal candidate?"
- **Relax and be yourself**