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Adobe Interview Question for Computer Scientists

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Reverse a stack without using extra stack (i.e. doing in place reversal). (hinted about using double recursion).

- nihaldps (/user?id=7538666) on February 21, 2012 in India

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Country: India

Interview Type: In-Person

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Using recursion involves using extra space.

- eugene.yarovoi (/user?id=10943125) on February 21, 2012

agree. Kind of stupid question.

In recursion you are using program stack to hold the popped values.

Without recursion you can achieve the same using another stack.

- gimli (/user?id=12716669) on February 21, 2012

One point friends...I dont think this is a stupid question. When the interviewer asks for a recursive solution, it does not mean that it is the best solution (in terms of time and space). The purpose of the question is to understand the candidates knowledge of recursion and how well he can think recursively..including double recursion.

- Dev on February 24, 2012

And yes..anyone who is familiar with recursion will understand that all recursive functions use a stack internally, but what the interviewer wants is to avoid implicit stack creation.

- Dev on February 24, 2012

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//from stackoverflow, but there is temp storage is involved in appendStack

```
public static void revertStack(Stack<Integer> s) {  
    if (s.isEmpty()) {  
        return;  
    } else {  
        Integer a = s.pop();  
        revertStack(s);  
        appendStack(s, a);  
    }  
}
```

```

public Stack<Integer> appendStack(Stack<Integer> s, Integer a) {
    if (s.isEmpty()) {
        s.push(a);
    } else {
        Integer o = s.pop();
        appendStack(s, a);
        s.push(o);
    }
}

```

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- googlebhai on February 21, 2012

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- abc on February 23, 2012

Isn't the call stack a stack?

- Anonymous on February 23, 2012

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Information

First, learn how to add a data to the bottom of a stack, which requires a recursive function. If you can do that, then it's a straight forward to use another recursive function to reverse a stack.
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Chat Room Guide (/chatroomthings)
- Rick (/user?id=12321729) on February 21, 2012
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With O(n) extra space it is trivial.

Without extra space, you need recursion to hold values. You can ask the interviewer that if I have source code of given stack, if I have the information on how the stack is implemented, then reverse that internal data structure of stack for example, array and linked lists can be reversed using constant extra space.

- mag (/user?id=12222690) on February 24, 2012

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