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Facebook | E5 MLE | USA | Apr 2020 [Offer]



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All questions I was asked were small modifications of questions I found in the "Facebook" section of LeetCode using LC Premium for that reason.



Experience: 3.5 YoE in developing computer vision and NLP models + PhD from a good school.

Position: Deep learning engineer at a FANGMULA company (not telling which for anonymity sorry).

Current TC: \$260K

Fb Offer: \$205K/620K/100K (base/RSU over 4 yrs/sign-on)

Application

Contacted a recruiter on LinkedIn. Looked for a recruiter specializing in ML.

Preparation

Leetcode: I did 1 or 2 LCs per day for half a year (workdays only lol). Final count about 60/70/20. I first did easy frequency. Then went through all the Leetcode -> Explore -> Facebook questions. In the month before I started to avoid losing confidence. Instead, I focused on redoing Mediums/Hards, this time explaining what I'm doing.

Design: Started 2 weeks before the interview (but had a fair amount of real experience at work). Read the design-primer and all the recruiter suggested. Then, designed one large system per day on a whiteboard before the interview.

Phone Screen

Two questions, both LC Medium level. One similar to Anagrams, one an easier version of Remove Parent

Onsite

1 LC round: a highly modified version of Number of Islands.

1 Specialist Ninja round: [edit: this is also a coding round! but not LC coding :) for example, it could be "for general ML or "normalize images" for computer vision folks] Can't say the exact q not to dox myself. people who don't do on a daily basis what their CVs suggest they do. So don't worry unless your CV is full of

2 Sys Design: One focused on NLP and one on a general ML system (similar to "design Fb newsfeed"). They really "tell me roughly how an NLP model fits within the larger system, and then focus on all the different eval/monitor them etc". 70% talking about the model.

1 HM round: Tell me about a time you had a difficult coworker -- what did you do? Tell me about a time This round is what will decide whether you're E4 or E5. IMHO it's very hard to fake it. My preparation was "politics" I encountered in my current job. In daily work, instead of avoiding difficult situations, jump right in easy to gather great E5-type experiences in this way, even with as few YoE as I have.

Negotiation

I knew Fb bands from Blind. I just told the recruiter to ask for max band, and said I'll cancel other interviews (>200/600/100). She returned with 205/620/100 and I accepted. Didn't have any competing offers, but very FANGMULA loop.

Additional Comments

In the phone screen, I came up with a suboptimal solution (NK instead of NlogK) to one of the problems