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50 Interview Questions

1. My name is Zhaoning Cai and I am a graduate from Centennial College, Software Engineering Technician program. During my tenure at Centennial College, I have developed my ability in Java and C# programming and Database Management. In the more than one year of learning in Centennial College, I have worked in teams on projects using these skills.
2. I have experience creating an application that provides a friendly user interface for users to manage database. My client was not familiar with this field and had only a rough idea about how the system should function. My group and another group were competing on this project because the client would only pick one to use. I designed the system according to her requirements. She was very satisfied and she preferred my system over the other group’s. I have demonstrated my ability to work in a team, work under pressure and complete my work excellently.
3. My technical skills include Java and C# programming, Microsoft Access, usage of MYSQL and Oracle database tools, Linux operation system, software testing tools, HTML, ASP.NET, and JavaScript. I also know how to use Blender and Unity. I’ve studied Python and I am able to draw UML diagrams and make analysis documentation.
4. Not only I know what I’ve learnt clearly, I also learn new skills fast. I am more innovative and hardworking than many people. When I was studying making web application when I was in Centennial College, my professor taught us how to create an authentication system for the application. However, there was a bug that the professor could not fix so he asked us to remove the authentication system. I didn’t want to give up so I gave the system some thought and eventually thought about a way to make the system work. My professor was impressed and gave me a A+ for the project.
5. I can work efficiently in a team and I can get along with other people well. When I lead a team, I manage the project and team members well. I always make sure the project is on the right track and I distribute tasks to member according to their strengths. I always contribute my ideas to the project and I am willing to learn what I don’t know. I am used to work under pressure and I can complete my work efficiently and well.
6. I like playing games like many other people but the difference is when I play games, I always wonder how the games work the way they are working. After I started studying in this field, the logic thinking behind software development and the amount of works software can do have attracted me even more. I am very interested in this industry and I would like to work in this industry.
7. I have done multiple projects about database and application when I was in college. My work with the real client gave me a lot of experience on interacting with clients and team members, and also gave me an idea about real work.
8. My experience is that when working in a team, it is important that the group members are comfortable working with one another and the tasks are distributed to them according to their strengths. In my first semester in Centennial College, I was working on a project about Microsoft Access database. The professor assigned us into groups randomly and we were all strangers to one another. I hold meetings regularly to make sure we know one another well and in the process, I got to know their abilities. I had three group members, one was hardworking, but didn’t understand her materials well; one was busy with his part-time job and he could finish his work correctly; the last one was intellectually challenged and had a hard time understanding things. I distributed the tasks according to their abilities and we eventually got an A for the project.
9. My goal is to understand software development industry thoroughly and be able to lead the programming or software design team in software development projects.
10. My work with the real client was not essential for my program. Our program coordinator offered us the opportunity and we decided to take it despite our heavy course load so we can get some experience working in this field. Initially, the other group got the work because their email arrived earlier but I discussed with my professor and asked for permission to compete with the other group. The project could not be done with what we learnt and we asked different professor and searched online to understand the materials we required. We eventually completed the project excellently.
11. I completed Software Engineering Technician program with a GPA of 4.1 in Centennial College, which equipped me with various technical skills and soft skills to communicate efficiently in a team. My work with the real client gave me an opportunity to work on a real application that a client needs. I have gained a lot experience on working with clients and team members and working with knowledge that I’m not familiar.
12. Usually I will ask them the reasons for not completing the work. The reasons are either they are unable to complete the tasks for various kinds of reason or they simply do not want to do the assigned the tasks. If they are unable to complete the tasks, like the database project I worked on in my first semester, I would reduce their workloads and assign tasks that they are able to do so the work would still finish well on time. I would also teach them the knowledge that they are not clear about so they could finish their works. There was another project in my third semester in which one of the team member didn’t do the work and eventually dropped out of the course without telling us beforehand. I reacted immediately and distributed her work to other group members according to their knowledge on her work and we managed to finish the project with an A+ on time.
13. When I just began working on the client’s project, the system was partially completed by a group of bachelor students. The project was passed to us because that group of bachelor students had graduated. When I started working on their project, I found out that their application include many unnecessary features and data. Some of the required features stated by the document were also not implemented. At that time, I had no way of communicating with my client yet. I studied their application thoroughly and found out that their application only met a very small portion of the requirements made by the client. Therefore, I proposed to my professor to start over from scratch and got his approval. When I eventually met my client, she not only agreed to my decision, but also encouraged me to start over because she was very unsatisfied with the previous application. Eventually, my application fulfilled her requirements.
14. In a web application course, I was supposed to make a web application for my final assignment. I made it on my laptop which has Chinese as the system language. I didn’t think it would matter because all my previous assignments in that course were published to the server so my system language didn’t matter. However, in the final assignment, my professor didn’t ask us to publish to the website and as a result, there were a few Chinese characters showing on my screen and the professor felt offended when he was looking at my work. From this mistake, I learnt that when doing things, I should not simply assume how things work. I should either ask to confirm my assumption or just avoid the risk factors by eliminating the factors that could cause bad things to happen.
15. Yes, it is attached in my career portfolio.
16. I think they will tell you I am a smart, hardworking and easy-going person. When I do my work, I am fully concentrated and I use all my knowledge and other resources to make things work. When I play a game, I like to analyze how the game mechanics work. I can get along with other people and can communicate with them effectively.
17. My most memorable accomplishment was the client project in which I had to manage the project all by myself. Although the professor held meeting with my team regularly, he was only making sure that we were not stuck. I met with the client to understand her requirements, then asked professor and searched online to find the solution to her requirements, and eventually implemented and tested the features. It taught me many things, such as team work, system development process and working under pressure.
18. My greatest strength lies in my ability to think logically and innovatively. After I learn a skill, I know how to apply them to solve the problems. I can picture the things I am doing so I know what knowledge I require to complete them. For the knowledge I don’t have, I know who to ask and where to search for it.
19. I have experience working on this field for the real client. I have worked on project using database tools and various programming languages.  I am confident I will contribute greatly to your company.
20. In my IT Project Management course in my last semester, we needed to work as a team of six. However, there was one person who didn’t show up in any meeting and he almost accomplished nothing throughout the semester. We could not get in touch with him and we reported this to the professor. To complete the assignments, each of us did a portion of his work and we always keep in touch to make sure the assignments were finished well and on time. We eventually got very good result in the course.
21. No, my schedule is flexible and I can adapt to any schedule easily.
22. In my project working with the real client, although the professor looks at our project from time to time, he only wanted to make sure we were not stuck. I was leading the team. Each week, I would meet with the client, I would show her my design or finished features made according to her requirements to see if she sees problems in them and then I will ask her for new requirements. Because she is not familiar with IT so she could not list all requirements at the beginning so she made the requirements incrementally. I will then distribute tasks to my group members and ask them to finish two days before the next client meeting date. After they completed their tasks, I would combine their work into mine and test the function thoroughly. Eventually I would show the work to my client the next meeting and the cycle continued until the end of the semester.
23. I am available to work overtime in the evening and over the weekends.
24. When I was studying in Centennial College, near the end of each semester, we always get many big final assignments toward the end of each semester. In my last semester, I had seven courses so this is what I did. I ordered them according to their difficulties and deadlines. Difficulties decides the amount of time I had to spend finishing them. If a deadline is in one week, no matter how difficult that assignment is, I will prioritize it so I can complete it before the deadline. For assignments with longer deadlines, I will finish the easy ones first because I can finish them fast and so to remove them from my mind. I will then take my time on the more difficult tasks so I have enough time to think about them.
25. I really like this company because you are doing something I am very interested in. As I said, I had a great time working with the client project. The project was very similar what this job does, which is to program for applications that manages database. I believe my knowledge, skills and experience can contribute greatly to your company.
26. Programming job is the job I like and my skill set meets your requirements for the job. I like your company because you are hiring programmer to make application to manage database. It is the field I’m interested in so I hope to work for your company.
27. I want to lead a team in software development. I hope I can be the one to direct the flow of the software development process and manage the project so to create useful and innovative applications.
28. I am a very organized person. Whenever I have a task I need to complete, I will write them down in my notes so I can keep track on what I need to do and what I have completed. I like to plan my day and my work so I won’t be rushing things.
29. I have worked for a difficult leader who was very dominant and didn’t like to hear others’ opinions even thought he was wrong. My way of working with him was to first discuss the problems privately with him and propose my solution, usually, he would understand he’d made a mistake or he would tell me my consideration. After that, we would decide to use my solution or continue using his solution.
30. I can work well both by myself and with other people. When I work by myself, I can work at my own pace and I have full control of the work I am working on. When working with other people, work can be done much more quickly and each person can use their strength to complete respective works.
31. Yes I do have good problem solving skills. It mainly comes from the knowledge I acquired and my logic thinking. I constantly think about how the solution to the problem should function, then I will apply my knowledge and research result to solve the problems.
32. No, I am ready to work for your company.
33. Usually the most difficult thing for me is unclear requirement. When I am not sure about the requirements, I cannot see a clear picture.
34. When I encounter unclear requirements, I will repeatedly ask the personnel in charge to confirm the requirements. I will not just guess and make something out of my assumption.
35. In short-term, my goal is to understand the software development process in person and contribute to the process to create useful and efficient software.
36. My long-term career goal is to become a software development manager and manage a software development to create creative and innovative software.
37. The salary of $35000 yearly your company has offered is satisfying enough.
38. My weakness was that I had no self-control. I learnt the importance of it the hard way when I was suspended by my university due to my low accumulative GPA. Ever since then, I’ve gradually gained self-control and this has been a very good factor that contributed to my excellent result in Centennial College.
39. (NA)
40. No. So far your company is the only company I am applying.
41. My clear understanding of my knowledge allow me to stand out from my peers and to teach and lead them. I train my logic thinking and skill regularly so I usually do better than my peers.
42. (NA)
43. No, I’d love to serve the company whenever the company needs me.
44. Although I don’t smoke, I completely understand smokers’ needs and I think it’s helpful.
45. I would love to become Spiderman because I know he’s a good in science and I want to have his knowledge.
46. I am like them and I think they will give me a lot of valuable experience.
47. I am very proud of having string logic thinking ability. This has helped me a lot in both my studies and extracurricular activities.
48. The knowledge I learnt from Centennial College Software Engineering Technician program has prepared sufficiently for the job. The college has provided me with a wide range of skills ranging from technical skills such as web development, programming, database management, project management and game development to workplace ethics such as global citizenship, Canadian workplace and employment skill.
49. Although I was suspended by my university, I can continue my study if I want to. Does your company provide support for employees to further their studies in University? It would be a pretty good add on.
50. I really like to work for your company, may I call you to hear the result of my application?