

# Microsoft Interview Experience | Off-Campus 2021 | OFFER

- Difficulty Level : [Medium](#)
- Last Updated : 19 Aug, 2021

**STATUS:** Final Year [2021], B.E. Computer Science and Engineering, Tier-3

**POSITION:** University Graduate, FTE

**LOCATION:** Hyderabad, India

**DATE:** April 10, 2021

**Note:** I have done a two months remote internship at a startup and am working as a web developer with a cybersecurity community since July 2020.

## Timeline [Application -> Interview]

- Applied via, Microsoft Careers Portal. (No referral, all credit to ATS-friendly resume design and talent acquisition department).
- Received **online test link** on April 2, 2021
- Received **Interview Invitation** on April 6, 2021.
- Interview Communication mentioned **2 technical rounds** and **1 AA discussion**. Each round is an elimination round and AA discussion happens only if the first two go well.
- Completed First round at noon (April 8, 2021). Received an update the same afternoon that they will be **jumping to the final round (AA discussion)**.
- AA discussion, initially scheduled for April 9, **got rescheduled** to April 10 due to the unavailability of the interviewer.
- Waiting to hear back!

## Online Test

- 90 mins test with 3 questions. 2 easy, 1 medium-hard (got stuck with this one).
- First two related to strings and pattern matching (solved).
- 3rd related to puzzle solving. [hint: Goat, Grass, Lion] (tried but TLE)

## Round 1

- The interviewer had some trouble with his system. He informed me humbly. Started after 20 mins.
- He introduced himself. Asked me about myself and my work (as it was mentioned in my resume)
- Asked to mention any challenges I faced while working on my project.
- Shared Link to codility and shared the first question.
- **Question 1** \xe2\x80\x93 Again related to string, anagrams. Discussed optimizing and adding conditions to test the code.
- **Question 2** \xe2\x80\x93 Related to arrays, I used an approach similar to the priority queue approach in [this](#) question to solve it.
- Was asked to code both the solutions.
- Talked a bit more about my work, and then he asked if I had paid any attention to the security part of the website or actually implemented any. I explained what parts I had focused on and implemented on my website.
- He repeated them and asked me to explain a specific term.

- He asked if I have ever implemented authentication and does my website needs it. I said I had implemented it but only using built-in Django Auth Models.
- After all that talk, he asked if I had any questions for him.
- I asked, he explained. END

## Round 2

- Received an Update later during noon that the team has decided to jump to the final round.

## AA Discussion

- The interviewer introduced himself and asked me to tell a bit about myself.
- Asked me to dwell more into information about my internship.
- I hadn't given him any details about the product we were building and started explaining my role. After I finished, he asked me to explain first what kind of problem I was solving there. So (I mocked myself first for not starting by explaining the product) and then explained in detail.
- He then asked me **how can you make your website more troubleshootable?** This is the question I struggled most with. Somehow I was not getting what the interviewer meant by that question. I gave him a couple of answers, but they were not accurate.
- I admitted that I was not able to understand what he was looking for, and he said, we can move on from this.
- After 20 mins of me struggling over the word **troubleshooting** He shared the codility link.
- He shared the question verbally. It was related to **Binary Search Tree**. Pretty Simple.
- I discussed a few approaches, and he asked me to go ahead with the coding.
- I coded the whole solution. **Modular and Structured**.
- He asked me to run it. I got **3-4 errors**. Silly mistakes like forgetting to pass variables in method calls. He didn't seem to care as I got hold of them in a second.
- He seemed satisfied and asked if I had any questions for him. I did.
- He asked me about **how I got into this interview loop** i.e, the process I followed until this AA round.
- Then he asked me **about my university** and **how did I compare as a student** to other students at my university.

## Feedback from Interviewer

- After all this, he gave me some feedback and mentioned I had very good coding skills. He **appreciated that the code was structured and modular**.
- He pointed out that he asked me an ambiguous question (about troubleshooting) just to see how I handle it and **I got a little agitated** at the point when I was unable to answer it.
- He suggested that I **should be more calm and open** in situations like this.
- I agreed and said something in acknowledgment. He continued and said that the company looks for **candidates who can handle ambiguous situations** but at the same time they also look for **people who don't give up easily** which he said was reflected by later part of our conversation, (conversation about my university projects).
- We summed up.

## Result

Heard back after a long (really long) wait of 18 days!  
Got an offer though (????)

## Some Points To Remember

- Don't stress yourself if your interviews get rescheduled or your interviewers join late

for the meeting. These interviewers are generally seniors whose schedules remain rather busy.

- My round 1 interviewer has been with Microsoft for over 10 years and the interviewer for the AA discussion has been with Microsoft since before I was **BORN!** (21 years!!!)

Hope this helps. All the best!

My Personal Notes\ *narrow\_drop\_up*

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