

## Microsoft Interview Experience (Full Time 2018 Washington DC \xe2\x80\x93 with 2.5 years of experience)

- Difficulty Level : \n[Easy](#)
- Last Updated : \n14 Dec, 2018

The complete process involved an online phone screen, and an onsite interview (no travel)

I was recommended to a recruiter in the Washington DC metro area, and the office was down the street from where I lived. I talked to the recruiter over the phone, and scheduled a phone screen with a Principle Software Engineer.

### Phone screen:

Since it was over the phone, it was a little hard hearing and understanding what the other person was saying. But they asked some basic questions at first like what do I do, and they were looking for how well I can explain technical stuff.

- I explained over the phone a cool project I was working on at work. I \xe2\x80\x99ve worked on a lot of projects, but I picked the most interesting one. The interviewer didn\xe2\x80\x99t care if it wasn\xe2\x80\x99t my latest project because the one I was talking about was actually a lot more interesting.
- Then the interviewer asked me a technical question: Given requests at random times, return the requests from the last 1 minute. It was a little more detailed than that, and I wasn\xe2\x80\x99t able to finish the question, but somehow I was still able to be called onto the on-site interview.

### On-site interview:

I walked in and there were about 12 other people being interviewed as well. They put us in a separate conference room and then we had 4 rounds of interviews after that. Each 45 minutes, and then one 15 minute break. Total 4 hours.

### First round:

Asked basic questions.

- Then asked a question where given brackets, parenthesis, and/or curly braces, see if it is valid. Like `{}}{}()`, `{()}[()]`. The first one would be false, the second one would be true. The interviewer really looked for when I would get stuck, and tried to see how I would react when I didn\xe2\x80\x99t know something. He liked the part when I got stuck, and when I was able to find my way back to the solution.

[GeeksforGeeks Link](#)

### Second round:

This round the guy was a bit unconventional. I don\xe2\x80\x99t think he asked me a single basic question to start the conversation. He walked in, asked me to code some problems, and then left. Barely any words at all besides technical question clarifications.

- But the questions he asked was if  $A=1$ ,  $B=2$ ,  $C=3$ , \xe2\x80\xa6, then write a function to return the number corresponding to the string. Z would be 26, then it would be AA, which would be 27. What would BB be, or ABC, or ABB, etc.

### Third round:

1. This was the design question. The question was design tinyURL.
2. Also was asked [remove duplicates from a linked list](#).

#### Fourth round:

This was the toughest. I think he was the main engineer to impress.

- He asked given a sentence "how are you", reverse the words and return "you are how". I could not use `splitBy()`, and I had to also not use any data structures. I was able to solve it in optimal time, but I ended up needing a data structure. But there was a way to not use data structures actually.

**Solution :** [GeeksforGeeks Link](#)

After that I just went home. I felt really good about the interview, but I didn't hear anything for a while. Then they called me late next week and told me I had multiple teams interested in hiring me for multiple positions. Then I had to pick which one I wanted. I ended up picking Azure AD as a Software Engineer. This was probably the happiest day of my life.

My Personal Notes

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