**Tell us about your qualifications for this role. \***

I will speak about my professional and personal engineering experience but first wanted to speak about how interested I am in working at Zapier. I love what I have seen of your culture, products, customer focus and technology stack. I am currently working as a Software Engineer at Oregon State University developing tools to automate processes that used to take weeks or months to do by hand. These processes can now be done in seconds with reporting built in for staff and leadership here.

My professional experience includes working as a Software Engineer at Cambia Health Solutions and Oregon State University for over seven years. I am currently on the leadership team here and have lead a number of large scale software projects. In my roles I have directly used many of the tools and languages you use at Zapier. As a Software Engineer at OSU I was able to work on an exciting industry partnership developing a distributed IOT system with Fujitsu. My team primarily developed backend code with Python and Django. I also was able to work as a team lead developing a new cloud based application for the dispatch system at OSU and the U of O primarily developing with Node.js, React and AWS.

I also love the idea of automation and frequently automate things in my personal life that probably don’t even need to be automated. My recent project was automating YouTube playlist creation for old sporting events I like to watch. I am working on a personal project to build a native iOS app and the server backend to help students find and attend campus events.

I have learned a lot from this and if I was working at Zapier would love to bring my desire to write code that is clear, simple, scalable and maintainable to this position. I also have a strong desire for not just writing code but creating a product that people love that can be easily maintained by the engineers working on it. Some examples of how I have done this include writing extensive documentation of projects I have been on and starting a “how to” internal video repository at Cambia that became very popular.

While I think experience is incredibly important I am passionate about growing as a software engineer. I have been able to grow a lot working on personal projects and also have been fortunate to work as a mentor for Senior Capstone Teams in the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at OSU. One of your values is to default to action and this is something I have gained a lot of experience with as I help these teams take an idea to working prototype in less than six months.

Finally, I love that one of your values is empathy and not ego. I think that engineering is complicated and is a lot like science in that you grow from pushing into the unknown. I am constantly learning though reading books, research and technology blogs from leaders in industry. As an Instructor and Engineer I always work hard to create welcoming and inclusive places. I have found being open about what I know and don’t know goes a long way towards creating positive environments and has opened a lot of opportunities for me.

**Tell us about an API you designed and built (or that you integrated with) that was particularly challenging for you. Where did you hit the biggest roadblocks? How did you figure out the solution? \***

One API that I helped lead that was particularly challenging was for the Customer Onboarding Team at Cambia Health Solutions. The API is used by our business and engineering teams to check and verify aspects of new customers’ insurance information. It also had to find errors customers may have made during the application process. The finished product was an API that could be called to verify the application before it was processed and their data was moved into the system as an existing customer. We developed the backend primarily with Java and the frontend testing framework was built with Python.

I think the reason this was challenging was it was technically complex as well as the underlying business logic (healthcare insurance) was complicated. Some of the technical challenges included connecting to both legacy systems and newer internal and external APIs, the verification logic and building on top of an existing code base.

At Cambia we used tickets and stories with larger projects being considered a story. The first issue I ran into was the story for this was very confusing. There was a really nice QA Engineer who had previously been a manager who had been with the company for years so I reached out to him. He was also confused so together we were able to put together clear technology specs. The next thing I did was put together some APIs with prebuilt data for the business teams to look at and make sure that the inputs and outputs where what they wanted.

One of the major challenges was connecting to so many legacy systems. For instance, some of the data I needed was ran as a batch process that only ran once a night. I was able to work with some engineers to move this to a modern cloud application structure to make this data available at all times. Another example of a specific smaller problem was verifying zip codes and addresses. I solved this problem by integrating with an existing library we had access too but it was surprisingly complicated to get it working.

I really love developing APIs and think that they are really foundational to how software is moving. If done correctly they can help create decoupled distributed systems and microservices, allow for easier development of web and mobile applications and make testing and deploying easier. However, they can have challenges and one of them was an API I lead the development of at I think this one is really relevant to Zapier because it involved integrating with multiple APIs and also legacy systems. A large part of the complexity came from the fact that