What were some of the things you really liked when working at ION Geophysical, and some that you disliked?

*I don’t recall any that I disliked but I did enjoy the working environment there. I was constantly working on various languages, solving problems and learning about various computer science problems.*

Why do you want to change job?

*Because one cannot pass the opportunity of working with a well-known innovative company that offers great benefits and works with great people. I feel that it offers greater opportunity of professional growth for me.*

Why should we hire you?

*Well, you should hire me because I have the skills and experience that you’re looking for in a software engineer. I’m confident that I would contribute to the continuing success of google as a software engineer. I am very proactive. At my current job, there is never a dull moment; I am constantly working on development of new features, issues found during development and QA. I am also creative, as I am always looking for ways to improve the way I do development. If I find myself doing a monotonous task, I try to find ways of doing that task more efficiently. Often I do this by automating the task it with my own scripts and by raising observations and questions on how to improve software quality.*

*I have developed great adaptability through various experiences in different countries and cultures. I had to move and live in Canada while I worked on my master’s thesis. I was also a teaching and research assistant over there. I also moved to India for a certification with INFOSYS the second largest software company over there, and made good connections with people over there; I was also ranked first in my class.*

*I am definitely a problem-solver and a team player, I think this two go in hand because good communication is often required to solve complex problems. Many of the issues I get involve learning new software and workflows that I have no previous experience on, and thus I have to ask other developers and employees from other departments for more information. Often I have to report bugs with programs reproducing the problem to some of our software vendors. I am also not afraid of speaking in public, in my job I have had to do so a few times to present the status, and issues with a project. During my master’s degree I had to do so numerous times for both my thesis, and course-related work. I actually enjoy the process of preparing presentations because it helps me refine and organize my thoughts.*

*I am also very passionate and enjoy what I do. I enjoy improving the performance of software, fixing bugs, automating tasks and teaching and learning from other great developers.*

*Proactive, Creative, Adaptable, Team Player, and Passionate for the work I do.*

What is your philosophy towards work?  
*My philosophy is that one should work efficiently on the job in a timely manner as well as enjoying the work.*

Are you a team player?  
*Yes I am very much a team player. I have had many opportunities in school, athletics and work to develop my skills as a team player. At my job, I have to regularly communicate with coworkers to solve all sorts of software issues that are found during development and by the QA team. With my master’s degree I had to communicate every week with my supervisors to discuss the progress of the research I am doing as well as some interesting behaviors and trends that we see are happening in my experiments. When I was doing my internship with ION Geophysical, I would also meet often with my mentor, and I made some suggestions as well that he found useful in their development. As an undergraduate I would often take the leading position, and I would very often consult how people were doing with a particular portion of the project and thinking how we would eventually integrate.*

What are you looking for in a job?  
*Well, in my ideal job I would be the person that develops tools to improve the efficiency and quality of what is produced.*

Would you be willing to develop for something that is not Geophysics?  
*My preference is to develop software that aids Seismic Processing, and other branches of geophysics, as it is the science that I can discuss with my family and friends, but I am a software engineer and I can definitely put my skills towards the development of an application for another field. I mean I feel that I have a an additional advantage, because I am somewhat familiar with Geophysics, as opposed to other science fields, and thus I would have an easier time understanding the requirements given for a particular piece of software.*

What do you know about the company?

*I know that google is a very innovative company that has specialized in internet-related services. Many of which I use every day, such as the google search engine, google maps, and google code. It was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin when they were PhD students at Stanford. It also has some very exciting projects for the future such as Google Fiber, Glass and Virgle but that was an April fool’s joke.*

Tell me about the work you did for Panagro?  
*Well, Panagro is my grandfather's business in Colombia. So most free time I had after university, I would help Panagro on the design of web pages, using Cascading Style sheets and html primarily. In 2009, I also worked on a webpage for Casa Azul, which I also uploaded on the internet. I tried using google pages for this back then, but I found it too restrictive.*

*I also worked on providing some excel spreadsheets that they need to do common formatting, data manipulation, and calculations. So sometimes simple formulas and more complex tasks were needed using excel and then I would find ways to try to achieve them.*

*Describe yourself in 5 words:*

*Proactive, Honest, Team player, Reliable, Passion for my job.*

|  |
| --- |
| Tell me about yourself *I have more than 9 years of experience programming with different programming and scripting languages which are outlined on my resume. I am currently employed by TIBCO Open spirit for development and maintenance of data connectors. Data connectors are plugins used to communicate with data store such as Petra, Kingdom, Openworks or Geoframe. The OpenSpirit infrastructure allows users to copy data from one store to the other as well as sending it to other applications for viewing.* *Data connectors provide the ability for applications to connect to diverse data stores through a consistent programing interface. Applications may connect and use the OpenSpirit common data model and then be shielded from having to understand the differences between different vendors’ data models and storage formats. Alternatively, for most data connectors, an application may choose to connect and access data through the full underlying native data model - still using a consistent programming interface.*  *I finished my master's degree with the University of New Brunswick. The topic of my thesis was on indexing large data warehouses.  During my time as an undergraduate, my most used language for coursework was Java, but I also used C++, I got the opportunity to work with Biomecanica LTD a foot clinic. I created a database to maintain record of their patients as well as their clinical history and appointments. I also worked on an associated web application that allowed entering and consulting all the information. As I was doing this job, I also worked as a teaching assistant for the university in a compilers and programming course.   I have also had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant for a number of courses in computer science. Often having to break down complex information into simpler concepts and present it to a large number of people.   I have had several of opportunities to work with different technologies in different situations. I am currently finishing my master’s degree for which I have done a lot of programming using shell scripting and ruby.* |

2. Why did you leave your last job?  
Stay positive regardless of the circumstances. Never refer to a major problem with management and never speak ill of supervisors, co-workers or the organization. If you do, you will be the one looking bad. Keep smiling and talk about leaving for a positive reason such as an opportunity, a chance to do something special or other forward-looking reasons.   
  
3. What experience do you have in this field?  
Speak about specifics that relate to the position you are applying for. If you do not have specific experience, get as close as you can.   
  
4. Do you consider yourself successful?  
You should always answer yes and briefly explain why. A good explanation is that you have set goals, and you have met some and are on track to achieve the others.   
  
5. What do co-workers say about you?  
Be prepared with a quote or two from co-workers. Either a specific statement or a paraphrase will work.   
  
6. What do you know about this organization?  
This question is one reason to do some research on the organization before the interview. Find out where they have been and where they are going. What are the current issues and who are the major players?   
  
7. What have you done to improve your knowledge in the last year?  
Try to include improvement activities that relate to the job. A wide variety of activities can be mentioned as positive self-improvement. Have some good ones handy to mention.   
  
8. Are you applying for other jobs?  
Be honest but do not spend a lot of time in this area. Keep the focus on this job and what you can do for this organization. Anything else is a distraction.   
  
9. Why do you want to work for this organization?  
This may take some thought and certainly, should be based on the research you have done on the organization. Sincerity is extremely important here and will easily be sensed. Relate it to your long-term career goals.   
  
10. Do you know anyone who works for us?  
Be aware of the policy on relatives working for the organization. This can affect your answer even though they asked about friends not relatives. Be careful to mention a friend only if they are well thought of.   
  
11. What kind of salary do you need?  
A loaded question. A nasty little game that you will probably lose if you answer first. So, do not answer it. Instead, say something like, That's a tough question. Can you tell me the range for this position? In most cases, the interviewer, taken off guard, will tell you. If not, say that it can depend on the details of the job. Then give a wide range.

I don’t know, what would a person with my background and qualifications typically earn in this position with your company? I am ready to consider your very best offer.  
  
13. How long would you expect to work for us if hired?  
Specifics here are not good. Something like this should work: I'd like it to be a long time. Or As long as we both feel I'm doing a good job.   
  
14. Have you ever had to fire anyone? How did you feel about that?  
This is serious. Do not make light of it or in any way seem like you like to fire people. At the same time, you will do it when it is the right thing to do. When it comes to the organization versus the individual who has created a harmful situation, you will protect the organization. Remember firing is not the same as layoff or reduction in force.   
  
15. What is your philosophy towards work?  
The interviewer is not looking for a long or flowery dissertation here. Do you have strong feelings that the job gets done? Yes. That's the type of answer that works best here. Short and positive, showing a benefit to the organization.

*My philosophy is that one should be to work on time, work efficiently on the job in a timely manner as well as enjoying the work.*

16. If you had enough money to retire right now, would you?  
Answer yes if you would. But since you need to work, this is the type of work you prefer. Do not say yes if you do not mean it.   
  
17. Have you ever been asked to leave a position?  
If you have not, say no. If you have, be honest, brief and avoid saying negative things about the people or organization involved.   
  
18. Explain how you would be an asset to this organization  
you should be anxious for this question. It gives you a chance to highlight your best points as they relate to the position being discussed. Give a little advance thought to this relationship.   
  
19. Why should we hire you?  
Point out how your assets meet what the organization needs. Do not mention any other candidates to make a comparison.

You should hire me because I match the qualifications for the job, and I bring additional qualities to this position. I am very proactive, hardworking and a quick learner. For example, I have had to experience different technologies with different jobs and schools where I have had to learn a new language and use it. I have been able to no let the learning process get in the way of the advancement of the project.

20. Tell me about a suggestion you have made  
Have a good one ready. Be sure and use a suggestion that was accepted and was then considered successful. One related to the type of work applied for is a real plus.   
  
21. What irritates you about co-workers?  
This is a trap question. Think real hard but fail to come up with anything that irritates you. A short statement that you seem to get along with folks is great.   
  
22. What is your greatest strength?  
Numerous answers are good, just stay positive. A few good examples: Your ability to prioritize, Your problem-solving skills, Your ability to work under pressure, Your ability to focus on projects, Your professional expertise, Your leadership skills, Your positive attitude .   
  
23. Tell me about your dream job.  
Stay away from a specific job. You cannot win. If you say the job you are contending for is it, you strain credibility. If you say another job is it, you plant the suspicion that you will be dissatisfied with this position if hired. The best is to stay genetic and say something like: A job where I love the work, like the people, can contribute and can't wait to get to work.   
  
24. Why do you think you would do well at this job?  
Give several reasons and include skills, experience and interest.   
  
25. What are you looking for in a job?  
See answer # 23   
  
26. What kind of person would you refuse to work with?  
Do not be trivial. It would take disloyalty to the organization, violence or lawbreaking to get you to object. Minor objections will label you as a whiner.   
  
27. What is more important to you: the money or the work?  
Money is always important, but the work is the most important. There is no better answer.   
  
28. What would your previous supervisor say your strongest point is?  
There are numerous good possibilities: Loyalty, Energy, Positive attitude, Leadership, Team player, Expertise, Initiative, Patience, Hard work, Creativity, Problem solver   
  
29. Tell me about a problem you had with a supervisor  
Biggest trap of all. This is a test to see if you will speak ill of your boss. If you fall for it and tell about a problem with a former boss, you may well below the interview right there. Stay positive and develop a poor memory about any trouble with a supervisor.   
  
30. What has disappointed you about a job?  
Don't get trivial or negative. Safe areas are few but can include: Not enough of a challenge. You were laid off in a reduction Company did not win a contract, which would have given you more responsibility.   
  
31. Tell me about your ability to work under pressure.  
You may say that you thrive under certain types of pressure. Give an example that relates to the type of position applied for.   
  
32. Do your skills match this job or another job more closely?  
Probably this one. Do not give fuel to the suspicion that you may want another job more than this one.   
  
33. What motivates you to do your best on the job?  
This is a personal trait that only you can say, but good examples are: Challenge, Achievement, Recognition   
  
34. Are you willing to work overtime? Nights? Weekends?  
This is up to you. Be totally honest.   
  
35. How would you know you were successful on this job?  
Several ways are good measures: You set high standards for yourself and meet them. Your outcomes are a success.Your boss tell you that you are successful   
  
36. Would you be willing to relocate if required?  
You should be clear on this with your family prior to the interview if you think there is a chance it may come up. Do not say yes just to get the job if the real answer is no. This can create a lot of problems later on in your career. Be honest at this point and save yourself future grief.   
  
37. Are you willing to put the interests of the organization ahead of your own?  
This is a straight loyalty and dedication question. Do not worry about the deep ethical and philosophical implications. Just say yes. “If I cannot support the company, the company cannot support me. So Yes”.  
  
38. Describe your management style.  
Try to avoid labels. Some of the more common labels, like progressive, salesman or consensus, can have several meanings or descriptions depending on which management expert you listen to. The situational style is safe, because it says you will manage according to the situation, instead of one size fits all.   
  
39. What have you learned from mistakes on the job?  
Here you have to come up with something or you strain credibility. Make it small, well intentioned mistake with a positive lesson learned. An example would be working too far ahead of colleagues on a project and thus throwing coordination off.   
  
40. Do you have any blind spots?  
Trick question. If you know about blind spots, they are no longer blind spots. Do not reveal any personal areas of concern here. Let them do their own discovery on your bad points. Do not hand it to them.   
  
41. If you were hiring a person for this job, what would you look for?  
Be careful to mention traits that are needed and that you have.   
  
42. Do you think you are overqualified for this position?  
Regardless of your qualifications, state that you are very well qualified for the position.   
  
43. How do you propose to compensate for your lack of experience?  
First, if you have experience that the interviewer does not know about, bring that up: Then, point out (if true) that you are a hard working quick learner.   
  
44. What qualities do you look for in a boss?  
Be generic and positive. Safe qualities are knowledgeable, a sense of humor, fair, loyal to subordinates and holder of high standards. All bosses think they have these traits.   
  
45. Tell me about a time when you helped resolve a dispute between others.  
Pick a specific incident. Concentrate on your problem solving technique and not the dispute you settled.   
  
46. What position do you prefer on a team working on a project?  
Be honest. If you are comfortable in different roles, point that out.   
  
47. Describe your work ethic.  
Emphasize benefits to the organization. Things like, determination to get the job done and work hard but enjoy your work are good.   
  
48. What has been your biggest professional disappointment?  
Be sure that you refer to something that was beyond your control. Show acceptance and no negative feelings.   
  
49. Tell me about the most fun you have had on the job.  
Talk about having fun by accomplishing something for the organization.   
  
50. Do you have any questions for me?

* You mentioned a position as a software developer using Delphi, what software are you developing in this language? Is the application built towards the processing or interpretation or another task of the company?
* Who would I be working with?
* How long have you been working on the SOPHIA system, is it something you have started recently, or is there a large codebase that has been around for years now?
* What are some of the typical career paths in SEI?
* In the position you offer as an X… what tools would I be using to develop?
* What are the career prospects within your company?
* Who would I be reporting to?
* If I were to develop in Delphi, what type of application would I be developing?
* What staff training and development opportunities does your company have?
* Tell me about a typical day in this department.
* Who would I be reporting to on the job?
* What level of responsibility can I expect in this position?
* Why is this job available?
* What training programs do you have for new employees?
* Is there a typical career path for a person in this position?
* How are employees evaluated?
* Tell me about a typical day in this department.
* What subject area or topic in Geophysics is most important for me to understand for what I would be doing in this company?
* What development and training opportunities do you offer in your company?
* When should I expect to hear from you again?