Frontend Engineer

Technical challenge, January 2017

Overview

This assignment is for Frontend Engineer candidates at Spoiler Alert to demonstrate how they think and the kind of work they would do once they join Spoiler Alert.

This exercise is intended to be open-ended. If you want to code up a working solution (or part of one), please feel free to express yourself! If you have existing code samples that you think demonstrate the skills we are targeting with this assignment, please feel free to send us a link to that instead. We want to respect your time and are not at all fans of busy work. We pride ourselves on our collaborative culture and mission-driven aspirations. We value transparency, personal growth, and results in all that we do, including interviews.

After this challenge, the explicitly technical part of our interview process is done. This is the opportunity for you to wow us! We would like to see how you think and how you code, which are the two primary activities we expect from you on the job.

Currently, Spoiler Alert's main products are written in Meteor, using Blaze with HTML, CSS, and ES6. If you know these technologies and want to use them in this exercise - please do! Otherwise, use the languages and/or frameworks that best highlight your expertise.

Expectations

There is not a specific time limit for this assignment. You don't need to return it to us tomorrow, but two weeks would probably be too long. Most candidates will spend between 3-10 hours, but you should feel free to do what you want in a way that represents you well. We do not want you to spend an excessive amount of time on crafting a "perfect" solution, but we do want to see the creative thought you put in and a clear demonstration of your technical skills.

Once you submit your work to us, we will review as a team and follow up with you by email soon after. If we move on to the next step, you'll be invited onsite for a couple of hours to discuss your work, meet the team, and make sure that there's a good fit for both you and us.

The Problem

Suppose Spoiler Alert decided to pivot to a more fictional project called Stroller Dessert. Using a proprietary pair of Strolling Sneakers, we track the number of steps that people take and then we send free dessert to children in need. More strolls, more dessert; it's a classic win-win.

On an average day in Stroller Dessert, as stroll takers take strolls, their steps accumulate to step goals. Stroll goals trigger dessert calls, which notify partner dessert makers to deliver a treat to a hungry child. We need to provide an interface for both kinds of users. At a minimum, we've decided that we need to provide this functionality:

Stroll taker
- Check how many steps they've taken so far today
- See dessert makers participating and how much dessert they've delivered
- Track progress toward a goal

Dessert maker
- Measure how many children they've treated to free dessert
- Measure how many steps they've encourage strollers to take
- Know when and where to deliver dessert

Ideally we want to allow both stroll takers and dessert makers to be able to customize the interface they see. They should be able to hide or resize parts of their dashboard. For example, a stroll taker may want a large report of dessert maker deliveries, with only a medium sized goal tracker and no specific step counting at all.

Your solution

Design and preferably implement two dashboard pages to support at least the Stroller Dessert MVP. These dashboards should be flexible enough to allow a user to customize them as described.

Your solution should include a document that explains your user experience, as well as the data structures and objects needed to implement your design. Describe your design choices and how they will affect our product and users. If you use any external libraries or make any assumptions in your solution, please describe them. Your document should also include a rough estimate of your projected timeline, and the resources needed to complete it. We are not looking for a complete "correct" solution, but rather a detailed example of how you would describe and document work effort.

Thank you very much for being interested in Spoiler Alert and our mission! We're excited to learn more about you.