**Why a Project?**

When a promising candidate reaches the later stages of our interview process, we've found it helpful to have a mini-project as a practical evaluation. The project phase gives you a chance to see what it's like to work with us and evaluate the fit. From our end, the project is useful to see your coding style, and whether you can follow requirements and quickly pick up new things.

We're mindful of your time, so we'll try to keep the total time commitment of the project short. We expect the project to take no more than ~4 hours. You may elect do this in one day, say over a weekend, or spread over a couple evenings, whichever is easier for you. Just let us know in advance when you expect the project to be done.

**Project Description**

Write the front-end and middle tier for a commenting system.

Users should be able to view a list of posted comments. Each comment should display the name of the user who posted it, the date it was posted, and the text of the comment. When the text of the comment is long, it should be truncated, and a “read more” link appended. Clicking the “read more” link expands in place to the full comment text. Additionally, the user's name should be clickable. Clicking the user's name opens a popup which shows the user's name and their profile (which you can assume is just a paragraph of text).

Also, a user can post comments using a form at the top of the page. The form fields are the user's name, and the text of the comment. The form submission should be validated to ensure that the user's name and the comment text are each non-empty.

**Infrastructure requirements**

Feel free to use any server- or client-side frameworks. For the purposes of keeping the project short, it does not need to be database-driven. Feel free to write dummy DAOs or other hardcoded data, for instance, using in-memory data structures.

**Deliverables**

Please submit your source code and a few screenshots of your work in action. Then we'll set up a quick debriefing call where we'll ask a few questions about the project and your implementation.

**What are we looking for?**

* Well-structured, commented code at all levels (Java, HTML, CSS, Javascript)
* Facility with Java web programming
* Initiative and willingness to go above and beyond requirements (see the Bonus section below)

**Bonus Points**

An excellent project submission will include at least one of the following additions.

* Make the posting of new comments entirely using AJAX, without a page refresh.
* Allow comments to be sorted by user name, or by post date.
* Allow replies to comments. So, each comment would include a “reply” link. Clicking the “reply” link opens a new comment submission form next to the original comment. Posted replies are also visible below any comment.
* Build a database schema and code to save and select comments from the database.
* Anything else you think will improve the commenting system