To what resources should I prepare with and refer to for a software engineering interview at Facebook?

Answer Wiki

Here are a few useful links referred in the answers:

1. Grokking the System Design Interview
2. LeetCode
3. Coderust 2.0: Faster Coding Interview Preparation using Interactive Visualizations
4. Programming Interview Questions | CareerCup
5. GeeksforGeeks | A computer science portal for geeks
6. HiredInTech's Training Camp for Coding Interviews
7. http://highscalability.com/
8. GeekyPrep.com. Join us, Prepare for Interviews, Get Hired!!

31 Answers

Joseph Barillari, works at Facebook

Updated Sep 27, 2013 · Upvoted by Girish Patangay, Engineer at Facebook and Tommy Crush, works at Facebook

When I was preparing for mine, the most useful books I reviewed were:

- *Introduction to Algorithms*, by Cormen, et al. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Int...   ). This is the standard undergraduate algorithms textbook; it's well worth reading.

- *Algorithms in C*, Parts 1-4 and Part 5, by Robert Sedgewick. This was the text I used in my first two CS courses; I reviewed it because it was familiar. You could substitute the equivalent from your intro-to-CS courses here, assuming they cover similar material.

- *Programming Pearls*, by Jon Bentley. This is shorter and less pedagogical than the above, but has a lot of clever and inspiring examples.

- *Effective Java*, by Joshua Bloch. Facebook doesn't write a lot of Java (I'm on one of the few teams that *does* use Java), but this is really a book about software engineering and will be useful if you're asked a software-engineering question (which is entirely likely). If you're also interviewing somewhere that does write a lot of Java (say, Google), you will definitely want to read this.

Note that you don't need to memorize the material in the textbooks. It's highly unlikely that a FB interviewer is going to ask you to implement a Fibonacci heap or a 2-3-4-tree in an interview. However, knowing what those are and having a general idea of their complexity would serve you well.

My colleague Carlos Bueno has a nice post about interview prep:

https://www.facebook.com/notes/f...

Steve Yegge has a nice blog post about interviewing at Google; much of the material applies to Facebook.

http://steve-yegge.blogspot.com/...

I highly recommend doing a lot of coding questions in advance. During my prep, I did a lot of the questions I found on http://Glassdoor.com . I highly recommend doing at least some of your prep under circumstances that mimics a live interview -- at a whiteboard, under time pressure, and ideally with a confederate to ask the question. To prep in hard mode, ask him or her to chuckle softly, play mind games with you "Are you sure that's correct? Final answer?", look bored and stare at a cellphone, etc. Ideally, the interviewer is someone you respect, so you'll actually be nervous about doing badly -- so you'll be prepared for that in the live interview.

Finally, don't interview with your favorite company first. I would strongly advise against interviewing with places where you'd have no intention of working (it's a waste of everyone's time), but I'd definitely put your favorites later, if only so that you'll have more time to prepare. You'll get better at technical interviews if you do more of them.

Good luck!

121.9k Views · 360 Upvotes

Related Questions   More Answers Below

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How do I prepare for interviewing with Google, Facebook, or Amazon while having a full time job as a software engineer?

I am a 5 years experienced software engineer and aim to crack an interview for companies like Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. How should I go...

Gayle Laakmann McDowell, Author of Cracking the {Coding Interview, Tech Career, PM Interview}
Answered Aug 22, 2012 · Upvoted by Martin Konicek, former Software Engineer at Facebook (2013-2017) and Tommy Crush, works at Facebook

First of all, don't believe a lot of the hyped up articles - even (especially?) the ones you see on Business Insider and the Wall Street Journal. They're perpetuating the same silly myths to get eyeballs, but it's all BS.

Now for some advice:

- Prepare with actual interview questions that candidates have been asked (that is, don't read "top 10 lists" or news articles about interview questions - they're usually overhyped, and sometimes outright lies). CareerCup.com   has thousands of software engineering questions asked at major companies.

- Practice by writing code on paper (NOT on a computer). Make your code perfect - every last semicolon should be there. Test your code by hand as well. Only once you've done everything possible to perfect your code, then type it into a compiler and see how you did.

- Don't worry too much about fancy algorithms like Dijkstra's. Complex algorithms rarely come up because, frankly, your interviewers probably don't remember them too well. Again, look at actual interview questions and see how often this stuff comes up. If you find that you're missing some knowledge required to solve interview questions, then read up on it. Most people with a strong background in CS will not need to re-learn many things.

- In your interview, write as close as possible to fully complete, correct. No pseudocode (note: it's fine to *start* with pseudocode, if that helps you, but you can't *only* write pseudocode). Again, every last semi-colon (although your interviewer will probably overlook missing a few semi-colons :)).

- Once you're done writing code in your interview, test it. You wouldn't submit code at work without testing it, so why do it in your interview?

- Think out loud. Show your interviewer how you're thinking about the problem.

- Don't be afraid to throw out a brute force solution in the beginning, but you should try to improve your solution as well. Think about the time *and* space complexity and see if you can improve those.

You should also check out my book, Cracking the Coding Interview: 150 Programming Questions and Answers (http://www.amazon.com/dp/098478280X   ). It focused on the strategies for mastering the interview process at the top tech companies.

114.5k Views · 558 Upvotes · Answer requested by Burak Dede

Bosmat Eldar, 5+ years at Facebook
Answered Jul 10, 2016 · Upvoted by Sandeep Kumar K, Software Engineer at Facebook (2013-present) and Miguel Oliveira, Facebook SWE Intern 2015 (London)

I've been with Facebook since 2011 and I regularly interview engineering candidates. Our initial interview serves as a screening step to determine whether to continue with a full series of onsite interviews. This interview will be the first with a Facebook engineer and is primarily a coding interview. Below is some insight on what to expect, how to prepare and some tips for a successful interview.

What to Expect:

- Introductions: The interviewer will first introduce herself/himself and explain what they do at Facebook.

- Career Aspirations: For the next 5-10 minutes, the interviewer will ask questions about your experience and your career aspirations.

- Coding: The next 30-35 minutes will be spent on coding.

- This takes place in an online collaborative editor shared between you and the interviewer (or on the whiteboard if you do the initial interview in person).

- You are given one or more coding questions to complete in this editor. We ask questions that are short enough to explain in a few minutes and to solve in 10-30 minutes.

- In this section we try to understand your approach to problem solving.

- We typically don't ask trick or estimation questions (we don't care how many ping pong balls can be fit in Sea World).

- You could be asked to solve a problem in any way you choose, and then the interviewer could add further constraints or requirements.

- Ask Us Anything: The last 5 minutes is for questions. This is a great opportunity to get an insider's perspective directly from a Facebook engineer.

How to Prepare:

- Invest time in preparing: It's important for any engineer, even senior ones, to brush up on their interview skills, coding skills and algorithms. An interview is typically different from your day-to-day job. This is the first technical interview in the process, so any preparation for this interview will be beneficial for the next ones.

- Practice answering many different coding questions: Practice answering a coding question with the most efficient bug-free solution without using a compiler. A few resources that offer coding questions to use for practice: Careercup , Topcoder , Project Euler , or Facebook Code Lab .

- Write code in a simple text editor: In the interview you will write your code in a similar environment (like CoderPad) without syntax highlighting or auto-completion.

- Practice by coding by hand: Coding interviews will be done on a whiteboard. Practice some of the questions with a good old fashion pen and paper to help prepare.

- Practice under time pressure: You will have a limited time for the coding question, so it will be important to finish it in time. If possible, have a mock interview with a friend to simulate the interview experience.

- Go over data structures, algorithms and complexity: Be able to discuss the big-O complexity of your approaches. Don't forget to brush up on your data structures like lists, arrays, hash tables, hash maps, stacks, queues, graphs, trees, heaps. Also sorts, searches, and traversals (BFS, DFS). Also review recursion and iterative approaches.

- Think about your 2-5 years career aspirations: You will be asked to talk about your interest and your strengths as an engineer.

- Prepare 1-2 questions to ask your interviewer: There is 5 minutes at the end of the interview for this.

- Suggested reading resources: Cracking the Coding Interview , Introduction to Algorithms ,Algorithms in C .

Tips for the Coding Interview:

- Think out loud: We pay a lot of attention to the way you solve problems, which can be as important as having the right answer. Thinking out loud gives the interviewer insight into your thinking process and can also help them follow along with your solution. Moreover, it allows them to give hints when needed.

- Locate a good interview spot:Choose a quiet place and ensure that you have good Internet connection and strong phone reception. Headphones will help with having your both hands free for coding.

- Speak clearly: Ensure you are speaking clearly and likewise, if you can't hear the interviewer clearly, let them know so they can accommodate! You don't want to waste the whole interview trying to understand each other.

- Use the programming language you're best at: It's important to write your solution correctly and in time, so use the language you are most familiar with.

- Manage Your Time Effectively: Spend some time figuring out the ideal solution to the question. Don't jump too quickly into brute forcing the first solution that comes in mind. If you can't find a better solution in a reasonable time, start writing a working solution, then iterate and improve it as you go. Some interviews end without any coding because the interviewee couldn't find the ideal solution. It's better to have non-optimal but working code than just an idea. Once you have a working solution, you can then try to improve its efficiency, code design or any other aspect of it.

- Share your reasoning: Make sure you can talk about your solution; you will probably be asked to explain them. Engineering is all about tradeoffs, so be prepared to discuss them.

- Find and fix the bugs by yourself: Don't wait for the interviewer to find them for you.

- Use the hints you are given: Usually, the interviewer knows the question well enough to know which hints will help you next if you get stuck.

Here is a detailed look at the interview process if you are interested in more info https://www.facebook.com/careers...

79.6k Views · 266 Upvotes

Mark Ali, Interned at Google, Facebook and got my full-time offer
Updated Aug 14, 2015

From my personal experience, software engineer interviews from Facebook, Google, Linkedin etc. are all very similar, because interviewers will mostly focus on data structure and algorithm questions. Definitely there are certain ways of preparation that can make your life easier, and I'd like to share my experience with you.

- **Be familiar with basic data structure and algorithm**. I can't emphasize more about this point since it is the most fundamental thing for a software engineer interview. If you fail to get a good grasp of those basic data structures you learnt at school, you just failed the whole interview. I'm not exaggerating, once you've been thru several technical interviews, you'll realize how important it is. Books about data structure and algorithm are everywhere, do make sure you are very clear about basic stuffs like binary tree, queue, stack, linked list and so on.

- Practice writing code on whiteboard. This is what most people ignores. It looks quite simple at first glance, right? But it isn't once you try it. You'll miss so much about those fancy shortcuts on your favorite text editors and IDEs and what's more, it's so inconvenient to modify the code like inserting another piece of codes in between. But you have to get over it as most of the real interviews will ask you to write SOLID code on whiteboard. It doesn't need to be compiled, but it should be almost there. No pseudo code! **This is even true for Facebook interview** as during the onside interview you're gonna be "locked" in a meeting room and keep writing code on whiteboard.

- Practice real interview questions for Facebook. Since you already have a target, it isn't hard for you to get some real questions from past Facebook interviews. In fact, there are tons of them online and it's almost impossible for you to finish all. The point here is not to expect having the same question in your interview (though it's possible), but to get an idea about what kind of questions Facebook likes to ask,

how difficult it is in general, and find out your weak point. For instance, if you keep failing on binary tree questions, you should go check your textbook and do some google search about it.

- **Practice with MOCK INTERVIEWS**. It's a great experience for you to practice in a way where you can't fail. You can do this with your friends and interview them back. I also got my mock interview from http://www.gainlo.co   whose interviewers are working at Google, Facebook etc. and gave me tons of feedbacks.

Personally mock interview is the most effective approach I've ever had because you will have totally different feeling when thinking and solving problems in front of a person. You'll be nervous, and you may fail even at the simplest question.

Also interviewers from real interview won't give you any authentic feedback, they can only tell you those official response, which is no other than bullshit. However a mock interviewer will help you improve in every way especially he/she is experienced.

All in all, practice makes perfect. It's never too late to start preparing for your interview and it's always worthwhile to spend time on it.

22.4k Views · 50 Upvotes

Jake Cook, co-founder of gainlo.co, years experiences in interview
Answered Oct 5, 2015

Facebook interview is quite standard and general, and will be focused on data structure, algorithm, system design, testing and etc.. During the on-site interview, you will be asked to code on a white board and have a lot of discussions with the interviewer.

Given that the process is very standard and general, certain patterns can definitely make you preparation easier and more efficient.

Step 1: Data structure and algorithms preparation
I would assume you already finish those basic courses at school so that you are not learning everything from scratch.

The reason you should prepare well for data structure and algorithms first is that they are really the foundation of most software engineer interviews. A real interview question is like asking you to solve a problem with combination of skills you learnt from these basic knowledge, also you should be quite fast when analyzing time/space complexity, which is covered in this topic as well.

Books like Cracking the Coding Interview   , Introduction to Algorithms   and your textbook at school are best resources. Some chapters might be too math and you don't really need to go that deeper. But you should be really clear about how to analyze time/space complexity and can explain the result easily although it's not necessary to prove them in math.

Step 2: Be familiar with general coding questions
At this step, you should be quite familiar with basic knowledge and concepts of computer science, it's better to practice with some real coding questions. This may take several months depending on your time and how familiar you are with data structure and algorithms.

The idea of this step is to teach you how to use what you learnt from those books to solve a real question and give

you some ideas about what kind of questions are asked in a general interview. In fact I don't have much suggestions in this step instead of delving into those questions and practice as much as you can.

There are countless resources online and I would recommend:
- Cracking the Coding Interview   - Lots of practice questions, with short explanations in the back.
- LeetCode   (highly recommended) - Allow you to code and get judged online.

Step 3: Take advantage of past Facebook interview questions
It won't be hard to get questions from past Facebook interviews. Since different company has different styles and focuses, this approach will help you be more familiar and prepared for Facebook interview. Don't try to memorize questions and answers as these companies usually avoid asking questions leaked on public, so it's quite unlikely to encounter the same question again.

Resources I would suggest including:
- Glassdoor   - Probably you won't even have enough time to finish all questions from it.

Step 4: Keep Practicing
Technical interview doesn't only evaluate your coding ability, but a variety of skills and abilities like communication skills, analysis ability etc.. Also many people will feel nervous solving a problem when someone is looking over his shoulder, thus he may even fail in the simplest questions.

I'd suggest you to find a friend who is also preparing for an interview, you guys can conduct mock interviews with each other and try to be familiar with this kind of intense atmosphere.

A lot of people also want to get good quality feedbacks from experienced interviewers. With that in mind, we worked on building Gainlo - Mock Interview with Professionals   , which allows candidate have **mock interview with experienced interviewers** from top companies like Facebook, Amazon, Linkedin etc. and will get real feedback to help them improve.

Resources:
- Gainlo   - Get mock interview from experienced interviewers and get feedback

Conclusion
It shouldn't be super hard for anyone so long as you've spent enough time and effort. There's no better way than keep practicing and eventually you're gonna crack the interview.

11.9k Views · 14 Upvotes

Fae Stark, Content Marketing Manager at Virtocommerce
Answered Sep 27

Facebook is ranked 5 on quality of talent   , so obviously you can expect a pretty demanding hiring process.

For starters it might be a good idea to also look at interview processes of companies of similar level, like Airbnb,   Microsoft,   Uber   and Apple.

When it comes to Facebook itself, there's some good insight in this article   :

So what can you expect from the Facebook interview process?

Engineers and developers experience a strenuous interview process with most tech companies, largely because their skills will be put to the test in several different coding interviews.

Facebook is no different. As you'll see in the next section that breaks down the process, you'll be asked to code multiple times throughout the interview process. As a result, preparation is key.

With that in mind, here are the big areas you need to brush up on to be prepared for a software engineer interview:

- **Basic data structures and algorithms**. Mark Ali explains the importance of this in his Quora post: *"I can't emphasize more about this point since it is the most fundamental thing for a software engineer interview. If you fail to get a good grasp of those basic data structures you learned at school, you just failed the whole interview."* This includes: lists, arrays, hash tables, hash maps, stacks, queues, graphs, trees, heaps, sorts, searches and traversals (BFS, DFS)

- **Your experience and career interests**. It might seem obvious, but know your resume inside and out and be prepared to speak about each experience with regards to project examples and where you made an impact. Plus, there will be questions about you and what you are looking for in your next job, problems you want to solve – etc. Hint: Facebook problems.

- **Facebook and their culture**. Being a great coder may not be enough. You also need to be a culture fit —someone who aligns with the company's goals and fast-paced work style. Read up on Facebook before the interview to be sure you're comfortable with the culture Mark Zuckerberg has created there.

Once you have all those pieces in place, prepare yourself by reviewing the structure of Facebook's hiring process.

Step #1: Phone Interview with a Recruiter

Whether you've applied directly to Facebook, were contacted as a referral, or recruited, the first step is always an initial phone screen with a Facebook recruiter.

Like at other top companies, this recruiter will be highly knowledgeable and can become your best friend through the hiring process.

That's why it's important to:

1. **Take the call from a quiet place.**

Sounds obvious but the reverse does happen. Treat the call like you're speaking with Zuckerberg himself. Take it from a quiet place—not a Starbucks—and make sure you have great cell reception.

1. **Review the recruiter's profile on LinkedIn ahead of time.**

Not only is it a courteous thing to do, but it also gives you some ammo for rapport building. Pay attention to previous jobs they've held, schools, and hobbies.

1. **Ask for their advice in succeeding throughout the rest of the process.**

Once the interview starts winding down, ask the recruiter if they'd be comfortable sharing tips and tricks for succeeding in next steps.

Step #2: Phone Interview with Facebook Engineer

This interview—which typically happens over the phone but could occur on-site in rare circumstances—will be your first opportunity to prove your coding chops.

Expect 45 minutes on the phone, with the first 5-10 reserved for career questions and then 30 minutes of coding. You'll be entering the code into a collaboration tool so that your interviewer can see what you're typing in real-time.

Here are a couple of reminders for succeeding in this interview:

- **Use headphones**. This seems like a minor detail until you're typing code with a phone wedged between your shoulder and ear.

- **Practice coding under pressure and in a text editor.** Using Notepad or Evernote to run through practice exercises gets you used to the environment you'll be in for the interview itself.

- **Know your career aspirations.** It would be quite the upset to crush a coding interview only to lose the opportunity on a poor response to the career questions. Know your answers ahead of time so you can cut down on the "umm's" and "uhh's" in the interview itself.

Step #3: Onsite Cycle

If you're invited on site, expect three interviews and a lunch spread across a full day.

If you want to succeed at this stage (and hopefully receive an offer from Facebook) start by reviewing these 33 common software engineering questions.   Make sure you have answers prepared for each and every one of them.

1. **First, you'll go through another coding interview.**

Much like the coding interview you did over the phone in structure, except this time, you'll be face-to-face and coding on a whiteboard, not a shared collaboration tool (so practice that, too).

One important piece of the coding interviews is that you talk through your thought process. Yes, interviewers want to see good, clean code. But they also want to see how you think and problem-solve. Don't make them guess about it—be transparent and share your thought process before you even start writing.

1. **Then, you'll do a design interview.**

Here's another 45-minute interview that requires you stand at the whiteboard—but this time, no coding.

This interview is a unique step for Facebook: as a means of assessing your creativity and ability to solve important design problems, your interviewer will pose either a systems design or product design question and have you work through it with them over the next thirty minutes.

Notice the "with them" part: this interview is just as much about your ability to collaborate as it is your design ability. Work with your interviewer, asking good questions and sourcing their thoughts and feedback.

1. **Next, comes lunch with the recruiter (or another member of the engineering team).**

Somewhere in the process you'll take a break, eat a meal, and get a chance to ask more questions to either your recruiter or another member of the engineering team.

1. **Finally, there's a behavioral interview.**

Lastly, you'll sit down for a longer look at your resume, background, and long-term goals. Think about why you want to work for Facebook and be prepared to answer questions   like:

- What are you proud of?

- What were some excellent collaborations you've had?

- Tell me about a time when you advocated for and pushed your ideas forward despite opposition?

- How do you deal with conflict?

- How do you like to give and receive feedback?

- What kinds of technologies are you most excited about?

- What problems do you like to work on?

Conclusion

If things go well, Facebook extends offers shortly after the conclusion of the onsite!

Hope it helps.

455 Views · 2 Upvotes

Jennifer Dolson, Engineer and interviewer at Facebook
Answered Dec 21, 2012 · Upvoted by Sławek Biel, Ex Software Engineer at Facebook and Miguel Oliveira, Facebook SWE Intern 2015 (London)

- When I was preparing for my interview (and for a handful of internships before) I would start with a copy of *Programming Interviews Exposed* by Mongan for a broad overview / reminder of topics. For diving deeper into any topic I would also review *Introduction to Algorithms* by Cormen.

- I practiced writing code by hand and talking through solutions. This was not in an effort to memorize possible questions or answers, but rather to make sure I was comfortable writing code by hand on a whiteboard and verbalizing my thought process. I also had a friend who was interviewing at the time and we were able to practice together.

- It's good to decide ahead of time what language you want to use, and make sure you are comfortable with the finer points of the language and the common data structures. We don't expect you to be an expert in every language, but it would be nice to be solid in your language of choice. I was using C++ the most at the time and remember reviewing The C++ Resources Network   .

(Also check out this post:
Get that job at Facebook   )

37.1k Views · 70 Upvotes · Answer requested by Dhruva Bhaswar

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Halil Lacevic, Co-founder & Owner at HASL13
Answered Sep 23

Facebook hires the best of the best: top-tier talent with incredible coding abilities, a team mentality, and a knack for difficult problem-solving.

Engineers and developers experience a strenuous interview process with most tech companies, largely because their skills will be put to the test in several different coding interviews.

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Footnotes

[1] Preparing for your Software Engineering Interview at Facebook
[2] Interviewing at Facebook for a Software Engineer job

374 Views

Anton Dimitrov, Founder & Interviewer at HiredInTech.com
Answered Mar 31, 2014

Just to add to the many replies already added: we've just opened to the world for free a course for coding interview preparation at http://www.hiredintech.com/app   .

It covers algorithms and system design for the coding interviews at companies like Google, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and other similar ones.

Additionally, the course teaches you a process for approaching these problems. We believe that practice makes perfect, so there are many suggested training problems.

Since these interviews have their specific format in HiredInTach you'll find tips and tricks on how to perform well in this environment and how to relieve the stress.

Any comments will be very helpful. :)

11.9k Views · 16 Upvotes

Nitin Gupta, Scientist, Photographer, Entrepreneur.
Answered Dec 21, 2012

At Facebook, Google, and the likes, interviews are usually on your aptitude and fundamental data structure/ algorithmic skills.

* If an interviewer asks you about polymorphism or uses technical jargon, they want a software developer and not a software engineer and you're in the wrong place or are being interviewed for the wrong role.
* Go to T   opCoder, start with minimum point questions and move to the harder ones. Be hands on!
* CLR (*Introduction to Algorithms* by Cormen et al). You do not need anything except this book, really! If you understand the fundamentals of every chapter in CLR, interviewing will be a breeze.
* Did I say be hands on?

23.8k Views · 37 Upvotes

A Ahmad Malik, Conducted 200+ interviews, software engineer for 15 years
Answered Apr 11 · Upvoted by Fahim ul Haq, former Software Engineer at Facebook

Originally Answered: How should I prepare for a Facebook job interview?

There are three parts to a software engineering interview at Facebook, you need to prepare for all of them:

1. **Coding interview:** Either on a whiteboard or on an actual computer. This has become a prerequisite for getting an offer. If you cannot code/solve the problem (or have some serious bugs in your code), it's quite difficult to get an offer. Good resources to prepare for this kind of interview: Coderust 2.0   . You should expect at least two coding interviews in a loop.

2. **System Design Interview:** This tests your design skills and your ability to work with complex and scalable services. Your performance in these interviews determines what position and salary you will be offered. If you have commendable design skills, you will get a higher offer. A good resource to prepare for this interview: Grokking the System Design Interview   .

3. **Cultural fit interview**. During this interview, companies see if a candidate would be a good fit for their culture. Candidate should not show any red flag.

Like coding interviews, candidates who haven't spent enough time preparing for System Design Interviews (SDIs) mostly perform badly. This gets aggravated when you are interviewing at the top companies like Google or Facebook. In these companies, if a candidate doesn't perform above average, they have a limited chance to get an offer. Also, a good performance in such interviews always results in a better offer (financially), since your performance reflects upon your ability to work with complex systems.

Also, all these big companies like candidates who are familiar with distributed systems concepts like Consistent Hashing,   Data Partitioning   , Load Balancing   , Redundancy and Replication   , CAP Theorem   , etc.

A few sample design problems are:

- Designing a URL Shortening service like TinyURL

- Designing Instagram

- Designing Twitter

- Designing Youtube

- Designing Facebook Messenger

- Designing Dropbox

- Designing Typeahead Suggestion

- Designing Facebook's Newsfeed

- Designing Yelp

- Designing Uber

1.8k Views · 4 Upvotes

Dharmesh Bhatt, works at Facebook
Answered Dec 21, 2012

I highly recommend that you look at this Quora question: Where can I find difficult algorithm/data structure problems?.

It has a collection of websites that host interview questions. If you go through all of those, you should be well prepared for your interviews, as long as you are already clear on the basic data structures and algorithm design techniques.

While the answers so far are great tips for generally getting better at algorithms, I don't think that they are the best techniques in the context of this question.

I have found that targeted preparation is much more beneficial than generalized preparation for a given task - in this context, that would mean **preparing for interviews**,and not just studying algorithms. The link I posted above will help you do just that.

Good luck :)

16k Views · 11 Upvotes

Anshuman Singh, Technical Interviewer at Facebook for last 3.5 years. Co-founder, Interviewbit
Answered May 28, 2015 · Upvoted by Abhimanyu Saxena, Co founder at InterviewBit

Check out @Anshuman Singh's answer to How can I get a job at Facebook or Google in 6 months? I need a concise work-plan to build a good enough skill set. Should I join some other start-up or build my own projects/start-up? Should I just focus on practicing data structures and algorithms?

The Interview process might differ slightly if you are interviewing for an Android / iOS / frontend engineering position.

I wrote a post about my point of view as an interviewer at @The Gap In Technical Interview Preparation by Anshuman Singh on Posts

21k Views · 39 Upvotes

Siddharth Mahapatra, B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering, KIIT University (2018)
Answered May 13

The below mentioned resources/procedures are for **_Technical/Programming_** Interviews, applicable for most _Product Based Companies/Tech Startups._

1. **Competitive Coding :-**

- _Topcoder :_
    - Div 2 - 250, 500.
    - Div 1 - 250.

Note : Div 2 500 & Div 1 250 are almost equivalent.

- _Codeforces :_
    - Div 2 - A, B, C.
    - Div 1 - A.

Note : Div 2 C & Div 1 A are almost equivalent.

- _CodeChef_ :
    - Beginner
    - Easy
    - Medium

Note :

- **Topcoder -** _Div 2 250_ = **CodeForces -** _Div 2 A, B_ = **Codechef -** _Beginner, Easy_**. (Respectively)**
- **Topcoder -** _Div 2 500_ = **CodeForces -** _Div 2 C_ = **Codechef -** _Medium_**.**
- **Topcoder -** _Div 1 250_ = **CodeForces -** _Div 1 A_ = **Codechef -** _Medium_**.**

2. Books :-

- _Cracking The Coding Interview(CtCI) -_ Buy Cracking the Coding Interview Book Online at Low Prices in India
- _Programming Interview Exposed(PIE) -_ Buy Programming Interviews Exposed: Secrets to Landing Your Next Job, 3ed (WROX) Book Online at Low Prices in India
- _Elements Of Programming Interviews(EPI) -_ Buy Elements of Programming Interviews Book Online at Low Prices in India
- _Data Structures and Algorithms Made Easy -_ Buy Data Structures and Algorithms Made Easy: Data Structures and Algorithmic Puzzles Book Online at Low Prices in India

3. Websites :-

- _Interview Bit -_ InterviewBit Courses - InterviewBit
- _Leet Code -_ LeetCode Online Judge

- *Career Cup* - Programming Interview Questions | CareerCup

- *Geeks For Geeks* - GeeksforGeeks | A computer science portal for geeks

- *Hacker Rank* - *HackerRank*

- *Hacker Earth* - HackerEarth - Programming challenges and Developer job

853 Views · 7 Upvotes

Vladimir Fedorov, works at Facebook
Answered Jun 27, 2011 · Upvoted by Keith Adams, Engineer at Facebook and Anand Prasad, Software Engineer at Facebook

Originally Answered: What is the interview like at Facebook for a software engineer?

The interview is designed to establish if you will be productive and happy at Facebook. This includes assessing technical expertise and intelligence (majority of time is dedicated to that) and evaluating culture fit/ability to work with others.

You will be asked to write code during the interview multiple times. This is not because we believe that is the only way to evaluate a great engineer but because ability to code is highly correlated to success at Facebook. If you are not just graduating from college you will also go through a high level design interview.

In general we try to keep the experience as fun and stress free as possible. On average, if you are graduating from college you will talk to 3 people and it will take about 2 hours 15 minutes. For candidates with more experience it will take 3 hours. There is no need to dress up.

3.1k Views · 20 Upvotes

Anonymous
Answered Feb 16, 2013

Practice a lot of the "standard" questions. They are recycled over and over again since interviewers don't have too much time to create new questions all that often.

You might find some of these questions useful:

Programming Interview Questions - Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Facebook - Programs, Code, Puzzles, Placement Tests- Answers/Hints at the end - the learning point

A collection of interview questions from Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Facebook interviews. Most of them are recycled and used by all of them.

Disclaimer: A small project of mine

11k Views · 7 Upvotes

Sumit Arora, Author of HiringLibrary.com
Answered Jun 6, 2013

You need to follow a very organized and disciplined approach to prepare for the Software Engineering Job at Facebook.

Actually all these companies e.g. MS,Google,Amazon,Facebook,Apple follow an approach on which

that measure the thought process of a candidate.

And they use different means to evaluate that, but yes most of them uses Algorithms/Data Structures/Open-ended questions(If you have applied for a software engineering job) as one of the approach to evaluate the talent.(As those are the base to develop the technologies)

To be accustomed with algos/data structure/coding , you must have understood/practiced the minimum e.g. :

(Step-1): You should have practical understanding of the Algorithms (e.g. When to use BackTracking, When to Use Divide and Conquer, Why double hashing required ?,Where brute force concept can be applied ?) *(100 Hours)*

(Step-2): You should have practical understanding of Data Structures e.g. (Practical use cases related to :when to use circular buffer , or when to use adjacently list or the combination of both or something else to solve the problem)*(100 Hours)*

(Step-3) : You must practice several coding problems to implement the things which learn from Step-1 , and Step-2 (you may do the following choose any coding language for the choice of yours (C,C++ or Java or Python or PHP or any one else)*(100 Hours)*

(Step-4): Solving the problem doesn't mean just to solve it, but to understand the best way to solve it e.g. The given technical problem can use various ways to come to solution, and you might want to use the optimal one. (How you connect the given solution with the computing/memory resources e.g. Memory/Processing Power) *(100 Hours)*

Most Important One

However other than programming you might need to understand the main concept for the interview is to keep the interview active and this requires some action from your side, such as the following:

You need to talk

You need to explain

You need to discuss

You need to express your views

You need to understand clearly the questions given to you

You need to understand the interviewer's expression and mindset to un- derstand those questions

You might need to ask appropriate questions to understand the question or any other discussion item. (*100 Hours*)

And also :

Prepare : "Please tell me about your self" , "Your skills related positive/negative further interest" , Basics for the most needed computer science concepts or anything as you presented on your "CV/Resume"
(100 Hours)

Above is just a sample plan, you may customize the way you want(e.g. 100 hours to 10 hours or something else) - Click to Amazon, to find the best books you might need.

4.1k Views · 5 Upvotes

Hussein Elsayed, Software Engineer at GoEuro Travel GmbH.
Answered Apr 1, 2014

Read this series and try to solve all problems by yourself:

How to prepare for an interview - 1

Check also glassdoor interview questions, and LeetCode

8.9k Views · 5 Upvotes

Stanislav Ivanov, works at AdTapsy
Answered Jun 10, 2015 · Upvoted by Abhimanyu Saxena

Originally Answered: How do I prepare for Facebook's software engineer interview in 3 weeks? What topics must I brush up on while preparing?

Interviews for software engineers focus a lot on algorithmic skill. I personally practice algorithmic problems on InterviewBit   and Codeforces   .

InterviewBIT is more focused on interview problems and have very nice video lectures, while Codeforces host competitions, if you are into that.

4k Views · 9 Upvotes

Sam Gensburg, Software Engineer
Answered Oct 24, 2015

Originally Answered: How should I prepare for a software engineer job at Facebook?

You're probably going to get some interesting technical advice. However, I don't think that's particularly important. Facebook is famous for their training programs and ability to get people up to speed. The most important thing is that you are ready to take off and succeed from your first day at work.

To that end, I would take a good solid break between school and work. Relax a bit - shake off the stress of finals and the agony of leaving your friends behind. You can stay at home with your family or take a legendary trip to Europe - whatever works for you.

Then, you should make sure to move to your new home city several weeks before work starts. Find a place to live, set up your apartment, and connect with a few friends or classmates in the area. Don't start work stressing out over finding roommates or furniture. Be ready to give Facebook 100% from your very first day.

That's it. The technical stuff will come, and you'll have a better idea what you need to work on once you're there. If you're prepared for work, you can use your free time to study or put in extra hours. Just make sure you're really prepared to start.

2.3k Views · 2 Upvotes

Michele Orsi, works at map2app
Answered Dec 27, 2015

I think it is important to practice a lot, especially among peers who are preparing a job interview at the same time. I set-up a completely free form of people who are interested in interviewing among each other.

Feel free to subscribe and join our community:

http://p2pmockinterview.co

2.1k Views

Christian Vielma, Worked and Interviewed for Amazon, have Interviewed with Big Techs
Answered Dec 12, 2015

Interviewing at many big tech companies is similar on the focus they do on CS Fundamentals. The long study route is the best, but I have also seen that if you are short on time you can practice algorithm problems related to tree traversal (obviously BFS, DFS), sorting, and recursion.

The best practice book is Cracking the Coding Interview.   Here's a similar answer for a position at LinkedIn with further links: How do I prepare for a LinkedIn software engineer interview?

 I have also written some interview study guides, available for free on my blog: Study Guides for your Next

Technical Interview

Good luck!

2k Views

Anonymous
Answered Jun 27, 2014

Originally Answered: How should I prepare for a Facebook job interview?

Cracking the coding interview book is a best place to start with to get the feel of interview questions at Facebook. After first telephonic round (which involves 45 min coding question) there are 4 face-to-face interviews at Facebook. These interviews involve
1) behavioral interview - hardest bug, conflicts with manager/colleague, describe one of the project, what you want to do at Facebook etc.
2) coding - algorithm, data structure and complexity
3) coding - algorithm, data structure and complexity
4) system design - this is tricky part where you have to design a system
5) Lunch in between

Preparation:
Please do look at other interview preparation related questions on Quora (e.g. how to prepare for google interview etc).
For coding - study basic algorithms/Data Structures and start solving problems from Algorithm interview questions books. I liked the book 'DS and Algorithms made easy by Narasimha Karumanchi'; 'Cracking the coding interview' is decent book.

For system design - please search on internet and prepare as much as you can. These questions sound easy (and open ended) but you should have developed/practiced a correct step-by-step approach to solve such problems.

For Behavioral - Again make use of internet and write proper answers to all the questions listed on websites. Be prepared for these type of questions.

Practice as much as you can.

2.7k Views · 6 Upvotes

Shweta Sachdeva
Answered Jun 6, 2015

Here, you can prepare for a software engineer interview tips. Read more: You searched for interview tips - Articles on Job, Career, Employment news Sarkari Naukri, Govt. Jobs and offers

2.2k Views · 1 Upvote

Anonymous
Answered Feb 21, 2015

Originally Answered: How much time did you spend preparing for Facebook's interviews? What was your preparation strategy?

Just got an offer from facebook yesterday for a full time position as a software dev. Currently working in bangalore. Will be joining october onwards .

As for how much time - as much as you can ! Start preparing as early as possible !! OVERPREPARE - never any harm in that

I got a call in sept/oct had 2 telephonic rounds by december and 4 f2f rounds in feb in hyd. For me I am already working full time , so used to come back from office by 6-7 pm , sleep for 1 hr , then study as much as I can! on an average 3-4 hrs every day for 3 - 4 months , 5 -6 hrs just before the face to face .

To be honest I had overprepared so much that I felt the interview was not at all hard , and felt could have done even better , yet was lucky to be among the 10 ppl selected in India.

There is no shortcut to hard work , just focus on something and keep going at it again and again , give some mock interviews(cant stress how important it is) , buy a whiteboard for practice .

As for the resources there are plenty available if you google and on quora as well. For me the primary source was geeksforgeeks after going through skiena once briefly.

Best of luck for your future interviews , although my answer might not be as glamourous as others on quora , but thats what worked for me!!