# CURSOR INTERVIEW

## Cursor Knowledge

### Core Features

#### Cursor Tab

Provides suggestions as you write code.

#### Agent

Intelligence that can read and modify code across multiple files.

#### Inline Edit

Edit selected code with Cmd+K to describe changes and see them applied in place.

### Hallucination

#### Knowledge Cutoff

Asking for things past the cutoff is more likely to lead to a hallucination.

#### Pattern Matching

Even if the solution does not exit, the model will attempt to force a solution. The model is good at sounding convincing. For example, a model will create new APIs or use features that don’t exist.

The model is confidently wrong. It’s important to verify the output of the model.

### Model Selection

#### Models

Cursor models are like a general-purpose API endpoint which gives probabilistic results.

Command / allows you to pick your model. Each model can be compared on **intelligence**, **speed**, **cost**, and **area of expertise**.

Inputs can be text, image, audio, or video.

Pasting in mockups can be extremely helpful.

#### Model Hosting

Models are hosted on US-based infrastructure by the model’s provider or Cursor directly.

#### Privacy Mode

When enabled, neither Cursor nor model providers store your data. All data is deleted after each request.

#### Prediction

The models are predicting the next token in the sequence.

### Context Management

#### Context

Normally, Cursor uses a context of 200,000 tokens (15,000 lines of code), but Max mode (Gemini 2.5 Flash, GPT 4.1, and Grok 4) has context windows larger than 200,000.

Your context is your input and your output. This context builds up over time. Cursor will automatically generate context by finding files relevant to the existing request.

New chats clear out the context window.

Every message in a conversation is called a turn.

#### Tokens

Basic unit of text that LLMs process. Models read tokens one at a time from left to right.

function calculateTotal(price, tax) { return price \* (1 + tax); }

This line has about 30 tokens. Thus a 100 line file could have 2,000 – 4,000 tokens.

The OpenAI tokenizer is helpful for understanding how models are priced or measured.

Output tokens cost more than input tokens. Outputs require more compute power than ingestion.

### Tool Calling

#### Dynamically Retrieve Context

Developers can give the models specific tools for cases when they get specific requests. The model then incorporates additional context in the existing request.

Conversations and contexts will fill up much faster when you are making tools.

MCP is a universal way for AI models to integrate with other tools. They can securely authenticate and bring context into the model.

### Agent Workflows

#### Agents

Running tools to use in a loop. You can give the agent a goal and it will figure out how to get there i.e. give someone a destination and they use a GPS or map to get there.

### Custom Rules

#### Style Rules

#### Architecture Rules

### MCP Workflows

Protocol developed by Anthropic, allows for contextual coding assistance. It allows for external data access, tool integration, and real time context.

#### Linear + GitHub + Supabase

Prompt the agent to create a set of tickets in Linear, prompt the agents to complete the tickets, and make a pull request into the repo.

## Schedule

### 2:00 – 2:15 Hiring Manager Diggory Rycroft

#### Diggory Rycroft

Field engineering manager at Anysphere, Director of Sale Engineering at Vercel, Sales Engineering at Persona and Stripe, Deloitte.

Psychology and IR at Claremont McKenna College, International School of Beijing.

Wrote a thesis on the psychology of hiring decisions.

#### What interests you about field engineering at Cursor?

I want to work at a more developed startup. As an engineer I like technical work and people work.

#### How do you balance technical depth with customer communication?

Depends on the client. If a customer, should be focused on outcomes instead of technical details. With internal engineering teams we should focus on technical details and feasibility.

#### Tell me about a time you had to quickly learn a new technology to solve a customer problem.

With the first customer at our startup, they were European and had to be compliant with GDPR (data protections). We wanted to close quickly, so I stayed up one night learning what we need to do to be compliant and went through all our backend systems to figure out what changes would need to be made.

---Database, web, and LLM servers needed to be hosted in Europe.

I also learned how to build voice agents quickly. The primary trick is guiding the confluence of models to an acceptable outcome.

### 2:30 – 3:00 VP of Field Eng Ricky Doar

#### Ricky Doar

VP of Field Engineering at Cursor, Director of Product Management at Twilio, Research Analyst at Standard and Poor’s.

Physics at Claremont McKenna College, Keeper on Men’s Soccer Team.

#### Walk me through how you would approach a customer who is hesitant about AI coding tools?

#### Tell me about a time you turned around a challenging customer relationship?

#### How do you handle competing priorities between multiple enterprise customers?

#### How do you balance competing customer priorities?

### 3:00 – 3:30 Software Engineer Rohan Varma

#### Rohan Varma

Software Enginer at Cursor.

Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

#### How would you debug a customer’s IDE performance issues?

#### What’s your approach to evaluating and comparing different AI coding assistants?

#### Code through integrating Cursor into an existing workflow?

### 3:30 – 4:00 AE Interview Bennett Brownlow

#### Bennett Brownlow

GTM at Cursor, Emerging Enterprise AE at Amplitude.

Philosophy and English at Wake Forest University, IB Diploma at Atlanta International School.

Presented Cursor to the Paypal Team at their AI summit.

#### How do you work with a sales team to support a technical sale?

#### How would you communicate a complex technical limitation to a non-technical stakeholder?

#### How do you maintain customer relationships post-implementation?

#### What questions would you ask to qualify a customer’s technical needs?

### 4:00 – 4:30 201 Demo

#### Jordan Topeleski

Chief Operating Officer at Cursor.

History and Science at Harvard University.

#### Ricky Doar

#### Nick Miller

#### Diggory Rycroft

## Demo

### Demos

#### 1. Background Agent to Build Frontend Using Figma MCP

### Inspiration

#### Conductor

### Features

#### Agent

#### Ask