Tell me about yourself?

I am currently working as a Data Architect in Citigroup. My main responsibility is to coordinate data requirements between Business and Data engineering team. I work with machine learning and Data Science team on the various Data needs for ML models.

I have 12 years of expertise in working on Data analysis and Data integration solutions which makes the 80% of data flow, lately I have been working on the last 20% part of data flow for converting data into actionable numbers and predictions for business users.

I started as a data engineer and have been hands on in my career till date. I have managed Data Engineering team of up to 10 people and learned to manage different kinds of people and to communicate effectively while delivering quality results.

I founded and sold 1 travel startup in past. This helped me learn a lot about building, managing and selling a digital product.

I am excited about this opportunity to work with Airbnb because I think they are one of the top most implementer of machine learning and data science and effectively using it in products.

I’ve been a user of Airbnb and I find a sense of perfection in its product’s user experience. Airbnb is a Global company and is changing people’s life everyday across the world.

Why you want to work for us?

Airbnb work culture Is something I love. You have a dynamic environment that encourages learning and growth.

The focus in all Airbnb products is on user experience and that makes me feel excited.

Airbnb is doing some exciting projects in AI and using it efficiently to enable success for its partners and employee.

Why should we hire you?

I have all ingredients needed for a recipe to enable growth for your company.

* + I have experience from all areas of a product development.
  + I love to solve business problems and manage people.
  + I am Hands-on in SQL, Data Science machine learning
  + I am strong in Number and data analysis.
  + I have managed big team and I focus on experience
  + I have a great experience facing business users
  + I have Worked for PMO team to manage group of projects

What’s your plan for next 5 years?

I don’t know exactly but I want to be in the world full of data and AI. I would like to master my skills on Deep Learning, Neural Networks and Artificial Intelligence. Anything which connects AI

to common people’s life excites me.

Tell me about a time, when you handled a difficult situation?

In my past job, Me and my team mate were working together for an executive report we send

out to CDO every week about 50+ projects in pipeline. Lately he moved offshore due to personal reason and committed to the manager that he will work in overlapping time zone so that we both can collaborate.

Eventually after a month there were pattern where he wasn’t able to do much during offshore

time and pile all work for few hours of overlapping time. I had to stretch a lot because of this and the work was growing due to year end approaching. I felt he was distracted.

I decided to speak to him about if there are any issues and he was struggling to keep his

focus. He said he is trying best but situation didn’t improve.

Since I was facing client (CDO) I had to solve this, I took an alternate approach of dividing the work in small individual tasks, assigned to each one of us with mutual agreement and define a weekly checkpoint along with calendar reminders and shared with him.

This did the trick and he started delivering the small tasks on time and I was consolidating them into report and this eventually became A benchmark approach.

What are your greatest strengths?

1. I am a Quick learner. I am always up-to-date on new technology.

– for example I finished my springboard DS course of 6 months in less than 2 months.

2. Analytical thinking

- I always try to come up with alternate approach or solution to a problem and this helped me in many critical situations.

3. I am good at Organizing and Prioritizing tasks logically.

4. Flexible - Quickly adapt to the new culture

What is your weakness?

I have been saying yes to many things which are not much beneficial for me and my team.

I am learning to justify it based on impact and bandwidth and start saying NO.

What do you do if disagree with someone at work?

I first try to listen to what they have to say and then try to resolve conflict by support of Data and facts. I always think by putting myself in their shows first and then suggest alternative approaches which is the best for mutual goal.

How do you overcome obstacles when you had a particularly hard day?

While on work: I take 10-minute coffee break, talk to someone or a brisk walk across aisles. Or a quick call to my family or friends.

Off wok: I cook. It makes me fully rejuvenated. I take a power nap of 10 minutes. it helps me a lot in defusing stress. Browse some old picture or Watch a motivational movie. Rocky is my fav.

Describe a time when you made a decision that wasn't popular?

During a critical time in my last project, each manager was asked to lend 1 top resource to form a SWAT team for a 2 months long critical time bound project for organization due to budget crisis.

I had to put my most critical resource there, he was popular and wasn’t willing to go, but I explained him the benefits as it was a highly visible initiative and he had the caliber to excel.

Other teammates weren’t happy because it increased their load

but eventually I managed this by combination of managing expectation and prioritizing critical tasks first.

Give me an example of time you set a stretch goal for yourself and were able to achieve it.

For springboard data science track, when I started in last week of December, I examined the details of course and my bandwidth and set a target of 9 weeks for myself. It was tough.

* I setup a plan divided entire course by weeks and milestone.
* Divided my hours into weekdays and weekend where I was able to take more load
* Assigned coding related chapter to nigh hours and study related chapter to daytime based on my ability to able to stretch in night if I am coding.
* I kept a track of my progress and keep adjusting the plan based on progress.
* Finally, I achieved is 3 days before the deadline.

What kind of manager you are?

* I trust their skills and keep helping them while they are finishing assigned tasks.
* I give each team member a sense of responsibility in the overall big mission of team or company.
* I am open to new ideas and try to discuss an approach with team if possible.
* I prefer to be transparent with everyone so that they can should feel comfortable sharing things.

Tell me about a time when you were given an assignment but not enough resources to complete the task in time frame you were given?

This is quite common in IT projects. We use combination of prioritizing critical items first and agile project delivery in small components.

Where do you think you made a big impact in your last role?

In many past role as Data delivery manager where we were managing delivery of monthly 50+ application data ingestion into a Big data lake. Team was using a 15 slide deck for reporting monthly release from 6 different project managers. It was a manual effort by all project manager to provide update for their track and used to take 6- 8 hours in calls to fine tune it.

I suggested a share point tracker to capture all updates there on a weekly basis and create an automated report using a software program from there for review.

We did this approach and after initial glitches, the review call was limited to 1 hour only. Everyone was doing due diligence to provide update in tracker by Monday. We extract report Tuesday morning, review in afternoon, fine tune and send it by EOD. Bingo!