title: **I have about 4 hours of productive programming in me a day, how to do full-time job while interviewing**
num_comments: 25
num_up_votes: 69
upvote_ratio: 0.97

Post Text

I'm currently going through the gauntlet to explore other offers while also working (full-time-ish). Does anyone have strategies for riding the interview pipeline with 10+ companies simultaneously while also working? I know getting multiple offers roughly around the same time is supposed to be way better for negotiations, but I'm having a hard time putting in the hours at my currently paying job while doing it. Do other ADHD programmers with this issue just take the interviews one or two at a time?

Comments

Commenter_2
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 79
You guys are getting 4 hours...?

    ###### OP
    ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 8
    Ideally yeah. When I have 3 hours of coding challenges (or technical question rounds) in a day it makes it pretty hard to get even 3 hours done for my current job

Commenter_4
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 39
If you're reasonably confident you're going to leave the current job, slacking off is a good risk vs reward. Recruiters are lying subhuman bullies, so fight back when they claim timelines are tight (especially at bigger companies). When it comes to full-day interviews for final rounds, consider asking for an accommodation to split it across two days.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 36
It's a well known fact that you can't do 8 hours of hardcore programming so that's totally normal. In my experience, if you are good at what you do you can be way above average with 2-4 hours a day of high quality coding. You'll have to attend various meetings and do paperwork too so that's no big issue.

    ###### OP
    ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 9
    Sure, that's not a problem; the issue I'm hoping for feedback on is that with 3 hours of coding interviews a day, I have almost no juice left for my job

        ###### Commenter_5
        ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
        In my career I have very rarely had a real coding test at an interview. I'm not sure if this is different for where you apply. At least here in Europe employer communication is very slow so there's not much to do on a single day. Juggling a few applications was never something that took much time for me.

            ###### OP
            ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 6
            Wow, I've been looking for a little over 2 weeks and have done about 4 coding tests now, and 2 interviews which were a barrage of technical questions. This is all between 5

different companies.

It's possible that U.S. based companies (who I am mostly interviewing with) looking to hire from Canada (where I live), are giving candidates an unusually rigorous vetting... maybe due to these being remote jobs.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
It very much depends on the company culture I guess. In Germany you have many rather old shool companies where they aim for a personal interview rather than a coding skill test. I also know some colleagues who managed to switch to remote jobs which probably would fail a coding interview.

Commenter_7
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 5
In the United States they are hiring tools, not colleagues. Colleagues you have to care about, that's not really part of our culture here.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I guessed so. Never experienced it first hand. Was only once in the states for a business trip.

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
Having worked for a German company and U.S. companies.. the German company had a really lovely culture (probably the best of any company I've worked for), but (unsurprisingly) the U.S. companies pay much better

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
They do, but you don't have to forget that, at least in Germany, the companies also pay a big chunk of the mandatory social insurances. But with tax and everything you surely get a lot more bang out of your salary in the US

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
I live in Canada actually, so it's likely similar here. But at the same time, taxes are really high, so I don't think it makes up for the lower salaries Canadian companies pay.

U.S. companies tend to pay better as a whole, even when hiring Canadians who work from Canada.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
That's often the case. I work from home for a company in a rather expensive city so they pay the higher wages while I live rural and cheap.

Commenter_8
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
how many interviews are you scheduling? Do you need to be doing 2-3 hours of solid work a day at your job? Is there no slack to "slack off" 3-5 days a month?

OP
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
It's pretty much been 2-3 per day for the last 8 work days

Commenter_9
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 7
Work less at your job. Study after an hour or two of work. Schedule max 2-3 phone screens a week. Or 1-2 on sites a week. Don't burn out by taking breaks on some nights like Fridays or whatever. Work out, eat healthy and get full 8 hours of sleep.

Commenter_10
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 5
 I'm an eng recruiter and idk how you do it. I talked to someone this week that had 5 interviews. Lined them up back to back, and they took a week off just so could focus on interviewing. And yeah, 5-6 rounds with at least 3 if not 4 hours of technical. Hats off to you. You need a vacation after. Good luck with your interviews.

Commenter_11
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
This is how I used to handle interviews during fulltime work. If the company wanted to hold the interview during weekdays, I would make up some excuse to leave, like a doctors appointment or some other stuff. My manager never cared, as long as I gave them heads up on why I would be briefly out of office.

Most of the coding questions I got were take home tests or they would make me do the coding prior to onsite interview, in that case I would let them know that I won't start it until the weekend.

I took on max 2 interviews at a time, I didn't want to overwhelm myself.

As for doing your current job, I would often do other smaller stuff that isn't coding or even do some studying, I would just tell them I am doing a crash course on XYZ during the meetings and they didn't really say anything to that.

Commenter_12
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
Do all your work in the morning and stuff around in the arvo

Commenter_13
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
RemindMe! 5 hours

Commenter_14
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I will be messaging you in 5 hours on [**2022-04-19 10:17:22 UTC**](http://www.wolframalpha.com/input/?i=2022-04-19%2010:17:22%20UTC%20To%20Local%20Time) to rem you of [**this link**](https://www.reddit.com/r/ADHD_Programmers/comments/u6viom/i_have_about_4_hours_of_productive_programming_in/i5b23px/?context=3)

[**CLICK THIS LINK**](https://www.reddit.com/message/compose/?to=RemindMeBot&subject=Reminder&message=

Commenter_15
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Current virtual interviews let you split the interviews between multiple days. Depends on the company
thought.

Commenter_16
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Are you on meds? It'll really depend if it's like neck deep, solving difficult/complex problems or trying to
understand some code base and put some more high level pieces together

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
My best strategy is to study and do practice interviews for a limited time, 6-10 weeks probably, then take a
week off to do several interviews back to back. The first one should be your least desired company as a warm
up.