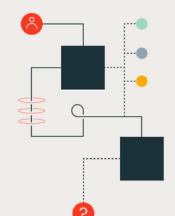# databricks

# Interviewing with Databricks

### What to expect when applying for a Solutions Architect role

## Overview of the role

At Databricks our core values are at the heart of everything we do, creating a culture of proactiveness and customer-centric mindset guide us to create a unified platform that makes data science and analytics accessible to everyone. We aim to inspire our customers to make informed decisions that push their business forward. We provide a user-friendly and intuitive platform that makes it easy to turn insights into action, fosters a culture of creativity, experimentation and continuous improvement.

You will be an essential part of this mission, using your technical expertise to demonstrate how our Lakehouse Platform can help our customers solve their complex data challenges. You'll work with a collaborative, customer-focused team who values innovation and creativity, using your skills to create customized solutions to help our customers achieve their goals and guide their businesses forward. Join us in our quest to change the way people work with data and make a better world!

**Useful Links:**
Databricks Engineering Blog
Databricks Customer Stories
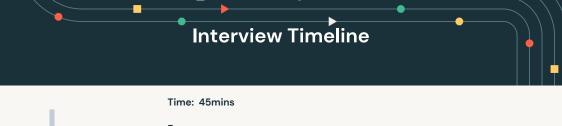Who is Databricks?

BRICKSTER
BUILDING THE LAKEHOUSE

## What you'll do

- Form successful relationships with clients throughout your assigned territory, providing technical and business value to Databricks customers, in collaboration with Account Executives.
- Operate as an expert in the sphere of big data analytics with the aim to get customers excited about Databricks. You will develop into a 'champion' and trusted advisor on multiple issues of architecture, design and implementation to lead to the successful adoption of the Databricks Lakehouse platform.
- Scale best practices in your field and support customers by authoring reference architectures, how-tos, and demo applications and help build the Databricks community in your region by leading workshops, seminars, and meet-ups.
- Grow your knowledge and expertise to the level of a technical and/or industry specialist.

## Our interview process

The interview process generally takes 4–5 weeks to complete. Your recruiter and hiring manager will assist you throughout the interview process. Our recruitment process allows you to meet with several Bricksters from different teams and talk to them about their experiences working for Databricks.

Please feel free to ask us any questions; it will be our pleasure to answer them.

# Interview Timeline

### Hiring Manager Screen

**Time:** 45mins

**Focus:**
Opportunity for the hiring manager to find out more about your client-facing experience along with projects you have been involved in. They will discover your areas of expertise and how your skills can fit into the role while discussing your career aspirations, including how Databricks can help you achieve them.

**Expectations:**
Be prepared to provide insight into your work history and career so far, as this is an opportunity to discuss the role in greater detail and how the team is structured. The hiring manager will look to discuss your experiences across pre-sales, customer engagements, and technical background.

**Preparation:**
Prepare some examples from your career of projects, customer engagement, blogs, solutions architecture, and general success stories that you are particularly proud of or that you feel represent your strengths well. Ensure you know Databricks' product offerings and why you're interested in this role.

### SA Technical Assessment

**Time:** 60mins

**Focus:**
This assessment is meant to evaluate your strength and knowledge in various technical domains relevant to the Databricks business. Keeping in mind nobody is an expert in everything, these are the domains we will dig into:

- Data Storage Layer (Data Warehouses, Data Lakes, etc.)
- Data Pipelines/Solutions (Analytical Stacks, Machine Learning, Applications)
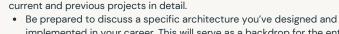- Scaling and Productionalizing Data Systems
- Cloud and Platform Architecture experience
- Working closely with customers to understand and meet their business needs

**Expectations:**
This technical assessment is meant to give us a general idea of your current technical abilities, areas of expertise and opportunities for development.

**Preparation:**
When preparing for this interview please keep in mind we will look to understand your technical background and experiences. Please be prepared to talk about your current and previous projects in detail.

- Be prepared to discuss a specific architecture you've designed and implemented in your career. This will serve as a backdrop for the entire conversation.
- There will often be more than one right answer; we want to see that you can articulate tradeoffs between various technical solutions.
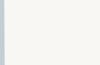- We don't expect everyone to be an expert in everything! We want to see what you know – not what you think we want you to know. Focus on your strengths.
- You can draw the architecture live using a tool of your choice or present the architecture as a slide(s).
- Essentially we will get you to describe a project/architecture that you have worked on, what the business challenges were how you went about and solved it, then we will go and deep dive into the storage layer, pipelines, security, etc., to test your technical capabilities in each area.

### Coding Assignment

**Time:** To be completed ideally within three days, 90 minutes of hands-on work depending on your coding experience.

**Focus:**
The focus of the coding assignment is to assess your ability to write clean, efficient, and maintainable code to solve a specific problem or implement a feature in an existing application.

**Expectations:**
You are expected to demonstrate proficiency in the programming language you use and technology stack required for the assignment. You are also expected to write code that is easy to read and well-structured. We recommend you run your code before submitting. Quality of code is key here, over speed of submission.

**Preparation:**
Feel free to add any additional context that you feel will help us understand your technical capabilities better.

### Situational Interview

**Time:** 60mins

**Focus:**
You will be presented with a hypothetical scenario and asked how you would handle it. The main focus of this interview is to assess your strength in understanding, presenting, and selling Databricks technologies to customers. As such, you will be expected to play the role of a Solutions Architect and ask relevant questions to gain an understanding of the customer's needs and pitch back a solution and value proposition that leverages Databricks technologies.

**Expectations:**
You will play the role of a Solutions Architect so you can ask questions and pitch back a solution & value proposition leveraging Databricks technologies.

**Preparation:**
You will receive a brief that will include the scenario and a pitch deck to use. . The pitch deck will provide you with the necessary information to pitch a Databricks solution that meets the customer's needs. It's important for you to review the brief thoroughly and familiarize yourself with the pitch deck to ensure you are well-prepared for the interview.

### HM Wrap-up Interview

**Time:** 30mins

Wrap-up interview with the hiring manager to discuss any feedback with you from the previous interviews. You will hear the feedback from the interviewers, discussing the next steps or areas of development for future opportunities. This is a good opportunity for you to ask questions that might not have been answered in any of the previous interviews.

### Executive Interview

**Time:** 30mins

This is an opportunity for the Director to discuss growth plans for the region and answer any questions you may have. You can discuss more about your career potential at Databricks and growth plans to match your career aspirations. Learning more about the wider business, Databricks culture, and the impact you will have in this role. Be prepared to discuss the highlights of your career and demonstrate why Databricks is right for you.

# Next Steps

## References

We will ask you to provide 3 (2 managers and a work peer of mid-level seniority) references. This would take place after you complete all interviews..
You will be expected to provide:

- Full name
- Title
- Relationship to you (i.e. manager or peer)
- Phone number
- Email address

## Offer Process

After references have been completed, a call between the recruiter and Hiring Manager will be set up to extend you an offer.

# databricks