

✅ “Tell me about your career journey and why you made each move”

(Polished version for your Amazon SDE interview)

Answer:

\*"My career journey has been shaped by a strong interest in software development and a consistent drive to grow technically.

In the final year of my Bachelor's in Information Technology, I received an internship at Stetig Consulting, where I contributed to Salesforce and full-stack development projects. Due to my performance, I was offered a full-time position, and that's where my industry journey really began.

After gaining a solid foundation at Stetig—particularly in dashboard design, integration, and customer-focused delivery—I was excited to explore a larger, more structured environment. That's when I transitioned to Accenture, where I worked on a U.S. healthcare project. There, I deepened my skills in secure API development, compliance-driven coding, and working within agile teams on sensitive data applications.

While I was learning a lot hands-on, I realized there were deeper technical areas—like distributed systems, system architecture, and algorithmic efficiency—that I wanted to strengthen. That realization led me to pursue my Master's in Computer Science at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. It was a conscious decision to invest in my long-term career by gaining both theoretical and advanced practical knowledge.

During my Master's, I was offered an opportunity to join Glowing Bud LLC as a Software Developer, where I worked on building a full-stack SaaS platform for eSIM provisioning. I led the development of key features like telecom API integrations, payment modules, and AWS-based deployment. This role gave me the chance to apply what I was learning in real-time and take full ownership of technical solutions from design to delivery.

Each step in my journey has been about intentional growth—starting from real-world exposure at Stetig, scaling complexity at Accenture, deepening expertise through my Master's, and applying it practically at Glowing Bud. Now, I'm looking to bring that blend of industry experience, academic foundation, and product thinking into a long-term role where I can contribute meaningfully and continue growing—Amazon is the ideal place for that next step."\*

## Work Experience-Based Follow-Ups

### 1. “How did you balance multiple deadlines at Stetig?”

Answer:

“At Stetig, I often worked on two to three projects in parallel, each with different delivery timelines. I prioritized tasks using a mix of impact and effort estimation—first focusing on high-value, client-facing deliverables, and then fitting in backend improvements or testing in between.

I used tools like Jira and Google Sheets to maintain a personal kanban board, which gave me visibility into dependencies and blockers. This structured approach helped me consistently deliver on time without compromising quality, and it also improved cross-team coordination.”\*

LPs: Ownership, Deliver Results, Bias for Action, Customer Obsession

### 2. “Tell me about a specific technical challenge you faced at Accenture.”

Answer:

“We were building secure API endpoints for a healthcare platform, and during testing, I discovered a performance bottleneck due to unindexed queries in the PostgreSQL database.

Since the data involved personal health information (PHI), optimization had to be done without affecting encryption and audit logging layers. I worked closely with our database team to add selective indexing and rewrote the query logic to reduce joins.

This reduced response time by nearly 40%, and we met our compliance and SLAs for production.”\*

LPs: Insist on the Highest Standards, Are Right, A Lot, Dive Deep, Deliver Results

### 3. “What was the most complex integration you handled at Glowing Bud?”

Answer:

\*"The most complex integration was connecting our eSIM portal to multiple telecom APIs, each with their own authentication, provisioning formats, and rate limits.

I created a modular middleware layer that standardized request/response structures and handled API token refresh, retries, and error logging. This allowed us to plug in new providers easily and improved our system reliability.

By abstracting complexity, we reduced development time for new partners by 50%, making the platform scalable."\*

LPs: Invent and Simplify, Ownership, Think Big, Deliver Results

#### Project-Based Follow-Ups (eSimTracker)

✓ 4. "How do you handle data consistency or scraping errors in eSimTracker?"

Answer:

\*"I built a scraping scheduler with retry logic and fallbacks. If a data fetch fails, the system logs it and serves cached data from Redis.

Additionally, I implemented a validation layer that compares new data with historical patterns. If there's an anomaly—like a price drop of 90%—the system flags it instead of updating.

This ensures we don't compromise accuracy even when real-time data fails, keeping the user experience reliable."\*

LPs: Customer Obsession, Dive Deep, Are Right, A Lot, Insist on the Highest Standards

✓ 5. "How would you scale eSimTracker to 100k+ users?"

Answer:

\*"I'd focus on three key areas:

Horizontal scaling of the Node.js server behind a load balancer.

Redis replication and sharding to support high-frequency reads.

Caching rendered UI components or moving static pages to a CDN (like CloudFront) to reduce backend load.

I'd also implement rate-limiting, queue-based background jobs, and eventually consider moving scraping to serverless functions like AWS Lambda for auto-scaling."\*

LPs: Think Big, Invent and Simplify, Deliver Results

✅ 6. "Why did you choose the MERN stack for that project?"

Answer:

"MERN offers a JavaScript-only full-stack, which accelerates development and reduces context switching.

React allows for dynamic rendering of pricing tables, while Node.js and Express provide a non-blocking backend—ideal for scraping and async data processing. MongoDB's flexible schema helps store varying data from different providers.

The stack allowed me to prototype and scale quickly without sacrificing flexibility."\*

LPs: Bias for Action, Invent and Simplify

🧠 System Thinking / Meta-Level

✅ 7. "Describe how you'd refactor one of your projects for cost-efficiency."

Answer:

"For eSimTracker, I'd refactor scraping logic to run as serverless AWS Lambda jobs triggered by a lightweight scheduler like CloudWatch Events.

This eliminates idle EC2 costs and scales based on load. I'd also introduce data aggregation to reduce redundant fetches and shrink bandwidth costs.

On the frontend, I'd cache pages for static routes to reduce compute cycles."\*

LPs: Frugality, Invent and Simplify, Think Big

✅ 8. "How do you decide between building from scratch vs. using third-party services?"

Answer:

\*"I weigh time-to-market, maintainability, and control. If the feature is non-core but required—like auth, notifications, payments—I'd use trusted third-party services (e.g., Auth0, Stripe).

But for core features like data scraping or business logic, I prefer building in-house to maintain flexibility.

I always consider integration cost, vendor lock-in, and long-term scaling needs."\*

LPs: Are Right, A Lot, Ownership, Think Big

💬 Personal & Reflection-Based

✅ 9. "What's one decision you'd go back and change in any of your projects?"

Answer:

\*"In my early versions of eSimTracker, I didn't plan for error resilience in scraping pipelines. A single provider's failure could slow down the whole dashboard.

If I were to redo it, I'd build parallel scraping jobs from the start and a message queue system to decouple the UI from the backend processes more effectively."\*

LPs: Learn and Be Curious, Dive Deep, Insist on the Highest Standards

✅ 10. "Why Amazon?"

Answer:

\*"I admire Amazon's ability to operate at massive scale while still maintaining focus on customer experience and innovation.

I resonate with leadership principles like Ownership, Bias for Action, and Invent and Simplify, because I've lived those in my own projects and roles.

I want to be surrounded by world-class engineers, work on challenging problems that impact millions, and grow by contributing to systems that demand both technical excellence and business thinking."\*

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## ✓ 1. How the Internet Works

The internet is a network of networks that relies on various protocols for communication. At a high level, when you visit a website, a series of steps take place to fetch and display the requested webpage.

### 1.1. The Client-Server Model

Client: The device making a request (e.g., your web browser).

Server: The machine responding to requests and hosting the website's files.

## ✓ 2. Browsers and Their Role in the Internet

A web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge) is responsible for:

Sending HTTP(S) requests to a web server.

Fetching HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files.

Rendering the received data to display the web page.

### 2.1. DNS Lookups (Domain Name System)

When you enter a URL (e.g., [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)), the browser must determine the IP address of the web server hosting the website.

Steps:

The browser checks the cache (local memory) for a recent DNS lookup.

If not found, it queries the recursive DNS resolver (provided by your ISP).

The resolver queries the root DNS server, which directs it to the TLD (Top-Level Domain) server (e.g., .com).

The TLD server directs the resolver to the authoritative name server, which returns the IP address.

The browser can now connect to the server via its IP.

◆ Example: `www.amazon.com` resolves to `205.251.242.103`.

### ✓3. TCP/IP and Communication Between Computers

The internet uses the TCP/IP model, which consists of four layers:

#### 3.1. TCP/IP Model Overview

Layer	Protocols	Purpose
Application	HTTP, HTTPS, FTP	Defines how applications communicate (browser requests, APIs, etc.).
Transport	TCP, UDP	Ensures reliable (TCP) or fast (UDP) communication.
Internet	IP (IPv4, IPv6)	Routes packets using IP addresses.
Network Access	Ethernet, Wi-Fi	Transfers data over physical hardware.

### ✓4. HTTP/HTTPS Protocol

The HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is used to transfer data between clients and servers.

HTTP Request Components:

Method: GET, POST, PUT, DELETE

Headers: Metadata (User-Agent, Content-Type, Cookies)

Body: (Only for POST/PUT requests) Contains data being sent.

HTTPS (Secure HTTP):

Uses TLS/SSL encryption for security.

Protects against man-in-the-middle attacks.

## ✓5. TCP Handshake & Socket Connections

A socket connection allows two systems to communicate over the network.

### 5.1. TCP Three-Way Handshake

Before data is transferred, TCP establishes a connection using a three-step process:

SYN – Client sends a connection request to the server.

SYN-ACK – Server acknowledges and responds.

ACK – Client confirms, and the connection is established.

◆ After the handshake, data is sent reliably in packets.

## ✓6. Rendering Web Pages (Behind the Scenes)

Once a response is received from the server, the browser processes it in multiple steps:

Parsing the HTML (DOM tree creation).

Parsing CSS (CSSOM tree creation).

Building the Render Tree (DOM + CSSOM).

Layout (Calculating element positions).

Painting (Converting data into pixels).

Compositing (Rendering the page on the screen).

## ✓7. Key Internet Concepts for Your Interview

DNS resolution: Converts domain names to IP addresses.



HTTP vs. HTTPS: HTTP is plaintext, while HTTPS is encrypted.

TCP vs. UDP: TCP is reliable (used in web traffic), UDP is faster (used in gaming, streaming).

Browser Rendering: The sequence of parsing HTML, CSS, and executing JavaScript.

Client-Server Communication: The request-response model.

REST APIs: Communicating via HTTP with JSON or XML payloads.

## ✅ 8. Quick Summary

You enter a URL → DNS translates it into an IP.

Your browser establishes a TCP connection → 3-way handshake.

Browser sends an HTTP request → Server responds with data.

Browser processes and renders the page → HTML, CSS, JS execution.

## ✅ Operating System (OS) Topics Affecting Code Performance

### ✅ 1. Memory Management

Efficient memory management is crucial for application performance. Key concepts include:

#### 1.1. Virtual Memory & Paging

Modern OSs use virtual memory to give each process the illusion of having unlimited memory.

The OS divides virtual memory into pages (fixed-size blocks, typically 4KB).

The page table maps virtual addresses to physical memory addresses.

If a page is not in memory, a page fault occurs, requiring disk access (which is slow).

◆ Performance Impact: Excessive paging causes thrashing, slowing down applications due to frequent disk access.

## 1.2. Caching

CPU caches store frequently used data to reduce memory access time.

Levels: L1 (smallest, fastest), L2, L3.

Cache-friendly code (e.g., using contiguous arrays instead of linked lists) improves performance.

◆ Performance Impact: Poor cache utilization can lead to increased memory access latency.

## 1.3. Heap vs. Stack Memory

Stack: Stores function calls, local variables; fast but limited.

Heap: Stores dynamically allocated memory (malloc/new in C/C++); larger but slower.

◆ Performance Impact: Excessive heap allocations cause fragmentation and slow down performance.

# ✓2. Processes and Threads

A process is an instance of a running program, while threads are lightweight execution units within a process.

## 2.1. Process Characteristics

Each process has its own memory space (isolated from others).

Inter-Process Communication (IPC) (e.g., pipes, shared memory, message queues) is needed for processes to communicate.

◆ Performance Impact: Process switching is expensive due to context switching overhead.

## 2.2. Threads

Threads share memory within a process, making them more efficient for parallel tasks.

User-level threads (managed by the application) vs. Kernel-level threads (managed by OS).

◆ Performance Impact: Threads reduce overhead compared to processes, but improper usage can cause race conditions.

### ✓ 3. Multithreading & Synchronization

Multithreading allows a program to execute multiple parts simultaneously.

#### 3.1. Thread Synchronization Mechanisms

◆ Critical Section Problem: Ensuring only one thread accesses shared data at a time.

Common synchronization methods:

Mutex (Mutual Exclusion Lock) – Prevents multiple threads from modifying shared data.

Semaphores – Used for controlling access to resources.

Spinlocks – Keep checking a condition before proceeding.

Condition Variables – Used to signal threads when an event occurs.

◆ Performance Impact: Overuse of locks causes deadlocks and thread contention, reducing performance.

#### 3.2. Deadlocks

A deadlock occurs when two or more threads are waiting indefinitely for resources.

◆ Deadlock Prevention Techniques:

Avoid Circular Wait: Impose ordering on resource allocation.

Use Timeouts: Prevent indefinite blocking.

Deadlock Detection: Allow it to happen but detect and resolve.

◆ Performance Impact: Deadlocks halt progress, requiring manual intervention or OS intervention.

### ✓ 4. Scheduling

The OS decides which process/thread gets CPU time using scheduling algorithms.

#### 4.1. Scheduling Algorithms

First-Come, First-Served (FCFS): Simple but can cause the convoy effect.

Shortest Job Next (SJN): Prioritizes short tasks, but difficult to predict task lengths.

Round Robin (RR): Each process gets a fixed time slice (good for responsiveness).

Multi-Level Queue Scheduling: Groups processes into priority-based queues.

◆ Performance Impact: The wrong scheduling algorithm can lead to CPU underutilization or starvation.

### ✓5. Paging and Swapping

If a process needs more memory than available RAM, the OS swaps inactive pages to disk.

◆ Performance Impact: Too much swapping causes I/O bottlenecks.

### ✓6. I/O Performance

Disk and network operations impact performance.

Buffered I/O: Uses memory buffers to reduce frequent disk access.

Direct I/O: Reads directly from disk, bypassing OS buffers.

Asynchronous I/O (AIO): Allows programs to continue execution while waiting for I/O.

◆ Performance Impact: Blocking I/O operations slow down applications.

### ✓7. Quick Summary

OS Concept	Key Idea	Performance Impact
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Paging	Maps virtual to physical memory	Page faults slow down programs
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CPU Caching Stores frequently used data Cache-friendly code runs faster

Heap vs. Stack      Stack is fast, heap is flexible      Heap fragmentation increases overhead

Processes      Separate memory spaces      Context switching is expensive

Threads      Share memory within a process      Reduces overhead but can cause race conditions

Multithreading      Parallel execution of tasks      Poor synchronization causes deadlocks

Synchronization      Prevents race conditions      Locks reduce parallelism

Scheduling      Allocates CPU time to processes      Wrong scheduling causes CPU underutilization

Swapping      Moves pages between RAM and disk      Excessive swapping slows down apps

I/O Performance      Disk and network operations      Blocking I/O is slow

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I/O Performance	Disk and network operations	Blocking I/O is slow
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✓ Amazon SDE Interview - Leadership Principles with Technical Scenarios ✓


## 1. Customer Obsession (Technical Scenario)

 Question: "Tell me about a time when you had to put customer needs first, even if it meant extra effort on your part."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"While working on eSimTracker, I realized that users needed a real-time price comparison feature that wasn't initially planned. Instead of waiting for a later phase, I quickly built a basic version using web scraping and API integrations to fetch and display updated eSIM prices dynamically. This required extra effort, but I knew it would significantly enhance user experience. Within a few weeks, users reported higher engagement and found the platform more useful than competitors. This experience reinforced that prioritizing customer needs, even when it means extra effort, results in a better product and long-term success."


## 2. Ownership (Technical Scenario)


 Question: "Tell me about a time you took responsibility for fixing an issue outside your direct scope."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"In a previous project, I noticed that a critical API endpoint was causing frequent timeouts. Even though I wasn't assigned to backend optimizations, I took the initiative to analyze logs and found that database indexing was inefficient. I proposed and implemented an indexing strategy that improved response time by 40%. This fix not only solved the problem but also set a better standard for database optimization across the project. Just like in parenting, where I anticipate potential issues before they become problems, I believe in taking proactive ownership to ensure long-term success in software development."


## 3. Invent and Simplify (Technical Scenario)


 Question: "Give me an example of a time you simplified a complex system to improve efficiency."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"While developing a feature for eSimTracker, I initially planned to use multiple microservices for fetching eSIM pricing data. However, I realized this approach introduced unnecessary complexity and network overhead. Instead, I refactored the system to use a centralized caching mechanism (Redis), reducing API calls by 60% and significantly improving response time. This experience reminded me that simplicity often leads to higher performance and maintainability, just like how organizing my daily schedule helps me balance my role as a mother and software developer efficiently."


#### 4. Dive Deep (Technical Debugging Scenario)

 Question: "Describe a time when you found the root cause of a difficult bug."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"During a project, we faced intermittent system crashes that left no obvious logs. The team initially assumed it was a memory leak, but after digging deep into thread dump analysis, I found that the real issue was a race condition in our multi-threaded request handler. By implementing a thread-safe queue and mutex locks, I resolved the issue, preventing further crashes. This deep dive into debugging taught me that never assuming and always validating hypotheses is key in both software development and real-life problem-solving."


#### 5. Deliver Results (Tight Deadline Scenario)


 Question: "Tell me about a time you successfully delivered a project under tight deadlines and high pressure."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"While building eSimTracker, I had only a few weeks to deliver the first working prototype. Instead of overcomplicating the initial version, I focused on the core features (price comparison, UI/UX), using the MERN stack for rapid development. By prioritizing MVP principles, I launched on time, received early user feedback, and iterated based on real-world needs. This approach mirrors how I balance my personal and professional life—by identifying what truly matters, making fast but strategic decisions, and delivering results even under pressure."


## 6. Are Right, A Lot (Technical Decision-Making Scenario)

 Question: "Give me an example of a time you made a technical decision that others initially disagreed with."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"In one project, the team wanted to store user session data in SQL databases, but I advocated for using Redis-based session storage instead. I explained that SQL wasn't optimized for high-read/write operations and that Redis would provide low-latency access. Initially, there was resistance, but after a quick load testing comparison, Redis reduced query latency by 70%. The team adopted my approach, and it became the standard for other projects. I've learned that making informed decisions and backing them with data is critical to earning trust and driving improvements."

## 7. Think Big (Scalability & System Design Scenario)


 Question: "Tell me about a time you took a small idea and expanded it into something bigger and better."


 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"When I started working on eSimTracker, the initial idea was simply a basic price comparison table. However, I envisioned a scalable platform that would support real-time pricing updates, user reviews, and analytics dashboards. I planned the architecture using

MongoDB for flexibility and AWS Lambda for auto-scaling API requests. By thinking big from the start, I ensured the project had the potential to grow into a complete eSIM marketplace. This mindset of starting small but thinking long-term is something I apply to both software projects and personal growth."


#### 8. Bias for Action (Quick Decision-Making Scenario)


 Question: "Give me an example of a time you had to make a quick but impactful decision in a project."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"During a production deployment, I noticed that a recent code change was significantly slowing down response times. With only minutes before release, I made the call to roll back the deployment instead of pushing a potential bug to users. Though this delayed the release, it prevented a major performance issue that could have affected thousands of users. This experience reinforced my belief that acting quickly and decisively is better than allowing an issue to escalate."

#### 9. Insist on the Highest Standards (Code Quality & Best Practices Scenario)

 Question: "Tell me about a time you improved the quality of a project beyond what was expected."

 Answer (Your Story Applied):

"In one project, I noticed that the unit test coverage was below 50%, leading to frequent production issues. Even though it wasn't a direct requirement, I worked on writing additional test cases, improving code modularity, and enforcing linting rules. After this effort, test coverage reached 85%, and post-release defects dropped by 40%. Maintaining high standards in coding and in life ensures better results in the long run."

## 10. Earn Trust (Team Collaboration Scenario)

📌 Question: "Describe a time you had to earn trust from your teammates or stakeholders."

✅ Answer (Your Story Applied):

"When I joined a new team, there was hesitation about whether I could handle backend optimizations since my past experience was mostly frontend-focused. Instead of pushing my ideas forcefully, I took time to understand existing challenges, ask the right questions, and contribute well-researched insights. Within a month, I successfully implemented query optimizations that improved API response time by 50%, earning trust from my peers and stakeholders. I've learned that proving expertise through action rather than words is the best way to build credibility."

Final Thoughts & Next Steps

Key Takeaways:

Use the STAR Method → Situation → Task → Action → Result.

Connect Technical Scenarios to Leadership Principles.

Be Data-Driven → Show impact using metrics like % improvement in performance, time saved, or defects reduced.

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