



rishav ghosh <rishavghosh605@gmail.com>

I guarantee you're making this coding interview mistake...

1 message

Sam Gavis-Hughson <sam@byte-by-byte.com>

Mon, May 20, 2019 at 9:37 PM

Reply-To: reply-bytebybyte.activehosted.42.126.13780@s4.asa1.acemsd3.com

To: Rishav Ghosh <rishavghosh605@gmail.com>

Hey Rishav -

I'm going to share with you one of the more embarrassing moments from my childhood.

As a kid, I took piano lessons. The next door neighbors all got to take lessons so god dammit I wanted to do so as well. All told, I probably studied piano for 10 years and got respectably good during that time.

Now if you've never studied any performing arts you may not know this, but recitals are a fairly regular occurrence. Several times a year, you get a chance to actually perform what you've been learning.

In my case, my piano teacher had about 15 students, so we would have a recital for all the students and their parents. That meant on average you were performing for about 40 people.

Well, I get up there to perform the piece that I've been practicing. Given the number of people, I'm pretty nervous, despite having spent the last 6 months practicing and memorizing the piece.

I start playing and everything is going well. I'm not really paying attention to the audience, but I assume they're enjoying it.

And then...

I mess up.

Nothing horrible, but it causes me to stop for a second and restart. I start playing again, but immediately I know something is wrong.

I'm not playing the right notes.

I stop again.

I try to restart a second time and the notes are still wrong.

Now I'm starting to freak out a little bit, and I realize I have no idea what to do. I don't know what the notes are. In the context of the piece, I can play it just fine from the beginning, but I didn't prepare for this. I can't just start playing the song at a random part in the middle.

At this point all eyes are on me. My face is red. I sit there for a minute and then do the only thing I can do...

I start over.

Despite being over 2 minutes into a < 4 minute piece, I go back to the very beginning and play the whole goddamned piece again.

Luckily, the second time I made it through the piece without having to stop, but I realized something critical. You have to be able to self-correct if you get stuck. If I had simply practiced starting at different points during the song, I would have been fine.

5/25/2019

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When I interview people, I see one mistake more than any other. It's not lack of studying. It's not a crappy resume. It's not failing to develop rapport with me.

The single biggest mistake that people make is that they have no plan for what to do when they get stuck.

Like me in my piano recital, they are completely unprepared for this eventuality. And getting stuck is guaranteed to happen in your interview at one point or another.

Everyone gets stuck sometimes, but the difference between those who succeed and those who fail in their interviews is their ability to get unstuck.

That's all there is to it. Rather than hoping that you manage to make it through your interview without getting stuck on a problem, those who consistently succeed have a plan for what to do when things don't go their way.

Tomorrow, I'm going to show you the 10 most powerful strategies I know for getting unstuck in your interview. With these tools under your belt you'll be able to make it through even the toughest interview questions without stalling.

But in the meantime, I'm curious. **Hit reply to this email** and tell me about a time that you got stuck during your interview. I'm interested to hear your story!

Best,
Sam

Sent to: rishavghosh605@gmail.com

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