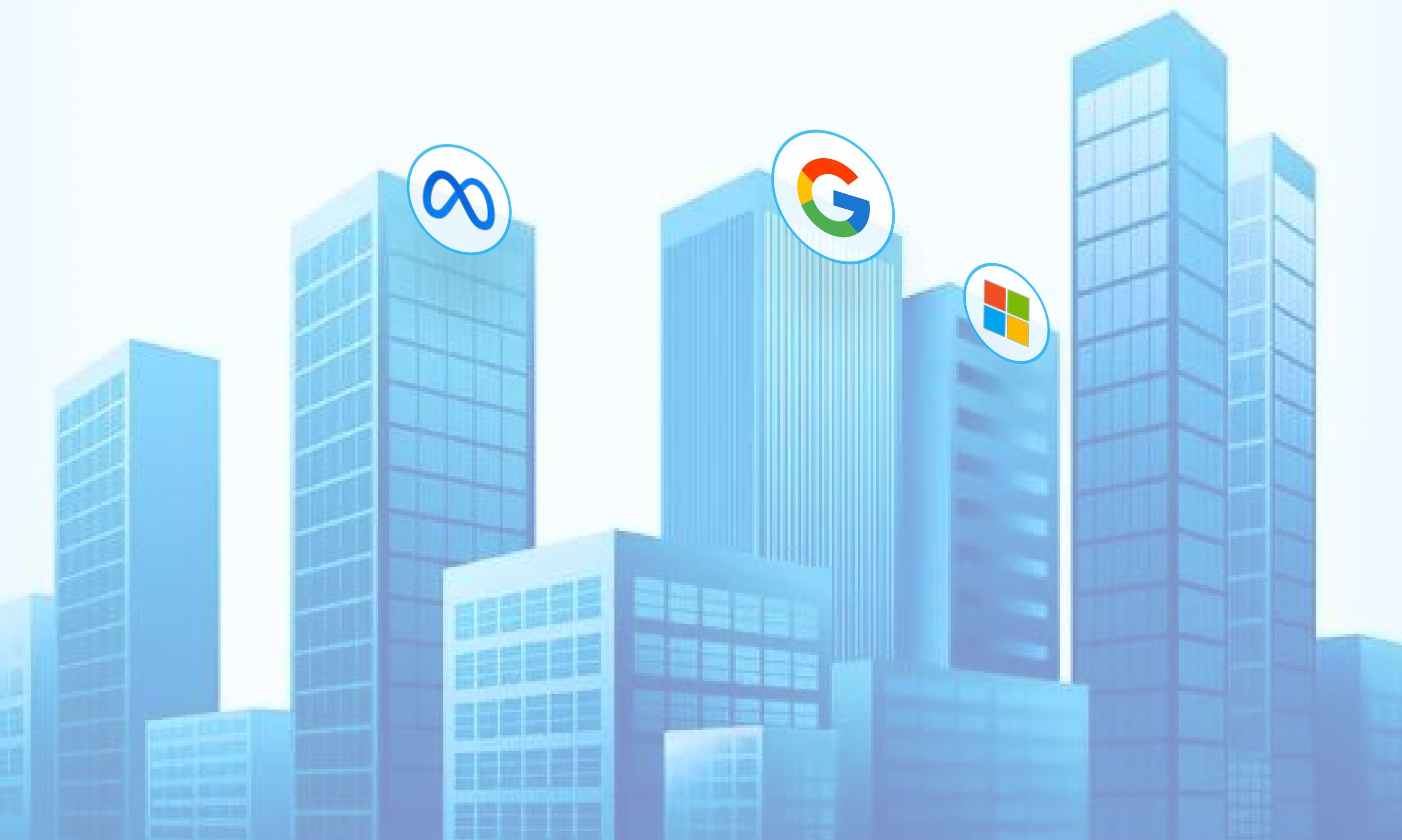


A Complete

INTERVIEW GUIDE

————— to Crack —————

Product Based Companies





Disclaimer

This doc should be used only as a reference guide for Interviews.

In no way or form does this guide guarantee selection for tech roles in Google, Microsoft or Meta.





GOOGLE INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Round 1 → Recruiter Call
- Round 2 → Technical Phone Interview Or Codility Quiz
- Round 3-4 → Onsite Interviews
- Round 5 → As Appropriate Interview



Online Assessment (New Grads & Interns)



Test Format

- **Duration:** 90 minutes
- **Questions:** 2 coding challenges on data structures & algorithms
- **Passing Criteria:** Solve both questions correctly



Tips

- **Question Style:** Similar to technical interviews
- **Testing:** Write your own test cases before submitting
- **Practice:**
 - a. Google Code Jam archives
 - b. LeetCode discussion thread



Remember

It's crucial to solve both questions accurately within the time limit.



Technical Phone Screen



Format

- 1-2 video interviews (Hangouts/Meet)
- 30-60 minutes each
- Interviewer: Peer or potential manager



Focus

- Coding challenges (data structures & algorithms)
- Collaboration in Google Doc (no IDE features)



Preparation

- Practice coding in Google Docs
- Anticipate behavioural questions ("Tell me about yourself", "Why Google?")



Bonus

Research common behavioural questions for software engineering interviews.

Onsite Interviews



Format

- Full day at Google office
- 4-6 interviews, 45 minutes each



Types

- **Coding:** 3 interviews with data structures & algorithms
- **System Design (For positions Level 5+):** 1-2 interviews on scalable & efficient systems
- **Googleness (i.e. culture fit):** Interviewer evaluates if you align with Google's values – comfort with ambiguity, action bias, and collaboration.



Coding Environment

- Whiteboard (standard) OR
- Chromebook with interview app (select locations)

Key

- Demonstrate strong coding & problem-solving skills
- Understand system design principles
- Show leadership qualities



Google System Design Interviews: Tips



Format

- Open-ended, conversational style
- Adapts to your background (e.g., API design if relevant)
- Multiple interviews for specific roles (infrastructure, security)



Focus

- Demonstrate creativity and structure in problem-solving
- Consider scalability, reliability, and maintainability
- Understanding system requirements, making scalable design
- Standard System Design Concepts like Load balancers, APIs, Network Protocols, Message queues, Caching, Databases, Client-server design, Design Patterns, Scalability





Frequently asked System Design Questions

- Google database for web indexing
- Google Docs
- Google Search
- Google Home (voice assistant)
- Other systems like book preview, social network, task scheduler, ticketing platform, YouTube click counter, user status page, job scheduler



Google Coding Interviews : Tips



Focus

- Strong problem-solving skills, structured thinking
- Accurate, bug-free, and efficient code



Frequently Asked Coding Questions

- **Data Structures:** Graphs, Trees, Arrays, Strings
- **Algorithms:** Dynamic Programming, Matrix, Targets, Recursion



Tips

1. **Clarify:** Ask questions to deeply understand the problem, constraints, and desired output.
2. **Break Down:** Divide the problem into smaller, manageable sub-problems.
3. **Start Simple:** Implement a basic, working solution first, then optimize later.
4. **Test Thoroughly:** Write test cases to cover various inputs and edge cases.
5. **Communicate Clearly:** Explain your code logic using comments and meaningful names.



Google Googlyness Interviews : Tips

Google says that Googlyness is about finding employees who:
“...dream of the next moonshot idea, thrive in ambiguity, value feedback, effectively challenge the status quo, and do the right thing.”

Common questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why Google?
- Recent project you're proud of.
- Resolving team conflict experience.
- Favorite Google product.

Tips

- **Practice common behavioral questions:** Research and rehearse answering typical behavioral interview questions to enhance your comfort and clarity.
- **Do your research:** Demonstrate knowledge of Google's values, mission, and recent company developments.



- **Prepare your own questions:** Have thoughtful questions ready to ask the interviewer, showcasing your genuine interest and engagement.





INTERVIEW PROCESS AT MICROSOFT

Microsoft's interview process consists of the following steps:

- Round 1 → Recruiter Call
- Round 2 → Technical Phone Interview Or Codility Quiz
- Round 3-4 → Onsite Interviews
- Round 5 → A's Appropriate Interview



ROUND 1

Recruiter Call



Time

20-30 minutes



Purpose

- Initial contact to assess candidate's interests and qualifications.
- Discuss past jobs, what you did, and its impact.
- Explain technical work in simple terms for non-tech recruiters.



Key Discussion Topics

- Talk about past roles, individual vs. team work.
- Highlight impact on business in a nutshell.
- Avoid sharing salary info to stay flexible in negotiations.



Note

Suitable for freshers or experienced.



Technical Phone Interview Or Codility Quiz



Phone Interview

- **Duration:** 30 minutes
- **LeetCode-style coding** (easy-medium)
- Held over **Teams or Skype**
- Interviewer evaluates based on **code efficiency**, **willingness to learn** and **optimization process**



Codility Quiz (timed)

- 2-4 coding questions, to be solved within 60-90 minutes.
- Pass/fail based on test cases, correctness, and code quality



Tips

1. Prioritize mastering common data structures and algorithms (LeetCode easy-medium)
2. Prepare for unexpected questions and demonstrate flexibility in thinking



Onsite Interviews

Contain Both Coding Interviews And System Design Interviews (For Experienced Developers)



Coding Interviews

- **Duration:** 45-60 minutes
- **Expect LeetCode medium-hard difficulty:** Questions will focus on common data structures and algorithms.
- **Popular topics:** Arrays & strings, linked lists, graphs & trees, dynamic programming



System Design Interviews (for experienced developers)

- **Duration:** 45-60 minutes
- **Showcase diverse skills:** Prepare for full-stack questions (webpage + backend) if applying for such roles.
- **Practice with tools:** Codility Canvas and Excalidraw are popular choices for whiteboard diagramming.



-
- **Skill Set required:** Understanding system requirements, making scalable design, Standard System Design Concepts like Load balancers, APIs, Network Protocols, Message queues, Caching, Databases, Content Delivery Networks (CDNs), Client-server design, Design Patterns, Scalability



Bonus tips

- Ask clarifying questions to fully understand the problem and constraints.
- Explain your trade-offs and design decisions clearly.
- Demonstrate passion for the technical area and Microsoft's mission.



A's Appropriate Interview

- **Duration:** 30-45 minutes
- **Prepare for the usual questions:** Strengths, weaknesses, failures, conflicts, projects, lessons learned, why Microsoft
- **Showcase soft skills:** Positivity, ownership, communication, teamwork, embracing ambiguity.
- **Possible coding component:** Expect an easy/medium LeetCode-style problem in some cases.



Bonus tips

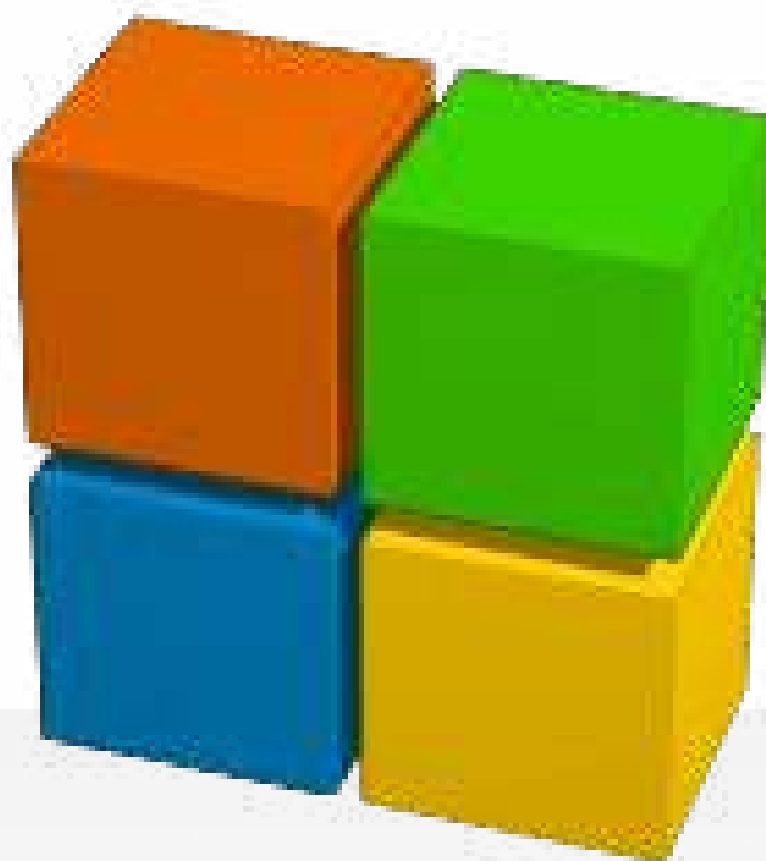
- Use the STAR method to answer behavioral questions (Situation, Task, Action, Result).
- Ask thoughtful questions to show interest and engagement.
- Highlight your accomplishments and teamwork abilities.
- Be enthusiastic and genuine about Microsoft and the role.



CONCLUSION

To sum it up

- Good problem solving skills with sufficient practice in Data Structures and Algorithms
- System Designing skills
- Behavioural skills are all that are needed to crack that Microsoft Interview.





INTERVIEW PROCESS AT META

- **Round 1 → Initial Technical Screen**

(Fresher/Experienced)

- **Round 2 → Coding Interview**

(Fresher/Experienced)

- **Round 3 → Coding Interview**

(Fresher/Experienced)

- **Round 4 → Design Interview**

(Experienced)

- **Round 5 → Design Interview**

(Experienced)

- **Round 6 → Behavioural Interview**

(Fresher/Experienced)



ROUND 1

Initial Technical Screen



No. of coding question asked

2-3 Questions generally in coderpad.io or Whiteboard interview if offline



Time

45 minutes



Difficulty Level

Easy-Medium



Most asked topics

Computer Science(CS) fundamentals like algorithms, data structures, recursions, and binary trees



Skillset required

Problem Solving in Data Structures and Algorithms



Note

Suitable for freshers and experienced.



Coding Interview



No. of coding question asked

2-3 Questions



Time

45 minutes



Difficulty Level

Medium-Hard



Most asked topics

Graphs, Trees, BFS, DFS, Strings, Linked Lists, Dynamic Programming, Algorithms and Complexities



Skillset required

Proficiency in CS fundamentals, problem-solving, Effective coding and communication, Dry running code



Note

Suitable for freshers and experienced.



Design Interview



Two types of design interviews

systems design and product design

Product Design Interviews at Meta:

- Ideal for candidates working on full-stack/middle-tier backend.
- Focus on APIs, data modeling, client-server interaction, and user experience.

Systems Design Interviews at Meta:

- Concentrate on large-scale systems, emphasizing scalability, concurrency, reliability, etc.



Time

45 minutes



Difficulty Level

Medium-Hard





Sample questions

Design a URL shortener, Build a Facebook chat, Architect a worldwide video distribution system, Design a service or product API, Design a chat service or a feed API, Design an email server, Architect the front end of a messaging system, Design video in Facebook newsfeed



Skillset required

Understanding system requirements, making scalable design, Standard System Design Concepts like Load balancers, APIs, Network Protocols, Message queues, Caching, Databases, Content Delivery Networks (CDNs), Client-server design, Design Patterns, Scalability



Note

Suitable for experienced professionals.



ROUND 6

Managerial Round (Offline)



Type of question

Behavioural Questions



Time

45 minutes



Difficulty Level

Medium



Skillset required

Resolving Conflict, Ability to Grow Continuously, Embracing Ambiguity, Driving Results, Communicating Effectively



Frequently Asked Questions

How do you Handle pressure, How to Deal with difficult co-worker, Why Meta, Constructive feedback, How you dealt with a Disagreement experience, How did you showcase Leadership, Examples of mistakes made and how you bounced back, What is your Proudest accomplishment



Preparation Tips

- Review résumé, outline 2-3 major projects
- Be honest about successes and challenges
- Use the S.T.A.R. method for organized responses
- Provide concrete examples, avoid theoretical answers



CONCLUSION

To sum it up

- Good problem solving skills with sufficient practice in Data Structures and Algorithms
- System Designing skills
- Behavioural skills are all that are needed to crack that Meta Interview.





WHY BOSSCODER?

**Preparing to ace all of these rounds but
lacking direction and focus?**

If structured guidance and mentorship is what you require in this long and tiring journey, to make your preparation for companies like Microsoft, Google, Meta, Amazon etc totally easier, check out Bosscoder Academy!

The syllabus is most
up-to-date and the list of
problems provided covers
all important topics.

Lavanya
 Meta



Course is very well
structured and streamlined
to crack any MAANG
company

Rahul




EXPLORE MORE