

INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE (CIENA)

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-Students had to select a preferred programming language between C and Java.

Round 1 (Online Assessment):

-Different set of questions for C and Java.

-OA was on the Codility platform, with only C and Java as allowed languages.

-For C, the assessment was divided into 4 or 5 tasks. The questions for first 4 sections involved MCQs on aptitude, correcting the given incorrect code for the mentioned task by changing at most 1 or 2 lines of code. Last task was a coding question to be done in C, where we needed to provide a working correct solution rather than an optimised solution.

Around 40 students were shortlisted for the interview rounds.

Round 2 (Interview 1):

I had two interviewers for the first round. We started with projects where they asked more clarifying questions to better understand the problem statement. They didn't ask much from projects, making the discussion very brief. Next, they asked me to write a recursive code to print the Fibonacci series. They then extended the conversation to static variables and where they are stored in memory.

Then they gave me a matrix and asked me to write some code to i) print diagonal elements and ii) print the matrix in spiral form. Next, they asked me about paging and segmentation techniques, what are they and why are they used. Following that I was given a code segment in C which had a struct with a nested union and the objective was to find the size of an object for that struct. And then some more basic output questions.

They concluded the interview by asking about my proficiency in C and C++ language and also why I am interviewing at Ciena.

Round 3 (Interview 2):

This interview was taken by the team lead. He started out by asking about my projects. The discussion went into C++ STL (as I had written that on my resume) and how are pointers relevant in the context of STL.

Questions from all subjects and concepts were asked in a random manner. Some of the questions were as follows:

What would happen if we were to make MAC addresses of two hosts same? How can we extend the no. of hosts for 48-bit MAC addresses once the limit is exhausted?

How is Java different from C, C++ and why do these differences exist?
If we write a simple hello world program in both C and Java then how will the size of the compiled code compare?

Explain endianness of a system and write a code snippet for checking the same for any given system

How is BFS different from DFS and under what situations one should prefer BFS over DFS and vice versa?

What is a singleton class?

How one should decide on which language to choose for a given task?

Why C++ ?

The interviewer concluded the discussion by asking if I had any questions for him. I asked him about the expected career progression and the tech stack the team used.

-interview rounds were not elimination based. Everyone had to give 2 interviews (some exceptions)

-I had no direct DSA questions. OA and the interviews were language and programming specific.

-At the end of the drive, 12 students were selected for the available roles.

Tips to keep in mind while preparing for Ciena:

-Be confident. Even if you're not sure about something, explain whatever you know about the topic. Even in theoretical questions, think about the concepts and try to express your thinking and don't give up on the question.

-Prepare your theoretical subjects well, especially Computer Networks and Operating Systems. Interviews were mainly based on these subjects and also make sure you know your chosen language well.

-Read about the company and prepare basic HR questions in advance.

-focus on aptitude and programming for OA.

ALL THE BEST!