

Yetendra Bhandari
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Cvent Interview Experience (Intern + FTE)

ROUND 1: (APTITUDE + TECHNICAL) – 60 MINUTES

Total of 30 questions to be done in 60 minutes which were from different topics like SQL, C++, Java. If you know the basics you can easily clear this round.

45 students were qualified for the next round

ROUND 2: (CODING) – 60 MINUTES

There was a single question to be done in 1 hour.

Q: A retail store chain wants to expand into a new neighbourhood. To maximize the number of clients, the new branch should be at a distance of no more than K from all the houses in the neighbourhood. A is a matrix of size $N \times M$, representing the neighbourhood as a rectangular grid, in which each cell is either an integer 0 (an empty plot) or 1 (a house). The distance between two cells is calculated as the minimum number of cell borders (regardless of whether the cells on the way are empty or occupied) that one has to cross to move from the source to the target cell (without moving through corners). A store can be only built on an empty plot. How many suitable locations are there?

For example, $K = 2$, $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Answer: 2

Explanation: Houses are located in cells with coordinates (2, 3), (3, 1) and (3, 4). We can build a new store on two empty plots that are close enough to all the houses. The first possible empty plot is located at (3, 2). The distance to the first house at (2, 3) is 2, the distance to the second house at (3, 1) is 1, and the third house at (3, 4) is at a distance of 2. The second possible empty plot is located at (3, 3). The distances to the first, second and third houses are respectively 1, 2, 1.

16 students were shortlisted

ROUND 3: (F2F INTERVIEW) – 60 MINUTES

According to my resume my profile was of a frontend developer. The interviewer asked me whether I wanted to begin with data structures & algorithms or development related questions. I was quite confident in my development skills so I went with the latter. I opened the online coding platform Codility and she asked me a few questions about ReactJS and also code them. I admitted that I might be wrong on the syntax, although I perfectly remembered the concepts. She was very cooperative throughout the process. The questions themselves were pretty basic and after that she asked me only a single DSA question.

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/majority-element/>

There are multiple solutions to this, but I already knew the optimal answer (Boyer-Moore Majority Element Algorithm) beforehand. I even admitted it to her that I knew the algorithm and it is not very intuitive.

She asked me whether I had any questions for them. I asked them about the company and the work-culture and future prospects at Cvent. I also asked for a feedback on my performance to which she replied that they are allowed to directly do so. Then, I was told to brush up on skills/languages that I put on my resume before an interview.

10 students made it to Round 4

ROUND 4: (F2F INTERVIEW) – 60 MINUTES

The interviewer greeted me and was very friendly. He only asked me a single question which dragged on throughout the interview.

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/nuts-bolts-problem-lock-key-problem/>

I did not know the solution to this beforehand so I had to come up with one myself. We discussed a variety of algorithms by which it could be done. Each time he followed up by adding an additional constraint which rendered my previous solution infeasible. One of them involved a hash-map and he asked me to explain their working(hash functions, collisions). Near the end, I was about to give up and could only think of the brute-force solution. Then, he explained the problem statement to me, one more time. This time, he gave me an important clue(while comparing a nut and bolt, you can also know whether it was tight or loose). Finally, I was able to come up with the solution.

He told me that we were done with the interview and asked me if I had any questions for him. I did not have any as I had already asked them in the previous round. I was worried that I took so long for a single question and even apologised to him for this. He said it was not an issue at all as we had a healthy discussion.

Only 7 students made it to the next round

ROUND 5: (Aptitude and Personality Test) – (45-60 Minutes)

It was a CCAT test in which the aptitude section contained 50 questions to be done in 22 minutes with no negative marking and the personality test had no time limit. The aptitude test was very easy. You can do almost all the questions if you manage your time well.

All 7 students were selected for the Intern + FTE offer

TIPS:

1. Spread positivity throughout your placement season. You all will need it.
2. Rejection is a part of the placement process.
3. Assume that you can be asked anything from your resume in detail.
4. Don't try to anticipate the outcome of your interview (or anyone else's).
5. If you have not yet decided your programming language, go with Java.