

INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE - AXTRIA

Vallabh Tiwari, M.Sc.

Total Rounds - 3

Round 1 - Online Assessment

- Duration - 90 minutes
- Total Number of questions - 75
- Topics - Quantitative Aptitude ,Logical Reasoning ,Data Interpretation, Verbal Ability(about 60) and CS Fundamentals(about 15). Easy to medium level questions.

Round 2 - Technical Interview(20-25 mins)

The interview was a good, in depth discussion on my projects. Other than my projects, nothing else was asked or discussed. No dsa, puzzles, fundamentals or anything.

I entered the room. The person was doing some work, so for about two minutes there was silence.

Then he asked, "So you are Mr...?" . "Vallabh Tiwari", I replied.

"So Vallabh Ji, how should we start ?". With a pause I said, "As you like, Sir...".

Then he introduced himself briefly and asked me for the same. After that he gave a quick look at my projects(mentioned in my resume) and asked to say something about the projects that I had made. I had given four projects. Three were about backend development on django(a hostel management app, a file sharing app and a url shortener) and the other one was an open source contribution in Ruby. I said that I can describe any of the projects you wish. He asked, "*What projects have you made ?*". I quickly named all of them with a one line description(languages and frameworks used). "*So you like coding in python ?*". I replied, "*Yes, I do*".

"*Tell me something about the file sharing app.*" I replied, "*It is a very simple file sharing app in which a user can upload files. He will be given a short url using which he can download the files.*" "*Why have you made this app ? There are various other apps already available for this. What problem is this app solving ?*". I replied, "*I didn't make this project to solve any problem. I was going through blogs about backend development where I came through background tasks and periodic tasks. I just wanted to learn how these things work. I implemented these features just for learning how they work.*" Further he asked, "*You have mentioned Celery as a daemon(systemd). What is this ?*". I replied, "*When we are in development, we can open multiple terminal windows to run the django server, the celery workers or redis server(used by celery), but this is not possible in deployment. So for this I wrote init scripts, through which Celery and Redis server(used as a task broker) are running as daemons.*" He said, "Okay, understood."

Then he asked to describe the Hostel management app in particular. I started with why I made this project. "*I made this project when I was living in a PG. There, when a person came for a room, the owner used to take the documents for verification and rent physically.*"

Also every month he used to knock on my door for rent. This irritated me very much. So I decided to make an app which would ease his tasks and also save me from his monthly appearances. So I made this app. About 2/3rd of the features are ready. I am working on it".

I had mentioned some of the features of the app in my resume like - advanced features like CRUD, user authentication(signup, login/logout), razorpay integration and more.

He said, "You have mentioned features like CRUD, what is CRUD ?". I couldn't frame a good definition for it, but I said, "They are the four basic features a backend should implement". "What are they ?". "Create, Read, Update and Delete", I mentioned.

"How have you implemented these features ?".

I started, "Basically there are two types of users in this app, the resident and the admin user. I have implemented CRUD functionalities for both of them. For example an admin user can add a new room, view room information like rent, type of room, status(occupied or not), update room details, add or delete a resident, view payment details or verification details and more. A resident can apply for a room, submit details for verification, view or update his profile and more."

"You have also mentioned razorpay integration, have you done that ?". I felt a bit strange, but I replied positively. "How are you doing this ?", he asked. "So I have made two functions, one for requesting payment from razorpay api and the other to handle the response from the api ". He was not satisfied, he further asked, "If you have to add payment functionality in your website what are the steps you will follow, will you first make the request to the api ?". I replied, "No, first I will gather all the details like the amount, payer, payee etc. Then I will create a payment object, then I will make the request to the api after which I will handle the response." "Have you really done it ?", he asked. I felt very strange, I asserted, "Yes sir, I have done it." Later I realised that I had missed a few steps in explaining, maybe because of that he was not satisfied. He further asked, "Are there any security issues, flaws or problems you faced in adding the payment functionality ?". I replied, "Yes sir, there is a problem in this. I have still not been able to solve it. When I am making the request to the razorpay api and then handling the response, the function in which I am handling the response, for a very short period the session is getting cleared. All my session variables are getting lost and the user who is making the payment is getting logged out for that short period. Although that is not visible to the user, because immediately after handling the response everything is restored like before. But why is this happening is the problem. I tried to debug very much and find the reason for this, read many blogs also but couldn't find the reason."

He further asked, "Have you made these projects for your academics, for your semester or for self learning and interest ?". I told that I had made the projects out of my interests and for self learning.

After a few more small questions on my projects, he said that if I had any questions or any doubt. I asked if he could tell me the reason or solution to the problem I mentioned about the payment functionality. He replied, "Not in this session, maybe later. Other than this if you have any other doubt, you can ask". I asked that there are different products in Axtia that I saw on the company's website like Axtia DataMax, Axtia SalesIQ etc. If I get to work with Axtia, in which unit would I work ?

He replied for a fresher there are no hard and fast rules. We will teach you about all things and assign you some. Later, by talking to your senior or manager, you can get a task based on your interests or expertise.

With this the technical interview ended.

Round 3 - HR Round(20 mins)

This round was a mix of a few behavioural questions, project discussion on a more abstract level and some other questions.

Again the person was doing something when I entered so a few minutes of silence.

Then he introduced himself after which I introduced myself. He said that I had mentioned working in Chegg as a Q&A expert for about a year in my resume, and if I could elaborate it. I said that Chegg connects students to experts. Students can post their doubts or questions and experts answer it. It is basically for helping students in their assignments or studies. He further asked if it was an office job. I replied that it was like work from home. He asked if I knew where the office of Chegg was. I said that I don't know. Then he asked which type of queries did you get as an expert in Chegg and if I could give some examples. I said that I got backend development related queries and also from academics(CS) or basic programming questions and gave few examples of the queries I got.

He asked me about my favourite subject. I said that I don't have any favourite subject in particular. It is not like that I like a subject and don't like a subject. But yes I like backend development very much.

He asked me, "So you like backend development ? Are you good at it ?". With a little hesitation and smile I said, "Yes, I am". He replied, "No you should feel that way(feeling good about what you do). That is good!!."

Then he asked about my projects. He asked the same question of what problem is your file sharing app solving as there are already many apps for that. I gave the same reply which I gave in the technical round. Since this project was live, he saw it working on my portfolio and there was a good discussion about how things were working. He asked if I am doing something about the security of your app, like if someone hacks into your website and gets your files. Where are you storing your files, on the disk or in the database? I replied to all the questions and he looked satisfied. He further asked that if I am doing something for the integrity of the files like after uploading and before downloading someone might modify it. He further asked about checksum, and how I could use it to achieve integrity of files. I explained checksum but couldn't explain how I could use it. I said that I haven't thought much about it.

He then asked about the hostel management app, need, few good features, database that I am using, which databases do I know. I explained all these things. He asked me a few things about postgres like its features, is it free, is there a paid plan for it etc. I replied to all his questions and he looked satisfied.

He further asked me what things I will keep in mind or ask before making a software or choosing a database in particular(like postgres or mysql or sqlite) if he was a client. I replied

with details like type of data to be dealt with, amount of data, number of users, type of input, output and various other details. He looked satisfied.

Then he asked about any of my good achievements. I gave an answer. He then asked if I had plans of further studies after Masters from DU.

At last he asked if I had any questions from him. I asked a few questions about different countries in which Axtria has offices and if they have any plans to open in Japan or Australia.

With this the HR round ended.

Tips :-

- Make one or two good projects, (hosting a project would be a big advantage).
- Keep your resume 100% true.
- Know everything mentioned in your resume.
- Mention achievement or work experience even if it is small or less.
- Be honest while answering.
- If possible, think for a few seconds, frame good sentences before answering.
- If not, practice before the interview.
- Explain things in a simple and easy way.
- Ask questions, especially when the interviewers say if you have any questions to ask.
- Do some research about the company.