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Paytm Interview Experience

Coding Round

Platform: CoCubes
Language: C, C++, Java, C#
Time: 70 minutes
3 Coding Questions

1. Given an array A find the number with the maximum occurrence of digit k.
Input: A = [1, 2, 212, 322, 123], k = 2
Output: 322

2. https://leetcode.com/problems/set-matrix-zeroes/

3. https://leetcode.com/problems/subtree-of-another-tree/

Advice:
1. The round was very easy. Just keep your calm, get comfortable with the platform first.
2. Java/C++ are better choices for DSA as every platform supports these.
3. Dry run your code as default cases might pass but it doesn't mean solution is correct.

Technical Round 1

The interviewer was friendly. He first introduces himself and then it started with my interview. After that, he asked me to tell about any of my projects. I began with the motivation of the project like why did I implement it and then to the technical aspects.

Then he proceeded with coding questions. The platform he used was collabedit.
1. Standard Longest Palindromic Substring.
https://leetcode.com/problems/longest-palindromic-substring/

2. Recover Binary Search Tree
https://leetcode.com/problems/recover-binary-search-tree/

Technical Round 2

First of all, I introduced myself. Then he asked me to explain my best project. I explained it then he asked if I had hosted that project or not. I said no and told the security vulnerabilities of my project and how it can be resolved. He seemed quite happy with that. Then he asked me to explain my second project. Again I began with the motivation of that and then to the technical aspects and finally what have I achieved after implementing it. To me, he seemed very impressed by that and that gave a boost.

Then we began with coding questions on google docs.

1. Minimum Number of Platforms Required for a Railway/Bus Station
Given arrival and departure times of all trains that reach a railway station, the task is to find the minimum number of platforms required for the railway station so that no train waits. We are given two arrays that represent arrival and departure times of trains that stop.

https://leetcode.com/problems/car-pooling/

Examples:

***Input**: arr[] = {9:00, 9:40, 9:50, 11:00, 15:00, 18:00}*

dep[] = {9:10, 12:00, 11:20, 11:30, 19:00, 20:00}

2. https://leetcode.com/problems/linked-list-cycle/
We had a discussion on why does the standard approach works and I gave my very own explanation instead of the standard mathematical one and that I feel again was a good impression.

3. https://leetcode.com/problems/search-in-rotated-sorted-array/
I directly went with the optimal solution. He told me to code it on ideone. Also, he made me write the main function and run on many test cases.

4. https://leetcode.com/problems/valid-sudoku/
Again I went with the optimal approach and discussing various implementations. He asked me to optimize it further and I told him that it was not possible.

He then asked me subjective questions.

1. What are TCP and UDP?
2. What is Semaphore?
3. What do you understand by Normalization?

Technical Round 3

I feel the interviewer was in a different mood this time. He directly began with coding questions.

1. https://leetcode.com/problems/find-median-from-data-stream/
I began with the solution and further optimizing it. He told me you have done it and I accepted the fact and went on with the solution.

2. Given a 2 dimensional plane with oil tanks on it. Find the pipeline that is nearest to the oil tanks.

This was the only question I gave a thought to. I could not understand the question so I went on clearing the requirements until the question was clear to me. Asking questions about how the input is given. Where could a pipeline pass from and so on? I had a belief that this can't be something I haven't done and within a minute or 2, I broke it.

https://leetcode.com/problems/max-points-on-a-line/

Advice:
1. Have faith on the process not on the results. You will eventually get what is best for you. Try to radiate positive vibrations.
2. Don't rush or hesitate. Slowly and Clamly present your thoughts.
3. If you have any doubts about the above questions or any other questions or regarding anything feel free to contact me. You can find my every contact detail on https://snishal.github.io/

Have a great life.