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ThoughtWorks (Application Developer)
Interview Experience

Round 1: Online Assessment

Platform: HackerRank

Duration: 75 min

Date: 16 September, 2021

There were 10-15 basic MCQs on CS Fundamentals, outputs and Aptitude and 2 programming questions. Even if you have a basic Naïve solution, go for it first. Your first priority should be to pass the test cases and then optimize if time permits. I had passed all the test cases many of which were hidden.

Out of 25 students 5 were selected in this round.

Note: If you have only 5 minutes remaining try not to alter your working code. I did the mistake in one of my online assessments and then could not correct it on time.

Round 2: Pair Programming

Platform: Zoom, IDE of your choice

Duration: 1:30 hr.

Date: 17 September, 2021

This is somewhat different round from other interviews. In this round you are given a problem statement with examples and you have to code it using the concepts of OOPs i.e. Using classes, encapsulation, abstraction, inheritance etc. It is called pair programming because you will be taking help or collaborating with two of the ThoughtWorks interviewers, to who you can clarify the problem and ask for helps and hints. Make sure to communicate your approach and advancements throughout your coding process. Keep in mind collaborating is the main essence here. Two interviewers will be taking turns asking if you need any help. Do acknowledge them of your advancement. You will need to show a running code.

The IDE choice will be up to you. I chose Eclipse IDE which was local to my machine, to code in java. Make sure you get familiar with the IDE one day before the interview. Practice creating dummy packages and classes if you aren't familiar creating them, just to get a hang of it.

You will be given a zoom room and screen sharing and webcam will be on.

I did the question taking hints. One of my intermediate functions was giving null results which I bypassed and the program gave the correct output. The main objective here is to test if you can write clean code using OOPs.

Question : <https://github.com/YogeshSharma0201/ThoughtWorks-pair-coding-round>

Round 3: Technical Interview

Platform: Zoom

Duration: 1:30 hr.

Date: 18 September, 2021

There were two interviewers. Both really friendly. We exchanged greetings and our introductions first and had a talk about our hobbies and interests.

Then they asked me about my favorite data structures and asked me to show how a linked list is represented in memory (one node having address of the next node).

Then they asked about my projects which I explained them. Make sure to prepare your projects well. The strategy I chose was, I first explained my motivation behind the project, then why I chose the platform(android) I had decided to make my project on, the technologies I used (like android studio as IDE and firebase for authentication and data management), the challenges I faced, how it can be made better and function extension plans if any. They asked me to explain the structure of the database I had made, which I did.

Then they asked me a DSA question,

Given an array of integers, check if a pair exists whose sum is equal to the sum of the remaining array elements.

Which I started by telling the brute force approach, then optimizing on that. I got stuck at the most optimal approach for which they gave hint to me and asked me to code it on notepad, which I did.

After that they asked me to design a basic Relational database for a company and asked to write a few queries on it.

Then at last they asked me if I had any questions. I asked them about the work that a fresher does in the company. You should also ask for the feedback and their suggestions on how you can improve.

Round 4: Social Change and Leadership Interview

Platform: Zoom

Duration: 1 hr.

Date: 20 September, 2021

The interview started with introduction from both sides. The interviewer then asked about my family. She then asked why did I choose to do MCA. She asked me to explain what I understood by digitization to which I gave a generic answer on which she told me that it was about cloud computing. She then asked briefly about my project and team members (you can show your teamwork and leadership skills over here, through situations you faced in a team and how you handled them).

For Social Change go through their website and read about the work they do for social welfare and the inclusive work culture they have. She asked me about the work done by Delhi government and any suggestions I would like to give them and a recent issue that I feel about. Express your opinions honestly but in a polite manner. Make it a good discussion.

At last, she asked me If I had any questions for her, I asked her about the work culture and the way the company does social welfare work.

I was offered internship + FTE.

Sidenote: You don't have to know everything, there is a lot that you can deduce or you can learn. Be consistent, even if you are slow you will learn, there is always enough time and opportunities. Take breaks and try to take it easy. Go for evening walks and refresh yourself, however you like to do that. Out of all the companies you just have to hit one. Believe me you are better than you think you are. :)