Ciena Interview Experience (For C Language)

- Nidhi, MCS 2021-23

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Round – 1 : Online Assessment

75 mins, 6 sections, Platform - Codility

Section 1, 2, 3 – Quantitative Aptitude Questions

(Difficulty Level – Very Easy)

Section 4, 5 – Debugging

Given code in C, modify at most 1 line (section 4) or at most 2 lines (section 5) to make it work for the given problem statement.

(Difficulty Level - Easy)

Section 6 – Writing complete code for a given problem in C.

Problem Statement – Given an integer N (1 <= N <= 500), return the smallest integer > N such that sum of the digits of the returned no. is at least twice the sum of the digits in N.

(They were only interested in the correctness of the solution and not the time & space complexity, so a brute force solution was enough, and so this was also an easy section.)

Round – 2 : Technical Interview

30-40 mins

- Introduced myself
- Had a brief discussion on one of my projects
- A lot of programming and conceptual ques from C/C++ were asked, like static variables (define and give eg.), array vs linked lists, find number of elements in the array without using loop, define node in Linked list, write code to insert an element in the list, many questions on pointers, retrieve last and second last bytes in a hex number, etc.
- I asked some questions about the tech stack used in the company which lead to a brief discussion on computer networks

(Tip – Always ask questions if you are unclear on something, don't just assume. Also, think about your answer very carefully, don't answer in a rush.)

Round – 3 : Technical Interview

30-40 mins

- Icebreaker general questions about my schooling, projects etc.
- **A lot of** questions on computer networks, like router vs switch, ip address vs mac address, how does a router work, what happens when you type google.com in the browser, what is a DNS, etc.
- Write complete working code for merging 2 sorted arrays and returning the median (I don't know why he thought that was going to be difficult to do :'))
- Big endian and little endian difference, and write code to check if your machine is big endian or little endian

(Tip – Confess if you don't know the answer to something, **do not** try to bluff your way through.)

Conclusion

For Ciena, have a very good knowledge of CS core topics, especially Operating Systems and Computer Networks. Practice interview questions related to them thoroughly. This company does not give that much importance to DSA (acc. to my observation), but focuses more on OS and CN knowledge, and your Resume. Have in-depth knowledge of your chosen programming language.

Keep calm in your interview, the interviewer will give hints if you get stuck, you just have to catch them and build up your answer from there. Stay positive.

All the best!