Ace The Coding Interview
Essential .NET Interview Questions

The ultimate guide to mastering the tech interview: programming questions and solutions.

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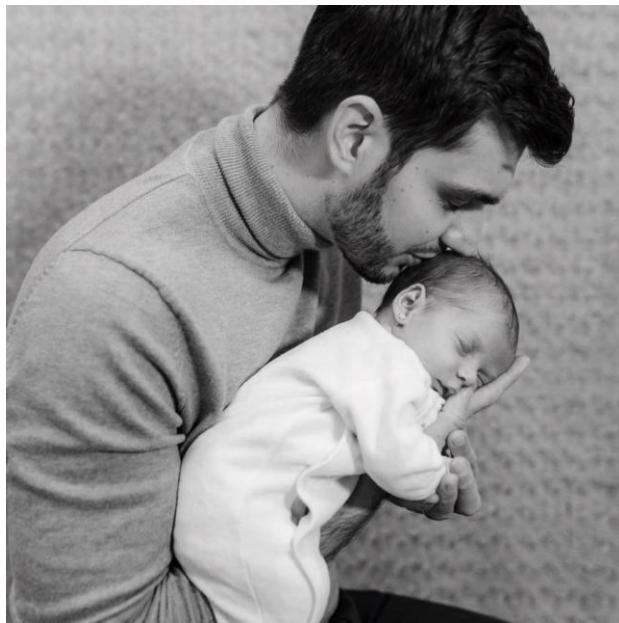
ION-COSMIN GRIGORE

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Ion-Cosmin Grigore

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cosmin is the instructor of one the best full stack web development Courses for beginners, called "From A Non Programmer To Full Stack .NET Developer", **a beginners guide** you can find on Udemy.

He grew up in Ploiesti and graduated from the University Politehnica of Bucharest. He has over 7 years of professional experience in software development, having had the opportunity to improve his **teaching** and **leadership** skills. The surprising fact is that 8 years ago he knew nothing about web development and he is now an engineering manager with a strong full stack development background.

He is passionate about personal development, nurturing emotional intelligence, social and financial skills in every possible way, this being proven by the numerous personal projects we worked on, including some related to cryptocurrencies.

If you want to find more about him, we recommend following him on Facebook & LinkedIn.

Personal Note:

Hey everyone! I like people who want to overcome their current condition and hate arrogant people and those who do not want to evolve.

I hope my lectures help you achieve your extraordinary goals.

TL;DR

For those who have no time to find out details about this book I'm going to summarize its key points.

The book contains over 170 real interview questions me and my friends asked or received during interviews.

If you're not interested in gaining more knowledge and confidence about this topic, please request a refund. Also, if you bought this book thinking it will solve all of your problems, please refund. It's a book, not a magic pill and it helps you become more prepared for your next interview.

If you're still here, make sure you read every lesson with a lot of attention. While reading it, please do the following exercise: imagine yourself taking an interview, not knowing that specific question and the interviewer is explaining it to you.

The Purpose of this guide

Is this guide for you?

Welcome to the only course you need before going to technical interviews, full of tips, problems and answers that will get you hired. Imagine yourself walking out the door after one of your greatest interviews ever. With that big smile on your face and being 100% confident you'll get the job.

By watching this comprehensive guide your future tech discussions are going to be much less stressful, because I am familiarizing you with the most commonly asked interview questions. However, I'm not throwing 200 questions in your face just so you have something to watch. These are ACTUAL QUESTIONS I usually ask during an interview or questions I picked up from other employers.

This course is for people who are not yet confident enough in taking their first technical interview. However, if you already have some programming experience but you are not yet familiarized with some topics, this guide can be very useful for your career as well, because I am covering the most asked and used topics you can find out there.

Keep in mind you need some programming experience before watching this, otherwise it's probably going to be a bit hard for you to understand everything I'm saying, even if I try to explain things as easy as possible.

In the next lesson I'm taking a bit about myself, why I've created this course and why it's so important for you.

Few things about me

First, I want to wish you a big and warm Welcome to the Ultimate Guide to Acing .NET Technical Interviews course.

If you are already enrolled in my other one, which is one of the best courses for web development you can find on Udemy (this being said by the students who watched it, not by me, because it got amazing reviews) you already know me.
For the rest, my name is Cosmin and I'm a full stack web developer for over 8 years.

8 years ago I knew nothing about programming. I didn't even know what's a class. I was at that level! But I managed to get up and to start on this path which later brought me only benefits.

I know how hard it can be. I remember I had nights when I slept only 4 hours because I couldn't understand different concepts which I had to apply the next day at work. And the team leader I had at that time wasn't able to make a difference between someone with enough experience and someone without. This made things even harder.
That's why I want to prepare you for the things you don't know or you don't even imagine at this point. As I said, I'm not throwing answers in your face, I'm here to actual teach you some important lessons that are going to be very useful for you at some point in your career.

With this being said, let's see what you're going to find here. See you in the next lesson.

What you'll find here?

Every time I had to go to an interview I searched for interview questions online. And I had to do a lot of research before feeling confident enough to go.
So, I want to free up your time by creating this course. Instead of searching and reading 100 scattered sources around the internet, you have this one, which contains over 170 asked questions during tech interviews. Not only it has so many tech tips and problems, but I'm also presenting about what's happening before the interview and what points and facts an interviewer is looking for into their next colleague.

What personality you should develop, what attitude you need to have towards your new career and how an interview is usually phased are a few topics covered during this course. Remember that your tech skills are not the only requirement needed by the employer. I know companies having a pre-tech phase which tests the candidate attitude. So, before any technical questions, they are trying to observe how you behave.

Technical interviews are very different compared to normal ones and the golden rule is always to spend enough time and effort on preparation. This doesn't mean you don't need people skills as I said. You need them for sure.

However, in the end, my goal is to make you enjoy the process of walking to an interview and if you feel like an interview has not gone well, just consider it a learning experience.

This is what you get by signing up today:

- Over 170 Engaging Questions
- Exercises
- Quizzes
- Web Development Resources
- **The video tutorial** "Ultimate Guide To Acing .NET Technical Interviews" for **FREE** (limited to first 100 buyers), which contains the course content written in a friendly format with a lot of images and explanations so you can be able to learn even when you're not in front of a computer; expected end of Q1 2020
- Lifetime support from me in any problem regarding backend or frontend software development
- Access to our private group https://www.facebook.com/ioncosmingrigore

Requirements: From A Non Programmer To Full Stack .NET Developer

I want to be honest with you. If you have no experience whatsoever, this course is not for you. That's because you need to know at least some basic concepts about programming to understand what I'm presenting.

I'm not trying to sell you a course that you going to later refund. I'm trying to build a community with people passionate about programming and learning in general.

However, if you have no experience at all, I have a course that might be exactly what you need. I'm the author of one the best full stack web development Courses for beginners, called "From A Non Programmer To Full Stack .NET Developer", a guide you can find on Udemy.

Follow https://bit.ly/webtipsoffer to get it at a discounted price.

Again, I'm not forcing you to watch my other course, I'm just saying it has a lot of awesome reviews from my students and it really helps you to understand what programming really is about.

You are free to do whatever you want.

How to stand out: Top 3 Tips

I won't list the most obvious tips you can find, like: get ready ahead of time, be on time or stay calm during the interview, because these are kind of straight forward and don't need any explanation. I'm going to talk about 3 tips that I find the most useful when I'm taking interviews.

One thing that I really like to find in a candidate is courage or better called **self-awareness**. I'm not talking about being arrogant by having too much courage or too much confidence, but about the honesty you show towards the employee. If I ask something and you don't know the answer, in 99% percent of cases, it's better to say the magic words: "I don't know" then to invent stuff on the fly. "I don't know, but give me 2 seconds. Let me show you how I think it should be" it's even better. Trust me, the interviewer it's going to be very happy with you being so honest and aware of your skills and your knowledge. When I take interviews I am also looking if that person can fit in our team, taking into account both people and technical skills the person shows.

The second thing I consider important is to **avoid excessive bragging**. I remember I met some people that were bragging a lot about their past technical experience, that they led a team of people, they did that and that and of course that, but once I started to ask them questions they didn't know even the basic stuff. And probably you're asking yourself now, but what if they know a lot? Well, it depends what they are hired for. If they are hired for a team leader role, definitely I wouldn't accept them. Because having an arrogant team leader is bad for the entire team, which after all affects the whole project. No one wants that. But, if they are hired for a developer role, the answer it's maybe. And, as you can see, in both situations, it wouldn't be a completely positive answer. It's better to have someone with less technical skills, but with an enough developed emotional intelligence, because that lack of skills can be easily fixed by learning the right stuff. It's obviously easier to learn something new then changing someone's behavior.

And last but not least, **know your status**. You are there because the company needs you. It's like dating someone. You are going to a date because your partner wants you there. The other person saw something in you that he or she might like. It's the same with a company. They called you and invited to their office for an interview because they saw your resume or your previous work and they are interested in what you can offer. So go there, be confident and try

to give your best. Don't EVER think that you don't have whatever it takes, because for sure there will be someone else with enough confidence and you're going to lose.

By following all these tips doesn't mean you are going to pass all interviews, but they are very important and it can make a difference between 2 candidates. So, summarize what I told you and write it somewhere to see it every day.

Before the interview: No Technicalities Yet…

Contact phase: LinkedIn, Resume

This course is not about how to build your resume and that sort of things. There are a lot of specialized courses on this subject. But I'm here to tell you how to get discoverable in this industry, based on my previous experience.

There are 2 things you need to take into account before searching for jobs. One is to build your LinkedIn profile and the other one is to create your resume.
The second option is used when you want to apply to different jobs, a thing that you're probably going to do if you're a beginner and the first one is very often used by companies when searching for their next colleague.

I personally receive like 4-5 interview invites per week on LinkedIn, which demonstrates the utility of this social media platform. Actually, LinkedIn has a few features just for job seekers, so everyone is aware of its power and I recommend you to use it as much as you can.

Another reason behind being called for an interview rather than applying for one, is that a company is already looking for a candidate, so they need someone as soon as possible. Some statistics say that over 80% of resumes are not even read by the employee. That's because each company has specific periods of the year when they are hiring, a fixed budget and a specific roadmap that need to fulfill.

Of course, no method guarantees you'll get a job, but a few more chances is better than none.

Different types of technical interviews

A technical interview doesn't necessary means you are going to a company's headquarters and they will ask you a lot of questions and based on your answers you are getting hired or not.

Yes, this is the typical interview, but before that you might be put in front of other challenges that I'm going to list here so you can be prepared.

For example, in case the company has a lot of applicants they will try to filter them by giving either a test or, let's call it a challenge, you have to solve at home or at their office. This usually consists either of different small problems or a small project you have to finish. For example, a movie management application we create during the *From A Non Programmer To Full Stack .NET Developer* course can be an example of such small project you have to create to pass that stage of an interview. And the company is not looking only at the result, if you managed to solve the problem they have given you or not, they are also interested in how you fixed it. How does your code look, is it clean, is it optimized and so on?

After this phase, they might call you at their site and give you another small technical test, which usually consists of programming algorithms you have to apply. However, this depends on the position you are applying for, because if you don't have to write algorithms in your every day job, this test can be given just to filter out their participants.

If you pass this phase, then there's the technical discussion and in the end the final discussion where you accept their offer or not.
However, I'm personally not a fan of such long interviews and I try to avoid them as much as possible. I'm usually looking for only 1 phase interviews because I don't have so much time to lose on tests or exams, but this is just my opinion. If you really want that job, you should have enough motivation to pass all phases.

But I don't Have Enough Experience Myth…

This lesson is going to be short and is more like a motivation story for you.

I hear this a lot. Why should I apply there? I don't have enough experience…From what I knew you were the applicant and they were the hiring company. Why do you decide for them? Apply and let them decide if you are skilled enough or not. Isn't this right?

By thinking you don't have enough experience you already lost. So stop this. Apply and see what happens, even if you don't have enough experience and you apply for a mid-position, you being a junior. Maybe they have more opened positions and there is one for you.