Lecture 5: September 24

Mock Interviews

Agenda

- For next week
- Demo -1
- Mock Interviews
  - Setup
  - Problem Review [15 m]
  - First interview [40 min]
  - Second interview [40 min]

For Next Week

Deadlines

- [Team]: Keep up September sprint
- [Team]: Sprint planning w/ mentors next week (**Sept. 29)**, October sprint starts **10/6**
  - We'll review October sprint expectations in lab next week
  - Review writings, presentations
  - Start writing code!
- [Team]: Writing 1 - Team Charters (**Oct. 5**), we'll spend time during next week's lab working on this
- [Team]: Demo -1 week of **Oct. 6**

Suggestions

- Sign up for mock interviews

Demo -1

- **Purpose**
  - Formal check-in between instructors & teams, we'll do these at the end of each sprint
  - They'll alternate between team & individual demos each month. Demo -1 is a **team demo**
  - Demo -1 is significantly lighter than future demos (hence the -1)
- **Expectations**
  - Show that you have a well-defined project that meets course requirements
  - Demonstrate you've addressed any risks or open questions that your instructor & mentor have raised
  - Review your October Sprint Plan & speak to what you aim to accomplish by the end of October (we'll review specifics on the October sprint next week)
- **Preparation**
  - Teams should organize their thoughts ahead of time and lead the meeting
  - Slides / docs aren't required, but are highly encouraged
- **Outcome**
  - Instructors will provide high-level feedback (red, yellow, green) the week after, along with any notable concerns / focus areas

Mock Interviews

1. Find a partner

Mock Interviews

1.5 Create an account / sign in to neetcode.io

Mock Interviews

2. Choose a question to ask your partner. Be sure you both choose different questions!

a. Valid Parentheses (easy)
b. Meeting Schedule (easy)
c. Last Stone Weight (easy)
d. Product of Array (medium)
e. Remove Node from Linked List (medium)
f. Unique Paths (medium)
g. Merge K Sorted Lists (hard)
h. Maximum Frequency Stack (hard)
i. IPO (hard)

Mock Interviews

3. Spend **15 mins** learning the solution to your question.

- **Take notes if helpful –** you'll be asking your partner this question
- Keep in mind performance characteristics (Big O notation)

Mock Interviews

4. Spend **40 mins** interviewing your partner

- Have your partner open the question on their laptop
- Use Zoom to share screen so you can see what they are doing

Interviewer

- Help guide your partner in the right direction
- Ask your partner about the time complexity (Big O notation) of their solution

Interviewee

- Start with a brute-force approach
- Communicate with your interviewer!

Mock Interviews

5. Switch roles

- Have your partner open the question on their laptop
- Use Zoom to share screen so you can see what they are doing

Interviewer

- Help guide your partner in the right direction
- Ask your partner about the time complexity (Big O notation) of their solution

Interviewee

- Start with a brute-force approach
- Communicate with your interviewer!