Technical Interview Sample Questions

1. What development tools have you used?
2. What languages have you programmed in?
3. What source control tools have you used?
4. What are your IT strengths and weaknesses?
5. Tell me about the most recent project you worked on. What were your responsibilities?
6. What challenges do you think you might expect in this job if you were hired?
7. What elements are necessary for a successful team and why?
8. Tell me about the project you are most proud of, and what your contribution was.
9. Describe your production deployment process.
10. Give an example of where you have applied your technical knowledge in a practical way.
11. How did you manage source control?
12. What did you do to ensure quality in your deliverables?
13. What do you expect in the solution documents you are provided?
14. Describe a time when you were able to improve upon the design that was originally suggested.
15. How much reuse do you get out of the code that you develop, and how?
16. Which do you prefer; service oriented or batch oriented solutions?
17. Have you downloaded a utility from the internet to make your work more productive, and what was it?
18. What have you done to ensure consistency across unit, quality, and production environments?
19. Describe the elements of an in tier architecture and their appropriate use.
20. Compare and contrast REST and SOAP web services.
21. Define authentication and authorization and the tools that are used to support them in enterprise deployments.
22. What is ETL and when should it be used?
23. You have been asked to research a new business tool. You have come across two solutions. One is an on-premises solution; the other is cloud-based. Assuming they are functionally equivalent, would you recommend one over the other, and why?
24. What do you do to ensure you provide accurate project estimates?
25. What technical websites do you follow?
26. What is a SAN, and how is it used?
27. What is clustering, and describe its use.
28. What is the role of the DMZ in network architecture?
29. How do you enforce relational integrity in database design?
30. When is it appropriate to denormalize database design?
31. What is the difference between OLAP and OLTP? When is each used?
32. You have learned that a business unit is managing a major component of the business using Excel spreadsheets and Access databases. What risks does this present, and what would you recommend be done to mitigate those risks?
33. What automated-build tools or processes have you used?
34. What is the role of continuous integration systems in the automated-build process?
35. Describe the difference between optimistic and pessimistic locking.
36. You are falling behind on your programming tasks and your supervisor is asking for updates, what do you do?

37. In databases, what is the difference between a delete statement and a truncate statement?

38. What are transaction logs, and how are they used?

39. What are the most important database performance metrics, and how do you monitor them?

40. What is the role of SMNP?

41. What is a cross site scripting attack, and how do you defend against it?

42. In network security, what is a honey pot, and why is it used?

43. What is the most memorable bug that you encountered while developing software?

44. How would you design a remote control?

45. How many ping pong balls would fit in this room?

46. When have you demonstrated an “entrepreneurial spirit?”

47. Explain the Internet to an 8-year old in three sentences

48. If you had $X to build a computer lab, including servers and hardware, computer and software, what would you buy, how would you configure it, and why?

Resources: