



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR COMPUTER NETWORKING & CYBERSECURITY MAJORS

IT companies have a variety of approaches and timelines in the hiring process. Generally speaking, larger companies have a more formal interview process involving a selection committee who conducts phone interviews, video web chats online, and one or more site visits. Smaller companies may have a more streamlined approach resulting in a quick phone interview followed by an interview on-site. Most questions will be geared towards your technological proficiency. Some will inquire about your personality and teamwork skills.

Preparation:

Research your employer thoroughly, refine your resume, select appropriate attire, create a list of questions to ask the employer, and get a good night's sleep. Also be sure to familiarize yourself with the interview's location.

Practice:

Set up a mock interview with Career Collaborative, a friend, family member, or colleague. Rehearsing your responses is a great way to boost your confidence and craft how you communicate your experiences. Remember to research the company and tailor your responses to show how your talents and personality match the position. Practice avoiding words such as "uh," "um," "you know," and "like," and bad body language habits of twirling hair, tapping a foot, or drumming fingers.

Presentation:

When answering questions, remember the "3 P's":

- **Ponder:** take a moment to reflect on why the employer has asked a question. This will help you frame your response and speak to the skill set, value, or ability being measured.
- **Prove:** if you say that you have developed excellent organizational skills, give specific examples of situations where you demonstrated a high level of organization.
- **Project:** always be genuine and confident in responding to questions, asking questions, and meeting new people during the interview.

Post-Interview:

Collect your interviewers' business cards so you can follow up with a thank-you card or email. After you leave the premises, take notes on everything you can remember and use the experience to further develop your interview techniques. Check back two weeks afterward unless you hear back sooner or are given different instructions.



Common Interview Questions to Expect

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What do you know about this organization?
- What do you consider your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- How do you anticipate using the skills/knowledge you've acquired in your internship(s) and classes?
- Talk about a time when you were not able to build a successful relationship with a difficult person.
- Describe how your position in a group project contributed to your team's goals.
- Are you a "big-picture" person or a "detail-oriented" person? Give an example.
- Describe a time when you had to take a risk at work. What was the outcome?
- What would former coworkers/professors/supervisors say about you if we called them?
- Describe the work environment that you thrive in.
- How did you get along with your last supervisor?

Interview Questions Specific to Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

- Aside from taking courses, what have you done to become qualified for a career as an IT professional?
- Have you built and maintained networks?
- In which area of networking do you consider yourself most competent, and why?
- Give two examples of times when you've demonstrated your willingness to work hard.
- What are three characteristics of a good manager?
- Talk about a time when you took responsibility for an error/mistake and were held accountable.
- What has been your most challenging course in college? Why?
- What is the extent of your web application development experience?
- What makes you a good IT professional?
- When solving a problem, how do you ensure your decisions are correct and effective?

Interview Questions Specific to Technical Proficiency

- Which do you prefer, Windows, Mac, or Linux? Why?
- How would you describe DNS?
- What operating systems have you worked with before?
- Do you know how to program/script? What programs do you choose?
- Do you have any background in network security? Give some examples of your experience.
- Give examples of how you handled a previous disaster situation in IT.
- What do you know about Okiok? Why Okiok?
- What is the difference between a physical and logical image?
- What is your experience in pen-testing?
- What is the most difficult task you have performed or learned about group policy with a Windows Server?



- How would you image a Dell mini-computer that no one can get the hard drive out of? How would you get the hard drive out?
- Suppose there is a car with a GPS system and you must track where the car goes, but when you plug the drive into a computer, the drive is corrupt. What steps would you take?
- What specific automated tools have you used to recover deleted files?
- How much RAM is allowed in the free version of ESXi server?
- What Unix experience do you have?
- Write a MySQL statement that will identify the number of unique IP addresses that accessed a unique number of pages on a webserver.
- How many bytes into the MBR does the partition table start?
- Where are logs stored on Apache? Where are logs stored on a Windows client?
- What would you look for in a compromised IIS server?
- Suppose a document was shared illegally with an anonymous blogger. How would you determine who leaked the documents? Once the person is found, how would you search their computer and iPhone?
- What happens when I plug a computer into an Ethernet port and open up Google.com?
- Can you describe what the stack is to me?
- Can you tell me what the code (in the appendix) is doing and if there are any problems with it?
- If you have a meterpreter shell on a box after an initial exploit, what would you do to gain persistence?
- Describe public and private key encryption.
- What internal penetration testing experience do you have?

Hint: If you don't know the solution say that you don't know. However, you have been well versed in how to find the solution using Google, since someone else in the world might have had the same problem and already found a solution.

13 Things to Know for a CNCS/Administration Interview:

1. What is MTU?
2. What is a VPN?
3. What is a VLAN?
4. What is a metric?
5. What is ARP/RARP?
6. What is a default route?
7. What is a MAC address?
8. What is a broadcast storm?
9. What is the purpose of VRRP?
10. What is a runt, Giant, and collision?
11. Describe a TCP connection sequence.
12. What is the difference between TCP and UDP?
13. What is the difference between a hub, switch, and router?



Asking Questions

So many people are concerned with making a good impression during a job interview that they forget it's a two-way street. You're there not only to market yourself, but to find out if the job and company are right for you. At the end of your interview, the interviewer will expect you to ask questions. Here are some options:

- What's an average day like?
- How would you describe the culture here?
- What qualities are you looking for in the person who fills this position?
- What is the next step in the hiring process? Or, when might you make a hiring decision?
- What tools/applications/languages do you use?
- What are the biggest opportunities and challenges facing the company or department right now?
- What typical projects or tasks do employees/student interns work on?
- What makes an employee/student intern successful? What traits are best suited for your company?
- How do the various members of the team work together? Who is the team leader?
- How would successful performance in this position be measured?
- Is there much turn-over in your company?
- What's your preferred management style?
- Are there opportunities for professional development?

Top Traits Employers Seek

Every employer is looking for specific characteristics and the winning candidate will have the right combination of them. These are the top traits that employers want. In your interview, find a way to talk about the ones you have.

- Honesty/Integrity
- Dedication/Tenacity
- Loyalty
- Professionalism
- Self-Motivation
- Adaptability/Flexibility
- Reliability/Responsibility
- Positive Attitude
- Self-Confidence
- Willingness to Learn