



Candidate

Prashant Kumar
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Recommended for below skills

Position

SDE II | [View full profile](#)

Round name

Data Structure & Algorithms

Seniority

Mid-senior (3-5 yrs)

Interview Date

4th Oct 2025, 2:00 PM IST

Total time spent

1 hour 12 minutes

Open playback

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Interviewer credentials



RD | 18yrs | Microsoft

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Code Quality & Compliance

Problem Solving

Communication & Articulation

Data Structure & Algorithms

Candidate rating legend



Must have 8.2/10

1 Code Quality & Compliance



2 Problem Solving



3 Data Structure & Algorithms



Good to have 9/10

1 Communication & Articulation

Communication & Articulation

9/10

Questions asked

Coding questions (3)

Question 1 Hard

walk me through building the search input in an ecommerce application

Problem Solving: Fuzzy Problem Solving

Question 2 Hard

```
// nike shoes, niks shooz => 7/10
function calculateEditDistance(str1, str2) {
  // return an integer specifying how much the word str2 matches with str1
  // return 7;
}
```

Data Structure & Algorithms: Data Structure

Question 3 Hard

Suppose the query is "niks shooz" → walk me through how your system finds "Nike Shoes" as a suggestion.

```
// name of all the products, to be used for auto suggestion
// ["nike shoes", "nike", "nissan", ....]
// input = "niks"
```

Data Structure & Algorithms: Functionally correct solution

Theory / Scenario-based questions (4)

Question 1 Medium

```
// Q: walk me through building the search input in an ecommerce application ?
// Q: how does caching works when the inputs are always different ?
// Q: cache hit and cache miss ?
```

Data Structure & Algorithms: Articulate Thinking and Verbal Reasoning

Question 2

Medium

how would you scale your services when there are 1000s of users using the same API parallely.

Data Structure & Algorithms: Performant

Question 3

Hard

you have deployed some complex business logic and now the behaviour is not as expected. How do you debug and solve this.

Code Quality & Compliance: Debugging Proficiency

Question 4

Hard

// Q: walk me through building the search input in an ecommerce application ?

Communication & Articulation: Communication & Articulation

Overall feedback

The candidate is great with articulating the thought process and also understanding the scenario given. The candidate is able to think about performant solutions and able to write the code for the same. The practical inclination of the candidate was really good, he was able to understand the search question asked and gave out full stack answer for the scenario. The candidate is good with fuzzy problems and able to create end to end softwares around it.

1 Code Quality & Compliance

Debugging Proficiency (9/10)

- ☒ Strong knowledge of Debugging Proficiency
- ☐ Good knowledge of Debugging Proficiency
- ☐ Weak knowledge of Debugging Proficiency
- ☐ No knowledge of Debugging Proficiency

Strengths

The candidate was able to showcase and explain all the known debugging principles. The candidate had worked with difficult problems of reading through codebase from other engineers and solve issues. The candidate was able to explain different log levels and logging practices which would help us catch an issue faster.

Areas of improvement

The candidate could have mentioned the use of LLM and AI tools to debug codebase efficiently and solve any issues faster.

2 Problem Solving

Fuzzy Problem Solving (8/10)

- ☐ Strong knowledge of Fuzzy Problem Solving
- ☒ Good knowledge of Fuzzy Problem Solving
- ☐ Weak knowledge of Fuzzy Problem Solving
- ☐ No knowledge of Fuzzy Problem Solving

Strengths

The candidate was able to break the problem down for frontend and backend separately. The candidate was able to explain the useEffect and debouncing logic that are applied to the frontend space. The candidate was also able to explain the caching practices which can be done on the backend side.

Areas of improvement

The candidate didn't cover the cache implementations provided by the browser which would have avoided managing the session and local storage business logic.

3 Data Structure & Algorithms

Functionally correct solution (9/10)

- ☒ Candidate is able to write working code which is highly optimised(for time and space complexity) and able to explain the logic used
- ☐ Candidate is able solve problem and able to write working code which is optimised enough.
- ☐ Able to give logic only and not able to write code.
- ☐ Not able to clearly understand problem. Not able to provide a proper solution to the problem

Strengths

The candidate was able to come up with a implementation theory after back and forth discussion and also able to write a working code for the same. The candidate covered edge case scenarios and optimise on the time complexity of the problem.

The candidate finally added a cache layer which would drastically reduce the time complexity of the implementation.

Areas of improvement

The candidate took some really good time to carve out the optimised approach and had taken 3 iterations before they reach to the final conclusion on how to implement the solution.

Performant (7/10)

- ☐ Candidate's code is highly optimised(for time and space complexity)
- ☒ Candidate is able to write working code which is optimized enough but had some room for improvement.
- ☐ Able to give logic only that was optimized and did not write the code.
- ☐ Not able to provide a proper solution to the problem.

Strengths

The candidate explained the caching implementation by using session storage and local storage. The candidate also mentioned to use a TTL to invalidate the response cached.

Areas of improvement

The candidate didn't cover the cache implementations provided by the browser which would have avoided managing the session and local storage business logic.

Data Structure (8/10)

- ☒ Able to use right data structures for the given problem and also explained the reason behind the usage
- ☐ Able to use right data structures for the given problem.
- ☐ Able to relate real world use cases with data structures
- ☐ Don't have proper understanding of different data structures and their use cases

Strengths

The candidate was able to come up with a implementation theory after back and forth discussion and also able to write a working code for the same. The candidate covered edge case scenarios and optimise on the time complexity of the problem.

The candidate finally added a cache layer which would drastically reduce the time complexity of the implementation.

Areas of improvement

The candidate took some really good time to carve out the optimised approach and had taken 3 iterations before they reach to the final conclusion on how to implement the solution.

Articulate Thinking and Verbal Reasoning (8/10)

- ☐ Great communication or articulation skills and the candidate thought in the right direction while creating the solution
- ☒ Good communication or articulation skills and the candidate thought in the right direction while creating the solution after some hand-holding
- ☐ Weak communication or articulation skills and it was very hard to direct the candidate to the right solution even after a lot of hand-holding
- ☐ No articulation skills. Candidate kept quite and could not think out loud or solve the problem

Strengths

The candidate was able to articulate the solution and deviate from it when it was not matching all the requirements asked in the question.

Areas of improvement

The candidate was thinking in the right direction to solve the question but needed a bit hand holding for him to close the implementation thought and start writing the code.

4 Communication & Articulation

Communication & Articulation (9/10)

- ☒ Candidate had clear communication and was able to articulate ideas
- ☐ Candidate was able to communicate but needed little help to understand
- ☐ Candidate was able to understand but couldn't communicate properly
- ☐ Candidate was not able to understand & communicate properly

Strengths

The candidate was able to communicate the pros and cons of an approach and spent some good time around if the implementation will cover all the use cases that were required in the question.

The candidate was able to articulate the solution and deviate from it when it was not matching all the requirements asked in the question.